



THE BEACON

Upcoming Dates

February 2

Senior Dinner, 6:00 pm

February 5

Youth, Noon

February 7

Church Council, 6:30 pm

February 16

Senior Dinner, 6:00 pm

February 19

Youth, noon

February 21

Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Supper, 6:00 pm

February 22

Ash Wednesday Worship
7:00 pm

February 26

Youth Potato Bar,
Noon



As I reflect back on my younger days of church life it just seems that Easter kind of showed up one Sunday. That is, there wasn't much in the way of preparation. Unlike Christmas, which was preceded by Advent, Easter seemed to have no introduction. Easter Sunday simply came and we celebrated the resurrection.

As I grew older, matured in my faith, and found myself involved in different congregations, I came to appreciate so much more the season of Lent in the life of the church. The forty days leading up to Easter offered me the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross, his suffering, and his commitment to living out God's will. Each day of the 40 day journey allowed me to consider God's own call in my life, my own cross, and what God was asking of me to sacrifice in Jesus' name.

The season of Lent begins this month on Ash Wednesday, February 22. On this evening we will gather in the sanctuary to begin our journey together to the cross of Christ and ultimately to the empty tomb. Along the way we will have the opportunity in our Sundays of worship to consider what this journey to the cross looks like in our own lives. Our worship will be designed in such a way that the motif of journey is always before us. As we make this journey, God's Spirit is then able to work in our lives and prepare us for the resurrection that will follow on Easter Sunday. We will not rush to Easter, but in prayerful movement we will come closer and closer to Good Friday's cross and Easter's empty tomb.

Philip

“If any want to become my followers, let them **deny** themselves and take up their **cross** and **follow** me.”

Matthew 16:24



Clint's Corner

In the prologue to his book *A Rumor of War*, Philip Caputo writes, "The marines in our brigade were not innately cruel, but on landing at Danang they learned rather quickly that Vietnam was not a place where a man could expect much mercy if, say, he was taken prisoner. And men who do not expect to receive mercy eventually lose their inclination to grant it."

The word "mercy" is correctly used synonymously for "compassion" and generally means to have pity for someone. Mercy is an emotion triggered by the afflictions of another, and this emotion binds the two parties together. At the same time there is a difference between the two parties, one granting mercy and the other serving as recipient. This difference is at the heart of God's mercy toward humanity, for we, being ungodly ourselves, may only serve as recipients of divine mercy. Even so, we are charged with the task of emulating this divine mercy toward others.

"Mercy," says Henry Blackaby, "is a gift. It is undeserved." It is unearned. We do not work overtime each week so we might receive a portion of mercy in addition to our salary. Mercy is freely given, or it is freely withheld. In the parable of the unforgiving servant Jesus says, "Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'" God has reached out to us with merciful hands, and God expects us to do the same.

We have come to expect mercy from God. Over the years of our Christian pilgrimage we have been educated in the fine art of repentance and forgiveness, even to the point where these important biblical truths have been reduced to mere rote. It may be that we do not possess a full comprehension of the mercy God has extended to us. We commit terrible offenses against one another, but can any of these compare with our offenses against God. Without mercy our hearts become callused, mere steps away from the hardened hearts of the Pharaohs.

"And men who do not expect to receive mercy eventually lose their inclination to grant it," writes Caputo. He is writing here, not about God's mercy toward humankind, but our mercy toward one another. How can we, those of us who have experienced the mercy of God, fail to extend compassion to one another? I'm not exactly sure how we fail, why we fail, or when we fail, but we do; not always, but often enough. Can fulfilling our call to share the kingdom of God's love with all people ever be achieved without the element of mercy? If the world cannot expect to receive mercy from those who call themselves children of God, from whom can it be expected?



We would like to thank all of our church family for the prayers, calls, visits, and other acts of kindness shown to my family during the loss of a mother and grandmother, Elsie Mitchell. It is times like this when the support of your church family gets you through the difficult times.

Joseph Mitchell, Karen Jarrell
and their families



Signa Tours

1237 Mall Drive ❖ Richmond, VA 23235
(804) 379-6500 ❖ (888) 540-0100

**The Pine Street Seniors Presents:
"Peter Pan" at Liberty University
Saturday - April 28th, 2012**

Come, join your Pine Street friends today as they travel once again to Lynchburg, Virginia, for a great afternoon of entertainment!

Enjoy lunch at *The Spring House Restaurant* - family style dining at its best! They boast a very comfortable and unique dining experience. All entrees and side dishes are delivered table side in bowls and platters. On the menu today: Fried Shrimp, Honey Baked Ham, Green Beans, Whipped Potatoes with gravy, Macaroni and Cheese, Corn Pudding, Sweet Potato Casserole, Biscuits with Apple Butter, Dessert and beverage!

