

February 8, 2017

Volume 35 Number 6

Sundays

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship



GRACE
Baptist Church

WORSHIP

Sunday, February 12

11:00 AM

Luke 5:1-11

Rev. Leah Grundset Davis

4:00 PM

The Ordination to Gospel
Ministry of
Kayla Bayles Lennon
Reception to follow

Sunday, February 19

“Subversive Love”

Matthew 5:38-48

Rev. Courtney E. Allen

Our next newsletter will be
published February 8.
The deadline for submissions is
Monday, February 6. Visit us
online at www.gbconline.org or
email us at
gbchurch@gbconline.org

A word from the Pastor...

Thank you to all who came together and helped welcome our friends from American Baptist Churches in our region last Saturday for the America for Christ event! Grace Church did one of the things it does best by providing hospitality and welcome to all who gathered. We had a good crowd, the breakfast and snacks were a hit, the music was lovely, and everyone felt welcomed! I heard over and over again from our



guests how friendly, welcoming, and gracious Grace Church was.

This Sunday afternoon, February 12th, Grace will ordain Kayla Bayles Lennon to Gospel ministry. This is another opportunity for us to do one of the things God has called us to do, which is to be a teaching and sending church--a church that recognizes and cultivates people's gifts and sends them into the world to use those gifts for God's goodness. At Grace we've been blessed to be a part of Kayla's journey, and it will be a privilege for us to affirm and ordain her as she moves toward the next chapter of her journey. You can learn more about Kayla's journey on page 5 of the newsletter. Please join us for the service at 4:00 and the reception to follow.



Rev. Leah Grundset Davis will be our preacher Sunday, February 12th. Leah spends her days working with the Alliance in our communications department. She writes, edits, publishes and helps to think creatively about the Alliance story through our publications, social media and in our world. She also loves to visit partner congregations. Leah is passionate about telling the story of the Alliance and where we all see God at work in the world

Leah is a graduate of Baylor University ('04, B.A.) with a degree in Journalism, Truett Seminary ('07, M.Div.) and is currently working on her Doctor of Ministry degree at Candler School of Theology, focusing on Biblical Interpretation and Proclamation and will graduate in May 2017.

Before joining the Alliance staff, Leah was Associate Pastor for Congregational Life at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.. Leah lives in Bristow, Va., with her husband John and daughters Lydia and Sadie. They are members at Ravensworth Baptist Church, Annandale, Va.

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

Saturday, February 11
 9:00 AM-2:00 PM Church Council Retreat

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

<u>FEBRUARY 2017</u>	<u>Sundays</u>	<u>February Birthdays</u>
<p>Thursday, February 9 Barbara Brown Taylor "Holy Envy: Learning to Live with Religious Difference" 7:00 PM St. Stephens Episcopal Church Tickets can be purchased online at www.ststephensrva.org</p> <p>Sunday, February 12 The Ordination of Kayla Bayles Lennon to Gospel Ministry on Grace Baptist Church 4:00 PM Sanctuary Reception to follow</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>Lois Millard 2 Tina Webb 3 Evette Caumont 4 Brian Hill 6 Ellen Jewell 7 Bill Carter 9 Sue Lewis 10 Sam McNeil 11 Lara Pugh 11 Barbara Smith 11 Susan Anderson 12 Diane Hughes 13 Spencer Anderson 15 Roger Flora 15 Margaret Jennings 21 Susan Levison 23 Mark Biddle 26 Nelson Blakley 26 Jackie Brooks 26 Margaret Sullivan 26</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)

February 8
 5:15 PM
 Extra Billy's BBQ
 Deadline for sign up: February 6

February 15
 5:15 PM
 Baked Potato Bar
 Deadline for sign up: February 13

February 22
 5:15 PM
 Hot Pasta Bar
 Deadline for sign up: February 20

SAVE THE DATE!

What: 2017 Adult Retreat
When: April 21-23, 2017

Where: Lost River Retreat Center, Lansdowne, West Virginia

More details to come! Mark your calendar and join us for this time of rest, rejuvenation, and fellowship!

The 2017 Diaconate

Sharon Whitlock (2018)
 Freida Woodson (2018), Secretary
 David Carter (2018)
 Bernie Henderson (2018)
 Brian Hill (2018)
 Chris Baker (2019), Chair
 Colin Bedell (2019)
 Cynthia Byrkeland (2019)
 Kevin Corn (2019)
 Jennifer Dickerson (2019), Vice Chair
 Marilyn Fishel (2019)
 Ron Gotschalk (2019)
 Marilyn Hunter (2019)
 Sandy Morrison (2019)



Matt Anderson (2020)
 Darrel Baker (2020)
 Sue Kay Lam-Kent (2020)
 Carole Jones (2020)
 Matt Paxton (2020)
 Barbara Smith (2020)
 Scudder Wagg (2020)
 Elaine Yeatts (2020)

Community Connections: Wednesday Evenings in February

On **February 8** we will learn more about RVA Rapid Transit and consider transit as a source of connection, justice, and reconciliation. Stay tuned for more details and opportunities to connect on Wednesdays in February.

