

August 30, 2017

Volume 35 Number 34

Sundays

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am
Worship



GRACE
Baptist Church

WORSHIP

Sunday, September 3

Praises on the Portico and
Hymn Sing
Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 10

Reconvenanting Sunday
Bible Dedication
"Reimagining Our World:
Beloved Community"
Matthew 18:15-20

A word from our pastor...

In seeing all of the images and hearing the stories thus far from Hurricane Harvey, I'm reminded that twelve years ago on Tuesday Hurricane Katrina made landfall. I found a journal of mine from those post-Katrina days, which brought so many people and their stories back to my mind. In the first month after the storm, I went to Waveland, Mississippi and wrote, "Words cannot begin to describe the damage, destruction, and devastation there. Literally the entire town in leveled, at least to the railroad tracks. On Main Street not a building remains, only rubble, a few flags flying as symbols of hope, and a seventy-nine year old man named Tommy sitting in a lawn chair.

Twenty months after Katrina hit, after working with a few thousand volunteers and a few hundred gulf coast residents, I wrote, "In a word, it is incredible. The devastation is incredible. The hope, goodness, and love are incredible. Everything is intense. Be it intense joy or intense sorrow, there are no in-between emotions." When unprecedented storms come our way and the world as we know it is turned upside down, the devastation is incredible. But so too, can the outpouring of love and care, hope and goodness. This week I am thinking about all of those in the path of Hurricane Harvey and all they will need in the days ahead to dry out, clean up, repair, and rebuild. Walter Brueggemann writes, "When you are with Jesus you are inescapably in the bread business. You need bread to share because it is the work of Jesus to feed hungry people and express compassion concretely" If my experience in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina tells me anything, it is that every single dollar we give, every place we show up, every encouragement we send, and every piece of bread we offer, matters. And in the face of great devastation, concretely expressed compassion is the only thing that swings the pendulum from great sorrow back toward some sense of joy.

Last Sunday's gospel reading was the feeding of the five thousand from Matthew. The disciples tell Jesus they don't have anything to feed the crowd, and Jesus says, "Bring what you've got to me." Turns out they have five loaves and two fish—not a lot, but it is something. That amount won't feed many people on its own, or will it? I am convinced that people rebuild and communities heal when we bring whatever we've got, even when we know our efforts are but part of tremendous needs. Even when the winds blow and the waters rise, we can express compassion concretely. We can give of whatever is within our care. And we can recover the glimmers of joy even in the debris piles of great sorrow.

Let us find a way to express compassion concretely. Bring whatever you've got. Donate whatever you've got. Pray all the prayers you've got. And find a way to offer up willing hands, an open heart, listening ears, comforting care, or a hope-filled heart. I'm confident that a host of people on the Mississippi Gulf Coast are sleeping in dried in homes tonight because compassion was expressed concretely in people from all over this country and many from Virginia who shared their time, money, skills, and love. And I believe that this is the only way people in Hurricane Harvey's path will be able to move from the incredible devastation we are witnessing to the next chapter of relief, recovery, rebuilding, and perhaps even joy. The only way to cultivate intense joy after all of this loss will be through the outpourings of love and care, hope and goodness of regular people and the grace of God. Here at Grace Baptist Church, we will be collecting dollars that will be sent for relief and recovery efforts as well as looking ahead for a time when we can show up and bring what we've got to the folks in Texas. If you haven't already contributed or would like to pledge a future gift through GBC for the ongoing need, you may send gifts to Grace and note "Harvey Relief."

Grace and peace,

Courtney

*Our next newsletter will be
published September 6th*

*The deadline for submissions is
Monday, September 4th*

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)
 Rev. Suzanne Vinson: family@gbconline.org
 (Interim 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)
 Cynthia Buck: office@gbconline.org
 (Ministries Assistant)

Meetings

September 4
 Church Office Closed Labor Day

September 5
 Stewardship Commission Meeting
 6:30 pm

Fall Programming begins anew on September 6!
 Bible Brunch Buddies Noon on Wednesdays

The Welcome Table Wednesday Evenings
 September 11
 Stewardship Commission Meeting
 6:30 pm

