April 25, 2018

Volume 36 Number 17

Sundays 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship



WORSHIP

Sunday, April 29 Easter V

"How Many Have You? Go and See" Mark 6:30-44 Rev. Courtney Allen

Sunday, May 6 Easter VI

Old Plan, New Interruptions Acts 10:44-48

Our next newsletter will be published May 2nd

The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 30th

Visit us online at www.gbconline.org or email us at office@gbconline.org

Our CARITAS guests will soon arrive! On Saturday morning we will make the final preparations for families experiencing homelessness to spend the next week at Grace Baptist Church. If you haven't yet signed on to help welcome and care for our guests next week, check the board in the hallway or connect with Cheryl Crawford. A recent visitor shared with me that the welcome he received on his first visit to Grace was the best and most authentic welcome he'd ever received at a church. Welcome and hospitality are a core part of our identity and are unique gifts of our congregation. I am grateful for all the ways we use these gifts to serve our community.

On Sunday, April 29, we will have an opportunity to look more deeply at our gifts as individuals and as a congregation. During Sunday School we will gather for a high quality video (created by Chad and Jesse Hudson) and presentation by the Puerto Rico Mission Team. We will worship, pray, proclaim the Word, and sing together at 11 am in the sanctuary. Then following worship, we will gather for a congregational lunch as we look at the gifts, talents, and assets of our community of faith and how God is inviting us to use these gifts to transform the world! In this asset mapping process we will name the gifts we see in our congregation and then connect the dots between them: how might these gifts be connected together and used for God's good in the world?

Our approach is based on Asset Based Community Development, which always starts with what is present, not what is lacking. It is a glass half-full approach. Building on the gifts and talents of individual people and the strengths of community, asset mapping builds relationships and opens up new possibilities. Asset mapping assumes a theology of abundance—God gives us all we need to do what God is inviting us to do and be as a congregation. Between now and April 29, I invite you to consider your gifts and assets: physical, individual, association, institutional, and economic. A resource to help you begin to think through your gifts is available here or outside the church office. I look forward to discovering anew the gifts and assets in our midst, imagining the possibilities that could come when we connect these assets together for the good of God's world, and considering where we would most want to invest our time, energy, and gifts in the future.

And if this whole process sounds a little crazy, I encourage you to "come and see!" I can promise you will be amazed at the abundance in our midst and you might even be surprised by the possibilities!

Grace and peace,

Courtney

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)

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

Meetings:

April 25

Quarterly Business Meeting 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

May 6

Deacon Meeting 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

April

April 25

Sew Blessed Sewing Group 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

April 27

Youth Escape Room 5:30 pm

April 28

CARITAS Arrives

Family Hiking 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

April 29

Stories from Puerto Rico 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall

Congregational Lunch:
Asset Mapping
12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sundays

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

Wednesdays

12:00 pm Bible Brunch Buddies

4:30 pm Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal

5:15 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

5:45 pm Dinner

6:30 pm The Welcome Table

7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

May Birthdays

Archie Yeatts	1
Benjamin Blakley	3
Patrick Blackburn	4
Beverly Pugh	8
Angela Jones	14
Maurianne	
Roberson	16
Wayne Schneider	20
Bibi Sweeney	20
Alessia Giusti	21
Nancye	
Rhodenhiser	22
Sam Timberlake	23
Lois France –	
100 th Birthday	24
John Mizell	28
Matthew 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).

April 25

Quarterly Business Meeting Meal by Sallie Cross: Greek Ziti Bake, Garlic Bread, Spinach Salad, Chocolate Brownie and Berry Trifle 5:45 pm

May 2 CARITAS Meal By Seventh Street Christian Church 5:45 pm

May 9
Meal By Sam:
Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, Salad
and Dessert
5:45 pm

CARITAS Needs

We are in need of three pack and plays and seven car seats for transporting children to showers. If you are able to assist with this, please contact Cheryl Crawford. Items can be dropped off in the corridor where long pew bench is.

CARITAS Setup & Family Hiking Day Trip

We'll gather at Grace at 8:45 a.m. to help setup for CARITAS on Saturday, April 28th. From there, we'll travel in our cars to hike or bike in and around Dorey Park located at 2999 Darbytown Road, Henrico, VA 23231. Pack your lunch, water bottles, hiking stick and plan to hike or bike a trail that fits your pace. GBC is providing trail mix and snack bars. We'll adventure in groups and return at a set time to have a picnic lunch and devotional time together. Please let Suzanne know if you'll be joining the fun by emailing her at familto:fam

Caritas Families Coming to Grace April 28 - May 5



Our hosting week is fast approaching, and I am excited by the level of participation thus far. There is still opportunity to get involved in hosting families experiencing homelessness, AND you don't have to be a member to get involved, we welcome all who want to serve. Keep in mind that this will probably be the last year we host Caritas in our church, so don't miss this opportunity to serve.

