



The Epistle

February 2010



The Brandermill Church Midlothian, VA



No Longer Strangers . . .

Ephesians 2:19

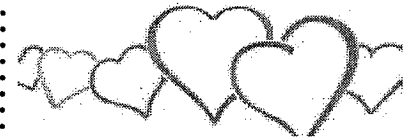
A Prayer for Haiti

God of compassion
 please watch over the people of Haiti,
 and weave out of these terrible happenings
 wonders of goodness and grace.
 Surround those who have been affected by tragedy
 with a sense of your present love,
 and hold them in faith.
 Though they are lost in grief,
 may they find you and be comforted.
 Guide us as a church
 to find ways of providing assistance
 that heal wounds and provide hope.
 Help us to remember that when one of your children suffers
 we all suffer;
 through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives
 and rules this world with you. Amen.

Bruce Reyes-Chow

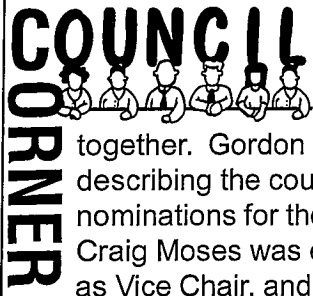
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Sermon Topics for February:

- 7 - *How to Read the Bible*
Isaiah 6:1-13
Gordon Mapes
- 14 - *Listening to the Son*
Luke 9:28-43
Gordon Mapes
- 21 - *Setting our Faces
for the Journey*
Luke 9:51-62
Sandra Bottoms
- 28 - *Two Steps Forward,
One Step Back*
Psalm 28
Gordon Mapes



The January meeting kicked off our new 2010 council year and first opportunity to sit down

together. Gordon led us off by briefly describing the council structure and obtaining nominations for the three leadership positions. Craig Moses was elected Chair, Diana Beatty as Vice Chair, and Mary Ann McCole as Clerk. The Council also:

- √ Received a recommendation by Chuck Clement of the finance committee regarding a "Call Campaign" strategy to increase pledging households. Discussion also on follow-up action once the strategy is implemented.
- √ Voted to accept a staff-parish committee proposal of a gift sabbatical for Gordon. The sabbatical will start April 5. Related to the sabbatical was the reminder that the UMC Virginia Conference will appoint our new senior Methodist minister and he/she will start on or about July 1, 2010.
- √ Was reminded of our annual staff/council retreat on February 5 & 6.

The next council meeting is
February 8 at 7:00 PM.

STORMY WEATHER FAITH

I write this article as I sit watching the remnants and tumult of a storm on the Gulf of Mexico. The several inches of rain, the gusty wind, and the rough, churning Gulf waters made for a somewhat restless night's sleep. To me, this storm seems as if it forms a frame around the unexpected tempests that blow through our lives from time to time. From the tragedy, death and destruction of the earthquake in Haiti...to the untimely death of an old friend...to the final demise of a new friend who gallantly battled a degenerative disease that claimed his life, but not his indelible spirit...to the God-given chutzpah of a clergy colleague who rose to preach a powerful message only days after being assaulted and robbed by one who she sought to extend grace and help — this past week has delivered its fair share of storms.

But as my clergy colleague pointed out in her sermon, "it's how we live, thrive and grow in the midst of adversity that defines our faith in God." And so even in

the midst of the worst of life's storms, we, as Christians recognize the larger truth about safety, security and life — God is with us! Paul reminds us of this in the eighth chapter of his letter to the church at Rome, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (v. 37-39)

I am reminded of this truth as I hear the Haitian people sing songs of prayer and faith in the streets, with death and destruction all around them, and aftershocks that continue to jar their world but not their faith. I saw this truth in the face of a new friend who faced death with dignity and grace, holding fast to God's promise of eternal peace and healing. I sensed this truth in the prophetic, Spirit-filled words of my clergy colleague's sermon. I read this truth in a recent letter written by a young man housed in one of our regional jails, as he responded to a letter written to him by members of our church family: "My days here can be filled with some downing moments, but keep in mind that I have the setup for the greatest comeback ever."

Friends, God is indeed with us - always! May we face the storms in our own lives with that truth on our minds, in our hearts, and on our lips!

Grace and peace, *Sandra*

Haiti Relief

Haiti Outreach Ministries has an established disaster relief account. Giving funds through them will go directly to the HOM churches in Haiti for on-site relief. If you would like to contribute, please make checks out to "Haiti Outreach Ministries" and send to:

HOM
c/o David Armistead
8066 Elliott Dr.
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Finally, join people of all faiths around the world to Pray for the people of Haiti and those working to assist them. Further plans for a coordinated response effort from churches in the Richmond area are currently being developed. Keep checking the bulletin and website for updated information on specific needs and plans.



