



May, 2014

THE BEACON

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

Upcoming Dates

- May 3**
ESL Cooking Class
- May 7**
Family Worship
6:45 pm
- May 8**
Senior Dinner
6:00 pm
- May 9**
Community Movie Night
- May 10**
Mothers Day Lunch for
youth's mothers
- May 12**
Deacons Meeting
6:30 pm
- May 15**
Senior Dinner
6:00 pm
- May 18**
Youth Meeting
- May 19**
WMU
- May 23**
Community Movie Night

Perhaps all of us have experienced at one time or another a physical blow to our abdomen. The force applied to the abdomen causes your diaphragm to have a spasm thus making it difficult to breathe. The common idiom for this event is "You got the wind knocked out of you." If you've ever played a contact sport then you probably have had that uncomfortable feeling of not being able to catch your breath. Huge athletes can be brought to their knees with such an impact. Fortunately, your breath will return in a minute or two.

Metaphorically speaking, sometimes it feels as though life has knocked the wind out of us. Some event or happening brings a sudden impact to our lives leaving us struggling to catch our breath. Maybe it is an illness, a job loss, a family crisis, or an unexpected death. Nevertheless, the blow leaves us down and depleted. Likewise, we wonder if we will be able to get through the difficult experience.

As a people of faith we are not immune from having the wind knocked out of us. Jesus never guaranteed that as a believer we would never face difficulties in our lives. Christians too can sometimes be struggling to breathe. While God does not promise a pain free life, God does promise his presence. When it feels as though we cannot catch our breath, God's Spirit is able to fill the void. And when God enters into our pain we are reminded that we will catch our breath again. The prophet Isaiah said is rightly,

*God gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.
Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall
mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.*

If you are struggling right now, remember that you are not alone. God is a faithful presence that will not forsake us. Allow God to renew and restore you in the breath of his Holy Spirit.

Philip

	<u>"Be the Light" General Fund</u>	
	<u>Giving Report</u>	
	Needed to Date:	\$103,890
	Given to Date	\$98,965
Variance:	- \$4,925	

MIDDLE OF THE ROAD

It is well known that a nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States cannot become a justice sitting on the highest court of our land without confirmation by the United States Senate. As such, and if for no other reason, it can be said that our Supreme Court does not stand without some degree of political influence. There is also an idea, although it may not be one hundred percent accurate, that says that because of the confirmation process there are no longer any appointees to the Court that are either widely liberal or conservative. The thinking is that in order to get a nominee appointed to the bench, they must be somewhere near the middle of the road in order to gain the required number of Senate votes. This way of thinking exists with the full knowledge that some of the best years of the Court took place when liberal strengths were debating conservative strengths.

Something quite similar to this can, and does, happen in our churches. In an effort not to offend one another, we can become so complacent in our theological views that, regardless of where we began, we suddenly find ourselves driving down the middle of the road. As a result, we may reach a point where there is no longer a healthy exchange of ideas nor passion for our convictions, for it appears we all have the same views. The result is that we lose our ability to learn from one another, becoming a stagnant pool of similar viewpoints. Without opposition there is no debate; without debate there is no exchange of ideas; without the exchange of ideas there is no opportunity for learning; and without learning our spiritual growth is stalled. One day we awake to discover that travelling down the middle of the road has gotten us nowhere.

Our personal theological views may differ, but I believe it is good to be willing to at least listen to the views of another, for whenever we become so caught up in our own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others...not just the views of another, but also their needs. It is both possible and important to be strong in our convictions, and simultaneously receptive to the needs that exist on the other side of the road. While avoiding a middle-of-the-road theology, we must be willing to cross the road, lending an open ear and an open hand to those in need, regardless of any opposing views they may have. It is here, on the other side of the road, where spiritual growth will take place. The middle of the road is not the place where we want to sit up camp, but it is an important place, for it is here that we meet one another as brothers and sisters, embrace one another as children of God, respect each other for our created likeness to God, and if nothing else, agree to disagree and continue our journey.

Contemplative Worship and Holy Communion Sunday, May 25

Join us on Sunday morning, May 25 for a special worship service. The service will be modeled after the contemplative Taize style of worship. A Taize service is a beautiful, simple form of contemplative worship that is marked by deep quiet, candles, meditative singing, and shared silence. Taize has become extremely popular throughout the world and Christians from all denominations are stepping back from the regular rush of everyday life, and finding rest in a deeper rhythm.

You'll Get Through This Hope and Help For Turbulent Times

Wednesday Night Study beginning May 21

You fear you won't make it through. You fear that the depression will never lift, the yelling will never stop, the pain will never leave. In the pits surrounded by steep walls and aching reminders, you wonder: "Will I ever get through this?"

Join us on Wednesday nights for a DVD study of Max Lucado's book *You'll Get Through This*. The six session study will offer refreshing assurance for anyone in the midst of turbulent times.

May Birthdays

- 1: Kathy Rodgers
 2: EJ Downer
 4: Lydia Downer
 6: Beverly Jernigan
 10: Sonny Wesson
 12: Martha Jackson
 13: Scarlett Mitchell
 Jennifer Downer
 14: Gayle Tribble
 Rose Clark
 15: Percy Blackburn
 Norma Mallory
 17: Noah Jackson
 19: Norah Ellen Carrington
 Amy Tribble Jones
 Philip Jarrell
 21: Ella Walz
 22: Reagan Vaught
 23: David Wills
 24: Linda Calisch
 29: George Walker, Jr.
 31: Tripp Carrington

Anniversaries

- 8: Russell and Patricia Walz
 28: Bobby and Merit Carrington

Special Gifts

Contributions were made to the
Properties Endowment in memory of:
Warren Carter, Phyllis Verdi, Billy Wells

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

Phyllis Verdi, James, Clara and Robert Hagan

Contributions were made to the **General Fund**

in memory of:

Dempfle and Garland Priddy

New Address

Lillian Ashworth
 12401 Gayton Road
 Apt # 122
 Richmond, Virginia

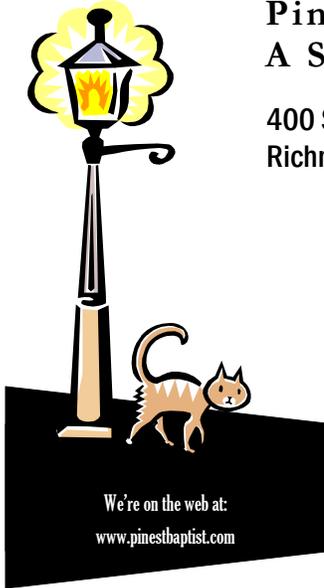


Family Worship
Wednesday, May 7
6:45 pm

“If anyone is in Christ,
 there is a new creation.”

Join us for a time of Worship
 and Praise





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

400 South Pine Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

We're on the web at:
www.pinebaptist.com

**Picnic in the Park with our
Homeless Neighbors
Wednesday, June 6 at 6:00 pm**

Pine Street will once again be hosting a cook-out for our homeless neighbors in the linear park behind the 300 block of South Pine Street.

Look for information during May about how you can help and participate.

**Community Movie Nights
Return**

Pine Street Movie Ministry will resume this month. On the 2nd and 4th Fridays a feature presentation will be shown in Pleasants Park. The movies will begin at dusk. Refreshments will be served.

If you would like to volunteer in this outreach ministry then please talk to the pastor. We look forward to seeing you at the movies.

Friday, May 9

The Lone Ranger