Today's Performance at Liberty University. . . "Peter Pan"

This Alluvion Stage Company debut performance (professional theatre actors will be in this show along with students) follows the journey of the 3 Darling family children, Wendy, Michael and John. Wendy enjoys telling her younger siblings stories about the mythical Peter Pan, the little boy who never grew up. One night, much to everyone's surprise, Peter flies into the Darling nursery, in search of his shadow, which Wendy had previously captured. Sprinkling the kids with magic pixie dust, Peter flies off to Never-Never Land, with Wendy, Michael and John following behind. Once in Peter's domain, the children are terrorized by Captain Hook, who intends to capture Peter and do away with him. After rescuing Indian princess Tiger Lily from Captain Hook, Peter must save the children, not to mention his own "Lost Boys," from the diabolical pirate captain. In addition, he must contend with the jealousy of tiny sprite Tinker Bell, who doesn't like Wendy one little bit. First produced on Broadway with Mary Martin and Cyril Richard, and more recently a major hit starring Cathy Rigby, this is one of the world's most celebrated musicals. Here is all the charm of J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, the Darling children, pirates and Indians, embellished with show-stopping songs like "Never Never Land", "I Won't Grow Up" and "I'm Flying".

Your Tour Cost Includes:

Round-trip Motorcoach Transportation ♪ Lunch at The Spring House
Matinee Performance of "Peter Pan" ♪ Tax & Gratuity on Inclusions
Refreshments Aboard the Motorcoach ♪ Driver Gratuity

Tour Cost Per Person: \$89.00

Payment due **NO LATER** than March 16th

**Please Make Check Payable to
Pine Street Baptist and Mail to:**

Linda Johnston
2112 Jarman Lane
Richmond, VA 23235
(804) 272-2744 Cell: (804) 467-1789

Departs: Pine Street Baptist Church 9:30 AM

Returns: Pine Street Baptist Church 6:30 PM

Cancellations made within three (3) business days of departure are "Non-Refundable." In addition, once show tickets are purchased they are non-refundable.

Youth Potato Bar Fundraiser

Sunday, February 26 after worship

Enjoy a hot baked potato, garden fresh salad,

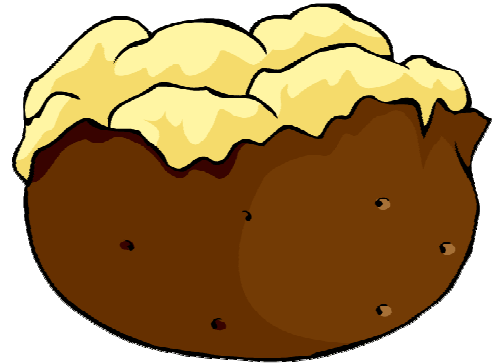
and dessert as you help to support our youth ministry

Cost: \$6 per adult

\$3 per child or youth

\$15 for a family

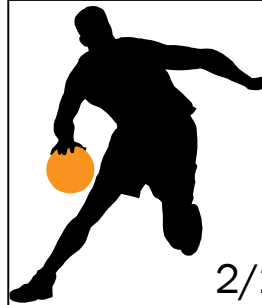
Call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board to make your reservation



New Church Offering Envelopes

will be available this month. You may pick up your envelopes on the table outside the sanctuary.

If you do not see your set of envelopes then please contact the church office.



Men's Basketball Schedule

2/2: 8:00 pm

2/16 6:30 pm

Games

are played at Byrd Middle School
Come out and support your team



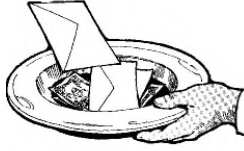
Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 PM

All committee chairpersons and church officers are asked to attend

Budget Report Through January 29

Budget : \$62,226
 Given to Date: \$53,085
 Variance: -\$9,141



**Contributions were made to the
 Ministries Endowment in memory of:**

Elsie Mitchell, Robert Hagan

**Contributions were made to the
 Properties Endowment in memory of:**

Elsie Mitchell. Billy Wells, Norman Wood, Jr.



New Addresses



Dot Wood
 1600 Westwood Avenue, Apt A-308
 Richmond, VA 23227
 804-474-1960

Marvin and Jean Hill
 14301 Brandermill Wodds Trail, #A106
 Midlothian, VA 23112

February Birthdays

- 3: Carissa Downer
 5: Rusty Grove
 6: Russell Walz
 Jessi Vaught
 8: Karen Lawson
 10: Rose Floyd
 11: Stewart Landrum
 12: Richard Lacy
 13: Vivian Pollok
 15: Brandy Grove
 18: Cameron Blankenship
 20: Angie Hall
 21: Virginia Snellings
 27: Tyler Walker
 Lillian Ashworth



Anniversaries

- 21: Beth and Alex Wang
 25: Mr and Mrs. Raleigh Robin-
 son

**Congratulations to
 Chris, Caroline and Luca Neal
 in the birth of:
 Julian Connelly Neal
 Born January 19, 2012**



**Pine Street Baptist Church
A Steadfast Fellowship of Grace**

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Richmond, Virginia 23220

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www.pinestbaptist.com**

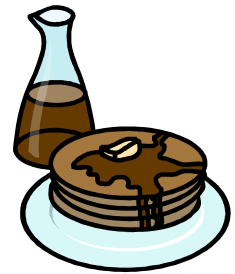
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 P.M

Cost: \$4 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 max per family

Monies raised will be given to the
Church's Benevolence Fund

Call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board to confirm
your reservation.



**Ash Wednesday
Worship
February 22 at 7:00
P.M.**