

Belmont Beacon

January 2015

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Belmont Baptist Church ♦ 830 Monticello Avenue ♦ Charlottesville, VA 22902

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One of the most important things that we do as a church is to proclaim the stories of our faith. This is part of our faith heritage. The Israelites are instructed to keep the commandments and to recite them with the children when they rise and when they lie down, when they are at home and when they are away (Deuteronomy 6:1-5). They are to keep telling the story.

This is exactly what we do through each season of the church year. During Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost we continue to tell the story. We tell the story of our faith over and over so that we can live into the story. We tell the story of our faith, above all, so that it can become our story.

Sometimes our storytelling can feel out of place or even peculiar. During this recent Advent season I was reminded of this reality. Advent is about our waiting and anticipating Jesus to come again in the fulfillment of his promise. Advent is also about our retelling the story of Jesus' coming, and this is where we usually place our focus. We retell the story of Jesus' birth and the events that led to it in our anticipation and preparation.

Our storytelling becomes peculiar in the reality that each of us knows: the birth has occurred. Jesus was born and grew up to point us to the love of God. Specifically, Jesus announced that in his coming, the kingdom of God is among us and it is still to come. For centuries, Christians everywhere have wrestled with what Jesus' announcement means and how we are to comprehend this reality.

The other night I encountered the reality that we are retelling the story of our faith while we are living into the story of what God is doing. I went to the laundry to connect with a family that I had previously hosted and had not seen for a while. They updated me on their family and job situation. They have been through some difficult times, but they continue to face life with faith and courage without running away from the challenges on them. The father prays and

hopes for full-time employment while the mother and he pray and hope for their family members and their multiple needs.

I visited with these folks. I listened. I offered encouragement and in the midst of clothes that still needed folding, we prayed together. All the while I visited with them, our *Loads of Love* volunteer was in the other room with their three little children. As I departed the

laundry area, I was struck by the sight that I witnessed in the kitchen.

With a board game on the table, the volunteer was playing the game with one child in her lap and two others as close as possible without being in her lap. I realized in the midst of all the discussion on anticipation and preparation for Jesus' coming that he has come. Jesus the Christ announced that the kingdom of God is among us and it is still to come. I am pretty sure that I saw what Jesus described the other night on Bolling Avenue.

I do not know if the volunteer noticed it. I imagine that she was tired from working all day followed by hosting this family. I saw it. I wished that as many of the Belmont Baptist family as possible could have seen it and could experience this reality in their own lives. A key part of the story that we tell and retell is Jesus' reminder: "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it (Luke 9:24)."

Opportunities exist for us to experience the kingdom of God in our midst. I would hate for you to miss out. So, let us retell the stories that matter. Let us live into those stories and make them our own. 2015 is a great time to commit and recommit our lives to living out the story of Jesus that transforms all of our stories. Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Greg





What a glorious time of year. I cannot believe that I have been at Belmont since Easter and here we are in the Christmas season. This has been an exciting time for my husband and me.

With all of the mission possibilities that the church offers there is always an opportunity to be involved. One of the missions we shared in was the visit to Western State, and I was moved by all the love in the room. It was a wonderful time. My husband claims I left my singing voice at home that day but I sure had a good time. I often wonder as I do things like this. Who is blessed more? Is it the folks I visited with or was it me because I was truly blessed to be part of the day.

Thank you to everyone who has given me a list of hymns you would like to sing. I find it interesting that many of the selections you all miss are not in our hymnals. I will look into some other sources that we can use and can add some of them back into our service by adding inserts from time to time.

This is off the beaten path of our church, but I wanted to mention an opportunity with the 220 band students at the middle school where I teach. We are doing a fundraiser that may benefit many in our congregation as well as elderly friends and neighbors you know. We are doing an electronics and recycle fund raiser. The band students can even pick all the items up from your location. Some of the items are old televisions, computers, stoves, washers, dryers, air conditioners and so on. We almost take everything. We hope to raise enough money to perform in a competition in New York. What a great way for you to get rid of your junk while helping others! Let me know if you need something moved and we are on it.

I am truly blessed each day to work a job I love and to have the friends and family at Belmont. Life is good!

Blessings, Peggy



Comcast Channel 13 will Rebroadcast the Worship Ser-



To the Belmont Baptist Church Family,

A note to thank you for the delicious Thanksgiving breakfast and for your time and effort to give us a great treat. This kindness is greatly appreciated. Thank you so very much!

Bonnie Payne, ParkView Resident.



I would like to thank the Belmont Church family for the many prayers and cards. Also thank Becky Bowers and Norman Morris for their visits. I enjoy their visits so much. Thank you and God bless.

Ressie Bailey

From the Painting Committee



At our December 14 business meeting, the church voted to continue with the painting project to paint the vestibule. We're pleased that the painters were able to take care of this right away, so the church could look even better for Christmas.

