

*A History of
Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
1955 ~ 2005*

Called by God . . . To Grow

*O Jesus, Thou didst call us, to understand our past,
To honor those who visioned a church to ever last;
Those saints remain in memory, and kindle us with fire
To grow in faith and wisdom, may us your grace inspire.*

On Easter Sunday, 1900, Dr. Clara Bliss Finley gathered a group of children in a stable on Kalorama Road to form a Sunday School. By 1901, that Sunday School had evolved into the Washington Heights Presbyterian Church. Dr. Finley was a determined woman who worked for the rest of her life on behalf of mission, education of children and the prayer and spiritual life of the congregation. Little did she realize that, 105 years after that first Sunday School, a vibrant, caring church in Bethesda would still reflect those original core values.

Some 56 years later, a group met in the auditorium of Parklawn Cemetery in Rockville, with Pastor Lloyd G. Brown, to name a church that would continue the tradition of the Washington Heights Presbyterian Church, the forerunner of today's church and the product of that beginning.

In 1995, charter members Howard Biggs and Dr. Harry Wood recalled that that congregational meet-

ing in the cemetery was held after a heavy snow, yet 90 adults and 24 children braved the weather to name their new church. It was to be located on Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda, an area not yet fully developed. Dr. Wood recalled the discussion of possible names. "There wasn't much enthusiasm for naming it Saint-this or Saint-that," he said. One suggestion was "Bradley Grove" in keeping with the tree-filled setting. Finally, Basil Carr commented, "It's pretty hilly out there. Why don't we name it Bradley Hills?" And so it was, by unanimous vote on January 20, 1956.

After the vote, members pushed one another's automobiles out of the snow – after all, helping one another has been a tradition at Bradley Hills throughout its existence!

Our name is unique. No other Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. is called Bradley Hills.

Called by God . . . To Build

*O Jesus, Thou didst call them, our fathers long ago,
To build a house of worship, to nourish it to grow;
Our founders were undaunted, their faith is living still,
On strong and firm foundation They built upon a hill.*

The story of how Bradley Hills, and its forebears, progressed from a stable to an urban church and then to suburban Bethesda is an interesting one.

As an outgrowth of the Easter beginning, Washington Heights Presbyterian Church was founded in June 1901 with 26 members. The first pulpit used in the church was a carpenter's bench covered with

denim. One member wrote that Andrew Carnegie donated the church organ. On two occasions, in 1922 and 1928, Washington Heights was approached about becoming a "National Presbyterian Church." Neither of these overtures came to fruition, and the denomination released its property – where the Shoreham Hotel now stands.

A survey taken by Washington Heights of the years 1945-48 showed a decline in the life of the church as its area on Kalorama Road changed and many of the congregation moved to the suburbs. In October 1948, the congregation approved an investigation into disposing of the property in the District of Columbia and relocating to another site. The church did not cease to function, however, approving a Day Nursery to serve the neighborhood in 1948; forming a Couples Club in 1953; and establishing a link with the Reverend and Mrs. Trinidad Salazar, missionaries in Phoenix.

In 1954, when the Washington Heights group was still assessing its future, a group headed by Robert McBrier in Bethesda expressed interest in forming a new church. The Presbytery recognized the possibility of combining forces and assets of the two groups to form the first United Presbyterian Church in the Bethesda area. Elder Ralph Nagle was appointed liaison between the two groups, and with trustee Chairman William McChesney Martin, Jr. and a dedicated core of workers from both churches, a new church was formed in February of 1955. The next month the Presbytery arranged with developer R. Bates Warren to take title to the land on which the church now stands at a cost of about \$33,000 for the nearly six acre tract. The late Mr. Warren was a charter member. As of this writing in 2005, eight charter members are still on the rolls: Ariel Biggs; Dorothy deCourt; Betty and Wayne Gordon; Marian G. Grobowski; Ruth and Robert Heiss; and Armenia Turmanian.

Beginning services were at the Bethesda Women's Club. Hymnals, choir robes, and other worship materials were transported from members' homes each Sunday. In July 1955, the congregation voted to meet at North Bethesda Junior High School. This was a church on the move!



Rev. Dr. Lloyd Brown

A permanent home was needed, and ground was broken for the first unit of the new Bradley Hills Church on May 6, 1956. Howard Biggs led the building committee. The cornerstone was laid October 14, 1956, and the first service was held in Memorial Hall on April 7, 1957. The cost of the first unit was about \$350,000. Plans for the second unit with the church nave were approved in October 1963, and on June 20, 1965, the new nave and office wing were dedicated with Dr. Brown as pastor. The cost of the second unit was about \$525,000.

During Dr. Brown's tenure at Bradley Hills, he was joined by four young pastors – Truman Nabors (from 1958 – 1960), Stanley Mont (from 1961 – 1963), James R. Forte (1964 – 1965) and Donald Voss (1964 – 1966).

In 1965, after shepherding Bradley Hills in two building fund drives, Dr. Brown resigned as pastor to accept a new call. Dr. Harry Wood led the Pastor Nominating Committee which selected Dr. Arthur R. Hall, who became pastor in 1967. Dr. J. Edward Kidder served as an interim pastor in the period following Dr. Brown's resignation.



Rev. Dr. Arthur Hall

Dr. Hall has a vivid recollection of why he decided to accept the pastorate at Bradley Hills. "Dr. Griff Ross, a member of the nominating committee, was talking with me. He said, "We have just completed a beautiful building. But if we worship that building, we are the chief of sinners. We need to be the church in our time and serve the community through this building."

The people of Bradley Hills have heeded the late Dr. Ross's advice, and under the leadership of Dr. Hall, the church moved forward to serve a growing congregation and community in suburban Washington in times of racial tensions and civil rights controversies, and a country divided over an unpopular war. But Bradley Hills persevered. There have been 3844 members in the 50 years of our existence; about 777 infants and 217 adults have been baptized. As of February of 2005, the membership of the church stands at 682.

Four young ministers played various roles in the leadership of Bradley Hills during Dr. Hall's pastorate: John T. Ames, Jr. (1965 – 1986); Stephen P. McCutchan (1968 – 1975); John W. Wimberly, Jr (1976 – 1983).; and Mark B. Ramsey (1984 – 1987).

Dr. Hall was also active in service to the denomination. He was a member of the 24-person Joint Committee on Presbyterian Union which sought to heal the 120-year-old split that developed at the time of the Civil War. It took 14 years, but in June 1983, our present Presbyterian Church (USA) was formed. Bradley Hills member Steve Bell, an ABC-TV news anchor, narrated a film, "To Walk Together," including filming at Bradley Hills, which was shown to both General Assemblies in 1982. Bell later narrated a broadcast of the reunion service.

The role of women in the church had a champion in the nominating committee in 1965 headed by Dr. Thomas G. Ward. In that year, for the first time, women elders were elected to the Session. Dr. Ward recalled with justifiable pride asking the congregation to approve the nominations of Eleanor Harris, Virginia Kelly, Ailene Ross and Gwendolyn Wood to the Session.

The women of Bradley Hills have long played an important role. The Chancel Guild, including Lois Bowker, Mary Moose, and Mary Smith, and those who have brought flowers to the sanctuary and dressed the church for Christmas and Easter – notably Jean Weir, Lois Brodine and Nancy Evans – have made consistent contributions. The Parish Life Committee and its successors – with Dorothy Higbie, Elizabeth Goss and Jane Meleney always in the kitchen – fed the congregation for years, and were especially helpful in arranging receptions after memorial services. As gender roles have changed over the years, now the Lay Ministries share hospitality responsibilities during coffee hour, and the Deacons and other volunteers tend to hosting receptions.

Another woman who bears mention is Wafa Khallouf, the welcoming face of Bradley Hills, Monday through Friday, since October, 1986. She has embodied the sense of hospitality that is such a large part of Bradley Hills and has kept the office running smoothly for 19 years. She will be moving to Tennessee during our 50th anniversary year, but she will always be part of our history.

Bradley Hills' third permanent pastor, Dr. Susan R. Andrews, was installed in October of 1989. She was selected by a committee headed by Dr. John Adams. The Rev. Fred Swearingen and Rev. Henry Baumann served as interim pastors in 1988-1989, following the retirement of Dr. Hall, who became Pastor Emeritus.



Rev. Dr. Susan R. Andrews

Dr. Andrews' pastorate has been marked by an influx of young members who have helped to invigorate the church – both as to its internal responsibility to meet the needs of its members and to its external or outreach responsibilities to meet the community, national and international audiences that Bradley Hills has committed itself to serve. Dr.

Andrews has been vigorous in her efforts to involve women and young people in the activities of the church.

