



The Epistle

November 2009



The Brandermill Church Midlothian, VA



No Longer Strangers . . .

Ephesians 2:19

Of late my mom has pointed out that I am in the sandwich generation. I know many of you have gone through the same situation, caring for growing children and helping our parents at the same time. As part of the sandwich, my sense is I am the mayonnaise, spread everywhere.

Last month I spent time sorting through mom's papers. At times it was a very difficult task as I was reminded continually of the many challenges she has faced over her lifetime. As painful as it was at times to relive some of those events, I also became very thankful for the courage, tenacity and fortitude mom has displayed in her life over and over.

November is an appropriate month to express our thankfulness. On the Christian calendar, it is the last bit of the year. Advent, the beginning of a new year on the church calendar, is often the last Sunday of the month. Of course that often follows hard on the heels of our national day of Thanksgiving. So it is that at year end, I am thankful:

For our church council, men and women called by God and elected by you to serve as our church leadership. Each of them balancing the tasks of work and/or home-life, committee leadership and the church.

For our church and preschool staff, called by God to ministry as church professionals, caring for the needs of the congregation, children, the community and the world. Each committed to serving with excellence.

For our congregation, called by God to worship and ministry in this place at this time on their journey. Each giving generously of time, talent and treasure that our church may be a space where people may find their lives transformed by Jesus Christ.

For God's abiding presence here at The Brandermill Church. In the 17th century, just as the devastating Thirty Years War broke out in Europe, Martin Rinkhart was called to be pastor of a Lutheran church in Eilenburg Germany. Because of its location and fortifications, the town saw many thousands of refugees from the fierce fighting of the armies marching throughout the country. At one point, in the middle of the war, it is said that the plague broke out in Eilenburg and between the destruction of the war and the sickness, 4,000 people died, as many as 40-50 each day. Pastor Rinkhart was soon the only clergy left and he found himself ministering to all these families.

Remarkably, in the midst of horrific destruction and grief, Martin Rinkhart wrote a poem of thanksgiving for his family to offer as a grace at meals. It began:

*Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our mother's arms,
Has blest us on our way,
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.*

Ten years after it was written, music was added and it comes down to us today as a beloved hymn with a bold witness of God's presence in life. For that, we can all be thankful.

Shalom,

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COUNCIL CORNER

The October Council meeting began with a beautiful orange/pink/azure sunset over the reservoir.

Indoors, the Council and church staff reconvened their study of the *Gathered Before God* text, where discussion centered on liturgy teaching/historical context for the entire congregation. The Council also:

√ received an overview by Chuck Clement on a zero-based budget planning process to optimize our church resources. Also discussed developing longer-term planning cycles for future Councils' benefit.

√ Entertained a proposal for reconvening the Council Organization Task Force to consider steps for streamlining council meetings (content, frequency, and times).

√ received an update on the Council nominating committee progress and tentative timeline.

The next Council meeting is

Monday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLE-ology

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit... therefore glorify God in your body.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

As a young person who at one time considered the field of medicine as a career path, I took undergraduate course work at James Madison University in anatomy, kinesiology, physiology, and sports medicine. Human anatomy lab was especially interesting, as we worked with actual human cadavers. I also remember being especially intrigued when my sports medicine class took a field trip to the University of Virginia Hospital where we were allowed to watch several knee surgeries, including a total knee reconstruction. The intricacies of the human body were a fascination to me then and remain a fascination for me even today.

Just recently, I returned to the University of Virginia Hospital, and took advantage of an opportunity to learn more about the immunology research being conducted there. As I toured research labs doing cutting edge research on several auto-immune disorders, I learned about B lymphocytes that circulate in the blood and lymphatic system performing the role of immune surveillance, and T lymphocytes, or helper

cells, that assist other leukocytes (e.g. macrophages) in immunological processes. While the complexity of this field of study is beyond my capacity to comprehend, it is fascinating to know that brilliant young minds do understand it, and are working diligently to explore, analyze, and seek solutions to malfunctions at this microbiological level which result in debilitating disorders like lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.

The "micro" level of my day at UVA in the immunology lab was contrasted with a "macro" level experience of the capacities of the human body that same evening, as I attended a performance of a local modern dance ensemble. Denise Purvis, a member of our church, was performing with a local dance company, and so I attended, along with several other members of The Brandermill Church. During part of the performance, a limited number of audience members were invited to actually sit on the stage. Needless to say, I jumped at the chance. What an interesting vantage point this proved to be. Experiencing the dance and the dancers from such a different perspective was exciting and invigorating. I was in awe of the raw talent, athleticism, emotion, poise, and strength. And I couldn't help but reflect on the paradox of my day...earlier I had been immersed in knowing the human body at a molecular level; and now, I imagined the molecules, and the cells, and the muscles, and the sinew coming together right before my eyes, as the dancers painted a physical picture of beauty and grace.

Wow! The human body is indeed a miracle! Thanks be to God for the miracle, and for those who explore the capacities of that miracle everyday. May their continued exploration bring healing, hope, and joy to many!

