

The Beacon

The Newsletter of Pine Street Baptist Church

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 25th

6:00 p.m.



Adults: \$6.00

Children/Youth: \$3.00

Family: \$15.00

February Meetings

Operations Team

Tue., Feb. 11 @ 6:30 pm

W.M.U.

Mon., Feb. 17 @ 11:00



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we reflect on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance in the Lenten season and in all of life; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. Join us as we worship together in the sanctuary on Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00 p.m.

February Birthdays

3: Carissa Downer
 5: Gerika Phillips
 6: Jessi Vaught
 10: Rose Floyd
 13: Vivian Pollok
 20: Angie Guill

New Address

**Dolores Treadway
 4820 Cralles Road
 Amelia, VA 23002**

**Time Travel Event for
 Children**

**Friday, February 14th
 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Dinner, crafts, and
 entertainment for our
 children.**

*Please contact Terry
 Donohue for additional
 information.*

Envelope Offering

(through Jan. 19)

Budget: \$7,803

Given: \$6,153

Where Love Flows

Someone once said, "Hospitality is not about entertaining, it's about engaging." As the church family of Pine Street, our hospitality to the guests in our midst is one of the most important acts we can perform. When people enter our building on a Sunday or Wednesday, how do we receive them? Do we move towards them or away from them? Do we immediately engage the people around us that we know, while the guests go unnoticed? Most of us are guilty at times of neglecting the visitor in our midst.

Christian hospitality is more than a cultural etiquette. Christian hospitality is a biblical command. In the book of Leviticus, we read, "*The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.*" (Leviticus 19:34) Likewise, the apostle Paul would write to the early church, "*Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.*" (Romans 12:13) When we extend hospitality to others we are demonstrating the kind of God we confess our faith in. Just as God has welcomed us, we must be welcoming to those around us.

In addition, Christian hospitality makes no judgment about the stranger in our midst. Too often we are quick to size someone up before we ever speak to them. Rather than see the person, we see what they are wearing, are they showered and clean, the color of their skin, or any other marks that we might highlight about them. These judgments often affect how we respond and the hospitality we offer. Now, this is not a contemporary problem, but it is as old as the Christian church itself. In the letter of James, we read, "*My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.*" (James 2: 1-5,8-9)

Whenever we gather as a congregation, may these scriptures guide us in our thinking and in our doing. May our love of God flow freely to all who enter this sacred place. For where love flows, hospitality is always found, and our God is glorified.

Philip