

March 28, 2018

Volume 36 Number 13

Sundays

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship



# GRACE

Baptist Church

## WORSHIP

**Thursday, March 29**

Maundy Thursday Service  
7:00 pm

**Sunday, April 1**

**Easter Sunday**

“Why Are You Weeping?  
Whom Are You Looking  
For?”

John 20:1-18

Rev. Courtney Allen

**Sunday, April 8**

**Easter II**

John 20:19-31

“In Defense of Doubt”

This week is the holiest of weeks in our Christian tradition. The joyful palm waving and shouts of hosanna from Palm Sunday will lead us to the cross crying, “Crucify him!” As we walk through Holy Week following the path of Jesus, we find him having dinner with his friends. He steadies their hand from vengeance. He prays in the garden. In the last week of his life, Jesus washes the feet of his friends, and tells stories of God’s abundant and even relentless love for all people, everywhere—including both those on the inside and those on the edges. He demonstrates peace through service and strength through vulnerability. And all of this is so threatening to those in power that Jesus ends up on a cross for such love and welcome does not compute with the world.

At our Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm, we will read the scriptures of Jesus’ final days, share in communion, and foot washing. On Good Friday at 9:30 am, we will join with followers of Jesus from across the city for a Stations of the Cross walk downtown starting at Third Street Bethel AME. A bus will also be available for transport between the stations. The parlor will be open throughout the day on Good Friday for reflection, prayer, and self-guided Stations of the Cross.

On Sunday morning our children will gather for an Easter Egg hunt during Sunday School and will learn again the story of Easter morning. We will all gather in the sanctuary for worship at 11:00 am and to proclaim, “Christ the Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed!”

Grace and peace,  
Courtney



### Our Palm Parade

We had a wonderful palm parade at the beginning of worship this past Sunday. You may have thought I had lost my mind when I led the procession right down the same aisle that was already full of singers just entering the nave, but I did that purposefully, recalling parades that I saw in Jerusalem at the

close of Ramadan in 1984. Instead of celebrating by having one big, organized parade with units marching in order one behind the other, there were all kind of groups marching every which way at their own will. When two groups going in opposite direction met each other in the street, they just kept going, intermingling until they came out on the other side of each other. It was quite a sight. So, we experienced a bit of an authentic Jerusalem parade yesterday. Thanks to all who participated. May you draw closer to God during the remaining days of Holy Week.



Wanda Sauley Fennell

*Our next newsletter will be published April 4<sup>th</sup>*

*The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>*

Visit us online at [www.gbconline.org](http://www.gbconline.org) or email us at [office@gbconline.org](mailto:office@gbconline.org)

**GBC Contact information:**

Courtney Allen: courtney@gbconline.org  
 (Senior Pastor) Phone #: 804-709-7795  
 Wanda Sauley Fennell: wanda@gbconline.org  
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 (Organist)  
 Sam Coley: coleys853@gmail.com  
 (Sexton)  
 Alejandra Lopez: office@gbconline.org  
 (Ministries Assistant)

**Meetings:**

**April 8**  
 Mission Commission Meeting  
 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall  
 Fellowship Commission Meeting  
 12:00 pm in Room 5



*Do you have contact information that needs to be updated? Email changes to [office@gbconline.org](mailto:office@gbconline.org).*

