

# The Epistle

THE BRANDERMILL CHURCH  
MIDLOTHIAN VA

SEPTEMBER 2010

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## Sermon Topics for September:

- 5- *Do the Right Thing*  
Philemon 1:1-21  
Burt Brooks
- 12- *Welcome Home*  
Luke 15:1-10  
Burt Brooks
- 19- *What do You See*  
*Young Grasshopper?*  
Numbers 13:30 - 14:10  
Sandra Bottoms
- 26- *Extreme Heat Alert*  
Luke 16:19-31  
Burt Brooks

## Get Ready for September!

Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to September and experiencing The Brandermill Church in "full swing." I am told that it is quiet here this summer and all this will change when pre-school and weekly ministries kick off after summer vacation. This is what I want to say: If this summer is quiet, then I better put my seat belt on this Fall.

During this quiet summer, we have put together two search committees to hire a new Children's Director and Financial Administrator. During this quiet summer, our average worship attendance has been around 400 in two outstanding worship services. During this quiet summer, an ensemble has been put together and is offering energizing music during morning services.

Also, during this quiet summer, mission teams have been to Guatemala, Winchester, North Carolina, Waynesboro — and other places — serving people in the name of Jesus Christ.

Oh, and by the way — during this quiet summer, we have had over 100 children in Bible School, sponsored day camps, youth trips, men's bible study, ministry committee meetings, staff meetings, and we have even seen a glimpse of the kitchen renovation project.

Yes, I will put my seat belt on because if this is what a quiet summer looks like, then it will be quit a ride come September. A big thanks to all of you for making the Brandermill Church a "great" church and allowing me to be a part of it.

Blessings,



Burt

# COUNCIL CORNER

The August council meeting was held once again on our normal 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month in the Fellowship

Hall. The addition of several church staff members at the meeting added to a lively session. After our opening devotional and prayer, the council:

✓ Elected Diana Beatty and Bill Harp as commissioners to the October 16 Presbytery of the James Meeting in Richmond.

✓ Heard from Diana Beatty on the Operations Manual progress – council members' comments have been reviewed and added. A vote is expected at the September meeting.

✓ Approved the preschool request for assistance in classroom painting, carpet cleaning, and targeted playground equipment replacement.

The next Council meeting is  
Monday, September 13 at 7:00 pm.



**Children's Sunday School Registration** is underway. Forms are in the display rack in the entryway. Forms can be returned to the nursery. Questions can be directed to Cori Begg: 639-4577, [southernbeggs@verizon.net](mailto:southernbeggs@verizon.net).

**Important Parent Meeting:** Children's Ministry is hosting a parent meeting **Sunday, September 12 at 10 AM** in the Multi-Purpose Room. Please plan to attend as we move forward with Sunday School and other family events.

**Children's Sunday School teachers:** Teacher Training on August 25 at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be renewing our Safe Sanctuary Certifications, passing out lesson books, and discussing the structure of Sunday School this fall. Please plan to attend this important meeting!

**Fall Kickoff for Children's Sunday School:** Children ages 4 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us downstairs for Sunday School during the 9:00 church service beginning

**September 19 at 9 AM.** Parents and teens – check out the classes held in the Youth Room and Multi-Purpose Room. There is something for everyone!

**Safe Sanctuary:** If you plan to volunteer for CARITAS, the children or youth programs, or are willing to help in the nursery, please make sure your Safe Sanctuary Certification is up to date! If you have not yet been to training, please send Marcie the names and addresses of 2 personal references now, then plan to attend a training soon:

August 25 – 7 PM

September 12 – 10 AM

Other training dates to be announced soon!

Children's Ministry questions can be directed to: Cori Begg, 639-4577, [southernbeggs@verizon.net](mailto:southernbeggs@verizon.net)



Our preschool has a few openings in the 3- day, 4 year old class and the 2 -day, 3 year old class.

Contact Debbie Ellison at 744-3661, ext. 106 to arrange a tour and for more information. The 2010-2011 preschool year begins September 13.

## 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.



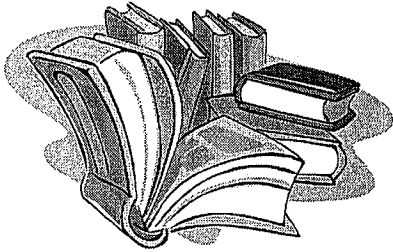
**Barbecue to Welcome  
The Brooks Family  
and  
First Wednesday  
Night Dinner of the  
Season!**

**September 15  
6:30 p.m.**

Menu: hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, baked beans, slaw, potato salad and cupcakes. Please remember to sign up on the attendance pad or call the church office by 9/13 to ensure adequate amounts of food for everyone. We'll be feasting in the Fellowship Hall while the kitchen renovations take place.