In 1995, Task Force 2000, headed by Amy deCourt and Margaret Rick, was advising the congregation as to how to best proceed to and into the third millennium. The goals included: creating a new position of Associate Pastor; adding an informal worship service; and, very importantly, healing the ills of an aging church building.

On June 27, 1997, the congregation approved the selection of E. Scott Winnette as Associate Pastor.



Rev. E. Scott Winnette

The "*most outstanding senior*" in his class at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Rev. Winnette brought fresh energy and new ideas. His cheerful presence blended with the efforts of Susan Andrews and Karen Werner (Director of Education) as all three worked

together to attract and serve the young people of our community. In 2004, Rev. Winnette began pursuing his Doctor of Ministry in Preaching at the McCormick Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago. His studies are enhanced by the feedback he gets from his Parish Project Group, all of whom are members of the congregation.

Early in his ministry as Associate Pastor, Rev. Winnette, in keeping with his belief that God loves each of us fully and equally, chose to step forward in honesty and share his identity as a faithful, Christian gay man.

In an earlier era at Bradley Hills, two worship services were regularly on the Sunday schedule. As the needs of the congregation changed, the schedule was adjusted to just one traditional worship service on Sunday mornings. As Task Force 2000 noted, the time had come to again consider a second Sunday morning worship service, only this time, with a decidedly informal atmosphere. This early service has grown in popularity, clearly fulfilling a need for many in the congregation. Once a year, usually at the time of Earth Day, the early service takes the form of a Blessing of the Animals, filling the Covenant Hall terrace with many of God's creatures.

Since the early 1990s, an early morning Meditation Service has been held once a month and weekly during Lent. Members gather at 7 a.m. in the sanctuary for a short reading or other spoken contribution and then share 30 minutes of meditation followed by Communion. During 1997 and 1998, a weekday evening Healing Service was offered.

Another very significant outcome of the work of Task Force 2000 was the Celebrate the Light! Campaign. It was unusual in that it was a joint campaign of both the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church and the Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC). The success of the Celebrate the Light! Campaign allowed for the completion of many sorely needed repairs as well as the building of the new Covenant Hall, transforming the overall building in such a way that allowed the Covenant relationship between the two congregations to be reflected within the very structure that they share. The addition was designed as a hexagonal space – a Star of David standing next to the original cross-shaped sanctuary. In architecture, as well as in spirit, BJC and Bradley Hills are “spiritual siblings sharing sacred space.” Joint committees from Bradley Hills and BJC worked with a sense of mutual respect to create both the building and the service elements of the campaign. The groundbreaking was held on February 4, 2001 and the ribbon-cutting took place on May 5, 2002. The Celebrate the Light! Campaign was also unusual in that it included a major element of joint financial and volunteer support for

the KidsNet project at the National Center for Children and Families, a facility within a block of the church grounds. More details on this campaign and its outcome can be found in the **Called by God to Serve** portion of this document.



Covenant Hall Ribbon Cutting. L to R: Chuck Weir, Jean Weir, Bebe McMeeken, Cokie Roberts, Sunny Schnitzer, Susan Andrews

Susan Andrews—Moderator of the 215th General Assembly



Susan Andrews preaching at the 216th General Assembly, 2004

A highlight of the ministry of Bradley Hills began in May of 2003, when Dr. Andrews was elected as Moderator of the 215th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Several elements converged to make her service to the church at large successful and meaningful. The congregation supported her with love and generosity. Rev. Winnette stepped up to the plate beautifully, serving as Interim Head of Staff during Dr. Andrews' absence. Joanie Friend, the Parish Nurse, Karen Werner, Director of Education Ministries, and Sue Dickson, Director of Music Ministries, all worked wonders, helping fill in the gaps created by Susan's absence. The Rev. Laura Cunningham shared her leadership gifts with the church on a part-time basis – her sermons, prayers and infant son all left their mark on the congregation. During Susan's year as Moderator, her emphasis was on interpreting the vital mission ministries of the PC-USA, affirming the rich diversity of people and perspectives within our denominational family, and seeking reconciliation and unity around divisive theological and social issues. She traveled to 38 states, 83 presbyteries, all 16 synods, preached and taught at dozens of congregations, participated in dozens of conferences and meetings, and met many, many mission personnel in Ethiopia, South Africa, Cameroon, Venezuela, and Colombia. As Susan said in her annual report for 2003, “Everywhere I go, images of your faces travel with me, giving me both courage and energy.”

Dr. Andrews' year as Moderator ended in the summer of 2004. Since that time, she has continued to preach compelling, award-winning sermons. In 2004, many of her sermons were published in the book **Sermons On The Gospel Readings, Series I, Cycle A**. Susan's portion of the book is Sermons For Sundays in Advent, Christmas and Epiphany: The Offense of Grace.



2003 General Assembly Logo

Called by God . . . To Learn

*O Jesus, Lord and Teacher, like children on your knee,
We long to be disciples, to mime your ministry;
To learn about the Father, the Spirit and the Son;
O speak, and make us listen, Great Triune God in one.*

Education was a founding concern of the church, going back to the early days in stables in Northwest Washington. On the first Easter of the 20th century, Clara Bliss Finley, M.D., gathered a group of children to form a Sunday school. Mrs. Finley was one of the first women physicians to graduate in the District of Columbia. Her father was President Garfield's physician.

One of the fourth graders of those early days wrote that the children were taught to pray, pray and pray some more for badly needed chairs. They did, and when the Moses Furniture Company delivered some chairs, the children were convinced that their prayers were answered directly...by Moses.



Sunday School Class taught by Connie Geerhart. The young girl on the far left is Patty Brown, daughter of Lloyd, and now a Pastor.

The founders of Bradley Hills continued this spirit, as was evidenced by the decision to first build an educational plant with the sanctuary to come later. Only three years after its formation in 1955, the average attendance in Sunday School was 323 persons. Staff was added to train teachers and to help with the

youth programs. The format of the church school accommodated the morning worship hours. Adult education programs were established that involved both Bible study and discussions of the religious and social issues of the time. This format has continued through the life of the church.

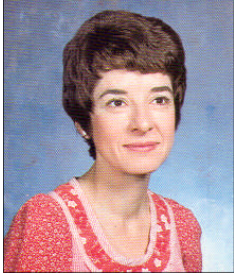
A Nursery School also was begun, and Alla Johnson, Phyllis Chamberlain, and Betty Gordon rallied the support of the women of the church. The school was one of the first in this section of Montgomery County. In addition to the fine program for children during the week, the Nursery School has been a source of new members over the years. Oversight of the Nursery School originally was the responsibility of the women of the church, but it is now provided by the Education and Nurture Lay Ministry.

In addition, Bradley Hills has experimented with some unique education programs. One was the "Special Class" established by Ruth Heiss, with the help of Mel Bamel. Its goal was to minister to children with special needs. In a memorable event, 13 of these young people were confirmed into membership in the church, and received the laying on of hands by clergy and elders. In 1966 Lee Dirks wrote a major story in "Presbyterian Life" about the special class.

Early in the history of the Bradley Hills educational program, there were no associate ministers or professional educators, so elders Kenneth Higbie, Carl Hansen, Ned Brisendine and Wayne Wright took on the leadership of the Sunday School. June K. Stansberry was an early Director of Christian Education (1968-1972). She entered the seminary and became a pastor. After her departure, Elder Jack Bennett stepped in to steer the program forward.

A notable era in Christian education dawned at Bradley Hills when Martha Stevenson became Director of Education (1973 – 1981). Her program became a teaching model for the Presbytery; teachers were

trained in creating learning centers for children, and a class was videotaped for teaching purposes. Even members of the church were surprised to see the children wandering around the church yard “wilderness” getting an understanding of Abraham, or burying a time capsule. Ms. Stevenson worked hard with the “midders” and led field trips to the Amish country and to North Carolina. She left in 1981 to serve at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC.



Martha Stevenson

Janet Williams served as interim Director of Education until the arrival of Jackie Smith in 1982. A trained Christian educator, Ms. Smith had an interest in adult education and inspiring social justice ministries. When she left in 1987, Carol Butcher and Lisa Hicks served as interim directors of the education program until the arrival of Karen Werner in 1991.



Karen Werner

Ms. Werner has brought many innovations to Bradley Hills. “God Squad,” a mid-week program for children through the fifth grade which partnered music and education, was begun after Ms. Werner arrived. As part of “God Squad” the children took several field trips, including one to the National Cathedral, so

they could become acquainted with the gargoyles! The children met for fellowship, explored many subjects, sang under the direction of Matthew Rupcich, and shared a meal together. “God Squad” evolved over time into two weekday programs emphasizing music and the arts for children – Shout Alleluia! and Music in Motion, both under the direction of Kara Sopko Lucas.