<u>March</u>	<u>Sundays</u>	<u>March Birthdays</u>																																						
<p><b>March 30</b>                      Stations of the Cross                      Third Street Bethel AME                      614 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street                      9:30 am</p> <p><b>April</b></p> <p><b>April 1</b>                      Easter Egg Hunt                      9:45 am</p> <p><b>April 4</b>                      No Wednesday Activities</p> <p><b>April 8</b>                      CARITAS Cleanout and Church                      Cleanup Afternoon                      Following Worship</p>	<p>9:45 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship</p> <p><u>Wednesdays</u></p> <p>12:00 pm Bible Brunch Buddies</p> <p>4:30 pm Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>5:15 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>5:45 pm Dinner</p> <p>6:30 pm The Welcome Table</p> <p>7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>David Bailey</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Joseph Vinson</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Greg Miller</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Victoria Rogers</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Gillian Anderson</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>James Cavet</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Terry Cavet</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Melissa Jackson</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Alison Jewell</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Baron Blakley</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Alyssa Dickerson</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>Austin Blakley</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>Ross Miller</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>Jane McNeil</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>Shirley Lam</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Nancy Whitmore</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Ashley McGinley-Bujtas</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Glenn Crawford</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>Joe Griffin</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	David Bailey	1	Joseph Vinson	1	Greg Miller	8	Victoria Rogers	10	Gillian Anderson	11	James Cavet	17	Terry Cavet	17	Melissa Jackson	18	Alison Jewell	18	Baron Blakley	19	Alyssa Dickerson	21	Austin Blakley	23	Ross Miller	23	Jane McNeil	24	Shirley Lam	25	Nancy Whitmore	25	Ashley McGinley-Bujtas	27	Glenn Crawford	28	Joe Griffin	30
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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><b>March 28</b>                      5:45 PM                      Shepherd's Pie with Ground                      Turkey, Salad, Dessert</p>	<p><b>April 4</b>                      No Wednesday Night Activities</p>	<p><b>April 11</b>                      Sticks Kabobs</p>
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## Being Mortal: Living the Questions

Study outline for the Lenten season

**Wednesday, March 28**

“Transitions and Downsizing”

Matt Paxton, Co-founder Legacy Navigator

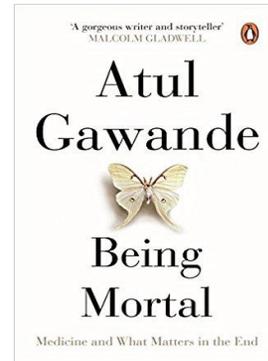
**Wednesday, April 11**

“Making Your Final Arrangements Your Way”

Bernie Henderson

**Wednesday, April 18**

Resurrection: A Celtic Evening Liturgy



## Lenten Opportunities for Worship and Formation



**March 29, Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday Service

7:00 pm

**March 30, Good Friday**

City-wide Stations of the Cross

Beginning at Third Street Bethel AME Church

614 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (3<sup>rd</sup> and Leigh)

Parlor will be open for reflections and prayer throughout the day.

9:30 am

**April 1, Easter Sunday**

Egg Hunt during Sunday School Hour

Bring cut flowers to flower the cross.

**Adult Retreat**

April 13-15, 2018

“Planted by God”

Crossroads Retreat Center

Cost: \$150.00

Join us on this year's Adult Retreat for a weekend of rest, renewal, and growth. Spend the weekend at scenic Crossroads Retreat Center as we consider the ways that we have been planted by God. We will examine what areas in our lives should be nurtured to grow and bloom, and which areas need a little pruning. Crossroads Retreat Center, located in the mountains just west of Charlottesville, will be a beautiful backdrop for spiritual growth and fellowship, and provide opportunities for relaxation, exploration, contemplation and worship. There will be fun, fellowship, and spiritual examination. We will leave on Friday, April 13th, and spend Saturday in fellowship with nature, each other, and God. We will be back in Richmond by the afternoon of Sunday, April 15th. Come and see what God can grow through us.



## Flowering the Cross

We invite you to bring fresh cut flowers to "flower" the cross during our Easter Sunday worship on Sunday April 1st. We'll have buckets located in the back hall as you enter the building.