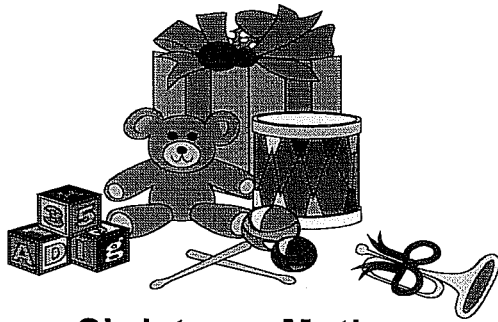
Grace and peace,

Sandra

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.



Christmas Mother

The Brandermill Church has participated for many years in the Christmas Mother outreach program which provides Christmas gifts for needy families and individuals selected through the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Christmas Mother Program. We will distribute gift tags requesting specific gifts and food coupons for households again this year. Each tag is for a specific item requested by a family member or individual. There are requests for items in a variety of price ranges, plus stockings to be filled. Because of the economy, there has been a large increase in requests for help this year. To reach as many children as possible, the Christmas Mother is no longer including gifts for the parents in a family, although grocery gift cards will be provided.

In addition to the children's gifts, we are requesting presents for several single senior citizens this year. The O.W.L.S. (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors) group has offered to provide gifts for these seniors. Call Susan Coffey for more details – 739-8759. Gift tags for the seniors will be available for the O.W.L.S. to pick up on **Sunday, October 25.** (see article on page 5)

The tags for the children (and any remaining seniors) will be distributed November 1, 8 and 15. All gifts should be brought to the church between **Sunday, November 15 and Sunday, November 22.** Monetary donations are also welcome. Checks can be made payable to The Brandermill Church with *Christmas Mother* on the memo line.

Please sign-up in the entryway to volunteer to distribute gift tags, help with bagging the gifts that come in, or to deliver the gifts to the Christmas Mother facility.

If you have any questions or would like to request a gift tag, please contact Carol D'Arrigo – 639-6843 or Gail Plante – 763-4468.

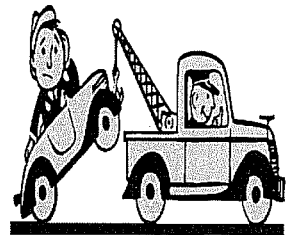
Single Parents / Single Again

Are you a single parent who would like to join with other single parents for support and fellowship? Are you finding yourself single again and desiring of fellowship and support with others who are going through, or have gone through the same experience?

There is a 'bubbling up' of a desire and need for a single parent / single again ministry within our congregation. Both Val and her husband Jim have walked in these shoes individually and then met each other at church in just such a group. If you are interested in being part of such a group please contact Val via e-mail at: val@brandermillchurch.org, or by phone at: 744-3661, ext. 103. With your input and the blessing of God we will create a new ministry together!

Don't Let This Happen to You...

Effective October 1, The Brandermill Church entered into a contract to have the parking lot patrolled for any vehicles parked in designated fire lanes or otherwise parked illegally after hours. All such vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. Contrary to rumor, the church *does not* make any money from cars being towed.

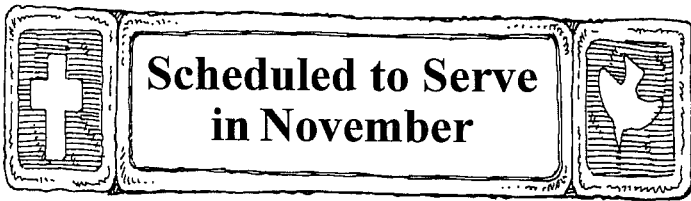


Drop off and *very short term* parking will be permitted during worship times and regular operating hours. Be aware that county officials (fire and police) can have vehicles towed from a fire lane at any time.



Poinsettia Order Forms are in the packet with your December/January contribution envelopes. **Look for the green envelope.** Dedicating a poinsettia helps us decorate the sanctuary for the upcoming Christmas season and is a great way to honor a loved one or mark a special event.

Poinsettias are \$11.00 each. Please complete your order form and place it in the offering plate or return it to Marcie at the church office **by November 23.** Extra envelopes are available at the church office.