September 12
 Deacons Meeting
 6:00 pm

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

<p><u>September 2017</u></p> <p>September 3 Praises on the Portico and Hymn Sing</p> <p>September 10 Recovenanting Day Potluck Lunch following worship</p> <p>September 17 Family Pool Party</p>	<p><u>Sundays</u></p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship</p> <p><u>Wednesdays</u> (Starting Sept 6) 12:00 pm Bible Brunch Buddies</p> <p>5:45 pm Dinner 6:30 pm The Welcome Table 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><u>September Birthdays</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Richard Cross</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Makayla Levison</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Chip Hardy</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Luke Smith</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Karen Hudson</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Christine Baker</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Forest Anne Hill</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>Virginia Hobson</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>Ellen Broen</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>Amelia Flora</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Jennifer Miller</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Royce Savelle</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Judd Paxton</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Jennifer Dickerson</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>Sierra Blakely</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Marilyn Hunter</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>Martha Hagy</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>Sarah Grace Timberlake</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>Cyndi Byrkeland</td><td>29</td></tr> </table>	Richard Cross	1	Makayla Levison	2	Chip Hardy	7	Luke Smith	9	Karen Hudson	13	Christine Baker	13	Forest Anne Hill	15	Virginia Hobson	15	Ellen Broen	15	Amelia Flora	17	Jennifer Miller	18	Royce Savelle	18	Judd Paxton	20	Jennifer Dickerson	21	Sierra Blakely	26	Marilyn Hunter	28	Martha Hagy	28	Sarah Grace Timberlake	29	Cyndi Byrkeland	29
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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).

<p>September 6 5:45 PM Lasagna, Salad, and Bread</p>	<p>September 13 5:45 PM Sticks Chicken/Beef Kebobs, Rice, Veggies, Flatbread, and Dips</p>	<p>September 20 5:45 PM Extra Billy's BBQ</p>
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Youth Fall Kick Off! September 10

It's that time again to fill up our backpacks and get ready for school to start this fall! Here at Grace we are excited for a new school year with many awesome youth activities. Our new small groups that formed this summer are planning to continue meeting throughout the year to provide a space of deep thinking for students. Our first retreat of the year is this October and so many more fun things in-between. To get the information for what is going on this year our Fall Kick Off will be held September 10th during the Sunday School hour. Youth families clear your schedules for a time of information gathering, coffee and donuts, and exciting opportunities for the fall. Hope to see you all there!

The Welcome Table at Grace

Do you like to eat? Do you like to laugh? Do you enjoy taking an evening off from kitchen duty? Come and gather with us on Wednesday nights beginning September 6th at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

We will gather around the table each Wednesday this fall to love and serve the Lord through our feasting and fellowship. Our overarching theme will include ways we will "take, bless, break, and give" as we share stories, sing songs, and practice spirituality. Children and youth will have times of togetherness, movement, and study alongside adults and as peer groups. We'll jazz our menu with new offerings from some favorite establishments in town. Be sure to [sign up for the weekly meal online](#) or outside the church office so you can enjoy the feasting and fellowship.



Outdoor + Pool Family Fellowship: Sunday, September 17th following Worship

Families are invited to the Cross's Home at 306 Hollyport Road for an Outdoor Fellowship with swimming, outdoor games, and food. Grilled chicken, drinks, and frozen treats will be provided. Families are asked to bring side dishes, veggies, and/or desserts for sharing. Please RSVP with Suzanne at family@gbconline.org by Friday, September 15th with the numbers and food contributions for your family.

Youth Schedule

9/10	Fall Kick Off	9:45-10:45am
9/14	High School Small Group	6:30-7:30
9/17	Kings Dominion	12-8pm
9/19	Middle School Small Group	6:30-7:30
9/24	Westminster	12-3pm
9/28	High School Small Group	6:30-7:30
10/1	World Communion Lunch	



Sing to the Lord a New Song with the Chancel Choir!

The Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7:15 after enjoying a hiatus during August. We have room for more singers in all sections: bass, tenor, alto, and soprano. If you would like to sing with the choir every Sunday, you are welcome to join us. If you would like to sing just for one or more Sundays of Advent, you are welcome to join us and head home after we practice the music for December. If you just want to come to rehearsals and see what choir practice is like, you are welcome to join us. Rev. Fennell will be happy to talk with you about singing in the choir. wanda@gbconline.org

Sabbatical Notes

Wanda will share more Sabbatical Experiences during the Sunday School hour on September 17, 2017 in the Fellowship Hall.

A Note of Thanks

To Our Grace Baptist Church family
I am very grateful for all the prayers, cards, and support you have sent our way during my recent hospitalizations. They have lifted my spirit and helped in my healing. You are all such a gift and Thank You seems so inadequate, but it is what I want to say!
Cindy Byrkeland

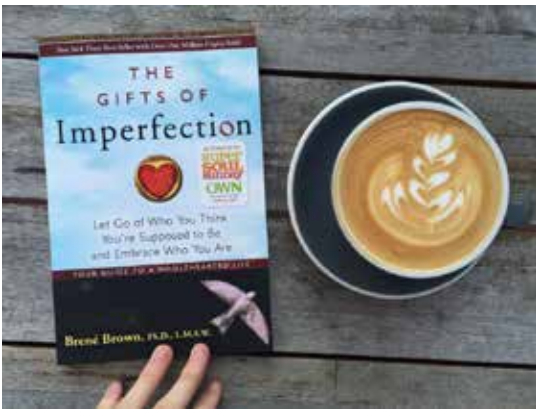


Grace on Tap Continues This Fall!