## Reflections on American Choral Director's Association Eastern Regional Conference

Thanks to the inclusion of funds in the GBC budget which make possible continuing education for staff members, I recently attended the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Eastern Region Conference in Pittsburgh, PA – four days packed with concerts and classes. I have been to a number of ACDA conferences, and I believe this was the best one ever in terms of "interest sessions" that were of great interest and benefit to me. I attended several focusing on vocal health and technique, and, as a result, the choir has already been having fun (some more than others) singing into drinking straws and practicing other things called semi-occluded vocal tract exercises. Other interest session topics ranged from Jewish choral music to yoga for singers to welcoming trans and non-binary singers to singing without a score. On top of all that, I got to hear all manner of choirs sing glorious music at Heinz Hall, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, First Presbyterian Church, and several ballrooms at the William Penn Hotel. I am grateful to GBC for the opportunity to worship, learn, and re-charge my musical batteries.

## Spring Break Spirituality & Service

What is Spring Break Spirituality & Service? Why, it's making space during our spring breaks to care for the world and the people in our communities. You likely do many of these things in the course of your weeks, or you may be like me with good intentions. During our Spring Break next week, let's spend a few moments with spirituality and service as our focus.

As you travel in your neighborhood, on trips to other states, or while walking your favorite dog, we encourage you to take notice of God's world. You may want to snap a photo and share with the church family on Facebook, or you can quietly connect with God as you serve.



### Some ideas for spirituality and service:

- walking the labyrinth in the Northside of Richmond (corner of Loxley and Westwood) or in the prayer garden at Richmond Hill
- Praying a "breath prayer" as you walk such as: "Thank you, God." "For life, I give thanks."
- Walking or biking the trails along the river
- Finding a park or hill in the city to play and pray for others who play there after you
- Pickup groceries for the food pantry collection
- Make art to cheer up someone who needs a lift
- Pray for CARITAS
- Make a card for an extension member or someone in need of care
- Help rake a neighbor's yard or help weed their garden for planting
- Purchase bus passes for International Rescue Families (collection in the church office)
- Visit an extension member (pick flowers from your yard to take)
- Smile and remember, God loves you and everyone else.

## Thank you to all who made the Palm Sunday Breakfast a huge success!

Food was prepared and shared and we raised over \$580 between donations and art sales to benefit Summer Missions including PassportKIDS. For each of you who made delicious breakfast casseroles and baked tasty treats, we give thanks. For each who delighted in enjoying those tasty foods, we give thanks. For each who made art to sell and raise funds for summer missions, we give thanks. For each who donated funds for summer missions, we give thanks. For the energy and excitement of a meal shared together, we give thanks!

### DEFINING HOPE

Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

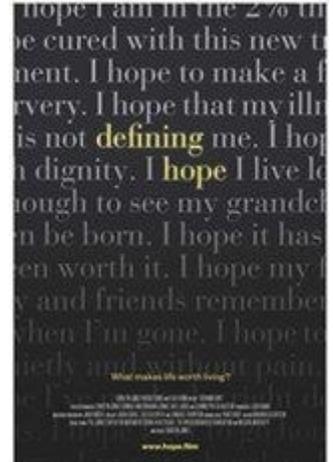
Bow Tie Movieland at Boulevard Square (1301 N Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23230)

Not Rated, 78 min.

Tickets, which are \$15, must be reserved by April 4th. Grace will purchase tickets based on signups (outside church office).

Defining Hope is a documentary that weaves the stories of patients with life-threatening illness, and the nurses who guide them as they make choices about how they want to live, how much medical technology they can accept, what they hope for and how that hope evolves. It is about optimism and helps us define what "quality of life" really means.

Diane is a nurse caring for end-stage cancer patients who is confronted with her own complex diagnosis. 23-year-old Alena undergoes a risky brain surgery that has the potential to damage her short-term memory. A 95-year-old Berthold lives with his elderly wife who struggles to honor his wish of dying peacefully at home. Defining Hope follows these patients and others as they face death, embrace hope, and ultimately redefine what makes life worth living.



### Grace on Tap

Join us for conversations on faith the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 6:00 pm

**April 8**

Legend Brewing Co.

