

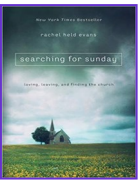
Music Ministry Matters

Hand Bell Choir: We will resume rehearsals on Sunday, June 6, at 5:00pm. Please contact Mary if you want to ring! I need to have a count before we meet. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to gather for rehearsal.

Sanctuary Choir: I am currently thinking through some creative ways for us to gather safely and sing. Please look for an email very soon about rehearsals that we will hold in the sanctuary beginning the week of June 6. I am SO EXCITED to think about gathering and making music together! We will have to limit the number of people singing together to about 10 each week, so I will need a count for each rehearsal and each Sunday morning, beforehand. Just to get an idea of numbers, please send Mary an email if you would like to be part of the choir in the coming days.

MARY'S BOOK STUDY

Join Mary on Monday nights at 6:30 pm, as we continue with our most recent book study. We are reading Rachel Held Evan's *Searching for Sunday*. You can order the book on Amazon and it is not too late to join in on this study.



From *New York Times* bestselling author Rachel Held Evans comes a book that is both a heartfelt ode to the past and hopeful gaze into the future of what it means to be a part of the Church.

"Like millions of her millennial peers, Rachel Held Evans didn't want to go to church anymore. The hypocrisy, the politics, the gargantuan building budgets, the scandals--church culture seemed so far removed from Jesus. Yet, despite her cynicism and misgivings, something kept drawing her back to Church. And so she set out on a journey to understand Church and to find her place in it.

Centered around seven sacraments, Evans' quest takes readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death that are funny, heartbreaking, and sharply honest.

A memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, *Searching for Sunday* is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church."

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH MINISTRY NEWS



THIS Summer, Pre-K thru 5th Graders are invited to join us for a VBS/Camp experience where we'll use music, science, art and more to learn about God's calling for us to 'Change the World with Lovingkindness'! Be on the lookout for more details to come. Youth & Adult helpers needed. Contact Leslie to volunteer.



We have some fun summer events in the works for ALL ages: Bingo, Family Movie Nights, Church Picnics and more! We've got some major fellowshiping to do. Be on the lookout in our weekly email updates for details to come, and we hope to see you there!

Let's celebrate and say hello to Summer together!



Hot Dogs, Chips & Sno-Cones provided. Bring your game face for Kiddie Pool Kickball and be prepared to GET WET!!
RSVP by June 16th
(Email Leslie or call the church office)

The Messenger

We are SO proud of our Graduates!



CBC 2021 GRADUATES!

(Pictured above, left to right)

- Riley Kaufman from John Tyler Community College
- James Dacey from James River High School
- Daniel Thurmond from Veritas School
- Bryson Mann from Midlothian High School
- Meghan Engstran from BTRS/ Union Presbyterian Seminary
- Hannah Bailey from Powhatan High School
- Callie Sawyer from St. Margaret's High School
- Cade Sawyer from Monacan High School
- Nicholas Davis from VCU School of Medicine

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."
1 Timothy 4:12

Letter from the Pastor:

Dear Friends,

*Indoor Worship

June 6th is the day. We will, on that Sunday, return indoors for worship. The restrictions have lessened as more and more of us have been vaccinated. As I announced on Sunday, May 23, the CDC tells us that *"Anyone who is fully vaccinated can participate in indoor and outdoor activities, large or small, without wearing a mask or physical distancing."* **Mask wearing for those who have been vaccinated will be optional and based on your level of comfort.** We'll also plan to provide an area where you can be physically distanced if that is your preference.

*A Continued Parking Lot Option...

Some individuals/families have asked if they could continue to meet in the parking lot during our worship hour (and watch the service online on their phone or iPad) until all in their families are vaccinated and/or are comfortable being in crowds. The answer is, of course, yes. In fact, we will also set out some chairs under/in front of the canopy and set up a smart TV that will show the service. People who are not ready to come inside can choose to watch the streaming service from their cars, the seating area outside, or even from their homes.



***Schedule – We will initially keep our current schedule of worship at 10:00 and Sunday School classes can continue meeting as they are.**

The plan for our next step is to ease back INSIDE FOR WORSHIP during the coming summer months using our current schedule. That means *worship will continue to be at 10:00 am.* Sunday school classes can meet in their classrooms (or can choose to schedule use of the Fellowship Hall if they prefer). *We'll also provide coffee and doughnuts before worship in the Fellowship Hall.* Some classes or small groups that are currently meeting on other days of the week have asked if they can

continue meeting on that other day. The answer to that question is yes. **Please note, this schedule is not permanent. The goal is to assess our current schedule as we move indoors and adjust, as necessary.**

*Thank You for Your Patience and Love...