We still need some folks for overnight duty, shower transport and laundry. The iconic Caritas sign up board is in the back hallway, so give it a look to see where you might find a fit. The names and contact information of the coordinators are posted on the board if you have any questions.

The dinner menus have been finalized, and here they are for your consumption (pun intended):

Saturday night - tacos by the Deacons
Sunday night - spaghetti by the Youth
Monday night - cookout by Adult IV
Tuesday night - fried chicken by the Jubilee class
Wednesday night - chili by 7th Street Christian Church
Thursday night - pizza by Cool Springs Baptist Church
Friday night - chicken Alfredo by Missions Commission

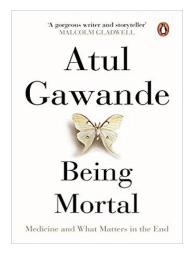
We won't know the mix of our guests until a few days before they arrive, so we don't know if we will need additional car seats or pack and play sets, but if you have any of these that meet the current safety standards, please have them at the ready just in case they are needed.

Cheryl

Fifth Sunday Offering April 29th

This quarterly donation has been designated to go to Caritas to support their diverse activities. We will have missions commission members stationed at the front and back sanctuary exits to accept your loose change; we can also accept checks if you want to drop those with us or in the offering plates. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Being Mortal: Living the Questions



Throughout Lent our "Being Mortal" series focused on how we want to live and how we want to die. We heard from experts within our congregation on senior adult resources, dependence and autonomy, advanced directions and organ donation, downsizing, and making our final arrangements.

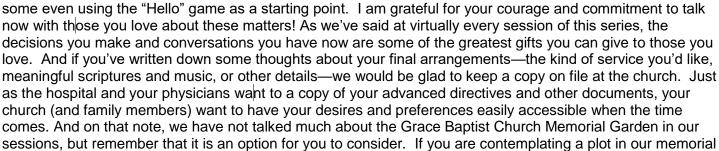
During Sunday School we wrestled with significant questions around matters

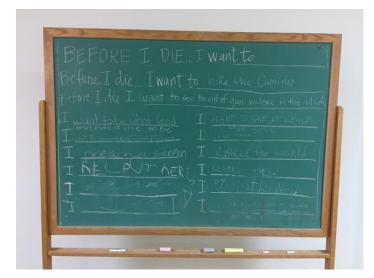
aging and what a death commensurate with our living might look like. I recently came across these words from Walter Brueggemann, "The prophetic tasks of the church are to tell the truth in a society that lives in illusion, grieve in a society that practices denial, and express hope in a society that lives in despair." These words seem to sum up how we've approached these conversations on

the reality of being mortal. We have

told the truth about the fact that "no one gets out alive." We have made space to grieve the losses we experience in this life. And even still, we have expressed hope that as Christians, death does not hold final victory.

Throughout these conversations, I have been grateful for your thoughtfulness and your willingness to contend with these challenging and complex topics through the lens of faith. Many of you have shared plans you are making using the "Five Wishes" document or other resources we've shared. Others have noted that you are having important conversations with those you love, and





garden and would like to learn more about reserving a plot, I am glad to talk with you more and share some information.

Last Wednesday night as the adults gathered in the Fellowship Hall discussed making our final arrangements, our children and youth were outside planting Easter flower bulbs in the memorial garden. As some discussed the reality of death and our desires in the face of death, our youngest friends were planting bulbs of new life, which will continue to bloom as symbols of hope and resurrection in the years ahead. During Eastertide may we continue to be a people who tell the truth in a society that lives in illusion, grieve in a society that practices denial, and express hope in a society that lives in despair!

Calling all Nursery Volunteers for Spring & Summer!

We need care givers for the youngest among us on Sundays during the Sunday School Hour and during the Worship Hour. Your presence, time, and attention to these sweet children provides care directly to these children and the families. WE are looking for a full slate of volunteers. If you can help for even one hour a month as a second to our Nursery Care Worker, we would be so appreciative. Please sign up to provide Nursery Care by adding your name to the Google Drive Sign Up Sheet.

To volunteer with any children and youth at Grace, you are required to have a background check. All results are confidential and any information shared is shredded once the check has been filed. To have a background check, forms are located in the nursery suite on the bulletin board and can be returned to Suzanne's box in the office. Thank you for extending your care in this way.

Youth Schedule

April 27	Escape Room - \$20	5:30 pm
April 29	Serving CARITAS Evening Meal	4:30 pm
May 6	Youth Serve at Westminster	12-3 pm
May 20	Cake Auction	12-3 pm

Youth Friday Gatherings

Part of building community in a youth group is providing a space for students to have fun and build memories together. This month we hope to provide a unique space for this to happen.

For the month of April we will have 3 Friday night gatherings for the youth. April 27th the youth will be going to The Escape Room 6:30-8:30. Cost for the escape room is \$20.

