

News at Seventh Street

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

August 2016

SUMMER VACATION AND FALL STARTUP

Pastoral Note from Dr. William E. Blake, Jr.

Having entered the last month before school begins again, set me thinking about life in the church in New Testament days and now, particularly the contrasts between their lives in summer and early fall and ours.

Modern churches in the west design their programs around the expectation that there will be reduced church activity in the summer, because members will be gone on vacation. So, in summer church activities are reduced to a minimum. By mid-August, the word in church papers and bulletins is "Fall Startup," "September Kickoff," or the older term, "Rally Day."

How foreign all of this would seem to first-century Christians! Try to imagine Peter and James, Mary Magdalene and Lydia, Paul and Martha announcing that church activities would have to be reduced because many of the folk would be down at their places on the Mediterranean or the Aegean next week. And then in mid-August a relaxed and sun-tanned Paul would stand up in the Church at Ephesus and announce the great "Hippodrome Push off" at the church the last week in September!

I know – we live at a very different time and in a very different world with a very different class of people. There is no way that we will go back to first century days or ways, although one of the themes of our denomination has been that of "restoring the church of the New Testament." If there's no chance that we will forsake our modern ways of "doing church," to use that awful term, why am I bringing up the contrast between then and now? "Are you trying to induce guilt for our summer fun?" you may ask.

I'm really not trying to make anyone feel guilty or uncomfortable. If Christianity is about spreading the love of Christ – and it is, that can be done "at one's place on the Mediterranean" or the Rappahannock, as well as in church in Richmond. And people may well attend worship services at vacation sites.

My only aim is to urge reflection upon the seriousness of servanthood. Reread the behavior of disciples in the New Testament; learn from that behavior the constancy and life-and-death devotion to be exhibited wherever you are. Learn from those disciples that there was never a vacation from things that really matter in life.

With all good wishes to members and friends of Seventh Street Church,

Dr. Blake

Dr. Blake will be available during his office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 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

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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!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SEPTEMBER 6 – READ CENTER STARTS

SEPTEMBER 12 – CHURCH BOARD MEETING, LIBRARY 7 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 21 – PRAYER CIRCLE AND ADVENT

MINISTRY UPDATES

Outreach Ministries

Gray Haven Project Ministry:

Thank you for the donations of newborn items and school supplies! These items have been delivered. Gray Haven is very grateful for your continued support of their organization.

Liberation Family Services Ministry:

Lunch was served to the veterans at the Liberation Family Service Center on August 7 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. Special thanks to Olivette Cox, Carole Chaffin, Pat Mays, and Rachel Londeree for your service to this ministry.

Bright Beginnings Program – Thursday, August 25 at Target in White Oak Village, 5:30 P.M.

Sometimes it's the littlest things that make a big difference in a child's life, like having 2 brand new and totally fabulous outfits in which to start back to school. YMCA Bright Beginnings makes that possible. And Seventh Street's Outreach is looking for volunteers to help these kids shop.

Seventh Street's "YMCA Bright Beginnings" volunteers will meet at the Target in White Oak Village this Thursday, August 25 at 5:30 P.M.

What Bright Beginnings is:

This is a community outreach program that provides thousands of local, disadvantaged children with fall school clothes and supplies that they need to start off the new school year with confidence and pride.

How it works:

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.

What you as a volunteer will do:

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 he or she shops for their school clothes. Your Buddy may be anywhere in the age range of a rising kindergartner 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 Liz Hulette.

Shopping + making kids happy = a priceless experience and a beautiful memory!

Volunteering with our Outreach Ministries:

Anyone wishing to volunteer, or to find out more information about these Outreach Ministries, please contact Liz Hulette, 794-9219.

"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

Disciples Men's Fellowship:

Disciples Men's Fellowship meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9 A.M. at the Westwood Fountain restaurant, – 5823 Patterson Avenue, Richmond .

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 ministry will start back in September.

TeleCare Ministry

TeleCare is looking for members and substitute volunteers.

Anyone needing TeleCare is invited to become a member. There are no age, sex, race, religion, financial status, or any other distinctions for 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.

This service is custom-made for those who live alone, or spend long periods alone, especially elderly, independent adults.

Call TeleCare (358-0451) or Tush Metcalf (288-8755) to become a member or a substitute volunteer.



Now celebrating its 45th Year Anniversary!

VISION, MISSION, AND “WE. . .” STATEMENTS

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

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

Financial/Stewardship Committee Update:

SSCC Stewardship Campaign

This year’s Stewardship Campaign will begin Sunday, September 11 and conclude on Sunday, September 25 with our annual Consecration Day luncheon in Hanover Hall.

More information to come. Please mark your calendar for this important season in the life of our church.

Update from the Historical Committee:

What’s Happening in the 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 with 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.

BIRTHDAYS FOR AUGUST

NANCY GARVER – AUGUST 3

MARGARET BUCKNER – AUGUST 4

KATY LINDSEY – AUGUST 5

SANDRA BLACKER – AUGUST 10

MARY SHUFORD – AUGUST 13

BRAD LONDEREE – AUGUST 15

DAVID HINCKLE – AUGUST 16

GRAYSON CHENEY – AUGUST 19

MARY ROSE RAGSDALE – AUGUST 23

ANDREW WRIGHT – AUGUST 25

KIRSTEN SANDERFORD – AUGUST 27

TED SLUSHER – AUGUST 28

BOB ALVIS – AUGUST 30



SERVING SCHEDULES FOR AUGUST

ELDERS

AUGUST 7 – BETTY BUTTERWORTH & CHERYL LAGE

AUGUST 14 – OLIVETTE COX & STEVE SANDERFORD

AUGUST 21 – JIM ELLIOTT & PAT MAYS

AUGUST 28 – LINDA MOTTSHEARD & PAUL MENNETTI

DEACONS

BILL BUCKNER (LEADER)

ANDREW WALTERS, KIRSTEN SANDERFORD, PETE RICHARDSON

Seventh Street Christian Church
4101 Grove Ave
Richmond, VA 23221

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

COMMUNION STEWARDS

AUGUST 7 – NANCY GARVER, PAT MAYS

AUGUST 14 – WHITNEY WALTERS

AUGUST 21 – PAT MAYS

AUGUST 28 – MELISSA TAYLOR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AUGUST 7 – BILL BLAKE

AUGUST 14 – ALEX SLUSHER

AUGUST 21 – KIRSTEN SANDERFORD

AUGUST 28 – TERRI CHENEY

OFFERING COUNTERS

AUGUST 1 – JUDY GUNN, PAT MAYS

AUGUST 8 – JOYCE CLARKE, MARY ROSE RAGSDALE

AUGUST 15 – FRANK BEDELL, BILL BUCKNER

AUGUST 22 – OLIVETTE COX, NANCY GARVER

AUGUST 29 – JUDY GUNN, PAT MAYS

CALL TO WORSHIP

August 7 – Jessie Kelley

August 14 – Alex Slusher

August 21 – Judy Gunn

August 28 – Cheryl Lage

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