2307, 321 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond, VA 23224



## CARITAS FURNITURE BANK DONATIONS

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2 NIV)

Hospitality is shown in many ways. On April 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 8th from 9 -10:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 4 p.m. the CARITAS Furniture Bank truck will be at Grace Baptist Church to receive your donations. With a truck on premises we will be able to accept donations of furniture as well as household items. A list of items that can be found [here](#). Quality of donated items should fit this criteria: "*Not sure if you should donate an item? Ask yourself if you would feel comfortable giving it to a friend or family member.*" We ask that all household items be boxed to ensure safe delivery to the warehouse.

If you are available to assist on either day to load donations and/or if you have any questions please contact Cheryl Crawford at [cac3289@gmail.com](mailto:cac3289@gmail.com), or Madonna Byrkeland at [mmb726@icloud.com](mailto:mmb726@icloud.com).

This is a great way to share the wealth and welcome the sojourners in our midst. Thank you for sharing the bounty of Grace.

"...there are angels among us to guide us with the light of love."



We will host families this year during the week of April 28 through May 5. This is probably the last year we will have the privilege of hosting CARITAS in our church as they hope to move into a new facility that will permit the guests more permanent arrangements.

Many hands make work light, so please give thoughtful consideration to how you may help. Team leaders for bag lunches, laundry, showers, setup and clean-up will be asking for volunteers. I will be contacting groups for preparing and serving evening meals, not anticipating any significant changes from previous years. I'll also be rounding up folks for overnights.

Let's make this the best week ever!!! Watch this space for updates.

-Cheryl

**Deacon of the Week**

Carole Jones  
(804)516-8556

**EXTENSION MEMBER**

Shirley Lam  
1600 Westwood Avenue  
Unit 122  
Richmond, VA 23227



**CHURCH FAMILY MATTERS**

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

**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  
Nell Hobson  
Shirley Lam

**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**

Congratulations to **Beverly Pugh** and **Mike Ostrander** on their engagement!

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

**Jackson Smith**, recovering from hospitalization for breathing issues.  
*12100 Bowerton Road, Henrico, VA 23233*

Kathryn Beaver, niece of **Crystal Bayles Lennon**, undergoing surgery March 28 for stage 3 thyroid cancer.  
*7709 Bransford Drive, Henrico, VA 23228*

**Winnie Southworth**, GBC visitor, recovering from hospitalization and health issues.  
*10062 Rinker Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23116*

**Mac Angell**, transitioning home after three-week hospital stay.  
*818 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond, VA 23225*

**Maurianne Roberson**, hospitalized at VCU.  
*1726 Pulliam Street, Richmond, VA 23235*

**Ann Ashcraft**, friend of GBC, diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. Ann and Randy appreciate our prayers.  
*10 Tow Path Circle, Richmond, VA 23221*

**Christian Sympathy is extended to...**

**Mike Everhart** in the death of his brother-in-law, Lawrence McGowan.  
*7504 Donder Road, Henrico, VA 23294*

The family of **Glenda Whitt**, in her death on March 18. [Read obituary here.](#)

GBC friend **John Taylor** of Dorridge Methodist in England died peacefully in his sleep on March 17 after a valiant fight against cancer. His wife Jane and son Niall send their thanks for the prayers and love they have received from Grace during John's illness.

*Jane Taylor*  
*Samzara 23 Ommanney Street, Hamilton Hill Western Australia 6163*

