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# First & Franklin family

**MARCH 2017**

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### *Glorious Bloom*

A lot is happening at First & Franklin these days. Here is an update on three areas of our life together: The St. Andrews Parking Lot; The Center and Hodge House; and Lenten happenings.

#### St. Andrews Parking Lot

By now, you have heard about our parking lot, which will be managed by a reputable Baltimore company, PMS Parking Inc. This means that day-to-day operation of the St. Andrews Parking Lot will be overseen by that company. And it also means that we will be adopting some new policies for the use of the parking lot. We have included the letter explaining those policies in this newsletter – please review it carefully. You can always ask a member of Session or me if you have questions. We will give an overview of our parking arrangements Sunday, March 12th.

#### The Center and Hodge House

We are also having good conversations with The Center which currently occupies Hodge House. Some of you noted a January 2016 newsletter article in the *Tidings* magazine, a publication of Baltimore Presbytery, which said that the church had “concluded” it could no longer afford to maintain Hodge House. It is true that a restoration of Hodge House is prohibitively costly and, to that extent, its future is uncertain. That said, Session has made no decision to either close or dispose of Hodge.

Rev. Kate Foster Connors and members of her Steering Committee met with us this past month, once in a smaller group and again as the Session. These have been, without question, encouraging conversations.

Among other things, including a commitment to be more engaged partners with The Center, I am happy to report that the Session has agreed to restore The Center's lease from its current end date, December 31, 2020 to its original December 31, 2022 date.

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**Please email articles & photographs for the newsletter by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to: [information@firstfranklin.org](mailto:information@firstfranklin.org)**

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Some questions remain outstanding: cost of proposed/necessary repairs, timetable, and realistic budget limitations.

Just as we face the realities of an aging campus and limited resources, The Center needs to secure a long term site for its mission. Extending the lease date gives The Center some breathing room and it also allows us, collectively, to prayerfully discern the future.

Members of our Session and The Center's steering committee are committed to talking through questions and differences in order to seek a consensus. The good news is we have a shared vision for the church as a just, inclusive, and engaged community. At the same time, these are "nuts and bolts" conversations and they won't be easy, but nothing worthwhile was ever easy. What I think should be underlined here is that First & Franklin is committed to the important ministry which The Center brings to our campus and to the larger church of which we are a part.

This is a developing – and I think – happy story. Stay tuned!

### Lent

And of course, the Season of Lent is upon us and that means a fresh renewal of our faith. It's not accidental that the lectionary organizes the Lenten Season, a time in which we meet Jesus in the desert, around springtime, when we witness, almost magically, the sudden appearance of flowers. I know spring has come early to Baltimore: the blossom trees are dazzling us with their pink hues and other buds are swollen-to-burst; Lenten Roses have blossomed outside my study. Their blossoms are early – a bit worrisome, perhaps – but nevertheless welcome.

Lent is a time when we dig deeply into our faith story. It is perhaps fitting that this Saturday we will be hosting a New Member class – Lent is a perfect time to bring the ache for deeper faith and more meaningful living into glorious flower.

So along with welcoming new members into the life of the church, we will also hold a Lenten Study beginning on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. We will meet every Sunday at the same time through April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We're going to be reading through John's gospel – an astoundingly rich narrative.

In addition to rich biblical reflection, we will also enjoy fellowship around a meal. Reach out to David Dadds and Mike Johnson, our Christian Education Co-Chairs for more information. Childcare is provided. There are other opportunities to grow in your faith at First & Franklin Church – so dig in, dig deep, and watch for the almost magical transformation of a desert into a glorious witness of God's gracious love.

Your Pastor,



Rev. Robert Hoch, PhD  
Pastor

## **WORSHIP**

**Sunday at 10:30 a.m.**

### **March 5**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

### **March 12**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-27

### **March 19**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5

John 3:1-17

### **March 26**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

## **SUNDAY EVENING LENTEN STUDY**

Starting March 5<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. First and Franklin will continue its tradition of gathering for reflection and fellowship during the weeks leading up to Easter. Everyone is invited to Backus House as we study seasonal passages from the Gospel of John, led by Pastor Rob Hoch. Light fare will be provided, but if you wish to bring something to share, feel free.