**Scheduled to Serve
in November**

11/1

Acolytes: MaryGrace Mann and Cameron Mann
Communion Server - 8:30: S. Begg, G. Menninger, S. Menninger, D. Pakurar
Communion Server - 9:45: B. McElfresh, W. McElfresh, J. Allen, C. Allen
Communion Server - 11:00: B. Pritchett, K. Dixon, J. Brittain, M. Shumaker, R. Neas, L. Weatherford, S. Stoots
Greeter - 8:30: Ginny and Steve Menninger
Grounds: Scott Claus
Lay Leader - 8:30: Brenda Bartges
Lay Leader - 11:00: Kathy Dixon
Ushers - 9:45: Ed and Gayle Pittman & Ben and Wanda Carter
Ushers - 11:00: Reg Waggoner, Greg Gardner, Gayla Gardner

11/8

Acolytes: Ellie Maust and Eddie Acevedo
Greeter - 8:30: Lois and Don Vorhis
Grounds: Larry Wholley
Lay Leader - 8:30: Steve Begg
Lay Leader - 11:00: Ray Holmes
Ushers - 8:30: Don Vorhis and Fred Carter
Ushers - 9:45: Bob Weatherford & Brad and Ann Coble
Ushers - 11:00: Robert Redmon, Gary Shepherd, Mark Lyons, Billy Pritchett, Mary Ann McCole

11/15

Acolytes: Samantha Scifres and Carly Ritter
Greeter - 8:30: Nichole and Chad Vanderslice
Grounds: Reg Waggoner
Lay Leader - 8:30: Dave Thompson
Lay Leader - 11:00: Irene Carlisle
Ushers - 8:30: Jack Risendal and Horst Arfert
Ushers - 9:45: Bruce Mason, Jim Allen, Ben D'Arrigo
Ushers - 11:00: Maggie Buchanan, Ben Anderson, Maggie Maust

11/22

Acolytes: Sarah Nelson and Conner Marsh
Greeter - 8:30: Loral and Roy Hoagland
Grounds: Craig Edwards
Lay Leader - 8:30: Roy Hoagland
Lay Leader - 11:00: Marty Kump
Ushers - 9:45: Woody Lawman, Chris Remme, Warren Ragsdale
Ushers - 11:00: Elizabeth Eisenhower, Rachel Bradner, Edward Eisenhower

11/29 - ONE SERVICE AT 10:00!

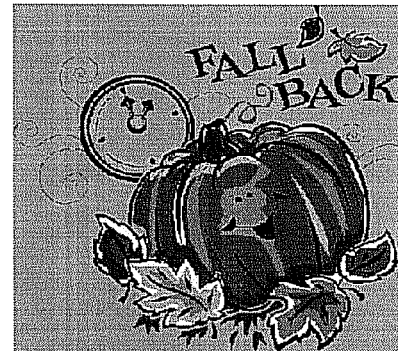
Acolytes: Kiki Inman and Natalie Mullen
Greeter - 8:30: Heather and Neal Masri
Grounds: Jon Hartzler
Lay Leader - Mike Clang
Ushers - Bill Turner, Sonja Turner, Hugh Catlett, Victor Liu, Ken Braun

Altar Guild for November:

Marion Sanville

Building Stewards for November:

John Buchanan, Chris Cheatham,
Woody Lawman & Matt Williams



Don't Forget!

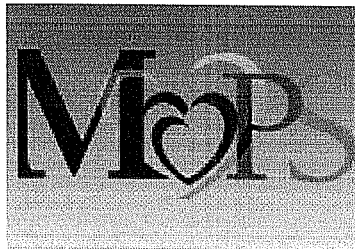
**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK -
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
200AM**

O.W.L.S Covered Dish Lunch & Christmas Mother Program Participation

On Sunday, November 15, the O.W.L.S (Older, Wiser, and Livelier Seniors) will hold a covered dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following the 11:00am service. There will be sign-up sheets in the entryhall on Sunday, October 25, November 1, and November 8. You'll indicate whether your covered dish will be a meat, vegetable, or dessert, and the number of people attending.

The O.W.L.S will sponsor eight single seniors as part of the Christmas Mother program, with an attempt to provide five or more gifts for each senior. Gift tags for these seniors will be available on Sunday, October 25, so we'll be able to have our unwrapped gifts ready to bring and wrap at the November 15 luncheon. We're also going to provide a large stocking for each senior, so please bring some generic items for stocking gifts for 7 women and one man, ages 62 to 84. Last year, The Brandermill Church provided gifts for one single senior, so this is a special focus on the part of the O.W.L.S to help the elderly identified by the Chesterfield Christmas Mother Program. Any leftover gift tags for seniors will be available for selection by the larger church group on November 8.

Please help make the gift selection, the November 15 luncheon and our gift wrapping/stocking stuffing a success. If you need any additional information or have questions, please contact Susan Coffey at 739-8759, or susan23112@yahoo.com.

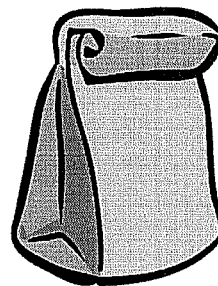


We have started our new MOPS year. We have had two meetings and welcomed 3 new moms to our group.

Reminder: we are still doing the fundraiser at

Hot Tamales - next event is November 10th - just let them know your receipt is to support Brandermill Church MOPS. You can dine in or carry-out, please do not use coupons as Hot Tamales gives our group a percentage of receipts.

