

# Belmont Beacon

February 2017

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calendars. Even in mid-January, Easter reminders are in full view. Along with the Easter merchandise, we are reminded that Valentine's Day has yet to arrive.

I hope that you will make your plans to attend the Valentine's Banquet on February 11th. Details for that are located in this publication of your *Beacon*. Valentine's Day offers the opportunity to celebrate love in a unique manner. Just as the appearance of seasonal holiday displays are changing, so is the way that many will "fall in love." Online dating is a new way to meet your "Mr. or Mrs. Right." In several of the recent weddings I have officiated, the couples have met this way.

I was captivated by a story last August that involved online dating. Alexander Cirk flew to the Changsha International Airport in China from his home in the Netherlands so he could spend time with his girlfriend he had met online. The story made the news because Cirk was hospitalized for exhaustion after waiting 10 days at the airport for the woman, identified as Zhang, who never arrived.

Zhang explained to the media that she thought Cirk was joking about flying to China. The 41-year old Cirk, abruptly sent her a photo of airline tickets and she thought it was a joke as he didn't contact her later. When Cirk landed and tried to contact the 26-year-old, her phone was off because she was away in another city having plastic surgery.

At one time we could recognize the current or approaching month of the year based on the specific holiday of the season on display at the grocery stores. As Christmas decorations arrive earlier each year, this may not help us keep our

We might expect that this would be the end of the two month online courtship, but Zhang told the reporters that she was open to continuing the relationship. Cirk obtained her phone number and they talked for over 4 hours with the conclusion that they should both involved in planning when to meet in the future. Even after these discouraging events, Cirk was not ready to quit the relationship as he declared, "She's the woman of my dreams."

We might wonder what has transpired with this relationship in the past 6 months. Has the courtship continued? Have they planned to meet or have they met? Is this love?

When we consider love as Christians, we utilize the New Testament as our guide. The Greek offers us different understandings of love: *Phelos, Eros, and Agape*. These represent the love shared between friends and family, romantic love and the divine expression of love that is unconditional.

1 John 4:19 summarizes our belief: "We love because God first loved us." I encourage you to read that beautiful section of 1 John 3:11-4:21 and embrace the challenge to live out the love we profess with our actions and not just our words. This is a daunting task in a challenging world as Jesus told his disciples, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Let us go and make ourselves known as Jesus' disciples.

Blessings,

Greg



Dear Belmont Family,

As far away as the Cantata seems, it is still very fresh in my mind. It was so heartwarming to see the church so full of people, love, joy and peace.

It was a great day of unity in bringing us together to share a service with our Hispanic brothers and sisters, with whom we share the house of God. The musicians all told me it was a warm and welcoming experience. Many felt, as I, that we pray we reached at least one heart on that Sunday. As we start the New Year please continue to invite your friends and neighbors to service each week. Make it a good habit for the New Year.

As the year unfolds, consider meeting us for choir on Wednesday nights. If you are unsure, just pop in and visit. We would love to have you. You never know what talent is lurking inside you. We meet each Wednesday after Crossroads at 7:30. If transportation is an issue we can always work that out.

I am thinking now of the Easter season and putting together some new music. I feel like I lost Easter last year and I am hoping to move forward at full speed this year. I ask if you have any music that you would like to hear in service, please contact me. I will be happy to see if it's something we can do to put in a service.

Blessings,



As this new year begins, I want to thank each of my church family for their prayers, love and concern for me through all my health problems. The year 2016 was not a good year, health-wise for me. I know 2017 will be a better year.

Philippians 4:13 tells me "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength".

Love and Prayers,  
Maxine Baird

Thank you all for your years of support, cards and caring during my sister's (Linda Saunders) long struggle with cancer. All of your kindness has been such a comfort to me.

Blessings to all,  
Pam Roder

I want to thank the Church family for your prayers, cards, and visits during mom's illness this past year; and for me during my recovery from surgery and therapy. Your love and support means so much to us and is greatly appreciated.

Love,  
Pam and Phyllis Ingalls

### CLARK SCHOOL 2017



We have been asked to help provide snacks for the Clark School teachers to give

students who are not able to bring their own snacks. So far this year we have sent bags of pretzels, goldfish crackers, pirates booty and bags of apples that were gleaned, boxes of assorted crackers and butter cookies.