Childcare will also be provided. Visitors and friends are especially welcome. There is no registration, commitment, materials or prior biblical expertise required. For more details, contact David Dadds, Mike Johnson or the church office.

## **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.

## **GREETINGS & PEACE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE.**

**It is not too late to make a pledge for 2017!** Please let the church office know if you did not receive a pledge card last Fall and would like to complete one now. We are looking at ways to make pledging and contributing simpler and paper-free, and we hope that by Fall 2017 we will have options available for electronic payment of pledges and other gifts to the church.

### **Pledge of time and talent:**

We also invite all friends and members to consider a pledge of service in addition to your financial pledge. Below is a list of committees and the members of Session who chair them. All of them would welcome new members. Membership involves direct hands-on work as well as group learning experiences and discussions about how to share these experiences with the congregation.

### **Other opportunities to serve:**

We are always looking for people to help with the following activities (sign-up sheets available!):  
Counting the weekly offering;  
Supplying and preparing Communion bread;  
Helping in the church office;  
Providing flowers or refreshments;  
Ushering.

### **Elders and Deacons chairing or co-chairing committees:**

#### **Peacemaking**

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

#### **Christian-Education**

David Dadds - [daviddadds@comcast.net](mailto:daviddadds@comcast.net),  
Mike Johnson - [Mikejohnson9747@gmail.com](mailto:Mikejohnson9747@gmail.com)

#### **Personnel**

Marianne Shick - [mfshick36@gmail.com](mailto:mfshick36@gmail.com)

#### **Worship**

John McLucas - [jcmcl1532@aol.com](mailto:jcmcl1532@aol.com)

#### **Buildings and Grounds**

Miriam Lott-Costa - [miriam.lott@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.lott@gmail.com)

### **Hospitality**

Paula Crews - [paulacrews@gmail.com](mailto:paulacrews@gmail.com)

### **Budget and Finance**

Donald Knapp - [deknapp@verizon.net](mailto:deknapp@verizon.net)

### **Stewardship**

Marianne Shick - [mfshick36@gmail.com](mailto:mfshick36@gmail.com)  
John McLucas - [jcmcl1532@aol.com](mailto:jcmcl1532@aol.com)

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Help is needed for the following positions:

### **LITURGISTS**

March 5 Cindy Liu  
March 12 – Scot Spencer

### **USHERS**

March 5 – Davis Bradley, Charley Boynton,  
Heidi Dessecker  
March 12 - 19, 16

### **COMMUNION BREAD**

March 5 – Audrey Suhr  
April 2 – John Boyd & Liz Dicembre  
April 14 - Paula Crews

### **FELLOWSHIP TIME**

March 5 – Davis Bradley  
March 12 – Maggie Griswold  
March 19, 26  
April 2 – Mike Johnson  
April 9, 16, 23, 30

### **OFFERING COUNTERS**

Contact Office

To volunteer contact, Paula Crews at 410-459-1639 or [paulacrews@gmail.com](mailto:paulacrews@gmail.com)

## MISSION TRIP

Betty Schroll and Charley Boynton traveled to Cuba February 10-17 for Encuentro 2017. They were accompanied by 26 other Americans from the Baltimore Presbytery. While there they spent two days in Taguasco with our sister church. They were warmly welcomed and embraced by their hosts. This was Betty's second trip to Taguasco and Charley's first. Betty and Charley were treated to delicious Cuban meals in congregants' homes and aided by an interpreter (neither are fluent in Spanish). On Saturday night they attended a Valentine's Day party at the church and went to a discotheque and enjoyed some cervezas with several young people from the church. On Sunday morning Betty and Charley partook in the youth and adult ministries as well as worship.

