

January 4, 2017

Volume 35 Number 1

Sundays

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship



GRACE
Baptist Church

WORSHIP

Sunday, January 8

Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

“The Revelations of God”

Rev. Courtney Allen

Hymns:

“We Three Kings of
Orient Are”

“I Want to Walk as a Child
of the Light”

Sunday, January 15

Baptism of the
Lord Sunday

Matthew 3:13-17

“Remembering Our
Baptism”

Rev. Courtney Allen

Hymns:

“Baptized in Water”

“Wash, O God, Your Sons
and Daughters”

Here we are...following the star with the Magi and on the cusp of a new calendar year. While some of us have already put away the Christmas decorations and the tree, Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas season when we remember the coming of the wise men who brought gifts and visited the Christ child. The term epiphany means “to make known” or “to reveal.” January 6th, twelve days after Christmas, is the day the Christian calendar marks as Epiphany of the Lord.

We will have a Children’s Epiphany Party Friday night at 5:30 pm here at the church. And our celebrations of Epiphany will continue in worship on Sunday morning. Following worship, we will have an Epiphany lunch in the fellowship hall featuring Mediterranean food, the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra, the practice of chalking the door, and of course, the Twelve Days of Christmas! On Wednesday, January 11th, our Wednesday evening programming will begin again and will continue to explore the concept of epiphany.

Here, at the beginning of a new year and almost to Epiphany, we find ourselves. As we begin a new year, may we consider where God may be calling and leading us in the days ahead with this prayer:

Lord God, you call your people to tasks we would not ourselves choose. Give us the grace to love you enough to follow when you call. You know our weakness and have promised to give resources for that which you ask of us. We praise you for your generous care. Like Samuel, let us say "Here I am." God of surprising light, here we are.

We are surrounded, O God, with people who need to hear the story, people who hope to meet the one from Nazareth, Jesus our Lord. Make our places of worship places of hospitality and welcome. Make our words and actions, words and actions of invitation. Like Philip, let us say, "Come and see." God of surprising light, here we are. *

-from *Lift Up Your Hearts*, the worship site for the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Our next newsletter will be
published January 11.
The deadline for submissions is
Monday, January 9. Visit us
online at www.gbconline.org or
email us at
gbchurch@gbconline.org

You will notice our newly designed worship bulletin this Sunday. In partnership with Faithlab, the organization that designed our new logo, we have designed a bulletin we hope will guide our hearts, minds, and eyes in worship. We will continue to make tweaks to the design as needed.

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

Tuesday, January 10

6:00 PM Deacons Meeting

Sunday, January 15

12:00 PM Missions Commission

Tuesday, January 17

6:30 PM Church Council Meeting

Monday, January 23

5:00 PM Outreach Commission at Lakewood Manor

Wednesday, January 25

6:30 PM Quarterly Business Meeting

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

<p><u>JANUARY 2017</u> Friday, January 6 Children's Epiphany Party and Parents Night Out 5:30 PM- 8:30 PM</p> <p>Sunday, January 8 Epiphany Sunday Lunch Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Wednesday, January 11 Epiphany Party 6:30 pm</p> <p>Wednesday, January 18 Baptism Party 6:30pm</p>	<p><u>Sundays</u></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><u>January Birthdays</u></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>
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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 4
 No Wednesday Activities

January 11
 5:15 PM
 Epiphany Party
 Deadline for sign up: January 9

January 18
 5:15 PM
 Baptism Party
 Deadline for sign up: January 17

Special Notes

On Wednesday evening, December 21st, a heavenly host from GBC descended upon my humble abode to visit and sing carols. I was deeply touched, and it's good to know that I haven't been forgotten during my long absence. I hope to see all of you soon.

Mac Angell

Dear GBC,

It was such a pleasure and so thoughtful of you to come to sing Christmas Carols to me! My neighbors are still talking about how lovely your voices are! Thank you for the delicious cookies. Hope you have a Happy New Year!

