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PIECES OF OUR TRUTH

Brought to you by the Govans Racial Justice Ministry Working Group. Written and researched by Myra Brosius, member Racial Justice Working Group, Truth and Reconciliation Subcommittee.

The Govane family is the namesake of Govans Presbyterian Church as well as Govanstown (now Govans)—both located on what was once the 18th century estate of William Govane. It was in part through the labors of enslaved people that William was able to accumulate the wealth for purchasing the 810 acre plantation. A century later Govane heirs gifted the parcels of land to build a church and cemetery.

The story of income inequality in this country has foundations in the accumulation of property as a way of



Govans in 1904

building wealth. The Maryland gentry purchased land grants from the Lords of Baltimore and many of those gained wealth through the labor of enslaved people. And so began the dominance of the white ruling class by laying claim to the lands of Maryland. The founding of

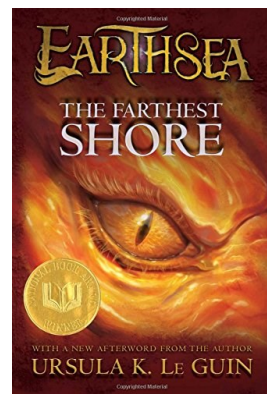
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PASTORAL PONDERINGS

by Rev. Tom Harris

Dear Friends,

I have recently rediscovered the writings of Ursula Le Guin. Her *"Earthsea Trilogy"* was probably my introduction to the fantasy genre of fiction. Fantasy is still my favorite genre; fantastic worlds with beautiful landscapes, wizards, dragons, magic, battles between good and evil. Beyond these elements the really great authors reflect upon and critique the world as we know it and the ways we as human beings engage that world. I came upon this quote recently spoken by an older wizard to a young boy trying to find his way in the world.



...continued on page two

July/August Calendar

July

3 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 3 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 4 - Office Closed, Independence Day
 6 - Personnel Committee, 6:00 p.m.
 10 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 10 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 11 - Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.
 17 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 17 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 18 - Facilities Committee, 6:00 p.m.
 24 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 24 - Young Families Night/Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup,
 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 31 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 31 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

August

3 - Personnel Committee - 3:00 p.m.
 7 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 7 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 8 - Finance Committee - 7:00 p.m.
 14 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 14 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 15-21 - Woodberry Crossing Camp, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 15 - Facilities Committee, 6:00 p.m.
 21 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 21 - Youth Pool Party at Pastor Tom's House, 2:00 p.m.
 21 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 23 - Book Discussion, Beloved - 7:00 p.m.
 28 - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 28 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pickup, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Pastor Tom will be on vacation June 27 to July 4 and July 18 to August 7. He will also be on Study Leave from August 8 to August 14. If you need pastoral assistance please contact Pastor Billy (704-707-6718 or billy@govanspres.org) or the Church Office (410-435-9188).



The 225th General Assembly of the PC(USA) is taking place now virtually and in-person. Pastor Billy is assigned and has been participating in the work of the Environmental Justice Committee. You can learn more at www.ga-pcusa.org. Stay tuned for more news following the voting in July.

Pastoral Ponderings...continued from cover page

"When I was young, I had to choose between the life of being and the life of doing. And I leapt at the latter like a trout to a fly. But each deed you do, each act, binds you to itself and to its consequences, and makes you act again and yet again. Then very seldom do you come upon a space, a time like this, between act and act, when you may stop and simply be. Or wonder who, after all, you are." - The Farthest Shore, Ursula Le Guin.

The wizard was reflecting on those big times of discernment in our lives. Times when we truly stand in those times between: between jobs, between life stages, between decades, between wellness, between life and death.

As important as those big moments are, there are also other times that come upon us cyclically. Each month. Each full moon. Each week. Even each night can be such a time; a moment between one day and the next; a moment to reflect on whether we will choose being or doing. Or perhaps more realistically, how will we balance being and doing.

