

## Seventh Street's Serving Schedules

### May Elders

5/1 Pat Mays & Steve Sanderford  
5/8 Loretta Taylor & Cheryl Lage  
5/15 Jim Elliott & Betty Butterworth  
5/22 Linda Mottesheard & Paul Mennetti

### May Deacons

(Leader) Bill Buckner  
Andrew Walters, Linda Mottesheard, Kirsten Sanderford,  
Pete Richardson

### Communion Stewards

5/1 Nancy Garver  
5/8 Pat Mays  
5/15 Janet Morris  
5/22 Whitney Walters  
5/29 Janet Morris

### May Prayers of the People

5/1 Dr. Rolen  
5/8 Luke and Billie Wills  
5/15 TBA  
5/22 Mary Rose Ragsdale  
5/29 David Koerner

### May Offering Counters (Monday date unless noted)

5/2 Olivette Cox & Nancy Garver  
5/9 Judy Gunn & Lila Shotwell  
5/16 Joyce Clarke & Mary Rose Ragsdale  
5/23 Frank Bedell & Bill Buckner  
(Tuesday) 5/31 Olivette Cox & Nancy Garver

**The next meeting of the Church Board will be held Monday,  
May 9 at 7 PM in the Library.**

In faithfulness as stewards of God's good creation, please recycle this newsletter..



## **Seventh Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

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### **Stepping Stones for THE Journey**

As you have heard me say whether from the pulpit or during some of our transformation sessions: thousands upon thousands of congregations are facing the decision of whether to go through the pain of change or the pain of death. Seventh Street has made the intentional decision to risk a faithful future which calls her to embrace the pain of change.

All of us know there are no quick and easy words or platitudes that can take away the discomforts and even pain of the changes you have embraced. The critical question that remains is: will the challenges of the moment be invested and channeled for the sake of the potentials of God?

Seventh Street has faced massive global, societal, and internal challenges before. Over the course of 184 years there have been countless tears, bouts of frustration, and moments of despair. Also, there have been times and places where hearts remained committed, faithful, and sacrificial to the potentials of Christ's church and God. Faith is what has carried Seventh Street for almost two centuries.

A colleague of mine, Rev. Glen Miles, says: "The best parts of The Bible were written in the worst of times." This is a time to turn to those eternal words of promise and comfort of our scriptures. This is a time to pray and ask God to reveal and assure. This is a time to be gentle, loving, and gracious with one another. You know how to do that. You would have never made it this far if you didn't take God's assurance that of all the great powers in the universe, the three greatest are faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13).

In the bond of prayer, faith, hope, and love may Christ's church carry on,

*Chuck*

A Thank You Reception was held on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> for the years of dedication and service provided by Rev. Kim Crowley, Sally Montgomery, and Wally Wiggins. Also on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> for Choirmaster & organist, Mary Beth Bennet, M.D.A., for her 13 years of service. We wish her Godspeed as she begins a ministry at the First Presbyterian Church of Gloucester, VA.

### Disciples Men's Fellowship (DMF)

The DMF will meet on **Saturday, May 14** at 9 AM for breakfast at Paradise Diner. The Paradise Diner is located near the intersection of Hathaway Road and Forest Hill Ave. (2845 Hathaway Rd, Richmond, VA 23225). All men are welcome to come and fellowship.

### Disciples Women's Ministries (DWM)

- The DWM will have a **Yard Sale on Saturday, June 11**. All donations (except clothing) are welcome. Items may be placed on the stage in Hanover Hall.
- The next **DWM meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10** at 10:30 am in Hanover Hall. The meeting will be followed by their **Bring a Sandwich Luncheon**. Dessert and beverages will be provided.
- DWM collected memorials in memory or in honor of a person's mother, or someone special, for **Church World Service Tools and Blankets of Hope**. A memorial list was presented in the Mother's Day bulletin on **May 8**.
- DWM **2015 Scrapbook** was dedicated to Frank Bedell on May 1.