There will be no charge for dinner on the 15th, but future Wednesday Night Dinners will remain \$6/person, \$2.50/child or \$12 per family of 4 or more.

*Come and enjoy food and fellowship while we give the Brooks family a big Brandermill Church welcome!*



**Try These Adult Ministries to  
Connect with Fellow Christians**

During the coming year, Adult Ministries will provide multiple opportunities to learn and grow with your Brandermill Church community of faith. There's something for just about everyone, regardless of age, interest or where you are in your spiritual journey. So try one or more of the opportunities on this and the following pages that interest you, and join in for Christian fellowship and learning.

**Disciple I - *Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study*** - 34-week survey of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation Starts Tuesday, September 14 @ 7-9 PM  
Led by Martin Reid (MartinFReid@mac.com)

**Disciple II - *Into the Word, Into the World*** - 32-week intensive study of Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts emphasizing the transforming power of Scripture Starts Tuesday, September 14 @ 7-9 PM  
Led by Jane Jenkins (jane-jenkins@comcast.net)

**Disciple III - *Remember Who You Are*** - 32-week intensive study of the Old Testament prophets and the letters of Paul emphasizing Christian community. Starts Sunday, September 12 @ 7-9 PM  
Led by Wendy Jewell (wtjcpamba@gmail.com)

**Faithweaver Sunday School** - a continuous curriculum based on the Lectionary, that has adults and children studying the same Scripture and same Bible point to provide common ground for discussion throughout the week. Starts Sunday, September 19 @ 9-10 AM  
Led by Steve Begg (southernbegg@verizon.net)

**Alternative Sunday School** - a topical class based on the congregational survey results, beginning with a 6-week study by popular Christian writer, Adam Hamilton. Starts Sunday, September 19 @ 9-10 AM  
Led by Bill Harp, et al (wlharp@comcast.net)

**O.W.L.S - Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors** meeting in Christian fellowship for pot luck dinners, theatre outings and other events. Stay tuned for the first offering of the fall season!  
Coordinator TBA  
Contact Marcie Murphy (marcie@brandermillchurch.org)

**Caring for Creation** - Committee of Christians interested in environmental issues and their practical application in our church and community. Starts October 4 @ 7 PM & each first Monday thereafter  
Led by Tom Pakurar (restorecreation@comcast.net)

**Men's Bible Study** - An ongoing, weekly men's ministry that meets at the church to study Scripture, currently the New Testament series by Bart Ehrman. Wednesdays at 8 AM  
Contact Fred Carter (carfre@aol.com)

**Women's Retreat** - a moving overnight experience at Richmond Hill with great fellowship, great discussions and great food. January 21-22, 2011  
Led by Cindy Lee and Sandra Bottoms (sandra@brandermillchurch.org)

**The Brandermill Church Library** - over 500 books, videos and courses on numerous topics to help you in your spiritual journey.

***Keep reading for more  
adult ministries opportunities  
on the following pages!!***

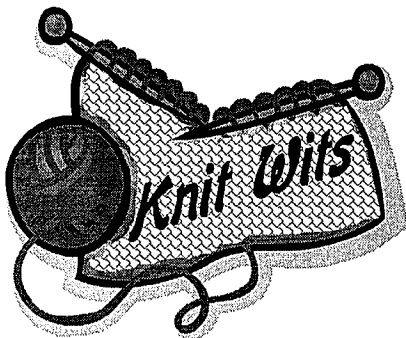


## Women's Circles

**Lena Bartges Circle** - meets September 16 at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Burt Brooks will introduce our study, *Journeys Through Revelation*. Marty Kump will lead us in a hymn inspired by our study. Come join us every third Thursday through May - everyone is welcome!

**SemiCircle** - "kicks off" the 2010-2011 program year with a salad potluck supper at the home of Lynnae Giordano, 3215 Regatta Pointe Court, on Monday, September 20, at 6pm. Following supper, Nancy Coggins will lead a discussion of Pausch's, *The Last Lecture*. This book is available for purchase at area bookstores, or borrowing from the Chesterfield County Public Libraries.

We meet every third Monday through May. *New members are always welcome.* Contact Chris Bachmann, 763-2893, for additional information.



