

OUTREACH



BON AIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 9201 W. Huguenot Rd., Richmond, VA 23235, Ph: 272-7514, Fax: 272-9752

December, 2009



From our Pastor . . .

Giving Thanks for Christmas

As *I write* this piece I am looking forward to Thanksgiving, while focused on the coming Advent and Christmas seasons. As *you read* this piece, you no doubt are already juggling your Advent obligations, while hard at work preparing your heart and home for Christmas.

On the calendar, Thanksgiving and Christmas have become one long holiday. In our celebrations, we of course distinguish the two. This year I find myself reflecting on what and for whom *I am thankful at Christmas*.

First of all, I am thankful for the faith and new life I find in Jesus Christ. I am thankful not so much that Jesus was born, but that through the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus, God's grace abounds *for me*.

At Christmas I am thankful for the church, the living body of the Jesus who was born so long ago.

At Christmas I am thankful for brothers and sisters of the church with whom I share community. I am thankful for the individual and specific friends and co-servants of Christ in the community of Bon Air Presbyterian Church.

And at Christmas I am thankful for the peace, comfort, and hope we have in God's word to us in Scripture and in Jesus Christ. This Christmas many of us are anxious because of persistent international conflicts and tensions. This Christmas many of us are concerned by the struggling economic environment. This Christmas many of us have hearts tender with fresh grief. Others of us are carrying heavy personal burdens. This Christmas, so very many in our world will not share in the joy and bounty we take for granted. But this Christmas, I am thankful that God enters our world afresh every morning, bringing us the peace, comfort, and hope we need to face each day.

Merry Christmas – and Happy Thanksgiving!

R. Charles Grant

Inside this month . . .

Letters, Birthdays, etc.	p. 2
BAPC News/Events.....	pp. 3-4
Session Reports.....	p. 5
Adult Church School	p. 6
Youth	p. 6
Calendar.....	p. 11

Highlights this month . . .

<i>December 9</i>	<i>Christmas Dinner & Program</i>
<i>December 13</i>	<i>“Messiah” Sing-Along</i>
<i>December 20</i>	<i>Christmas Joy Offering Grieving Service</i>
<i>December 24</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Services</i>



birthdays/ anniversaries

- 1 Peyton Bertwell
- 2 Kate Wood, Suzanna Woods
- 5 Carolyn Harrington, Bob Andes,
- 6 Debbie Stocks, Stephen Callear,
- 8 Paul Ream
- 9 Harold Houghton
- 10 Gilbert Miranian, Kate Rowe
- 11 Eric Wakefield-Thompson,
Amy Compton
- 13 Luis Stroud, Jeffery and Elizabeth
Allums, Shawn Thomas and April
Smith
- 14 Karen White, Becky Waltenbaugh
- 15 Jean Hamlett, Grace Stocks, Chuck
Huffine
- 16 Frank Lawrence, Steve Nehls,
Ed and Ursula Jones
- 18 Jillian Peace, Nora Narum
- 19 Bill Cushnie, Eddie Garrett II
- 20 Judy Holland
- 21 Judy Clayton
- 22 Faye Beigbeder, Allen Cleaton,
- 23 Conner Kasten, Barb Nehls,
Henry and Flora Trulove,
- 24 Ali Pedin
- 26 Mary Frances Cheatham, Gay Olsen
- 27 Pat Clayton, Jenny Callear, Evan
Bollinger, Harold and Laura Greer
- 28 Wilma Johnson, Doug Hicks,
- 30 Don Hills, Evan Smouse
- 31 Ginna Turner, Nathan Houghton

Correction:

On page 8 of the Memorials & Gifts booklet it should read, *In memory of Joseph Sestak and John & Ginny Moomau* for the donation of the Pulpit Bible.

The office is sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Prayer Ministry



To request prayer support from our church's prayer chain, or to join in this ministry, please call Deborah Houghton at 272-9495, (debho@comcast.net) or the church office at 272-7514, (office@bonairpc.org).

Letters . . .