“Morning Song” was established so that on Sundays, children come to the sanctuary for music, stewardship, prayer and celebration. They share their concerns and their talents with one another. Church School emphasizes the use of storytelling, bringing the Bible to life for the children. Another exciting change comes in the form of Bible Music Camp, now a cooperative effort that includes children from Bradley Hills and their Jewish brothers and sisters from the Bethesda Jewish Congregation.

Over the years, there have been many persons whose ministry with the education program stood out. Ella Wood, Betty Hansen, Mary Ann Williams

and Joanie Friend have been mainstays; Bob Lane worked with the Youth Fellowship for 20 years. He eventually decided to go into Christian Education as a profession, and has recently retired as Director of Education Ministries in the Presbyterian Church at Fort Mill, SC. Meredith Page, Amy deCourt and Carol Frenkel worked closely with Mr. Lane. The associate pastors also worked with educators. The Rev. Steve McCutchan had a major influence on the young people and Rev. John Wimberly, complete with his guitar, and Mark Ramsey also identified with the youth.

A host of youth ministries have developed at Bradley Hills, always enlarging the horizons of this important segment of the church population. The many outreach programs in which the youth of Bradley Hills participate are outlined in the section of this document designated “Called by God to Serve.” One outreach which the youth and their advisors developed led to the formation of Karma House, a residential facility in Rockville, complete with counseling for youth on the fringe of society. Another program, coordinated by Catharine Forman, was a tutoring program after school for youth of the area needing assistance in the learning process.

Recently, under the joyful leadership of Scott Winnette and Karen Werner, summer work camps, weekend retreats, musicals and service-oriented fellowship groups have once again underlined the church’s commitment to its youth.



Heifer Project. Back Row L to R: Vicki Niblock, Anna McCreight, Molly Horn, Jessie Malashevich, Melissa Kallas, David Roberts, Patrick Fowler, Daniel Cross. Front Row L to R: Tommy Ashley, Sarah Ashley, Ricky Wainright, Danny Roberts.

Adult education programs also have played an important role, ranging from traditional Bible studies to seminars on contemporary issues, linking our faith to everyday life. In 1991, a seminar focused on reli-

gious values and science, leading to an overture which the General Assembly adopted, encouraging the study of the ethical implications of the human genome project. Other common themes have integrated art and music into learning. Also, traditional theology and ethics have been reinterpreted for contemporary times.

In the 50 years of our history, nine members have been ordained to the Christian ministry. They are: James A. Lacy, John R. Lacy, Ted Wright, Bill Bales, David Young, Nancy Young, Barbara Sloop, June Stansberry and Patricia Brown-Barnett. Three members became Directors of Christian Education: Allison Gordon, Bob Lane and Karen Werner.

Called by God... To Worship

*O Jesus, here in worship, we wonder at your deeds,
The mercy that you show us in filling all our needs;
With grateful praise and prayer, with voice and melody,
In awe and adoration we bow in harmony.*

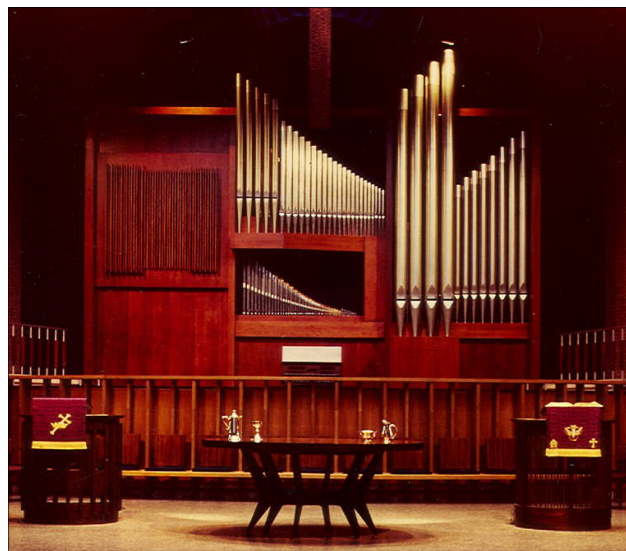
Let There Be Music!

Bradley Hills without music would be like a day without light. There is a rich history of song going back to the early days of the century. The 1902 minutes of the Washington Heights Church tell of the opening of its first building in April, and that in May a \$15 balance on the organ was ordered to be paid. In January 1908, the Session authorized the organist and soloist to each be paid \$15 per month!

When Bradley Hills came into being, Mason Goodblood was volunteer Choirmaster. He was followed by Morton Croy. Jane Ross, Ruth Hansen and Nelda Morgan were organists during the first years. Marilyn Alberts and Ariel Biggs also contributed their skills on organ and piano for worship services. C. Sam Fox became Choirmaster and Director of Music in 1961. In 1970, when Mr. Fox was transferred by his employer, a search was begun for a full-time Director of Music.

Dr. Arthur Hall recalled that in 1970, the Session decided to expand the ministry of music. The Robert J. Taylor family had expressed a desire to make a significant contribution toward building a pipe organ for the church. The Lee E. Dirks family made a similar commitment. In addition, a gift from the William McChesney Martin, Jr. family increased the total to more than half the \$100,000 cost of the organ. A broad appeal for the remainder was made to the congregation under the leadership of Mrs. Hazel

Snyder and Mr. Dirks. The final drive was a success. In July of 1971, a contract was signed with Holtkamp Organ Company of Cleveland, Ohio.



Holtkamp Organ

Dr. Hall related that he had been most impressed by a young organist named Donald S. Sutherland, whom he had met through Mr. Walter (Chick) Holtkamp, Jr., the organ builder. In 1971, Mr. Sutherland was called as Bradley Hills's first full-time Director of Music. At Christmas 1972, the Holtkamp pipe organ was dedicated. During the 1973 inaugural year, Mr. Sutherland, Vernon de Tar of New York City, Will O.

Headlee of Syracuse, NY, and Marie-Claire Alain of Paris, France, presented concerts on the new instrument. The "Bradley Hills Presents" series of recitals was continued over the years, supported by the "Friends of Music." Many other world-renowned artists have performed at the church over subsequent years. The excellent acoustics in the nave have made it a favorite location for making high-quality music recordings by professional groups.

Bradley Hills was fortunate in that when it hired Donald Sutherland, it received a very important "dividend" – his wife, Phyllis Bryn-Julson, one of the world's great sopranos. They met at Syracuse University, where Donald studied and taught.



Donald Sutherland and Phyllis Bryn-Julson

Through their tenure at Bradley Hills (1971-1999), the Sutherlands shared their talents with the community. They were members of the Theater Chamber Players of the Kennedy Center, which used the Bradley Hills sanctuary for some of its concerts. Bradley Hills shared the Sutherlands with the world. Donald played organs at Notre Dame,

Westminster Abbey, and at international festivals, while Phyllis and her lovely voice inspired many near and far. In 1988, Syracuse University presented the Sutherlands with the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of their outstanding achievements in music. But, they were never too busy to play for the church youngsters on Sunday mornings, or to write and direct pageants or youth dramas, or to assist at Bible Camp.

Each year, on the second Sunday in June, the Chancel Choir presented a major choral work as part of the worship service. The choir offered requiems by Brahms, Fauré, Durufle, and Rutter, as well as other sacred music. An orchestra accompanied the choir. Currently, similar major works are presented on the Sunday prior to Palm Sunday.

Many Bradley Hills members made a special effort to attend the Candlelight Service on Christmas eve, which the Chancel Choir introduced with Christmas carols or other appropriate Christmas choral works. This was followed by a candlelight procession into the sanctuary led by Phyllis Bryn Julson singing "Once in Royal David's City" to start the service.

In the early 1990s a Bell Choir was started that is fondly called the Bradley Ringers. Donald Sutherland directed this choir, taught participants to play the bells, and often presented pieces that included both organ and bells. The Bell choir continues to be a welcome addition to Sunday services periodically and often at Christmas and Easter.

In September of 1996, the Donald Sutherland Music Ministries Endowment Fund was launched to mark his 25th year at Bradley Hills. On "Music Sunday" in 1999, a special program said farewell to this couple, who served Bradley Hills so ably for so many years.

For several years in the 1990s, Matthew Rupcich and music for children were virtually synonymous. As the Music Director for Children and Youth, he was a key part of "God Squad," leading the Cherubs, the Heavenly Spirits and the Choristers. Through his energy and creative genius, the children performed "Adam's Apple" and "Sherman on the Mount" as special worship/musicals. Many in the congregation remember "B is for Bethlehem," an elaborate Christmas pageant (coordinated by Cathy Crouch), and "Peter Rock", a Bible Music Camp experience, both led by Matt. He was also a strong presence in the evening youth fellowship program, providing music and energizers, keeping things lively. The children loved "Mr. Matt."

