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First & Franklin *family*

APRIL 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

Lenten Reflections

This month brings to First & Franklin Presbyterian Church a rich table of events, including new members, warming weather, and the excitement of Easter Sunday. Along the way, we have enjoyed a season of Lenten study together. I want to share a few of the questions we discussed as a group.

Some context: We've been studying John 14-17, traditionally known as the "Farewell Discourse" – the lengthy, intimate, and pastoral "last conversation" Jesus has with his disciples before he is betrayed and crucified. Thirty-three years of Jesus' life is included from chapters 1-13 and 18-21, but this section of scripture includes just one late night talk with Jesus' closest followers.

With that in mind, our first evening began with this question: Whose sayings do you remember and why do you share them? Perhaps all of us remember something that a parent, close friend, or spouse said – and that comment or observation somehow captures much that we valued in the life that we shared together. Even though those sayings or stories included only a brief span of time, they assume a big place in our memory. This supplies a clue for how we might hear Jesus' farewell discourse – a word which is meant to sustain us long after that evening has passed into history.

Last Sunday evening, we reflected on this question: "How do human beings cope with absence?"

Our answers varied. Some recalled Elizabeth Kübler-Ross' five stages of grief – a means of structuring what otherwise might seem like an incomprehensible loss. Some of us talked about the way we share stories – these stories keep memories alive. But we also named something else: we are often reluctant to name the reality of separation, particularly with the death of a loved one. Those who are dying may actually wish to talk about death – those who are being left behind may struggle to allow that conversation.

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Please email articles & photographs for the newsletter by the 20th of the month to:
information@firstfranklin.org

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In this regard, John's Jesus – and again uniquely among the gospel stories -- speaks candidly to our experience of the “absence” of Jesus, supporting us when we feel that he is not so easy to detect or feel.

In that vein, Jesus prepares his followers for the time when he will not be with them. He tells them that he will not “leave them as orphans” but will send the Spirit to abide with them. Of all the gospels, John devotes more space to the Spirit than any of the others. And the Spirit (or Advocate) for John carries on important functions in the life of the beloved community:

- As an abiding presence (14:16);
- As a teacher that continues the teaching of Jesus (14:26);
- Testifying to the truth of God's Word (15:26);
- Coming to the Disciples once labor of suffering is complete (16:7b-11);
- Sustaining the community in its future (16:12-15).

Speaking of the labor of suffering, Jesus compares the experience of his Passion to a woman who undergoes labor: “When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world” (John 16:21).

Maybe this is a metaphor for our new birth in Christ, the labor pains which we have experienced over the Season of Lent. We've been in the desert with Jesus. We experienced a holy thirst. During Holy Week, we will remember Christ's suffering. In the sanctuary, on Good Friday, we will participate in a Tenebrae Service, literally, a “Service of Darkness” in which candles will be extinguished following each reading of scripture.

The service itself is incomplete. It ends in darkness. Technically, it's actually the longest of all services of worship, its “absence” of completion continuous until the Resurrection dawn. Perhaps there are parts of our lives that feel incomplete, interrupted – and we ache for the completion of joy. Remember: God will not leave us orphaned. Join us not only for Easter, but also for Holy Week, as we wait, sustained by the Spirit, for Christ's resurrection.

Your Pastor,



Rev. Robert P. Hoch, Ph.D.

WORSHIP

Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

April 2

5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

April 9

Passion/Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

April 16

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

April 23

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

April 30

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Please join us on Sunday, April 9th as we open our hearts to witness the love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing. Donations and fish boxes will be collected during our Palm Sunday Service.

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST & FRANKLIN

Palm Sunday

April 9, 2017

10:30 a.m. worship with distribution of palms

Good Friday

April 14, 2017

7 p.m. Service of Tenebrae a reading of the Passion of Christ, with motets sung by the choir, and the extinguishing of lights. Childcare provided.

Easter

April 16, 2017

9 a.m. - Breakfast followed by Egg Hunt

10:10 a.m. - Worship with brass, timpani, organ, and choir. Nursery Care provided.

