

# THE BEACON

## Upcoming Dates

### **September 4**

Church Council - 6:30 pm

### **September 5**

Family Worship - 6:45 pm

### **September 6**

Senior Dinner - 6:00 pm

### **September 7**

Movie Night at dark

### **September 9**

Church Picnic

### **September 10**

Deacon's Meeting  
7:00 pm

### **September 11**

Wallace Circle - 10:00 am

### **September 17**

Duke Group

### **September 19**

Annual Business Meeting  
6:45 pm

### **September 20**

Senior Adult Dinner

### **September 21**

Movie Night at dark

### **September 30**

Youth Meeting at noon

With the arrival of the month of September, once again students will begin school. After a summer of respite, September signals the beginning of a new school year for most children. Whether it is the kindergartener learning their numbers or the high school senior with their calculus, the next several months will give the students an opportunity to grow as they attain more and more knowledge. Indeed, all of life is an education. The process of learning and growing continues on well past the school days. As individuals we are always in the process of growing as we move through the course of our lives. There is always something new to learn and we are never too old to stop learning.

This same truth is applicable to our faith as well. As followers of Jesus we are always in the process of growing in our Christian walk. Growing in our faith is a lifelong journey whereby we become more and more like Christ Jesus. In fact, Jesus is the model we are called to emulate. Jesus did not simply come to impart some wise sayings to us, but he came to lead us into a new way of life. Jesus even said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." The Christian journey should lead us to become more and more like Jesus. We are not born with knowledge, but we have to learn how to be like Jesus.

Hence, you could say that we have to follow a disciplined curriculum for our learning. As Christians we need to commit ourselves to things like prayer, Bible study, worship, ministry, and fellowship if we are to grow in our understanding of Jesus as well as how we are to live our lives in light of Jesus. Nor is this something we can accomplish in isolation. Instead, Jesus calls us into community where we share in this journey together. We learn from each other as we encourage each other in this process of becoming more like Jesus.

Finally, all of this is dependent upon the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Ultimately our growth in the Christian life is a result of God's Spirit. The transformation that God desires in our lives cannot be accomplished simply in what we do. We can't make ourselves more like Jesus in our own power and work. Rather, only the power and the work of the Holy Spirit can lead us to a fuller life in Christ. We must be willing to listen and learn, to grow and change, and to follow and go where Jesus leads us. The psalmist said it this way,

*"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation."*

May this be our goal as students of Jesus. Let us be ready to learn and ready to be made new.

Philip

## Clint's Corner

### Our Divine Stalker

You know how it begins: *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.* But are you as familiar with these words that appear near the conclusion of Psalm 23: *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life?*

The image of God as a shepherd has been around for thousands of years, and for those who believe in the one, true God this image remains a tremendous source of strength and comfort, especially during those times when we walk through dark and lonely valleys. The image of God as a shepherd is a good one, because it conveys certain attributes of God: God goes before us, leading us to safe places where there is sustenance, protection, and comfort. But this is where many of us leave it, with God out in front leading the way.

As we read the Psalms we often find the psalmist crying out for help as he is being hotly pursued by his enemy. In the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm we discover that God is not only out in front leading, but is also pursuing us from behind, not as our enemy, but as our loving God. God is our divine stalker, the one who tirelessly pursues us with goodness and mercy. In God we have the one who leads us like a shepherd leading a flock, and we also have the one who is in constant pursuit, never far behind, continuously offering the benefit of blessing and the gift of loving kindness...all the days of our lives.



### A Special Thank You

Thanks to everyone who helped make our first Welcome Back Picnic for the VCU students a success. We had a good response from the students and from our church. Thanks to everyone who prepared food, delivered flyers, and set up and cleaned up for the picnic. We look forward to building off this event and making it a regular outreach event each fall.

### *Spirit Quest this Fall*

**Join us on Wednesday nights beginning September 12 for two new group studies. Dr. Turner will be teaching a Bible study entitled "Beginnings" about Genesis 1-11. Rev. Jennifer Turner will be offering a small group study on "Relationships". This will be a DVD study group.**