**172<sup>nd</sup> Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** in Virginia will be held at Lynchburg College June 3-5. Registration forms are posted on the bulletin board near the Church office or you can register online [www.ccinva.org](http://www.ccinva.org).

**Cottage Meetings** – Your Elders are planning Cottage Meetings for a time to discuss the proposed Mission and Vision Statement developed by the Transformation Team and to discuss the Congregational Profile that is soon going to be put together by the Pastor Search Committee. These meetings will be a chance to share and hear what others are thinking and hoping for Seventh Street. Please expect to be contacted by your Elder.

### Mark Your Calendars: (details are in this month's newsletter)

Church Board meeting, Monday May 9  
DWM Bring a Sandwich Luncheon, May 10  
Betty Butterworth & Jim Elliott's Elder Group Cottage meetings, May 11  
DMF Breakfast, Saturday May 14  
Pat May's Elder Group Cottage meeting, May 20  
Youth End of School Celebration, May 20  
Gracie's Guardian Yard Sale & YAC Bake Sale, Saturday May 21  
172<sup>nd</sup> Regional Assembly of the Christian Church, June 3-5  
Peachtree Christian Youth's "Esther on Air," Tuesday, June 7  
DWM Yard Sale, Saturday June 11  
Teacher Appreciation, Sunday June 12  
VBS June 20-24

### **Please Keep in Your Prayers**

Ryan Abernathy's mother & co-worker – Elaine Abernathy & Luke Heller  
Sharon Abernathy's friend – Donna Hammond  
Mark Bowersox's brother – Dennis Bowersox  
Mildred Bruce's daughter – Nancy W. Hamilton  
Bill & Margaret Buckner, Bill's brother, Bob Buckner & cousin, Carl Otto  
Steve Cheney's brother – Paul Cheney  
Aletta Cockrell  
Linda Davis-Rolen's cousin – Dr. Betty Robbins  
Jim Elliott  
Judy Gunn's cousins – Sarah Eggleston & Carol Snyder  
Cheryl Lage's mother – Carole Ross  
Scott Lage & the Lage Family  
Connie Lanterman's sister – Kathy Gold  
Donald Lindsey  
Rachael Londeree's grandfather – Bill Londeree  
Pat May's friend – Susan Korb  
Members in the military – Katy Lindsey, Ted Slusher  
Betty, Paul & Elizabeth Menetti  
Janet Morris & her sister – Jeanne Foster  
Luke & Billie Wills' son – Byron Wills  
Steve Sanderford's friend – Jim Trotta  
Karen Satterfield's brother – David Satterfield  
Carolyn Schwarz – 4421 N. Rushwood Ct., Bel Aire, Ks 67226 (lost her father)  
Alex Slusher  
Mark Slusher's mother – Ann Lang

Richard Bagby	Billie & Glen Delano	Susie Hillery
Barnes Family	Becky Edwards	Sarah Schweitzer
John Chenault	Bob Garian	Mary Shuford
Loretta Taylor	Bill Tolbere	Tyke Ware

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Outreach News

### **Liberation Family Services**

- LFS presented Seventh Street a medal and a card which is displayed on the Outreach bulletin board in the hallway. The card included with the medal reads: "Liberation Family Services wishes to honor 7<sup>th</sup> Street Christian Church for your continuous loyalty and service to our military veterans."
- On April 3<sup>rd</sup> a lunch was prepared at the center and DVDs, household supplies, and books were delivered.
- On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Cheryl Bronson (friend of Liz Hulette) donated and helped deliver 21 bags of clothing, 2 bags of shoes, and novels. We had a guided tour of LFS and were presented the medal in appreciation of our continued work.
- On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Outreach prepared and served lunch, delivered shower shoes (flip flops) that were graciously donated, and had a wonderful visit with the Veterans. Thank you, Janet Morris for your continued support in service to this ministry!

