

The Bellringer

Yorke House Gets Rehab, New Residents This Month

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Yorke House, the stately manse on the southern end of the church campus, has undergone an extensive renovation and will this month receive new tenants.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame, an international order whose local operations include the College of Notre Dame on Charles Street, has rented the building, replacing a prisoner's aid organization that had used it for about a year.

Four sisters are scheduled to move into the building on January 16 and could be joined by as many as four

more in coming years. The order has 4,800 sisters and was founded in France in 1597, dedicated to education. It has been in Baltimore since 1847.

The sisters have signed a five-year lease, agreeing to pay an annual rent that grows from \$20,000 the first year to \$21,500 by the final year.

The house has eight bedrooms and, thanks to about \$20,000 to \$25,000 in renovations, new, energy efficient windows, tile flooring and carpets, a remodeled kitchen, entryway and repaired bathrooms.

This was originally the church manse where the pastor would live. Early in the 1970's the pastor was given a housing allowance, and the manse was turned into Yorke House - a Group Home, where Chimes, Inc. placed 8 of its residents.

Chimes leased the home for nearly thirty years. They moved out in December 2001 and the house sat vacant for several months. Then People Encouraging People and

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Topics to Look For:

- Pastor's Book Shelf
- Church Service Schedule
- Friday Lunch Bunch
- Help Keep Govans Green
- From the Pastor

From the Pastor: Welcome the Season of Epiphany

By the time this newsletter arrives in your homes we will be well into the Season of Christmas - all twelve days of it. Although, for most, the holiday decorations are down, Christmas runs a full twelve days and then gives way to another ancient celebration of Christ's birth - Epiphany. The Day of Epiphany is the 6th of January, but the Season of Epiphany runs until Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent (this year, February 25th). The Greek word, epiphanos, refers to dawning or an illuminating discovery. The passage from Isaiah 60:1 is often read on this day; "Arise, Jerusalem and shine like the sun; the glory of the Lord is shining on you!" All of the Scriptural texts for the next six

weeks will contain some element of new awareness or manifestation about Jesus Christ. We'll begin with the ancient story of the coming of the magi, the wisemen, and end on the Sunday before Lent with the story of Jesus' "transfiguration" when he was revealed in all his glory.

Epiphany is the original celebration of Christmas in the Orthodox Churches of the East. The observance of Epiphany, which many scholars think is older than the Christmas, never caught on in the western churches, although it is celebrated in Latin American coun-

tries as a major festival. Many western churches are rediscovering Epiphany as a quieter season, not eclipsed by the commercial observance, as Christmas often is. It is a season when we can ask ourselves who it was that was born at Christmas, and reflect on the spiritual side of the birth of Jesus. One writer suggests that "as a book-end to Christmas, it could become the vessel that puts a truly spiritual cap on the holiday season." Throughout the rest of this winter season, rejoice in the message of Epiphany, "the glory of the Lord is shining upon you!"

Editor:

Caprice McLaughlin

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Mike Field
Jon Morgan
Jim Williams

The McKim Community Association: City's First Free School

The McKim Community Association has served Baltimore for over 180 years, first as a free school from 1821 until 1890 when public education took over its functions. McKim then established a free kindergarten, another first for the city. It has served as a home for delinquent youth, a community outreach center and now as an educational and recreational center. McKim, located in the historic Jonestown area of Baltimore City, has influenced the lives of thousands of children and many adults.

McKim's mission is to provide structure, discipline and love to the children of the city and to encourage them to strive to become productive adults.

Its vision is to provide activities and experiences that support the social, physical, academic and spiritual growth of the children now and into the future in a safe and caring atmosphere.

The United Presbyterian

Church, the Stony Run Society of Friends, civic groups, charitable foundations, generous individuals and The Friends of McKim sponsor the McKim Community Center. If you would like to help support this extremely worthwhile project, please send contributions directly to McKim Community Center, Inc., 1120 East Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-4708.



Pre-School Registration Begins



Parents of young children can register to enroll them in the church's popular preschool program beginning this month.

Children who will be age 2 to 5 when the program begins in September are eligible to attend. Although open to all, early enrollment preference is given to church families and those who have a sibling already attending the school.

For more than 30 years the church's preschool has nurtured children in a warm and supportive environment that emphasizes the

development of the whole child.

Sunny classrooms, an outdoor playground that includes both climbing equipment and riding toys, an indoor multipurpose room for rainy days, gym and music classes are all part of the program, which is noteworthy for the diverse mixture of students it attracts from many faiths, races and economic backgrounds.