In August of 1999, Bradley Hills hired Sue Dickson as Interim Director of Music Ministries for one year.



Sue Dickson

At the end of that year after interviewing candidates from across the United States Bradley Hills realized that they already had just what was needed in the gifts and talent of Sue Dickson. They were also impressed with her ability to envision an expansion of the music program into a music and arts ministry. She was hired as the full-time Director of Music Ministries. At that time Sue was one of four women in the DC Metropolitan area serving full-time in this capacity.

As one of her first projects, she instituted an annual retreat for the chancel choir to study and learn major works and bond in Christian fellowship. Utilizing the leadership abilities of many gifted volunteers the church saw many new ideas come to fruition under the umbrella of Arts Ministries:

- 9 Incorporating the lively arts into our worship, An-

drew Wolvin, University of Maryland Professor, developed and produced The Chancel Players – these readers and actors enhance worship in different ways, including reading or acting out scripture and presenting interpretations of lessons that apply to our lives.

- 9 Wesley Theological Seminary student, Kathryn Sparks, added liturgical dance to our worship. Kathryn and participating members have visually presented scripture and performed during musical works, adding a new dimension of interpretation. Both the Chancel Players and the Liturgical Dance group have participated in regional and national Presbytery events.
- 9 Other recent activities include an annual AIDS benefit concert series which was launched in May 2003 and bi-annual cabaret nights, a shared venture with Bethesda Jewish Congregation. The latter began in the fall of 2002, coincidentally occurring at a time when our nation was grieving the September 11th tragedy. This event has been planned as a shared community-building evening with the two congregations. The visual arts continued to flourish through art displays organized by Barbara DeLouise, beautiful, handmade banners crafted by Kristine Yeager, Marilyn Alberts, and Nancy Evans, and extraordinary floral arrangements assembled by Jean Weir and Nancy Evans for all occasions.



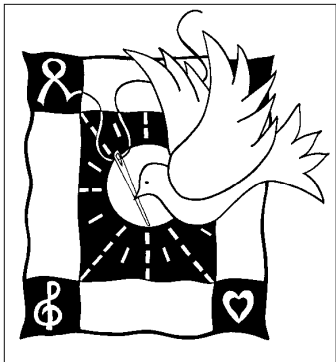
Kara Sopko-Lucas

Kara Sopko Lucas was hired in the fall of 2002 as Director of Music for Children and Youth. She brought with her not only an extensive knowledge of children’s music but an understanding of childhood needs and behavior. She formed two children’s choirs, Shout Alleluia! and Joyful Noise! and we heard the true beauty of children’s singing voices as they led worship. She also formed Music in Motion for the younger children. She worked with the youth, providing opportunities for those who enjoy singing as well as playing instruments.

Marilyn Alberts, pianist and Allan Malmberg, cellist continued a long-standing service to the church through their musical talents. We have been blessed in worship with talented youth from our congregation who have gone out into the larger world and found

their own voice in the arts: Kevin Gschwend – voice, Mars Hanna – drama, Jessica Harbeson – choral director, Stephen Kalnoske - organ, and Abby Horn – harp. Annabel Hunter, having an extraordinary musical gift, will no doubt play organ and piano throughout her life. Matthew McMeekin with his love of music and singing, and ability to memorize, will be an inspiration.

The Holtkamp organ underwent extensive renovation of the reed pipes and a fine German-made zimbels were added. The Steinway B grand piano also was completely refurbished, and a new baby grand was purchased for the choir room. The choir room was reconfigured to accommodate a growing choir.



2004 AIDS Concert Logo

The Music Ministry of Bradley Hills has, since at least the 1970s, included a significant element of outreach to the community going beyond the gift of music. The choir, under the leadership of both Donald Sutherland and Sue Dickson, has graciously given of its time and energy to perform community benefit concerts that have served as significant sources of funds for Bethesda Cares and for local and international organizations that address the needs of those who are struggling as a result of HIV/AIDS. More details about this tradition are included in the portion of the history regarding mission.

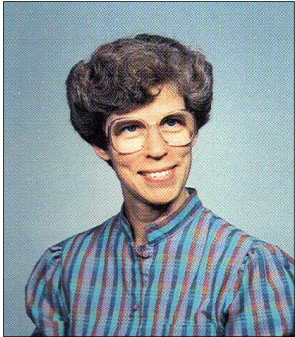
We continue to look toward to an exciting future for the Arts at Bradley Hills, while honoring and building on our rich heritage and the gifts of our people.

Called by God . . . To Serve

*O Jesus, guide our footsteps, so we may follow Thee,
To be both friend and servant in Christian ministry;
Help each of us, as branches that grow upon your vine,
Bring justice, love and healing and peace on earth sublime.*

Caring for Ourselves

Bradley Hills has always been a very caring church family. The need to offer compassionate care for each other has been met in a variety of ways over the course of fifty years.



Joan Jameson

Into the 60's, Deacons were elected and served well. At that time, there was a restructuring of Bradley Hills governance and the Board of Deacons was disbanded. Joan Jameson, after completing a course in Clinical Pastoral Education, began sharing some of the pastoral care duties. Mrs. Jameson, as a volunteer herself, enlisted the aid of elders to become Elder Shepherds to help fellow parishioners in times of need. Ultimately, after Dr. Andrews came to Bradley Hills, Joan Jameson became a part-time staff member and organized a well coordinated system of volunteers with parish visitors concentrating on visiting families with special needs, a meal coordinator organizing meal delivery in times of family crisis, a transportation coordinator to organize rides to medical appointments and church, a coordinator of memorial service receptions, a prayer chain, and a flower delivery team to deliver flowers to members who were ill or at home. Joan retired in 1997.

After completing a 10-month certificate program in Parish nursing, Joanie Friend, a registered nurse, was installed as our volunteer Parish Nurse in 1999. She followed in Joan Jameson's footsteps coordinating the above activities but, in an added dimension, focused on health and wellness. Joannie began writing a monthly health column in the BHX, organizing a seminar on aging, obtaining flu vaccine for our congregation (administered by Holy Cross Hospital)

and serving on a task force instrumental in educating and making changes related to accessibility and the needs of people with differing abilities. As part of her pastoral care and visitation role, she helps members realistically consider health issues when making long term plans.

Recently, a task force was commissioned to study the reinstatement of a Board of Deacons, and in 2002, a new Board of Deacons consisting of 19 members was called into service and ordained or installed. The congregation was divided into "flocks" with a deacon responsible for staying in touch with the members in his/her flock. Many of the Care Coordinator roles became Deacon roles. A *Deacon of the Week* plan was implemented, which includes answering the office phone on Sunday mornings and giving assistance as needed to the Parish Nurse or the Pastors during the week. The Deacons also started mailing a CD of Sunday worship to those unable to get to church because of illness or infirmity. This CD ministry enabled many to feel connected to their church family.



Joanie Friend checking blood pressure

Financial Stewardship, Gifts and More

The history of financial growth of the church is a proud one, with variations in emphasis throughout the years.

In 1902, Washington Heights' budget at the end of its first year was \$3,567. For 1956, the first full year of the regrouped church known as Bradley Hills, the budget was \$20,382; twenty years later, it was \$223,625; and, in 1995, it was almost \$620,000. The budget for 2005 \$1,166,000.

There have been a number of notable fund drives over the years. In 1975-76, an anniversary fund raised \$60,000. In early 1989, a three-year Capital Campaign began in order to address many urgent needs – peeling paint in the sanctuary; a badly leaking roof; a library floor in danger of collapse. Led by a committee headed by Richard deLouise and Charles Weir, the congregation raised \$525,000 to shape up its building and its spirit. Repairs, renovation work and debt repayment were allocated 75% of the funds with the remainder going to a working capital reserve, mission, and contingency funds.

In 1992, Bradley Hills participated in the Presbyterian Church's Bicentennial Fund Drive. About \$105,000 was raised for the projects of our denomination. John Pond led this effort.

The Celebrate the Light! Campaign, successfully led by Chuck Weir, Todd McCreight and others, ended its active fund raising phase in late 2000 with a grand total of \$2,850,000 (plus) in pledges. This was a highly unusual campaign in that it was a joint campaign of both the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church and the Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC). It was not only a joint campaign, but it was also a joint effort in terms of planning all



CTL Banner, created by Marilyn Alberts & Nancy Evabs

of the building improvements, and in the planning of the service (mission outreach) element of the campaign. Joint committees from the two congregations met for many months and, just as the building underwent improvement, the inter-congregational relationship grew. Covenant Hall, greater accessibility for the physically challenged, and other improvements make up the on-site physical evidence of Celebrate

the Light! The KidsNet Classroom, a state-of-the-art media center and school for youth transitioning into the public schools located at the National Center for Children and Families is the off-site physical evidence of the generosity of our two congregations. The KidsNet Classroom was officially dedicated in 2004, including the installation of a special plaque honoring both Bradley Hills and the Bethesda Jewish Congregation.

