



# The Epistle

September 2009



The Brandermill Church Midlothian, VA



## No Longer Strangers . . .

Ephesians 2:19

Reworking the famous line from *Jerry Maguire* I am excited about our congregational special focus this fall when we'll respond to a possible plea from God to **SHOW ME DISCIPLESHIP!**

At its August meeting the church council approved a plan to focus on our business of making disciples for Jesus Christ. In each of the seven weeks between September 13 and October 25, we'll examine one of our 7 Covenants of Discipleship. Sunday school classes, sermons and special speakers in worship, our special ministry fair on September 13 and more, will all give us an opportunity to challenge ourselves to greater discipleship.

The outline for the weeks will be as follows – September 13: Pray Daily; September 20: Worship Weekly; September 27: Study Regularly; October 4: Live Faithfully; October 11: Serve Creatively; October 18: Give Generously; October 25: Witness Boldly.

On October 25 our bold witness to Christ's graciousness will be to present our stewardship commitments for 2010 at a single service of worship. There we will, as a single body of believers, make our bold discipleship statement for the year to come.

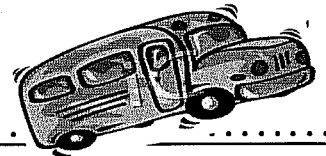
All that aside, I am most excited about our joint staff-council commitment to be engaged in study together. Throughout the seven weeks of our covenant focus, the council and staff will meet together and study Jane Vann's *Gathered Before God: Worship-Centered Church Renewal*. This joint study will not only strengthen the bonds of leadership within our staff and council, but will also provide us with wonderful insights into the central act of a community of faith, coming together for worship.

I invite you to look forward to the fall and celebrate our discipleship here at The Brandermill Church.

Shalom,

### In this issue:

New Beginnings .....	2
Yoga Returns! .....	3
O.W.L.S. ....	3
Scheduled to Serve .....	4
Habitat for Humanity .....	5
Congregational Care .....	6
Women's Retreat .....	6
Golf Tournament .....	7
Unity Works .....	9
Music Notes .....	10
Feast & Fellowship .....	11
Adult Classes .....	12
Nurture News .....	13
Consignment Sale .....	13
Youth News .....	14
September Birthdays .....	15
Church Family News .....	15



### Sermon Topics for September:

- 6 - *Shall We Dance?*  
2 Samuel 6:12-21  
Sandra Bottoms
- 13 - *Show Me Discipleship:*  
*Sermons in Stones*  
Psalm 19  
Gordon Mapes
- 20 - *Show Me Discipleship:*  
*Welcoming Jesus*  
Mark 9:30-37  
Gordon Mapes
- 27 - *Show Me Discipleship:*  
*Sorting a Grab Bag*  
Mark 9:38-50  
Gordon Mapes

# COUNCIL CORNER

At the August meeting, the Council welcomed a visit from Rev. Dr. Charles Grant, Committee on

Ministry Moderator, from the Presbytery of the James. We discussed our mission and ministries as well as how the Presbytery can provide support in serving the needs of our congregation and our community.

The Council also:

- √ Is excited to begin a church-wide Discipleship focus which highlights the 7 Covenants of The Brandermill Church. Additionally, the council and staff will study *Gathered before God* by Jane Vann.
- √ Will be hosting the Rally for Discipleship day on Sept. 13 in the Fellowship Hall with information available on a variety of ministries.
- √ Listened attentively to an update from Finance in which overall contributions are below what was expected for the first half of the year.
- √ Anticipates an enjoyable time to be had by all at the Church Family Camp-Out at Bear Creek State Park during Labor Day weekend.

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## NEW BEGINNINGS

*"See, I am making all things new... Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

(Revelation 21:5)

It's that time of year again...on Facebook, college students are chatting about new roommates, posting pictures of new dorm rooms or apartments, shuffling new class schedules, and adding new friends. In the department stores, school supplies are flying off the shelves, as parents and students prepare for the inevitable return of the school year.

Now "back in the day," before cell phones and texting and Facebook, we didn't get to stay as connected as students do today, so I was always particularly ready for the start of school...I was eager to see my friends again, and I was always excited to meet new friends! I looked forward to meeting my new teacher, and was curious about where my seat would be and who would be sitting near me. But I must admit that the thing I looked forward to the most was shopping for school supplies, and in particular brand new

notebooks! There was something about a fresh stock of clean, blank notebooks that was so inspiring! The metal spiral was free of fuzzy remnants of notebook paper...a full notebook meant that I hadn't ripped out any pages in frustration. A fresh, new notebook somehow symbolized a new beginning...a chance to start anew with a blank slate and to plunge head-long into the great, mysterious adventure of the new school year! To me, new school supplies for a new school year meant a perennial fresh start - everything that happened the year before was history.

Just last week, as I battled through the crowd in the school supply aisle to purchase a notepad for my Mom, and then as I chatted with a college student and his Mom in the checkout line as they purchased necessities for his new apartment, I thought to myself, "isn't it unfortunate that everyone doesn't have this opportunity to feel the thrill of a fresh, new start." But then again, why can't we feel that thrill? In fact, we can!...In Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth, he writes to remind us, "so if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. . .see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

In Christ, we are indeed made new - we all have the opportunity to experience a new, fresh start! Just for fun, and to remind yourself of this important truth, I invite you to go out and buy yourself a new notebook. . .whether you're a student or not, just try it! Then, open your new notebook, and turn a new page each day, and take a moment to write down a daily prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gift of that new day - and for making all things new!

Grace and peace,

*Sandra*



Thanks to your generous contributions, Ukrop's has donated \$354.80 to The Brandermill Church!

This money will be used for the church's Outreach projects! We are very grateful to you

for your certificates and to Ukrop's for its continuing support!

Thanks also go out to Ann Coble for spearheading this drive for us!

## YOGA WITH OLIVETTE!

Yoga classes will resume Wednesday, September 9. Chair yoga is at 2:00PM & traditional Yoga is at 5:15PM. No need to sign up, just show up. All classes are free.

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

Traditional Yoga classes focus on flexibility and relaxation. Please call: Olivette Robinson at 897-1531 if you have any questions.



