

February @ a Glance

FREE CONCERTS THIS WEEKEND! ACADEMY OF MUSIC'S WINTER RECITALS

February 2 @ 7-8:30p Chamber Music and Chamber Orchestra Winter Recital

February 4 @ 1:30 & 3:30p Faculty and Students Winter Recitals



YOUTH BRUNCH OUTING

February 11 meet in church parking lot at 12:15p

We will go to the Dairy Bar for food and fellowship! Contact Jayme Babczak with questions at jayme@seventhstreetchristianchurch.org

ELDER & DEACON TRAINING

February 11 @ 12:15-2:15p, Library

Join us for the Elder & Deacon Training on Sunday, February 11. While this training is designed to better equip our Elders and Deacons, **anyone can attend!** We will review the biblical history of these roles, walk through the practical aspects of this important leadership position and learn about Pastoral presence and prayer. So bring your lunch and join us!



PANCAKE SUPPER & ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

February 14 @ 5p, Hanover Hall

The annual pancake supper to benefit Meals on Wheels will take place on Wednesday, February 14. While the meal is free, donations will be accepted. Following dinner is our Ash Wednesday Service where you can receive the imposition of ashes. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a 40 day period of preparation of remembering the life, ministry and crucifixion of Jesus, that leads up to Easter.

FAITH AND FERMENTATION LENTEN SERIES

February 18-April 8

Informal Potluck Dinners each Sunday at various locations. (See page 3 for the schedule).

Got Zymology? Zymology, or the study of fermentation, is a metabolic process in which an organism converts a carbohydrate, such as starch or a sugar, into an alcohol or an acid. Fermentation is the creative space between fresh and rotten, preserving foods until they come around again the next season. Foods like bread, sauerkraut, cheese, beer, kombucha and even chocolate go through a fermentation process that help replenish and provide good bacteria for our gut! (Let's not underestimate their taste too!)



YOUTH DAY AT CAMP HANOVER

February 25 @ 2-4 p.m.

We will depart Seventh Street at 1:15p. Invite a friend and join us for an afternoon of fellowship with youth from all over central VA!

Message from Rev. Hollie



My former coworker, who volunteers with an animal shelter, continually convinces me to foster dogs while they work to find homes. She dealt with the rejects of rejects; many times the ones who have been so abused they lacked all social skills. A couple years ago, she convinced me to take an expecting mamma! Before I fully thought the commitment through I exclaimed, "Of course!"

One early Tuesday morning, I came down to witness Ezzy, as I called her, giving birth to a total of 9 puppies! What I also witnessed was her animal instinct to love (what I think we humans would call love) – to make sure her pups were fed and cleaned, to rush back in the room if they were crying, and even exercise self care so she could be at her best.

While she had 9 pups, she lost one the first night. It was frail and struggling as soon as it was born and I would have been surprised had it made it! Even so, it was sad. While I saw Ezzy love, I also witnessed her grieve – or some version of it. After her pups passing she started searching everywhere for it. While I think she knew it had died, my removing it was not acceptable. Searching around the house, she found random objects (nasal aspirator and dryer balls), which she brought back to her whelping box. As a rationale human, I explained to her that these were not her puppies and removed them. She looked at me, jumped out of her whelping box to retrieve the surrogates. She didn't just have them in the box with her; she buried them under the sheets. This happened several times until I realized, perhaps, this was her instinctual way of grieving and I should respect that.

In a couple weeks, we will be moving our way through Lent. Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect on the seasons of life, its frailty, its beauty and grief. Often such things bring us discomfort and we quickly move to numb it (choose your numbing agent). Jesus' time in the wilderness was his way of not running from things of discomfort but letting whatever emotion surface and feeling it fully. I believe this process made him stronger, more compassionate and prepared for his ministry. In the words of poet and writer, Alice Walker – "You have to go to the places that scare you so that you can see: What do you really believe? Who are you really?" May we have the courage to follow in his ways.

Be well,
Hollie

Jayne Babczak – Children & Youth Coordinator

Can you remember the feeling of going to a playground as a child? I can recall plenty of excitement with each rock of the swing, feelings of joy as the wind blew on my face going down the slide, and a bit of fear as I reached for each monkey bar...