Special gifts and endowments also have been an important part of the life of Bradley Hills.



Great Commission Window

The stained glass windows are a striking example. All the nave and narthex windows in the sanctuary were designed and fabricated by the famous Willet Studio of Philadelphia when the building was constructed in 1965. Other windows came earlier either from the Washington Heights Church or were given as memorials. The Rose Window in Memorial Hall came from Washington Heights.

Two other windows that were, for years, in the corridor of the education wing also came from Washington Heights. (These windows were taken down during the late 1990s and it is hoped that they will be re-installed in another part of the church in the coming years.) One of these windows depicts Jesus knocking on the door – it was given in memory of the Rev. Dr. John C. Palmer, who served as pastor of Washington Heights from 1912-1944. The second window quotes from the "Worthy Woman" passage in Proverbs 31 and includes a lovely image of a woman playing the lute. The reinstallation of the pair of windows in their first location in Bradley Hills was a gift from Barbara and Dick DeLouise. Another small Washington Heights window is found above the entrance outside the door of Memorial Hall, leading downstairs to the Church School. This image tells the story of Jesus finding the lost lamb.

Along the corridor leading toward the Choir Room (outside the Sanctuary), there are three small glass panels designed and made by Lois Bowker in 1975. They were a gift from Betty Hansen in memory of her husband, Dr. Julius Thomas Hansen. The images reflect the integration of faith and science, which was at the heart of Dr. Hansen's life as both a believer

and a pioneering physiologist. The integration of faith and science continues to be of great interest to many members of the congregation.



Pentecost Window

In December of 1994, two beautiful new stained glass windows were dedicated. In the south transept, "The Resurrection Window" was given in memory of Frederick Hans Bowis by his family. Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Ward gave "The Pentecost Window" in the north transept. These awe-inspiring windows were designed by Richard Avidon and fabricated by Dieter Goldkuhle.



Resurrection Window

There have been many other gifts to the church. What follows is by no means a complete list, but it will give the reader an idea of the breadth of gifts to Bradley Hills.

In 1985, "Bradley Hills Memorial Transept" was established with a columbarium wall in the South Transept to provide a resting place for ashes following cremation. Elders Charles Evans, Buford Hayden, Richard Paschal, and Dr. Hall served on the committee with the financial support of Mary and John Adams. In 1992, a specially sculpted wooden cross for the columbarium was donated by the family of the late Mr. Hayden. The cross was created by Gary Garner. A second columbarium wall was later added in the South Transept to accommodate the needs of members of the congregation. As more and more names of the Saints of Bradley Hills have been added to these walls, a sense of history and a sense of place have been increasingly felt in the South Transept. The addition of "The Resurrection Window" has given this area a chapel-like feel that continues to be appreciated by many.

Another lasting project is the needlepoint (embroidery on canvas) cushions on the thirteen Elders' seats in the Chancel. They represent the first disciples of the church, the twelve apostles and St. Paul. Embroidery work on the cushions was done by Sharon Endriss, Sylvia Koch, Jeanne Tustian, Ruth Hartman, Hazel Snyder, Miriam Beman, Marianna Dickie, Jane Fassett, Joy Panagides, Betty Bloom, Susan Bowis, Lois Fisher and Dorothy Kirkendall. Oversight for the project was by Lois Bowker, Ruth Hansen and Miriam Beman. Funding was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Gareth May. The first needlepoint in the sanctuary was the Wed-

ding Kneeler, crafted by Lois Fisher from a design developed by Janet Hall and Steven Graff, in association with Miriam Beman. It was given to the church by Dr. and Mrs. Hall in celebration of Janet and Steve's wedding in 1975.

The needlepoint of the two pulpit chairs portrays the fleur-de-lis (symbol of the Trinity), and the seat backs depict the "creation" design used in the lantern window in the south transept. In 1991, a needlepoint piano bench was created and given by Hazel Snyder.

A pair of brass candelabras were given in memory of Tom S. Arikawa, and wrought iron flower stands in memory of Mary Arikawa, parents of Mrs. Lily Okura, by Lily and Patrick Okura.

Each year, the Japanese American Citizens League makes a donation to Bradley Hills. The upholstered benches in the Narthex are an example of one of JACL's donations.

Albert and Esther Alford donated a complete set of new hymnals in memory of their granddaughter, Erin Lee McMillan; and Dr. and Mrs. Julius Thomas Hansen donated Bibles in memory of her father, Paul S. Payne. Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Campbell, Jr. donated Bibles. Pew Bibles were given by the Taylor family in memory of their daughter and sister, Christine. In 1977, the two brass Williamsburg candlesticks were given by Richard Snyder to honor his wife, Hazel, and in 1993, Robert Taylor and Mary Adams were memorialized by the purchase of new robes for the choir.

Other additions to the church include the walnut cases in the Narthex, a gift from Dorothy and Henry deCourt in memory of her father, Charles Scott Loving; and a baptismal font created by Augustus Trail, a maker of ecclesiastical furniture. The font was donated by the Homer Arey, Timothy Vanderver, Jr. and Joseph J. Fouchard families. Kristine Yeager of Bradley Hills designed and created the beautiful mosaic bowl. In recent years, Dorothy DeCourt donated the English hand bells and the carillon in memory of family members. In 2003, Susan Bowis donated the zimmelstern (addition to the organ) as a tribute to her family. Many trees, special plantings and benches that were donated as memorials adorn the church grounds.



Baptismal Font

Called by God to Witness



Washington Heights

Bradley Hills and its predecessor, Washington Heights, have a rich heritage of serving as a living witness to the community.

When Washington Heights was only six years old, newspaper advertising was authorized, and in the early days of radio the church's message was extended even more widely when Pastor John C. Palmer preached on the "wireless" in 1924.

Social issues, which have always held a major focus in Bradley Hills, can be traced through the Session actions and history of the church's witness. In 1905, a "Fellowship League" for church and community was approved. In 1938, the Session protested Federal government cutbacks for the poor in the District of Columbia, and the same year saw concern over the use of marijuana (35 years before it became such a public topic).

In 1942, Washington Heights elected its first woman deacon. During World War II, the church raised money for a trained youth worker, and the building was designated as a bomb shelter

Just as was the case with Washington Heights, major national movements and events have involved Bradley Hills throughout its life. In the 1960s, Bradley Hills stood stalwartly in support of civil rights – beginning at home base. During its first year in Bethesda, a church retreat for the young people happened to include shared sleeping quarters for all races. Two families pulled their children out of the retreat in protest and it is said that plans were being made to make this a truly divisive issue for the young congregation. Dr. Brown took a firm public stand against the divisiveness. Two families left the church in protest, while dozens of others decided to join. In 1962, under Dr. Brown's leadership, the church reissued its statement (through the Council of Churches of Greater Washington) that at Bradley Hills "...at all times the membership has been, is, and must be open to any confessing Christian."

In terms of war and peace, the 60s and 70s were turbulent times for youth as questions and the demands of Selective Service registration confronted

them. Bradley Hills honored its youth who were in the armed forces, and at the same time, provided important counsel to those who were making difficult decisions. In a defining moment, the Session certified as dedicated Christians those young people who sought to become conscientious objectors. This from a body whose membership included elders who served in the Central Intelligence Agency and Department of Defense, but who let their Christian love surround and support youth they had known for years, regardless of their own stand on the issues.

In recognition of the complex issues brought by the war in Vietnam, special moments of support for those in the armed forces were dramatized at Christmas Eve at Bradley Hills. Special burning of candles from Bethlehem, sent by a son of the church, Admiral William Hayden, symbolized the ties of Christmas love binding those serving their country in the far corners of the world with their loved ones at home.

During the 1980s, several members of the church were interested in peacemaking efforts, particularly in reference to the brutal civil war in El Salvador and the controversy over U.S. involvement in that war. Ada St. John, in particular, comes to mind, as she was awarded a peacemaking prize as part of a worship service at Bradley Hills.

Other poignant moments came when the congregation stayed after worship to sign a petition objecting to the invasion of Cambodia. In 1992, the Session's decision to pass a resolution opposing U.S. troop involvement in the Gulf War met with much controversy – opinions from both ends of the spectrum were respectfully heard and acknowledged. In 2001, as the nation and the world reeled in reaction to the tragedy of September 11, the congregation came together to begin the all important healing process. In January of 2004, the Kallas family began the Sunday morning reading of the names of all the American soldiers killed in Iraq during the previous week. As of this writing in April of 2005, this weekly acknowledgment of loss of life continues.

