

January 25, 2017

Volume 35 Number 4

Sundays

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship



GRACE
Baptist Church

WORSHIP

Sunday, January 29

Deacon Ordination
and Installation

“A Living Witness”

Ephesians 4:1-16
Rev. Courtney E. Allen

Sunday, February 5

“Spiritual Geography”

Matthew 5:1-12
Rev. Courtney E. Allen

*Our next newsletter will be
published February 1.
The deadline for submissions is
Monday, January 31. Visit us
online at www.gbconline.org or
email us at
gbchurch@gbconline.org*

This Sunday we will ordain and install a new class of deacons in morning worship. At Grace, deacons serve not as a board of directors or governing body of the church, but rather are a group organized to serve and give care to the congregation and community. I am amazed and grateful for the giftedness of the Diaconate and its servant identity. On Sunday, we will have an opportunity to participate in the laying on of hands as we ordain several new deacons.

We will be hosting a reading and discussion of the book, *Writing Our Way Out: Memoirs from Jail*, by David Coogan, an English professor at VCU and a parishioner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. *Writing Our Way Out* is an inspiring story. It is Coogan and his co-authors' life experiences at the Richmond City Jail (now the Justice Center) and writing their ways out of the cycle of crime. David Coogan and his coauthors will join us for dinner, a reading, and conversation on **February 1**. Come hear their stories and learn more about our neighbors. The program will begin at 6:15 pm.

Stay tuned for more information on additional community partners coming to GBC on Wednesday evenings such as those working with Rapid Transit, community gardening, and more!

Bible Brunch Buddies will begin anew **February 1 at noon**. This year we will study *Living the Heart of Christianity*, which is a companion workbook to Marcus Borg's book, *The Heart of Christianity*. In this work Borg speaks to those who long for a relevant, nourishing faith and presents a new outlook on Christianity. Join us for this time of fellowship and study as we seek to live out the demands of the Gospel in our daily lives. Books are available in the church office for \$12.00.

On **Saturday, February 4th**, Grace will host the 2017 America for Christ gathering of the American Baptist Churches of our region. We are excited about the opportunity to host and worship with friends from other American Baptist Churches in our region. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:15 am and worship will begin at 9:00 am. The Chancel Choir will help lead us in worship, which will be followed by a forum on poverty and youth violence in our communities. We need your help greeting, hosting, and joining together in this wonderful opportunity to connect with our co-workers in the work of the gospel.

Dear GBC Family,

How grateful we are for the generous love gift you shared with our staff at Christmas! For your thoughtfulness, generosity, and care, we are thankful!

Please know how much the staff love gift is appreciated!

With love and gratitude,

Sam Coley, Susan Hebel, Tina Webb, Jim Dinger, Ann Wooldridge,
Noell Rathbun, Courtney Allen, Wanda Sauley Fennell, Theresa Steward,
Bryce Williams, Abigail Edwards, and Amy Dail.

GBC Contact information:

Courtney Allen: courtney@gbconline.org
 (Senior Pastor) Phone #: 804-709-7795
 Wanda Sauley Fennell: wanda@gbconline.org
 (Minister of Music)
 Noell Rathbun: noell@gbconline.org
 (Minister of Children, Families and Liturgical Arts)
 Bryce Williams: bryce@gbconline.org
 (Minister of Youth)
 Ann Wooldridge: ann@gbconline.org
 (Ministries Assistant)
 Theresa Steward: tpsteward@gmail.com
 (Organist)
 Jim Dinger: jim@gbconline.org
 (Facilities Manager)
 Sam Coley: coleys853@gmail.com
 (Sexton)

Meetings

Wednesday, January 25

6:30 PM Quarterly Business Meeting

Saturday, January 28

9:00 AM Deacons Retreat at UR Wilton Center

Saturday, February 11

9:00 AM Church Council Retreat

Do you have contact information that needs to be updated? Email changes to ann@gbconline.org!