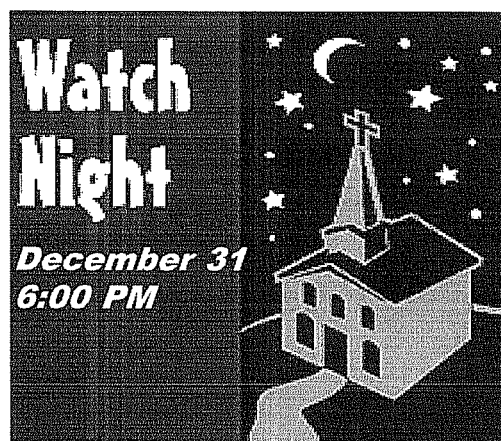
We are off to a great start. We would like to mention the moms that had to leave our group to return to work or relocate for their husband's job. We pray they continue to receive the love and support they need. We pray for all families that continue to struggle during these difficult times.



You Go Girl Book Group

The "You Go Girl" group will meet on November 8 immediately following the 11:00 service. We'll discuss *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the lively discussion and supportive fellowship. You can join us even if you have not read the book.



Mark you calendars for our lay-lead Watch Night Service on Thursday, December 31. As always, we look forward to your participation. If you are interested or have any questions, please email or call Karen Harp - email karenharp7154@gmail.com or call 615-2439



Clyde and Brenda Bartges want to thank all who sent cards and well-wishes for him during his recent operation. It is gratifying to realize we are all part of a larger Christian family united in our love for God and His will for our lives.

Thank you to Don Spivey for his many years of serving faithfully as our building steward coordinator, scheduling stewards to open up and close the church facility every Sunday for the past 5 years. Please join me in offering Don our appreciation for all that he has done for our church family.

Jim Walters, Building Chair

Many thanks to everyone from the church staff for all of your kind words (and tasty treats) during October's Clergy and Staff Appreciation event.

Children's Sunday School Teacher Training!

Would you like to feel more empowered, more comfortable in your ability to teach? Have you thought about teaching but have stopped because you're not sure exactly what to do and can you do it? Come join Val for a teacher training on November 18, at 7:15 in the sanctuary! In order for everyone to have materials, please sign up on the sheet outside Val's office door, or contact Val via e-mail at: val@brandermillchurch.org. **Childcare will be provided for those that sign up and indicate that there is a need.**

This is an excellent opportunity for both our current teachers and prospective teachers to gain some skills. We will cover basic tips for teaching and then look specifically at the **new curriculum, FaithWeavers, that we will begin using in January.** All current teachers and shepherds are strongly encouraged to attend so you may receive the new curriculum and have plenty of time to explore and prepare it.

Come join us on this Wednesday evening – enjoy dinner in the multipurpose room – and then stay for training! You will be empowered!



Between the "Soundworks" Concert on October 18, sponsored jointly by the Fellowship and Outreach Committees, and the "Buy a Block" drive we have just passed our goal of raising \$5,500 as our share of the cost for the Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build. Any future receipts will be designated strictly for future Habitat for Humanity programs. So, now, *on With the actual build!*

Our dates to work at the Apostle Build site are set! (Subject to City of Richmond Building Permit Approvals). The Brandermill Church is scheduled to lead off the twelve weeks of construction by working on November 12, 13, & 14. (That's a Thursday-Friday-Saturday work cycle). Eleven other churches will individually follow our week.

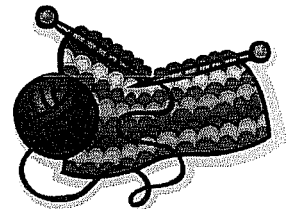
The location of the build is in Richmond on Church Hill at 33rd and T Streets. Parking is available in a church parking lot nearby, but it is advisable to carpool whenever possible.

We'll conduct volunteer signups in the entryway each Sunday between now and November 8. We are asked to provide fifteen (15) workers each day. Volunteers are also needed to prepare and deliver lunches to the site at 11:30 each workday, and to provide water and snack bags.

Our Coordinating Team this year is led by Colon Rowe, with Ben D'Arrigo, Randy Riggs, and Jimmy Walters. Please Contact any of these men if you have questions.

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.



What if we had a “what if” Sunday? What would happen if we showed up on Sunday, and none of the behind-the-scenes volunteers had done their jobs? Imagine it if you will:

The building would be locked and dark (no building stewards)

There’d be no smiling faces to welcome you (no greeters)

Forget about having some coffee and a bit of breakfast, the fellowship team didn’t come in either.

There’d be no bulletins folded, which could be tricky because there’d be no ushers to hand them out.

It wouldn’t matter if the sanctuary was dark, because there’d be no flowers or cloths on the altar table for you to see anyway (no altar guild).

If it was the first Sunday of the month, there’d be no communion elements ready.

Sunday School? – no point in heading to the classrooms, no one’s there to teach you or your child...

Yeah, Sundays just wouldn’t be the same without all the folks who lend a hand every week. How about you? Is there a place for you to participate on God’s team? Often the time commitment is minimal, but the ministry is essential. There are also no gender qualifications, all of these are “equal opportunities!”