The epic human tragedy of the tsunami that wiped out thousands upon thousands of lives and livelihoods on December 26, 2004 was also recognized in a unique way by Bradley Hills. On the one-week anniversary of the event, the church was the host site for an ecumenical service organized by the local

Sri Lankan community. In addition to providing support for the tsunami victims through Church World Service and Presbyterian Disaster Relief, the church formed a task force to formulate a long-term response to this tragedy.

Many other programs through the years brought together people of varying cultures and races. Several



George Ghanem & Family

examples of these programs are mentioned in the portions of this history related to education, mission and building users. They include: the Grimke School; the Cambodian Refugee effort; the relationships with Church of the Redeemer and the Bethesda Jewish

Congregation; George Ghanem – a friend from Palestine whose education and activities were supported by Bradley Hills; mission trips to Mexico and Romania; and the maize mill and related health care efforts in Uganda.

As the 50th anniversary year is unfolding at Bradley Hills, a task force is in the midst of studying “the specific issue of publicly welcoming gays and lesbians to become fully participating members” of the church. This process has already included an adult educa-

tion series and a congregational “open mike” forum. Just as was the case when the controversial subject of opposition to the Gulf War was brought to the congregation in 1992, again opinions from both ends of the spectrum were respectfully heard and acknowledged.

Through its membership in the Covenant Network, Bradley Hills has also been addressing the issue of inclusion of all of God’s children, regardless of sexual orientation, into all leadership roles in the Presbyterian Church – USA.

An accessibility task force is also completing its work and will be issuing recommendations that will be instrumental in educating members and making changes related to accessibility and other needs of people with differing physical abilities. It is the hope of the church that all seen and unseen barriers will be removed.

In 2005, with the acknowledgment of the Session, a new sub-committee of Church and Society was formed specifically to address issues of social advocacy, following the social justice guidelines of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The history of Bradley Hills continues to unfold!

Mission

The tradition of serving others started with the Washington Heights church early in the 1900s and has continued at Bradley Hills (under the leadership of the Church and Society Lay Ministry) throughout much of the last 50 years. The founders of the original church felt strongly about mission. In the early years, collections were taken for the Russian Jewish Sufferers Fund, victims of the San Francisco earthquake, and also for the Industrial Home in Georgetown. The plight of the local poor led to the establishment of the Deacon’s Fund.

Depression years brought financial worries, but the congregation managed to maintain a missionary in China. Then, during World War II, money was raised for the United World Emergency Fund.

During the turbulent sixties, the SHARE program was developed. It was based on faith, on the imperative to be relevant and on the need to be sensitive. SHARE consisted of four elements: the “At Home” element provided a welcome basket to all new members, which included home baked bread and infor-

mation brochures; the “Local Community” element consisted of the Youth of the church tutoring youngsters in the Cabin John/Scotland community; the “Metropolitan Area – Grimke Volunteers” was a partnership with the Grimke school at Vermont and T Streets, in Northwest DC, where a deeply committed group of women from Bradley Hills provided all of the volunteer services in the school three days a week; the “International” element consisted of church families “adopting” foreign graduate students, matching the students area of study with the host family’s professional area(s).



Grimke Volunteers

The Grimke Volunteers deserve special mention. In their six year partnership (1967-1973) with the Grimke School (under the auspices of the Urban Service Corps), they worked one-on-one with children assigned to them by the school counselor. Special materials were developed by the

volunteers, field trips were taken, and Christmas cookies were baked and decorated at Bradley Hills when the Grimke children visited. In 1970, the Grimke Volunteers received a Presidential Commendation in recognition of exceptional service to others from President Nixon. Later, they were invited to a tea, given by Mrs. Nixon, at the White House. Coincidentally, the school was named after Reverend Francis Grimke, the first African American to be ordained as a Presbyterian minister.

The Grimke Volunteers continued their partnership with the Grimke School even after the riots that ensued in the aftermath of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The school was located in the heart of the burned out corridor of the city. That year, when the volunteers took the Easter eggs, dye and Easter treats to Grimke, the young Reverend John Ames accompanied the women as they rode in dismay through the burned out area of our Nation's Capital. Neither he nor the women were sure he offered any protection from potential danger, but his presence was appreciated.

The list of Share Volunteers will bring back memories of many of the Saints of Bradley Hills, many of whom are graciously still able and willing to serve others:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Sandra Betz | Susan Taylor |
| Susan Bowis | Joyce Hendrickson |
| Jean Carpenter | Nancy Huffman |
| Lynne Demming | Lois Johnson |
| Alice Dixon | Bev McGaughey |
| Marty Dorell | Eva Page |
| Polly Dyer | Marion Plumb |
| Elaine Fanning | Betty Rath |
| Nancy Ferrell | Marge Stearns |
| Ellen Gillis | Marcia Wilson |
| Betty Hansen | |
| Ann Hall | |

From 1980 through 1985, under the leadership of Sally Thrall and Penny Holladay, the Refugee Committee provided considerable assistance to two Cambodian refugee families, the Sar family, and the Phung family. Families of the church assisted by providing English lessons, transportation, donating furniture, navigating the social service system, and everything in between. As recently as 2005, Sally Thrall still hears from some of these resettled families.

From the time of its inception, the people of Bradley Hills have been dedicated volunteers for Bethesda



Betty Hayden (top right) at Bethesda Cares

Cares – an organization made up of over 400 volunteers who address issues of hunger and homelessness in Bethesda. Bradley Hills member Betty Hayden serves on the Board of Bethesda Cares and continues to inspire others to be involved with their time and money. For years, the Bradley Hills choir joined with another local church choir to perform inspiring concerts that drew large audiences, all to benefit Bethesda Cares.

Bradley Hills members Odom and Elaine Fanning have been the ever-present faces of Bethesda HELP and have encouraged all of us to provide food and transportation for our Bethesda neighbors in need. Odom has also spurred several of our young people to help with emergency food supplies. This program is an outgrowth of a project of an early Board of Deacons of Bradley Hills.

In October of 1991, a Mission Statement and Five Year Plan were adopted by the Session, the result of a process that involved two years of study by a Vision Task Force. That statement reinforced the goal of Bradley Hills to participate in meaningful outreach, locally, nationally and internationally. The congregation, under the cooperative leadership of Rev. Susan Andrews, Rev. Scott Winnette, Karen Werner, Donald Sutherland and later, Sue Dickson, along with the Church and Society Lay Ministry, has moved to make that commitment far more than words.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church: A joyful community of spiritual friends proclaiming the living Christ in our everyday lives.

- Curious to learn*
- Inspired to worship*
- Energized to serve*
- All to the Glory of God*

Beginning in 1992 and lasting for several years after, Bradley Hills and Church of the Redeemer in DC worked as partners, not only in terms of enriching joint worship services and pulpit exchanges, but also in meaningful joint outreach through a tutoring and mentoring project serving those in need in the Northeast quadrant of the Nation's Capital. Also in the early 1990s, as a direct response to the ever-

increasing violence in the city and a clear vision of Elder Phyllis Rumbarger, the Urban/Suburban Task Force became involved in several worthwhile endeavors, including teaching at the Academy of Hope; delivering food and visiting the elderly through DC Cares; Office Survival Skills 90s; and hands on involvement with a children's program in Anacostia.



Chuck Holden

Many church members continue to give freely of their time and talents in serving the Bethesda Men's Shelter and So Others Might Eat (SOME). Chuck Holden, Ed Hummers, and others have been the dedicated presence of Bradley Hills at dawn on the third Tuesday of every month for more than twenty years, cooking and serving breakfast to countless homeless and working poor at SOME's location in our nation's capital. Rev. John Wimberly, always concerned about mission to the poor in DC, was

the person who brought SOME to the attention of Bradley Hills. A plaque, complete with spatula, hangs in the church office, commemorating the presence of Bradley Hills at SOME since 1981.

In recent years, members of the congregation have taken a great deal of interest in doing hands-on, labor intensive projects that help address the needs of the poor in our own community, and in some cases, communities in other parts of the United States and overseas. Teens and adults have had considerable involvement in Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity projects. Some of these work events have been coordinated efforts that have included members of Bradley Hills working side by side with our brothers and sisters from the Bethesda Jewish Congregation.

Two organizations that are housed in the church building are the BASE (Bethesda Area Sharpe Enrichment) Program and the Friends Club. BASE is a program for students from nine local high schools and middle schools who have been suspended from school. While at BASE, students are mentored by volunteers (many of whom are Bradley Hills and BJC members). BASE operates five days a week during the school year.

The Friends Club provides support for men with Alzheimer's disease and a respite for their caregivers. It meets four days a week. Many of the dedicated volunteers are members of Bradley Hills.