"One of the reasons we are so popular is that we offer an unusually flexible program," says director Pam Ferguson, who has been with the school 21 years. "Some of our chil-

dren have working parents and spend the entire day with us. But many are here for just part of the day, and for only some of the days of the week. Parents who stay at home, or work part time, find the flexibility of our program very helpful."

The school's kindergarten program for 5-year-olds is an especially desirable option for parents concerned with

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The Gratitude Corner:

"Sometimes when we pray, a remarkable thing happens: We find the means, ways, and energies to perform tasks far beyond our capacities."

GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL: JANUARY

November was extremely busy. We had a Parent Work Day on Saturday, November 1st. Fourteen Pre-school parents were able to paint two classrooms, repair the climbing equipment on the playground, and repair all the bikes and wagons. It was a very successful Parent Work Day, and we hope to have another one after the first

of the year to paint furniture and shelves in the classrooms. Three of our teachers, Kristy Grantland, Judy Powers, and Donna O'Laughlen came to work on a Saturday to make their classrooms more attractive and cheerful

Cont'd on page 3

LET'S KEEP GOVANS GREEN!!

We are looking for members who would like to contribute to our efforts to plant additional trees in the cemetery and western side of the church property. Members can contribute for an entire tree or just a portion. If you are interested, a tree can also be planted as a memorial to a loved one or friend. We are developing a plan that will show where additional trees can be planted and what the preferred tree species would be. For more information or to make a pledge please contact Peter G. Conrad at 410-433-6163.

LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY: JANUARY	
1/4	2nd Sunday After Christmas Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20; Eph 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18
1/11	Baptism of the Lord Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
1/18	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10, 1 Cor. 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
1/25	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS	JANUARY USHERS
1/4 Annie Wilson	9:30 a.m. Jozwiak Family
1/11 Paul Robie	11:00 a.m. Jack Weller— Capt.
1/18 Lee Seabolt	Mike Field
1/25 Jamie Hardin	Okpa Orié
If you are interested in being a Worship Leader or Usher or you would like your name removed from the list, contact the church office at 410-435-9188.	Alice Orié
	Doug Gaede

A HAPPY THOUGHT

“We find that when we lose self-obsession, we are able to understand what it means to be happy, joyous, and free.”

Cont'd: Preschool Activities Included Pot-Luck, Music and Dance

Cont'd from page 2

for their students. In addition, one of our parents, Pablo Jusem, and a friend, put a glass window in the door to the Carriage House. This window helps to increase the safety of the children by allowing the teachers to see who is knocking on their door.

We held a successful fundraising event. Parents and teachers sold cookie dough, pizzas and cakes from Claire's Gourmet and the Preschool netted \$682. We will use this money to purchase a changing table for the Carriage House and other much needed equipment for the classrooms.

Our Fourth Annual Pot Luck Supper was a resounding success with approximately 145 people attending. Everyone seemed to have a great time. Donna O'Laughlen led the children in a surprise music and dance presentation. We are hoping to plan a mid-year event to bring our Preschool families together again.

In December, the children learned about holiday traditions around the world. Families were invited to our traditional holiday chapel on December, 19th and Pastor John Sharp and Ed Richardson talked to the children about Advent, Hanukkah, and

Kwanza. The children sang several songs for their parents and were led by Jennifer Rich, our music teacher.

The Preschool will be closed from December 20th through January 4th. We will return on Monday, January 5th. We are looking forward to another visit from the Zoo-Mobile. January is registration month for the 2004-2005 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling their child in the Preschool should call the Preschool Office at 410-435-8189 to arrange a visit.

By: Pam Ferguson,
Director of Govans Preschool

Early Service Grows, Could Surpass 11 a.m. in 2004

The early service, which for years was a time for experimentation and low attendance, is pulling even with the traditional 11 a.m. one and may soon eclipse it in size.

"It's here to stay. It's been a big success," says Pastor Jack Sharp.

The early service, which features an abbreviated, 30-minute program with upbeat music and themes especially suited to younger congregants, debuted in early 2001 and has grown steadily in popularity.

During 2003, the early "Children and Family Service" attracted a total of 3,818 attendees, or an average of 79 per service, through Dec. 21. The 11 am "Traditional Service" drew 4,698, or an average of 98.

However, for the months of November and December, the early service was the larger of the two on six of the eight Sundays.

