



GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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 WWW.GOVANSPRES.ORG

DECEMBER 2004

The Bellringer



New Pastor Joins Govans

The Rev. Neta Pringle, a veteran minister who has guided several churches through leadership transitions, joined Govans as interim pastor last month – just as Advent got underway.

Pastor Pringle will serve until a permanent pastor is found, a process that typically takes 12-18 months.

She is a graduate of Douglass College at Rutgers University and the Union Theological Seminary in New York. She was ordained in 1985 and has served a number of congregations in the Northeastern United States, including 10 years as pastor and head of staff at Concord Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Del.

She has also served as the interim pastor of Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington and of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Paramus, N.J., as well as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in

Hempstead, Long Island, and interim director of the Educational and Artistic Ministry in Bergen County, N.J.

A former commissioner to the Delaware Human Relations Committee, the Rev. Pringle also served as commissioner to the 204th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) at which she chaired the Commissioner Committee on Social Justice and Social Issues. She also served as commissioner to the 213th General Assembly.

She is married to the Rev. John Potter, a Presbyterian minister who is working as a spiritual director. They have five grown children and five grandsons.

She will retain residency in Wilmington, Del., where she and her husband live in a house built in 1730, and commute to Govans.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

Anticipating Unexpected Treasures

My husband John and I went to Scotland to see the Nigg Stone. We didn't know when we left Wilmington, or when we drove over the border from England into Scotland, that in one of the tourist shops where we picked up a book on Pictish stones, we found our interest piqued. Flat, standing about five or six feet tall, carved on the front with intricate designs of crosses and saints, and on the back with pictographs whose meaning is long lost, they are testaments to early Christian faith. The stone in Nigg is one of the finest, and one day we set out from Inverness to

find it. The village of Nigg is really little more than a church— we had a hard time finding it, but on the third pass, we found the little sign, and the church, and the stone. It was well worth the trip.

As we of Govans set out on our journey together, I wonder what it is that we will discover along the way. Like any journey, it will not be quite what we expect—but if we are faithful, it will be what God has planned.

Neta Lindsay Pringle
 Interim Pastor

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- Govans Schedule

Editor:

Caprice McLaughlin

Editorial board:

Mike Field

Jon Morgan

Jim Williams

Christmas Eve Children and Family Service to feature La Posada:

This Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. we will celebrate the journey of Mary and Joseph as they seek shelter. La Posada is the Hispanic tradition found in many Latin American countries which seeks to commemorate the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The tradition dates back to 1587 when Father Diego de Soria used it to help introduce Christianity to the New World.

We will begin the service in

the Sanctuary, where children may receive a costume as an angel or shepherd. Then we will follow Mary and Joseph as they travel by donkey (live donkey will help lead the way) to Bethlehem, seeking shelter along the way and being turned away. Finally they will be welcomed by a kind innkeeper in Sharp Hall. We then recreate the *nacimiento* (Nativity scene) where children come forward to help complete the tableau. (Complete

with live lambs, and chickens and maybe even a duck or two from Woodberry Crossing!)

Families are invited to join us for a traditional *fiesta* following the service where chili, cornbread and cookies will be served. (Hot dogs available for children!) Plan now to come out and join us Friday, December 24 at 5:00 for this special worship event.

Advent and Christmas at Govans

Advent and Christmas are filled with symbols-- symbols that proclaim, bells, angels, trumpets; symbols of peace, doves, shepherds and sheep; symbols of new life, evergreen wreaths and Christmas trees; and symbols of hope, such as candles. Each Sunday in Advent we light a candle in our advent wreath helping us to symbolically prepare for the coming of the Christ. Symbols are everywhere. Unfortunately we are often too busy to notice the many symbols around us or

we simply take them for granted.

This Christmas, slow down, look around, really look around and see what is going on around you. Look beyond the glitter and the hype of consumer driven Christmas to the real meaning of Christmas - God loving us so much he dwelt among us, coming as an innocent child born in a manger.

Govans provides three opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve.

The 5:00 p.m. **Children and Family** service will feature the Latin American theme of "La Posada" where we follow Mary and Joseph as they seek shelter which will be followed by a time of sharing chili and cornbread and hotdogs! The 8:00 p.m. Communion offers us a quiet time of reflection and the 11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols service ends in candlelight and prayer as we herald Christmas day. Join us as you are able for one or all of these worship op-

Family Fun Day planned for December 11

Want to put aside some of the rush and chaos that always seems to find us during this holiday time? The Children and Youth Ministry Area is sponsoring an afternoon of fun and food. On Saturday, December 11, from 12:00 -4:00 p.m. families of all sizes and shapes are welcome to drop in for a time of decorating pinata, making Christmas crafts and actually building the Stable we will

use for La Posada on Christmas Eve. We will begin with pizza and fruit for all at 12:00 noon and then proceed to various activities based upon interest. There will be something for everyone in the family to do so come out and join us for a fun, family time. For more information contact Steve Petersen (410-737-8355) or Cindy Woodruff (410-377-5256).