As we enter into the summer months, I invite you to consider summer as such a moment between; a moment for reflecting on the balance of being and doing. I pray you will have a couple weeks, or just one, or just a long weekend, to breathe and rest in the time between. To feel the warmth of the sun. Soak in the waters of the earth. Take a long nap in the middle of the afternoon. And be prepared. Sometimes these moments come upon us by surprise. So be ready. Be ready to "stop and simply be. Or wonder who, after all, you are."

Peace, Tom

LETTER FROM PASTOR BILLY

Hello, Govans,

I hope that these summer months are giving you time to rest and relax. In addition to that relaxation, I hope that these months are also a time for evaluation and reflection.



If you are not in the habit of doing quarterly retreats with yourself or your family, I encourage you to try one this summer. Dedicating a day or half day to reflecting on the past few months and planning for the next few months ahead can be an extremely meaningful (and deeply spiritual) process. Personally, I follow the quarterly review process as part of the Full Focus Planner, but I also love the guided reflection questions that executive coach Charles Moore suggests:

- What went well in the last quarter? What went poorly or not as planned?
- What was the #1 thing that I control that held me back from accomplishing more? What was the #1 thing that I don't control that held me back?
- How am I doing relative to my annual goals?
- What state of the world in three months would make me declare that the quarter was successful?
- What's different now relative to the last time I/we did planning?

In addition to responding to those questions, I hope that you will pray over them and use them as meditation prompts, as well. I will be taking some time this quarter to do that kind of review and reflection. Toward that aim, I will also be trying some spiritual direction (make sure you listen to the Believe in Baltimore podcast episode that we recorded about spiritual direction). Finally, I will be taking a week of continuing education leave in the end of August and beginning of September to do a spiritual retreat at Abbaye Saint-Paul de Wisques in northeastern France. There, I will be living with the Benedictine brothers, worshipping with them, and receiving one-on-one counseling and coaching.

However you reflect this season, I hope that God's Spirit of Discernment is with you.

Peace,
Billy

Youth and Young Families Activities:

- Sunday, July 24 - Young Families Night at Soul Kitchen - 3:30 to 6:30 pm
- August 15 - 19 - Summer Day Camp at Woodberry Crossing (registration now open). Email billy@govanspres.org for the digital registration form.
- Sunday, August 21 - Young Families Pool Party at Pastor Tom's house - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Contact Pastor Billy (billy@govanspres.org) for more information and to sign-up
up for weekly Youth and Young Families Updates.

July Birthdays

- 1 - Sheelagh Allston, Deb Dalton
- 3 - John Morrel
- 9 - Linda Bluth
- 12 - Tiffany James
- 13 - Megan Miller
- 14 - Amy Hardin
- 15 - Cyntrice Bellamy, Ralph Kuncil
- 16 - Don Romano
- 18 - Robert Stewart
- 20 - Barbara Harris
- 25 - Ken Lewis
- 26 - Charles Corson, Alex Short
- 28 - Alice Read
- 31 - Ben Hobbs, Doug Storey, Barb Pulyer

August Birthdays

- 8 - Jim Gibbons
- 10 - Jane Houck, Dana Shaw
- 14 - Patsy Owen
- 15 - Cynthia Jamison, John Weller
- 19 - Chase Allston
- 21 - Mary Weller
- 23 - Sylvia Usher
- 24 - Soren Clay-Robison
- 25 - Bryce Herfel
- 25 - Susan Saunders
- 28 - Natalie Berry
- 29 - Betsy Toole
- 30 - Linda Ketner

Church Staff

Rev. Tom Harris, Senior Pastor
Rev. Billy Kluttz, Associate Pastor
Lea Gilmore,
Minister for Racial Justice & Music
Director, 1st Service
Marie Herrington
Music Director, 2nd Service
Pam Wallace, Bookkeeper
Andy Wilson, Office Manager
Sylvia Usher, Sexton
Pam Ferguson,
Director of Preschool
Gwen Lloyd, Program Director,
Senior Network

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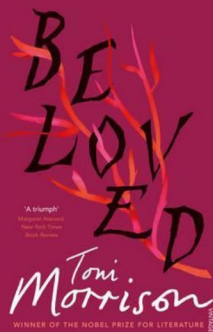
What's Going On At Govans?