Also requested:

Lotions and/or hand creams--small ones will be given to the children who need them and the larger ones will be kept in the teachers classrooms for use by the students. There are 22 classrooms. If you would like to help fill these requests, you may leave your donations on one of the side tables in the fellowship hall. if you want to contribute \$\$ towards this mission with Clark School, just mark your check Clark School Designated Fund.

Thanks

Barbara Lowery



Comcast Channel 13 will  
Rebroadcast the Worship  
Service Sunday at 7:00 pm.



**Thank you to  
the  
Belmont  
Baptist Church  
Family,**

Thank you all for your years of support, cards and caring during my sister's (Linda Saunders) long struggle with cancer. All of your kindness has been such a comfort to me.  
Blessings to all.

Pamela Roder



Follow-up: Bells Ringing from Belmont Baptist Church

I have completed researching the information for installing bells in the steeple of our church.

We contacted Crutchfield, who will install 4 speakers and an amplifier as well as the wire which will run from the amplifier to the carillon. The cost for this equipment and the installation is \$3,802.00.

I have also contacted Church Specialties, LLC. They are specialists in digital carillon bells. It is a family owned company who have been in business since 1919.

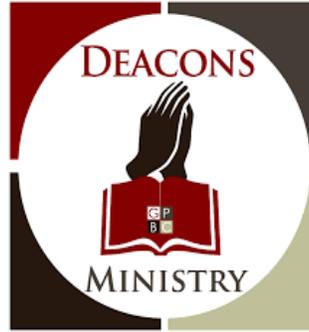
They have assessed the equipment Crutchfield is supplying and determined the two systems are compatible. I have details about this equipment, if anyone would like to review it.

The cost of the Chime Master Digital Carillon model Six SS is \$5,450.00 Total approximate cost of the system is \$9,252.00.

We currently have \$7,000.00 pledged/donated to this specific endeavor, leaving us with a shortfall of \$2,252.00.

Please pray about this project as we seek to do God's will.

Thanks for all you do for our Lord.  
Cheryl Weston



**The Healing Power  
of the Christian**

Our world is packed with challenges and personal issues that rack our brains for solutions. As parents we guide our children through problems in schools or with kids in the neighborhood, whose behavior is less than de-

sirable. Once our children reach adulthood, the problems continue in employment, their homes, etc. As experienced parents and Christians we have the opportunity to save the day with advice.

In his book, "Reaching Out," Henri Nouwen advises that Christians are in the role of healers. The bible tells us that we are to work shoulder to shoulder with Christ; therefore, we use our years of experience and bible study to assist others in moments of crisis or challenge.

Nouwen states: "When we are teachers it is good, therefore, to realize that students cannot be molded into one special form of the good life, but are only temporary visitors who have been in many rooms before they came into ours. Our relationship with our students is first of all a relationship in which we offer to our searching students, to help them develop some clarity in the many impressions of their mind and heart and discover patterns of thoughts and feelings on which they can build their own life. By a supportive presence we can offer the space with safe boundaries within which our students can give up their defensive stance and bend over their own life experience, with all its strong and weak sides, to find the beginnings of a plan worth following. As teachers we have to encourage our students to reflection which leads to vision-theirs, not ours."

When one of our children calls us and conveys a problem they are having at work, home, etc., it is natural as a parent to want to help. This is a good occasion to search for one of those books that have meant a lot to us, and give it to our troubled child. Bible study groups such as "Crossroads" on Wednesday evenings are a great place to find authors such as Henri Nouwen who address life's issues. Remember, if you find an author that impresses you with his/her depth of knowledge, your child will need to see the same book!

Richard Wharam

BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH  
830 Monticello Avenue  
Charlottesville, VA 22902



## ***Valentine's Banquet***

**Saturday, February 11 at 6 pm  
Fellowship Hall**

Roast Pork Loin  
Seasoned Green Beans  
Mashed Potatoes  
Gelatin Salad  
Spiced Apples  
Rolls  
Red Velvet Cake

Dinner will be followed by a time of fellowship  
with games and musical entertainment.

Cost is \$8 per adult and \$4 per child 12 and under.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO STEEPLE BELLS AT BELMONT BAPTIST