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for all of your kindness. Your prayers, calls, cards, visits, dinners and baked goods. Also the lovely Prayer Shawl. It is special to me. I miss all of you terribly and look forward to seeing you when I can. I love BAPC, my church family. - Flora Trulove



"Friends at Bon Air, you are cordially invited to the ordination service for Chad McCain as Minister of Word and Sacrament, to serve as a Navy Chaplain. The service will be held at Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, 5 North 5th St. on December 6th at 4 p.m. (1600 for you military types...) Your very own Charles Grant will be preaching (thank you Charles) and Natalie, the boys and I would love to see you all there. Grace and peace, Chad McCain"

Sunday, December 20 8 am—Noon



The next BAPC Blood Drive will be **Sunday, December 20** from 8 AM until Noon. Sign-ups are available through the church office or on the sheet in the foyer. You can check availability on-line at <http://bonairpc.us/blooddrive.shtml> In addition, if you have any questions please contact Kris Morelli at **804-310-1068** or by email krismorelli@verizon.net. BAPC is very fortunate to have a number of regular donors who walk-in. We appreciate your donation, but it is much easier to schedule the right size blood mobile and appropriate staff if you sign-up in advance, so please consider doing so.

In order to donate blood you must be 18 years old, or 16-17 years old with a parents' permission via the Parental Consent Form (<http://www.vablood.org/pdfs/DS%2037-11.pdf>) and:

- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Be in good health on the donation day

You can find the complete eligibility list at http://www.vablood.org/blood_donation_eligibility.php

Thanks for considering a donation!



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Discipleship Opportunities



Freedom House Volunteers For 2010

BAPC has prepared casseroles for Freedom House for many years. We are looking to add some volunteers to the program. We have **cooks, servers, and drivers.**

Cooks pick up a pan and recipe every other month. Buy the ingredients and prepare the casserole as instructed. Place the uncooked casserole in the church refrigerator on the designated day. **Servers** go to the Conrad Center one Thursday evening every other month and serve the casseroles to the guests. It's very easy and it helps a lot of people! **Drivers** pick up the casseroles at our church one Thursday every other month and deliver them to the Conrad Center. This task can be done anytime after 11am and before 4pm. We also have a list of substitutes for those who cannot commit to six times a year, but can help out when needed.

If you feel called to serve in this way, please contact Alisha Gallini at awgallini@aol.com or 560-7050 before Dec 15.



A gift was given to the Theological Students Scholarship Fund in honor of Charles Grant and memory of Ray Sumner by Elizabeth Sumner.

A gift was given to the Preschool Fund in memory of Helen White by Bobby C. Holland.

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of William Tucker by Linda Barnett.

A gift was given to the Endowment Fund in memory of William Tucker by Mary Line.

CARITAS January 9-16, 2010



A roof and a bed is what it is all about. Pretty simple. CARITAS represents the idea that the combined efforts of many people can provide a roof over the heads of those who need it most. CARITAS is the largest and most inclusive shelter in Richmond. In addition, CARITAS offers support and guidance with full time case workers who work with each willing client to take the necessary financial, legal, medical, and emotional steps toward self-sufficiency.

A roof and a bed. A pretty simple task that offers many opportunities for service. Everyone can find a way to help. We need people to prepare and serve evening meals; prepare bag lunches; serve as evening hosts and runners; stay overnight; set up cots for the arrival of our guests; breakdown cots when our guests leave; and wash laundry, which will be a big need. If you can wash and dry laundry at your home, but cannot pick it up or deliver it back to the church, call me. I will make arrangements.