Betty and Charley delivered the medicines donated by the congregation and the more than \$8,000 in cash raised to help restore the Taguasco church's roof. The session of Taguasco church was deeply grateful for our generosity and provided us with a beautifully worded thank you note (in English) expressing their appreciation. Taguasco has not had a full time minister for many years, however, that has not stopped them from being a vibrant, dedicated, and joyful group! They feel called to remain active in the community and help the poor. As one member puts it, "it's not the poor's fault that we have no minister." Taguasco has three main service projects:

- a food program: provides two meals per week served at the church, designed to support the elderly and the poor.
- a laundry project: once a week they launder clothes for those who can't or don't have a washing machine.
- a sewing project: women sew rugs and other items to sell. Part of the income goes to the seamstress and part to the church to help cover expenses. The women of the group provided our church with a rug to show their love and friendship.

At the conclusion of a wonderful stay in Taguasco, representatives of our churches agreed to make an effort to increase the frequency of our communications and visits to each other as well as to continue to pray for each other regularly. The remainder of the trip was spent at a hotel in the mountains for the Encuentro 2017 conference.

There Betty and Charley were reunited with the other American visitors and joined by Cuban ministers, seminarians, and lay leaders, including two members from Taguasco. All participated in shared daily worship services, engaged in dialogue about our countries and presbyteries shared and unique challenges, took a boat tour of the area, and attended Valentines, American and Cuban-themed parties.

If you are interested in participating in a future church sponsored trip to Cuba, please contact Betty. You are strongly encouraged to go regardless of your Spanish fluency. The members of our sister church want you to visit them and to have the opportunity to get to know you! They want to visit us in Baltimore as well, but cost and visa approval issues present challenges for them. A tentative trip of First & Franklin members to Taguasco is planned for February 2018 and spots are still available. Please continue to hold the members of our sister church in your hearts as their country is experiencing a severe drought.





**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Congregation**

Denise Brandon  
Paula Crews for health  
Nick Dogas  
David Fischel  
Jim Haugh for healing  
Don Knapp  
Betty Loafman  
Jim Schneider  
Sophia Smith and the Piplani Smith family

**Relatives & Friends**

Anthony M. (Jim Harvey and John Johnston's friend)  
Barbara M. (Bob of Patrick Allison House sister)  
Elizabeth H. (Friend of Congregation)  
Ethel (Fischel's friend)  
Fred Z. (Jim Haugh's cousin)  
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 Crew's friend)  
Jim L. (Fischel's friend)  
John B. (Don Knapp's relative)  
John F. (Rebecca Hoch's Uncle)  
Joseph B. (Connie & David Fischel)  
Julia (Marianne Shick's friend)  
Kath M. (Norvell Miller's friend)  
Liz & Chris, & Owen (Jean Trout's family)  
Madge (Haswell Franklin's wife)  
Nadia M. (Nusrat David's daughter-in-law)  
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.

Doug D. (Heidi Dessecker's brother) training to be Navy Seal.



**THE SPIRE SERIES  
2016-2017 SEASON**

**DARIUSZ SKORACZEWSKI**, cello  
**MICHAEL SHEPPARD**, piano  
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.



Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Principal cellist **Dariusz Skoraczewski** was presented with the prestigious Baker Artist Award, the highest recognition for artists in Maryland. He has appeared in many chamber series including the Barge Music Festival in New York City. **Michael Sheppard** is a pianist of extraordinary musicianship and virtuosity, and trained with legendary teachers Leon Fleisher and Ann Schein at the Peabody Conservatory. This duo will celebrate their long collaboration with the following program:

**Astor Piazzolla** - Le Grand Tango for Cello and Piano

**Francis Poulenc** - Sonata for Cello and Piano (1948)

**Sergei Rachmaninoff** - Sonata for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op 19

**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.

**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.

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FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**To:** *All Members and Friends of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church*

**Subject:** *Parking in The First & Franklin Lot*

**Date:** *March 1, 2017*

For many years, First & Franklin Presbyterian Church has used the parking lot entered from Howard Street. This lot was managed by the St. Andrews Properties, Inc. (SAP) Board who gave their service voluntarily to the church. With the transition of the Board in October 2015 the new SAP Board sought, found, and, after consulting with Session, signed a one-year lease with a local highly reputable parking management company called PMS Parking, Inc. The lease became effective February 1, 2017. It is important to note that the church will no longer be paying monthly rent for our nine spots (#9 -#17) as these are granted to the church through our contract with PMS, Inc. The profits from renting the remaining spaces will be shared 50-50 on a net revenue basis; while the lease is for one-year, there is an option for a two-year renewal.