Bradley Hills was also a founding member of Community Ministry of Montgomery County. In addition to providing financial support to CMMC, the church has supported Friends in Action by providing scholarships to Camp Glenkirk and summer nature classes at the Audubon Naturalist Society, and also by acting as the host site for one of the annual FIA awards dinners. As part of the 50th anniversary year celebration, May 14th, 2005 has been scheduled as a Bradley Hills work- day at two CMMC sites.

Global Mission has become central to the lives of many at Bradley Hills. As of 2005, the Global Mission Team is composed of five task forces: Middle East, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Several church members, including Dr. Andrews, traveled to the Holy Land in 1995. This led to a growing sense of awareness about the conflicts in the Middle East and the need to keep this volatile region in our prayers and to find appropriate means of offering support to groups that need assistance. One group receiving support from both Bradley Hills and BJC is Seeds for Peace.



L to R: Traudie Holman, Betty Hansen, Susan Andrews, Joy Panagides, David Nelson, Lillian Disher, Susan Nelson, Francine Kalnoske

For several years, the church has contributed support to George Ghanem, a young Palestinian who has done much to help us become more aware of the difficulties faced by so many in the Holy Land, including the Palestinian Christians. In the last few years, Bradley Hills has benefited from its relationship with PC (USA) mission workers, Marthame and Elizabeth Sanders, who returned to this country in 2004 after serving in Palestine for several years.

Several members of the church, including some of the youth, took a mission trip to Romania which re-

sulted in an on-going interest in supporting the International Children's Aid Foundation's Bright Beginnings Program – a program making great strides in serving the needs of infants and toddlers in Romanian state orphanages.

Latin American efforts have included a mission trip to the Juarez, Mexico area, and continuing interest in supporting the LarBetel Orphanage in Brazil. Additionally, the Johnson family took a family mission trip in Latin America, and Erica Pearson served in the Peace Corps in Ecuador. Ed Murphy visited Erica while she was there, bringing building supplies and books in a harrowing canoe ride – a story that will definitely not be forgotten.



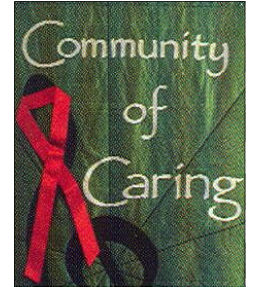
Bonnie Holcomb & Joy Panagides in Eastern Uganda

In 2003, the projects in the Buyobo community in Eastern Uganda began to take shape. Many, many members of the church have taken an interest in and supported the evolving efforts that are being developed as a model for mutual ministry. The efforts thus far have focused on the establishment of a maize mill (dedicated in December of 2004 with Joy Panagides as a witness!), supporting income generating projects, taking steps to launch a local Heifer project program, and working to design an appropriate and sustainable health care plan. (Joy Panagides, Bonnie Holcomb, Leslye and George Johnson, and John Shepherd, representing BHPC from Australia) have all traveled to Uganda to work on different aspects of this extraordinary relationship. Edith and June Mafabi had the faith to step forward and bring the needs of the Buyobo area to the attention of Bradley Hills. Tom and Mary Ann Williams have brought the Rotary Club into aspects of this effort as well. This story is only beginning. Stay tuned!

In early 2005, an Asian Task Force was formed to address the long-term needs of the tsunami survivors. Previous work in Asia involved Bradley Hills

member Ed Murphy and resulted in a church commitment to provide scholarship support to three young people in Bali.

In the late 1990s, Bradley Hills began to provide aid to victims of the worldwide HIV/AIDS crisis. This awareness has led to relationships with the DC based Women's Collective (serving women living with HIV/AIDS), the Takoma Park branch of the Whitman Walker Clinic (serving community members living with HIV/AIDS), and the Uganda based Association Francois-Xavier Bagnoud (supporting children orphaned by AIDS in Uganda). As a further step in raising awareness and support for these organizations, the Community of Caring benefit concerts were held at Bradley Hills in 2003 and again in 2004. Sue Dickson, the Chancel Choir, the Walt Whitman High School Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Singers, and others joined forces to create these events. These concerts have resulted in over \$50,000 in donations.



Community of Caring Banner

For more than ten years, Bradley Hills has offered alternatives to the usual commercial perspective on Christmas giving. Throughout Advent, the Angel Gift Tree offers alternative giving opportunities that reflect much of the year around work of the Church and Society Lay Ministry. Church members, their friends and co-workers provide gifts for local needy children from Anacostia, Montgomery County, the Women's Collective, and the Takoma Park Whitman Walker Clinic. Specific projects in Romania, Latin America, the Holy Land and Uganda also receive significant support through the Angel Gift Tree. Typically, at least one project of disaster relief is reflected in the Angel Gift Tree as well.

Protecting the environment emerged as a new concern in the 1960s, and Bradley Hills was involved in a very special way. When Rachel Carson wrote Silent Spring, the nation was galvanized by the realization of what society was doing to damage the environment and by fears of a contaminated world.

In the late 1960s, the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education began to study this issue. After a conference sponsored by the board at Ghost Ranch, NM, in 1969, a small group gave shape to data from the conference in preparation for a Pronouncement on the Environment to be presented to the next General Assembly. That group met at Bradley Hills and in-

cluded Dr. Jack Stotts (then at Yale and later President of Austin Seminary), Donald Williams (an architect from Louisville, KY) and Dr. Thomas Ward, Shirley Briggs (Director of the Rachel Carson Council) and Dr. Arthur Hall from Bradley Hills Church. At that time, Dr. Hall was president of the National Board of Christian Education. The final draft of this work was done at Bradley Hills and was adopted at the General Assembly of 1970, becoming the first statement on the environment pronounced by any religious denomination in the United States.

Quietly, yet persistently through the years, Bradley Hills member Shirley Briggs informed and energized the country through her work at the Rachel Carson Council. On the 25th anniversary of the publication of the groundbreaking Silent Spring, Bradley Hills marked the event with special focus and prayers. In 1990, around the time of the 20th anniversary of the first Earth Day, Shirley Briggs, Odom Fanning, Elizabeth St. John, and others came together to form the Bradley Hills Environmental Committee. Since that time, many special worship services have been held to recognize the importance of appreciating and caring for all aspects of God's creation.



Odam Fanning & Susan
Andrews
Gift of Elm Tree

Bradley Hills actively began pursuing recycling of aluminum cans and office paper several years before it became a county requirement. On Earth Day, 1991, a disease-resistant American Liberty Elm nurs-

ery was established on the church grounds, very near the rose window outside of Memorial Hall. Odom Fanning spent years nurturing the trees and the project. As the trees matured, many were shared with the wider community. These special elms found new homes in Arlington Cemetery, on the East Capitol Lawn as the official Massachusetts State Tree, at the NIH Clinical Center to honor the late Arthur Ashe, and at the National Bureau of Standards in Gaithersburg to honor the late Ronald H. Brown (Secretary of Commerce).

Other environmental projects have included the Children's Garden, the demonstration Rain Garden, and local stream clean-ups along the Cabin John and the Northwest Branch. For several years, the Environmental Committee tended to Adopt a Road responsibilities for a segment of Greentree Road adjacent to the church.

In late 2002, an Environmental Advocacy Policy crafted by Elder Steve Dryden was passed by the Session and forwarded to the National Capital Presbytery. In January of 2003, this policy was approved and adopted by the National Capital Presbytery.

Generations of the children of Bradley Hills have grown up with the reality that serving others is truly part of their lives. Children's offerings regularly go to support specific mission efforts, and the children learn about the importance of sharing their money with others. Additionally, as they grow up in the church, service to others is incorporated in youth activities. Work trips for the Middlers and the High Schoolers have been very meaningful, and, in many cases, life changing. Every young person who completes the confirmation process must also complete a service project. All of these factors add up to a future with great possibilities for serving others.

Sharing our Space

In a quote also referenced earlier in this church history regarding the Bradley Hills Church building, Dr. Griff Ross said (in 1967), "...We need to be the church in our time and serve the community through this building." Dr. Ross was certainly speaking the truth about Bradley Hills – a truth that continues to this day and we hope will continue throughout the life of this church.

The building has been, and continues to be, an asset made available not only to church members, but also to other congregations, to musicians, to schools and to civic groups. At one time, three other churches and three schools shared the building.



BJC Logo

This emphasis began in earnest in 1967, when the Concord Hill School began using part of the building. Later that year, the Bethesda Jewish Congregation began a relationship with Bradley Hills that continues today, more than 38 years later. Then, the

Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, followed by St. Mark Russian Orthodox Church, used the building.

The ecumenical spirit was evident in the spring of 1969 when the congregations of the Greek Orthodox Church, the Bethesda Jewish Congregation and Bradley Hills joined in a three-day "Festival of the Arts." Art work, religious artifacts, photography and crafts were displayed. More than 1000 persons attended the three-day event. This was a forerunner of a 1994 action of the Session which adopted the Arts Vision Task Force report which concluded "We acknowledge that the sacred arts are central to Bradley Hills' mission and that the arts often are a medium for God's work."