GOVANS  Racial Justice
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Ministry

BELOVED

Tuesday, August 23 at 7:00 p.m.
on Zoom

Join us for the Racial Justice Ministry Book Discussion of Toni Morrison's classic *Beloved*. One night only. Email Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org) for more info. To register and/or purchase a book, please contact the church office (wilson@govanspres.org).



Check out the Progress Pride Flag on the Peace Terrace: Artist *Daniel Quasar* combined elements of the rainbow pride flag with the transgender pride flag to create the Progress Pride Flag in 2018. The flags black and brown stripes represent marginalized LBGT communities of color, community members lost to HIV/AIDS, and those currently living with AIDS.



Curious Creatures Summer Day Camp

Woodberry
Crossing
August 15 - 19
10:00 am - 2:30 pm

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Email billy@govanspres.org for more information.



Join the Govans Garden Group

Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.
email Jodyomorris@gmail.com

GOVANS 
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP AT GOVANS

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
In-person and on line

Details at www.govanspres.org



Corps Conversations: Meet Jen and Dona Parks



Govans' Conversation Corps builds stronger ties among the congregation and within our neighborhood. Recently, Conversation Corps members have been interviewing new church members to help us learn their stories, as well. Check out this introduction to new members Jen and Dona Parks and share some of your story when you see them online or in-person!

Meet New Members Jen and Dona Parks

Wait...what?! New members?

That's right. Jen and Dona are new members of Govans but of course they are not new to us and our church. Jen and

Dona began attending Govans with their daughter Kaylyn in 2010. They say they had never felt more welcomed. They decided this would be their family church and were inspired to officially join when Kaylyn became a Youth Servant Leader. What a blessing they continue to be for our church! Dona is serving on the Personnel Committee and Jen shares her talents in the Handbell Choir and in Special Choir events. She plays the guitar and piano. She also attends Bible Study when possible. In addition to being a Youth Servant Leader, Kaylyn helps out in the Handbell Choir and can be found making a joyful noise in the Band. She plays the viola and the saxophone. The Parks family especially enjoys and appreciates Govans' music, the family friendliness of the first service, the youth program, Tom, Billy, and Lea.

Both Jen and Dona grew up in other Christian denominations: Jen, from Pennsylvania, in the Church of the Brethren and Dona, from Tennessee, in the Catholic Church. After meeting in Texas, they relocated to Maryland so they could be near family. Jen works in health care administration at Johns Hopkins Medical and Dona is a nurse in quality consulting with Kaiser. They live in Rodgers Forge. The Parks are a very active family. Dona is a golfer and reader. Jen enjoys bicycling and hiking. Kaylyn just finished eighth grade at the Friends School and enjoys sports and music. They love time with family and friends, playing and listening to music and vacations at the beach. And they love Govans church.

Jen and Dona and Kaylyn, thank you for choosing us as your church family!



From left, Dona, Kaylyn, and Jen Parks at the Easter Sunday Petting Zoo, earlier this year.

PIECES OF OUR TRUTH...continued from cover page

Govanstown and Govans Presbyterian Church is one such story, owning the land we built upon, our very beginnings, to the exploitation of human beings.

James Govane (1693-1739) and his wife Elizabeth immigrated from Scotland to Anne Arundel County in the early 18th century and he was Sheriff to Westminster Parish. When James died, creditors took his entire estate and so his son, William (1716-1768) was left to start over economically.

William accumulated great wealth during his lifetime as a pioneer of the shipping industry of Maryland. Born in Anne Arundel County, he moved to Baltimore County after the courts granted his wife a separation. William established himself as a merchant, over time owning seven sloops (a type of sailing vessel) and capitalized on trading wheat, flour and other goods. By 1756 Baltimore had become “the granary of the West Indies,” and some of William’s associates traded there from both Annapolis and the Port of Baltimore. It is likely that William did as well.