We're excited about the beginning of another year in the children's area. We hope that all parents will begin to see some differ-

ences and changes. Our goal for the children's ministry committee during '09-'10 will be to get input from the parents on various aspects of our current ministry, so we will have your feedback as we go forward in re-designing our children's ministries. We prayerfully ask that you will 'hang-in-there' with us as change is never quick or as easy as we might like.

One new thing this year is our newsletter – "**ParentLink.**" We hope that this will be a wonderful communication tool that will give all parents some good supportive parenting information as well as information directly pertaining to our children's ministry. There will be hard copies available in the pocket on the communications board downstairs, but it is our desire to send the bulk of the newsletters home via e-mail. To facilitate this **we need your current e-mail address please!** We do not currently have a complete database of e-mails for our parents with children Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We also request that if your e-mail changes that you let us know immediately – by sending it either to Marcie at [Marcie@brandermillchurch.org](mailto:Marcie@brandermillchurch.org) or to Val at [val@brandermillchurch.org](mailto:val@brandermillchurch.org). We have a very difficult time keeping up with everyone when e-mails change.

**Be sure to attend "Rally for Discipleship" on September 13 in the Fellowship Hall.** There will be opportunities for you to check out in adult ministries as well as a

table for children's ministries. You may register your child for Sunday school as well as sign up to help teach and/or shepherd. We need each parent to sign up for at least one rotation during the year – if everyone does this we will be able to provide your child with the Christian education that you desire. During this time there will be an opportunity for your child to go downstairs and find their room, meet their teacher and participate in getting-to-know-you activities, as well as an opportunity for parents to tour the children's facilities.

There will also be a Safe Sanctuary training during this time, in the Multi-Purpose Room. This will be an excellent time to get yourself recertified for the upcoming year – or to become certified for the first time. Re-certification will only take 20 minutes and the signing of your attendance slip. Certification takes about 45 minutes and requires a drivers license, and the names and addresses of 2 references.

We look forward to a wonderful time of learning about God – can't wait to see you!

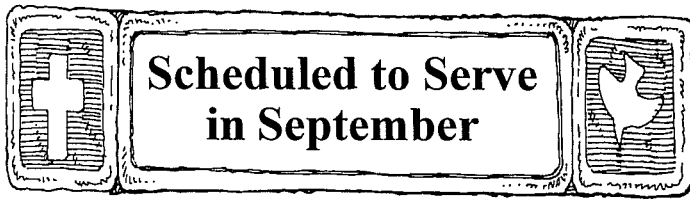
## O.W.L.S BRUNCH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

**The Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (O.W.L.S)** are hosting a brunch for those 55 and older (give or take a year or two!) at 12:15pm on Sunday, September 20 at The Boathouse. We'll have a separate indoor room with a set menu of Farmer's Market Strata (baked egg, cheese, sausage, ham, shallots, mushrooms, and french bread pieces), orange juice, brunch potatoes, tea or coffee, and fresh fruit for a \$15.00, which includes tax and tip.

Sign-up sheets will be available at church services on August 30, September 6, and September 13. Please make out your check for \$15.00/person to **The Boathouse**. The deadline is Sunday, September 13. Checks can also be mailed to Susan Coffey, 14330 Lookout Point Road, Midlothian, VA 23112 and must be received no later than Monday, September 14.

This is the O.W.L.S first event for the fall and we hope for good participation! If you have questions or need additional information, please call Sonja Turner at 639-6363.





**Scheduled to Serve  
in September**

**9/6 - ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM!!**

**Acolytes:** Kiki Inman and Natalie Mullen  
**Communion servers:** Beth Maust, Leisha LaRiviere, Jim Allen, Sherri Stoots, Shelia Mullen & Brenda Bartges  
**Greeters:** Ann and Bob Gatz  
**Lay Leader:** Brenda Bartges  
**Ushers:** Maggie Buchanan, Grace Riggs, Ben Anderson, Maggie Maust, Ed & Gayle Pittman, Ben & Wanda Carter

**Back to 3 services starting:**

**9/13**

**Acolytes:** Ellie Maust and Carly Ritter  
**Greeter - 8:30:** Sandee and Jim Henricks  
**Greeters - 11:00:** Gwyn Westerfeld  
**Lay Leader - 8:30:** Dave Thompson  
**Lay Leader - 11:00:** Ray Holmes  
**Ushers - 8:30:** Jack Risendal and Horst Arfert  
**Ushers - 9:45:** Brad & Ann Coble  
**Ushers - 11:00:** Elizabeth Eisenhower, Edward Eisenhower, Alex Upadhyaya, Rachel Bradner

**9/20**

**Acolytes:** Sarah Nelson and Eddie Acevedo  
**Greeter - 8:30:** Kim and Savannah Sloane  
**Greeters - 11:00:** Allen and Carl Williams  
**Lay Leader - 8:30:** Tim Koon  
**Lay Leader - 11:00:** Marty Kump  
**Ushers - 8:30:** Cyndi and Dan Woods  
**Ushers - 9:45:** Bruce Mason, Jim Allen, Ben D'Arrigo  
**Ushers - 11:00:** Bill Turner, Sonja Turner, Hugh Catlett, Victor Liu, Ken Braun

**9/27**

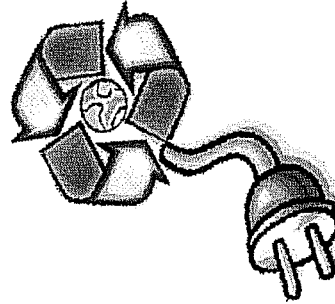
**Acolytes:** MaryGrace Mann and Cameron Mann  
**Greeter - 8:30:** The Begg Family  
**Greeters - 11:00:** Olivette Robinson  
**Lay Leader - 8:30:** Roy Hoagland  
**Lay Leader - 11:00:** Kathy Dixon  
**Ushers - 8:30:** Cathy and Wayne Shotwell  
**Ushers - 9:45:** Woody Lawman, Chris Remme, Warren Ragsdale  
**Ushers - 11:00:** Reg Waggoner, Greg Gardner, Gayla Gardner

**Altar Guild for September:**

Jane Manden

**Building Stewards for September:**







Bob Weatherford and Chris Cheatham



**TECHNO-  
TRASH -**

**DON'T SEND IT  
TO THE LANDFILL!!**

Our Techno-Trash program is an on-going project. In the corner of the Fellowship Hall you'll find bins for the disposal of:

-  Printer cartridges (ink jet and laser)
-  Pagers, PDAs, digital cameras, cell phones & laptop computers
-  Diskettes, CDs, DVDs, and their cases
-  Videotapes, audiotapes, computer tapes, and their cases
-  Hand-held games, small CD & MP3 Players
-  Rechargers and rechargeable batteries

Should you be concerned about the security of any data on the discs you dispose of, a few quick scratches with a paper clip will render the disk unreadable. GreenDisk provides secured, audited disposal of intellectual property stored on electronic media and other technotrash.