"I expect that in the near future the 9:30 a.m. service attendance will be the larger of the two," says Pastor Sharp.

This is part of a trend that has been seen in other American churches, said Ed Richardson, Govans' director of Christian education. Many parents of young children enjoy sharing worship time as a family, rather than splitting up for Kids Club, he said.

Until 1998, the early service had been a truncated version of the 11 a.m. one, or "Govans Lite," Dr. Richardson says.

That year the church tried shifting the emphasis of the early service to attract new church goers. A "contemporary" program on Sunday mornings was tried. So was a Sunday afternoon coffee-shop style service that met in Sharp Hall.

Neither format attracted much of a following, and at a retreat in 2000 Pastor Sharp asked the staff which were the most popular services

of the year. Among the answers: the 5 p.m., 30-minute Christmas Eve service, which traditionally catered to families with children.

And so, in early 2001, the church reformatted the 9:30 service, substituting story telling for sermons, and modern music for the traditional. Gradually, it grew. A mini-sermon was introduced, and a music director, Michael Kirkpatrick, hired during 2003.

The result has been good for the entire congregation. Many new members have joined through the service, and several have signed their children up for Sunday School.

"It provides the informal, family worship experience that a lot of families want," Dr. Richardson says.

By: Jon Morgan

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 leakage. 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.

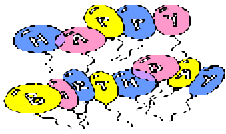
From Pastor Sharp's Bookshelf



With the release of the *The Return of the King*, the third part of J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, I turned to a book that had come to me recently from a good friend, Mark Ferretto. The book is *Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, The Gift of Friendship*, and it was written by Colin Duriez and published by Hidden Spring Publishers.

The book explores the qualities of friendship by examining the friendship that existed between these two literary giants. Tolkien was part of the Inklings, the famous literary discussion group that Lewis had founded in 1933. Together with other literary friends, they explored the manner in which mythology and fantasy enabled us to look at reality in a new and clearer

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NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

The Church Office has a new email address. The address is office@govanspres.org. Visit our new web page at www.govanspres.org. It's new and vibrant.

1ST

Bob Statter

Stephanie Frantz

Jane Owoh

2ND

Jennifer Mauric

4TH

Jayne Kelly

5TH

Ryan Busick

Matthew Pamfilis

6TH

Wayne White

9TH

Graham Richardson

10TH

Pam Jozwiak

11TH

Kaley Shipley

Lydia Field

12TH

Lisa Beecham

Drew Andersen

15TH

Florence Finney

15TH

Grace Venable

16TH

Ruth Ann Draper

18TH

Albie Bright III

Harrison Jozwiak

19TH

Amy Bryant

20TH

Julien Colvin

Nicholas Zito

24TH

Evan Bush

26TH

Neil Michael

Maura Pannebecker

27TH

Becky Bryant

Caitlin McElfratrick

30TH

Bryan Sharp

Jessica Wilson

31ST

Julie McDill

Tim Sterling

If your birthday does not show in your birth month we might not have it. Please call the office at 410-435-9188 and let us know when your birthday is, or you may e-mail it to office@govanspres.org

Cont'd: From Pastor Sharp's Bookshelf

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perspective. Tolkien was a devout Christian (Roman Catholic) who turned Lewis from his agnostic beliefs to become a Christian. For all of us whose faith in Christ has been strengthened by the writings of C.S. Lewis, we owe Tolkien a deep debt.

In the book, Colin Duriez describes Tolkien's "theology of story" through which Tolkien believed the "real world would become a more magical place, full of meaning." [Duriez, pg. 182]. Tolkien and Lewis shared the rare ability to portray goodness in people and places. Duriez notes that there are many authors who have the ability to portray evil and, quoting David C. Downing he lists Joyce, Woolf, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, Stephen King and Anne Rice as examples. Then he notes: "But how often does one find simple, good, decent, or wholesome characters portrayed so often and so successfully in literature....Lewis and Tolkien could show you what goodness looks like." [pg. 183]

Both writers sought to portray joy in their works. And Tolkien believed that joy was a sign of grace from above. Although Lewis' works were more allegorical than Tolkien's - the latter's writings were filled with the themes of redemption and restoration. In a post-modernist world, Tolkien's mythology conveys the Christian message of "good news" and salvation set in a pre-Christian world. Tolkien believed that the Gospel story of redemption lay beneath all good mythology.