You can sign up on the BAPC website or on the bulletin board. Have another idea for our guests' visit? Let me know. I would love to hear from you. Thanks.
- Henry Jacocks

Coffee Half Hour

**December 6
10:30-10:55**

Hosted by:
Worship Division



RICHMOND
Metropolitan
HABITAT
for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Update

**Habitat has delayed the Apostle
Build for the time being.**



Thursday December 24

Christmas Eve SERVICES

- 4:00 PM—Family and Children’s Carol Service
- 8:30 PM—Nativity Concert with Harp, Organ, & Handbells
- 9:00 PM—Candlelight Service with Holy Communion



Ritual of Healing Grieving Service December 20 4:00 pm

*“A safe and quiet haven
for all who mourn”*

The holidays can be difficult days for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, and those who are struggling with challenges of body or spirit. The pastor will conduct a service for all who grieve and seek healing of body and soul on Sunday afternoon, December 20, at 4 PM.

The service is a quiet time for gathering Christian brothers and sisters who come to share one another’s burdens. Come if you are grieving, or come with a friend who needs the blessing of quiet grief and respite from the frivolities of the holidays.

Operating Fund

Year to Date—October, 2009			
	Actual	Budget	Difference
			Budget
Receipts			
Pledges	\$405,118	\$416,670	
Other	\$ 12,006	\$ 16,670	
Total	\$417,214	\$433,340	(16,216)
Expenses	\$426,914	\$436,218	(9,304)
Net	\$ (9,790)	\$ (2,878)	(6,912)



*Second Sunday South
of the James
Presents*

“Messiah” Sing-Along

December 13 4:00 pm

The annual "Messiah" Sing-Along will be held Sunday, Dec. 13, at 4 p.m. at Bon Air Presbyterian Church, 9201 W. Huguenot Road. A rehearsal will be held Saturday, Dec. 12, at 1 p.m.

Anne Carr Regan will conduct. Soloists and chorus will be joined by a chamber orchestra, harpsichord and organ.

Soloists will be Karen Floyd Savage, soprano; Heather Jones, mezzo; Tracey Welborn, tenor; and Kurt Negaard, bass. Pamela McClain will be harpsichordist and Stephen Henley, organist.

Admission will be by donation. Details: 272-7514.



Lindsey Prather, our Soprano Soloist and Director of our Cherub Choir, will present her Senior Voice Recital on Thursday evening, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. on the campus of VCU in the Black Music Building, Grove Ave and Harrison Sts.

The Recital is free and open to the public.



Bon Air Stitches

We will not be meeting in December and hope that everyone will have a happy holiday and look forward to meeting January 11, 2010. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our “yarn month” with yarns and also financing. In November we made a total of 83 hats, lap robes, scarves and shawls for Massey Cancer Institute. Also, a total of 115 infant and children’s blankets, hats, afghans, and toys went to MCV Hospital. Thank you to all our Stitches who have worked so diligently all year long. Rita Kugler, 327-2342.



THE BAPC SESSION REPORTS

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Sunday, November 1, 2009 the Session:

- Heard a report from Elder Commissioners, Jane Lawrence and Paul Beigbeder, on the October 17, Presbytery meeting. A proposed POJ reorganization vision plan was presented and discussed by the attendees.
- Two candidates for ordination, Chad McCain and Gail Monsma, were examined and preached sermons.
- Heard that the October pledge income deficit improved over the previous month but still has a way to go before the end of the year.
- Heard that the Stewardship Every Member visitation reports by visitors through the online reporting capability was at 80%.
- Heard that several people indicated an interest in the vacant Nursery Worker position.
- Heard that 17 people had donated blood at the October 17, drive.
- Heard that the Angel Tree project will provide for 40 children this year.
- Heard that the Peacemaking Offering taken October 4, received \$1335 of which \$335 will go to the Cross-over Ministry a local organization providing medical services to those in need.
- Heard that CARITAS will be hosted at the church January 10 – 16, 2010.
- Heard that prayer shawls will be blessed at the worship services on November 15.
- Heard that Ethel Barrett is retiring after many years of faithful service as the church Librarian and that a volunteer replacement is needed.
- Approved a gift from the Sestak family of a new pulpit bible to replace the current well worn bible.
- Approved the purchase of a new sanctuary wireless mike for the Pastor with monies from the Memorial Fund.
- Heard that hand sanitizers were installed in the building at the request of staff.
- Heard that Rev. Grant will participate in a Mid Age Health Treatment program which includes fitness and diet focuses for 11 weeks.