**Please note that we can no longer accept donations of larger electronic items such as old computers, monitors and TVs. We do not have adequate storage space.**

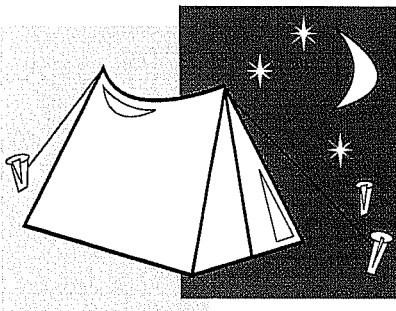
**However,** Electronics Recycling is now available year-round at Chesterfield County Convenience Centers (Warbro Road) Fee - \$8.00 - no additional fee if bringing in household waste. They accept: televisions, computer systems (hard drive, CPU, monitors and accessories), printers, scanners, copiers, telephones, fax machines, VCRs, DVD players, large CD players, stereos and microwaves.

Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are accepted at the convenience center office at no charge.

## *Second Annual Church Camping Trip*

**Bear Creek Lake Park**

**September 4, 5 & 6**



Fun for everyone including Saturday morning paddle boat races, a Saturday evening barbeque at the pavilion and a Sunday worship service by the lake. Tent/RV and cabin rentals available. For more information about Bear Creek Lake and to make reservations, go to [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/bea.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/bea.shtml). Call Sheila Walters 739-6768 with your reservation number and Happy Camping!

### **Check out our Habitat for Humanity fundraisers!**

This year we're part of an *Apostle's Build* as a partner with 11 other churches working together to build a Habitat House. Construction will begin in the fall - watch the bulletin for information about the schedule. Our goal is to raise \$5500.

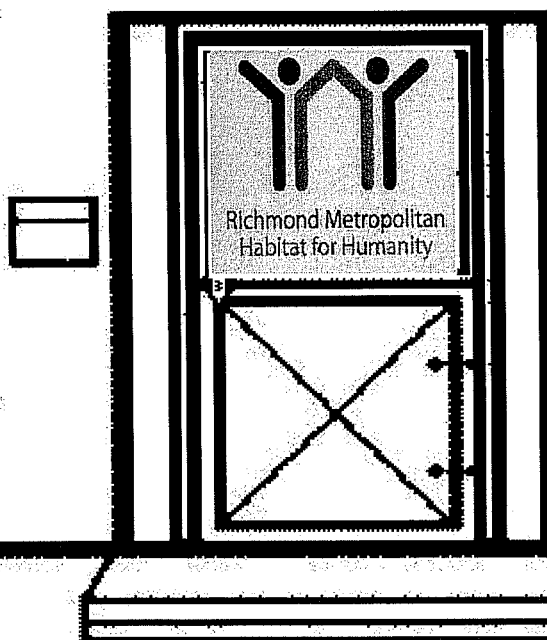
#### ***Sponsor a square foot of the house.***

Look for the floor plan in the entryway and sign up to share the construction cost by "buying" one square foot of floor space. Cost is \$25 - *feel free to buy more!*

#### ***Enjoy some great music and help change a life all for one low price!***

**October 18 at 3:00 PM**

Join us in the sanctuary for a concert by *SoundWorks*, Richmond's award winning a *capella* men's chorus. Tickets are just \$15 - and will be available in the entryway after worship or in the church office beginning September 13. Contact Jim Allen for details - 744 - 1221.



## Congregational Care at The Brandermill Church

Caring for one another is a central focus of a community of disciples. If you have a pastoral care need or know of one, please let Gordon, Sandra, a council member or a church staff member know. We want to be present whenever you, loved ones or members of the church family are hospitalized, having surgery, facing a difficult life transition or would benefit from the care and support of your Christian family.

Below are listed staff office hours and contact information. If an after-hours emergency arises, *do not hesitate to call Gordon or Sandra at home or on their cell phone*. Also, after hours and on weekends, our devoted council members regularly check messages left on our after-hours voicemail, ext. 110. All staff numbers are also listed in the directory (updated copies are available on request from Marcie Murphy in the church office.)

The care of The Brandermill Church is expanded by our Nurture Committee and activities such as our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Shelia Mullen chairs our nurture committee, including overseeing the delivery of meals, cards, and bereavement receptions as extensions of the care and support of the church. Our prayer shawl ministry is an extraordinary addition to our pastoral care response. Many church members and their loved ones have already been wrapped in the lovingly-crafted, prayer-enriched warmth of this tangible evidence of God's love. Members may request to deliver a prayer shawl to one in need, or ask a member of staff to share one with someone.

Prayer is an active part of a life of discipleship. I encourage each of you to regularly use the prayer list in your daily prayers. Requests for prayers and additions to our prayer list are always welcome. Unless otherwise indicated, folks are added for two weeks. If you are adding another's name, please seek permission for us to list their name. Also let us know if request should be added to the Sunday morning prayer announcements. We appreciate it when you also let us know if someone can be removed from the list.

We have also updated staff office hours. These hours might vary a bit depending upon outside meetings, appointments and visits, but the majority of the time, we will be in the offices during the times indicated. Staff meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 10:00am and each Monday morning at 10:00am for devotions. As we reach out and care for one another at The Brandermill Church, we will both Witness Boldly to the love of Christ, and nurture others to Live Faithfully in his sight.

## STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Gordon Mapes: M-Th, 9:00am to 5:00pm, or by appointment  
(day off is Friday)  
**(home) 794-1477 (cell) 334-8687**

Sandra Bottoms: M, T, W, F, 9:30am to 4:30pm, or by appointment  
(day off is Friday)  
**(home) 967-8889 (cell) 690-8964**

Val White: M-TH, 9:30am to 5:30pm, appointments by request  
(day off is Friday)

Rich Catlett: M-Th, 9:30am to 4:00pm, or by appointment  
(day off is Friday)

Jamie Barrack: 4:00-7:00pm on Thursdays.  
Appointments available upon request (call 363-0269)

Dawn Rancka: Wednesday and Thursday afternoons/evenings, by appointment.