A HAPPY THOUGHT

I rejoiced with those who said to, "Let us go to the house of the LORD".

Psalm 122:1

“As a Tribute to Jack”

For two hours on Sunday, October 31st, we celebrated the 27 years of Jack and Dotty’s ministry with lots of pomp and circumstance. It was a glorious two hours and we had a full house. In a typical Jack Sharp way, we had everything in that one service except the kitchen stove. I think the best tribute we can give to Jack is to take his own words and “hit the road running.” From now on I would like to see this church with a full house every Sunday. I know with two services the church won’t be overflowing. But the important thing is for everybody to attend church every Sunday.

Anne Englar

*Cont’d from page 1
Rev. Neta Pringle*

She spoke with the *Bellringer* last month, just after she returned from a vacation in Venice, Italy:

Q: What are the challenges of being an interim pastor?

A: You just have to go full tilt when you first arrive - my husband refers to it as being a faster pastor – and I think you have to really trust the congregation because you are not going in and impose your things on them but help them sort out what they want to do. It’s like being a midwife: you coach and help but in the end you are not going to be there to raise the baby!

Q: People have said that it is a little like being a grief counselor in that you are helping people adjust to a loss of a former pastor and preparing them for a new future.

A: It’s kind of a combination of grief counselor, midwife and consultant. I suppose at Govans it is going to be more grief counselor than usual because of the terrific leadership you have had with Jack.

Q: What did you like about Govans?

A: Neat people. Great people. It’s worth driving to Baltimore for! I’m not good with churches that are stuck and this is a church that has some energy and some life and some great things going on.

Q: Do you have any goals for your pastoral tenure at Govans?

A: That you find absolutely the best minister in the world. That’s my goal.

Q: Are there any immediate changes you will implement?

A: No, I will wait until we get there. I know the transition com-

Sunday School Classes Help Hurricane Victims

Both the 1st-3rd grade class and the 4th and 5th Grade classes have responded to the call from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for help for those hit by the hurricanes in Florida. The 1st-3rd Grade Class col-

lected money and items to create six Health Kits and the 4th and 5th Grade Class collected money for item to create six school kits. The class went to Staples to pick out the items and then assembled the kits.

Senior High Ski Trip

The dates for the Senior High Ski trip to Deep Creek Lake has been set for February 11-13, 2005. Please reserve these dates. Cost and additional information is forthcoming. Questions? Contact Ed Richardson, 410-377-5201

mittee talked to me about helping the ministries system get up and going.

Q: How would you describe your pastoral style?

A: When I went off to seminary, I didn’t really know any other women in ministry up close and I thought “What am I going to use for a role model?” I thought, I know how to be a mother, because mothers help people stand up on their own two feet. So I’ve sort of modeled my style after a mother.

Q: Do you have any hobbies or special interests, when you are not working?

A: I’m a nut of a gardener. I can do perennials, kind of English landscape things.

Jon Morgan

MARINERS

The Mariners Christmas Party will be held December 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Beth and Barry Bryant. This group is composed of older middle aged singles and couples and all are invited to join us.

We will be making cookie plates for our homebound members so

please bring 3-4 dozen cookies to share.

The Bryants live at 925 Stablersville Road, Parkton, MD, 21120. Call Beth at 410-343-1571 to tell her what you will bring.

See you December 18th. Don't forget your cookies.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for sharing in my joy at becoming ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Your cards, hugs, congratulations, and good wishes have meant the world to me. Thanks to all who contributed time and talent to the ceremony and re-

ception, and Thank you, Church, for the gift of the beautiful white and gold minister's stole. I will wear it with great love for the congregation that has been my wonderful family in faith.

May God bless you,
Your sister in Christ,
Barbara Stumpf

HELP KEEP OUR PLANET GREEN!

Don't throw away your old ink cartridges. By bringing your old ink cartridges to the church and depositing them in our recycling box - you can contribute to the health of our environment through recycling, and generate mission dollars for the church.

We are cooperating with the Planet Green recycling program, and receive free shipping costs of all the old ink cartridges plus \$1.50 per cartridge.

We only ask that you place your empty cartridge in a ziploc bag to prevent ink leak-

age. We already recycle aluminum soda cans and paper at the church, now we can participate in the Planet Green program and raise funds for our church's mission. The recycling collection box is in the Church Gallery. Thank you. **NOTE: The cartridges the company accepts are: Canon, HP, Lexmark, Kodak, Compaq and Xerox.**

The church would like to thank all the people that have donated cartridges in the past. Thank You.