Our Prayer Shawl (and more!) Ministry meets Thursday afternoons in the library from 2:00 to 4:00PM. Our meetings resume on September 16. Come join us whenever you can for fellowship, 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](mailto:cardinal14011@aol.com).

## MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers

Are you a mom of young children ages newborn - Kindergarten and are you looking to connect with other moms? Do

you know a mom searching for a group to travel the journey of motherhood? BRANDERMILL MOPS is kicking off the fall with our first meeting on Friday, September 17 at 9:45AM here at Brandermill Church in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare is provided for infants - pre-K through our MOPPETS program and Safe Sanctuary trained workers. We meet each month on Fridays to connect, recharge and grow. To learn more about our group, MOPS International and to hear how you can be a member, contact Heather Nghiem, Coordinator at (804) 405-7571 or [brandermillchurchmops@gmail.com](mailto:brandermillchurchmops@gmail.com)

If you would like to support our Brandermill MOPS group we always need a few volunteers who are Safe Sanctuary trained to help with our childcare each month. We are also fundraising through the Mabel's Labels website. If you need some Back-to-School labels, they have a wide variety of options. Check out [www.bcmops.mabel.ca](http://www.bcmops.mabel.ca) to browse or place an order. A portion of the proceeds from each order placed through the fundraising page go directly to Brandermill MOPS. Contact Heather Nghiem, MOPS Coordinator for more information at (804) 405-7571 or [brandermillchurchmops@gmail.com](mailto:brandermillchurchmops@gmail.com)

## Yada Yada Prayer Group

Sunday, September 5  
11:45 AM

We'll study a series titled *Job: Faith Remains When Understanding Fails*. As our lives become more and more busy with school starting back and the many demands on us increase, all of us are guilty of attempting to live life on our own terms.

Job is particularly topical to help us walk in faith even when we don't understand where we are going and why we are going there. The cost of the lesson book is \$4.00. Contact Angie Branyon (320-3616) for more information or for a copy of the lesson book. Come join us as we begin a new journey of faith this year and walk the path with Job.



## You Go Girls Book Club

begins again on September 12. We will meet each month September through April. The first three books we will read are:

September 12: *Do Hard Things* by Alex and Brett Harris

October 10: *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

November 14: *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, and Lynn Vincent

We will decide on the rest of the books at our September meeting. Contact Angie Branyon at 320-3616 for more information.



The response to our previous clothing drive was terrific! Now, as cooler weather (yes, *it will get cooler!*) and school approaches, we have the opportunity to once again support this largest low income neighborhood in Richmond.

Please leave clothes you wish to donate in bags (marked Gilpin Court) behind the piano in the Fellowship Hall. We will collect clothes until September 8. If you have questions, please contact Don Reich at 639-4341.



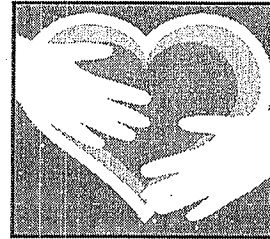
*We would like to thank all the thoughts, prayers, and cards given to us while Alice Dufault was sick and in hospice. We could feel them lifting us up! We are so blessed to have such a warm and caring church family.*

The Anderson Family  
Anne, Bill, Will, John & Ben



## Hearts and Hands needed!

We're hosting a second week of CARITAS, October 30 through November 6, and we need willing volunteers to help. Watch the bulletin and the next *Epistle* for more information to come!



## Upcoming Nurture Opportunities

**Homebound Communion training** led by Burt Brooks on Sunday, September 12 at noon

in the Fellowship Hall. This opportunity is open to all church members.

**Blood Drive** - September 26, 8:30AM - 12:30 PM

**Nurture Committee meeting** - Sunday, October 10 at 11:45 AM

**Congregational Care Meeting** - Sunday, October 24 at 11:30 AM

## Consignment Sale September 25 8 a.m. to 11a.m

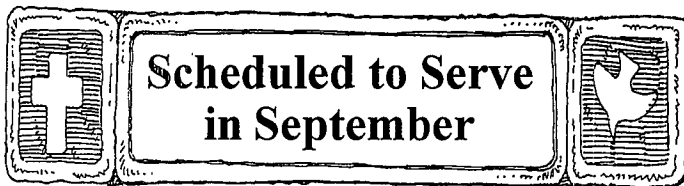
Donate your gently used fall and winter childrens' clothes, books, toys, videos, games, baby equipment and nursery items. Wire hangers are also needed. Please leave in the Fellowship Hall by September 20 and mark with "BCCS." Proceeds from donated items benefit our Outreach Missions.