BPHC Nursery School
Children at Play

On the school front, our own Bradley Hills Nursery School, the Farrell Montessori School and the Harbor School all have brought many hundreds of youngsters through the doors of a very heavily used building.

And, in the early 1960s, a public school held its classes here for a few short weeks. Most folks have forgotten this, but a 51 year-old woman from Johnson Avenue recently (2005) shared that, when Ayr-

lawn Elementary was under construction, it was not completed in time for classes to begin in September. So, until those doors could open, Bradley Hills welcomed one grade of Ayr lawn youngsters.

In July of 1994, after 17 years at Bradley Hills, the Harbor School moved to a new location in Bethesda, freeing needed space for a young, growing and vigorous congregation. An Education and Resource Center was established, the library was moved to larger quarters, and the crib room was relocated closer to the sanctuary (that crib room has moved



Chili Cook-off Contestants, L to R: Ricky Wainwright, Donna Roberts, Carol Frenkel, Christian Peyer, Steve Burns

several times!). Importantly, Memorial Hall became available for more church activities during the week. It has been the scene of Harvest Fairs, Silent Auctions, Quiz Bowls, chili cook-offs, spud-stuffing, congregational dinners, wedding receptions, pancake breakfasts and "Omelette King" brunches. The departure of the Harbor School also allowed the Bethesda Jewish Congregation more flexibility in its use of our shared building.

For many years, the Taylor/Wainwright family and numerous volunteers took over Memorial Hall for the Annual Plant Sale. This was a great service to the church and brought many members of the community into the building. Several thousand dollars were raised as a result of these sales and local gardens were beautified.

Susan Taylor, a long-time member of the church, has offered weekday morning exercise classes in Memorial Hall for more than ten years. This has been a physical benefit to the community and a fiscal

benefit to the church, in that all church members' class fees have been donated to Bradley Hills.

Lily and the late Patrick Okura, also long-time members of the church, brought the Japanese American Citizens League to Bradley Hills. The JAACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization. The League has used the church for many meetings and special occasions.

Even the church parking lot has become a service to

the community. As nearby N.I.H. and Suburban Hospital have faced increasing parking challenges, a mutually beneficial relationship has been developed that brings workers to and from the church by shuttle bus several times daily.

The Friends Club and the BASE program are a regular presence in the building throughout the week. More details about these building users appear in the section about mission.

A Covenant Relationship

Mention has been made of the presence of the Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC) at Bradley Hills. What started as simply an agreement to rent space to BJC back in 1967 has evolved into something far different, something really quite extraordinary.



*BJC/BHPC Joint Choir
Susan Andrews, Scott Winnette, Sunny Schnitzer*

Bradley Hills and BJC, a liberal Jewish congregation, entered into a covenantal relationship in 1991. In addition to sharing physical space, the congregations share at least yearly pulpit exchanges, sponsorship of social actions such as KidsNet, Building Together, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, Thanksgiving Baskets, and educational opportunities, especially finding common ground as it relates to the conflict in the Holy Land. The congregations also come together each November for a Joint Service of Thanksgiving.

The essence of this unique relationship was evident throughout the Celebrate the Light! campaign. Joint committees met regularly for many months to make decisions regarding finances, building design, modifi-

cation and use, outside signage, social action, and more. Mutual respect was and continues to be ever present. This relationship continues through monthly meetings of the Intercongregational Partnership Committee (IPPIES) which gathers to plan, discuss and design education, worship, mission, and fun events for both congregations.

In June of 2004, at the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly meeting in Richmond, the PC (USA) took actions that caused great concerns between our Christian and Jewish brothers and sisters. In response to these actions, an Interfaith Dialogue was held, and an ongoing Study/Action group created a joint response which was brought to the National Capital Presbytery in April of 2005 in the hope that it will be adopted and forwarded to the PC (USA) for consideration by the 2006 General Assembly.

Also, in 2004, IPPIES began a series of conversations that included Bradley Hills, BJC and the Islamic Information Center (Burtonsville, MD). In the midst of trying times, such conversations offer hope to a troubled world.



Joint Service in Sanctuary with BJC Banner

Called by God . . . To Grow

*O Jesus, Thou hast called us to vision heaven on earth,
Where every man and woman is cherished and of worth;
Be one with us and lead us as faithful as our kin,
To build a church united, thy kingdom come again.*

In 2000, Task Force MMX (chaired by Cheryl Hostetler) led a visioning process for the 21st century. At that time, Core Values and a Vision Statement were adopted by the Session, values that have shaped us in the past – and will continue to shape us in the future. May it be so! All to the Glory of God!

Value Statement

As followers of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, we share these core values...

Hospitality – we welcome others and embrace our differences

Community – we seek to be a loving, caring Christian family

Compassion – we respond to the pain and need of others

Joy – we celebrate the abundance of God's grace in our lives.

Beauty – we discover God with our eyes, our ears and our hearts

Honesty – we seek and share the truth

Integrity – we strive to live in accordance with our Christian beliefs

Open-mindedness – we explore a diversity of ideas on our journey

Quality – we strive for excellence, but we realize that only God is perfect

Acknowledgements

AUTHORS:

**Arthur Hall and Joseph Fouchard, 1995
Elizabeth St. John, edited and expanded 2005**

In 1995, Arthur R. Hall and Joseph J. Fouchard spent countless hours researching the church archives, old Session notes, and delving into the “corporate memory” of Howard Biggs, Dorothy deCourt, Ella Wood, Dr. Harry Wood and Dr. Thomas Ward – all so that the 40 year history of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church could be put to paper in a way that gave us all a true sense of the past, and an understanding as to how the past has shaped who we are today. It was not until tackling the challenge of bringing that 40th year history up-to-date so that it reflects the scope of the first half century of the story of the church that I could even begin to appreciate the work and the hours that went into the 40 year version so beautifully crafted by Art and Joe. It has been a privilege to weave the story of the last 10 years into our overall history. Thanks to one and all who have played a role in completing this 50th anniversary history of our church. Your photographs, your editing, and your suggestions all made a difference. But, most importantly, thanks to every member of Bradley Hills, from 1955 to today and beyond – without you, our story would not be what it is!

Elizabeth St. John

Two other works of art must be mentioned, along with their creators. The congregation is raising its voice again and again to sing the lovely 50th anniversary hymn written by Susan Bowis. The stanzas of the hymn remind us of our history as they are woven through this document. Susan, thank you so very much. And, a special thank you for the lovely 50th anniversary banner that is gracing our anniversary celebrations, depicting the lovely rose window that was brought from the original Washington Heights church, created with such love and diligent imagination by Marilyn Alberts and Nancy Evans. Special thanks also go to Susan Andrews, Margaret Rick and Susie Wellman, for gently guiding the 50th anniversary committee as it created the celebration that is currently unfolding. We also thank all the members of the committee: Ariel Biggs, Dorothy deCourt, Marilyn Alberts, Susan Bowis, Nancy Taylor, Elizabeth St. John, Cathie Lutter, Nancy Cylke, Abby Imus, Elizabeth Padgett, Martha Fouchard, Lily Okura, Tom Biggs, Joan Burns, Mary Hickey & Tom Whitley.

Pastors

E. Lawrence Hunt	1901 – 1905
W.T.D. Moss	1905 – 1912
John C. Palmer	1912 – 1944
Robert E. Sherrill	1945 – 1951
Lloyd G. Brown	1951 – 1965
Arthur R. Hall	1967 – 1987
Susan R. Andrews	1989 –Present

Assistant and Associate Pastors

Clifton Olmstead	1946 – 1950
Truman Nabors	1958 – 1960
Stanley Mont	1961 – 1963
(installed as Associate in 1962)	
James R. Forte	1964 – 1965
Donald V. Voss	1964 – 1966
John T. Ames, Jr.	1965 – 1968
Stephen P. McCutchan	1968 – 1975
(installed as Associate in 1969)	
John W. Wimberly, Jr.	1976 - 1983
(Associate)	
Mark B. Ramsey	1984 – 1987
(Associate)	
E. Scott Winnette	1997—Present

Christian Education Directors

David V. Voss, Assistant Pastor of Education	1964-1966
June K. Stansberry, Director of Education	1968-1972
Martha M. Stevenson, Director of Education	1973-1981
Jackie M. Smith, Director of Education	1982-1987
Karen E. Werner, Director of Education Ministries	1991-Present

Choirmasters and Directors of Music

Mason Goodblood	1955—1957
Morton Croy	1957—1961
C. Sam Fox	1961—1971
Donald Sutherland	1971—1999
Sue Dickson	1999—Present