The 9:45 Sunday school class for 3 and 4 year olds needs **helpers** to sign up. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board downstairs for all Children’s Ministries Sunday school volunteer positions, or contact Sherri Stoots (739-8452) for more information.

We need **people with financial backgrounds** to serve on the Finance Committee. We’ll soon be losing two members. Please contact Ted Lushch (897-5911) if you’re interested.

The Walk-in-Ministry can always use able bodied **volunteers to help prepare and serve lunches** for the homeless. We leave from the church at 10:00 am and are usually back at the church by 1:30 pm on the third Monday every other month January thru November! Call Pat Bliedorn (763-4856) for more information.

Building stewards - open the church on Sunday mornings, turn on the lights and make sure we’re ready for worship. Then we someone else buttons us up when we’re ready to head home. Stewards serve for a “month of Sundays” but the actual time commitment is probably not much more than an hour per year. Training is available and we have a ready checklist so you’ll know just what to do each week. Contact Marcie at the church office (744-3661, ext. 101) or Jim Walters for more information: (739-6768).

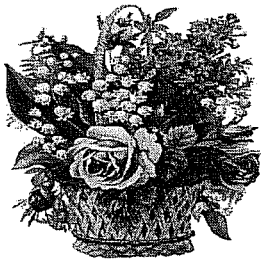
Altar Guild team members **prepare the altar table for worship** each Sunday - making sure the flowers are in place, putting the altar cloths on and assuring that the candles are long enough to get us through 3 services. Team members sign up for one month of service during the year. Contact Marion Sanville for more information - we’ve got several slots open: (744-2859)

Youth ushers - we’ve got several slots open for the 11:00 service now that a few team members have headed off to college. These teams serve once every 5 weeks or so. Contact Billy Pritchett for more information: (794-2172).

Front desk volunteers - to cover during staff meetings, or whenever Marcie’s out of the office. The primary job is to **be a smiling face to greet visitors to the church building** during regular office hours. Computer or phone skills are not necessary, but we can use them if you have them!

Bulletin folders - we need some “subs” on our bulletin folding teams which serve every other Friday for about an hour or so.

Don’t see an opportunity that fits the bill on this list? Check out our Time and Talent survey. There’s a copy in our stewardship packet, or go online to the church website “ministry” tab and fill it in from there.



Altar Flower Dedications

The altar flower calendar sign-up sheets will be available in the entryway on Sunday, November 15.

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



2009 Fall Cleanup Day - Volunteers Needed

It's that time of the year again - let's break out our favorite rakes and gloves to gather up our abundant supply of oak and sweetgum leaves. This fall our cleanup day is Saturday **November 21**, starting at **9:00 a.m.**

Once again, this is open to all age groups as there are a variety of tasks for everyone. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Please call or e-mail Craig Moses at 763-1759 (cchmoses@verizon.net). There will also be a sign-up sheet in the entryway. Hope to see you there for some outdoor time and fellowship to participate *any time* that morning.



Have We Got Music for You!

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		8	9	10	11	12 <small>Handshakes begins</small>
13	14		16	17	18	19
20	21 <small>Winter begins</small>	22	23	24 <small>Christmas Eve</small>	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26 <small>Epiphany</small>
27	28	29	30	31 <small>New Year's Eve</small>		

The Brandermill Church will be alive with the sound of music throughout the month of December, with several special events *of note*...

Christmas Cantata - performed by our sanctuary choir
- December 6 at 7:00 PM

Chesterfield Community Band Christmas Concert -
December 7 at 7:00 PM

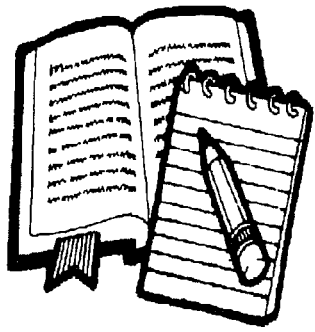
Virginia Folk Music Association "Christmas Jam"
- December 15 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

All of these events are free of charge
and open to the public.

Mark them on your calendar today!

Make A JOYFUL
Noise Unto the Lord!





From the Educator's Cubby,

As I sit and pen these words, I am in the throes of preparation for spending a week alone and away as part of the 'paper writing' process in my next step toward ordination as a

deacon in the United Methodist Church. Strange as it may seem in today's world, I am looking forward to spending a week in solitude and reflection between me and my Lord. I am reminded of all the times in the midst of a busy and often trying ministry that Jesus separated himself not only from the crowds but from his disciples as well, and sought time alone to be with God in prayer and reflection. This stirs within me a reflection that I'd like to share for this month of November.

November 1 begins our month with the celebration and remembrance of All Saint's Day – a time set aside within the liturgical calendar of the church to remember all those in the faith who have gone before us. We will come together on Sunday morning during our worship service to share in the Eucharist, Holy Communion. That evening, we will have the opportunity to join together again in a 'Service of Remembrance, Prayer and Healing.' During this special service all gathered will have the opportunity to come forth and light a candle for a dear loved one that has passed on to eternal glory in the Lord, and then to experience the power of communal prayer, followed by an opportunity for personal healing, and then closing with Holy Communion. It is a beautiful and meaningful service within the life of the church, and a wonderful experience to begin the 'human time' of November with.