Gift Certificates are available to buy in \$5, \$10 and \$20 denominations. They make great gifts for expecting mothers, grandparents, daycare providers, children's birthdays or baby showers. To buy gift certificates, contact Sharon Mann, [meandthegirlies@gmail.com](mailto:meandthegirlies@gmail.com).

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy fun and fellowship. Volunteers are needed between September 20-25. 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



### Worship Volunteers — Thank You!

It has been very exciting to see the new faces of volunteers greeting, ushering and serving Communion. There are still some openings in the fall calendar for more of these volunteers, as well as building stewards. For more information on how you may help or to volunteer, please contact Marty Kump, Worship Chairperson, at [marty\\_music1@verizon.net](mailto:marty_music1@verizon.net) or you may contact Marcie in the church office (744-3661, ext. 101)

9/5

**Acolytes:** Emily Martin and Teresa Bricker  
**Communion Servers - 9:00:** Carol & Jim Allen, Marty Kump, Bill and Karen Harp, Erna van den Nieuwenhuizen  
**Communion Servers - 10:30:** Mary Ann McCole, Gayle and Al Walters, Tom Earle, Kelly & Randy Riggs  
**Grounds Team:** Craig Moses  
**Lay Leader - 9:00:** Nancy Rider  
**Lay Leader - 10:30:** Evan Dixon  
**Ushers - 9:00:** Horst Arfert, Bob Weatherford, Don Vorhis, Fred Carter  
**Ushers - 10:30:** Mary Ann McCole, Robert Redmon, Mark Lyons, Gary Shepherd, Billy Pritchett

9/12

**Acolytes:** Carly Ritter and Kyle Thielsch  
**Grounds Team:** Scott Claus  
**Lay Leader - 9:00:** Brenda Bartges  
**Lay Leader - 10:30:** Marty Kump  
**Ushers - 9:00:** Cathy and Wayne Shotwell, Ann and Brad Coble  
**Ushers - 10:30:** Woody Lawman, Chris Remme

9/19

**Acolytes:** Cameron Mann and Eddie Acevedo  
**Lay Leader - 9:00:** Joyce Rowe  
**Lay Leader - 10:30:** Ray Holmes  
**Ushers - 9:00:** Bob Weatherford, Bruce Mason, Jim Allen  
**Ushers - 10:30:** Bill and Sonja Turner, Victor Liu, Ken Braun, Hugh Catlett

9/26

**Acolytes:** Natalie Mullen and Kyle Thielsch  
**Lay Leader - 9:00:** Dave Thompson  
**Lay Leader - 10:30:** Irene Carlisle  
**Ushers - 9:00:** Don Vorhis, Fred Carter, Horst Arfert, Jack Risendal  
**Ushers - 10:30:** Reg Waggoner, Greg and Gayla Gardner, Bud Gardner

Altar Guild for September:  
**Team member needed!!**

Building Stewards for September:  
 Opening Steward: Bob Weatherford  
**Closing Steward needed!!**

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## 2010 Guatemala Mission

The 2010 Guatemala Mission Team would like to thank our church family for your prayers and financial support. The mission was a complete success! Our mission this year was to build 16 masonry stoves and plant 160 trees in the Mayan village of Chuicutama in the Western Highlands. We built 10 stoves in this village last year. Every family now has a stove! The village celebrated our arrival with singing and dancing welcoming our return! The affect of eliminating smoke from their "homes" is significant. By one estimate, life expectancy is increased by 10-15 years. With an average of 8 persons per "home," 26 stoves in this village will add an incredible total of 2000 to 3000 years of life expectancy in this village. Thankyou for giving us the opportunity to serve. Please consider joining the team next year!



Your 2010 Mission Team: Kayla Upadhyaya, Maggie Buchanan, Glenn Purvis, Nancy Rider, Carol Beth Buchanan, Margaret Raddin, Erna van den Nieuwenhuizen, Joe Bartholomew, Brian Shepard, and Hal Raddin.

