

# Belmont Beacon

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I hope that you are enjoying UVA's surprising run to the College World Series this is currently in progress. For you and other baseball fans I share a phrase that I recall being used when I watched more baseball. "For those of you keeping score at home," was the announcer's message to the fan who intently watched the game with scorecard in hand and recorded each play with the appropriate codes for hits and outs.

"For those of you keeping score at home," I am still not a doctor despite another week of class at Northern Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. I just completed the seminar portion of the fifth class of seven. "For those of you keeping score at home," that means I travel back to Illinois next January and then in June. Following those classes I will work on the thesis project that will complete the degree in June of 2017.

The road ahead still feels overwhelming but I like my chance on this front more than the probability of catching a squirrel sometime soon in our attic. The update on the squirrel front is that we still hear the critter in the chimney but not as much in the attic. I appreciate your stories about critters in your homes and will keep you posted on this situation. The current class, "Missional Leadership," is one I approached with excitement. The director of this program described it as the class where we "begin putting it all together." He used the adjective "practical" to describe the course. Some of these expectations were met along with new perspectives to consider.

Dr. Alan Roxburgh challenged us to reflect on the church and our current situation. I always enjoy sharing (especially the hard stuff that we must discern together) so I want to pass some of these thoughts to you.

We have discussed the changing landscape of our culture on multiple occasions and how our world

is different. Church is not at the center of life in our culture as it once was. Dr. Roxburgh presented this in terms of the new metaphor of *Unraveling*. Alan's granddaughter is eight-years-old. Her life has been accompanied by a beloved blanket that she still keeps nearby. Eight years later that blanket is coming apart and has holes in it. Patching and tying frayed edges no longer work as the cherished blanket is coming apart and cannot be put back together.

Roxburgh likens this issue to what the church is facing. Something cherished and wonderful (the way we have lived as church) is coming apart and cannot be put back together as it was once configured. For Roxburgh, the key in this *Unraveling* image is that God is at work in all of this. Often I have understood the current situation in terms of how culture and people have changed. The focus inevitably gets placed on what we are going to do about it as a church. Roxburgh names this as *functional atheism*

where we are trying to face the challenges without God.

Roxburgh understands our current reality in terms of how God is inviting and pushing God's people into unraveling situations and spaces that they (we) cannot control or fix. The hope is that we can now imagine anew what God is doing in these new spaces where we have no idea of how to fix things. Our focus is to rest on looking for God at work in our neighborhood and joining that redemptive activity.

Some of this discussion focused on technical and adaptive challenges that the church faces. *Technical* challenges use known methods and current knowledge to address the situation. The technical involves a sense of being in control. *Adaptive* challenges call for unfamiliar roles and competencies and new learning.

(Continued on page 2...)



To Belmont Baptist Church,

I would like to thank all of you for the love and encouragement I have felt from you as I have stretched and grown in my position as organist/pianist. I believe God called me to this position, and I have felt Him working through me, enabling me to learn more and do more and see different ways to serve Him. It was all new, and I never could have done it on my own. It has been an awesome experience, and I have really appreciated getting to know you all more and working with you in this different way.

Sarah and Rebecca are entering middle school this fall, and with their increased maturity, there are also more opportunities. I have been working part time at LexisNexis. I expect to work full time when the girls start school this fall. I have entered into a graduate certificate program in contracting and procurement at UVA. I am currently taking two of those contracting/procurement classes and expect to continue doing so. It feels right for me to take on more responsibilities and develop my skills, but I just can't do it all. Unfortunately, I need to resign my position as pianist/organist at Belmont, effective September.

This change is uncomfortable. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you in this way, and I don't really want that to end. But, God led me to this position, and I believe that God is still leading me. And, maybe it's good to remember that I never was in control, even if I felt like it sometimes. I trust that God knows what's best for me and for the church and will guide us both in this next step.

Ann Haney

(continued from page 1)

The adaptive challenge asks us, "What has to happen that we do not know how to do?" as the established and known way will not suffice.