**Central Virginia Baptist Ministries**

presents the

**2012**

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

**Monday, September 24, 2012**

**Cool Spring Baptist Church**

9283 Atlee Station Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

(804) 746-0800

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

5:45 – 6:30 p.m.: Registration and refreshments

6:30—6:45 p.m.: Opening remarks

6:45 – 7:45 p.m.: Session 1

7:45 – 8:00 p.m.: Break

8:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Session 2

**Refreshments/Conference Fee: \$5.00 payable at the door!**

**No pre-registration required!**

**CONFERENCE CHOICES:** *Please select two*

- ϕ **You've Been Elected as a Church Leader, So How Do You "Lead Like Jesus?"** - Bobby Ukrop
- ϕ **Helping Boomers Transform Lives and Churches** - Matt Thornhill
- ϕ **Becoming Missional: Is It for my Church?** - Lynn Turner & Steve Booth
- ϕ **Why Sunday School: Serving as a Sunday School Director** - Tony Brooks
- ϕ **Creative Worship Planning (Survival Skills for the Seriously Stressed Workshop Leader)** - Cameron Dahl and Don Runyon
- ϕ **Vision: Creating a Community Vision? Or, Creating a Vision Community?** - Bob Dale
- ϕ **Caring for Caregivers** - Roberta Damon
- ϕ **Reaching Young 20 and 30-Somethings** - Susan McBride
- ϕ **Leading Your Church Through Healthy Change** - Bob Lee
- ϕ **Building a Discipleship Culture through Huddles** - Ben Jamison
- ϕ **10 Ways for Your Church to Have More Money, Guaranteed** - Steve Law
- ϕ **Great Preschool Sunday School Ideas that Work** - Brenda Jennings
- ϕ **Great Children's Sunday School Ideas that Work** - Nancy Castle
- ϕ **Great Youth Sunday School Ideas that Work** - David Haun
- ϕ **Great Adult Sunday School Ideas that Work** - Leon Castle

For Church officers, committee chairpersons, Sunday School workers, Deacons and all other church leaders!!!!

**THE BENEFITS OF A  
BUDGET COACH**

A working mom of two living in Richmond, Merit and her husband were financially strapped when a quarter of their income had to go toward medical expenses for their son with special needs. She met with an Entrust Financial CU Budget Coach, who walked her through recreating her budget to allow her family to tithe, while lowering and meeting their expenses, eliminating all but one credit card, and paying off a vehicle loan.

Listen to Merit tell her story at [www.entrustfcu.org/higherpurpose](http://www.entrustfcu.org/higherpurpose).

How could a budget coach benefit YOUR family finances? Contact us to learn more at 353-8012.

**Deacons Meeting**  
**Monday, September 10**  
**at 7:00 pm**



**Annual Church Business Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 19 at 6:45 pm**

# Promises and Praises Memory Verses

Beginning September 2 until October 23 there will be a memory verse we all will be encouraged to learn. (one verse each week for 8 weeks.) This will be highlighted during the Sunday School hour as well as in the church publications and on the church bulletin boards.

## Memory Verses of Promise



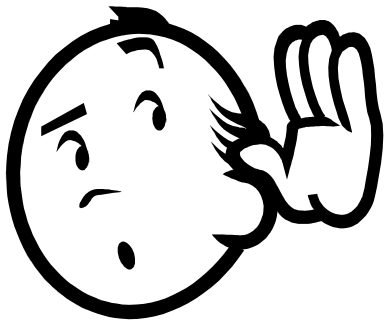
September 2: Isaiah 40:31  
 September 9: Philippians 4:13  
 September 16: Jeremiah 29:11  
 September 23: 1 Peter 5:7



## Memory Verses of Praise

September 30: Psalm 19:1  
 October 7: Psalm 118:24  
 October 14: Psalm 36:1  
 October 21: Psalm 139:14

*There will be a joint Sunday School social on Sunday, October 28 to celebrate the emphasis.*

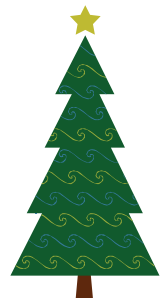


## Community Movie Nights for September

Friday, September 7 and 21 at dark  
in Pleasants Park

Thomas Road Baptist Church of  
Lynchburg Presents  
"Yes, Virginia ...A Christmas Letter"  
Saturday, December 8, 2012

Cost per person: \$84  
payment due no later than November 7



### Budget Report Through August

**Budget :**                **\$165,936**  
**Given to Date:**       **\$151,624**  
**Variance:**             **-\$14,312**

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

*Billy Wells*

**and in honor of:**

*Peggy Williams*

**Contributions were made to the  
General Fund in memory of:**

*Norma Bottoms, Robert and Clara Hagan*

My Church Family,

Thank to each and everyone for your prayers, cards, and phone calls. I am better, but have a long way to go. Thank you Philip for your call and prayers while you were away and Clint's visits and prayers.



God Bless You,  
Peggy Williams

### New Address

Lindsey Turner  
James Madison University  
JMU Box 728  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807

### September Birthdays

2: Shannon Harris  
3: Katherine Ann Hall  
4: Mary Simms  
7: Alice Herring  
11: Kathy Harler  
13: Charlotte Walker  
14: Ethel Hughes  
Jean Neisz  
16: Troy Floyd  
Frances Schultz  
17: Christy Floyd  
17: Marie Herring  
18: Luca Townsend-Neal  
20: Melissa Childress  
22: Jennifer Hairfield Wilson  
Peggy Lemons  
28: Bill Berry  
Casey Glass

### Anniversaries

2: Joe and Scarlett Mitchell  
14: Percy and Dorothy Blackburn  
16: John and Tina O'Mary  
24: Roger and Kathy Harler  
30: Annis and Charlotte Blair

### Welcome New Members

Doug Clark  
Lori Fergusson  
Shawn Michael Fergusson  
Rebecca Fergusson  
Jamie Fergusson

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

400 South Pine Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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info@pinestbaptist.com

**We're on the web at:  
[www.pinestbaptist.com](http://www.pinestbaptist.com)**

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## Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, September 9

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Roslyn Conference Center

8727 River Road,

Richmond, VA 23229.

Say goodbye to summer and hello to autumn with our  
annual picnic.

Cost: \$ 3 per person, children free

Bring a covered dish to share.