BLOOD DRIVE

February 14
8:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

Watch the bulletin or call Marcie
(744-3661, ext. 101) for details.

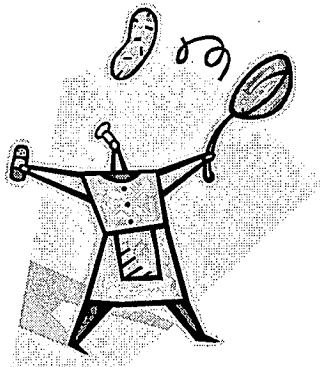


WOMEN'S CIRCLES

The **Semi-Circle** will meet at the home of Jan Baran on Monday, February 15 at 7:00 PM. Sandra Bottoms will present the program. New members are always welcome. Contact Susan Clement (748-5917 or ssclem@yahoo.com) for further information.

Lena Bartges Circle meets Thursday, February 18 at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



**February 16,
6:30 PM**



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17

Worship Service
7:00 PM

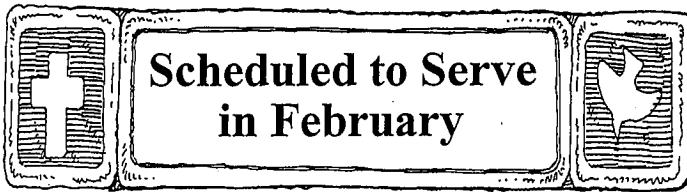
The service will include the imposition of ashes for those who desire it.

A nursery for infants and toddlers will be provided.

Celebrate Lent with Suggestions to Preserve God's Creation

One non-traditional way to celebrate Lent would be to do something each day toward preserving God's creation. We are called both to attend to the sacredness of Creation *and* to respond to it by active participation in its protection. This list, using the metaphors of feasting and fasting, suggests ways to expand your Lenten experience. The 12 suggestions listed here will carry you through the February days of Lent; the remaining 28 suggestions will appear in the March issue of the Epistle.

1. Feast on the beauty of the day whenever you go outside.
2. Feast on the goodness of God by saying grace before each meal.
3. Fast from heavily processed "junk" foods.
4. Feast on God's creativity by watching the uniqueness of insects or critters you see today.
5. Fast from wasting water by not letting the faucet run unnecessarily.
6. Feast on the blessing of water by offering a prayer of thanks to God each time you wash your hands or drink from the tap.
7. Fast from wasting a tree or can of oil by bringing your own bags to the store.
8. Feast on the blessing of community by practicing random acts of kindness to the people around you.
9. Fast from disposable coffee cups or water bottles by carrying your own.
10. Feast on conserving resources by recycling whenever possible.
11. Fast from individual automobile use for any destination in easy walking, bicycling, or public transit distance.
12. Feast on the outdoors by taking a walk.


**Scheduled to Serve
in February**

2/7

Acolytes: Samantha Scifres and Natalie Mullen
Greeter - 8:30: Ginny and Steve Menninger
Grounds: Bill Harp
Lay Leader - 8:30: Dolly Pakurar
Lay Leader - 11:00: Mike Clang
Ushers - 8:30: Cathy and Wayne Shotwell
Ushers - 11:00: Bill Turner, Sonja Turner, Hugh Catlett,
 Victor Liu, Ken Braun

2/14

Acolytes: Kiki Inman and Eddie Acevedo
Greeter - 8:30: Loral and Roy Hoagland
Grounds: Jon Hartzler
Lay Leader - 8:30: Bill Harp
Lay Leader - 11:00: Marty Kump
Ushers - 8:30: Cathy and Wayne Shotwell
Ushers - 9:45: Bob Weatherford &
 Brad and Ann Coble
Ushers - 11:00: Reg Waggoner, Bud Gardner, Greg
 Gardner, Gayla Gardner

2/21

Acolytes: Ellie Maust and Connor Marsh
Greeter - 8:30: Denise and Glenn Purvis
Grounds: David Kohan
Lay Leader - 8:30: Karen Harp
Lay Leader - 11:00: Irene Carlisle
Ushers - 9:45: Bruce Mason, Jim Allen, Ben D'Arrigo
Ushers - 11:00: Robert Redmon, Gary Shepherd, Mark
 Lyons, Billy Pritchett, Mary Ann McCole

2/28

Acolytes: MaryGrace Mann and Cameron Mann
Greeter - 8:30: Joyce and Colon Rowe
Grounds: Bill Lyon
Lay Leader - 8:30: Dave Thompson
Lay Leader - 11:00: Mike Clang
Ushers - 8:30: Don Vorhis and Fred Carter
Ushers - 9:45: Bruce Mason, Jim Allen, Ben D'Arrigo
Ushers - 11:00: Maggie Buchanan, Maggie Maust

**Altar Guild for February:
TEAM MEMBER NEEDED!!**

**Building Stewards for February
Ted Lushch**



**YOGA WITH
OLIVETTE
CONTINUES**

Chair yoga-2:00PM

Yoga-5:15PM.