William was a working colleague of Captain Darby Lux, one of the first ship-owners of Baltimore. Lux’s boat is in an early illustration of Baltimore (1752) at the left/western side of the basin. The first shipment recorded from the port of Baltimore was 1756, the same year that in Annapolis Govane loaded his sloop, Unity, a “square-rigged, Maryland-built bark of 30 tons” with corn, flour, and shingles headed for Ireland along with Lux. At that time, shipping was shifting to Baltimore—closer to the center of grain production as well as waterpower for mills along the stream valleys and trade in the Maryland colony was diversifying away from tobacco. By 1758, flour was the “staple cargo” from Baltimore.

Wages of officers and crews were the biggest expenses in the shipping industry. This factor may explain why William had 39 slaves—four times the

numbers as the average gentry of Baltimore County—and how he was able to accumulate wealth so quickly, considering he did not inherit a large estate from his father.

The British West Indies were important colonies, producing a lucrative trade of sugar, rum, and molasses through the labor of enslaved people. Baltimore County produced wheat, flour and other commodities that were exported world-wide—produced with a mix of labor including enslaved, indentured, and free. These commodities were needed by the plantation communities of the West Indies and so William—like other merchants of his day—likely made part of his fortune by trading with them. He would have left the port of Baltimore with flour, and returned from the West Indies with rum, molasses, and sugar to sell on the mainland.

With his earnings, William purchased a land grant from Frederick Calvert, last Lord of Baltimore in 1755 and eventually accumulated 1,100 acres in Baltimore County, including present-day Govans. He named the estate Drumquehastle after his ancestor’s manor in Scotland. The Baltimore mansion, once near present-day Walker Avenue and the Drumcastle Apartments, stands no longer.

William’s wealth placed him in the top ten percent of Baltimore County’s residents. His various industries, which in addition to shipping likely included agriculture and milling, were supported by enslaved people numbering 39 at the time of his death. He fathered two children, James and Mary, by Mary Salisbury, whom he never married.

The Second James Govane and the American Revolution

At William’s death in 1768, James (1740-1784)

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Baltimore in 1752. Engraver: William Strickland; Artist: John Moale; Editor: Daniel Bowley; Writer of added text: H. S. Tanner. <https://www.mdhistory.org/resources/baltimore-in-1752/>

PIECES OF OUR TRUTH...continued from previous page

inherited his father's estate, including the 39 enslaved. By 1773 James owned ten enslaved people—more than most of Baltimore County gentry. At that time, one quarter of county residents owned a slave. Of the gentry class, households owned an average of four slaves. The reduction of James slave holdings (from 39 to 10) over the course of his life followed the same trend in Baltimore County where increasingly the labor force of the landed gentry became more diverse with a combination of the enslaved, the indentured, and the free.

James was thirty-four years old when the Boston Tea Party portended the coming revolution and like many at the time, while he owned and oppressed enslaved people, he was at the same time wanting the colonies to seek independence from the tyranny of the British. In 1774, he joined about sixty other men to form the Baltimore Independent Cadets, the first independent and uniformed military company in Maryland. During the war the Maryland General Assembly reimbursed by Congress, purchased wheat, bread and flour from him as provisions for the Continental Army. James also opened a store at the intersection of York Road and Woodbourne.



1842 Bank Note, image by Heritage Auction.com

The Govanes and Slavery after James

James was the last male of the progeny of James Govane, the immigrant and so the remaining estate was passed down through female heirs. A year after his death, York Road was aligned across his estate and over time properties divided and sold.

James' sister Mary married Benjamin Howard in 1772, at St. John's (Anglican) Church in Joppa Town. They had two children, James Govane Howard and Sarah S. Howard. Sadly, Benjamin died eight years after the marriage, apparently, as a soldier in the Revolutionary war and part of the First Maryland Regiment. As a result, Mary was head of household in 1780 and owned six enslaved people. Lest we think that women were less complicit than men in the industry of slavery, recent research found that in 1850 and 1860, southern women made up 40 percent of all slave owners and that they participated in violence towards the enslaved, learning as girls when they were exposed at a young age to violence.