## Friends and Family of Grace Who Value Prayers

- ❖ **Jane McNeil** recovering from broken ankle. *524 Williamsdale Drive, North Chesterfield, VA 23235*
- ❖ Brad Sullivan, son of **Margaret and David Sullivan**, undergoing tests in preparation for open heart surgery. *8 North Street, Erving, MA 01344*
- ❖ Jeanette Carey, mother of **Faith Dickerson**, at Autumn Care Rehab for broken hip. *7600 Autumn Park Way Room 415, Mechanicsville, VA 23111*
- ❖ **Sallie Cross** is recovering from knee replacement surgery on February 26<sup>th</sup>. *306 Hollyport Road, Richmond, VA 23229*
- ❖ Becky M. Dale, sister in law of **Terry Cavet**, (married to Terry's brother, Mike Dale, a former member of GBC), is in process of chemotherapy for Multiple Myeloma stage 1-2 and squamous cell skin cancer on nose. *P.O. Box 14555 Richmond, VA 23221*
- ❖ Joe Banks, grandson of **Susanne Freeman**, has been diagnosed with Hepatitis C.
- ❖ Kathryn Beaver, niece of **Crystal Bayles Lennon**, has been diagnosed with stage III thyroid cancer.
- ❖ Tyler Etchison, nephew of **Wanda Sauley Fennell**, in treatment for several health problems.
- ❖ Nancy Wretschko, cousin of **Mac Angell**, of Toledo, OH, is undergoing radiation treatments
- ❖ Gail, friend of **Wanda Sauley Fennell**, has entered hospice care as of March 16 after more than a year of fighting against cancer.
- ❖ Mary Rounds - 2 year old daughter of friend of the **Fennells**, will be going to *Children's Hospital in Philadelphia* with lifelong unexplained problems that prevent weight gain.
- ❖ **Betty Pugh Mills**, pray for relief from neuropathy in feet and hands due to chemo.
- ❖ Greg and Sandra Ferguson, friends of **Susanne Freeman & Phil Hale**. Sandra, 53, continues decline from Alzheimer's.
- ❖ 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 officially on the waiting list. Home address: *7700 Lazy Creek Court, Prospect, KY 40059*
- ❖ Sunshine Rae Hughes, infant daughter of Ricky Hughes, great-great niece of **Barbara Hughes** and **Jane Moody** has hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.
- ❖ Lois Levison, having health issues. Mother of **Linda Levison**.
- ❖ Steve Lowry, brother-in-law of **Pam Geib**, has polymyalgia rheumatica and multiple myeloma.
- ❖ Morton Baldwin, father of **Robin Baldwin** is 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.
- ❖ Chuck Holmes, prostate cancer; Sarah Holmes, wife of Chuck, sister of **Priscilla Biddle** has migraines.
- ❖ Sydney Hughes, granddaughter of **Barbara Hughes** has Tuberous Sclerosis.

### RECENT VISITORS IN WORSHIP

Please pick up a copy of Church Family Matters outside the church office for more information on recent GBC visitors.

Please add / remove names by contacting the church office at 804-353-0134 or [gbchurch@gbconline.org](mailto:gbchurch@gbconline.org).

### 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.

# SUNDAY RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>Sunday, April 1</u>	<u>Sunday, April 8</u>
Acolyte: Kaya Forester	Acolyte: Ben Blakely
Childcare Workers: Sunday School: Worship:	Childcare Workers: Sunday School: Karen Hamlett Worship: Kathy Berry
Chimer: Cora Vinson	Chimer: Austin Blakely
Deacon of the Week: Carole Jones	Deacon of the Week: Kevin Corn
Extension Member: Shirley Lam	Extension Member: Catherine Carter
Greeters/Ushers: Bob Hamlett Karen Hamlett Lisa Webb Tina Webb	Greeters/Ushers: Cheryl Crawford Susanne Freeman Joe Griffin Jenny Griffin
Money Counters: Jackie Brooks Cheryl Crawford Tina Webb	Money Counters: Jenny Griffin Joe Griffin Marilyn Hunter
Opener/Closer: Phil Hale	Opener/Closer: Bryce Williams
Sound System: Bryan Jewell	Sound System: Chad Hudson

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

<b>Giving Opportunities 2018:</b>	<b>\$412,816.00</b>
<b><u>Total Gifts Given 2018:</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 89,534.00</u></b>
<b>Remaining Giving Opportunity</b>	<b>\$323,282.00</b>
<u>March 25</u>	
Gifts given:	6,770.00
Other Income:	773.00

## PLEASE NOTE

- Outside the office you can find:
- Church Budget
  - Birthdays (March)
  - Church Directory
  - Church Newsletter (Weekly)
  - SIGN UP SHEETS