November also finds us celebrating *Thanksgiving*. Each and every Sunday we sing a doxology of thanks to the Lord as we bring our tithes and offerings forward as part of our worship service. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow..." we faithfully sing. Do we *truly* live this phrase out in each and every one of our days? Or do we sing it from rote memory, simply mouthing the words? I would prayerfully ask that as we move through this month and look forward to gathering with family and friends for feasting and football, that we also give ourselves time for holy reflection regarding all that the Lord has blessed us with, yes even in these more difficult times. We are *truly* a *blessed people* and our actions

and our very lives need to sing thanks to God each and every day.

Lastly, the last Sunday in November finds us entering into the glorious season of Advent - the holy season of preparation for the coming of Christ – the nativity story! We will once again join in one service for the 'Hanging of the Greens' as we recall the traditions of the faith that evolved over many centuries as humanity sought ways to celebrate the birth of our Savior. What joy to behold!

The Lord has much to give to us this month of November. Prayerfully plan to not miss a single holy moment.

Blessings, Val



Greetings to all! Things are 'rockin' forward' in children's ministry! Here's some news to note!

- **Be sure to get your copy of our 'ParentLink' newsletter.** We will try to send the November issue out by e-mail. Please notify Val if it doesn't come through. There are hard copies available on the Communications Bulletin Board.
- **Please be sure to send your child's Sunday school offering with her/him each Sunday.** This offering goes to support the two Haitian children that we sponsor. We are currently very far behind in our offering, having only about \$200 of the \$600 that is needed for Marie and Rui. I love seeing those 'God jars' that our children made last winter come in full and hear those lovingly saved coins drop down into our offering jar!
- **It's time to sign up to volunteer** to help our wonderful children's music director, Dawn Rancka, in preparation **for the Children's Christmas Pageant!** Please let Dawn know if you can help with scenery and costumes. She needs a co-coordinator for both of these areas. The Christmas pageant is great fun – for all who participate – and all who watch!
- **Sunday School Curriculum** – we will change to a new curriculum in January for our children ages 3 and 4 through 3rd grade. We will be using **FaithWeavers** curriculum as a trial from January through May and then we will evaluate both our children's thoughts and our parental input. This is a curriculum that follows the

(continued next page)

Lectionary preaching cycle that our pastors most often preach from on Sunday morning. It will allow *both* parents and children to hear the same message on Sundays in an age appropriate setting and help foster some mutual opportunities for discussion. We look forward on trying to increase our depth of Biblical knowledge for our children.

• **Become involved in an adult Sunday School class.** Here's food for thought: how do you model the importance of Christian knowledge for your child? If you ask him or her to attend Sunday school each week do you ask the same of yourself? Are you modeling good spiritual formation for your child or modeling the old 'Do as I say, not as I do?' cliché? *Move toward becoming a '2 hour a week for God' family and participate in a Sunday school class yourself.* There will be an adult class taught by our youth director Rich Catlett as part of our new FaithWeaver curriculum, beginning in January. This is an excellent opportunity for you to learn alongside your son and / or daughter. *God has given us 168 hours a week to live. Can we give just 2 of those hours back to God on Sunday morning?*

November brings along Thanksgiving and a time to be grateful for all we have received. As you enjoy time with family and friends, pause to give heartfelt thanks to God for all we've received! We are truly a blessed people!

*Blessings,
Val*



WOMEN'S CIRCLES

The Semi-Circle meets Monday, November 16, at 7:30 PM. We welcome new members! For further information, please contact Susan Clement (748-5917).

Lena Bartges Circle meets November 19 at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

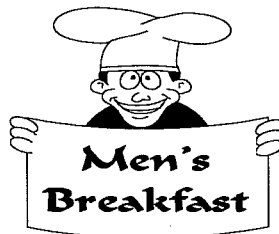
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

Have you begun to think about what you DO want for Christmas? Statistics show that, in the current economy, people are rethinking what is important in their lives, and monetary purchases are not at the top of that list.



So what is more "important" these days? Qualities such as love and friendship, family bonding, caring, commitment, and establishing family traditions are returning to the forefront. Because the Advent season and Christmas provide the perfect opportunity to reinforce or establish these values in our lives, Adult Ministries is offering a preparatory class for Advent, entitled *What Do You Want for Christmas?* by James Moore.

This class runs from November 1 through November 22 from 9:40-10:40 in the Multi-Purpose room. Key Scriptural passages will guide each class; personal reflection will focus your thinking; and discussion with other Christians will stimulate your imagination about ways to truly make the Advent season meaningful for you and your family.