Weight Loss Support Group



A new support group is forming for those who struggle with their weight. We have tried meeting at noon on Sundays, and are currently trying Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. Please join us if you are interested. We will be adjusting our meeting time to suit as many people as possible, so please call or email before coming to make sure you have the right meeting time. Email Deborah Houghton, debho@comcast.net, or call 272-9495 if you would like more information.



Annual Christmas Dinner Wednesday, December 9 6:00 PM

Our annual Christmas Dinner and program will be Wednesday, December 9. Dinner will be limited to the first 225 people that sign up. You must sign up to attend, this includes children in the program and people on the permanent list. Dinner cost \$6 per adult and \$4 per child and there is no cap on the price.

HELP IS NEEDED

Tables will be set at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, December 8. Please call Mary Ricketts at 233-5866.

Chefs Club President, Judy Clayton, needs help with cooking, serving and clean-up. Please call her at 276-6420.

December Menus:

December 2

Barbecue
Slaw
Beans
Chips
Dessert

December 9

Cranberry Salad
Ham
Christmas Slaw
Sweet Potato Casserole
Green Beans
Snowflake Rolls
Date-Nut Pudding

No Dinners on:

Dec. 16, 23 & 30



PYC

**Middle School**

Dec 6	5:00-6:00	“What is Advent anyway?”
	6:00-7:00	Evening Worship
Dec 13	5:00-8:00	Progressive Dinner
Dec 20	5:00-7:00	“Game Night”
Dec 27	No Youth	Enjoy your Christmas Break

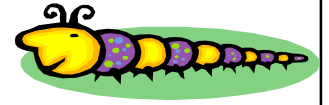
High School

Dec 6	5:00-6:00	Brainstorming!
	6:00-7:00	Evening Worship
Dec 13	5:00-8:00	“Game Night”
Dec 20	5:00-8:00	Progressive Dinner
Dec 27	No Youth	Enjoy your Christmas Break

We are in need of two households willing to host part of the progressive dinner on December 13 for Middle School. If you are available, please contact Shawn Thomas Smith stsmith@bonairpc.org.

Looking forward to seeing each of you for all of our gathering times this month for PYC!

Kid's Kingdom in WORM



The WoRM rotation for the month of December continues from last month's theme of Prophecy: Jesus is the Fulfillment of Prophecy. The memory verse is Matthew 2:6 *“Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.”*

This month we will be working with an advent theme: the exploration of Jesus as the fulfillment of the prophecies. From the time of David, there had been great expectation among the Jewish people that God would raise up a messiah. Many of the prophetic scriptures find their culmination in the birth narratives of Matthew and Luke; the Gospels are also the starting point for the fulfillment of the prophecies about Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection.

Matthew's Gospel is considered the “Gospel of fulfillment.” Matthew was writing to a Jewish audience, an audience familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures, who were looking for confirmation of those scriptures. One of his main focuses is showing that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament revelation or prophecy. Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage to Abraham through David, both of whom were recipients of a divine covenant and of God's promise.

Join us for all of our exciting rotations:

Noah's Art Workshop: The children will create chains with the various names for Jesus and corresponding scripture passages.

WKID Studio: The children will create a television commercial as part of an ad campaign to let people know that Jesus is the Messiah.

Arcade: The children will play a game called “Spotscotch” designed to help them link the prophecies of the Old Testament to Jesus as the Fulfillment of those Prophecies, as written in the New Testament.

Storytellers Tent: The children will listen to a story concerning the birth of Jesus, and recreate the story by creating their own “tableaus” still pictures of the story.

We look forward to seeing you each and every Sunday as we learn more about Jesus as the answer to all our prayers.