What if we began to think of worship as our own pray-ground? Worship is a time where we encounter the love and grace of God in community with others. Worship is a time where we get excited to pray alongside our neighbors and can experience the joy that is in the praise songs we sing. Worship is a time where we may feel fearful at first, but choose to take risks of faith by seeking justice and peace in our world.

I would love to talk with you about how worship is your own pray-ground. Send me a note or set up a time with me to chat! Together, let's play more freely and pray more fiercely in the weeks ahead.

jayne@seventhstreetchristianchurch.org




"Hidden Figures" movie outing at the Byrd!

Outreach



Liberation Veterans Services

Give back to our veterans with a prepared lunch and conversation every first Sunday of the month immediately after church. Food is prepared downstairs and taken to the LVS Center (1201 Hull Street). Donated items are delivered during this visit.



**\$5/
container of
soup**

Soup Sale to benefit Fisher House: a compassionate care facility located on military bases throughout Virginia.

Give the gift of warmth to your body and support this important organization for military families of Virginia!
**Hanover Hall every Sunday
after church
thru February**

Special Thanks to all our Volunteers!

Liberation Veteran Services:
Olivette Cox (donated hygiene kits)
Janet Morris

FeedMore/Meals on Wheels:
Carole Chaffin, Pat Mays, Olivette Cox, Nancy Garver
Janet Morris and Tush Metcalf (subs)

Kimote Foundation:
Sarah Anderson

Giving Tree Mission Project:
Stewart Shotwell

Thanks to you all at Seventh Street for your amazing support!
Want to donate your time to one of our many Outreach Ministries? Contact Liz Hulette (794-9219)

Faith and Fermentation Lenten Series

As we enter Lent, a forty day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter, we will explore the unique parallels between fermentation and our faith. How do we sustain ourselves spiritually when new life isn't here yet? How do we create the conditions to sustain our faith? How do we prepare ourselves for the new life that is in front of us? Each week we will explore the metaphor of food and spiritual fermentation by making or tasting a fermented food, observing a long-standing monastic practice and sharing what is fermenting within our own spirits during this season of deep reflection. We hope you will join us!

The Faith & Fermentation Series will meet in various locations over a potluck supper. The main time of the study will be from 5-7PM (unless otherwise indicated), but may start earlier depending on what we are making. Email revhollie@gmail.com for more information

February 18 @ 4-6p
Location: Hanover Hall Seventh Street Christian Church

March 25
Location: TBD

February 25
Location: Rev. Hollie's House

April 8
Location: Rev. Hollie's House

March 4
Location: TBD

March 11
Location: Rev. Hollie's House

March 18
Location: TBD



Saying goodbye is never easy, especially when you have welcomed so many people into your heart as I have all of you. However, I leave knowing that Seventh Street takes this next step on their journey stronger and more confident in who they are as a church, just as I take my next steps stronger and more confident in who I am as a person and God's plan for me.

The best way to end one story is to tell the beginning and so I'll share what led me to your church and the answer to my prayers. In 2014 still wondering if I had made the right choice in substituting my original career of a costume designer/tech for a Product Marketing Specialist of a dance costume manufacturer, I prayed a single prayer that changed my life completely. "Lord, wherever it is you want me to go, whatever it is you want me to do, I will go and I will do it." Everything was going great. My husband and I had gotten finance approval to start looking for our first house; I had just finished copywriting the last page of the new season's catalog; and my coworkers and I were excited about the future as we heard rumors that new investors were going to upgrade our equipment. I thought, 'There's my answer, I'm where I need to be.'

Then 4 weeks later the company's owners sold over controlling interest to the new investors and the company closed that week. I was devastated and felt betrayed; this was not how I wanted things to turn out when I prayed that prayer. "Lord, how could you do this to me? Is this some kind of a joke?" I was distraught that the oldest apparel manufacturer in the U.S. – who survived the Great Depression and even expanded during the 2008 Recession – could disappear in a week just as "Made in America" was trending again. So, I went back to school to study law. I thought that if I could learn the system I could use law to prevent this tragedy from happening to other U.S. companies. Yet, no matter what angle I took in my faux cases' defenses, it was achingly clear that you can't use law to force ethical behavior and still maintain freedom.