**November 14
8 AM
Multi-Purpose Room**

As always, Horst, Earl and Mark will get us started with a hot breakfast. In honor of Veterans' Day, we'll hear a presentation from Jim Neifeld, MD, Chair of the Department of Surgery at VCU/MCV School of Medicine.

Jim has a wonderful historical presentation on "MCV's Contributions to the Civil War, WWI and WWII." Hear about the world's largest hospital ever, right here in Richmond, and the outstanding service of Virginia's military medical troops overseas. Come on out and join us for good food, good stories and Christian fellowship. You can sign up on the red attendance pads in the sanctuary, or contact Marcie at the church office (744-3661, ext. 101).

Nurture News

Feeling called to **serve creatively** while caring for our congregation? Join us for our **next Nurture meeting is November 22** at 12:15 in the Multi-Purpose Room. There are signups for meals preparation and delivery, card ministry and many other joyful acts of kindness.

♥ **College student care boxes & military members care boxes** will be going out this fall. If you missed out and want to add your family member to the spring mailing list, send your updated addresses to Tonya Brogan at 601-6525 or Rozyroo1@comcast.net

♥ Upcoming surgery, unexpected fall, rehabilitation? If you have a short term need for **medical equipment** (wheelchair, walker, crutches, bedside commode, etc.) please contact Shelia Mullen or Marcie Murphy.

♥ **Disaster preparedness:** Valuable planning information is available online at www.ready.gov or at www.readyvirginia.gov

♥ **Virginia Blood Services** received 23 units on October 11. What a wonderful way to nurture to those in need. Thank you, Brandermill Church donors! The next blood drive will be February 14 and is sponsored by the Semi-Circle

♥ **Upper Room publications** are available in print in the entryway and also available online: www.upperroom.org/devotional/

For more information contact Shelia Mullen @ 590-3668 / mullenoaks@msn.com



All Saints Service of Remembrance, Prayer, Communion & Healing

Join us for a special candlelight
All Saints Day service that will include
prayer, communion & healing.

**Sunday, November 1
7:00 PM**

The service will include a necrology and candle lighting for those remembered. Please use the tear off slip below to submit the name of a loved one by October 28. You may identify those who have claimed Christ's kingdom this past year or in prior years.

Please add to the necrology for this service:

I/we will attend to light a candle in their memory.

_____ yes _____ no

Name _____

Phone _____

November Schedule

The Brandermill Church Youth Page

Sunday, November 1st

-No Youth Group Meeting
Students out of school 2nd-3rd

Sunday, November 8th

-Youth Committee Meeting
Noon in the Youth Room

-Youth Group Meeting

6-6:45PM Middle School
6:45-7:15 Dinner for All
7:15-8PM High School

Sunday, November 15th

-Laser Quest
Meet @ LaserQuest @ 4PM

Sunday, November 22nd

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

Thursday, November 26th

-Thanksgiving Holiday

Sunday, November 29th

-No Youth Group Meeting

*Sunday School for Middle School youth will meet in the Youth Room each Sunday morning at 9:45AM. Linda Reid will be teaching!

Hey everyone! I have really enjoyed the past few weeks of Youth Group as we have had some new faces join us. I would like to think that it is because of our awesome new youth room or maybe because of the incredibly handsome and young looking youth minister (try not to snicker too loudly!). But no matter the reason, it has been nice to fill up our room as we fellowship during our times together. I hope that you all are as excited as I am and that you will continue to be willing to invite some friends. I am including an invitation at the bottom of this page that you can give to a friend or neighbor. If they come and bring me that invitation, I will have a gift for them and for you. I am not very concerned with how big our group gets, I am more excited about gaining new friends. And you can never have too many friends. In fact, Ecclesiastes 4:10 says, "If one falls down, his friends can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" We have been very blessed here at Brandermill and I know that the Lord is going to continue to do great things amongst us. So let's invite others to be a part of what we are doing so that we can all grow together in Christ. The more friends we have, the more people we have in our lives who can help us when we fall and who in turn we can help when they fall. Your friend, - Rich

Small Groups Have Started!!

Small Groups for all ages of youth have started and if you haven't joined one it is not too late. We are meeting on Wednesday and Thursday nights and if you can be a part of one please let Rich know and we will plug you into a group ASAP!

Looking for Confirmation Students

We are going to be beginning the process of connecting Confirmation Students to Mentors this month even though Confirmation Classes will not begin until January. If you are in 8th grade or have not gone through the Confirmation process, please contact Rich (744-3661 ext. 104) and let him know.

Laser Tag @ LaserQuest

Sunday, November 15th at 4PM
We will meet at LaserQuest located
At 889 Research Rd. (near Chest. Tn Center)

Invite a friend to attend

Sign-up on Bulletin Board

Join Us!! Youth Group

Sunday, November 8th or 22nd
At the Brandermill Church
6PM for Middle School or 6:45PM for HS

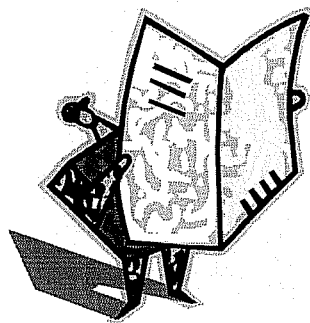
Bring this for a free gift!