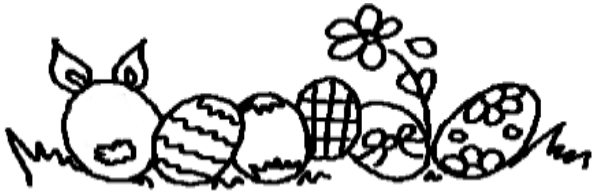
OUR SCHEDULE OVER EASTER TIME WILL CHANGE SOMEWHAT

- We will continue to have nursery care beginning at 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Forum will take a short break, with our last meeting scheduled for this Sunday, April 2. We will resume on April 30th.
- We will have Multi-Age on Palm Sunday -- children will learn the meaning of the palms and then will gather early in the sanctuary to process in behind the choir.
- There will be no Sunday School (Multi-Age or Adult Forum) on Easter Sunday or on April 23rd.
- Regular Sunday School hours will resume on April 30th.

EASTER SERVICE

The Easter service at First & Franklin is customarily enriched with a brass quartet and timpanist. These guest musicians present an extended prelude to worship and join the organ in leading congregational hymns and accompanying choral anthems. It is a joy for us to support these young artists from our community, and each year members & friends of First & Franklin make special gifts to help offset this expense. Will you please consider helping us again this Easter?

The total cost of the Easter musicians is approximately \$2,500, and gifts in any amount will be gratefully received. Checks may be made out to First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, with a memo of "Easter Music." Thank you for your consideration.



**Easter Breakfast
and
Egg Hunt
April 16th, 9:00 a.m.
Backus House and Courtyard**

Please join First & Franklin for fellowship, food and activities.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I/We will be there! ____ (how many)

Children attending Egg Hunt ____ (how many)

Childrens' ages ____

We will bring to share: ½ Doz. Dyed Hard Boiled Eggs
 Dozen doughnuts, Danish, or Muffins

Will help clean-up prior to the 10:10 service of worship.

*To assist us with the planning, please email or call the office by **April 9th***

**SPRING GROUNDS CLEAN-UP
Sunday, April 30th**

Join us after worship on Sunday, April 30th as we engage in spring cleaning and maintenance of our grounds in our ongoing efforts to green and beautify our small piece of creation. Volunteers are needed to trim, spread mulch, and clean up leaves and debris from our tree wells, gardens, and green spaces. No gardening experience is necessary. We will have some tools on site, but please bring work gloves and any gardening tools that you may have. We should wrap up work no later than 2:30 p.m. Many hands make light work, so please come out to help. Please contact the church office or Andy Smith

at david.andrew.smith1@gmail.com to sign up.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Saturday, March 4th 10 am -1 p.m. Backus House.



BROWN BAG LUNCH FOR THE HOMELESS

Next Packing Party is **April 9th** in Reid Chapel following worship. Thank you for your generous support of the brown bag lunch project sponsored by the Peacemaking Committee! Besides helping us hand out these lunches, here's a list of items you can purchase and deliver to the church.

- Protein bars; 10 g min; 15 to 20 g desirable
- Wrapped cookies
- Fruit cups
- Squeezable applesauce
- Snack size peanuts
- Snack size raisins
- Vitamin Infused water; 10 oz. low sugar
- Snack size candy (non-melting such as M&M's)
- Sturdy paper lunch bags
- Paper napkins
- Reusable grocery bags
- Plastic spoons
- Lip balm
- Individual hand wipes

It is important that these items be non-perishable, in single serving size, individually wrapped packaging. NO homemade food, please.

TEA AND THEOLOGY

If your cup of tea is theology, consider joining our Tea and Theology group on Monday's from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30p.m. You will enjoy copious amounts of both tea and theology, plus a warm circle of people who think broadly and deeply about the world God so loves.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Join us at 9:30 a.m. for the Adult Forum with Dr. Robert Hoch as we wander through Luke Timothy Johnson's *The Creed*. What does it mean when the church says, "We believe"? To find out, come join the conversation! Also, at 9:30 a.m., we offer our Multi-age Classroom (ages 5 to 12) and a Nursery Care program.