Marcie Murphy: M-F, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Robin Johnson: M,W,F, 8:30am to 11:30am

Debbie Ellison: M-F, 8:30am to 1:00pm



## WOMEN'S CIRCLES

**Lena Bartges Circle** study books are in. Contact Wanda Bissell to get your book – 744-9070. The first meeting is September 17 at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

**The Semi-Circle** will begin our new year at the home of Karen Catlett on Monday, September 21, with a salad potluck dinner beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will follow at 7:30 with a book discussion of *The Shack* led by Rin Barkdull. We welcome old and new members! For further information, please contact Susan Clement (748-5917).



**Champions Fore  
CCHASM  
Golf Tournament,  
Awards Banquet &  
Auction  
Friday, October 2**

Enter for a chance to play the tournament with “Special Guest Champion” Brian Mitchell, member of the Super Bowl XXVI Washington Redskins Team, and one of the greatest punt returners in professional football history... Brian will be joining CCHASM for the Tournament and will also MC the Awards Banquet and Auction. He will be signing autographs AND a professional photographer will be on hand to take your picture with Brian.

✎ Enter for a chance to play for a Million Dollar Hole In One Shoot Out after regular play has ended.

✎ Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

✎ Hole # 4 - Beat the Pro for a free round of golf at Birkdale

✎ Hole #5 - Longest Drive - Trophy

✎ Hole #8 - Every Hole In One receives a \$500 Visa card

✎ Hole #10 - Straightest Drive - Trophy

✎ Hole #12 - Every Hole In One receives a \$10,000 Carnival Cruise Gift Card

✎ Hole #14 - Every Hole in One receives a Bose Wave Music System

✎ Hole #16 - Closest to the Hole - Trophy

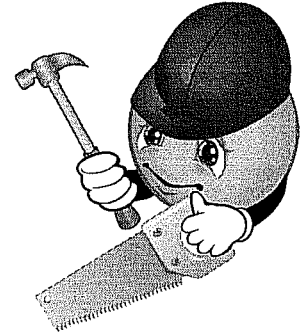
✎ Hole #17 - Every Hole In One receives Nike Driver or Irons

✎ Hole #18 - Putting Contest - Trophy

Plus every player receives a coupon good for a FREE Magique Golf Club or Bag

To register or for more information go to:  
[www.regonline.com/cchasmgolf](http://www.regonline.com/cchasmgolf)

**Help Needed for  
2009  
Habitat for  
Humanity Build**



In addition to our usual cadre of volunteers, we need a Work Team Coordinator (or two) for our part of the Fall 2009 Habitat for Humanity Apostles’ Build. We’ll join eleven other congregations and provide volunteers for one week (three or four days) during the build cycle. We anticipate that our week will be in early November, but this is not set at this time. We expect to have the dates set by mid-September. The Coordinator receives volunteer signups, schedules work dates, lunches, carpooling, etc. This job could be shared by two people with a division of areas of responsibility. Please respond to Marcie Murphy at 744-3661, ext. 101 if you would like to help organize this worthy outreach mission.

**Women’s Retreat Update!**

As I write this, the theme of the women’s retreat is going, going, gone! At mid-August, we only have 7 openings left which I hope will soon be filled!

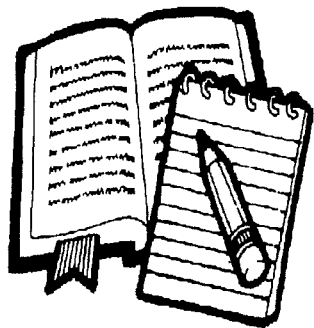
Remember our required meeting on September 16 at 7:00! We’ll meet in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to share information from Richmond Hill on what to bring (and *not* bring), to form carpools and to talk about respectful manners for becoming part of an active prayer community for the 24 hours that we are their guests. **Please do not miss this meeting**, if something happens that you do, please connect with another ‘retreat go-er’ to get the information.

As a reminder—our Saturday morning study time will focus around Jennifer Rothchild’s book, *Self Talk, Soul Talk*. The book is available at several different book retailers, as well as online. Please be sure to have read the book and to bring it with you when you come!

Our time together will be a wonderful time for us to get to know one another better, as we come together to get to know the Lord better. I hope each of you is as excited as I am!

Val





## From the Educator's Cubby,

As I sit at my desk and type these thoughts, I am reminded once again of transitions – the theme for my last few musings. You won't read this until almost September but as I write it is still not even the

middle of August. The deadline for the Epistle always sneaks up on me; this month more so than ever as I will be on vacation the last two weeks of August. So... as I type I am reflecting on all the transitions that lie ahead in these remaining weeks of August as we all move from those 'lazy, hazy days of summer' into the 'back to school' rush. So much anticipation both in our personal lives and our spiritual lives lies ahead as we transition into new places and new routines. Here at church we will transition back to our three services; and into a new 'year' of discipleship time for our children, youth and adults, which brings me to return to previous reflections on Christian education for all ages.

In July's newsletter I shared with you thoughts on, "What *is* Christian education?" This month as the time of year causes us to think more about education in general, I'd like to share some thoughts on "Why Christian education?" I think perhaps the most visual example of the answer to this question comes from a colleague of mine in ministry who shared with me this following example: When we come to a crisis in our life, are we going to call out and say, "Oh, my coach, where are you?" or "Oh, my dance instructor where are you?" Or are we going to call out, "Oh, *my God* where are you?" And when that time of difficulty comes as it inevitably will in our human lives, don't we want to *have a relationship* with, and *know personally* the God to whom we cry to? If your answer is 'yes', then you have just answered the question, "Why Christian education?"