**Meals on Wheels** (MOW) team delivers meals on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month. Please note, there will be no deliveries made on May 30<sup>th</sup> because of the Memorial Day holiday. Thank you Nancy Garver, Olivette Cox, Carol Chaffin, & Mary Crutchfield for your continued support in service to this ministry!

### **CARITAS**

- A summary of CARITAS week is posted on the Outreach board in the hallway.
- Barbara Sadtler's "Reflections" are perfect!
- Thanks again to our CARITAS team. What a wonderful week we had!

**Notice** – The Coupon Collection for LFS and Gray Haven Project has now come to an end. Thank you to everyone who participated! A special thank you to Sharon Abernathy for her coupon organization!

**Donations** – Thanks to generous support of Seventh Street's passion for mission, Outreach has donated \$1000 to help the tornado victims in Virginia.

**Request for volunteers** – The Outreach ministry teams at Seventh Street provide a much needed service and show of Christian generosity and compassion to many in need through the Liberation Family Services, Gray Haven Project, ACTS, and other crisis agencies. If you would like to volunteer with the Outreach ministry, please contact Liz Hulette (794-9219)

**There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer**



3- Aly Barnes  
9- Erin Bennett  
10- Victoria Hinckle, Bill Londeree  
11- Luke Wills  
16- Maggie (Sanderford) Cosby  
17- Steve Sanderford  
18- Billie Delano

### **May Birthdays**

23- Khaya Barnes, Judy Lindsey,  
Pete Richardson  
27- Whitney Walters  
28- B.J. Moss, Loretta Taylor  
29- Helena Huff  
31- Liz Hulette



### **Ties that Bind:**

We join Betty & E.L. Butterworth in celebrating the birth of their great granddaughter, Stella Strouse. She was born on Monday, April 25, and weighs 9 lbs 12 oz.

The Bereavement Committee delivered flowers to the home of Carolyn Schwartz in remembrance and sympathy of her father.

April 21, 2016

Dear Church Family,

I am most appreciative of your cards, visits and telephone calls but especially for your prayers for my recovery. I won't be able to drive for another month – now I'm "driving" a walker or being pushed in a transport chair. I am might better than I was in the hospital or the rehab center so I'm thankful for that. Looking forward to being with you again soon.

Love,  
Loretta

### **TeleCare**

**Telecare is currently looking for members.** Anyone needing TeleCare is invited to become a member. Age, sex, race, religion, financial status or anything else will not disqualify you from this free service. Members call our Telecare volunteers each and every morning to let them know that they are well and also to enjoy some pleasant conversation. If a member does not call, TeleCare contacts a neighbor or relative who has been designated to assist in an emergency.

This service is custom made for those who live alone, or spend long periods along, especially elderly, independent adults. No cost. Absolutely free service.

Call TeleCare (358-8755) or Tush Metcalf (288-8755) to become a member or volunteer.

**Education Events:**

**Teacher Appreciation** will be held Sunday, June 12 to thank all the many people who work to provide educational experiences for our church members. There will be a reception in the church parlor immediately after the service. We are grateful for your participation in education.

**Youth Activities & Other Events:**

**Gracie’s Guardian Yard Sale – Yard Sale for the Animals! – May 21.**

Seventh Street has again graciously agreed to host the 4<sup>th</sup> yard sale in our parking lot that helps a local animal rescue group. Funds raised so far from this have surpassed \$14,000! This year will benefit Gracie’s Guardians, an initiative of Richmond Animal League and will also have adoptable animals available! The funds raised will help purchase doghouses, straw, food, and free spay/neuter in addition to paying for vetting expenses for dogs in foster care. The event is sponsored by Whitney Walters. Please contact her (243-3279 or whit2727@hotmail.com with any questions.



Please put donated items for the yard sale in the West Basement.

**Youth Activity Council (YAC) Bake Sale – May 21.**

The Youth will have a tent at the Gracie’s Guardian’s Yard Sale to sell baked goods. Funds from this baked goods mission project will go toward purchase and installation of a “Pet Waste Station” on Seventh Street’s property near the sidewalk (exact location to be determined).



