

News at Seventh Street

Seventh Street Christian Church 4101 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23221

July 2016

The History of our Church

How Seventh Street Christian Church got its name.

Seventh Street is one of the oldest congregations in the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. It was established the same year that the movement was founded. In 1832, Thomas Campbell, who is one of the founders of the movement, came to Richmond to preach. Some of those listeners were so moved by his preaching and teaching that they formed the first Richmond congregation of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. Sycamore Christian Church got its name – not for the street it was on but for the sycamore trees on the lawn. In our history room you can find the gavel and box that was made from this sycamore tree.

In 1870 the congregation sold the Sycamore Church building to the Commonwealth of Virginia and acquired a lot at the corner of Grace and 7th Streets. In April 1871, a new granite building with a towering spire was constructed. Membership at the close of 1871 was 524. The congregation worshiped in the Universalist Church on Mayo Street until its first meeting in the new building on July 14, 1872. Then the name changed to Seventh Street Christian Church.

The Legacy of Seventh Street Christian Church

A number of Disciples of Christ churches in Richmond are an outgrowth of the mission work of Seventh Street Christian Church. Hanover Avenue Christian Church, organized in 1913, traced its life to 1875 through its parents, Allen Avenue and Marshall Street Christian Churches each an outgrowth of Seventh Street Christian Church. The church Hill Mission of Seventh Street Christian Church became Third Christian Church organized in 1873. The Manchester Mission on Hull Street grew into Cowardin Avenue Church, now Bethany Christian Church, in 1878. Fairmount Avenue Christian Church (1902) Colonial Place Christian Church (1911) Highland Park Christian Church (1917) and Battery Park Christian Church (1921) grew from forces generated by Seventh Street Christian Church.

As Richmond's population moved westward, the Seventh Street Christian Church congregation chose to relocate in the west end. The Seventh Street building was sold in 1946. Our current location at Grove and Malvern Avenues was dedicated on September 17, 1950. In 2002, when Hanover Avenue Christian Church was decommissioned many of its members moved their membership to Seventh Street Christian Church, it was a homecoming.

Update from the Historical Committee:

What's Happening in Our Library?

Part of Dr. Rolen's vision for our church included a space to display some of our historical items so they would be visible to members and visitors alike. After careful consideration, the Library was deemed the best location. Changes in the Library therefore include the following: some books have been relocated, the shelves removed, and a white background mounted. As the Summer goes by, look for items to be assembled and mounted, with labeling, to help tell the story of our church. The display will be permanent, covered by plexi-glass for the security of the items as well as for an unobstructed view. This will be Dr. Rolen's visible legacy to our church.

- Mildred Bruce, Historian Committee

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Seventh Street Christian Church
www.seventhstreetchristianchurch.org
office@seventhstreetchristianchurch.org
Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9-1 P.M.

Join us for worship at 11 A.M. each Sunday!

Ministry Updates

Outreach Ministries

Gray Haven Project Ministry:

A new Immediate Wish List is posted in the Narthex. It includes: diapers, supplies, and clothing for newborns; baby wipes; healthy snacks; bottled water; and paper goods. The Summer Workbooks have been collected. Thank you to all who supported this need with your generosity. An announcement for school supplies will be forthcoming.

Liberation Family Services Ministry:

Lunch was served to the veterans at the Liberation Family Service Center on July 3. Lunch was followed by a wonderful time of conversation and fellowship. Thank you, Janet Morris for helping with this ministry.

Meals on Wheels Ministry:

The Meals on Wheels Ministry meets at Feed More Center on the 4th and 5th Monday of each month. Time commitment is only 2 hours. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please contact Olivette Cox, 272-8046.

Bright Beginnings Program:

Again this year, Seventh Street Christian Church, in conjunction with the YMCA, will participate in the **Bright Beginnings Program** on August 25. Our Outreach Team is looking for volunteers who are willing to help a school child shop for school clothes using funds provided by the Bright Beginnings Program.

YMCA Bright Beginnings is a community outreach program that provides thousands of local, disadvantaged children with fall school clothes and the supplies that they need to start off the new school year with confidence and pride. Volunteers meet at the Target in White Oak Village on Thursday, August 25, at 5:30 p.m. Each child is allocated \$100 from the program for the purpose of purchasing two complete outfits, plus underwear, socks, shoes, and a sweater or jacket. After a brief volunteer orientation, you and your child "Buddy" will be paired and enjoy a dinner together provided by the program. Afterwards, you will assist your Buddy as they shop for their school clothes. Your Buddy may be anywhere in the age range of a rising kindergarten through 5th grade

student. Your photo will be taken with your Buddy so that he or she can take it home as a souvenir of your time together.