Christian education exists to help us develop a personal relationship with God, so that when we face the trials of human living we have the assurance of a loving heavenly father who knows us personally. "Well, just how does one obtain that relationship?" one might skeptically ask. One develops that relationship and feels that assurance through work – often hard work- of coming to know God through *worship*, through *prayer* and through *bible study*. *And it takes all three of these Christian disciplines, to build that relationship. All three activities are intertwined within each other just like the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.* Just as one part of the Trinity is not

enough, not complete, neither is just one part of the relationship 'equation'. It's not enough to *just* worship, or *just* pray, or *just* study the bible, instead it is necessary to do all three, if one hopes to build a fulsome relationship with the Lord. A good analogy is learning how to play a sport or how to dance or how to play a musical instrument. In order to accomplish any of these activities one must take classes, practice skills, and then participate. In order to build a relationship with the Lord we need to come to know God through classes – bible study- through practice – talking to God through prayer – and through participation – in worship. All of these are necessary for relationship building, and all three of these activities are part of Christian education.

As we transition back into our 'fall routine' Christian education opportunities will gear back up for all ages. There will be discipleship time on Sunday mornings at 9:40, small groups, special studies at all different times – a whole host of opportunities that are available to help you on your 'building journey' – of developing a deeper relationship with God. Be sure to attend the "Rally for Discipleship" time on September 13 in the Fellowship Hall during the discipleship hour, and *sign up* for a class or a small group. Your life will be changed and your relationship with God will be too. It's a *promise!*

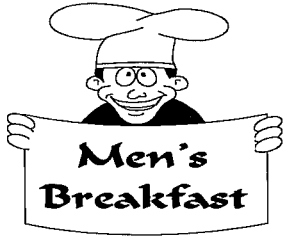
On a personal note of transition I'd like to ask all of you to pray for me this fall as I embark on the next phase of my ordination journey as a deacon in the United Methodist Church. This fall I am writing my provisional papers in hopes of becoming a provisional deacon, which is the step right below an "ordained deacon in full connection in the UMC". (We Methodists can't make anything easy!) Sandra came to Brandermill Church as a provisional elder, if God is gracious and I make it through the papers and the interviews next March, I will become a provisional deacon. "What's the difference?" I hear you ask. Good question! Deacons function within a church to help guide and connect believers of the gospel with the world. Whereas Sandra is ordained to 'word, sacrament, service and order' I will be eventually ordained as a deacon to 'word and service.' This means that my calling leads me to sharing the gospel (the word) through all its expressions: teaching, preaching, etc., and then to connect God's word through service in the world through all its many expressions As part of this process along with writing my papers, I will be filming my participation in a worship service and also my teaching a class.

(continued next page)

God's world is always changing, always full of transitions! May we all look upon these changes with a hope-filled heart and remember this promise:

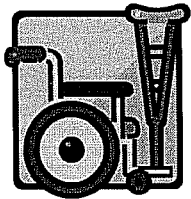
*"Jesus answered and said to him, "If a man loves me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our abode with him."*  
John 14: 23

*Blessings,  
Val*



**Resumes  
Saturday,  
October 10  
8:00 AM**

Our speaker will be Delegate Lee Ware, who represents parts of Chesterfield and Powhatan. Delegate Ware can talk on just about anything historical; look for his topic in the upcoming weekly bulletins. Horst and Company will prepare a hot breakfast to get us started for a time of Christian fellowship and interesting discussion. You can sign up on the red attendance pads in the sanctuary, or you can contact Marcie at the church office by e-mail or phone. See you there!



**Medical Aids**

The Nurture Committee is compiling a list of health-care equipment that is available for church members to borrow. Items would include canes, crutches, wheelchairs, bathroom chairs, and other health-related supplies. We'll keep this list in the church, and members can contact each other directly for more information and specific availability.

(For example, you might need to borrow a wheelchair for a short period of time following a knee surgery.)

If you have equipment you would be willing to loan to another church member, please leave a note in the Nurture Committee mailbox, or e-mail Carol Beth Buchanan at [cbb@buchananteam.com](mailto:cbb@buchananteam.com)



**Looking for a way to live your faith amongst the poor?**

*Unity Works is the first step to understanding how.*

The goal of Unity Works is to help congregations and individuals understand the challenges faced by those trapped in poverty, particularly those who are homeless or at-risk for becoming homeless. During this eight-week series of workshops, participants will become more familiar with how the faith community can help prevent homelessness by working in partnership with faith-based and community organizations. In addition, participants will discover their unique call and the assets within their own communities that can help to address some of the unmet needs in our city.

Through careful study, experienced facilitators, guidance from formerly homeless individuals, and opportunities to develop transformational new friendships, participants will discover that unity really does work. **Please join us.** There will be two sessions:

**Evening -**

**Date:** Thursday's, September 24 - November 12

**Time:** 6:30-8:30 PM

**Location: The Brandermill Church**

**Daytime -**

**Date:** Tuesdays, September 15 - November 3

**Time:** 10:00am-12:00pm

**Location:** Embrace Richmond

**1125 East Commerce Road**

**Richmond, VA 23224**

**804-343-5008**

**Cost:** \$75 (book, binder, printed materials & t-shirt) If you're interested please contact Jim Allen at [jhallen10@verizon.net](mailto:jhallen10@verizon.net) or 744-1221.



## **Praise God! Hallelujah!**

Checklist for fall:

- Pray - check.
- Read the Bible - check.
- Attend church - check.
- Sing and ring praises to God! - hmmm, not so much – but I'd like to do more!

Okay, then. Praise God and bring your passion for music to a rehearsal today! And we know the people of The Brandermill Church are truly passionate when it comes to their music! We hear you singing those hymns every Sunday! We see you tapping your toes! So come share in the fun and fellowship in our music ministry! Our ensembles are ramping up for another exciting year of singing and ringing praiseful music! Beginner? We want you! Seasoned musician? We want you, too! There is a special place in the music ministry for each and every one of you! Everyone is encouraged to share your time, your talents and your gifts in the fine arts with our church family! Come join today!

### **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursdays, 7:00-8:30pm Start date: September 3**

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join the Sanctuary Choir. This choir is made up of adults and youth who praise and worship God through singing. While you may wonder if you need to read music before joining, we find that it helps, but we will teach you what you really need to know!

If you are unsure about committing to a weekly rehearsal schedule, don't worry. Everyone here juggles their responsibilities and family obligations, so you are in good company! Try to make most rehearsals, but missing occasionally is something we can work around. The Sanctuary Choir enjoys singing traditional anthems as well as some more contemporary choral music primarily at the 11:00 worship service on most Sundays and occasionally at our other services. They also prepare special music at both Easter and Christmas and participate in other special services throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining the choir and would like nursery services, please let us know right away!