**Baked good donations are requested for the bake sale and may be dropped off at the church office on Thursday, May 19, or Friday, May 20. Please include a list of ingredients.**



**End of School Celebration – May 20, 6:00 - 10:30 PM in Hanover Hall**

The Youth Activity Council and the Youth will gather together in Hanover Hall to celebrate the end of school with a meal and games. They will also be working on preparing the baked goods for the Gracie’s Guardian Yard Sale as their mission project. The meal planner for the event is Steve Sanderford.

**End of Summer Missions Project – Anthem Lemonade Project**

Sharon Abernathy will be asked to lead this project. Sites will be considered beyond the church Narthex.

**In the works:**

The Director of Children and Youth Ministries’ job search is in the initial development stage with plans to fill the position before schools start. Your prayers of support and guidance are encouraged.

**PandaMania is coming to Seventh Street!**

**Get ready for the Bamboo Blast!**

We will be hosting a Vacation Bible School for children ages 5-10 during the week of June 20-24 (Monday- Friday)

6:00 – 8:00 PM. Registration is \$10.00 per child.

(Registration forms are available in the Narthex and

<http://www.bridgesevision.me/7thstcc/youth/vacation-bible-school.>)

Register now and don’t miss an opportunity for some fun for your child or grandchild and free time for you!

**Looking forward to Seeing you here!**

**VBS 2016 Schedule:**



6:00 PM

Dinner for campers and workers

6:20 -6:40

Party Time – sing & play

6:45 - 7:05

Crafts/Games/Bible Adventures

7:10 - 7:30

Games/Crafts/Bible Adventures

7:35 - 7:50

Bible Adventures/Games/Crafts

7:50 - 8:00

Rowdy Wrap-Up

Anyone interested in volunteering, or would like more information about VBS please contact Linda Mottesheard (372-2255).

**Performance by Peachtree Christian Church Youth – June 7.** “Esther on Air,” is a spin on the story of Queen Esther set in a 1940s radio show. An original piece written by their Children’s Director is both funny and meaningful. The performance provides an opportunity to bring the scriptures to life in a new and fresh way!

**Join us for Dinner with the cast and crew at 5:30 PM in Hanover Hall.**

**Followed by the show at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.**

**Overnight Hosts for Disciple Youth needed for June 7.** Seventh Street has the fun opportunity to host youth and their chaperones from Peachtree Christian (Atlanta, GA) on their tour. They will be here Tuesday, June 7, before continuing onto Washington D.C. the next morning. Please contact Whitney Walters (243-3279 or whit2727@hotmail.com) if you have a spare bedroom or two! Thanks to those who have already signed up to host.

### Task Force List

The following is a list of Task Force groups that will be working on areas where we will be recommending changes. The Constitution/By-Laws and Pastoral Search groups will eventually make recommendations to the Board while the Human Resource group will make recommendations to the HR Committee. Your input to any and all of these groups is welcome – please contact a member. –Steve Cheney, Board Member

#### Human Resource Task Force

Steve Sanderford – Leader [steve.sanderford@rich.frb.org](mailto:steve.sanderford@rich.frb.org)  
Juddy Gunn, Cheryl Lage, Al Mottesheard

#### Constitution/ By-Laws Task Force

Mark Anderson – Leader [anderson.d.m@gmail.com](mailto:anderson.d.m@gmail.com)  
Betty Butterworth, Barbara Dickinson, Jim Elliott, Nancy Garver, David Koerner

#### Pastoral Search Committee

Steve Cheney – Leader [srcheney@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:srcheney@henrico.k12.va.us)  
Jessie Kelley, Cheryl Lage, Terry Ragsdale, Andrew Walters

#### Human Resource Committee

Steve Sanderford – Leader [steve.sanderford@rich.frb.org](mailto:steve.sanderford@rich.frb.org)  
Al Mottesheard, Andrew Walters,  
Steve Cheney (ex-officio), Chuck Rolen (ex-officio)