On **February 15th**, Kate Ayers with ReEstablish Richmond will join us to share more about their work with resettling refugees in the Richmond area. Reestablish Richmond strives to provide culturally competent services to refugees who have been resettled in Richmond. For this reason, every program is designed and presented to clients with specific strategies to meet their diverse needs. From introducing community gardening to teaching transportation independence, from tutoring in English to hosting community-building ladies lunches, from leading job readiness workshops to connecting clients with local businesses interested in hiring refugees in positions with upward mobility, they work to support refugees and help break down the barriers along their path to self-sufficiency.

ReEstablish Richmond connects refugees to life-building tools and resources, helping their transition to be a positive and empowering experience. They work in collaboration with resettlement agencies, government services, faith communities and volunteers. They are committed to creating greater opportunities for refugees in Richmond by enabling access to services that benefit their future.



**Grace on Tap
 Spring 2017**

6:00 PM
 Join us for
 conversations on faith.

February 19	The Answer Brewpub 6008 W. Broad Street
March 19	Buskey Cider 2910 Leigh Street
April 30	Triple Crossing Fulton 5203 Hatcher St



**Join us for
Children's Programming
during Wednesday night
Community Conversations
in the month of
February**

Last Wednesday we made cards of welcome
for the refugee clients of ReEstablish Richmond.

learn more about it!



Dear ReEstablish Richmond supporters: Thank you so much for your incredible support during this challenging season. ReR believes that the stories of our refugee clients - stories of resilience and hope - transform us to love and welcome refugees. We believe in the promise of a better global society through kindness and compassion.

Through the month of February 2017, we invite our supporters to write welcome cards to our refugee neighbors. We suggest that your cards include messages of encouragement, support, acceptance, belonging, and hope. We welcome participation from volunteers of all ages: both written letters and children's drawings of beautiful images will be collected and distributed to our refugee neighbors.

Please place your cards/messages in a blank, stamped envelope, and mail them all together in a second, outside envelope addressed to:

ReEstablish Richmond
Re: Welcome Card Drive
2920 West Broad Street, Suite #246
Richmond, VA 23230.

To help ReEstablish Richmond continue to support refugees who are currently resettled here become integrated and feel welcomed into their new home, please visit: <http://www.reestablishrichmond.org/donate>

TAKE THEM A MEAL

If you'd like to help care for the Boykin-Carter family by providing meals, you can sign up at [Take Them a Meal](#). The meal schedule and dietary needs are listed.

Another way others can access your meal schedule is by visiting TakeThemAMeal.com and searching with the following credentials.

Recipient Last Name: Boykin-Carter Password: Grace

If you have any questions contact Barbara Scott rbrscott@gmail.com



Sewing Help Needed!

Can you sew? Do you have access to a sewing machine?

I'm looking for people to help make fabric market and crayon rolls for kids to use during worship so that we can replace the loud, large community coloring bucket. I can provide fabric and a pattern. Please contact Noell@gbconline.org if you can help. Thanks!

THANK YOU!

On January 29th you donated laundry supplies and money for Oregon Hill Baptist Center's Laundry Ministry for the homeless. Each week, this ministry enables 15-20 Homeless Ministry participants to launder a load of clothes.

In addition to a large quantity of laundry detergent and dryer sheets, you donated a total of \$186.28 in cash and checks. Based on an estimated cost of \$3.50 per load of laundry (wash & dry), our contributions should cover about 53 loads of laundry --- that's almost 3 weeks of Laundry Ministry!

- GBC Missions Commission

FILM FESTIVAL

The Environmental Film Festival of Richmond will run each evening, beginning Feb. 6 at various venues. The films are FREE and open to the public. Multiple films are shown both Saturday and Sunday Feb. 11 and 12. Some are geared for children. Sat., Feb. 18, is the final film. The web site for lists of films, times, and venues are at www.RVAEFF.org. This is an opportunity for Earth Care Stewardship Learning, noted by your Missions Commission.

Kayla Bayles Lennon



What an exciting week! It is hard to believe, that after a journey of about 40 years, I will be ordained as a Baptist minister in just a few short days. Perhaps in the manner of my favorite biblical character, Moses, there was just too much that needed to be learned along the way of my life's mission for it to be a direct route. Many of those lessons were things I needed to know about myself, and some of them were about what others needed to be ready for how God might choose to use me.