Blessings, Shirley Lam

2016 Contributions

As we are entering the final few weeks of 2016, I would like to remind everyone that you can make contributions to GBC for calendar year 2016 until January 8, 2017. Your check MUST be dated December 31, 2016 in order for it to be posted on your 2016 contribution statement. Any checks that are dated January 2017 will be posted towards your 2017 contributions. Contribution statements will be emailed to those with an active email address or mailed to those that want to receive a copy in the mail no later than January 23, 2017.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous support throughout the year.

Thanks,
Tina Webb
Financial Secretary

Note of Appreciation

Bill and I want to thank our church family for all the prayers, love, thoughts, cards, flowers, visits, phone calls, and support you have given us during this hectic year. Knowing you were praying for us made each day easier to face and gave us much comfort, hope and peace. Bill really appreciated the visits from Courtney and her beautiful prayers. Thanks again for all you do for us. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bill and Catherine Carter

Note from our Financial Secretary

Thank you to all who have turned in their commitment cards for the year ahead. Many of you have graciously increased your pledge for 2017, and we are grateful! We have also received a number of new commitment cards from those who have not pledged in years past! Please remember that if you are currently making your monthly contributions online and you increased your pledge for 2017 please remember that you must log into your account and increase your monthly deduction to your account. Also, if you have not turned in your pledge card it's not too late. You may place it in the offering plate or drop it by the church office. If you have any questions please feel free to contact either Tina Webb or Susan Hebel.

Thanks,
Tina Webb, GBC Financial Secretary

Verizon Cell Tower Update from the Properties Commission

Dear GBC congregation, members and staff:

Verizon will be working in the steeple in the near future to install their cell tower. A good portion of their outdoor work will occur in the front of the building and side lawn area with forklifts, a crane and other equipment as needed to perform their installation. There will be some disruption of the lawn area from their equipment and briefly stored materials as the work progresses. Once the work is completed, Verizon will re-seed the lawn area that they use for their work and cover it with straw. Thank you for your patience and understanding as Grace Baptist Church progresses with this wonderful opportunity.

Wishing you a safe and Merry Christmas!

Jim Dinger

Facility Manager



METROPOLITAN RICHMOND AT PRAYER

Since March 2006, more than 475 churches in Metropolitan Richmond have joined in a cooperative, covenanted effort to pray together weekly for the common concerns of the more than one million people who live in Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Richmond, and the surrounding counties and towns.

Week of January 1, 2017. We pray to overcome in Christ’s name the heritage of racism: For racial reconciliation and healing in Metropolitan Richmond; for an end to all racial prejudice and discrimination, beginning with what is in our own hearts.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

Habitat for Humanity – Lego Blitz Build

A GBC family attended the Habitat Lego Blitz Build in November. This event encourages teams to build houses from legos as they learn more about the organization Habitat for Humanity. We asked about their experience and wanted to share it with you.

Did you like the event, why or why not?

M: I liked playing with the Legos and building a house.

C: I liked it because I'm good with Legos and I love Legos.

What's something you learned about Habitat for Humanity by attending this event?

M: I learned that Habitat builds houses for the homeless.

C: I learned that they build homes for the homeless.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell GBC folks about the Lego Blitz build or Habitat for Humanity?

C: It's a good thing for the kids and it helps Habitat for Humanity.

M: It helps out a lot of people and does a lot of good for the homeless.



An Evening Among the Stars

Epiphany Celebration & Parents' Night Out

January 6, 2017 * 5:30-8:30
in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for games, crafts, pizza dinner, & a movie. \$5 suggested donation
Sign up outside the church office or email Noell@gbconline.org by January 3

YOUTH SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Event	Notes
January 27		Winter Retreat	Cost has been reduced to \$50
March 3	5:00-8:00pm	Nerf Night	
March 17		Lock In	
April 8	10:00-1:00	Service Day	TBD
May	TBD	Cake Auction	
June 25 - 30		Passport Camp	Greensboro NC

**Wednesday Nights will proceed with the church scheduling

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Martha Hagy

540-339-5100

**EXTENSION MEMBER
OF THE WEEK**

Lois France

Golding Living, Room B26
3600 Mountain Rd.
Richmond, VA 23060



CHURCH FAMILY MATTERS

Wednesday January 4, 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

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

MEMBERS WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

Christian Sympathy is extended to...