Chair yoga is a class designed for seniors and people with physical limitations. It is the most relaxing of all exercise classes. Yoga classes focus on flexibility and relaxation.

No need to signup, just show up. All classes are free.

Please call Olivette Robinson at 897-1531 if you have any questions.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2009 Year - End figures will be
available in the March *Epistle*
or by request
after January 31.

Thank you for your continuous giving!!

Editor's Corner

The Epistle is published monthly by The Brandermill Church. We welcome submissions for *The Epistle* that pertain to the life and ministries of The Brandermill Church. The deadline for publication is the 15th of the month. All articles or notices must be approved by staff, and will be included on a space-available basis. They may be edited for length and content.

We kindly request that articles be submitted via email to marcie@brandermillchurch.org or on computer disk.

MUSIC NOTES

Twenty-Ten v. 1 rev. B

I know many, if not all, of you started 2010 with the best of intentions. Maybe a few even made New Year's resolutions. So now that we are one month into the new year I ask, how's that working for you? Perhaps here on February 1, we could revise those resolutions, hence "rev. B" in the title.

Now, I'd like to share one of my favorite Bible passages with you . . . from Romans 12: 6-8.

We all have different gifts, each of which came because of the grace God gave us. Anyone who has the gift of serving should serve. Anyone who has the gift of teaching should teach. Whoever has the gift of encouraging others should encourage. (The Everyday Bible, p. 1025)

I teach. I always knew that I would be a teacher and by about 9th grade, I knew I would be a music teacher. Of course, I thought I would be directing a high school marching band, but God had other plans for me. Sometimes I refer to this transition as my crisis music ministry. You see, the first time I directed an adult choir in church was at Easter when our director came down with appendicitis the day before the cantata. No Sunday anthem here, we're talking an hour-long full-blown cantata with choir, actors, scenery, the whole shebang! There was no one else to step in, so God's ray of sunshine burst through the clouds and shown down on me (literally! it was sooo awesome!) and I knew at that moment that everything would be fine. I haven't had any more big "God moments" like that one since, but I know He is always there leading, guiding, loving and encouraging me!

So, what do you do? Do you teach? Do you encourage? How do you serve?

Here is where the rev. B part comes in. If you didn't get involved in something here at church in January, it's not too late! You can start over right here and now! There are so many opportunities here at our church. When I look around, I see so much potential! As we move into the Lenten season, the Sanctuary Choir will be preparing for the Tenebrae service and as such, would extend an open invitation to everyone to join us for this most holy seasonal service. If you don't sing, you can find a home in the Branderbells and learn to ring your praises to God. Both of these are

exciting ways to serve. The children's choirs will be preparing a spring musical, so all children from age 4 through 5th grade are invited to come and sing! Remember, children can serve too and singing is a great way help them show their love for God!

So, rev. B your commitments today ~ teach, encourage and serve.

Grace and blessings to you all for a wonderful 2010!

P.S. The Music Ministry wishes to acknowledge and thank the outgoing chairperson of the Worship Committee, Beth Maust, for all she has done in serving our church. We would also like to extend greetings to our new Worship Committee chairperson, Marty Kump. Blessings to you both!

Dawn Rancka,
Assistant Director of Music



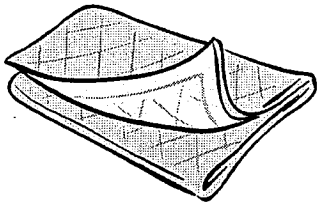
Consignment Sale February 27

The spring Children's Clothing & Toy Consignment Sale will be held February 27 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the church.

Donate your gently used spring or summer childrens' clothes, books, toys, videos, games, baby equipment and nursery items. Wire hangers are also needed. Please leave in the Fellowship Hall by February 22 and mark BCCS. Proceeds from donated items benefit Outreach Missions.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy fun and fellowship. Volunteers are needed between February 22-27. Please sign up on the web site: www.bccsale.com. Thank you again for all of your hard work and dedication to the BCCS. We couldn't do it without you!

