

May 24, 2017

Volume 35 Number 21

Sundays

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am
Worship



GRACE
Baptist Church

WORSHIP

Sunday, May 28

Praises on the Portico
Outdoor Worship
and Hymn Sing

Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, June 4

Pentecost
Wear Red!

John 20:19-23

Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

A note from our minister:

Decades ago, GBC realized the wisdom of providing ministerial staff members with periodic sabbatical leave-- a break from the regular routine that can be used for personal and professional development. The church approved for me, in business meeting, four weeks of sabbatical leave, which I will be experiencing in June.

As in the past, I will be attending to Jesus' invitation recorded in Mark 6:31: "Let's go to a place where we can be alone and get some rest" as well as the proclamation found in Habakkuk 2:20: "The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before him." Previous experiences of withdrawing from my regular routine for a time of silence, solitude, and stillness have been beneficial, so I look forward to another season of practicing these spiritual disciplines. I will be using as a template for contemplation Philip Gulley's book, *Living the Quaker Way*, with its thirty Quaker queries--"self-directed questions that help us discern our habits, values, and priorities."

One of my intentions for the sabbatical is to attend worship services in which I have had no part of planning, and I plan for at least one of them to be a Quaker service since they place a premium on quietness in corporate worship.

Outside of Sunday morning worship, I will practice silence, solitude, and stillness at the Earthwalk retreat center and a monastery or two as well as the river home of Cheryl Crawford and Marilyn Fishel. I am deeply grateful to Cheryl and Marilyn for opening their home to me.

I also plan to spend some time exploring a hymnal that is new to me: *Community of Christ Sings*. Thanks to Deb Loftis for providing a copy.

Another book that will serve as a guide for the sabbatical is *Aging as a Spiritual Practice: A Contemplative Guide to Growing Older and Wiser* by Lewis Richmond. On the Summer Solstice I will celebrate my 60th birthday. I assume that I am more than halfway through my journey on this planet, so I want to do some focused thinking about what remains.

Thank you for making all this possible. It has been a blessing to serve with you almost 29 years. I look forward to rejoining you in July.

Sincerely,
Wanda

Our next newsletter will be
published May 31st.

The deadline for submissions is
Monday, May 29. Visit us online at
www.gbconline.org or email us at
office@gbconline.org

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)

Theresa Steward: theresa@gbconline.org
 (Organist)

Sam Coley: coleys853@gmail.com
 (Sexton)

Sarah Fox: office@gbconline.org
 (Ministries Assistant)

Meetings

Sunday, June 4, 9:00 am
 Bereavement Team Meeting
 Parlor

Sunday, June 11, 12:00- 1:00 pm
 Outreach Committee Meeting
 Room 4

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

<u>MAY 2017</u>	<u>Sundays</u>	<u>May Birthdays</u>
May 28 Praises on the Portico: Outdoor Worship	9:45 am Sunday School	Archer Yeatts 1
Canal Cruise Picnic 5:00-6:30 pm	11:00 am Worship	Beverly Pugh 8
May 29 Liberation Family Services Meal 5:45-6:30 pm		Angela Jones 14
<u>June 2017</u>		Maurianne Roberson 16
June 4 Pentecost Lunch and Cake Auction for Children and Youth		Wayne Schneider 20
June 7 Variety Show at 6:00 pm		Bibi Sweeney 20
		Nancye Rhodenhiser 22
		Sam Timberlake 23
		Lois France 24
		John Mizell 28
		Matt Paxton 28
		Alexander Miles 31

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)

May 31	June 4	June 7
5:45 PM Hot Pasta Bar	12:00 PM Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes Veg. Opt: Stuffed Butternut Squash	5:45 PM Greek Dinner

A note from the Bible Brunch Buddies

From noon to 1 pm each Wednesday in May, Bible Brunch Buddies will be taking a tandem look at Jewish and Christian scriptures (passages from the Old and New Testament). The group will be led this month by Jane McNeil using her writing titled 'The Bible in 36 Words' as the outline for the sessions.

The tandem look at the scriptures is organized in the order of the Jewish TANAKH with Christian scripture aligned, as appropriate, beside the books of the TANAKH. A one-word summary is presented for each pair of books or for each book when there is no parallel Christian writing. The discussion includes a selected verse for each book of scripture and some commentary. This tandem look at the scriptures provides an overview of the Bible as a whole as well as providing an enhanced and enriched understanding of Judaism and Christianity. The next meeting is May 31st and will be a wrap-up to the series with discussion and conclusions.

All are invited to join the Bible Brunch Buddies group. We meet at NOON every Wednesday. Hope to have you join us!