As a congregation, you've made the decision throughout this pandemic to be cautious in a desire to care for one another and keep each other safe. I shared this quote on Sunday: **"...part of the church's essential work is to care for the common good, which includes doing our part to protect public health."** You have done that faithfully and well, and with great patience. Thank you for being so patient and for supporting the ministry staff, worship volunteers, and Re-entry Team members in our work. **None of us have ever experienced a pandemic before, but by the grace of God we have not only endured, we have also been strengthened in our love for God and one another during this difficult year.** Our ministry did not cease during this last year, it increased. "Our worship was not canceled; it simply took another form." And so, here we are...

Like you, I look forward to returning to the sanctuary for worship. **As I write this article, we have one more Drive-In Worship Service on May 30.** Fourteen months ago, I would have never imagined what God could do in our parking lot. But I am reminded that **OUR GOD CAN DO ANYTHING. And I was reminded, over and over again, that the church is not the building.** WE ARE THE CHURCH. YOU ARE THE CHURCH. And no building can, or should, contain us. Let the love of Christ spill over, and spill out, that all of Chesterfield County and all of Richmond and all the world know we are Christians because of the way we live our lives and by the love we so freely express.

*Stephen Richerson – Volunteer Minister of Visitation

I am pleased to share with you that one of our members, **Stephen Richerson** (see bio below) has agreed to be a **Volunteer Minister of Visitation.** You might best know Stephen as Mary Richerson's dad. He is that and so much more. He is married to Becky and they have two other children, Susan and James. Stephen has years of pastoral ministry experience (see bio below). Pastoral Care is one of Stephen's many gifts and passions and he has said he would like to volunteer his time serving God in this way. He will work a few hours a week; and he will begin this ministry in the coming weeks.

*Thank you for your prayer and support during my mom's illness and death

Thank you seems insufficient for all the ways you have surrounded our family with care and concern in recent weeks following the death of my mom. From worship coverage, to beautiful flowers, to a mountain of cards, we feel and appreciate your love. We returned home last week with a U-Haul trailer in tow (Sam was sad that we wouldn't let him drive!) after a long and emotional week of a memorial service and the beginning of a dismantling of her home in preparation for its sale. Christy and I have both found a new appreciation for what families go through during these times, and we are once again so thankful to be connected to TWO loving church families.

In Christ's Love,
David Turner

CHILDREN'S CHURCH UPDATE

As we transition into the church building for worship, we will continue to provide children's church just as we've been doing. Following the Children's Moment, kids will enjoy a time of reflection, bible study, & silly songs in our "Little Chapel". Any children worshipping with their parents in the parking lot are still invited to join us! Ms. Wendy will greet you under the portico to come inside. All children will be led back to their parents during the final hymn of the service. At this time, as we follow CCPS guidelines, children are still asked to wear masks. Thank you!

Stephen Richerson Volunteer Minister of Visitation



Stephen Richerson grew up as a son of a Baptist pastor and completed high school in Hampton, Virginia. He earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond, and the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Southeastern Baptist Seminary. He worked nearly 4 years as a bank manager in Hampton before going to seminary. He has served as a Deacon, and Sunday School teacher and numerous committee chair positions. He worked as a part-time Minister of Youth and Music before and during seminary. He has been a senior pastor for 25 years in North Carolina and Virginia including Westover Baptist in Richmond for nearly 16 years. He also was a volunteer Hospital chaplain in Newport News and at Chippenham for over 20 years. He has served in multiple association leadership positions, and was an adjunct Professor at BTSR for about 10 years. He was a Trustee and Board Chairperson for the Virginia Baptist Children's Home for 17 years. He then served as President and Executive Director at the Home, now known as HopeTree Family Services for another 17 years until his retirement in 2019. He and Becky have been married nearly 51 years. They have three adult children, including Mary Richerson, and seven grandchildren.



GRADUATION

Is a time for
reflection
on the *Labors*
of the PAST
the *Accomplishments*
of the PRESENT
and the *Possibilities*
of the FUTURE

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