Free Dinner for all!!!



- Nov. 1 – Florrie Gardner, Eric Johnson,
Cyndi Woods
- Nov. 2 – Sue Brandenburg, Anthony Caniglia,
Dennis Lacey, Betty Reich
- Nov. 3 – Bill Lyon, Randie Rosenberg
- Nov. 5 – Jennifer Dodge, Margaret Rioux,
Scott Roche
- Nov. 6 – Griffin Claus, Neal Masri
- Nov. 7 – Barbara Dove, Kensie Meijer, Hank Meyer,
Kaysie O'Brien
- Nov. 8 – Billy Pritchett, Virginia Reid
- Nov. 9 – Matthew Dodge, Linda Earle, Grant Marsh,
Sydney Marsh, Trent Overboe,
Morgan Shifflett
- Nov. 10 – Sharon Ellis, Dave Godfrey,
Jason Livingston, Dave Logan,
Robin Roeber, Brian van Eerden,
Todd Williams
- Nov. 11 - Libby Hellman, Colon Rowe,
Mary Helen Williams
- Nov. 12 – Meghan McLees, Ken Roeber
- Nov. 13 – Michael Booker, Kira Dyer,
Mary Helen King, Betty Osterhout,
Robin Wilcox
- Nov. 14 – Laura Bayuk, Karen Catlett,
Marcia Harrigan, Sharon Ritter, John Tucker,
Morgan White, Taylor White
- Nov. 15 – Eleanor Hill, Jane Manden,
- Nov. 16 – Laura Smith, Kiri Thompson
- Nov. 17 – Ethel Monk, Robby Tucker
- Nov. 19 – Jackie Covolo, Eric Finkbeiner
- Nov. 20 – Bob Barcalow, Peggy Gravelle,
Ryder Williams
- Nov. 21 – Ethan Ayers, Lindsay Cashion,
Owen Masri, Carrie Purvis, Hal Raddin
- Nov. 22 – Kathy Conrad, Rebekah Hammitt,
Josh Laramore, Tonja Rhule,
Patrick Sanders
- Nov. 23 – Christy Anderson, Jan Baran,
Joshua Barrack, Jack Risendal,
Melissa Stoots, Sheri Stoots
- Nov. 25 – Kim Longenecker, Kellie Roche,
Irene Thompson

- Nov. 26 – Ed Arnaudin, Stacey Barrack, Susan Lynn,
Amy Scott
- Nov. 27 – Jim Mathews
- Nov. 28 – Louise Bagwell-Robinson, Nancy Coggins,
Wendy Jewell, Dave Taminger
- Nov. 29 – Bob Brogan, Nancy Rider
- Nov. 30 – Randy Cox, Ben MacMillan



Church Family News

New Members:

Ron and Karen Capshaw

Lee Ann and David DeCair
Morgan

Heather and Craig Hannon
Issac, Annelise, Linus &
Elliott

Mary and Bob Krouse

Tamara and Joe McGinn

Lynn and Bob Snider
Lilly and Beaux

Births:

Thomas McCormick King, son of Mary Helen and Eric King.
Aimee Reese Phelps, born to Christine Pinel and Justin
Phelps. Carol Phelps is the proud grandmother; and Joan
Humphrey the proud great-grandma.

Baptism:

Morgan Alexis DeCair, daughter of Lee Ann and David DeCair.

Contact Us

The Brandermill Church
4500 Millridge Parkway
Midlothian, VA 23112
(804) 744-3661
(804) 744-9105 fax

www.brandermillchurch.org
info@brandermillchurch.org

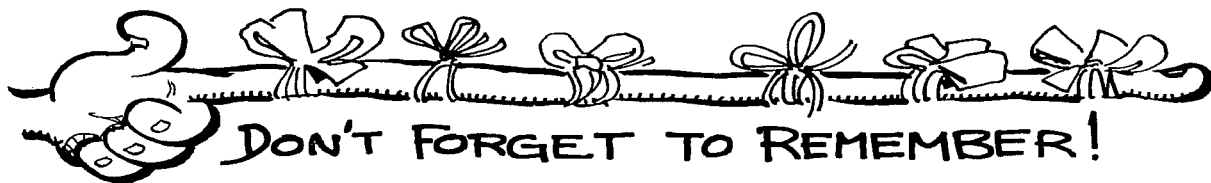
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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</i>	<i>Preschool Treasurer</i>
<i>Robert Dunford</i>	<i>Custodian</i>



DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER!

**ON NOVEMBER 29 WE LL HAVE JUST
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM**

May God bless:



Non-Profit Organization
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Permit # 2147

The Brandermill Church
4500 Millridge Parkway
Midlothian, VA 23112
Change Service Requested