So how does this affect you (us) the users of our church's lot?

There are 42 spaces in the lot. **With the exception of Sunday morning parking, you will need to obtain a pass from Tina, our Office Administrator.**

- Nine spaces are permanently dedicated to the church (24/7) for our use; spaces #9 - #17 will be designated with a green stripe in the near future. No passes are required for these spaces. **When in doubt, go for the green.** See the included map.
- Ten spaces are permanently (24/7) dedicated to PMS, Inc. for their exclusive use by renters. These spaces are not designated to a specific location within the lot.
- During Sunday Service from 8am-2pm, no parking passes are required to park in the lot. PMS is solely responsible to ensure their ten dedicated spaces are available to their renters (see above).
- Choir practice will have 11 additional spaces allocated on Thursday evening (6:00-9:15 pm) for a total of 20 spaces for that specified time. Special hang tags have been issued for use by the Choir during that time period. Choir members are always to display their hang tags during practice even when parked in a First & Franklin reserved 'green' space.
- Tea and Theology will have an additional three spaces allocated on Monday's (3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.). A total for church usage will be 12 during the specified hours.
- SAP purchased 100 day-passes for church use for events not regularly scheduled. Session will decide whether it will continue to purchase a block of passes or choose another way of securing parking for church related events.

Tina Lohrmann, our Office Administrator, will oversee the day-to-day operation of the lot. Special events like the Christmas Concert, weddings, and funerals will need to be coordinated by Tina at our church office during regular office hours. Please advise any session members with comments or further questions. Thank you for your cooperation and your continued service to God and Christ's church.

In Christ's Service  
Don Knapp

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# March

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<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 7:00PM – CR Choir Rehearsal	3 Noon – BH Al-Anon	4 10 am – 1pm New Member Class - BH 10:30AM – CH NA
5 9:30 – BH Sunday School Adult Forum 10:30AM – ST Worship 11:30AM – CH Fellowship 5-7 PM Lenten Study BH	6 3:00PM – BH Tea & Theology	7 10:30 Staff Meeting  6:00PM – CH Be More Yoga	8	9 7:00PM – CR Choir Rehearsal	10 Noon – BH Al-Anon	11 10:30AM – CH NA
12 9:30 – BH Sunday School Adult Forum 10:30AM – ST Worship 11:30AM – CH Fellowship Brown Bag Packing BH  5-7 PM Lenten Study BH	13 3:00PM – BH Tea & Theology	14 10:30 Staff Meeting  6:00PM – CH Be More Yoga	15	16 7:00PM – CR Choir Rehearsal	17 Noon – BH Al-Anon	18 10:30AM – CH NA
19 9:30 – BH Sunday School Adult Forum 10:30AM – ST Worship 11:30AM – CH Fellowship 5-7 PM Lenten Study BH	20 3:00PM – BH Tea & Theology	21 10:30 Staff Meeting  6:00PM – CH Be More Yoga	22	23 7:00PM – CR Choir Rehearsal	24 Noon – BH Al-Anon	25 10:30AM – CH NA
26 9:30 – BH Sunday School Adult Forum 10:30AM – ST Worship 11:30AM – CH Fellowship 5-7 PM Lenten Study BH	27 3:00PM – BH Tea & Theology  5:45PM – BH Session	28 10:30 Staff Meeting  6:00PM – CH Be More Yoga				

## Locations

BH – Backus House  
 CR – Choir Room  
 CH – Reid Memorial Chapel  
 HH – Hodge House  
 ST – Sanctuary