The Govane Howards Gift Parcels to the Congregation of Govans Presbyterian Church.

James Govane Howard (1777-1819) married Mary Woodward Govane (1779-1844) in 1798 and had six children. James was a merchant, owning four enslaved people. Mary outlived James by twenty-five years and for the decade after James' death in 1819, she owned between two and five enslaved people.

Mary and James' first child, William Govane Howard (1801-1848), great grandchild of William the shipping magnate, was the president of the building committee for the Govane Chapel when it was constructed (now Govans Presbyterian Church) in 1844. He died four years later at the age of sixty-seven having lived a long life for the times. He was the Director of the Chesapeake Bank in 1842; the bank note provides a retrospective image of the family fortune made by William Govane and his seven sloops a century earlier. William G. Howard was also employed in agriculture at his estate where he owned six slaves ranging in age from ten years old to thirty-five.

An interdenominational building committee of the proposed church, including William Govane Howard, Edward C. Meyers, and Henry C. Turnbull leased land from Mary for the location of the Govane Chapel (now Govans Presbyterian Church) when construction began in 1844. The parcel was from the original estate of William Govane Howard. Mary's intention was to bequeath the land to the congregation, however, the gift was not provided for in her will and so her remaining heirs transferred the deed in 1846.

And so, we worship today atop lands we acquired through the work of the enslaved serving the landed gentry. May we be grateful, acknowledge our complicity in their misfortune, and work towards reconciliation.



**Racial Justice
Ministry**

Contact Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org), Minister for Racial Justice and Multicultural Engagement, to learn more and to become involved in Govans' Racial Justice Ministry.

Habitat for Humanity Celebrates Anniversary with Believe in Baltimore

Govans' community podcast, *Believe in Baltimore*, welcomed Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake this summer to talk about their continued work in our community and their celebration of their 40th anniversary. For the episode, Pastor Billy interviewed Jeff Hardy and Leila Kohler-Frueh from Habitat Chesapeake. Take a listen to the episode on Govans website at govanspres.org/podcasts. As part of their 40th anniversary celebration, Habitat Chesapeake is also collecting stories from volunteers. If you have a Habitat story that you would be willing to share, please email Britt Hayes at Britthayes@habitat Chesapeake.org.



Jeff Hardy, Britt Hayes, and Leila Kohler-Frueh speak with Pastor Billy on Zoom.

This episode is the final episode of season two of *Believe in Baltimore*. This season, we released sixteen episodes! We heard stories from 24 of our neighbors doing amazing work in our community. The podcast will return for season three this fall. If you have ideas for topics or guests, please email billy@govanspres.org



The Session met for our regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 21. Here are some highlights from our meeting:

We approved an increase in the Membership Development Budget. We use this budget to pay for advertising for church events. This year the Communications Committee has tried targeted mailings to our local neighborhood inviting our neighbors to things like Christmas and Easter worship services. They have also been boosting smaller

programs on Facebook. These efforts have seen positive results. The Session was excited to see these initiatives and increased the 2022 Membership Development budget by \$2000.

Last month we shared about the development of a policy to guide our building rental decisions. We approved that policy on Tuesday. It includes:

- restrictions on renting church space to political candidates, or organizations that endorse political candidates,
- guidance for which organizations can receive discounts and how to evaluate organizations for discounts,
- and limits to when we can invite officials to speak to the church or senior center. If it is six months or fewer before an election the elected official cannot be invited to speak to groups in the church.

These policies take into account legal issues, ethical issues, and decisions about what is best for the church.

We also reviewed the Personnel Committee's summary of the pastors' performance evaluations. Many thanks to all who responded to the evaluation forms and to the Personnel Committee for leading this effort. We are grateful to our pastors and their openness to feedback and to growing personally and professionally. The pastors are evaluated every two years.

