

April 4, 2018

Volume 36 Number 14

Sundays

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship



GRACE
Baptist Church

WORSHIP

Sunday, April 8
Easter II

John 20:19-31

"In Defense of Doubt"
Rev. Courtney Allen

Sunday, April 15
Easter III

Luke 24:36b-44
Bryce Williams



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, or Madonna Byrkeland at 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."

This weekend we have an opportunity to partner with CARITAS in making room in our homes, our lives, and our church! We are invited to make room in our homes by sharing of our abundance of housewares and furniture with the CARITAS Furniture Bank. The Furniture Bank truck will be at GBC accepting goods for refugee families and others who are getting back on their feet and settling into new living spaces. On Sunday following worship, we will be cleaning out and making room upstairs at Grace to welcome our CARITAS guests at the end of April. Stay for a bit following worship to help carry a load down. We have some furniture to share and other items that need to be discarded in order to make enough room upstairs for our guests to be comfortable. I hope you will join us in making room in our homes, lives, and church for less stuff, more hospitality, and deeper relationships in this season of resurrection. As I think about the practice of making room, I am reminded of these words from Christine D. Pohl in her book *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*:

As a way of life, an act of love, an expression of faith, our hospitality reflects and anticipates God's welcome. Simultaneously costly and wonderfully rewarding, hospitality often involves small deaths and little resurrections. By God's grace we can grow more willing, more eager, to open the door to a needy neighbor, a weary sister or brother, a stranger in distress. Perhaps as we open that door more regularly, we will grow increasingly sensitive to the quiet knock of angels. In the midst of a life-giving practice, we too might catch glimpses of Jesus who asks for our welcome and welcomes us home.

Our next newsletter will be published April 11th

The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 9th

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)
 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)
 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

April 17
 Church Council Meeting
 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

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

<p><u>April</u></p> <p>April 4 No Wednesday Activities</p> <p>April 8 CARITAS Cleanout and Church Cleanup Afternoon Following Worship</p> <p>Grace on Tap Legend Brewing Co. 6:00 pm</p> <p>April 15 Space for Grace: A Folk Eucharist</p> <p>April 22 Youth Visit Westminster</p> <p>Bryce Williams Ordination 3:00 pm</p>	<p><u>Sundays</u></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>	<p><u>April Birthdays</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Susan McGinley</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Carole Yeatts</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>David Burhans</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Wade McGinley</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Linda Levison</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Crystal Bayles Lennon</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Faith Dickerson</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Kellan Miles</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>David Carter</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Kathy Berry</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Susan Hebel</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Steve Lewis</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Lloyd Jewell</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Sallie Cross</td><td>28</td></tr> </table>	Susan McGinley	3	Carole Yeatts	4	David Burhans	5	Wade McGinley	6	Linda Levison	9	Crystal Bayles Lennon	13	Faith Dickerson	13	Kellan Miles	15	David Carter	17	Kathy Berry	18	Susan Hebel	20	Steve Lewis	20	Lloyd Jewell	25	Sallie Cross	28
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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>April 4 No Wednesday Night Activities</p>	<p>April 11 Sticks Kabobs 5:45 pm</p>	<p>April 18 Sgt. Peppers Pizza 5:45 pm</p>
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Being Mortal: Living the Questions

Study outline for the Lenten season

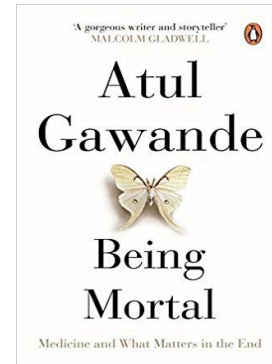
Wednesday, April 11

“Making Your Final Arrangements Your Way”

Bernie Henderson

Wednesday, April 18

Resurrection: A Celtic Evening Liturgy



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!



Grace on Tap

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

April 8

Legend Brewing Co.
2307, 321 W 7th Street, Richmond, VA 23224

April 22

Ardent Craft Ales
3200 W Leigh Street, Richmond, VA 23230

DEFINING HOPE

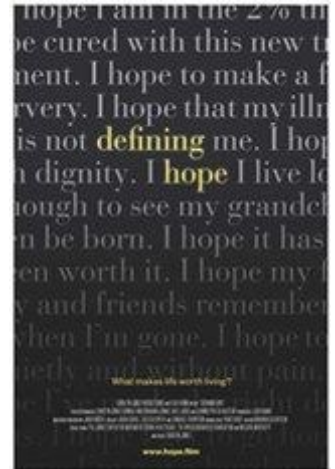
Monday, April 16th at 7:30 pm

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.



We will host families experiencing homelessness 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

Space for Grace: A Folk Eucharist
April 15 - 4:00 pm
Imagined and Designed by Richard Vinson

A couple of years ago I heard a song on the radio while I was driving down Cary Street. A woman in a strong, untutored voice sang an old ballad:

*Come, my dear friends and neighbors all,
Come listen while I tell you
Concerning of a mighty call
Took place in Lou'siana*

On and on in a clear, unhurried tone, the singer told the tale of a great natural disaster. I immediately thought: wow, wouldn't it be wonderful if we all heard the stories of our faith in just that way? Then the song was over, and, of course, I didn't catch the name of the song or of the artist. Yet the topic and the tune and the *feeling* -- simple, lucid, immediate, almost cinemagraphic -- stuck with me.