<u>JANUARY 2017</u>	<u>Sundays</u>	<u>January Birthdays</u>
<p>Friday, January 27- Sunday, January 29 Youth Winter Retreat</p> <p>Sunday, January 29 Deacon Ordination</p> <p>Monday, January 30 Liberation Family Services 5:30 pm</p> <p>Sunday, February 5 Youth Spiritual Formation 12:00 Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Christian Spirituality Group 2nd & 4th Sundays Contact Martha Hagy, 327-1632 or Carole Jones, 516-8556, for more information.</p>	<p>Wesley Wagg 1 Cindy Blakley 3 Gay Bachtell 6 Judith Bailey 8 Randy Scott 9 Colin Hudson 15 Jane Rothrock 17 Timmy Miller 17 Temple Paxton 20 Carole Jones 22 Mac Angell 25 Susanne Freeman 26 Katelynn Rogers 27 Roger Pittard 31</p>

The Welcome Table Menu

Weekly Wednesday meals are scheduled from September to mid-June.
*Reservations are requested. Sign up on the hall table next to the Church Office
 or with our online form found on our Facebook page.*
 The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children (ages 3-11)

January 25

5:15 PM

Quarterly Business Meeting
 Spicy Vegetable Soup, Assorted
 Sandwiches, Salad, and Dessert
 Deadline for sign up: January 23

February 1

5:15 PM

Sam's Selection
 Deadline for sign up: January 30

February 8

5:15 PM

Extra Billy's BBQ
 Deadline for sign up: February 7

Thursday, February 9th at 7 pm
Barbara Brown Taylor
"Holy Envy: Learning to Live with Religious Difference"
St. Stephens Episcopal Church
Tickets can be purchased online at www.ststephensrva.org

Mark your calendar!
The Ordination of Kayla Bayles Lennon to Gospel Ministry on
Sunday, February 12, 2017
4:00 pm
Grace Baptist Church Sanctuary

REPORT: SELECT TASK FORCE ON CONSTITUTION & BYLAW REVIEW

The special task force has completed its review of the church constitution and continues its work to review and recommend changes to the bylaws. We will meet on Jan. 31 at 5:30 in Classroom 4. Our full report and recommendations will be presented at the April quarterly business meeting.

MOTION: At this time, we propose an amendment to the bylaws to create the Fellowship Commission, elevating the existing social committee and recognizing its work within the context of the church.

Linda Savelle, the current chair of Social Committee, drafted a commission description which expands and elevates the important work of this group.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

To amend and re-enact the Article V Section on Commissions in the Grace Baptist Church Bylaw

COMMISSIONS

A. Standing Commissions

Chairs and members of the standing commissions of the church shall be elected annually by the congregation. Each standing commission shall consist of no less than six members. The duties of each standing commission shall be established by the Church Council, unless superseded by the congregation. Each Chair of a standing commission shall be a member of the Church Council. The standing commissions are: Adult Education, Youth, Children, Fellowship, Missions, Outreach, Personnel, Properties, Stewardship, and Worship.

Proposed Fellowship Commission Description

Purpose

To promote intergenerational fellowship by planning with staff and organizing lunches and other social events throughout the church year.

General Provisions

- Persons may serve on both a commission and as a church officer.
- Term of office is three (3) years; members may be reelected to serve a second three (3) year term. After serving two consecutive terms, Commission members must rotate off of a commission for at least one year before being eligible for re-election.
- Commission chairs will serve no more than three years consecutively in that position.
- Commission members need not be church members.
- Commission Chair must be a church member.

Commission Responsibilities

- Plan and organize church lunches and other special meals as they are scheduled through the year.
 - Set and decorate tables.
 - Collect money from attendees.
 - Serve food when necessary.
 - Clean tables and kitchen after lunches.
 - Accept and organize food for pot luck meals, reheat and set out food as needed.
- Oversee preparations for special fellowship events, such as receptions.
 - Solicit and contribute food as needed.
 - Set up and decorate the venue.
 - Prepare punch and/or other drinks.
 - Organize and plate food.
 - Oversee food replacement
 - Clean tables and kitchen after event.

Chairperson Responsibilities

In addition to Fellowship Commission responsibilities

- Meet with pastor to plan church lunches and other special meals to include dates and type (pot luck, catered, theme, etc.)
- Work with custodian to plan venue set-up.
- Work with caterer to plan menus.
- Convene Fellowship Commission meetings.
- Direct, guide, and support fellow members as they fulfill the above-listed responsibilities.
- Work with fellow Fellowship Commission members and staff to develop and submit a budget for this commission.
- Assist Facility Manager in determining kitchen equipment and supplies needed.
- Take responsibility for scheduling members on an as-available basis for tasks related to each social event.
- Approve expenses per budget. If chairperson has personally purchased items, have another signature on the expense form.
- Attend Church Council meetings and the Church Council retreat and, as appropriate, report about status, events, and concerns regarding Fellowship.
- Attend business meetings and report.
- When unable to attend Church Council or business meetings, send an alternate to represent the commission.