To see photos, go to:  
[www.brandermillguatemala2010.shutterfly.com](http://www.brandermillguatemala2010.shutterfly.com)  
 password "lupe"

Dear Friends and Family of The Brandermill Church:

If you have attended worship over the past few Sundays, I am certain you have noticed a change in the music format. On Sunday, August 8 the newest of our music ensembles was instituted at The Brandermill Church: "The Worship Ensemble." The music staff and volunteers have worked diligently to prepare for this exciting change in our worship experience. My deepest gratitude is extended to Tonya Cory, Kim Peachy, Dawn Rancka, Kate Rancka, and Grey Walters for your valuable skills and insight as we planned and implemented this new format... you all are the greatest! I would also like to thank all of the congregants who have come forward each Sunday to express their approval and delight. I could have never imagined the tremendous support that would be extended. Thanks be to God!

So, what is "The Worship Ensemble" and what do they do? I'm so glad you asked. "The Worship Ensemble" will provide a lively and energetic instrumental accompaniment and vocal leadership to the hymns we sing on Sunday morning. While some may refer to this as "contemporary" I prefer to look at it as "blended." In a true contemporary format, we would sing praise and worship songs as you may have heard on the many WOW recordings that have become increasingly popular over the past decade. Our format will be blended as we will sing mainly traditional hymns with a rhythmic (if you will) instrumental accompaniment. This is not to say we will never sing praise and worship songs, as we may, but the traditional hymns will remain our focus. In this way, everyone can take part in the joy of singing God's praise!

Thanks to the wisdom of our Church Council, we will continue with our current worship schedule in the Fall. The Worship Ensemble will provide music leadership for the 9:00am service, with the Sanctuary Choir providing leadership at the 10:30am service. I believe the Brandermill Sanctuary Choir is among the best church choirs anywhere. Aren't we fortunate to have such a plethora of musical talent in our church? We are truly blessed!

I can honestly say, as I am entering my fifth year as Director of Music at the Brandermill Church, I have never seen the congregation sing as you have over the past few weeks. My heart is filled as I watch you find the joy music has so often brought me. I encourage those of you who refrain from singing to consider doing so. I believe it was Karen Carpenter who sang, "Don't worry that it's not good enough for anyone else to hear... just sing... sing a song!" It is God who gave you your voice and it is pleasing to Him!

Our future is a bright one. There are so many opportunities for us to explore together. With God's guidance, we will continue to develop and enhance the music at The Brandermill Church. Please feel free to talk to me or any of the music staff and volunteers after worship on Sunday morning. We welcome your thoughts and ideas as we continue to grow together in faith and increase our focus on worshipping the Almighty God.

Faithfully yours,

Jamie Barrack

Director of Music Ministries

### **The Worship Ensemble:**

Tonya Cory, vocalist and worship leader

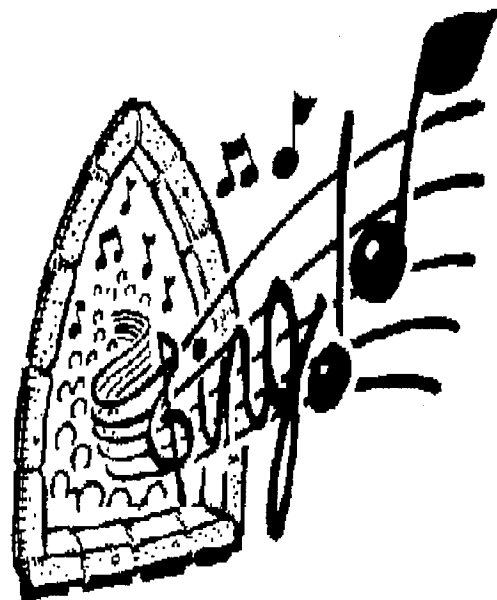
Kate Rancka, vocalist

Dawn Rancka, synthesizer

Kim Peachy, piano

Jamie Barrack, bass

Grey Walters, drums



### ***A special thank you...***

Please join The Brandermill Church Music Ministry in thanking Devon Hawkes, Andrew Monroe, Kathy Monroe, and Patsy Vaughan for leading the music in worship at the 9:45am service! Also, thanks to Roy Hoagland and Marty Kump who so graciously led at the 8:30am service. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and willingness to serve our church as they led us to praise God through song. If you see any of these folks in worship please thank them for sharing their gifts and talents as they continue to serve the church as lay leaders, soloists, committee chairs, and choir members.

# Worship Arts

## Hallelujah and Hello from the Music Ministry!

Praise God through music! Bring your passion for music to a rehearsal soon! There is a place in one of our ensembles for everyone to share in the fun and fellowship of worshipful music. Whether you are a beginner or a more seasoned musician, we want you! Everyone is welcome and we encourage you to share your time, your talents and your gifts in the fine arts with our church family! Join today!