The last portion of the project remaining for this painting committee is the balcony. As it stands, the balcony has the color of paint from when the church was painted originally, so it's darker, a color difference which can be seen from the lower level. Beyond the color difference, there is damage from past water leaks and aging, such that there are cracks and a lot of flaking paint and some crumbling on the pillars. The balcony isn't used as much as the lower level of the sanctuary, of course, but there are occasions when the church has a crowd of people and some sit in the balcony. The church is blessed with a beautiful property, but that blessing also comes with the responsibility of taking care of the property. Please walk around the balcony and see what you think. Then, please come to the January 11 business meeting and join the discussion about what the church should do with regard to painting the balcony, given the money available.

The members of the painting committee are: Maxine Baird, Larry Breeden, Herman Bryant, Ann Haney, and Dorothy Haney.

Committees-2015

(Rev. 12/17/14)

Praise and Worship Team

(responsibilities: music support, audio-video services, Lord's Supper preparation, sanctuary preparation, baptism preparation, church ushers)

Ushers

Norman Morris 293-6559

Kathy Fields 295-0649

Audio-visual

Willie Bowers 296-5963

Alvin Sprouse 293-2418

Flowers

Pat Taylor Beasley 296-3487

Ann Haney 295-3795

Spiritual Growth Team

(responsibilities: Bible study ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry, library, nursery and pre-school-age ministries.)

Co-captain- Becky Bowers 296-5963

Co-captain-Shirley Haley 242-7217

Bible Study Coordinator-Linda Breeden 977-4924

Children Ministries Coordinator-Melanie Anderson
977-1739

Pam Ingalls 296-3839

Caring Ministry Team

(responsibilities: benevolence (food closet), visitation coordinator, prayer ministry.)

Tom Allen 293-2961

Eula Allen 293-2961

Virginia Brewer 296-5901

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Friendship Ministry Team

(responsibilities: food services, recreation activities, new members)

Team Captain: Tina Smith cell 760-4329

B. Pat Taylor Beasley- 296-3487

C. Volunteer: Alvin Sprouse 293-2418

Missions and Outreach Team

(responsibilities: public relations, organized evangelism, website, worship styles, missions)

Richard Wharam 973-5745 2016

Sue Wharam 973-5745 2016

Linda Wilberger 589-7945

Barbara Lowry

Ministry Support Team

(responsibilities: properties, van maintenance and use, nominating committee, personnel committee, audit committee)

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Herman Bryant 973-3648

James Fitz 981-9894

Willie Bowers 296-5963

Alvin Sprouse

Nominating Committee

(elected annually in March)

Margaret Brown 979-3101

2012-2014

Richard Wharam 973-5745

2014-2016

Pat Taylor Beasley 296-3487

2013-2015

Personnel Committee

Mary Buckner 996-5930

Gladys Bryant 973-3648

Linda Breeden 977-4924

Audit Committee

Pam Roder

Angie Sims

Rodney Thomas 973-8291

Finance Team

(responsibilities: stewardship and counting group)

Captain: Larry Breeden 977-4924

Cheryl Rodriguez 882-6677

Pat Walker 293-9967

Norman Morris 293-6559

Financial Secretary-Mary Hawkins

Church Treasurer- Bill Sampson

Director of the Women's Missionary Union

Becky Bowers

Church Clerk

Gladys Bryant 973-3648

Assistant Clerk: Linda Wilberger 589-7945

Treasurer

Bill Sampson

Assistant Treasurer: Virginia Brewer

Trustees

Gladys Bryant 973-3648

Pam Roder

John Clark

Church Historians

Becky Bowers

Bill Sampson ??????????????????

BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
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2014 has been a good year for the Belmont Baptist Church Deacon Ministry. The Deacons set a goal to meet all of the members at BBC. Although we did not meet all of the members, through our “Dinner with the Deacons” get-togethers we were able to have dinner with 40 members of the congregation. We also had some really good positive question and answer sessions for the first two dinners. The third dinner we talked about the positive things we have done and how we can continue to do the positive projects. We hope to continue the dinners after the Christmas season is finished. So, keep your eyes and ears open.

We discussed our past Valentine’s Day parties, the Easter Sun Rise Belmont Park Service, the Deacon-prepared breakfasts served immediately after the Sunrise Service. We commended our choirs and the professional manner in which the choir performs continuously, as well as our children’s programs and how well they prepare our children to become a big part of Belmont Baptist Church.

Personally, I have been so blessed serving with this fine group of Deacon’s. I can’t stop bragging until I put our pastor in the spotlight. Greg’s sermons are what I would call “full bodied sermons”.

Continue to be a faithful member at Belmont Baptist Church!!!

Rodney Thomas
Your Deacon Chair