Note from our Financial Secretary

Contribution statements have been emailed to members with an active email and mailed to those who requested hardcopies.

Thanks,
Tina Webb, GBC Financial Secretary

Special Notes

To our church family,

Family meant everything to Mom and Grace Baptist Church was her church family for over sixty years. She wasn't born in Grace; she attended many churches in her youngest years including Pine Street and Grove Avenue Baptist when it was located on Grove near Oregon Hill. She had her first camp experiences through Camp Alkulana. As a young mother with a preschooler and twin infant sons, she looked for a church within walking distance since Daddy had to work every other Sunday and, like most post war families, they had only one car. She found Grace in 1954 and it was her church home until the day she died. We were blessed to grow up in this community of love and faith. Words cannot express what you all meant to Mom throughout her life and to us - her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren - as we move forward into the "life after" stage. Your hugs and words of encouragement, your cards and notes, the beautiful reception prepared after her burial by so many loving hands, Courtney's beautiful service and continuing support – all mean so much. "Thank you" seems inadequate but it is heartfelt!

The family of Myrtle Kemmerer Harris:

Forrest Anne and Donald Hill; Andy Hill; Ginny, Scudder and Wesley Wagg; Maggie, Sadler and Luke Meyers. Dale Harris, Dan and Sharon Harris; Jennifer Harris: Eleanor, Erica and Ellis Harris. Anna, Steve, James and Stephanie Hastings.

Dear Grace Family:

As you have probably heard, Brynna has been admitted to a hospital that specializes in eating disorders. She will be a resident there for at least the next six weeks and possibly longer. Her release will depend greatly on how well she adapts to the programs that will be provided and how significant her health gains may be. During Brynna's time away, we (in varying combinations) will be traveling to Durham frequently to take part in family sessions and parenting groups. Needless to say, this is and will continue to be a very challenging and emotional time for our family. We absolutely covet your prayers, and we know that cards and notes of encouragement from her church family will mean a great deal to Brynna. (Her mailing address will be included in the weekly Church Family Matters.) We may not see much of you over the next couple of months, but our hearts will be with all of our dear friends at Grace.

With love,
David, Ron, and Alana

Getting to Know You



On Sunday, December 18, Madi Ramsey came forward to give her life to Christ. Madi, 14, the daughter of Philip and Ashley Bujtas and granddaughter of Wade and Susan McGinley, was baptized on January 15.

A freshman at James River High School, Madi loves her classes in English, theater, but especially the show choir. This year, she has also been chosen for the competition cheerleading team at J.R.H.S and sheers for FAME All Stars and All Star Cheering as well. In addition, she is a volunteer coach for a cheering team for girls ages 5 to 13. Moreover, she has obtained her green belt in Karate. Finally, she loves acting and modeling and had her first paying job several years ago in the T.V. show "A Haunting," a busy young lady indeed.

In addition to her parents and grandparents, Madi is close to her little sister, Kinleigh (4) and her cousins Lexi, Chase, Alexander, and Kellan. She also has a beloved golden retriever/lab mix named Marley and fosters kittens to socialize them so that they become adoptable.

In her free time, Madi works on her tumbling at FAME. Also, the competition season is starting for All Star Cheering and show choir, which means she will be traveling to competitions during most weekends anywhere from Jersey to Georgia.

When asked what she hopes to be doing in five years, she says (no surprise) cheering at the college level. After college, she would like either to be an actress or running her own cosmetology business.

At Grace, Madi has been involved in a number of activities, from caroling to helping serve the Thanksgiving Luncheon to helping with CARITAS. Moreover, she has participated in Vacation Bible School as well as singing and playing the guitar in worship.

As for her decision to commit her life to Jesus, Madi says, "In the last few months I have been faced with many obstacles and life lessons and had to get through every single obstacle that came my way. I realized there was a constant- God was always with me; he never left me. I realized I wasn't going through the life-changing events by myself. I know he was with me and it gave me a sense of understanding and peace. I always loved God and knew he loved me but never understood until the last few months what that truly meant."

Madi, we welcome you into the fold. You have made a heartfelt, well-thought-out decision. We will support you all the way.