Many Blessings,
The BCCS Leadership Team



February 14, More than Valentine's Day!

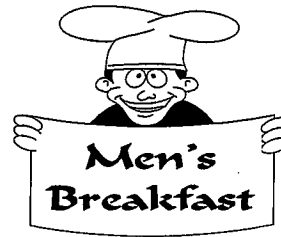
In these days of rapid communication in many forms, few people need to be reminded that Sunday, February 14, is Valentine's Day, a time for special remembrance of those we love.

Around this time of year, we here at The Brandermill Church have a tradition of demonstrating Christian Love in an additional way. We have called it, our "Blanket Drive", and for the past fifteen years, and we've been among the leading churches in the U.S.A. in annual contributions. This February 14 we will collect donations for Church World Services' "Tools of Hope & Blanket + Program" again.

Each February, from 1996 through 2009, our Children's Ministry has led the collection of money for this worthy cause. Our donations have totalled about \$65,000 over that time period. (A little bit at a time really does add up!) Traditionally, with a \$1 donation each child puts his or her name on a heart that is then pinned onto one of the blankets that CWS provides for disaster relief or development assistance using the donated funds. At a cost of about \$5 per blanket, we've come close to providing 3,300 blankets over the past 14 years.

The CWS Program actually provides more than blankets, however. Blankets+ also provides tents, bedding, medicine and other emergency supplies in the wake of disasters, and development assistance such as seeds, tools, wells, livestock, microcredit, education, and training. The aid from CWS goes to recipients both within the United States and around the world. For example, aid programs remain active in Guatemala, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Argentina, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Bosnia, West Bank, Kenya, Tanzania, Indonesia, Iraq, Pakistan, Cambodia, and Myanmar, to name just a few. Less than 20% of support for the CWS goes to Fund Raising and Administrative Expenses.

This year, on February 14, the children of The Brandermill Church will present their heart-covered blanket(s) and will sing a song as they lead the collection of our 2010 donation to this worthy cause. Envelopes for adult donations are in with your monthly envelope packet and will also be in the bulletin. Please donate as generously as you are able.



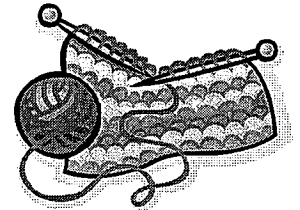
**Saturday,
February 13
8:00 AM**

Horst, Earl and Mark will prepare a great hot breakfast as usual. We'll be privileged to hear an "annual report" from our Senior Pastor, Gordon Mapes. Gordon will provide a review of the accomplishments of 2009 and the challenges for 2010. Come on out for great food, Christian fellowship and an informative presentation about our Brandermill Church community of faith.

You can sign up on the attendance pads in the sanctuary or by contacting Marcie in the church office - 744-3661, ext. 101. We hope to see you there.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Meetings continue on Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. in the back of the Sanctuary. (*note the new time!*) Come join us whenever you can for fellowship or help learning to knit or just to visit.

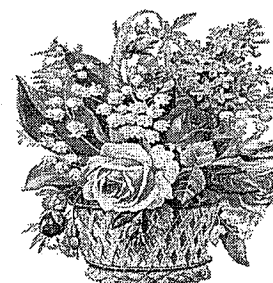


If you have any questions about this ministry or want to join this special group, please call or email Carol Allen at 744-1221 or cardinal14011@aol.com.

Altar Flower Dedications

We still have dates available on the 2010 calendar.

This is a special way to honor a loved one or mark a special event. Arrangements are \$50 each, payable during the week of the dedication. Contact Marcie at 744-3661, ext. 101 for more information.





This year,
CARITAS will run
from March 6 - 13.
CARITAS means
Congregations

Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter. We will be hosting 40 men during this time. There are many issues regarding the homeless: health problems, financial stress, lack of resources, no jobs, physical and mental disabilities to chronic substance abuse are a part of the long list. Homelessness directly affects thousands of Virginians annually. Last year 8,913 individuals were homeless on a 24 hour snapshot in January 09. Currently, there is a seven percent rise in Richmond's homeless. We can all see that the downturn in economy plays a crucial role. I have served on the core committee for the past 3 years. It has brought me numerous blessings.

Last year, I asked Bob Beatty if he would be willing to mentor me, so I could begin this journey of ministry. He was thrilled to say yes! I can't begin to explain how Bob exemplifies many of the covenants we read each week on the cover of the Church bulletins. His kindness, smile, enthusiasm, and generous heart are only a small part of what a terrific person he truly is.