Winter Camp at Camp Hanover December 28-30



Break Through

Come to Winter Camp and enjoy a winter getaway with summer friends and new faces. Hear the theme, *Break Through*, from our own Aaron, Ben and Jon Houghton as they lead keynote and spice up winter camp with their humor, gifts, and love of God. We strongly encourage all who are interested to attend this wonderful camp opportunity. **The camp is open to 5th through 12th graders at a cost of \$120 per person. Registration Deadline is Tuesday, December 15th.** Registration forms will be available outside of Shawn Thomas's office on the bulletin board. We hope you can attend and support three wonderful leaders from our own congregation.



January Mission Month at BAPC



"Beyond Iraq and Afghanistan: Broadening our Focus"

If it's January, then it's **Mission Month** at BAPC. **Mission Month** is that time of the year when our adult Sunday School classes move beyond the brick walls of our church and consider issues of local, national or international concern from a Christian perspective. On the five Sundays in January, 2010, we will be looking at countries that don't receive the same degree of headlines and analysis as do Iraq and Afghanistan but still are worthy of discussion.

We have invited speakers who will discuss current issues in countries such as India, Pakistan, Cuba, Korea and the far East. As a part of those discussions, we will hear how Christian Witness is involved in confronting those issues.

Please plan to join us during the adult Sunday School hours this coming January.

Cooking Class sponsored by the Chefs Club



Dates and times: Thursday, February 11 (9:30-12:30);
Friday, February 12 (9:30 – 12:30);
Saturday, February 13 (9:30 - ?)

Our goal is to have fun planning, shopping, and cooking for a large group. We will plan the menu and adapt the recipes on the first day. On the second day we will shop and do prep work as time permits. On the third day we will prepare the meal and serve it to those who have signed up. There will be a dance following the meal, complete with a live band. Sign up sheets for the class and the dinner/dance will be on the Fellowship bulletin board. Don't miss out on the FUN filled event.

Need a Gift?



BAPC cookbooks are wonderful! Books are \$10.00 each and are available on Wednesday night or through the church office.

Holiday Schedule for Church Office



Wed., Dec. 16	12:45 PM	Office closes for Staff/Volunteer Party
Thurs., Dec. 24	12:00 PM	Office Closes
Fri., Dec. 25		Office Closed
Thurs., Dec. 31	12:00 PM	Office Closes
Fri., Jan. 1		Office Closed

Opportunities for Giving Reminders

Mitten Turkey - December 6

Covenant Woods Stockings - December 7

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree - December 19



Women in the Church

Prime Time Circle will meet on Monday, Dec. 7, at 7:00 pm in the church Parlor for Hor d'oeuvres and caroling with Steve Henley and the BAPC Ringers. Jane Chandler & Marjorie Hephner are hostesses.

Sisters Circle On Friday, Dec. 4, the Sisters Circle will meet in the Middle High Room for the Bible lesson at 10:30 AM. We will go to Ruth's Chris Steak House by 12 noon for our Christmas luncheon. Gail Negaard needs to know who will attend by Mon., Nov. 30 so that she can call in a final reservation. If you have said you will attend and find you must cancel, please call Gail on or before that date. If you have not made your reservation please call Gail if you wish to attend.

Morning Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 10:15 in the Beck Room.

L.Y.D.I.A. Circle will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7:00 pm at the church.

Evening Worship December 6



“More on Advent”

As we enter into the season of Advent, there are many themes of expectation and waiting. Join us for Evening worship this month as we explore these themes, some familiar and some not, sing some familiar carols led by a Brass Quartet from Virginia Commonwealth University, and enjoy a candle light service of singing with hot chocolate and treats. Come and check out Evening Worship at 6:00 pm on December 6th, and be inspired for the season of Advent.

Nursery volunteers Needed



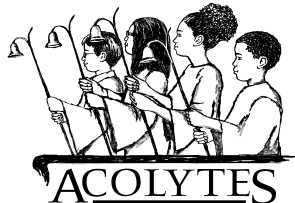
The Sunday morning nursery at BAPC plays an important role in the life of our church. It nurtures the children and grandchildren of our congregation and it is one of the first things visitors search for when they enter our building. Right now, our nursery is undergoing a transition as the full-time caregiver for the past 14 years, Lorah Allen, has retired. Our own Kellie Olsen and administrative assistant Brenda Norton will be splitting the position of Nursery Care Giver.