If you, like I, have been amazed at the massive outpouring of people to see these films, and the continued popularity of these books, first published in 1965, Duriez helps us to understand the gift of grace that comes through Tolkien's and Lewis' writings - and the creative power of friendship. It is great reading, and I recommend it to you. I love the final quote of Lewis by Duriez, reminding us of our true destiny:

"The settled happiness and security which we all desire, God withholds from us by the very nature of the world; but joy, pleasure, and merriment, He has scattered broadcast. We are never safe, but we have plenty of fun, and some ecstasy. It is not hard to see why. The security we crave would teach us to rest our hearts in this world and oppose [or raise up] an obstacle to our return to God: a few moments of happy love, a landscape, a symphony, a merry meeting with our friends, a bath or a football match, have no such tendency. Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home." [pg. 204]

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 the upcoming month. For more information on any of these programs, please call SNNB at 410-323-7131.

FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Join SNNB for a gourmet box lunch and a program every Friday at Noon.

All Luncheons are subject to change.

January 2	Closed
January 9	Ann Quasman "Simple Solutions for Living in Balance"
January 16	Jade Gardens - Out to Lunch Bunch - Jade Buffet
January 23	"Pirates of the Caribbean"
January 30	To be Announced

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 (\$5.95). Sponsored by Eating Together.

Cont'd: Yorke House's Rehabilitation and New Residents

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Prisoners Aid Organization rented it, until June, 2003.

The Session Worked with Pastor Sharp to look at other uses of the building - noting that the loss of rental income placed a strain on the church budget, and was a primary cause of the deficit in 2003. Pastor Jack Sharp's work with Stadium Place put him in touch with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who were seeking to consolidate housing

for some of its sisters who were renting apartments throughout the area.

So, with a negotiated agreement underway with SSND, the Facilities Ministry Unit, under the leadership of Corky Shaw, got to work on bids for remodeling. The house was painted by Color Coordinates, thanks to the Govans based-Louise Harris, rotten windows were replaced thanks to the work of Mark Kells-Pamfilis and his company, Titan Windows.

In the midst of the renovations the

five-year-old boiler failed. While many of us were enjoying Christmas, Hoffberger Oil was busy replacing the cracked boiler (which was, fortunately still under warranty).

Our day sexton, Randy Terry has worked many long hours in assisting the Facilities Ministry Unit, the Pastor, and the Contractors in getting everything ready.

By: Jack Sharp and Jon Morgan

Cont'd: Pre-School Registration Begins for Children Aged 2-5

helping their child make the sometimes difficult transition to full-time school. The class size is kept small, and meets for three full days and two half-days each week.

"We use the Saxon Phonics Program, Handwriting Without Tears and Touch Math to introduce academic instruction," says Ferguson, "but the program is structured so that they can still be kids." The kinder-

garten and earlier classes employ the Maryland Model for School Readiness program that provides parents with regular reports on their child's development and progress.

Families wishing to register or learn more about the program should call the preschool office at 410-435-8189 during school hours. Parents will be sent a packet of information and the office will schedule individ-

ual appointments to see the school. Children are welcome to accompany parents on the tour. A non-refundable registration fee of \$90 is required, but will only be accepted if there is a space available for the child.

By: Mike Field

Govans Presbyterian Church
5828 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

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9:30 a.m.– 10:00 a.m.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE

With Contemporary Music

(Coordinator: Mike Kirkpatrick)

10:10 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT OPTIONS

11:00 a.m.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

with Organ and Chancel Choir

(Dir. Of Music, James Galdieri)

BARRIER FREE

CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR BOTH SERVICES

ALL ARE WELCOME

THE ELLEN MORRISS MEMORIAL LABYRINTH

is open from dawn to dusk daily

Solving the Da Vinci Code:

Join us for a four week series that examines issues raised in the bestseller, The Da Vinci Code, by Dan Brown (www.danbrown.com/novels/davinci_code/reviews.htm). We will look at the role of women in the early church, some of the controversial books that were banned from the Bible, and examine some "secret societies." Join us at 10:10 a.m. in Sharp Hall on four Sundays , January 11, and 18, February 1 and 8 for as we attempt to sort fact from fiction. Study will be lead by Pastor Sharp and Dr. Richardson. If you would like to purchase the book, go to our web-site, www.govanspres.org and click on the Amazon.com link to purchase it. (The church receives credit for every book purchased in this manner.)

By: Ed Richardson