Last year 300 individuals from Brandermill Church participated in this week long ministry. There are many ways that we can use your help. Donations of food, time, and fellowship are all essential. In each way they all come together to provide a week that our guests have often thanked us for. Some of the events and moments I remember from 2009:

- The wonderful dinner that Horst and Earl made, the first night our guests arrived. The meatloaf was enjoyed by everyone.
- Warner and Jane Marshall monitoring shower duty and providing our guests a chance to talk and hear their story.
- The preschool and children's Sunday school artwork and cards that provided many smiles to our guests.
- Reg Waggoner and Warren Ragsdale as our Bingo hosts. There were lots of laughs during the evening.
- Dr. Bagwell making his quiet unassuming rounds to make sure everyone looked OK.
- A private piano concert given to Jim Ritter in the Sanctuary by one of our guests.
- The Youth Group making Chicken Cordon Bleu under Rich's first CARITAS experience.
- Bob Beatty telling his Iditerod stories each night.

(continued next column)

- One of our guests giving an inspiration grace each night before dinner.
- Receiving thank you cards, signed by all our guests and also an individual taking time to write his our thanks.

There are many more, but this is just a glimpse of what occurs during the week. I have some big shoes to fill, but I look forward to the great work others have started, so that I may continue. The congregation each year has been so very gracious and willing to be a part of this ministry. I leave you with a fitting verse: Peter 4:10 *Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. May you each continue to **Give Generously and Witness Boldly.***

Jolie Blankenship

Pack the Pod Returns in March!

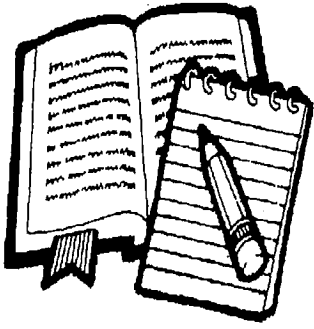
The Brandermill Church will partner with the CARITAS Furniture Bank (March 6 - March 13) to once again fill a POD with new or gently used household goods. These items will be distributed to previously homeless families who are setting up newly-acquired homes. Watch the bulletin and the March *Epistle* for details.

Most Needed Furniture and Household Items:

Mattresses (all sizes)
Sofas/Loveseats
Bed Frames (all sizes)
Dining Tables/ Chairs
Dressers
Pots and Pans
Bed Linens
Bath Towels
Dishes/Flatware

Items Not Accepted

Clothing
Toys
Books
Large Appliances
Headboards without frames
Desks
Mirrors
Patio Furniture
Bags filled with misc items



From the Educator's Cubby,

As I write this, it is the second nice day we've had weather-wise, after what seemed like a *very long* cold snap. Today is sunny and thereby warm with the temperatures in the upper 50's. It seems as if it takes

some gloomy, cold and wet days for us to be reminded to be truly thankful for the beauty of God's creation! The sunshine not only warms our bodies but our spirits as well, and as is so often the case, it helps us to 'get out of ourselves' and see beyond our own myopia.

February brings the season of Lent to us this year. As I have journeyed along with you in the faith, I have come to realize that many of us are not familiar with the season of Lent or have an understanding of what Lent is about. So in the spirit of education, I'd like to share some information about one of the holiest times of the year, leading up to the holiest of all celebrations, Easter.

My opening musings about the weather can serve as an analogy of Lent and Easter. Lent is traditionally a pensive time in one's spiritual journey, a time of reflection, prayer, and penance. The day before Lent is known as 'Shrove Tuesday' or in secular terms, 'Fat Tuesday'. This day was the day that all households used up the lard and leavening agents for baking in the house, as during Lent there would be no cakes, pastries, or raised breads. 'Shrove' came from the Latin '*scribere*' which meant to 'prescribe penances.' Thus, 'Shrove Tuesday' was a day to get prepared for doing penance during Lent by engaging in one last frivolous fling. This is where the celebration of Mardi Gras originated.

Lent is a period of 40 days, not including the Sundays, (which are 'mini-Easters') so in actuality 40 days and 6 Sundays. The number 40 is a number of significance in scripture in many ways: The Great Flood lasted 40 days, when Joseph died the required number of days for embalming was 40, the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 days, Moses spent 40 days on the mountain of God (twice!), the Hebrews were in exile for 40 years, and Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which is remembered with a service of repentance and prayer, concluding with

ashes being placed upon the foreheads of those present. This act has a two-fold meaning: it reminds us of our mortality, and the shape of the cross reminds us of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation and that as believers, we have died in Christ. After Ash Wednesday we embark upon 40 days of quiet prayer and soul-searching. Many believers will choose to 'give something up' for Lent, in remembrance of Christ's giving up of his life for us.