I'm a sucker for folk music, no matter the era or region. The tune I heard that day had a simple melody built on only four notes: *sol - la - do - do - la - sol - la - do - re, sol - la - do - re - do - la - sol*. Years before, standing on a hillside in Kenya, I'd caught a snatch of a similar tune, but moving down the scale: *sol - la - mi - do - do*. I saw, way off down the valley, what looked like a girl walking behind a small flock of goats. She was singing to herself, and for a few moments her voice carried up to the hill where I stood. Two tunes, separated by an ocean, one sung by an old woman and one by a young girl, the first what I took for a field recording, the other overheard by accident; both simple, unadorned, hauntingly beautiful, both so real. I think folk music takes us right to the beating heart of the world. It springs unbidden from life itself, and its sounds, feelings, and stories are the distillation of life on earth. You can't get no more real than that.

Years of sporadic Google searches later, I learned to call that first song "Louisiana Earthquake." You can find a recording of it performed by Stella Gilbert on [the Digital Archive of Appalachia](#). It's also listed in *American Folk Songs: A Regional Encyclopedia*, under the heading for "Louisiana." I have no idea what the song from Kenya was called, or if it even had a name.

Now back to the question -- what if we experienced the stories of God like that? For those stories, like folk music, are a representation of life on earth, distilled through the hearts and mouths of generations of mothers and fathers and poets and preachers. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could *feel* the story unfolding, each word hung from a familiar tone, given life by a human voice?

After additional rumination, that question has shifted into a weird thought experiment -- what if Jesus had lived sometime around the Second Great Awakening in the coal country of Appalachia, and then the early church had developed its language and music of worship in an American idiom? Even imagining that involves a number of irreconcilable contradictions and anachronisms, e.g., how can we imagine an American English and hymnody without the language of the Authorized Version, and thus, without Christ and the apostles?

Well, it seemed worth it to me to try anyway. Imagination and memory are close cousins, and music can collapse space and time, allowing us to stand and sing with ancestors long gone and to overhear Palestrina and Bach and Watts and Wesley.

"A Folk Eucharist" (a working title) is an experiment: it's not an attempt to recreate the practice of any community that actually existed. It's more like translation, but in the process of translation, some things are re-created -- not made again, but made anew out of pieces of form that I hope will feel familiar. The goal is to experience the words and images and movements of faith in a way that is reminiscent of memory, *as though* we had received them from those who walked with Christ and with whom we share a common vernacular.

One goal I had in putting the service together was simplicity. Another was to capture something of what I perceive as the themes of folk art in the southern uplands. The images are stark; the language is gentle, but the motifs are not -- light and darkness, beauty, longing, death, and loss. Suffering and love go hand in hand. Through that suffering, though, is the Christian message of hope, forgiveness, new life, and eternity.

Disclaimers: I'm not a musicologist or a composer, so I stuck to existing tunes. I have no background in church history or theology of worship, so I tried to stick close to the Order for Sung Eucharist as published by the Anglican Church. I altered some texts as needed, mostly to achieve the correct meter, but that was easier than I expected; most of the old tunes are common meter, 8.7.8.7, or 11.11.11.11.

Finally, I'm not ordained and would not want to act as celebrant anyway -- which means my good friend and pastor, Courtney, will get to sing a solo in public worship. (I'm imagining her face now!)

Deacon of the Week

Kevin Corn
(404)583-5790

EXTENSION MEMBER

Catherine Carter
10300 Three Chopt Road
Apartment 213
Richmond, VA 23233



CHURCH FAMILY MATTERS

Wednesday, April 4, 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

We celebrate **Tricia Dunlap** and **Ken Cossaboon** joining Grace Baptist on Easter Sunday!

2418 East Franklin Street Unit 110, Richmond, VA 23223

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

Maurianne Roberson recovering at home after being in ICU at VCU last week.

1726 Pulliam Street, Richmond, VA 23235

Melissa Walker, cousin of **Deb Loftis**, in ICU at St Mary's with complications from epilepsy.

Winnie Southworth, GBC visitor, recovering from hospitalization and health issues.

10062 Rinker Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Ann Ashcraft, friend of GBC, hospitalized with stage four pancreatic cancer. Ann and Randy appreciate our prayers.

10 Tow Path Circle, Richmond, VA 23221

Christian Sympathy is extended to...

Wanda Sauley Fennell in the death of her friend, Gail Quinn Ellis, who passed away on March 29 after a long battle against ovarian cancer.

Friends and Family of Grace Who Value Prayers

- ❖ Kathryn Beaver, niece of **Crystal Bayles Lennon**, recovering from surgery March 28 for stage 3 thyroid cancer. *7709 Bransford Drive, Henrico, VA 23228*
- ❖ **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 26th. *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
- ❖ 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.

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

Sunday, April 8

Acolyte: Ben Blakely

Childcare Workers:
 Sunday School: Karen Hamlett
 Worship: Kathy Berry

Chimer: Austin Blakely

Deacon of the Week: Kevin Corn

Extension Member: Catherine Carter

Greeters/Ushers:
 Cheryl Crawford
 Susanne Freeman
 Lisa Webb
 Tina Webb

Money Counters:
 Lisa Webb
 Tina Webb
 Marilyn Hunter

Opener/Closer: Bryce Williams

Sound System: Chad Hudson

Sunday, April 15

Acolyte: Spencer Anderson

Childcare Workers:
 Sunday School:
 Worship:

Chimer: Orion Spiridopoulos

Deacon of the Week: Royce Savelle

Extension Member: Lois France

Greeters/Ushers:
 Chip Hardy
 Jesse Kent
 Sue Kay Lam-Kent
 Barbara Sadtler

Money Counters:
 Susan Hebel
 Chad Hudson
 Jesse Kent

Opener/Closer: Greg Miller

Sound System: Faith Dickerson

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Giving Opportunities 2018:	\$412,816.00
<u>Total Gifts Given 2018:</u>	<u>\$ 98,848.00</u>
Remaining Giving Opportunity	\$313,968.00

April 1

Gifts given:	9,314.00
Other Income:	435.50

PLEASE NOTE

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