**Sanctuary Choir** - Are you looking for a way to serve your church? Look no further! The Sanctuary Choir wants you!

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join the Sanctuary Choir. The Brandermill Sanctuary Choir has a rich 30 year history of praising God through song. We invite everyone young (high school age) and old to come join us and experience the joy of music. There are currently members in the choir from age 17 to over 80 years of age. Wow! We are very proud that everyone feels welcomed!

One of the most common misconceptions is that one needs to "read" music in order to be in the choir. While this is certainly helpful, it is most definitely not a requirement. One just needs to love music and love God, we will teach you the rest. The choir performs a wide variety of music from the classical, gospel, contemporary, and traditional music genres. There is something for every musical preference!

Yes, there is a time commitment: a weekly practice (Thursday night) and Sunday morning worship services. Just be there as often as you can. As the choir continues to grow there is considerably more flexibility in taking time off. All of us are busy, too! I've always heard, "if you want something done... ask a busy person!" The reward is far greater than the time commitment as this group truly enjoys each other's company and has a lot of fun together. We are a family! Above all, we are serious about praising God!

The Sanctuary Choir will provide music leadership and anthems for the 10:30am worship service starting in the fall of 2010. The choir performs two cantatas or large choral works per year: one during Advent the other during Lent and performs for occasional special services throughout the year.

Our goal is to have 50 singers in the loft on a regular

basis! Please consider helping us meet this goal.

**Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7:00-8:30pm**  
**Start date: Thursday, Sept. 2**

**Youth Choir and Youth Praise Team** - 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. The Youth Praise Team is also open to youth in 6-12 grade, singers and instrumentalists, by audition. This group focuses on performing contemporary music. Watch the bulletin announcements for more information on starting dates and times!

**Rehearsal: TBA Start date: TBA**

**Children's Choirs** usually sing about 6 times between October and May in worship, and we hope to share our music with the residents of the Brandermill Woods Healthcare Center once again this year.

*All children attending The Brandermill Church are encouraged to join a Children's Choir. Here's a hint about what you will see in this year's Christmas pageant: TOYS! Everybody loves toys at Christmas, so each child in the choir gets to be a toy in the pageant! We will be sharing our Christmas message through characters in Toy Story. We will have try-outs for narrators (Buzz, Woody and Jessie!) and for other speaking roles in early October, so watch the bulletin announcements and the next newsletter for more information. Fun for all, so come join the choir!*

**Cherub Choir** - This choir is for kids that love God and love to worship Him through singing. Children - age 4 through 1st grade - will learn the basics of music. They will also sing in musicals at Christmas and in the spring, along with the QuarterNotes.

**Rehearsal: Wed., 5:30-6:00pm**  
**Start date: Sept. 15**

**QuarterNotes Choir** - The QuarterNotes is a choir for older kids in the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. All will sing and some will have speaking roles in our two musicals. We will also be playing percussion, bells and Orff instruments.

**Rehearsals: Wed., 6:00-6:45pm**  
**Start date: Sept. 15**

**Branderbells** - The Branderbells are a group of experienced handbell ringers, although anyone with basic music reading skills is welcome - 'cause we can teach you the ringing part! In addition to Sunday worship, the Branderbells usually participate in an annual regional handbell workshop. We ring a wide variety of handbell music. Some hymn tune arrangements and some original handbell pieces. Some gospel and some contemporary. We've played with piano, gong, trumpet, flute and violin,

(continued next page)

## WORSHIP ARTS, cont'd

maracas and claves. Come join us this year and see what excitement is in store for this group!

**Rehearsals: Wed., 7:00-8:30pm**

**Start date: Sept. 15**

**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.

The Sanctuary Choir and Youth Ensembles are led by Jamie Barrack, Director of Music Ministries. [jbarrack@hanover.k12.va.us](mailto:jbarrack@hanover.k12.va.us)

The Branderbells and Children's Choirs are led by Dawn Rancka, Assistant Director of Music Ministries. [dawn@macprosolutions.com](mailto:dawn@macprosolutions.com)



Hello to everyone, I hope you have enjoyed the summer, despite some hot days. I can hardly believe the first day of school is just around the corner, and this can be a busy time for parents and children. Getting the right school supplies, clothes and accessories are more important than ever. Then there are the questions of which teacher, what classes/subjects, will old friends be there, will there be new ones? Add to that sports practice, music lessons, and any number of other after school activities. Whether you have a child going into preschool or starting their senior year, or somewhere in between, the distractions associated with the process of working to ensure our young ones have a positive experience while getting through K-12 can be very challenging.

