



September, 2014

THE BEACON

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

Upcoming Dates

- September 3**
Family Worship
6:45 pm
- September 8**
Deacons Meeting
6:30 pm
- September 10**
Sparks Begins
- September 12**
Community Movie
- September 13**
ESL Cooking Club
- September 14**
Youth Group - Noon
- September 15**
WMU Meeting
- September 17**
Annual Business Meeting -
6:45 pm
- September 20**
Humphrey Home Event
- September 26**
Community Movie
- September 28**
Youth Group - Noon

Depending on what day of the week it is will have a direct effect on the condition of the top of my office desk. Over the course of a week my desk can mutate as the various aspects of my work end up on my desk. On any given day you might find mounds of paper, several books, pictures of my family, office supplies like pens and paperclips, mail coming in and mail to be sent out, as well as a cup of soda. In fact sometimes you might wonder if there is even a desk under everything piled on it.



Therefore, every once and a while I will take time to clean up my desk. In my attempt to get organized I will file some things away, trash others, and return the rest to their original locations. You might call it an office house cleaning. Likewise, by the time I finish, you see a desk without clutter and a desk the way its was originally made.

As a people of faith we need to carry out a similar process in our individual lives. As we can testify, sometimes our lives are filled with clutter, distractions, worries, problems, and the like. Indeed, our hearts can become heavy with everything that fills our lives.

David, Israel's greatest King and writer of many of our psalms once prayed, "Search me, O God, and know my heart" as well as "Create in me a clean heart, O God." David recognized that he needed a spiritual inventory in his life to identify those aspects of his life that honored God, and with God's help remove those aspects that hindered his relationship with God. Only then could he carry out God's plan and purpose for his life. David had to do some spiritual housecleaning in order to follow his God.

David is a good example for our own spiritual lives and our daily need of confession, cleansing, and recommitment to our Lord. Jesus has invited us to follow him and we are unable to do so effectively if we are weighed down with clutter. We too need to allow God to search and cleanse us so that we might follow and serve Him.

Philip

Mending the Heart of God

One of my favorite books is also one of the smallest. It is a book of poetic prayers by Rabindranath Tagore, who was awarded the Noble Prize for Literature in 1913. The introduction to the book begins with these words of Tagore, and I offer them to you today as a focal point for reflection and meditation.

All the black evils in the world have overflowed their banks,
 Yet, oarsmen take your places with the blessing of sorrow in your souls!
 Whom do you blame, brothers? Bow your heads down!
 The sin has been yours and ours.
 The heat growing in the heart of God for ages -
 The cowardice of the weak, the arrogance of the strong, the greed of fat prosperity, the rancor of the wronged, pride of race, and insult to man –
 Has burst God's peace, raging in storm.

Our sinfulness, presented here as cowardice, arrogance, greed, rancor, and pride, is heartbreaking to God; it destroys God's peace and lies in opposition to God's idea of justice. In the midst of these "black evils," this "heat" in the heart of God, Tagore seems to be calling us, all of humanity, to take our places as oarsmen. To take this place we must also understand why sorrow, not usually thought of as such, is a blessing. We get a glimpse of the coming blessing as we witness the sorrowful things that exist in our world. But the blessing will only be bestowed if this witness is allowed to kindle in us actions that move us toward a righting of wrongs and a healing of sorrows. In this there is blessing for both the healer and the healed. We live in a world that seems to cry out in distress over all the brokenness that exists. There is much healing yet to be done, so let us all pick up our oars, take our place in the work of the kingdom, and do what we can to mend the very heart of God.

"Be the Light"

General Fund Giving Report

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Needed to Date: | \$162,761 |
| <u>Given to Date</u> | <u>\$145,391</u> |
| Variance: | - \$17,370 |



Joining the Dance:

A Study on the Holy Spirit

Wednesday Nights Beginning September 10



September Birthdays

- 4: Mary Simms
 13: Charlotte Walker
 Jean Neisz
 16: Troy Floyd
 Frances Schultz
 18: Luca Townsend-Neal
 22: Jennifer Hairfield Wilson
 Peggy Lemons

Anniversaries

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

Special Gifts

Contributions were made to the
 Properties Endowment in memory of:

Billy Wells, Dorothy Wood

Contributions were made to the Ministries Endowment
 in memory of:

Robert, Clara, and James Hagan

Contributions were made to the General Fund
 in memory of:

Dot Wood, Margaret Lacy



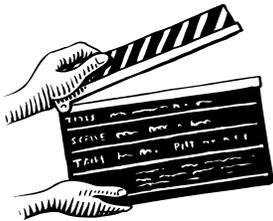
Community Movie Nights

September 12

Divergent

September 26

Mom's Night Out



Thanks to everyone who helped with
 our CARITAS ministry over the sum-
 mer.

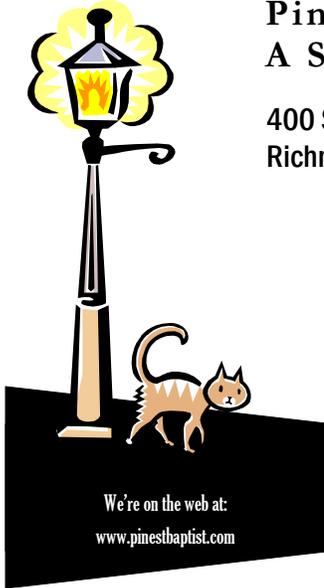
Your dedication and faithfulness to this
 annual mission is an important part of



Community
 and VCU Welcome
 Back Cookout
 Success!

*Who could I invite to
 church this
 Sunday?*

The Outreach Committee would like to thank all who helped with this years Community and VCU Welcome Back Cookout. We had great attendance and a wonderful time fellowshiping in Pleasants Park on Sunday, August 24!



Pine Street Baptist Church
A Steadfast Fellowship of Grace

400 South Pine Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220



Annual Church Business Meeting

Wednesday, September 17

6:45 pm

Please join us and participate in the church's annual meeting. A presentation and vote on the 2014-15 Budget will take place. In addition, nominations for committees and church officers will be presented and voted on as well.