

Belmont Beacon

April 2014

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Are you enjoying the snow? Are you welcoming the winter that seemingly does not want to end? I have not heard many individuals that want more of this cold weather. Most of the comments that I hear are ready for the first day of Spring to look and feel like the first day of Spring. I don't remember what Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, predicted back in early February, but since golf is not an option I have considered taking up groundhog hunting as a new hobby.

I do love the beauty of the snow. The wonder of the four distinct seasons is on full display when the trees are filled with snow. Embracing what we receive is an important life lesson that many of us are learning and relearning. Since we cannot control the cold weather, I will forgo any urges to take up the sport of hunting groundhogs.

The spiritual side of this winter that does not want to end coincides with the Holy season of Lent. The ironic thing is that Lent literally means "Spring." As Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 5, it has felt much more like the deep of winter than spring.

A few days here and there have produced some flowers that had attempted to bloom in between the snowstorms. Some of those are present in front of the education building of the church. We have some along the edge of our home that have tried to make an appearance.

As we are examining the parables of Jesus during our Sunday morning worship and how they point us to the passion of Jesus, I am wondering about the parable of the long winter that we are experiencing. After all, as the late Grady Nutt reminded us, Jesus did not work all week on his Saturday parable to present it to his audience. Jesus paid attention to life and the real



Notes
From the Pastor

world around him and was able to connect the gospel with everyday stuff.

The beauty of Spring will eventually arrive and we will witness the wonder of a new distinct season and the majesty of God's creation. Those flowers will burst forth and the places that seemingly had died from the cold will come to life.

Where are those places in our lives that are ready to be awakened by what God is doing in our midst? Where are those places that may be dead or dying in our spirits that need to be awakened so that we can follow Christ where he calls us to follow?

This is a Lenten question. As I write these words we still have four weeks of Lent before Easter. Yet with this Lenten question, God provides us an Easter response. We cannot experience the joy of the empty tomb on Easter morning without the suffering and death of the cross on Good Friday.

God's answer of new life comes from those dead and dying places. The mystery and wonder of the gospel is that when life is lost, given away, we actually gain it. We discover this reality in what Jesus has done for us and when we live in the same manner.

The God who loves us so generously promises to awaken our spirits to new possibilities of abundant life. As our world awakens to the new life of Spring, my hope for Belmont Baptist Church is that we take notice. The time is now for us to reflect on our own lives and what might be awakened in us as the world around us does the same.

Happy Spring!

Blessings, Greg

Notes from the Properties Committee:

- wall behind the choir has been painted
- painting of the baptistery completed
- new handrails in baptistery to be installed by next month
- new air conditioning replaced Thursday, March 20 and will be working by the first part of April
- broken window panes in sanctuary to be replaced this spring
- looking to schedule a late spring work day.



- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 17 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service
- April 19 11 am Easter Egg Hunt
- April 20 7 am Easter Sunrise Service
in Belmont Park
8:15 am Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
11 am Morning Worship

Save the Date

Belmont Baptist Church 65th Homecoming
Sunday, September 21, 2014

If you know of any former church members or friends of the church that you would like to receive a special invitation, please forward their names and address to Becky Bowers or Pat Walker



I'm sure you all have noticed that the baptistery has been re-painted. Please go up and investigate for yourselves. We're excited that the peeling paint and cracks in the walls are gone! This is a great time to be baptized, if you've been waiting!!! If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the painting committee: Maxine Baird, Larry Breeden, Herman Bryant, Ann Haney, and Dorothy Haney.



Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 19, 2014

The children are invited to come for lunch, activities and an egg hunt from 11-1 at the Church. (Rain does not cancel). Please invite friends and neighbors, grandkids and nieces and nephews too! If you would like to donate money towards the purchase of food or materials see Melanie or Becky. We will have an "egg-filling" event sometime the week before if you would like to help.

Why this color and not that one?



Several of you have asked about the different color of the stoles that Greg wears when he wears the robe during worship. You are likely asking something that others might be also wondering. The colors coincide with the different seasons of the church year calendar.

The church year or church calendar might seem like a foreign language to many Baptists so any description of colors needs to begin there. The church year begins with the season of Advent, a time of preparation for the birth of Christ. The color associated with Advent is blue or purple.

The Christmas season follows Advent and is recognized by the color of white. The white symbolizes joy and celebration. The coming of the magi is known as Epiphany and is celebrated with the white. The season following Epiphany is recognized by the green color that symbolizes growth.

The season Lent follows Epiphany and the color for Lent is purple. The purple symbolizes repentance. Easter Sunday welcomes the return of the white color as another time season of joy and celebration. White remains the primary color until Pentecost Sunday. The arrival of the Holy Spirit is considered the birthday of the church. Following Pentecost the color returns to green with the focus on growth as the worshiping community seeks to grow their faith in the "ordinary time."

On special Sundays the color might switch to white for a special celebration of the church's calendar. All Saints Sunday is one of those days that we celebrate annually. Others include Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Transfiguration Sunday, Trinity Sunday and Christ the King Sunday.



To the Belmont Baptist Church Family,

Thanks for all the prayers for my father, Rodney Huke and my family during his illness and recent death.

Love,
 Shirley Haley



Comcast Channel 13 will Rebroadcast the Worship Service at 7 pm. on Sunday.

BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
830 Monticello Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22902

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Now is the time to place your order!

If you would like to place a pot of spring flowers in the church sanctuary in memory or in honor of someone for Easter, please complete the order form below and place it along with payment in full in the offering plate, or bring it by the church office. All orders must be received Sunday, April 13, 2014. The cost is **\$10.00** each.

My Name _____

Total Number of Plants _____

Payment Enclosed _____

Check # _____ **Cash** _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

Please indicate the information you want written in the booklet.
(Mary Smith, my mother, by Joan Smith).

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 13.