One way to help your child stay grounded and connected is to get them involved in some of the children and youth programs at church. Of course I am most familiar with the children's programs (having a 4th grader) - Sunday School, Children's Choir, Christmas Pageant, and many other pro-

grams. But I would like to talk about the youth programs, because I think you will agree that when a child enters middle school, it is a time when they may most need the refuge of a safe place, sometimes other than home. I read an article recently that described why a youth group is important in a church - *"Most churches today are like islands in a stormy sea of distracting pop-culture and competing ideas on faith. If we are to help our young people to withstand the assault, our heart's desire must be for them to know God and truth."*

So we should encourage and support their involvement, but what is being in the youth group about? The youth group director Rich Catlett, (who is greatly admired by youth members), continues to build strong youth programs for middle and high school aged kids. Youth group is praise and worship through fun and games, as well as bible study, and fellowship with friends that share the same faith. It can offer a place to go when it seems there is nowhere else to turn, it can help build lasting friendships and bonds, it can strengthen self esteem and confidence to help with tough choices and decisions, and it can help teach life lessons that can be experienced with peers (we all get tired of hearing "I told you so").

I had a chance to talk with some of the youth members to find out what they liked about the programs. Everyone seems to agree that the trips and events are a great time of fun and fellowship - concerts, attending sports events, Christmas party, Jeremiah Project, conference retreat, and more. Let us not forget to mention the really cool youth room, a fun place to hang out. You can meet and make new friends, maybe even a visitor or someone in a different grade that you didn't think you had much in common with. There is also bible study, which helps keep the focus on how and who we all should be living for.

One youth member said he draws inspiration from reading scripture, and the approach used to study is through games and other creative activities. Parents can become involved by volunteering to help with an event or a regular group meeting. The youth members enjoy seeing this because they see these adults (yes-sometimes even their own parents) as cool and fun, and that can help strengthen the parent/child relationship. Even if you don't have children of youth age, you can volunteer and see what the programs are about, meet other families, and join other past and present volunteers that know they are supporting and encouraging strong young disciples that will help make our world a blessed place to be. If you are already involved in the youth group, invite some friends to join in, if you have not been to a meeting, I hope you will contact Rich and look for information on upcoming events in the bulletin and Epistle. Wishing all of you a beautiful fall.

Blessings,  
Caroline Moses

# September Schedule *The Brandermill Church Youth Page*

**Wednesday, September 1st**

- Bowling Party!!!
- At the Catlett Home from 5-7PM. Dinner will be provided

**Monday, September 6th**

- Labor Day!!!

**Tuesday, Sept. 7th**



- First Day of School
- I will be praying for you!

**Sunday, September 12th**

- Parent Information Meeting in the Youth Room at 11:30PM
- Please have at least one parent attend
- 7PM Youth Group Orientation meeting for 6th graders only!

**Sunday, September 19th**

- First Sunday School Class at 9AM in Youth Room
- Youth Kick-Off Tailgate!
- Potluck style
- Games and prizes
- Open to the entire family

**Wednesday and Thursday, September 22nd and 23rd**

- Small Groups for all youth 7th-12th grades begin!

**Sunday, September 26th**

- Youth Group Meeting 4:45PM

\*The Children's Dept needs some youth to help with Sunday School. If you are willing to help will you please contact Cori Begg @ 639-4577. Thanks!

Hey everyone! Wow where has the summer gone?? I feel like we just had the end of the year party and graduation and now we are about to start another school year. At some level I am sad that summer is coming to an end, but I am also excited about the opportunities that await us as we begin another year together. I want to talk to you for a minute about small groups. This is the most important thing you could be a part of for this year with the youth.

Small groups are the best way to get to know others without the fear of being around a lot of people. In small groups we get together once a week to talk, laugh, share and have fun! If you have never been a part of small groups before that is OK. If you are afraid you won't fit in you are wrong. We have some amazing youth in our small groups who just want you to be yourself and come hang out. The only requirement is that you make a commitment to attend weekly. I want this to be the best year yet in regards to our small groups, but that can only happen if you are a part of it. If you have questions or want more info feel free to call me at 405-3661. Your Friend, RJCh

## Attention all 6th graders!!!

If you are entering into the 6th grade then you are going to be new to the youth group. We are really excited that you are about to be one of us! We know that entering Middle School can be very overwhelming so we are going to be having an orientation for all 6th graders at 7PM on Sunday, September 12th. We would also like for you and your family to attend our Tailgate Party on Sunday, September 19th from 6-8PM. Please bring a potluck item and be ready for some awesome food, games and fellowship. Again, we are so excited that you are joining the youth group! Feel free to contact me (Rich) at 744-3661 ext. 104 if you would like more info. Hope to see you soon!