Finally, we reviewed the church committee structure and responsibilities. Committee membership is based on two-year terms and someone can serve three consecutive two year terms before taking a break. We have several openings on important committees as we seek to put a new class of committee members in place. We also agreed to start a Moment for Ministry once a month in worship in which committees take turns sharing about their work and encouraging new people to participate.

If you have any questions about these decisions or anything else in the church please speak with any Session member or pastor. Thank you.

KAY PAPA NOU - UPDATE: FROM DAVID AND DANNY GUILLAUME:

Hello dear friends,

We send respectful greetings from all the children and young adults of Kay Papa Nou which are residing in Williamson-Arcahaie, Haiti, because living in our house in Santo has become unsafe. Gangs have taken over many of the streets.

We hope that you are healthy and joyful and we thank you for all your support and prayers for the good care of the children of our Unity House and Kay Papa Nou during this very difficult time.

We are currently entering the second week of June and are approaching the end of the school year which has been difficult due to the violence by armed gangs over the last several months. The older children are staying with friends in Port-au-Prince and Canaan in order to finish the school year. Nehemie Louis is finishing her medical program and Pamelitha and Rosedarie are finishing this year of nursing school. Seven of the high school children are in Canaan completing their final year. Youse Odly is at General Hospital in Les Cayes for her internship. The younger children have all completed the school year in Canaan.

Unfortunately, the more the days pass, the more the insecurity and humanitarian crisis worsens. We are already suffering the consequences of years of political disorder. Our country is on the verge of bankruptcy. Thousands have been forced to flee



their homes to take refuge elsewhere without the means to meet daily needs. Despite the problems due to the travel and relocation arrangements, we are happy to still be alive and feel safe where we are far from the gang violence. Fortunately children adapt better to new situations which they consider a new experience that can also serve as an example for them later in their adult life. Our safety continues to be blessed by the mercy of God our Father. Your support benefits the children in all aspects of their lives and we depend on it to raise the children in our care. We pray for your continued support.

Grace and peace to you all,
David and Danny Guillaume

Contact Joyce and Ted Kruse (krusetj@comcast.net) to learn how you can support Kay Papa Nou.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOUL KITCHEN AND GOVANS!:

Thanks to Dave Willerup for nominating Soul Kitchen for a \$300 grant from Brogan and Partners marketing firm in Michigan where his brother-in-law works! We were one of ten winners from around the country who received awards in honor of Juneteenth! Other winners include: the *National Civil Rights Museum* in Memphis, the *Legal Defense Fund*, the *Loveland Foundation*, and *Black Girls Code*. Learn more at www.brogan.com/blog. Congratulations!



July Mission Offering: Senior Network of North Baltimore

The **Senior Network of North Baltimore** has been visited by 2 mayors, and several politicians. Senior Network members and director have traveled to city hall, and Annapolis to fight against important senior center funding cuts. Senior Network was responsible for getting over 100 seniors vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19. We are now engaging over 1000 seniors yearly, virtually, and in-person. Senior Network has been successfully and safely bringing many seniors out of isolation, and depression, by providing fun day trips locally, and nationally. We have also been partnering with MedStar Good Samaritan hospital to provide flu shots, health & wellness sessions, and senior exercise classes. We do not provide financial assistance, but we do provide resources that point to this type of help.



Baltimore Mayor, Brandon Scott visited SNNB on March 28, 2022

*****All donations marked "Mission Offering" during July will go to support the work of Senior Network of North Baltimore.*****

August Mission Offering: Paul and Pat Stock and the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan

Paul and Pat Stock serve in Pakistan. Paul was born and raised in Pakistan, the son of Presbyterian missionaries; Pat grew up in the American South and became involved in relief and refugee work after finishing university. Paul and Pat have raised their four children in Pakistan. They work with the Church of Pakistan to evangelize and disciple Hindu tribal peoples (who are considered "untouchables" by the Muslims and caste Hindus) in the southern province of Sindh. The Stocks work with a team to develop Christian resources that are culturally relevant to the tribal peoples, such as Bible study materials, health primers, and DVDs and CDs of songs in the various tribal languages (available to view on YouTube). They also have an evangelistic team doing outreach to Hindu villages using indigenous music, dance, and drama. **The Presbyterian Education Board's** mission is to provide, in an enduring way, the highest quality education responsive to the needs of the poorest of the poor children in Pakistan with preparation for the needs and demands of the 21st century. We wish to offer this education to individuals of all religious backgrounds, regardless of their ability to pay, who choose to come to missionary institutions to receive high quality education fully informed by missionary values.



All donations marked "Mission Offering" during August will go to support the work Paul & Pat Stock & the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan

SECOND SERVICE MUSIC NEWS

by Marie Herrington, Second Service Music Director

From Mozart to Moses Hogan

The world of music encompasses a large variety of composers, and there are thousands upon thousands of composers who have equally influenced the world of music. Some greats that we know of are composers like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, born in Salzburg in the year 1756 to a family of musicians who immersed him to being a traveling musician. Mozart would write large orchestral scores at a very young age, such as his first symphony written at age 8. This month, you will get to hear a Mozart duet sung by Jocelyn Taylor and Marie Herrington from the *Great Mass in C*. This duet is written for two sopranos, and you'll get to hear just how Mozart distinguishably notates two ever-moving soprano melodies harmoniously with one another.

In a very different century, you'll get to hear another fantastic composer whose work with voices is of utmost elegance and grace. Moses Hogan was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 13, 1957 and showed musical talent at a young age. He was a graduate of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio and he also studied at New York's Juilliard School of Music and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Throughout his life, he created a number of new original arrangements of classic spirituals and formed several choirs such as the Moses Hogan Singers and the Moses Hogan Chorale. He also served as editor of the *Oxford Book of Spirituals*.

Hogan is considered the world's greatest arranger of spiritual music. His contemporary settings of spirituals, original compositions and other works have been admired by audiences and commended by critics worldwide. His arrangements are still being used as the foundation for high school, college and university choirs today.

As an African American man, Hogan tells such humble, tragic, and hopeful life stories through his beautiful melodic writing. His use of voices is highly comparable to Mozart's; though centuries apart, we can always tell when great minds think alike. This year, you will get to hear more music of Moses

Hogan sung by the choir, you will also get to hear one of his spiritual arrangements this month played on the organ.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



Moses Hogan

When looking at the month of July, a month with such important American history, it is essential that we remember ALL American history - not only what is told to us in textbooks. The history of this melting pot of a nation includes so many ethnicities and nationalities, that when we think of the citizens of the United States, we are also thinking about so many other countries in the world where folks have migrated from and also the indigenous peoples and their descendants who were here before the founding of our country. As American citizens who have access to media outlets telling us tragic stories all over our nation, we notice in moments of distress, there are moments of unity. In everything from the awful killings of innocent black men by our police force, to senseless wars going on in other countries, we see peaceful protests, folks donating to NGO's designed to help those issues, etc. We see even small, kind gestures

such as people opening up room for more conversation with their neighbors, people making meals for folks around them, people providing shelter to those who need it, etc. In times of tragedy, as God's people, we can say that we find so many moments where we see the beautiful unity of people acting out for the sake of love. There are lots of things to think about during the month of July; whatever you choose to pray and meditate on, let it be what invites the unification of peoples, for if anything can positively represent what exists in our country, it sure is that.

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"Govans Presbyterian Church is a theologically progressive community empowering people to make the world better."

GOVANS 
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Racial Justice
Ministry

BELOVED

Tuesday, August 23 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join us for the Racial Justice Ministry Book Discussion of Toni Morrison's classic *Beloved*. One night only. Email Lea Gilmore (lea@govanspres.org) for more info. To register and/or purchase a book (\$16), please contact the church office (wilson@govanspres.org).