The traditional color of Lent is purple, and traditionally the sanctuary is kept sparsely decorated during this time. Lent is a time for the tradition of contemplative prayer. Holy Week is included in the Lenten period of somber reflection, a time of 'darkness' reminding us of the darkness that descended upon the world the moment Jesus died upon the cross, and the darkness of the tomb. Thus Lent may remind us all of the darkness and the cold of the earth during this time of year, and of our lives without Christ.

Then Easter arrives in concert with the advent of spring and the warmth of more frequent 'sun-shiny' days. Our spirits are lifted not only by the bounty of God's beauty in nature's blooms, but by the 'internal bloom' of celebration and joy over Christ's resurrection! The darkness of life has been defeated and the hope of light has arrived. Our pensive prayers give rise to joyous halleluiahs; our being as ones created, deliberately co-mingles with the essence of God's earthly creation.

It is my prayer that as we all journey through the season of Lent, each one of us will engage in the practice of contemplative prayer and a time of penance. Instead of 'being afraid of the dark,' let us embrace it as a time of soul-searching and healing, preparing us all for the greatest gift of light – the gift of Easter.

*Blessings,
Val*



Happy February! What a busy month! We have Groundhog Day on the 2nd, Valentine's Day and the Blanket Drive on the

14th, and the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday on the 17th. With February being a short month, it will fly by before we know it!

Our new FaithWeavers class is off to a great start! Our

(continued next page)

teachers are doing a terrific job, and our children are engaged. There's great new energy in children's ministries – energy you'll want to be a part of going forward. How can you get involved and be part of exciting new changes? We have two wonderful opportunities! *We will need teachers for our March to May session of FaithWeavers, and we have openings on our Children's Ministry Committee.* We're re-visioning our children's program and you can be a part! Children's ministries change the lives of our children by introducing them to the love of God and giving them an opportunity to be involved in God's work. If you'd like to make a difference in the life of a child come and join the fun! Contact Val at 744-3661, ext. 103 or val@brandermillchurch.org or our new ministry chair, Cori Begg at 639-4577 or at southernbeggs@verizon.net.

Lent

The holy season of Lent begins early this year with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Traditionally the church begins this season of the church calendar with the solemn service of 'Imposition of Ashes' where each person present receives the sign of the cross marked on their foreheads with the dried ashes of palms. Our Preparation for Worship class will be attending as part of their curriculum. Come and join them in this holy time. See notice of time elsewhere in the Epistle.

Camp Hanover!

Hard to believe it's time to think about Camp Hanover again! Camp Hanover is a traveling day camp that comes to our church and allows children to experience the activities of camp before considering participating in a 'sleep away' camp. Brochures are already here and are in the brochure rack in the narthex as well as on the file on Val's office door. Camp Hanover will be June 21 – June 25 this year, and our coordinator is Caroline Moses.

Vacation Bible School!

We are embarking on a new curriculum and a new vision for our VBS this year. We are going to work on making VBS more of an outreach event to our community. And we'll be using a new curriculum from Group. We are going to meet Joseph, and go to Egypt! We'll learn about day to day living in Egypt and get to do some things like make bricks! Because we're going to experience a different culture as part of our learning, we are getting a head start on our planning. *We need construction helpers!* Can you wield a hammer? Can

you cut, put together, paint? *We need seamstresses* who would be willing to stitch up a few 'Egyptian' costumes. There are plenty of opportunities to help! If you aren't available to help during the week, but can join us on a few Saturdays, to build Egypt or can sew some 'Egyptian' clothes, please let Val or Cori know! V.B.S. will be the last full week of July this year.

Val and the Children's
Ministries Committee

Bishop's Convocation- *Caring for God's Creation*

Feb. 27 – River Road UMC

9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Do you wonder how your faith fits into environmental stewardship? Come to the Bishop's Convocation! UMC Bishop Kammerer and Rev. Pat Watkins, executive director of Care-takers of God's Creation will speak.

Participants have an opportunity to sign up for a variety of workshops: *Planning an Earth Sabbath Service, Planting a Community Garden, Connections Between Creation Care and Social Justice* to name a few. Cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch.

You can register on-line by going to: www.vaumc.org and clicking on events at the bottom of the page. There is also a downloadable PDF flyer with more information. See you there!