If you would like to participate in Bright Beginnings, please contact Sharon Abernathy at sharonabernathy@live.com or see Liz Hulette. A sign-up form is also available at the Welcome Station in the Narthex.

Volunteering with the Outreach Ministries:

Anyone wishing to volunteer, or to find out more information about the Outreach Ministry, please contact Liz Hulette, 794-9219. **"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."**

Disciples Men's Fellowship:

Due to the recent closure of Paradise Diner, the Disciples Men's Fellowship will now meet at the restaurant inside the Westwood Pharmacy – 5823 Patterson Avenue, Richmond – on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9 A.M..

Disciples Men's Fellowship events are open to any man wishing to participate. For more information, contact Rick McCullough at 971-7872.

Disciples Women's Ministries

DWM would like to thank all people who helped with the yard sale. It was a big job and many hands made lighter work for all. Your generous support helped raise \$1880 which will toward the DWM special projects and ministries. Items not sold were donated to the Purple Heart, Christian World Service, and other support agencies in the community.

DWM ministry will start back up in September. Thank you to the many ladies for their time and commitment to this ministry, and to the congregation for their support this year.

TeleCare Ministry

Now celebrating its 45th Year Anniversary!



TeleCare is looking for members.

Anyone needing TeleCare is invited to become a member. Age, sex, race, religion, financial status, or anything else will not discriminate you from this free

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Task Force/Committee Updates:

Pastoral Search Task Force:

Your Pastoral Search Task Force has begun the process of finding our next Pastor. Members and friends of SSCC have an extremely important role: Pray for the Search Committee and pray for Seventh Street! To encourage our prayers, our elders will weekly, during worship, lead the congregation in a dedicated prayer. Your support and help is essential as Seventh Street claims a faithful future.

- Steve Cheney, Board & Pastoral Team Chair

Update from the Constitution/Bylaw Task Force:

The Constitution/Bylaw Task Force has been working hard reviewing and reworking these important documents so they may better serve the congregation we are today. We hope to complete our task very soon. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

- Mark Anderson, Leader Constitution/Bylaw Task Force

Called Congregational Meeting Update:

One June 19, a Called Congregational Meeting was called. At this meeting the congregation unanimously approved the following agenda items:

- The 2016 Back-Half and Full Year Budget
- The recommendation from the board to accept the quote from RTW, pending funding of up to \$25,000 by the Seventh Street Foundation, for a new sound system.
- The recommendation from the board to use the "Key Elements . . ." document provided to hire an attorney to review and draft the appropriate legal document(s) for entering into an agreement between SSCC and HARPS-AOM, understanding that the legal documents must be approved by the board and Trustees

Please take a moment to celebrate these accomplishments in the life of our church!

Update from the Transformation Team:

The Transformation Team is proud to share our new Seventh Street Christian Church "Vision, Mission, and We..." statements. Thanks again to the members and friends of Seventh Street for their engagement and support during the past few months as these statements were finalized.

SSCC Vision, Mission, and "We . . ." **Statements**

Vision Statement: We are a community, united in faith and service, sharing God's grace and love with all creation.

Mission Statement: Where worship and service lead to gratitude and a relationship with God and each other.

We . . .

- Recognize the richness of human experience and varied approaches to a faithful life
- Encourage, challenge, and support one another to discover, live, and be transformed by Christian faith
- Accept all forms of baptism
- Set an "open communion" table each week welcoming all who desire to respond to Christ's invitation to a table of grace and mercy.
- Engage our community and world through a lived faith that responds to the needs of our environment and all living things with compassion, the potentials of restorative justice, peace, hope
- Embrace the arts as a powerful way God touches and transforms lives
- Create, nurture, and value opportunities to gather, worship, study, and celebrate the fullness of life
- Honor our rich history as we move forward in the 21st Century



BIRTHDAYS FOR JULY

DAVID KOERNER – JULY 1

ZACHARY JONES – JULY 16

MARY KAY CONNASTER – JULY 19

MARY BENNETT – JULY 24

FORD LANTERMAN – JULY 24

TOSKY TAYLOR – JULY 25

LINDA MOTTSHEARD – JULY 26

HUNTER COCKRELL – JULY 27

GRAHAM WALTERS – JULY 31



SERVING SCHEDULES FOR JULY

ELDERS

JULY 3 – PAT MAYS & STEVE SANDERFORD

JULY 10 – OLIVETTE COX & CHERYL LAGE

JULY 17 – JIM ELLIOTT & LINDA MOTTSHEARD

JULY 24 – LINDA MOTTSHEARD & PAUL MENNETTI

JULY 31 – BETTY BUTTERWORTH & PAUL MENNETTI

DEACONS

MONTH OF JULY:

JUDY LINDSEY (LEADER)

LIZ HULETTE, NANCY GARVER, JANET MORRIS

COMMUNION STEWARDS

JULY 3 – NANCY GARVER

JULY 10 – WHITNEY WALTERS

JULY 17 – JANET MORRIS

JULY 24 – MELISSA TAYLOR

JULY 31 – JANET MORRIS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

JULY 3 – MARK ANDERSON

JULY 10 – STEVE SANDERFORD

JULY 17 – CHERYL LAGE

JULY 24 – STEVE CHENEY

JULY 31 – BILL DICKINSON

OFFERING COUNTERS

JULY 5 – JUDY GUNN/ LILA SHOTWELL

JULY 11- JOYCE CLARKE/ MARY ROSE RAGSDALE

JULY 18 – FRANK BEDELL/ BILL BUCKNER

JULY 25- OLIVETTE COX/ NANCY GARVER

CALL TO WORSHIP

July 3- Terri Cheney

July 10 – Betty Butterworth

July 17 – Nancy Garver

July 24 – Mildred Bruce

July 31 – E.L. Butterworth

Worship Leaders needed

Seventh Street Christian Church has a need for Worship Leaders for the following dates below. Worship Leaders lead the Call to Worship reading and Opening Prayer. If you are willing to serve in this capacity for any of these dates, please contact Whitney Walters, whitneylag@hotmail.com or 243-3279.

Dates of need are:

August 21, August 28, October 2, October 16, October 30, November 20, November 27, December 11, December 18, December 25.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JULY 2 – ICGR RETREAT PLAN MEETING, HANOVER HALL 10 A.M.

JULY 3 – LFS LUNCH FOR THE VETERANS, LFS CENTER, 12 P.M.

JULY 9 - DISCIPLES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

JULY 10 – DR. BLAKE STARTS AS INTERIM MINISTER

JULY 11 – CHURCH BOARD MEETING, LIBRARY, 7 P.M.

JULY 18 – MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY, FEED MORE

JULY 22 – CHURCH WORK DAY

JULY 23 – CHURCH WORK DAY

JULY 20 – CONSTITUTION/BYLAW TASK FORCE, LIBRARY, 7 P.M.

JULY 25 – MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY, FEED MORE

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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 alone, especially elderly, independent adults.

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

**OUR NEW INTERIM MINISTER:
DR. WILLIAM E. BLAKE, JR.**

Dear Members of Seventh Street Christian Church,
We are delighted to introduce Dr. William E. Blake Jr. as our Interim Minister to lead us through the period between Dr. Chuck Rolen’s departure and the arrival of our new pastor to be called.

Dr. Blake is well known to many of us, his credentials include:

- graduate of the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Christian Seminary, and Union Theological Seminary of Virginia.
- ordained as a Disciples of Christ Minister in 1950.
- has held 11 pastorates in Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.
- retired Professor Emeritus of History from Virginia Commonwealth University.
- married to Miriam for over 65 years. Miriam is an accomplished musician and has shared her talents playing music in churches for 50 years.

- Bill and Miriam have raised three children and have seven grandchildren.
- Dr. Blake will be available during his office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. Please try to call ahead for an appointment so that Dr. Blake will be sure he can be available to you. You can reach him through the church office 358-4194 or at his home 264-6706. You can also reach him via email SSCCPastor@gmail.com.

TIES THAT BIND

Dear Congregation of Seventh Street Christian Church,

Thank you for allowing us to perform “Esther on the Air” at your church. We appreciate your welcoming environment and hope that we may have touched your hearts with our satirical retelling of the story of Esther. We appreciate that you’ve allowed us to do this by performing this story for you, and leave knowing that, like Esther, we have been sent to the right place at the right time in order to share our faith and be humble servants to the Lord. We extend our gratitude to you and we pray that you may be blessed in many ways.

Sincerely, Peachtree CC’s Christian Acting Singing Troupe (CAST)

Seventh Street Christian Church
4101 Grove Ave
Richmond, VA 23221

FIX POSTAGE HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321