### **Youth Choir Rehearsal: TBA Start date: TBA**

The Youth Choir is made up of middle and high school youth who enjoy praising God through singing. The Youth Choir is open to all youth in grades 6-12. We're looking for "a few good men" this year to enhance the ensemble experience!

If this sounds pretty cool, but you really prefer playing guitar, drums or keyboard, then there's a place for you too! Just read on.

### **Youth Praise Team Rehearsal: Sundays, 9:45-10:30am Start date: September 13**

***Singers & Instrumentalists needed! Open auditions: Sept 13-27***

The Youth Praise Team will provide music leadership primarily for the 9:45 service. This auditioned group focuses on performing contemporary and gospel selections. This year we hope to add instrumentalists to our ensemble; all interested parties should contact Jamie via email. Returning singers are not required to audition again.

### **9:45 Worship Leaders Rehearsal: Sundays, 9:15-9:35am Start date: September 13**

The Worship Leaders are a group of adult and auditioned youth musicians that worship God by leading the singing at the 9:45 service. Always looking to grow, there are numerous opportunities for vocalists and instrumentalists in this group. A good musical background is needed. This group rehearses at 9:15 on Sunday mornings, just prior to the start of the 9:45 service.

## **Ensembles for Children**

**Cherub Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:00pm Start date: September 16**

**QuarterNotes Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:00-6:45pm Start date: September 16**

These ensembles are for kids that love God and love to worship Him through singing, playing musical instruments and acting. The Cherub Choir is for kids age four through the first grade. The QuarterNotes Choir is for kids in the second through fifth grades. Children's ensembles will usually sing about 6 times between October and May in worship services (sometimes at 8:30 or 9:45 and other times at 11:00) and they will participate in the Christmas pageant and in a spring musical. (continued next page)

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

### Handbells

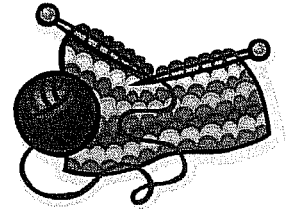
Rehearsal: TBA

Start date: TBA

**New ensemble opportunity! (Join today and you may even help choose a name for this group!)**

Okay, we hear it all the time! You know, people saying that they can't sing! (You know who you are!) Well, we have a very special place in the music ministry for you! Tap into those hidden musical talents and come ring handbells! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join in the ringing of bells. This ensemble will be made up of adults and youth who would like to praise and worship God through ringing. Music reading is not a prerequisite. This new group will truly start from scratch! This is a great opportunity for moms and daughters or fathers and sons or Grandma and Grandpa or you and a friend!

Meetings resume  
September 11 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.

### Branderbells

Rehearsal: Wednesdays,

7:00-8:30pm

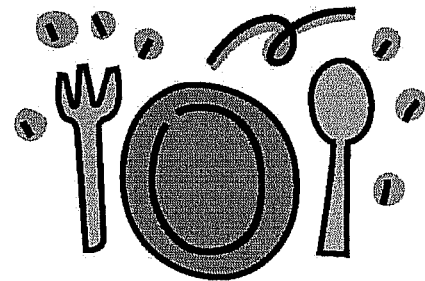
Start date: September 9

The Branderbells are a group of experienced musicians who enjoy performing a wide variety of music including original handbell compositions, gospel and hymn tune arrangements, contemporary pieces which often include percussion, flute or trumpet, narration, choir and keyboard accompaniments! In addition to Sunday worship services, the Branderbells also participate in the annual AGO handbell workshop/festival and are hoping to reach out in the community for other ringing opportunities. ***Immediate opportunity - this ensemble has open positions needing to be filled ASAP!***

### Instrumental Ensembles

The opportunities for experienced instrumentalists, including auditioned youth and adults, are limitless. These musicians have the opportunity to praise and worship God through solo, ensemble and accompaniment music. Instrumentalists may accompany our Sanctuary Choir in seasonal musical productions at Christmas and Easter. Ensembles will rehearse as needed throughout the year.

All ensembles are led by Jamie Barrack, Director of Music Ministries or Dawn Rancka, Assistant Director of Music Ministries. Please see Jamie or Dawn for additional information, or send emails to: [jbarrack@hanover.k12.va.us](mailto:jbarrack@hanover.k12.va.us) or [dawn@macproolutions.com](mailto:dawn@macproolutions.com). We will have a table set-up at the Rally for Discipleship on Sunday, September 13, so stop by and see us for more information!



## FEAST and FELLOWSHIP

Fall is right around the corner and sign-ups are beginning for Feast and Fellowship for 2009-2010. Feast and Fellowship provides an opportunity for small groups of 8 or 9 to gather for a meal every two months (Oct./Nov. Dec./Jan. Feb./Mar. Apr./May).

Meals are commonly held in a group member's home with the host providing the main dish and other members providing the side dishes. This is a great way to get to know other church members in a relaxed, casual setting. Ask questions and/or sign up by calling Rebecca Neas (744-8576).

### FINANCIAL UPDATE thru July 2009\*\*

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b><u>REVENUES:</u></b>		
Giving	\$488,503	\$448,934
Other Income	\$13,873	\$20,893
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>		
Budgeted	\$542,475	\$517,387

**1ST Mortgage Balance: \$1,282,979.08**

**Thank you for your continuous giving!!**

It is very important to continue meeting our commitments.

\*\*detailed financial reports are available on request

## **CHALLENGE YOUR THINKING! ADULT CLASSES FOR THE FALL**

Do you want to learn more about your beliefs? Do you feel like you are stagnating on your faith journey – sort of sitting in one spot and not really challenging what you believe or expanding your Christian horizons? Adult Ministries is offering a host of classes this fall with a wide range of appeal. We hope you will join us in one or more of these classes to help you expand and broaden your Christian beliefs.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** To emphasize the importance of the church-wide effort this fall to focus on our beliefs, a single Sunday school class will explore the 7 Covenants of The Brandermill Church, looking at how each allows us to express and expand our faith within ourselves and to the community in which we live. Ed Arnaudin will lead this class, which meets in the Multi-Purpose Room on Sunday mornings from 9:40-10:40 AM beginning September 20 and running through October 25.

**DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY:** Each of the four Disciple classes is a concentrated class, lasting throughout the school year and requiring varying amounts of homework. These are classes for people who are serious about understanding the Bible and their faith. Disciple I, taught by Martin Reid, Disciple II, taught by Kathy Dixon, and Disciple IV, taught by Wendy Jewell, will be offered on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 at the church beginning in mid-September.

**PASTORS' BIBLE STUDY:** Gordon Mapes will teach a Bible study on Wednesday mornings at 11:30 (topic and start date TBA). Sandra Bottoms will teach "Jesus and the Gospels" on Thursday mornings at the church from 10:00-noon. This class is a Disciple-sponsored course and will run for 30 weeks. The introductory class begins on September 10.

**EDUCATOR'S STUDY:** Our Director of Education, Val White, will teach two daytime classes this fall, offered consecutively. The first, "History of Christianity," is a DVD course looking at the progression of Christianity through the ages. The second class, "How to Eat the Bible," explores how to read the Bible from a spiritual, contemplative approach rather than just superficially reading words without understanding their full meaning. These classes will be offered consecutively on Tuesday mornings and perhaps during an evening too if there is enough interest.

(continued next column)

The MEN'S BIBLE STUDY continues at 8:00 AM on Wednesday mornings and allows participants time to get to work at a reasonable hour. The class will complete their study of John this fall. Contact Fred Carter (639-1259) for more information.

The YADA YADA PRAYER GROUP of women strives to "know and be known to each other and to God" (the Hebrew meaning of the word "yada") – by discussing the books in this series and by building bonds with members via prayer. The group meets at noon on the first Sunday of each month. Contact Angie Branyon at [apbranyon@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:apbranyon@henrico.k12.va.us) or 320-3616 for more details.

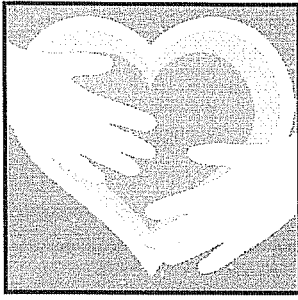
Participants are encouraged to purchase their books for each course; and scholarships are available for those who cannot afford the cost of the book. Please help us plan for these classes by signing up on sheets posted outside Val White's office.



### **RALLY FOR DISCIPLESHIP DAY September 13**

The Brandermill Church begins its fall season with a church-wide focus on discipleship. The kick-off is "Rally for Discipleship Day" – at which ALL committees, groups, missions and classes of the church will showcase their activities. You may discover that you are unaware of many of the church's offerings.

So join us on September 13 from 9:15-11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall and learn not only what makes our church so dynamic, but also how you can further your journey toward discipleship.



## Nurture News

Hello All!

· This summer has been very busy with Carol Beth Buchanan and Linda Reid sending out more than 33 cards not including cards

sent to the members of missions teams.

- Our Fishes and Loaves Team has prepared and delivered a half dozen meals with more on the way in August.
- The Nurture Team along with many others hosted Frank Bernick's funeral reception.
- We'll have a flu shot clinic on October 4; and the next Blood Drive is October 11.
- With hurricane season around the corner "Are you ready?" (see next column)

The next Nurture meeting is September 27 at 12:15 in the Multipurpose Room. Contact Shelia Mullen @ 590-3668 / [mullenoaks@msn.com](mailto:mullenoaks@msn.com).

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## Consignment Sale is September 26

Donate your gently used fall or winter childrens' clothes, books, toys, videos, games, baby equipment and nursery items. Wire hangers are also needed. Please leave in the Fellowship Hall by September 20 and mark the items BCCS. Proceeds from donated items benefit Outreach Missions.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy fun and fellowship. Volunteers are needed. Please sign up on the web site [www.bccsale.com](http://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



## One Step Ahead of Disaster

September is National Preparedness Month! Do not wait until disaster strikes. Your Nurture Committee wants to know if you and your family are ready or are you ready? With hurricane season upon us as well as any other disaster such as fire, flood that could arise, ask yourself these questions:

1. Do I have a family emergency plan?
2. Have I created an emergency supply kit?
3. Am I informed about different types of emergencies and their appropriate responses?

If any answer is no, then follow up:

❖ Go to the FEMA website for valuable info on readiness including info for business owners, military families, older Americans, people with disabilities, pet owners and even online emergency planning tools. <http://www.ready.gov/america/publications/allpubs.html#general>

❖ If you do not have access to a computer, you may pick up Congressman Randy Forbes' press release from August 7, along with copies of family emergency plans and supply kit lists at the Rally Day gathering on September 13.

We'll have sign ups available for anyone willing to temporarily house other members of our church family who may sustain damage to their homes or lose electricity for an extended period as a result of a severe storm of *any sort*, and for someone who may need assistance. We will also gather names of folks who have 4-wheel drive vehicles and would be willing to provide any necessary transportation.

For more information or questions you may contact Shelia Mullen at 590-3668 or email: [mullenoaks@msn.com](mailto:mullenoaks@msn.com)

## September Schedule

**Monday, September 7th**

*-Labor Day Holiday!*

**Tuesday, September 8th**

*-First day of school!*

**Sunday, September 13th**

*-Rally Day!*

*-Parent's Meeting*

**Sunday, September 20th**

*-Middle School Sunday School*

*Begins - 9:45AM*

*-Youth Group Kick-Off!!! - 6PM*

**\*Wednesday, September 23rd through Saturday the 26th**

*-Consignment Sale*

*Sign-up on Youth Bulletin Board*

**Sunday, September 27th**

*-Youth Group Meeting*

*6-8PM*

**\*Consignment Sale:**

By working at the sale, students can raise money to help offset the cost of mission trips. Funds raised through working the sale will go to help all of our youth who go on mission. There will be sign-up sheets on the Youth Bulletin Board.