While we have been fortunate to have a full-time caregiver in the nursery that person must be able to count on volunteers from our congregation for assistance. Over the course of a month of Sundays, 21 adult and youth nursery volunteers are needed in our nursery ministry.

At the present time, however, there is an urgent need for four adult volunteers in the nursery. Please prayerfully consider volunteering one hour of your time on a Sunday morning once a month to fill one of the time slots listed below.

If interested, contact Marta Rowe, Nursery Coordinator at 379-0601.

- 1st Sunday – 10:30 to noon
- 3rd Sunday – 9:30 to 10:30
- 4th Sunday – 8:30 to 9:30



Acolyte Program

Thanks so much to the acolytes serving in November:

Michael Barrett, Thomas Jackson, Adam Olsen, Elizabeth Britton and Katie Copeland. Alex Barrett carried the Processional Cross. Janet Barrett assisted.

The acolytes scheduled for December are Nicole Gallini, Maddie Negaard, Julia Gallini and Lindsey Copeland. Sawyer Negaard will carry the Processional Cross. Pete Gallini will be assisting.

Sanctuary Bibles

The Worship Division is arranging for Bibles to be available in the Sanctuary. They will be placed in the back on the bookcase which now and will continue to hold extra hymnbooks and large print hymnbooks. If you would like to purchase a Bible please complete the information below and place in the offering plate or give to the church office.



Yes, I/We would like to purchase _____ Bible(s) x \$20.00=_____

Your name: _____

I/We am/are purchasing:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Christmas
Joy
Offering



Christmas Joy Offering

December 20

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The Board of Pensions Receives 50 percent of the Offering. Through the [Board of Pensions](#) Financial Assistance Programs, the Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times.

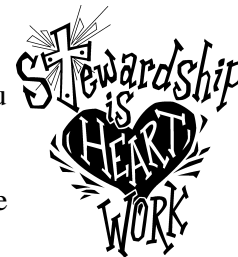
Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges Receive the other 50 Percent of the Offering. The Presbyterian Church has long promoted education through establishing and supporting [racial ethnic schools](#).

Christmas Joy Offering funds help with basic operating costs in addition to providing scholarships to deserving students. These institutions develop leaders in the church and in society, and they enable students to pursue their professional goals. All Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related schools and colleges are open to any qualified student regardless of race.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Stewardship Division thanks you for your participation in our every member visitation focus followed by Pledge Sunday on November 8th. We are grateful that 46 callers were able to meet face to face or by phone with 172 members in about 11 days. Pretty impressive - with a special thanks to our callers.



Your resounding comments were love of and for our staff, meaningful worship experiences, excellent youth programs and concerns on increasing our membership, especially young families. Your financial support enables BAPC to continue what we love and work toward what we want.

To date we have received pledge cards from 171 members totaling \$465,500. On December 3rd the coordinating council will meet to draft the budget for 2010 which will then be presented to the session on December 6th for discussion and approval. Details will follow in a letter to the congregation.

If you have not had the opportunity to return your pledge card – it's not too late! You can mail your pledge card to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Our church relies on your generous giving to fulfill its mission work, compensate staff, operate our facilities and offer a wide variety of programs. If you are able to catch up your pledge for 2009 – it's not too late for that either! Thank you for making it happen.



If you would like a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of someone during Christmas, please fill in the information below and submit it with a check for \$10.00 each to the church office by **Sunday, Dec. 6th.**

Poinsettias may be picked up **after the 9:00 PM Worship Service on Dec. 24th.**

I wish to order _____ poinsettia (s) @ \$10.00 each. Total \$_____.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of _____

Given by: _____

For Office Use Only:

Date Received: _____ Date Recorded: _____ Check #: _____ Cash: _____

Thankful Evangelism

Paul was so pleased and thankful with the way that the church was off and running in Colossae that he wrote them a very short note. He praised them and gave them encouragement and just briefly reviewed a checklist of Christian virtues, saying, *Above all, clothe yourselves in love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.* Colossians 3:14-15

As we recently gathered around tables of all shapes and sizes with loved ones to share turkey and cranberry sauce and offer prayers of thanks to God, few of us probably realized that we were being evangelists. But love and thankfulness are the true heart of evangelism. Whenever we show our love and thankfulness to God before others, we are evangelizing to them.