#### HARPS Lease Negotiation Task Force

Andrew Walters (Lead), Terri Cheney, Ford Lanterman, Hunter Cockrell, Terry Ragsdale, Robert Taylor, Chuck Richardson, Rick McCullough, with Chuck Rolen (ex-officio) and Steve Cheney (ex-officio)

#### HARPS Facility Changes Task Force

Terri Cheney (Lead), Whitney Walters, Linda Mottesheard, Mary Rose Ragsdale,  
Rick McCullough, Ryan Abernathy  
with Chuck Rolen (ex-officio) and Steve Cheney (ex-officio)

Your Pastoral Search Task Force has begun the process of finding a new Senior Minister for SSCC. When the group met, it was strongly felt by all that this task cannot be successfully concluded without God's help. You as a member of SSCC have an extremely important job to help this group: PRAY FOR US – PRAY FOR SSCC! Each Sunday, the congregation will be led by an Elder in a short prayer for a successful search for the minister that can lead us forward to a significant role in bringing God's kingdom to Earth. Please join us – your help is sorely needed!

### Transformation Team Report to the Congregation – First half of 2016

The Transformation Team has appreciated serving as the scouting party for Seventh Street Christian Church, much like the twelve tribal leaders Moses sent to explore Canaan while the Israelites were in the Wilderness. While we recognize the need for change, we don't have a gloomy report like ten of those scouts. We are more like the two who gave a good report, punctuating their hope with belief that God would help them succeed.

We don't hold any secrets which will serve as the key to unlock the door to the future growth and success of the ministry of our community of faith. We have studied and discussed the same things that have been offered to the congregation at large. While some may not see how the changes we suggest will bear fruit, we encourage all to pray and have faith God will help us to succeed. Even on days when we question, have our doubts or worry about how we'll make it tomorrow, manna from heaven will sustain us one day at a time.

Our primary task has been to evaluate the ministry, process and structure of Seventh Street in order to discern how well it serves the Gospel in our current context. This has resulted in the following recommendations for the first half of 2016:

- I. Vision – Develop a Mission Statement and Congregational Profile for the Ministristeral Search Process – Review these 9 months after the call of our new minisister. We suggest an emphasis on ministry process that focusses on specific aspects of msision into and for the sake of the world God loves. Your suggestions are welcomed!
- II. Revise the Budget so is serves the ministry of the church, rather than vice versa.
- III. Restructuring Staff – Budget is not adequate to support current staffing levels.
- IV. Revise the Constitution and By-laws so that it serves the ministry of our church.
- V. Use the Search & Call process:
  - A. Further refine our vision for the future.
  - B. Select a shepherd who will lead us toward that vision.

This is how we discern our Christian body being led in transformation. Please sepak with any of us if you have any questions or commments about these recommendations. This is your church. We encourage all to attend any sessions we hold and to your voice at these publice forums. Thanks for trusting and asking us to serve you on the Transmisssion Team!

### Updates:

#### Youth Activity Council and Youth:

- **Meet and Eat Youth Gathering** – May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Chuck and Linda Rolan hosted a “Greet and Eat” gathering with the Youth during the Sunday School hour on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- On Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, a group of committed parents and supporters of Seventh Street’s youth agreed to form a **Youth Activity Council (YAC)** to provide direction and structure for future children and youth ministries. Attendees were: Liz Hulette, Laura Lanois, Steve and Kirsten Sanderford, Linda-Davis Rolan, and Chuck Rolan.

#### Upcoming Cottage Meetings:

- Betty Butterworth & Jim Elliott’s Elder groups will meet together Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 PM at Butterworth’s home.
- Olivette Cox/ Paul Menetti/ Loretta Taylor’s Elder groups - Sunday, May 22 following service in Hanover Hall.
- Pat May and Steve Sanderford’s Elder group will meet Friday, May 29 after worship service in the Library.