ELDERS AND DEACONS CHAIRING OR CO-CHAIRING COMMITTEES:

Peacemaking

Sam (Elwood) Quigg - ellwoodqgg@aol.com
Charley Boynton - charles.boynton@gmail.com

Christian-Education

David Dadds - daviddadds@comcast.net,
Mike Johnson - Mikejohnson9747@gmail.com

Personnel

Marianne Shick - mfshick36@gmail.com

Worship

John McLucas - jcmcl1532@aol.com

Buildings and Grounds

Miriam Lott-Costa - miriam.lott@gmail.com

Hospitality

Paula Crews - paulacrews@gmail.com

Budget and Finance

Donald Knapp - deknapp@verizon.net

Stewardship

Marianne Shick - mfshick36@gmail.com
John McLucas - jcmcl1532@aol.com

LITURGIST 101

Would you like to serve as a liturgist? Or would you like a few basic tips on "how to" lead worship? Would you like to blow a few "liturgical bubbles" before you jump into the deep end of the pool? Or have you been serving for some time, but perhaps you would value an opportunity to refresh your skills? Rev. Rhonda Cooper, longtime friend of First & Franklin Church, is available to meet with you after any Sunday service to equip you for liturgical happiness! The only date that won't work for her is April 9th. You can respond to this email, or contact Rhonda at rcoope23@jhmi.edu to let her know when you would like to meet.

VOLUNTEERS

Help is needed for the following positions:

LITURGISTS

April 2 John Boyd
April 9 Scot Spencer
April 14 Frank McNeil
April 16 Connie Fischel
April 23
April 30 Carole Davis
May 7
May 14 Haswell Franklin
May 21
May 28

USHERS

April 2 Kathy Schwarz, Audrey Suhr
April 9 Kathy Schwarz, Sabrina Schumann
April 14 David Kirby, Paula Crews
April 23
April 30 Dave Fischel & Connie Fischel
May 7 David Kirby, Davis Bradley
May 14
May 21 David Kirby
May 28

COMMUNION BREAD

April 2 John Boyd & Liz Dicembre
April 14 Paula Crews
May 7 Mike Johnson
June 4 Scott & Sasha Fulton
July 2

FELLOWSHIP TIME

April 2 – Mike Johnson
April 9 – Sasha Fulton
April 16
April 23
April 30 – Jeff Mace
May 7 Bill & Corena Bridges
May 14 Haswell Franklin
May 21
May 28 Armenti

To volunteer contact, Paula Crews at 410-459-1639 or paulacrews@gmail.com

A NOTE ON SANCTUARY

As members of BUILD (Baltimoreans United In Leadership Development), First & Franklin is committed to a “radical tactic” – that is, “to meet people face-to-face and build relationships that help to re-knit the frayed social fabric of our life.”

At its March 27th meeting, Session voted unanimously to support and encourage participation in the mission of the Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland (SCCM), a broad network of congregations, synagogues, mosques, and human rights organizations dedicated to advocacy for undocumented persons in the United States.

Session did not vote on becoming an official member of the Sanctuary Coalition, though it may do so in the future. Indeed, we are already part of the sanctuary movement. In February, our efforts helped one mother of four, Roxana, secure a temporary deferment; we are preparing to stand beside Veronica, who is also being targeted by ICE. We support the Coalition’s mission, not just in word but also in action.

SCCM’s is quoted below:

The Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland supports the concept of Sanctuary by promoting safety and refuge for those seeking safe and productive lives in the U.S. The Coalition proposes to support Sanctuary in the following ways:

- *Prayerful support of Sanctuary congregations.*
- *Material support (including but not limited to food, meals, transportation and financial support) of those congregations offering Sanctuary to undocumented immigrants.*
- *Participate in phone banking gatherings to raise awareness of the Sanctuary movement, gather support of the movement, and seek material support as determined by each member institution, for Sanctuary congregations.*
- *Participate in advocacy initiatives to call upon Congress to submit legislation to support amnesty and immigration reform that will provide a pathway to legal status for the undocumented.*
- *Provide support, stand in solidarity with the National Sanctuary movement and seek ways to expand the Sanctuary Coalition.*