Gratitude for Your Prayers

Many thanks for prayers and concerns for my great-nephew, Wesley Fishel. He has made a remarkable recovery since his bull-riding accident on February 4th. He has gone back to school and is enjoying hanging out with his friends. He does have splints for his shoes due to drop foot and at some point will have a tendon graft to correct that. Right now he is going to the Wound Center at Wake Forest Medical Center for a wound on his left great toe.

He was, until recently, exercising to build up his muscle mass. This past weekend he woke up with horrible shoulder pain. His parents immediately took him to the emergency room. At first the doctors thought he had a blood clot, but then decided that it was pleurisy, probably due to his workout. So much for body building right now.

Again thanks for all the prayers. God is good! Wesley has had good caregivers and is 16 years old, but truly he could not have healed so quickly without God.

Sincerely, Marilyn Fishel

It's a Cake Auction!
Join us for this Children and
Youth Fundraiser

Bake a cake! Buy a Cake!
Bring your specialty
whatever it may be.

Sunday, June 4
Sign up outside of the
Church Office.



A Warm Thank You

Elisabeth Lane, daughter of Amy Lane, friend of **Susanne Freeman**, was born with hyperplastic left heart syndrome. After her heart surgery in January 2017, Elisabeth is doing well and progressing as expected. Susanne and the Lanes want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers which surely helped in her recovery.

Thank You for Your Care and Concern

Dear Members of Grace,

Thank you so much for your visits, phone calls, food and cards during my recent surgery. You are such a warm, loving, and supportive congregation, and I am so blessed to be a part of it.

In Christian love, Pauline Brooks

Thank you from the Ministry of the Christian Education Center “Diamond” in Poland

We are very thankful to Grace Baptist Church in Richmond for the great gift of \$2,362 as financial support of the ministry of Christian Education Center “Diamond,” which we received May 10th. We thank all donors. This really gives us strength and joy in our ministry.

The financial assistance, which we received from you is very valuable because it enables us to continue the work that we do for many years. Especially, this fund will help cover costs related to a new sport room, as well as outdoor activities, including the trips to interesting places near Białystok. The aim of these trips is not only to explore the history, culture, and religion of our region, but also to teach young people to be more open to people of different cultures and religions. Some young people have a big problem with this issue.

We thank God for such friends as you and we are happy that together we may share God’s loving care with those who need it. May God bless you richly, Ryszard Gutkowski

Grace Baptist Church at the Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering

A number of Grace Baptist members were in attendance at the annual gathering and 30th anniversary celebration held at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. Darrel Baker reflects on his experience with the Alliance and the recent gathering:

The Alliance is the place I feel at home theologically. It was started with Baptist principles in mind, and represents the best of them. While I feel at home, they constantly challenge me as a privileged, white, heterosexual male. This meeting was no different. The diversity helps me to view the gospel through different eyes. The Alliance reminds me that Christianity is bigger than nationality and race. "Jesus loves the little children all the children of the world," we have sung. We were challenged to work for justice for all God's children.

Mission Opportunity



GBC continues to partner with The Oregon Hill Baptist Center to minister to the needs of inner-city Richmond's homeless community. Please help us respond to the following current local need:

WHAT IS NEEDED?

- **New men's size medium and/or large boxer shorts**, waist sizes 32"-38", (no small or extra-large size, please)
- **New men's white crew socks or over-the-ankle socks**, (no "no-show" socks, please)
- **No time to shop?** Cash/check contributions will be accepted – please designate "OHBC Underwear & Socks"

WHEN? All donations requested by **May 28**

WHERE? Designated collection bin outside the church office

Thank you! - Missions Commission

Join us for a Picnic Canal Cruise Sunday May 28 from 5-6:30 pm

Join us for a fellowship dinner for the whole GBC community during a canal cruise chartered just for us. All ages are welcome! Bring a brown bag picnic supper and we'll eat on the boat, while we hear some history of our city. Time for fellowship as we cruise down the canal will follow. The boat is handicap accessible. Space is limited, so please let Noell know ASAP if you'd like to come or have any questions.

Liberation Family Services Meal Monday, May 29 from 5:45-6:30 pm

Join us to serve a meal and break bread with veterans starting anew. Please email Sallie Cross at sallieandrichardcross@gmail.com, if you can contribute to the meal.

Pentecost Lunch and Cake Auction June 4, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Dessert always seems to be the favorite part of a meal. It is the sweet treat that we wait for through our time at the table. Our annual cake auction is a sweet treat that brings the community together to have fun and support our children and youth. But this auction is about more than cake. It is about giving our students a sweet treat in their spiritual lives. The money raised at the cake auction goes to sending our students to Passport camp. As former staff of Passport, I have seen students come into the week unsure about who they are and what their faith means to them. When they leave there is a renewed connection to what it means to be a Christ follower. Our students at Grace are given a chance to explore what it means to follow Christ. They look at missions and interacting with a community. They look at their inner self and reflect on the ways that they can make a difference in the world. This cake auction is more than sweet treats, it is about strengthening the body of Christ for future generations.