We prefer the known and what we are able to control. A "murky road ahead" raises our anxiety levels. The church's hope is in listening for where God is already at work and responding faithfully. The hope in the unknown is in trusting the God we know who loves us and promises to journey with us. The excitement for the church is found through trusting God. The excitement for Belmont Baptist Church is found through trusting God. I look forward to exploring with you.

Blessings,

Greg



### Camp Young at Heart 2015

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
1500 Rio Road East  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

August 24-26 9 am – 2 pm  
\$20.00 per person  
#35.00 for a couple

Registration forms and class descriptions are available in the church office. Come join in the fun and fellowship. Bring your lunch. Drinks, coffee and snacks are provided. Pot luck lunch on Wednesday.



**Join us Saturday, July 11 from  
3 pm to 5 pm**

for a church wide birthday party  
to celebrate everyone's birthday.



Recently a few members from Belmont Church joined with a group of folks from the Belmont neighborhood. These folks have formed a committee to organize an event called the "Belmont Bash" This event is to be held in the **Belmont Park on Saturday October**

**3 from 1 PM to 5 PM.**

Although still in the planning process, we hope as a church to participate in some way, and show the face of Belmont Baptist Church to the Belmont Community. This event will include activities for the children, crafts, food and music. Some of the planning conversations included such things as exhibits showing the history of the Belmont neighborhood as well as what is happening currently in the Belmont Community.

As a church we are still working on how we would like to participate in this event. We would like to have an

exhibit/table and perhaps offer some kind of snack, and some form of entertainment, such as Freckles the Clown.

Please keep this date open. We would love to have some volunteers to man the table for 30 minutes or an hour at a time. What a wonderful opportunity to connect with people outside the walls of our church. We will keep you informed as plans develop.

On another note – The Deacons are planning a **Church Wide Birthday Party**. The date is **Saturday, July 11, from 3 PM to 5 PM.** We will have refreshments, games, entertainment and a great time of fellowship for all. Please bring your family members, friends, and neighbors. Everyone is welcome. Anyone wishing to attend this party and needs a ride please contact Cheryl Rodriguez at 434-882-6677 or Becky Bowers at 434-960-5215. Please save this date and come join us.

Your Deacon Board



Dear Belmont Friends,

I am as happy to be out of school as the students are. Even though I work some in the summer it is great to have that time to take stock and reflect on the past year. I usually see myself reflecting more on what I did and did not do in my class room and how I can be a better music teacher next school season. This year I find myself

reflecting more on my family and our journey over the year.

I know most folks look at this reflection as New Years Day rolls around, but you know by now I have to be different and do it my way and make my reflection the beginning of summer. I have seen a lot of changes in our family. Some were just the steady ups and downs of everyday family life both good and bad. Some as big as our son's changes as he has been struggling with his mental health for a very long 28 years. He has graduated from the Rescue Mission of Roanoke and for the first time living in an apartment on his own for almost a year, holding a job for a year, and finishing a year of community college. The ups and downs of parenthood are always something and with a special needs child no matter if they are 8

or 28 is always a full of surprises. Another big decision is to take a chance and plan our first real trip in 28 years and trusting the other children to pick up the slack at home with their brother.

As life goes on we all make decisions and jump forward on a leap of faith. The biggest decision for Jim and me this year was joining Belmont Baptist Church. We have lived in Virginia for a good many years and I never thought that Jim felt at home in any of the churches we attended. He is now so happy and active in the church again and I have not seen that since we left Pittsburg. We are home.

So now on to new things like planning my second Music Camp and being so excited about the choice of music. Please consider giving of your time in some way. You could bake some cupcakes, help with costumes or singing, or take on one of at least a hundred other tasks to do. So step out of your comfort zone look ahead and dive in. I always leave the camp feeling like I received way more then I gave. Hope to see you at camp.

As always the choir and the handbells always have a place for you. Come and check us out too.

Blessings, Peggy

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Charlottesville, VA 22902

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## Music Camp

**July 20-24**

Presentation of the Musical:  
*The Agape League*,  
A fun and meaningful story about super  
heroes who have the super powers of  
the Fruits of the Spirit.

7 pm on Friday, July 24.

We expect more than 60 children this year.

Helpers are welcome!

Please see Melanie or Peggy.