Bible Brunch Buddies: The Legacy of Walter Rauschenbusch Noon, Wednesday, May 02, 2018

On May 2 at Noon the GBC BBB will spend time with WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH, a Baptist pastor who lived 100 years ago and, yet, speaks words that ring of truth to this very day.

In his book *Christianity and the Social Crisis*, Rauschenbush acknowledges while the message of Jesus was aimed at individuals, the nature and outcome of his message was profoundly social. In today's phraseology we would say Rauschenbush was a 'liberation theologian'. In his own time, he was recognized as a proponent of the theological movement known as the 'social gospel'.

He identified three themes that were ripping apart the social fabric of America: the exploitation of labor, the crumbling of political democracy, and the decline of the moral climate. WOW! Does that not sound like 2018?

Come to BBB on Wednesday, May 2 to learn more about Rauschenbusch as Jane McNeil reports on the 3-day Seminar she attend at Mercer University in Atlanta. The seminar was sponsored by the Center for Theology and Public Life.



Grace on Tap

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

May 13

Center of the Universe 11293 Air Park Rd, Ashland, VA 23005



Masterworks Chorale to Perform "Sing For Joy" at Grace Baptist May 18, 2018



The Central VA Masterworks Chorale is excited to return to Grace Baptist Church on Friday, May 18, at 7:30pm. The Chorale will present "Sing For Joy!", featuring Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" and Dan Forrest's "Jubilate Deo". Renowned Richmond organist, Daniel Stipe, will also perform. Artistic Director, Ryan Tibbetts, again takes the podium to conduct the Chorale and the orchestra.

The world premiere of Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" took place in 1965 in New York's Philharmonic Hall, directed by the composer himself. The Forrest "Jubilate Deo" (Be Joyful in the Lord) is a contemporary piece set in seven different languages, including Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Zulu, and Spanish. Each movement combines some of the characteristics of its language-group's musical culture, and closes with a movement combining several of these languages with English.

Please plan to attend and enjoy the classical as well as the contemporary with your entire family! Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and \$5 for students. Tickets are available at The Caboose

Market & Cafe in Ashland, online at the Chorale's website, www.cvamc.org, by phone at 1-800-838-3006, or from any Chorale member.

For questions or more information, please contact Becky Severin, Chorale President, at rvseverin@gmail.com or call 804-798-3999.

Deacon of the Week

Cindy Byrkeland (804)836-6888

EXTENSION MEMBER

Shirley Lam 1600 Westwood Avenue Unit 122 Richmond, VA 23227



CHURCH FAMILY MATTERS

Wednesday, April 25, 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 the ordination of **Bryce Williams** to gospel ministry on Sunday, April 22nd.

2011 Idlewood Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220

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

2418 East Franklin Street Unit 110, Richmond, VA 23223

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

Edith Carter, mother of **David Carter**, is hospitalized at Henrico Doctor's Parham. She's been moved to their rehab floor with a broken tailbone after a fall. Please keep David and his family in your prayers. 8610 Freestone Avenue, Richmond, VA 23229

Mac Angell remains hospitalized at Johnston-Willis. 818 West 46th Street, Richmond, VA 23225

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

1505 Sunset Lane, Richmond, VA 23221

Christian Sympathy is extended to...

Joe Furio in the passing of aunt, Rose Regina, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She was 77 years old.

309 East Brookland Park Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23222

Randy Ashcraft and family of GBC friend, **Ann Ashcraft**, in her death on April 15th.

10 Tow Path Circle, Richmond, VA 23221

Bryce Williams in the death of his great uncle, Jack Mckee. 2011 Idlewood Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220

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, scheduled for open heart surgery on May 17th. 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.
- 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.
- 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 29

Acolyte: Sadie Newkirk

Childcare Workers: Sunday School:

Worship:

Chimer: Sarah Grace Timberlake

Deacon of the Week: Cindy Byrkeland

Extension Member: Shirley Lam

Greeters/Ushers:
Bob Hamlett
Karen Hamlett
Lisa Webb
Tina Webb

Money Counters: Jackie Brooks Cheryl Crawford Tina Webb

Opener/Closer: Brian Hill

Sound System: David Hebel

Sunday, May 6

Acolyte: Sierra Blakley

Childcare Workers: Sunday School:

Worship:

Chimer: Cooper Paxton

Deacon of the Week: Crystal Lennon Extension Member: Catherine Carter

Greeters/Ushers:
Bob Hamlet
Karen Hamlet
Lisa Webb
Tina Webb

Money Counters:
Jackie Brooks
Cheryl Crawford
Tina Webb

Opener/Closer: Chad Hudson

Sound System: Bryan Jewell

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Giving Opportunities 2018: \$412,816.00

Total Gifts Given 2018: \$128,446.87

Remaining Giving Opportunity \$284,369.13

April 22

Gifts given: \$6,355.00 Other Income: \$708.00

PLEASE NOTE

Outside the office you can find:

- Church Budget
- Birthdays (April/May)
- Church Directory
- Church Newsletter (Weekly)
- SIGN UP SHEETS