## BOWLING PARTY!

**On Wednesday, September 1st at the Catlett Home from 5-7PM. There will be indoor, outdoor, wet and dry bowling. Bring your bathing suit and favorite bowling shirt. Dinner will be provided.**

# Small Groups For You!

Best way to connect to the youth group  
No excuses, make this a priority!  
For grades 7th-12th

Sign-up on Youth Bulletin Board

Starts Sept. 22nd

# Tailgate Party! Sept 19th

For the entire family and friends  
Food, Games and Fellowship  
Please bring a potluck item to share

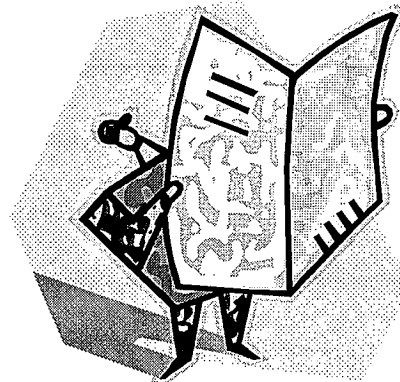
Tailgating in the upper lot @ 6PM

Invite a Friend!



- Sept. 1 – Fred Eisenhower, Steven Higbie, Brenda Lee
- Sept. 2 – Margaret Cosby
- Sept. 4 – Marc Dixon, Marcia 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, Paige Thessen, 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, Savannah Sloane, 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, McCormick King, Jonathan Koch, Bill Phillips
- Sept. 24 – Ann Coble, Tom Jenkins, Lucas Spiegel, Helmut Thielsch
- Sept. 25 – Dave DeCair, Tyler Overboe

- Sept. 26 – Dottie Arnaudin, Bryan Jenkins, Sally Kelly
- Sept. 27 – Bill Arey, Hugh Catlett, Carrie Chamberlain, Jack Dodge, Charles Hunt, Laura Mason, Nicole Powell, Nathan Taminger
- Sept. 28 – Gideon Bradner, Ralph Hill, Don Simpson, Bob Van Horn, Susan L. Williams
- Sept. 29 – Kelli Brooks



## Church Family News

**Birth:** Ryan Charles Halliwell on June 3. Ryan is the son of Julie and Ben Halliwell. Carson is his proud big brother.

**Condolences to:**

John Buchanan on the death of his mother, Pauline.

**New Address:**

Kris Cannon  
 The Crossings at Bon Air  
 901 Bon Air Crossings Drive  
 Apt. #406  
 Richmond, VA 23235  
 320-6580



**National Alliance on Mental Illness**

### FAMILY TO FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

This is a 12-week course, beginning Monday, September 20 at Bon Air Library, for families and friends of individuals with brain disorders called mental illness. The course is taught by trained family members who have lived with this experience. There is no charge for the class or materials. Advance registration is requested by September 3. Contact Laura Lank at 378-2023 or Anne Logan at 744-9974.

## 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 SERVICES AT  
9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

## Staff

<i>Burt Brooks, ext. 105</i>	<i>Senior Pastor</i>
<i>Sandra Bottoms, ext. 108</i>	<i>Associate Pastor</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, Assistant Director of Music Ministries</i>	
<i>Marcie Murphy, ext. 101</i>	<i>Administrator</i>
<i>John Draper, ext. 113</i>	<i>Interim Financial Administrator</i>
<i>Kim Peachy, Tonya Cory</i>	<i>Accompanists</i>
<i>Dawn Rancka, Jamie Barrack</i>	<i>Choir Directors</i>
<i>Liz Squitieri, Teresa Tabor</i>	<i>Nursery</i>
<i>Debbie Ellison, ext. 106</i>	<i>Preschool Director</i>
<i>Ron Coleman, ext. 109</i>	<i>Preschool Treasurer</i>
<i>Robert Dunford</i>	<i>Custodian</i>

# New Worship Schedule

We're continuing with two worship services on Sunday at  
9:00 and 10:30 AM.

May God bless:



Address Service Requested

The Brandermill Church  
4500 Millridge Parkway  
Midlothian, VA 23112

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