In my soul searching, I attempted to find the answer to the question "what is value?" What is the gauge that we measure the worth of something? Why are some things worth investing in and others are not? Who sets that standard for value? Why does money have such power over people? Is money good or evil? Praying the whole time: "Lord give me insight." And He did. He exposed me to people and situations that I never even considered before consumed only with my own little world. It opened my eyes to how frail our gauges of

value are in measuring people's worth. It showed me that value is nothing more than the weight of importance we place on another person, place, thing, or idea. Value is relative to perspective. Regarding another person as equally valuable is what Christ meant by "loving one another as ourselves."

I took this insight God gave me and complied it into a stewardship lesson that I am currently sharing with my church as the Chair of a unique committee called SPARK 2.0. I find that as I actively incorporate these words into my life that God continues to show me why they are necessary for relationship building.

As my parting gift to you, here are the tools of Stewardship that God taught me would bring unity and growth to a church, a community, a marriage, a family, and our nation.

FOUNDATION:

Responsibly – Taking personal responsibility for our own actions and acknowledging our own part we must play to get the results we want to see happen.

Respect – Recognizing everyone has valuable contributions in the wisdom of their experiences regardless of their wealth, age, or occupational status and that we can learn a lot if we are willing to listen.

BONDING ELEMENT:

Engage – Making the effort to participate and lift up others in encouragement rather than putting them down even when mistakes are made.

STRUCTURE:

Partner – Asking ourselves: "What do I want for my church and my community and what of my time, money, talent, and spiritual gifts am I willing to invest to make this happen?"

LONGEVITY:

Commit – Stewardship is an ongoing personal commitment to commit these words into our lives daily.

God has great things still in store for Seventh Street. He has brought you amazing interims and a fantastic senior pastor to guide you in His path. Have faith that God's hand is at work. Thank you for helping me heal and teaching me so much!

Yours in Christ,

Shannon McCallister

Follow my philosophical quest of value online:

redesignyourthinking.blog

Wandering through Worship: A Movement Toward Hospitality

On January 28, the congregation voted to adopt the proposed Youth/Children initiative that moves to create a welcoming space for children, families and differently bodied individuals. Over the next month, we will work to prepare the congregation and sanctuary for these changes. For now, we want to make sure you are aware of this exciting transformation that will be taking place! For the full proposal click [here](#).

Experiential Changes in Worship:

Wandering through Worship will, at first, take place on the first and third Sundays of the month beginning on March 4, with the intention of making it weekly. Children (Ages 3-7) can begin worship in the sanctuary with their families or be dropped off in childcare between 10:30am and 11am and brought to worship with staff. An effort will be made to incorporate a child-friendly worship experience including more child-led components of worship, repetitive and simple hymn selections, a children's bulletin, etc. Prior to the sermon, children will be invited to exit the sanctuary and participate in Wandering through Worship in the chapel. This program will allow children to actively listen to the Bible story and engage in a related activity. Children will reenter worship during the doxology / presentation of the offering – with the opportunity to sit up in the front of the sanctuary (or with family members) where they can see what is happening and participate in the remainder of worship, including communion.

Physical Changes in the Sanctuary:

One of the greatest attributes of Seventh Street Christian Church is the beautiful sanctuary. The vaulted ceilings, stained glass windows and chancel area are awe-inspiring. In order to create more flexible seating for families and/or individuals who need more space to get situated, we will be removing 4 pews and the front pew footboards. Making space with these changes allows for easier and safer movement for guests and provides a sense of dignity for those who have physical limitations.

- **Removal of left and right back pew to add chairs:** For many in our congregation the narrow, sturdy pews are not comfortable. This, coupled with a lack of space to maneuver wheel chairs or walkers, sends the message of inhospitality and discomfort! The back two pews will be replaced with several oversized red chairs to create more comfortable seating and space.
- **Removal of left and right center pews (short):** One side will be designated as a family seating area and will include an addition of floor mats, pillows and activity bags so children and parents can move comfortably and stay occupied, as needed. The other side will create flexible seating options for differently bodied people and their assistive devices.
- **Removal of front pew footboards:** This will allow for children to gather, see and participate in worship when they reenter the sanctuary.