Joint Children's Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday school begins June 18. Preschool through 5th grade will spend the first part of the summer exploring and learning the Lord's Prayer. In the second half of the summer they'll have a series of lessons from the book of Acts. If you are able to teach or shepherd for one or more dates in the summer, please let Noell know.

Pizza in the Park and a Farewell Friday, June 9 Time and Location TBD

Laura, Mark, Will, Anne, and Amelia Thomson are moving to Florida this summer. We thought it would be nice if our GBC family wished them farewell. Details on exact location and time are still being determined, but we'd like to gather for pizza on a playground so kids can play and parents can visit. If you'd like to eat pizza, please sign up outside the church office or email Noell@gbconline.org with any questions. Look for more details soon!

Children and Families Cookout Sunday, June 25, 4:30-6:30 12100 Bowerton Road, Henrico, VA 23233

Join us for food and fellowship! Alisa and Stewart Smith are extending hospitality to children and their families for a potluck cookout. The church will provide burgers and hot dogs. Families are invited to bring a side or dessert to share. Please sign up outside the church office so we can get an idea of how many people plan to come. Contact Noell@gbconline.org with any questions.

July Meet-up for Families Red, White and Lights at Crump Park Tuesday, July 4

The children's commission continues to seek ways for families to enjoy fellowship and get to know one another better. July seems to be a hectic month for most so we don't have any formal events planned but thought encouraging a meet-up at a local event might be fun. Hope to see you there!

Here's a description of the event from Crump Park: "Join us for a spectacular evening celebrating independence and honoring America's veterans. Wear your red, white and blue and enjoy the holiday at the park with patriotic activities for the whole family, food trucks, and performance by the Richmond Symphony with a laser light show finale. Gates open at 4pm. Information: gru16@henrico.us"

Who is my Neighbor? Church-wide Intergenerational Vacation Bible School August 4, 5:30-7:30 August 5, 10-4 August 6, 10-12

Please mark your calendar for an intergenerational learning event geared toward the whole GBC community. We'll be exploring what it means to be a neighbor and to follow Jesus' commandment to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. Look for a sign-up later in the summer. Please contact Noell@gbconline.org with any questions.

You can help us create our next worship arts installation!

Think about the gifts God has given you to share with the world and the ways you see God's Spirit at work in the world. Then stop by the center table in the main hallway and create a feather or flame to be incorporated into a Pentecost banner.



DEACON OF THE WEEK
Marilyn Fischel

**EXTENSION MEMBER
OF THE WEEK**

Catherine Carter
10300 Three Chopt Rd.
Apt. 213
Richmond, VA 23233



CHURCH FAMILY MATTERS
Wednesday May 24, 2017

Extension Members

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

Catherine Carter
Lois France
Shirley Lam
Florine Somerfield

Members with Continuing Needs

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

JOYS AND PRAISES

Jane and Sam McNeil welcome their newest grandson Jason Ferenc McNeil to the world. Born on May 12th, Jason is the son of Robert and Marianne McNeil.

Lynn Clayton has a new grand baby! Eliza Lynne Paxton was born Friday night, 4 weeks early, to parents Ernest and Kathryn Paxton and sister, Charlotte.

MEMBERS WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

Pauline Brooks had gallbladder surgery May 9 and is recovering at home. *7521 Rockfalls Drive Richmond, VA 23225*

Maurianne Roberson is now home after being hospitalized at St. Mary's for an infection. *1726 Pulliam Street Richmond, VA 23235*

Linda Levison is diagnosed with endometrial cancer and will have surgery on May 31st.

Linda Welch is transitioning home from rehab for a femur break. *1609 Sandgate Road, Midlothian, VA 23113*

Jim Rothrock continues to heal at home after an extended hospital stay. *3504 Warsaw Terrace Richmond, VA 23060*

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

- ❖ Sonny Woodson, husband of **Freida Woodson**, at St. Mary's Hospital ICU with pneumonia and a collapsed lung. The Woodsons have requested no visitors. *10102 Deepwood Circle, Henrico 23238*
- ❖ **Betty Pugh Mills** has finished her sixth and final round of chemo. *934 Willbrook Road Newport News, VA 23602*

