



January , 2014

Let Your Light Shine!

THE BEACON

**Pine Street Baptist Church:
Where "Welcome" is not Just a Greeting, but a Way of**

Upcoming Dates

January 5
Epiphany Sunday

January 8
Family Worship
6:45 pm

January 12
Youth Meeting
Noon

January 13
Deacon's
Meeting
6:30 pm

January 15
Quarterly
Business Meeting
6:45 pm

January 16
Senior Dinner
6:00 pm

January 20
WMU Meeting

January 26
Youth - Noon

As I was creating this first edition of the Beacon in 2014, I accidentally hit delete and some other keys on my computer and erased everything I had done so far. I immediately realized what I had done. There was no getting it back. I sat in my chair for a while frustrated at what I had done. After my time of sulking, I began again. I had to move forward for there was no going back.

As we begin the year 2014 there is no going back to last year. 2013 is now one for the history books. As we reflect on last year, we remember the good and bad, the beautiful and ugly, the peaceful and chaotic days that made up the 2013 calendar. Indeed last year was a mixture of experience for all of us. There are some days that we wish we could redo. Maybe they did not turn out the way we had hoped. Perhaps we made a terrible mistake on that day. Or maybe we hurt someone we loved by our words or our actions. If we could go back we would do things differently.

However, as the calendar page has turned again to a new year, we know that going back is not a possibility. We can only move forward. We now live in the present moment with a new year before us. While we cannot go back and redo last year, we can move forward seeking to live our lives as an expression of our relationship with God. God is a moving forward God. God desires to lead his people forward into the future. A future filled with hopes and dreams. God is not looking back at what was, but rather forward at what can be. We simply have to trust in our God that goes before us.

2014 will undoubtedly be a mixture of experiences for all of us. There will be highs as well as lows. There will be mountain peak moments as well as valley ones. Nevertheless we keep moving forward. In the book of the prophet Jeremiah we read this promise of God about the days ahead.

*For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord.
Plans for good and not for evil.
To give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11*

God is not leading us aimlessly into the future, but God is bringing us into tomorrow with the promise of his presence. This is good news for 2014. We can move forward, renewed, forgiven, and empowered to face every day of the coming year.

New Days, New Clothes, and New Opportunities

In her newspaper column of January 1, 1987, Erma Bombeck had this to say: No one loves a Christmas tree on January 1. The wonderful, soft branches that the family couldn't wait to get inside to smell have turned into rapiers that jab you. The wonderful blinking lights that Daddy arranged by branch and color have knotted themselves hopelessly around crumbling brownery and have to be severed with a bread knife. The stockings that hung by the chimney with care are hanging out of sofa cushions, and they smell like clam dip. And the angel that everyone fought to put on top of the tree can only be removed with an extension ladder that is in the garage, and no one can remember how to fit it through the door.

If you're not a fan of Erma, how about Paul? Included in his letter to the church in Colossae, Paul recognized how the members of this fellowship had "stripped off the old self" and clothed themselves "with the new self" (Colossians 3:10). Paul never had to throw out an old Christmas tree, but he did know something about throwing out the old "self."

Of all the seasons when change is most evident, perhaps none is more drastic than when the light-filled wonder of Christmas is packed away and we enter those long, dark winter days of January and February. But it is always time for a change, because change is always happening. And so it is that with the coming of a new year we have yet another opportunity to embrace the change that is inevitable.

As was hinted at in Bombeck's words, our Christmas trees are now little more than old, ratty, bare reminders of the close of another year. It might be okay for a tree, but ratty and bare is no way for us to enter the new year, or each new day for that matter. Each day we begin anew, with fresh opportunities to convert our own blessings into the blessings of others. Being raised up into a new day is cause to put on more than a pair of nice clothes, for each day we are called to clothe ourselves "with the new self," the inherited qualities and lifestyle we share with Christ as children of God. So let's get dressed, today and every day, and may our new year be made happy by making it happy for someone else.



"Be the Light" General Fund Giving Report

Needed to Date:	\$38,093
<u>Given to Date</u>	<u>\$37,401</u>
Variance:	- \$692

Family Worship

Wednesday, January 8

6:45 pm

The Seven Deadly Sins

A New Bible Study Beginning

Wednesday, January 22.

6:45 pm

Led by Rev. Clint Jackson



January Birthdays

- 2: Lynn Corker
 5: Roger Harler
 6: Alexis Rae Wang
 9: Robert Bledsoe
 10: Virginia Jordan
 Dorothy Blackburn
 12: Jean Priddy
 Betty Stowell
 15: Billy Walker
 George Hall
 16: Emily Tribble Hite
 17: Peggy Williams
 18: Tina O'Mary
 20: Amanda Blankenship
 21: Shannon Cooper
 Joyce Robinson
 David Bell, Jr.
 Lynn Corker
 30: Steven Hancock

Anniversaries

- 20: Karen and Kenneth Jarrell

Special Gifts

Contributions were made to the
 Properties Endowment in memory of:
Billy Wells and Ethel Hughes

Contributions were made to the General Fund
 in memory of:
*Eunice Allen, Vernon Carlson,
 Hawes and Bisco Schools, Virginia Greer, and
 Charles Gibson*

And in honor of: *Francis Costin Dejon*

Deacons Meeting

Monday, January 13

6:30 pm

(Note time change)

Address Update

Barbara Reynolds
 3901 Price Club Blvd.
 Midlothian, Virginia 23112

*Back Issues of
 The Beacon
 can be found at:*

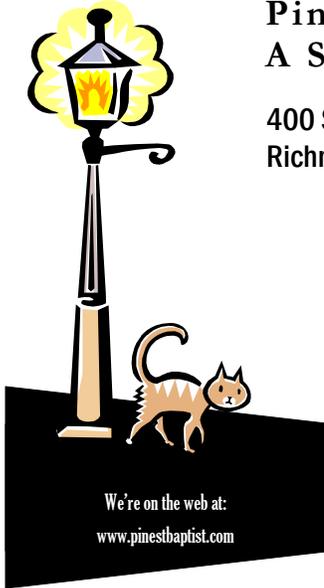
www.pinestbaptist.com

Quarterly Business Meeting

Wednesday, January 15

6:45 pm

Plan now to attend



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

400 South Pine Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

**Happy New Year!
2014**

Winter Worship Location

Beginning Sunday, January 12 until February 23
we will be worshipping in the fellowship hall.
Join us at 11:00 am

Thank You from the Oregon Hill Baptist Center

The Oregon Hill Baptist Center wishes to thank everyone who contributed and helped with Richmond Baptist Association and Christmas store as well as the children's Christmas store.

At the Association store, 139 families were served with 271 children