- *Explore the opportunity of civil resistance if it arises and call upon those who might be willing to participate. Membership in the Sanctuary Coalition will not include an expectation of participation in nonviolent civil resistance but will support those who choose to disobey civil law.*
- *Encourage support of the movement with electronic media posts, flyers, and banners supporting the human rights of immigrants and those living in Sanctuary situations.*
- *Contact, recruit, and publicize reduced cost/pro bono legal services for immigrants.*
- *Provide Know Your Rights information sessions, assist with plans of action and designation of temporary guardianship of minor children.*
- *Provide advocacy in counties with detention centers and locations where ICE raids are active.*
- *Organize candle vigils as an Ecumenical Sanctuary organization to help immigrants gain confidence and strength from God.*

As a congregation, we are ramping up our commitment to the undocumented. From time to time, you will hear invitations to join actions which will bring us closer to each other in the love of Christ. Deportation actions are carried out in our city. Some of those actions are justifiable; but others are discriminatory and unjustifiable. Indeed, it is not so much that we have a “migrant crisis” but that we have a moral crisis. The movement of sanctuary, in its different forms, invites us to become collaborators with Christ and the undocumented as we work together for the alternative politics of God’s peaceable rule. Prayerfully consider different ways in which you can support the sanctuary movement in Baltimore.

Your Pastor,



Rev. Robert Hoch, Ph.D.

**BALTIMORE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
SENIOR VOICE RECITAL**
Sunday, April 23, 2017 – 3:00 p.m.



This program of solos will be presented by the senior voice majors from Baltimore School for the Arts.

**AN INVITATION FROM FIRST & FRANKLIN
CHORAL INTERN AND BSA STUDENT, DINA
RANDRIANARIVELO**
Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM



BeMaeva - Music from Madagascar
Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Cntr.
847 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Tickets & more info:
www.eventbrite.com/e/bemaeva-music-from-madagascar

BALTIMORE PIANO MARATHON
Sunday, May 7, 2017 - 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.



The First Annual Baltimore Piano Marathon will celebrate over 300 years of the piano, in a concert by nine superb pianists from the Greater Baltimore/Washington area playing repertoire of their own choosing. Every 30 minutes, a different artist will perform - you are invited to come to hear a single performer, a whole hour, or stay for the entire event! The glorious Steinway B in First & Franklin's sanctuary will be the featured instrument.

Featured performers on the First Annual Baltimore Piano Marathon will include:

Matthew Bachman, Doctoral candidate in piano performance, University of Maryland; Manager, Steinway Piano Gallery, Hunt Valley, MD.

Hyun Jung Kim, 2016 Winner, Sendai International Piano Competition.

Matthew Palumbo, MM, Peabody Conservatory (2014); piano faculty, International School of Music, Bethesda, Maryland and Community College of Baltimore County.

Marianna Prjevalskaya, Winner, 2013 Cincinnati World Piano Competition; Naxos CD (2012) with works by Scarlatti, Haydn, Schumann, and Zárate.

Seth Schultheis, Baltimore School for the Arts student; 2016 Winner, Maryland Music Teachers Association Competition.

Michael Sheppard, a pupil of legendary pianist Leon Fleischer, internationally acclaimed performer and faculty member at Baltimore School for the Arts.

FIRST & FRANKLIN BIRTHDAYS

Happy March Birthdays

Fischel, Connie	03/04
Snodderly, Paula	03/04
McCormick, Bill	03/07
Jarosinski, Katherine	03/08
Griswold, Maggy	03/12
LaMotte, Larry	03/14
Johnson, Gwen	03/16
Reade, Dan	03/18
Tyldesley, Betsy	03/18
Khorsandian, Roshan	03/19
Schaffer, Karla	03/20
Lucas, Ann	03/22
Grotzky, Asher	03/22
Eichorn, Lawrence	03/23
Stober, Ty	03/24
Lambert Gardner, Mary	03/25
Lam, Chuong	03/28
Gibson, Chris	03/30
Peters, Jim	03/31
Hoch, Rob	03/31