The Labyrinth is Coming!

The labyrinth is coming to the sanctuary again this year! It will arrive the morning of February 20 and be available to be walked that evening from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. It will be open for walking Sunday afternoon – the 21st after services, and on Sunday evening. The following week, it will be available to be walked throughout the day during regular office hours, and every evening the week of Feb. 22 - 26 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

The labyrinth is a spiritual tool for contemplative prayer. There is one way in, which is entered on the outside edge. One walks the paths – (circuits) – toward the center, where one can stand or sit in prayer. One then exits the labyrinth by turning around and walking back out the same circuits in reverse.

If you have never experienced contemplative prayer or the walking of a labyrinth, make time during this Lenten season to come and engage God in a new way!



February Schedule

The Brandermill Church Youth Page

Sunday, February 7th

-*Souper Bowl of Caring
Fundraiser during worship*

-*Super Bowl Party at the
Upadhyaya's home @ 6PM
(bring a snack to share)*

Sunday, February 14th

-*No Youth Group - Happy
Valentine's Day! ♥*

Monday, February 15th

-*President's Day*

Wednesday, February 17th

-*Ash Wednesday*

Saturday, February 20th

-*Winter Jam @ John Paul Jones
Arena in Charlottesville*

Sunday, February 21st

-*Youth Group Meeting
6-6:45PM Middle School
6:45-7:15 Dinner for All
7:15-8PM High School*

Wed - Sat Feb. 24-27

-*Consignment Sale*

Sunday, February 28th

-*Bowling at Bowl America on
Hull St. from 4-6PM*

***Sunday School for Middle School youth will meet in the Youth Room on Sunday mornings at 9:45AM. Dave Daniels will be teaching!**

Hey everyone! Anne, Ellyson and I are now officially in our new home! We are so excited about how God has blessed us! As some of you know it was a long process that seemed to have more curveballs than a major league baseball game! But through this process God has really challenged Anne and I with being patient. Patience is not something I have naturally and I have been praying for patience for some time. But patience isn't something that God just gives you, it is something that you have to work at. God teaches you patience by giving you opportunities when you have to be patient. We don't always like those opportunities because it means that we are not getting what we want when we want it. But God's timing is always better than ours, and He wants us to draw strength from Him when we are struggling. Are you having a hard time being patient with something in your life right now? If so, realize that it might be God giving you an opportunity to work on being patient. When you feel discouraged ask God for His guidance and patience will come. Your Friend, Rich

Consignment Sale

The church is having a consignment sale on Saturday, February 27th and the youth can help by working throughout the week. For every hour worked by a youth, the youth group will earn \$10 to help offset the expenses for the upcoming mission trips. Each student who is going on a mission trip this year needs to make every effort possible to work part of the week to help with this fundraiser. Sign-up sheets will be on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Super Bowl Party!



We are having a Super Bowl party at the Upadhyaya's home! We will meet at 6PM and go until halftime. Please bring a snack to share and we will provide the drinks. Hope to see you there!

Consignment Sale

Feb. 24-27

Fundraising Event for Mission Trips
Sign-up to help with the sale
You can earn \$10 per hour for the youth

Sign-up on Youth Bulletin Board

WinterJam 2010

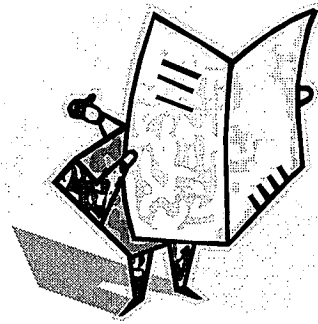
Sat, Feb. 20th

@ JPJ Arena in Charlottesville, VA
Only \$10 to see these bands:
Third Day, Newsboys, Newsong, Fireflight