Growing up in Louisiana as a member of the church of Christ, was confusing for me because I had this longing to be a preacher. As a child, I would emulate our minister by pretending to preach in my bedroom, holding a brush for a microphone, or by "preaching" as the narrator of our elementary school plays. But in the church of Christ, a strict fundamentalist faith tradition, a pulpit was not open to female ministers. I thought it was God calling me, but decided something was wrong in my way of understanding.

Later, as I entered my early twenties, the confusion deepened because now I also knew that I was lesbian. There was no one in the early to mid 80's who would ever confirm my call in light of these two things. I turned the rejection inward.

The next 20 years was spent vacillating between my need to serve God and my disdain of the church of my childhood. I tried on different denominations and different ways of being in the world much like one would try on clothes. Looking, searching for the perfect fit. I learned so much during this time. Some of the lessons were useful and I continue to use them in my spiritual practice today, while others were most probably there to teach me how not to do something. ;-)

Yet, I am so grateful for all those experiences for they have brought me to this place and time where not only am I affirmed as a woman in ministry, but as a lesbian woman. I cherish the time when I was unable to cross the threshold of a church just as much as the time I spent with God's people in the Salvation Army, the United Pentecostal Church, and the Metropolitan Community Church. However, nothing was as satisfying, nor as right, as when Crystal and I entered the doors of Millbrook Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. From that first Sunday in 2008 until today, the Baptist faith has been a welcoming, affirming and healing presence for me, and for us.

Thank you, Grace Baptist Church, for continuing to extend the welcome to us when we came through your doors. Thank you for engaging us in our talents and callings, for loving us unconditionally and extending grace and mercy to us in our human frailties. We are so honored - I am so honored - to live among you and call you all friends. Yet most of all, I hope that we can serve you, and serve beside you, for a long time to come.

God Bless!

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Donna Forester

804-338-6383

EXTENSION MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Shirley Lam

1600 Westwood Ave.

Unit 122

Richmond, VA 23227



CHURCH FAMILY MATTERS

Wednesday February 8, 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

Congratulations to **Jane and Jim Rothrock** on the birth of their grandchild, Jack Alexander Rothrock, son of Rebecca and Sam Rothrock.

The congregation approved the ordination council's recommendation to ordain **Kayla Bayles Lennon** to gospel ministry on February 12 at 4:00 PM.

MEMBERS WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

Baron Blakley, recovering from total knee replacement on 2/1.
4799 Darbytown Rd Richmond, VA 23231

Sue Levison, had additional surgery on 2/2 and radiation for stage 1 breast cancer.
207 North Juniper Ave. Henrico, VA 23075

Brynna Boykin-Carter, currently being hospitalized.
Address for Brynna: Veritas Collaborative
4024 Stirrup Creek Drive Durham, NC 27703

Tina Webb, recovering from hospitalization for pneumonia.
2503 Llama Ln. Richmond, VA 23236

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

Wesley Fishel, 16 year old nephew of **Marilyn Fishel**, in ICU at Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem following a severe bull riding accident. Please keep Wesley and his parents, Neil and Karen, and his grandparents, Phil and Brenda Fishel, in your prayers
6225 Reidsville Road; Kernersville, N.C. 27284.

Betty Pugh Mills, began chemo 1/31.
934 Willbrook Road Newport News, VA 23602

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WHO VALUE PRAYERS

Betty Rackley, sister of **David Bailey**, is on hospice care near Lynchburg.

1923 Flintwood Dr. Richmond, VA 23238

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

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

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**; Tuberos 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

Robin Blythe and Nancy Cavallo

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

SUNDAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Sunday, February 12

Acolyte: Alyssa Dickerson

Childcare Workers:
 Sunday School: Cindy Blakley
 Worship: Cindy Blakley

Chimer: Sam Timberlake

Deacon of the Week: **TBD**
Extension Member: Florine Somerfield

Greeters/Ushers:
 Cheryl Crawford
 Susanne Freeman
 Joe Griffin
 Jenny Griffin

Money Counters: Joe Griffin and Jackie Brooks

Opener/Closer: **TBD**

Recycling: Morrison

Sound System: Chad Hudson

Sunday, February 19

Acolyte: Makayla Levison

Childcare Workers:
 Sunday School: Laura Thomson
 Worship: Laura Thomson

Chimer: Kellan Miles

Deacon of the Week: **TBD**
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: Fennell

Sound System: Faith Dickerson

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Giving Opportunities 2017:	\$406,899.43
Total Gifts Given 2017:	\$ 48,033.00
Remaining Giving Opportunity	\$358,866.43
<u>February 5</u>	
Gifts given	\$ 6,626.00
Other Income:	\$ 171.00

PLEASE NOTE

- Outside the office you can find:
- Church Budget
 - Birthdays (February)
 - 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!