## *The Brandermill Church Youth Page*

Hey everyone! As the start of school approaches, so does the Kick-Off to Youth Group as well as the starting back of small groups and of course the renovation of the Youth Room. I hate that summer is almost over, but I am really glad that I got some time this summer to get to know some of you better through trips and outings and such. I want to highlight one verse in scripture as we begin to look forward to the upcoming year in Youth Group. *"All the believers were one in heart and mind" (Acts 4:32)* When the early church began, there was a lot of opposition. The only way that these young believers were going to grow was to be on the same page. I really want all of us in the Youth Group to begin to 'be of one heart and one mind'. This means that we all desire to grow closer to each other as we strive to love Jesus more. I am hoping that all of you will be willing to make commitments to the Youth Group this year. This might mean being willing to sacrifice one evening of the week to grow closer to a small group of peers. This may mean committing to supporting our Sunday night services. Or this may mean being willing to step outside of your closest friends and welcoming a new member to our group. I pray that the Lord works in all of our hearts in such a way that we can become one. Enjoy the rest of your summer! Your friend, - Rich

### *Youth Group Kick-Off!!!*

On Sunday, September 20th we will be jump-starting our new year of youth group! We will be feasting, playing and welcoming new students to the group. Below, there is a cut out you can use to invite a friend. I look forward to seeing you all there!

### *New Youth Committee*

*The Youth Committee is losing some members this fall and we need some new blood. If you are interested in being a leader and in making decisions on what we do, this is the opportunity for you. You will need to fill out an application even if you are planning on returning to the committee. Please see Rich for applications.*

## **Youth Group Kick-Off!!!**

Sunday, September 20th at 6PM  
Food, games and fellowship  
Come check out the new youth room

Invite a friend to attend

See Youth Bulletin Board

## **Youth Group Kick-Off!!!**

Sunday, September 20th at 6PM  
Food, games and fellowship  
@ the Brandermill Church

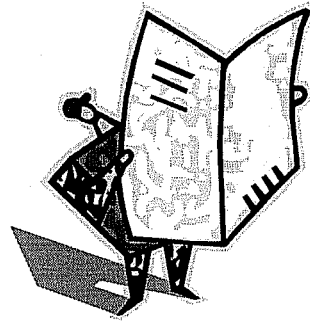
4500 Millridge Parkway

744-3661 ext.104



- Sept. 1 – Fred Eisenhower, Steven Higbie, Brenda Lee  
 Sept. 2 – Margaret Cosby, Herman Daniel,  
 Sept. 4 – Marc Dixon, Heather Masri, Sabrina McGill,  
 Shannon McGill  
 Sept. 5 – Joe Archie, Jill Hellman, Eric King,  
 Doug Most  
 Sept. 6 – Bonnie Dalrymple, Rachel Hoagland  
 Sept. 7 – Mike Archie, Harold Binhammer,  
 John Brenner, Jr., Sandra Lacey,  
 Garrett Schultz  
 Sept. 8 – Loral Hoagland, Catherine Penterson,  
 Grayson Schultz, Mary Anneke van Eerden  
 Sept. 9 – Joan Crowe, Cheryl Farmer,  
 Barbara Hichak, Deanna Lane, Olivia Murray,  
 Peg Patch, Jennie Shumaker  
 Sept. 10 – Myles Altimus, Hope Jiles,  
 Lorraine Weatherford  
 Sept. 11 – Gina Bachouros, Allen Bayuk,  
 Beth Maust, Wendy Wemyss  
 Sept. 12 – Maggie Buchanan, Sean Ellis,  
 Joshua Hopkins, Carl Williams  
 Sept. 13 – Susan Bollinger, John Booker,  
 Mary Dean, Andrew Fauth,  
 Andrew MacMillan, Gavin Sams  
 Sept. 14 – Beatrice Bradner, Cathy Shotwell  
 Sept. 15 – Gloria Arfert, Brian Baran, Chris Koon,  
 Allie Laroche  
 Sept. 16 – Sandra Adams Erhart, Steve Begg,  
 Jean Callihan, Millie Souther, John Williams  
 Sept. 17 – Cary Capek, Andrew Daniels, Ben Taminger,  
 Alex White  
 Sept. 18 – Jim Brittain, James Rioux  
 Sept. 19 – Brett Hay, Chris Mastro, Kelly Riggs  
 Sept. 20 – Jonathan Daniels, Lynda Manden,  
 Sept. 21 – Rin Barkdull, Kaitlin Boyden, Tyler Boyden,  
 Abby van Eerden  
 Sept. 22 – Gayle Pittman, Robin Thomason  
 Sept. 23 – Brett Cashion, Jonathan Koch,  
 Bill Phillips  
 Sept. 24 – Ann Coble, Tom Jenkins, Helmut Thielsch  
 Sept. 25 – Tyler Overboe  
 Sept. 26 – Dottie Arnaudin, Bryan Jenkins, Sally Kelly

- Sept. 27 – Bill Arey, Hugh Catlett, Jack Dodge,  
 Charles Hunt, Nicole Powell,  
 Nathan Taminger, Allie Watkins  
 Sept. 28 – Gideon Bradner, Ralph Hill, Don Simpson,  
 Bob Van Horn, Susan L. Williams



## Church Family News

**Congratulations** – to Sara Bachouros who is the recipient of the 2009 Brad and Ann Coble Scholarship. Sara was chosen out of a number of extremely deserving seniors for her Christian character and strong academic qualities.

### **Birth:**

Claire Ann Seward, daughter of Pam and Rob Seward. Cyndi and Dan Woods are the proud grandparents.

### **Condolences to:**

Shelly Claus and her family, on the death of her father, Joe Wallace.

Bud and Greg Gardner and their family, on the death of their wife and mother, Dovey Gardner.

### **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](mailto:marcie@brandermillchurch.org) or on computer disk.

## Contact Us

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

www.brandermillchurch.org  
info@brandermillchurch.org

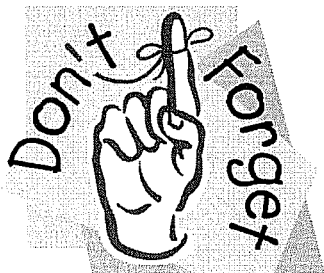
REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
RESUMES SEPTEMBER 13

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 &amp; 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>Melissa Newcomb, ext. 109</i>	<i>Preschool Treasurer</i>
<i>Robert Dunford</i>	<i>Custodian</i>



**We'll have just one  
worship service  
at 10:00 AM  
on September 6.**

May God bless:



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Prepaid  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
Permit # 2147

Address Service Requested

The Brandermill Church  
4500 Millridge Parkway  
Midlothian, VA 23112