There is so much to be thankful for in the "one body" that is BAPC. Deborah Houghton, a member since 1975, shares what clothes her in love and thankfulness here: *Because I've been here a long time now, I really like being able to see kids grow all the way from the time they are born until they head off to college, get married, etc! I also love the Wednesday night dinner fellowship. I love seeing people come forward when we do communion up front...the visual parade of lives and stories is always very moving. I love the blessing of the prayer shawls. Finally, I love doing musicals!!!! It is always so exciting when they come together despite great odds against it ever happening!*

In the simple act of sharing with others your love and thankfulness for God through Christ, God will open

Wanted

Do you have any old Christmas cards taking up space? The Senior High Sunday school would love to help you recycle them. Please bring them to the Senior High Sunday School class (across from the nursery). Thank you, Lorna Anzelone.

Christmas Cards



RISC...A Success Story



Richmonders Involved to Support Our Communities (RISC) is making great strides in the Richmond metropolitan area and this justice ministry is really beginning to be HEARD.

The eighteen BAPC members who attended the RISC Annual Assembly on October 26th came away from that meeting feeling greatly encouraged by the reports they heard about RISC's Actions in 2009. Significant progress has been made in the three issue areas: Education, Cycles of Crime and Affordable Health Care.

The RISC Research Team on Education was astounded to learn about the large number of out-of-school suspensions that were being issued for absenteeism and tardiness. As a result of RISC's interaction with the school system, this is no longer the case – students are no longer given out-of-school suspension for attendance infractions.

In the area of Cycles of Crime, last spring Mayor Jones promised to support our initiative for drug interaction at the city jail if funds could be found to finance the program. Now we are told that City Council is committed to putting money in the 2010-2011 budget for the drug program. When it is operational, we should see impressive reductions in the rate of recidivism among the jail population.

Affordable Health Care, and in particular the Virginia Coordinated Care program at VCU-MCV which enables uninsured or underinsured people to be treated in a primary care practice, seemed to be unworkable at this time last year. However, our concerns are now being met, the program is being overhauled, the application process improved and more and more citizens will be receiving their health care in private practice settings.

RISC has elected the 2010 Executive Committee and will welcome a new Lead Organizer in January. This new Lead Organizer comes to us from Lexington, KY, where he has experienced much success with the organization there.

Last spring the Nehemiah Action was attended by 1000+ RISC members and the city officials who attended LISTENED to what we had to say. We have always maintained that we can make systemic changes in areas of injustice for the residents of the metropolitan area and now we see that it does work.

The greater the number of citizens demanding change, the more likely it is to happen. So, next spring when you're asked to represent Bon Air church at the Rally and the Nehemiah Action, remember that NUMBERS DO COUNT and this justice ministry matters. There is no other grassroots organization in the city of Richmond doing the work that RISC does.