Joe Furio, in the death of his mother, Maria Furio.
309 East Brookland Park Blvd. Richmond, 23222

Ann Luck is recovering from hospitalization for pneumonia.
14215 Foliage Court Midlothian, VA 23112

Brynna Boykin-Carter, will be admitted on January 5 to an eating disorders clinic in Durham, NC for six weeks.
2208 Ridgefield Green Way Henrico, VA 23233

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**, will undergo surgery for 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.
934 Willbrook Road Newport News, VA 23602

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

Mike Cooper, an employee of EMC who has been working on our HVAC improvements, in the death of his 18-year-old son.

Herbert Levison, father of **Linda Levison**, hospitalized following a fall. 93 Szostski Rd. Waymart, PA 18472

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WHO VALUE PRAYERS

Reed Harrison, has moved to Our Lady of Hope Nursing and Rehab. 2301 Littlefox Dr. Richmond, VA 23233
Lu Soukup, sister of **Mac Angell**, having back surgery on December 20th. Lu lives in Wilmington, Delaware.
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 syn-
drome. 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**; Tuberos Sclerosis

Laura Payne, friend of **Wade and Susan McGinley**; breast cancer

RECENT VISITORS IN WORSHIP

Angela and Ashlee Anatalio

1003-B N. Hamilton St. RVA
832-401-8426; aanatalio14@gmail.com

Diana Trivette and Ryleigh Brooks

5910 Lakeside Ave. RVA 23228
804-909-4113; hotpad2@yahoo.com

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

Brian and Parvin Steward

301 Gainsborough Ct. Midlothian 23114.
zinziberi@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

Amy and Brent Bussy,

Wyatt, Carter, Rebecca Bussy

Waynesboro, VA

Emily Overberg

2202 Hanover Ave. Apt.1

Richmond, VA 23220

eroverberg@email.wm.edu

703-463-6786

Becky Frank

PO Box 91 Lesterville, SD 57040

Mike Everhart

804-723-5201

Randy and Ann Ashcraft

16 Tow Path Circle Richmond, VA 23221
crashcraft1@gmail.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

SUNDAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Sunday, January 8

Acolyte: Alyssa Dickerson

Childcare Workers:

Sunday School: Cindy Blakley

Worship: Cindy Blakley

Chimer: Camryn Dickerson

Deacon of the Week: Jennifer Dickerson

Extension Member: Shirley Lam

Greeters/Ushers:

Cheryl Crawford

Susanne Freeman

Joe Griffin

Jenny Griffin

Money Counters: Joe Griffin and Jackie Brooks

Opener/Closer: TBD

Recycling: Griffin

Sound System: Chad Hudson

Sunday, January 15

Acolyte: TBD

Childcare Workers:

Sunday School: TBD

Worship: Donna Forester

Chimer: TBD

Deacon of the Week: Roger Pittard

Extension Member: Florine Somerfield

Greeters/Ushers:

Chip Hardy

Youth

Jesse Kent

Sue Kay Lam-Kent

Money Counters: Chad Hudson and Jesse Kent

Opener/Closer: TBD

Recycling: Savelle

Sound System: Faith Dickerson

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Giving Opportunities 2016: \$ 380,198.00

Total Gifts Given 2016: \$ 360,453.39

Remaining Giving Opportunity \$ 19,744.61

December 25

Gifts given \$ 4,314.79

Other Income: \$ 621.00

PLEASE NOTE

Outside the office you can find:

- Church Budget
- Birthdays (January)
- Church Directory
- Church Newsletter (Weekly)
- SIGN UP SHEETS

Stewardship 2017

We continue to receive commitment cards for the 2017 mission and ministry of Grace Baptist Church. The response thus far has been very encouraging, and we are excited about the mission and ministry opportunities in the year ahead!

It's not too late to bring your commitment card by the church or drop it in the mail!