Join us for conversations on faith,
2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00 pm

September 10 Triple Crossing-Fulton
5203 Hatcher St.

September 24 Legend Brewing
321 W. 7th St.



New Sunday School Opportunity

Lisa Webb and Beverly Pugh will be co-leading a book discussion on Sunday mornings, beginning on Sunday September 10th, for six Sundays. We will be reading and discussing *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brené Brown. Books are available in the church office for \$5.00. Come join us as we learn together about courage, compassion and connection!

Bible Brunch Buddies

Bible Brunch Buddies begins Wednesday, September 6 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will share stories about our summer and talk more about the fall study, *Practicing Our Faith*.

DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Bernie Henderson
(804)840-8586

EXTENSION MEMBER

Lois France
Golding Living, Room B26
3600 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060



CHURCH FAMILY MATTERS

Wednesday, August 30, 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

Members with Continuing Needs

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

MEMBERS WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

Carlos Cavet, hospitalized in pediatric ICU at St. Mary's, for meningitis. The Cavets appreciate our prayers and request no visitors at this time.

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Lynn Clayton**, in the death of her son in law, Steve Ward, after a nine year battle with colon cancer. *3416 Rivanna Drive, Richmond, VA 23235*

Mac Angell hospitalized at St. Mary's with infection.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WHO VALUE OUR PRAYERS

Tina Barden, friend and coworker of Jennifer Miller, beginning stem cell transplant protocol for myeloma and hospitalization beginning 9/6. *1826 Summer Wind Lane, Maidens, VA 23102*

Camdyn Russell, 8 year old recovering from being hit by car. *3328 Kensington Ave., Richmond, VA 23221*

- ✓ **Betty Pugh Mills**, continues to heal from chemo. She received a good report that she is cancer free!
- ✓ 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*
- ✓ *Constance Shearin, cousin of **Mac Angell***, is recovering from a fall at Parham Doctor's Hospital.
- ✓ Cori Ferguson, 19, Stage 3 (invasive ductal) cancer in both breasts. Scheduled for removal in a month
Parents Greg and Sandra Ferguson, 53, has Alzheimer's-Friends of **Susanne & Phil Hale**.
- ✓ Friends of **Susanne and Phil Hale**, Dee Marshall and Charles Warren both diagnosed with cancer.
- ✓ **Sam and Jane McNeil**, in the death of their lifelong friend, Manfred "Vati" Schmidt.
- ✓ John Hill, father of **Sonja Hill**, is nearing. *3200 Woodland Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060*
- ✓ Gail, friend of **Wanda Sauley Fennell**, 9 weeks of chemo followed by surgery has produced great results. After time to heal, 9 more weeks of chemo on schedule.
- ✓ 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*
- ✓ 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, having health issues. 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.
- ✓ **Bryna Boykin-Carter**, continued prayers for healing. *2208 Ridgefield Green Way Henrico, VA 23233*

RECENT VISITORS IN WORSHIP

Sandy and Bob Wynne
9150 Gregor Drive
North Chesterfield, VA 23236

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
woolfc@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
Sarah Florek
4740 Pompton Ln, Chester 23831; 804-218-0629; lovehischild@hotmail.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, September 3

Acolyte: Kaya Forester

Childcare Workers:

Sunday School:

Worship:

Chimer: Braeden Forester

Deacon of the Week: Bernie Henderson

Extension Member: Lois France

Greeters/Ushers:

Bob Hamlet

Karen Hamlet

Lisa Webb

Tina Webb

Money Counters:

Jackie Brooks

Cheryl Crawford

Tina Webb

Opener/Closer: Phil Hale

Sound System: Bryan Jewell

Sunday, September 10

Acolyte:

Childcare Workers:

Sunday School:

Worship:

Chimer:

Deacon of the Week: Sandy Morrison

Extension Member: Shirley Lam

Greeters/Ushers:

Cheryl Crawford

Susanne Freeman

Joe Griffin

Jenny Griffin

Money Counters:

Jenny Griffin

Joe Griffin

Marilyn Hunter

Opener/Closer: Chad Hudson

Sound System: Chad Hudson

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Giving Opportunities 2017: \$406,899.43

Total Gifts Given 2017: \$266,288.60

Remaining Giving Opportunity \$140,610.83

August 27

Gifts given: \$8,161.00

Other Income: \$390.00

PLEASE NOTE

Outside the office you can find:

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

Stewardship 2017

Thank you for your continued commitment to the ministries and mission of Grace Baptist Church. Our first and second quarter giving has been consistent and is up from previous years! We are grateful for this good news on the financial front and continue to give thanks for the many ways you share of your life, your love, and your resources for the work of love in our world!

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.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 4200 Dover Road, Richmond, VA 23221 (804) 353-0134 office@gbconline.org www.gbconline.org