Sign-up on Youth Bulletin Board



- Feb. 1 - Betsy Cheney, Pauline McFarlane,
Greg McGill, Molly Seavey
- Feb. 2 - Helen Sanders
- Feb. 3 - Jay Keeton, Sonja Turner
- Feb. 4 - Michael Radtke, Rowan Sharma,
Ray Sindelir
- Feb. 5 - Sandra Ennis, Greg Gardner, Terry Lynn
- Feb. 6 - Jim Allen, Pat Barcalow, Dell Daniel,
Matt Hickey, Shenan Worrell
- Feb. 7 - Melissa Daniels, Andy Gardner,
Carson Stoots, Susan Turner
- Feb. 8 - Colson Williams
- Feb. 9 - Tiffer Cheatham, Denise Noble
- Feb. 10 - Kris Kruse
- Feb. 11 - John Earle, Laura Worrell
- Feb. 12 - Mimi Inman, Molly Risendal
- Feb. 13 - Isabella Bannister, Lucas Bannister,
Ben Handzel, Grant Miller, Stuart Morgan,
Ryann Overboe, Dylan White
- Feb. 14 - Benjamin Bradner, Courtney Capshaw,
Wayne Davis, Michelle Longest, Meg Roche
- Feb. 15 - Erin Bollinger
- Feb. 16 - Jenna Barrack, Kathy Dixon,
Brandon Henricks, Robin Johnson,
Jakob McDaniel, Jean Morgan, Glenn Purvis,
Allen Williams
- Feb. 17 - Julie Carbiener, Julie Garner, Glenn Hinton,
Chad Vanderslice
- Feb. 18 - John Keiter, Mark MacMillan
- Feb. 19 - Ed Duddy, Jon Dyer, David King
- Feb. 20 - Ben D'Arrigo
- Feb. 21 - Sarah Bowen, MaryGrace Mann,
Terry Miller, Melissa Watkins
- Feb. 22 - Sarah Archie, Claire Meijer, Nick Spader,
Grey Walters, Amy Wilmarth,
- Feb. 23 - Julie Babb, Kenley Meijer
- Feb. 24 - Tricia Howard, Molly Tucker
- Feb. 25 - Donald Frick, Tim Hichak, Meg Shepherd
- Feb. 26 - Gib Canter, Madison King
- Feb. 28 - Thomas James, Jr., Dre Lee,
William McElfresh
- Feb. 29 - Andy Barbour



Church Family News

Baptism:

Philip Taylor Hopkins, son of Catherine and David Hopkins

Marriage:

Jim Carpenter and Karyn Padgett on December 24.

Condolences to:

Clyde Bartges on the death of his daughter-in-law, Kelley Bartges

Bruce Hall on the death of her husband, Bruce

Marge Roberson on the death of her sister, Dorothy George

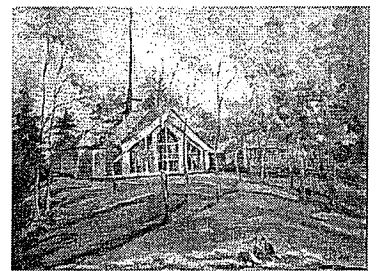
Jean Taylor on the death of her daughter, Pat

Sally Wallace on the death of mother, Sarah Harmanson

Laura, Amanda and Alex White on the death of their husband and father, Keith

Church Notecards Available!

The Nurture Committee has notecards for sale which are printed from the lovely watercolor painting of the Brandemill Church by Helen Sanders. The painting hangs just outside the sanctuary



doors. The notecards are 6x4 1/2 inches and come in sets of 10 for \$15. The cards are suitable for framing as well as sending notes. The Nurture Committee will be using these cards as part of its card ministry, but wanted to also make them available to the congregation. If you are interested in purchasing some cards, please contact Karen Catlett at 744-2669 or kpcatlett@aol.com.

Contact Us

The Brandermill Church
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Midlothian, VA 23112
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(804) 744-9105 fax

www.brandermillchurch.org
info@brandermillchurch.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 AM

Sunday School at 9:40 a.m.

Staff

<i>Gordon Mapes, ext. 105</i>	<i>Pastor</i>
<i>Sandra Bottoms, ext. 108</i>	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
<i>Val White, ext. 103</i>	<i>Director of Adult & Children's Ministries</i>
<i>Rich Catlett, ext. 104</i>	<i>Director of Youth Ministries</i>
<i>Jamie Barrack, ext. 107</i>	<i>Director of Music Ministries</i>
<i>Dawn Rancka</i>	<i>Assistant Director of Music Ministries</i>
<i>Marcie Murphy, ext. 101</i>	<i>Administrator</i>
<i>Robin Johnson, ext. 113</i>	<i>Financial Administrator</i>
<i>Kim Peachy, Tonya Cory</i>	<i>Accompanists</i>
<i>Dawn Rancka, Jamie Barrack</i>	<i>Choir Directors</i>
<i>Debbie Ellison, ext. 106</i>	<i>Preschool Director</i>
<i>Ron Coleman, ext. 109</i>	<i>Preschool Treasurer</i>
<i>Robert Dunford</i>	<i>Custodian</i>

May God bless:

Be sure to read the letter from the
Staff-Parish Committee inside!!



The Brandermill Church
4500 Millridge Parkway
Midlothian, VA 23112
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