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WHO VALUE PRAYERS

- ❖ Casey Rathbun, father of **Noell Rathbun**, ongoing health issues and Sally Rathbun, mother of Noell, who is awaiting scan results for hardened, swollen lymph nodes. *16 Bramlette Place, Longview, TX 75601*
- ❖ Judy Diehl, mother-in-law of **Dara Fennell Baker's** best friend, Ashleigh will be moving to a new facility with continued assessment and therapy for traumatic head injury and dementia.
- ❖ Calvin Baker, husband of **Dara Fennell** was recently diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes and is adjusting to insulin therapy.
- ❖ John Hill, father of **Sonja Hill**, is nearing the end of his chemo and is hoping to return to work in June. *3200 Woodland Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060*
- ❖ Gail, friend of **Wanda Sauley Fennell** is beginning chemo. Pray that it will be effective.
- ❖ **Reed Harrison**, is back home. *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 Parkinson's.
- ❖ 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's** most recent scan after treatment for esophageal cancer looked good. *P.O. Box 417, Toodyay, WA AUSTRALIA 6566 jane_e_taylor@talk21.com*
- ❖ Earl Parrish, friend of **Linda and Sue Levison** has congestive heart failure.
- ❖ Angela Hawkins, friend of **Linda Levison** has type 4 terminal cancer.
- ❖ Sunshine Rae Hughes, infant daughter of Ricky Hughes, great-great niece of **Barbara Hughes** and **Jane Moody** has hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.
- ❖ Kim Jennings, daughter-in-law of **Margaret Jennings** is having chemotherapy for breast cancer.
- ❖ Lois Levison, mother of **Linda Levison**.
- ❖ Steve Lowry, brother-in-law of **Pam Geib**, has polymyalgia rheumatica and multiple myeloma.
- ❖ Rosie Smith, niece of **Sonja Hill** is in rehab for drug addiction.
- ❖ Morton and Mavis Baldwin, parents of **Robin Baldwin** are struggling with health issues and dementia.
- ❖ Marcia Cole, sister of **Wade McGinley** is experiencing multiple health issues.
- ❖ Bobby Dean, brother-in-law of **Susan McGinley** has Parkinson's disease.
- ❖ Jim and Charlotte Dekrafft, friends of **Joe Furio**, Jim has leukemia.
- ❖ Gino Furio, brother of **Joe Furio**; altercation and legal concerns.
- ❖ Chuck Holmes, prostate cancer; Sarah Holmes, wife of Chuck, sister of **Priscilla Biddle** has migraines.
- ❖ Sydney Hughes, granddaughter of **Barbara Hughes** has Tuberos Sclerosis.
- ❖ **Brynna Boykin-Carter**, continued prayers for healing. *2208 Ridgfield Green Way Henrico, VA 23233*

RECENT VISITORS IN WORSHIP

Jocelyn Brumbaugh

4010 Patterson Ave
RVA 23221. (336) 971-5232

jocelynbrumbaugh@gmail.com

Aris Hudgins and Trey Woolfolk

3800 Tomacee Rd., Richmond 23221
540-421-7367 (540)421-7367

woolfolc@gmail.com

Emily Overberg

2202 Hanover Ave. Apt.1
Richmond, VA 23220

eroverberg@email.wm.edu

703-463-6786

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

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

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

SUNDAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Sunday, May 28

Acolyte: Nelson Blakely

Childcare Workers:

Nursery: Abigail Edwards

Sunday School: Sallie Cross

Worship: TBD

Chimer: Milagros Cavet

Deacon of the Week: Sharon Whitlock

Extension Member: Catherine Carter

Greeters/Ushers:

Richard and Sallie Cross

David Boykin

Bernie Henderson

Money Counters:

Sharon Whitlock and Sallie Cross

Opener/Closer: Joe Griffin

Sound System: Chad Hudson

Sunday, June 4

Acolyte: Lloyd Jewell

Childcare Workers:

Nursery: TBD

Sunday School: Marie Henderson

Worship: TBD

Chimer: Luke Smith

Deacon of the Week: Sharon Whitlock

Extension Member: Lois France

Greeters/Ushers:

Bob and Karen Hamlett

Lisa and Tina Webb

Money Counters:

Tina Webb, Susan Hebel, Cheryl Crawford

Opener/Closer: Joe Griffin

Sound System: Brian Jewell

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Giving Opportunities 2017: \$406,899.43

Total Gifts Given 2017: \$158,103.31

Remaining Giving Opportunity \$262,530.12

May 21

Gifts given: \$6,349.00

Other Income: \$152.00

PLEASE NOTE

Outside the office you can find:

- Church Budget
- Birthdays (May)
- 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!**

Current GBC Missions

Camp Alkulana, CARITAS, Children Incorporated, Christian Education Center "Diamond" Poland, Hands Up Ministries, Hope Tree, Oregon Hill Baptist Center (RCFN), Grace Baptist Church Institute, Monrovia- Liberia, Liberation Veteran Services, Heifer International, The Shepherd Center.