December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																									
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<p>6 Communion</p> <p>2¢ a meal / Coffee</p> <p>10:30: Coffee Half Hour = Worship</p> <p>6:00 Evening Worship</p> <p>7:00 Session</p>	<p>7 Friendship Café</p> <p>9:30 Yoga (101-103)</p> <p>6:00 Cub Scouts (SS)</p> <p>6:30 Birth Talk (HS)</p> <p>6:30 Prime Time Circle (B)</p> <p>7:00 Walk Away Pounds</p> <p>7:00 Prime Time Circle (P)</p>	<p>8 Friendship Café</p> <p>10:15 Morning Bible Study (P)</p> <p>10:30 Sister's Circle (MS)</p> <p>6:00 AA (FH)</p> <p>6:30 Chancel Ringers</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:00 Handchime Choir</p> <p>5:30 Cantus Choir</p> <p>5:30 Youth Bells</p> <p>6:00 Christmas Dinner</p> <p>7:00 Church & Society (L)</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 Friendship Café</p> <p>6:00 Yoga (101-103)</p> <p>7:00 Walk Away Pounds</p> <p>7:00 Herb Stone (B)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00 AA (FH)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00 Messiah Practice</p>																																																																																																									
<p>13 Bible Sunday</p> <p>4:00 SSSJ - Messiah</p> <p>Moment for Mission = Joy Offering</p>	<p>14 Friendship Café</p> <p>9:30 Yoga (101-103)</p> <p>1:00 Stitchers (L)</p> <p>6:00 Cub Scouts (FH)</p> <p>7:00 Communications (L)</p> <p>7:00 Walk Away Pounds</p>	<p>15 Friendship Café</p> <p>6:00 AA (FH)</p> <p>6:30 Chancel Ringers</p> <p>7:00 Stewardship (P)</p> <p>7:30 Property (L)</p> <p>7:30 C.H.A.D.D. (B)</p> <p>7:30 CE (Room 104)</p> <p>Annual Reports Due</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00 Evangelism (L)</p> <p>No Choirs / Dinner</p>	<p>17 Friendship Café</p> <p>6:00 Yoga (101-103) extra</p> <p>7:00 Walk Away Pounds</p> <p>7:00 Herb Stone (B)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00 AA (FH)</p>	<p>19</p>																																																																																																									
<p>20 Blood Drive</p> <p>Intergenerational Sunday School</p> <p>4:00 Grieving Service</p>	<p>21 Friendship Café (closed)</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>No Yoga</p> <p>7:00 Walk Away Pounds</p>	<p>22 Friendship Café (closed)</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>6:00 AA (FH)</p> <p>6:30 Chancel Ringers</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>No Choirs / Dinner</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>Friendship Café (Closed)</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>Office Closed at Noon</p> <p>No Yoga</p> <p>4:00 Worship Service</p> <p>9:00 Worship Service</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p>	<p>26</p>																																																																																																									
<p>27 No Sunday School</p> <p>1 Service only at 11:00</p>	<p>28 Friendship Café (Closed)</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>No Yoga</p>	<p>29 Friendship Café (Closed)</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>6:00 AA (FH)</p> <p>6:30 Chancel Ringers</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>No Choirs / Dinner</p>	<p>31 Friendship Café (Closed)</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>No Yoga</p> <p>Office Closed at Noon</p>																																																																																																											



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ADVENT and CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

November 29 First Sunday in Advent

“Here we go – again” Jeremiah 33:14-16 I Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

Dr. Grant preaching

December 6 Second Sunday in Advent Holy Communion

“The Message and the Man” Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-16

Dr. Grant preaching

Evening Worship at 6 PM “More on Advent”

Rev. Smith preaching

December 13 Third Sunday in Advent.

Dedication of New Pulpit Bible and presentation of Bibles to Fourth Graders (11)

“Remember to Rejoice” Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7

Annual Messiah Sing-A-Long at 4 PM

Dr. Grant preaching

December 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent

“Son of God, Son of Man” Luke 1:39-55 Luke 2:1-7

Annual Service for the Grieving at 4 PM

Dr. Grant preaching

December 24 Christmas Eve Services at 4 PM and 9 PM

4:00 PM Family and Children’s Carol Service

8:30 PM Nativity Concert

9:00 PM Festive Service of Carols and Holy Communion

Rev. Smith leading

Dr. Grant preaching

December 27 First Sunday after Christmas *One Service only at 11 AM. Nursery provided*

“In Perfect Harmony” Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 I Peter 4:8-11

Rev. Smith preaching

January 3 Second Sunday after Christmas *Holy Communion*

“God’s Word for a New Year” Ecclesiastes Jeremiah 31:7-14 John 1:1-18

Dr. Grant preaching

Evening Worship “New Beginnings”

Rev. Smith leading