Fifth Sunday Offering Laundry Ministry at Oregon Hill

The Fifth Sunday offering will go to the Laundry Ministry. We will collect Tide Pods (request is for Tide brand only), dryer sheets and money. This is a much-needed ministry for the homeless of Oregon Hill. **You can place Tide Pods and dryer sheets in the container across the hall from the office. Money will be collected after worship.**

The Laundry Ministry is run in partnership with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (the only other church located in Oregon Hill). Participants are allowed to do 1 load of laundry every Wednesday (1:30-3:00 PM) at the BP Gas station Laundromat (Cary & Meadow Streets.) There is an average of between 15-20 people who use this ministry each Wednesday. Two or three regular volunteers from St. Andrews are present at the laundromat every week to assist and interact with the participants.

The participants are given enough change (approx. \$3.50 per person) to wash and dry one load along with one Tide Pod and a dryer sheet. If they want to do more than one load, he/she must pay, but they will be provided with another Pod and dryer sheet. The volunteers not only assist with the laundry, but also pray with folks, and have special services, such as anointing with oil, and offer ashes on Ash Wednesday, etc.

Participants in the Laundry Ministry must be active in the Homeless Ministry of the Oregon Hill Baptist Center (come to the Thursday morning breakfast, or have a locker at the center). Vouchers are distributed for the laundry on Thursday mornings at the Breakfast. They must have a voucher to do laundry the following Wednesday. After receiving their voucher and attending the Laundry Ministry one time, they no longer need a voucher. Their name is then on a list with the St. Andrew's volunteers and they may just go straight to the laundromat on Wednesdays at the appropriate time

In the beginning, this ministry was paid for out of a special ministry fund from St. Andrew's. Eventually the money ran out and the volunteers were paying much of the expenses out of pocket. When Jennifer Turner (Director of the Oregon Hill Baptist Center) became aware of this, she reached out to RCFN churches to help support this very important ministry. St. Andrew's is pledging a certain amount, as is the OHBC (out of budget as well as donations like GBC) for 2017.

Note from the Missions Commission

The Environmental Film Festival of Richmond, will begin Monday, February 6 at 6:30 PM. The films are FREE and open to the public at various venues. Multiple films are shown both Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 11 and 12.

The web site for lists of films, times, and venues are at RVAEFF.org.

This is an opportunity for Earth Care Stewardship Learning, noted by your Missions Commission.

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Sandy Morrison

804-285-1438

**EXTENSION MEMBER
OF THE WEEK**

Bill and Catherine Carter

Dogwood Terrace Apt. 213
10300 Three Chopt Rd.
Richmond, VA 23233



CHURCH FAMILY MATTERS

Wednesday January 25, 2017

Extension Members

(Please send a note or make a phone call to these members. Contact information is in the church directory.)

Bill and Catherine Carter
Lois France
Shirley Lam
Florine Somerfield

**Members with
Continuing Needs**

Mac Angell
Dara Fennell Baker
Bill Ford
Joe Furio
Denyse Hunt
John Luck
Wade McGinley
Beverly Pugh
Jim Rothrock
Maurianne Roberson

JOYS AND PRAISES

An ordination council voted that Kayla Bayles Lennon be Ordained to gospel ministry on February 12 at 4:00 PM.

We welcome new member **Madison Ramsey** who was baptized on January 15!

MEMBERS WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

Sue Levison, having additional tests due to cancerous cells found after lumpectomy.
207 North Juniper Ave. Henrico, VA 23075

Brynna Boykin-Carter, was recently admitted to an eating disorders clinic in Durham, NC for six weeks.
Address for Brynna: Veritas Collaborative
4024 Stirrup Creek Drive Durham, NC 27703

Tina Webb, awaiting next steps following CT scan.
2503 Llama Ln. Richmond, VA 23236

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE
WITH CURRENT CONCERNS**

John Hill, father of **Sonja Hill**, hospitalized and dealing with complications from a tumor on his colon. 3200 Woodland Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060

Betty Rackley, sister of **David Bailey**, is on hospice care near Lynchburg. 1923 Flintwood Dr. Richmond, VA 23238

Betty Pugh Mills, recovering from surgery on 12/29 and will begin chemo in a few weeks.
934 Willbrook Road Newport News, VA 23602

Michael Higgins, doctor of **Wanda Sauley Fennell**, recently diagnosed with cancer.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WHO VALUE PRAYERS

Reed Harrison, is moving back home this week. 2301 Littlefox Dr. Richmond, VA 23233

Richard Pittman, cousin of **Mac Angell**, showing the first stages of Parkinsons.