Youth Sponsor Parents Day Out

As part of the yearly fund raising project, the Youth of Govans will sponsor a Parents Day Out on Saturday, December 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Govans Presbyterian Church. Cost will be \$25.00 for the first child in the family and \$20.00 for each additional same-family child. We will provide quality care and supervision along with a nutritious and delicious lunch. All proceeds go to Summer Mission Trip. To reserve your spot, call Govans Presbyterian Church office at 410-435-9188.

The Gratitude Corner:

Courtesies of a small and trivial character are the ones which strike deepest in the grateful and appreciating heart.

Henry Clark



Merry Christmas

**LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY:
DECEMBER**

12/5 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 11:1-10; Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12

12/12 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 35:1-10; Ps. 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11

12/19 4th Sunday of Advent

Isa. 7:10-16; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25

12/24 Christmas Eve

Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

12/25 Christmas Day

Dawn: Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20;

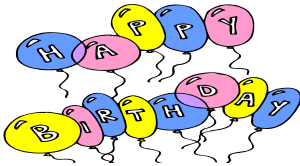
Day: Isa. 52:7-10; Ps. 98; Heb. 1:1-4 9(5-12); John 1:1-14

12/26 1st Sunday after Christmas

Isa. 63:7-9; Ps. 148; Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS	
11:00 a.m.	
12/5	Robin Chandlee
12/12	JoAnn Copes
12/19	Kelly Oglesbee
12/26	Drew Andersen

DECEMBER USHERS	
Joe Hamilton — Capt.	
Doug Gaede	
Karen Duncan	
Rosemary Lareau	
Anne Englar	



DECEMBER

		23rd	29th
		Ellen Leiserson	Lena Thompson
	7th	Alex Cox	Kenny Corson
2nd	Joe Hamilton	24th	Gerald Dorsey
Tom Clark	Andrew North	Myra Brosius	Shannon Hopkins
Ian Robinson	11th	Bill Leard	30th
5th	David Bryant	25th	Caroline Knarr
Bob Cushman	12th	Jean Lowers	31st
Christina Campbell	Catherine Burleson	27th	Jeannette Hobbs
Paul Hobbs	13th	Bettyann Phillips	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Owen Corkery	Eva Kaplan-Leiserson	Kathy Haduch	
Zachary Goldberg	16th	Brad Seabolt	If your birthday doesn't
6th	Stuart Ray	28th	appear on the monthly
Ralph Arnsdorf	Nene Orié	Ken Kaniecki	birthday charts, fill out
Robin Trulli	22nd	Lise Worthington	an "I Wish" card or call
	Ted Kruse		the office with your birth
			date.

SNNB: Senior Network of North Baltimore

Located in the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center

The SNNB offers a variety of programs and activities for senior adults. Below are a few of the activities for this month. For more information on any of these programs, please call SNNB at 410-323-7131.

CHAIR MASSAGE

**Monday, December 6th
15 minutes for \$10**

Jan Sanborn, a Certified Massage practitioner, will be here to help you relax your muscles. Call the office to sign up.

Do You Have Asthma?

Would you be willing to take part in a focus group at Senior Network? Group conducted by Dr. Crystal Simpson, MD, from Johns Hopkins Hospital. Lunch provided. Stipend for participation, to be held at Senior Network. Call Pat Jeffers if interested.



FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Join SNNB for a gourmet box lunch and a program every Friday at Noon. *All Luncheons are subject to change.* Call 410-323-7131 to sign up. You **MUST** sign up by the end of the day on Monday. A \$1.50 to \$2.00 donation to Eating Together is suggested for people 60 or over. Under 60, please pay the full cost of the meal (\$4.75).

Sponsored by Eating Together

SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS TOUR

**Tuesday, December 7th
2:00-10:00 p.m.
Cost \$45.00**

This tour includes an early dinner at the Old Country Buffet in Catonsville. Then on to Ellicott City for "The Heritage Walk." See a Symphony of Lights, a spectacular drive-through Holiday light display in Columbia. Then visit the Church of Latter Day Saints Temple Visitors Center, for a glittering display of lights and a live nativity scene with a concert (based on availability).

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEW YEAR'S CONCERT

**Salute to Vienna
Sat., January 1st 2:30 p.m.
Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall
Cost \$60.00—Orchestra Seating**

Join Senior Network in welcoming in the New Year with an outstanding cast of 75 musicians, singers and dancers in a magnificent recreation of the world famous Viennese New Year's concert and celebration. **Salute to Vienna** is an authentic Viennese New Year's Concert.



Senior Network offers a Bridge Club and Bridge Clinic, and a Reminiscing Club to learn to write down and share your favorite memories. Don't forget blood pressure checks, chair massages, and reiki. Computer classes Thursdays January 6th—February 10th.