Happy April Birthdays

Groves, Philip	04/02
Suhr, Audrey	04/02
Lloyd, Susan	04/03
Smith, Rachel	04/10
Anders, Roland	04/13
Schroll, James	04/22
Knighting, Christopher	04/27
Briggs, Stephanie	04/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Happy March Anniversaries

George Brubach Jr. and Bill Jacobs	03/15
Mary and Peter Young	03/25
David and Judith Dadds	03/25
Taren and Job Grotzky	03/26
Alan Brigida and Brian Wells	03/31

Happy April Anniversaries

Joanne & John Carey	04/07
Chris & Kelly Gibson	04/11

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Congregation

Denise Brandon
Nick Dogas
Jim Haugh
Susan Haugh
Don Knapp
Betty Loafman
Jim Schneider
Sophia Smith and the Piplani Smith family
Sam Quigg

Relatives & Friends

Anthony M. (Jim Harvey and John Johnston's friend)
Barbara M. (Bob Reseck's sister)
Connie G. (Paula Crews' sister-in-law)
Elizabeth H. (Friend of Congregation)
Garrison K. (Friend of Congregation)
George R. (Connie & David Fischel)
Gini M. (Betty Schroll's mom)
Henry F. (Haswell Franklin's son)
Jane A. (Paula Crews' friend)
Jim L. (Fischel's friend)
Joseph B. (Connie & David Fischel)
Julia (Marianne Shick's friend)
Liz & Chris, & Owen (Jean Trout's family)
Madge (Haswell Franklin's wife)
Nadia M. (Nusrat David's daughter-in-law)
Nancy G. (Friend of Liz Dicembre and John Boyd)
Nick P. (Sasha & Scott Fulton's nephew)
Xavier P. (John Boyd's friend)

Please Hold in Your Hearts

Serkan Golge, a US citizen being held in detention in Turkey (Susan & Jim Haugh's friend.)
All those impacted by violence in our country and the world.
The men of Patrick Allison House.
The congregation of our sister church in Taguasco, Cuba.

April

- 10 -

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>						
			1			1 10:30AM – CH NA						
2 9:30 AM – Nursery Care BH Multi-Age Sunday School Adult Forum 10:30AM – ST Worship 11:30AM – CH Fellowship 5-7 PM Lenten Study BH	3 3:00PM – BH Tea & Theology	4 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:00PM – CH Be More Yoga	5	6 7:00PM – CR Choir Rehearsal	7 Noon – BH Al-Anon	8 10:30AM – CH NA						
9 Palm Sunday 9:30 AM – Nursery Care BH Multi-Age Sunday School 10:30AM – ST Worship 11:30AM – CH Fellowship Brown Bag Packing CH	10 3:00PM – BH Tea & Theology	11 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:00PM – CH Be More Yoga	12	13 7:00PM – CR Choir Rehearsal	14 Noon – BH Al-Anon 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	15 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal SA 10:30AM – CH NA						
16 Easter Breakfast/Egg Hunt 9:00 am 9:30AM – Nursery Care 10:10AM – ST Worship 11:30AM – CH Fellowship	17 Office Closed Tea & Theology - Cancelled	18 6:00PM – CH Be More Yoga	19	20 7:00PM – CR Choir Rehearsal	21 Noon – BH Al-Anon	22 10:30AM – CH NA						
23 9:30 AM – Nursery Care (No Sunday School) 10:30AM – ST Worship 11:30AM – CH Fellowship	24 3:00PM – BH Tea & Theology 5:45PM – BH Session	25 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:00PM – CH Be More Yoga	26	27 7:00PM – CR Choir Rehearsal	28 Noon – BH Al-Anon	29 10:30AM – CH NA						
30 9:30 AM – Nursery Care BH Multi –Age Sunday School Adult Forum 10:30AM – ST Worship 11:30AM – CH Fellowship 12:30 pm Spring Cleanup	<div data-bbox="797 1669 1179 1885" data-label="Table"> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Locations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BH – Backus House</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CR – Choir Room</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CH – Reid Memorial Chapel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HH – Hodge House</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ST – Sanctuary</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>						Locations	BH – Backus House	CR – Choir Room	CH – Reid Memorial Chapel	HH – Hodge House	ST – Sanctuary
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