Richard lives in Washington, D.C.

Suzanne Belongia, mother of **Lisa Webb**, has been approved for a kidney transplant and is now on officially on the waiting list. home address: 7700 Lazy Creek Court, Prospect, KY 40059

John Taylor, spread of esophageal cancer, resuming chemo.

Samzara, 23 Ommanney Street, Hamilton Hill WA 6163 jane_e_taylor@talk21.com

Earl Parrish, friend of **Linda and Sue Levison**, congestive heart failure.

Lori Fox, friend of **Linda and Sue Levison**, undergoing operation soon.

Stacie McClung, daughter of **Marilyn and Tracy Hunter**, having severe and ongoing back pain.

8141 Linden Drive King George, Va. 22485

Casey Rathbun, father of **Noell Rathbun**, ongoing health issues.

16 Bramlette Place, Longview, TX 75601

Elisabeth Lane, daughter of Amy Lane, friend of **Susanne Freeman**, born with hyperplastic left heart syndrome. Next open heart surgery is set for January, 2017.

Angela Hawkins, friend of **Linda Levison**, type 4 terminal cancer.

Sunshine Rae Hughes, infant daughter of Ricky Hughes, great-great niece of **Barbara Hughes and Jane Moody**, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

Kim Jennings, daughter-in-law of **Margaret Jennings**, chemotherapy for breast cancer

Herbert and Lois Levison, parents of **Linda Levison**

Steve Lowry, brother-in-law of **Pam Geib**, polymyalgia rheumatica and multiple myeloma

Steve Ward, step-son-in-law of **Lynn Clayton**, ongoing cancer concerns

Rosie Smith, niece of **Sonja Hill**, relapsed in her drug addiction and living situation is now unknown.

Morton and Mavis Baldwin, parents of **Robin Baldwin**, struggling with multiple health issues and dementia.

Marcia Cole, sister of **Wade McGinley**; multiple health issues

Bobby Dean, brother-in-law of **Susan McGinley**; Parkinson's disease

Jim and Charlotte Dekrafft, friends of **Joe Furio** (Jim – leukemia)

Gino Furio, brother of **Joe Furio**; altercation and legal concerns

Chuck Holmes, prostate cancer; Sarah Holmes, wife of Chuck, sister of **Priscilla Biddle**; migraines

Sydney Hughes, granddaughter of **Barbara Hughes**; Tuberous Sclerosis

RECENT VISITORS IN WORSHIP

Karen Berry

1518 Split Oak Ln. Apt.1, RVA 23229.

Kberry2@richmond.edu

Debbie Nicholas

olmsnick@yahoo.com; 804-592-9156

Gray Barbour

2306 Reed Rd. RVA 23230,

804-814-5754, 24nautical@gmail.com

Debi Epps

1502- B Summit Oak Ct. Henrico, VA

23228

harobed101@aol.com

Sarah Florek

4740 Pompton Ln, Chester 23831; 804-

218-0629; lovehischild@hotmail.com

Sheryl and Eric Johnson

2101 Fendall Ave. RVA 23222;

Sheryl.a.m.johnson@gmail.com

Jennifer Walker

9421 Greenhill Ct. RVA 23294.

434-770-2700, hokiebaby@verizon.net

Rob and Maggie Puckette

4637 Hanover Avenue, RVA 23226

Robert.puckette@gmail.com

Aris Hudgins and Trey Woolfolk

3800 Tomacee Rd., Richmond

540-421-7367

Emily Overberg

2202 Hanover Ave. Apt.1

Richmond, VA 23220

eroverberg@email.wm.edu

703-463-6786

Randy and Ann Ashcraft

16 Tow Path Circle Richmond, VA 23221

crashcraft1@gmail.com

Diana Trivette and Ryleigh Brooks

5910 Lakeside Ave. RVA 23228

804-909-4113; hotpad2@yahoo.com

Please add / remove names by contacting the church office at 804-353-0134 or gbchurch@gbconline.org.

CURRENT GBC MISSIONS

A Grace Place, CARITAS, Christian Education Center "Diamond," Poland, Grace Baptist Church Institute, Monrovia, Liberation Family Services, Liberia, Heifer International, The Shepherd Center