BRIDGES, TUNNELS, AIRPORTS, SEAPORTS & HOMELAND SECURITY

Nick D'Adamo is Director of community Outreach for the Maryland Transportation Authority Police. He will be at Senior Network on Friday, December 3rd at 1:00 p.m. Come find out who they are and what they do to keep us safe. You must sign up if you would like to come for lunch.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Senior Network of North Baltimore now offers Gift Certificates. Purchase them for a trip, class or a dollar amount. For more information call 410-323-7131 or ask the next time you're in the office.

RED HAT SOCIETY

We would like to have a Red Hat Society Society, but we need a Queen Mum. We have plenty of people that would be willing to help. Please call Mary if you are interested at 410-323-7131.

Govans Presbyterian Church
5828 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

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GOVANS SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE

With Contemporary Music

Coordinator: Mike Kirkpatrick

10:10 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADULT OPTIONS

11:00 a.m.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

with Organ and Chancel Choir

Interim Organist, Keith Lusted

BARRIER FREE

CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR

BOTH SERVICES

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Ellen Morriss Memorial Labyrinth










is open from dawn to dusk daily





DECEMBER 2004



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class (SH) 7:30 p.m. Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Sanc.) 7:30 P.M. BIA (WR)	2 9:00 a.m. BMHS (WR) 12:30 Tai Chi (SH) 12:30 Painting Studio (MP-Rm) 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	3 9:00 a.m. Preschool Gym (MP-Rm) 9:30 a.m. Yoga Video (SH) 12:00 p.m. Friday Lunch Bunch (SH)	4 8:30 a.m. Fresh Breeze Mindfulness Sangha (SH) 6:00 p.m. Silent Auction (SH/Sanc.)
5 9:15 a.m. Children & Family Service 10:10 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Options 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service	6 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class (SH) 12:30 p.m. Tai Chi (SH) 7:00 p.m. Debtors Anon. (MP-Rm)	7 9:00 a.m. BMHS (SH) 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Lib) 11:00 a.m. Bible Study (Lib) 7:00 p.m. New Wave (SH) 	8 9:30 a.m. Preschool Music (MP-Rm) 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class (SH) 7:30 p.m. Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Sanc.) 7:30 p.m. TAMFS Bd. Mtg. 	9 12:30 Tai Chi (SH) 12:30 Painting Studio (MP-Rm) 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Sufi Order (SH)	10 9:00 a.m. Preschool Gym (MP-Rm) 9:00 a.m. Flu Shots (SH) 9:30 a.m. Yoga Class (SH) 12:00 p.m. Friday Lunch Bunch (SH) 7:00 p.m. Jill Whippo (SH)	11 8:30 a.m. Fresh Breeze Mindfulness Sangha (SH) 9:00 a.m. Children & Family Services (MP-Rm)
12 9:15 a.m. Children & Family Service 10:10 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Options 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 1:00 p.m. SNNB Luncheon (SH)	13 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class (SH) 12:30 p.m. Tai Chi (SH) 7:00 p.m. Debtors Anon. (MP-Rm)	14 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Lib) 9:30 a.m. Preschool Music (MP-Rm) 10:00 a.m. SNNB (SH) 11:00 a.m. Bible Study (Lib) 7:00 p.m. New Wave (SH)	15 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class (SH) 7:30 p.m. Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Sanc.) 7:30 p.m. Dancers of Universal Peace (SH)	16 12:30 Tai Chi (SH) 12:30 Painting Studio (MP-Rm) 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Sufi Order (SH)	17 9:30 a.m. Yoga Class (SH) 11:00 a.m. Preschool Chapel 12:00 p.m. Friday Lunch Bunch (SH)	18 8:30 a.m. Fresh Breeze Mindfulness Sangha (SH) 10:00 a.m. Parents Day Out 6:00 p.m. The Group @ the Drapers 6:30 p.m. Mariners @ the Bryants
19 9:15 a.m. Children & Family Service 10:10 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Options 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service	20 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class (SH) 7:00 p.m. Debtors Anon. (MP-Rm)	21 9:00 a.m. BMHS (SH) 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Lib) 11:00 a.m. Bible Study (Lib) 7:00 p.m. New Wave (SH)	22 11:00 a.m. Exercise Class (SH) LAST CLASS 7:30 p.m. Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Sanc.)	23 	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 p.m. Children & Family Service 8:00 p.m. Communion Service 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 
26 9:15 a.m. Children & Family Service 10:10 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Options 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED PRESCHOOL CLOSED 7:00 p.m. Debtors Anon. (MP-Rm)	28 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Lib) 11:00 a.m. Bible Study (Lib) 7:00 p.m. New Wave (SH) 7:30 p.m. Session	29 7:30 p.m. Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Sanc.)	30 	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 	

Room Codes: SH=Sharp Hall, WR=Waverly Room, Lib.=Library, MP-Rm.=Multi-Purpose Room, Gal.=Gallery, DR=Deacons Room, CR=Choir Room