



JOIN THE FUN!

**Family Spring Picnic**

Sunday, May 23  
(after worship)

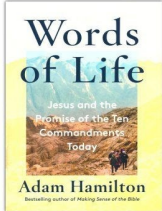


*Bring your own picnic lunch for food & fellowship on the church grounds following worship!*

Feel free to bring outdoor activities to play/enjoy with friends! Youth are also invited to help our children, who will be planting flower seeds in the raised garden beds.

**Wednesday's @ 6:00 pm via Zoom**  
**Topic: Ten Commandments**

We are using Adam Hamilton's book *Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today* to focus our study.



**The book is available to order on Amazon:**

Adam Hamilton, *Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today*  
**ISBN # 1524760544**

**Purchase of book is not required to participate in the study.**

**If you are interested in participating in this study, please call the church office for information.**



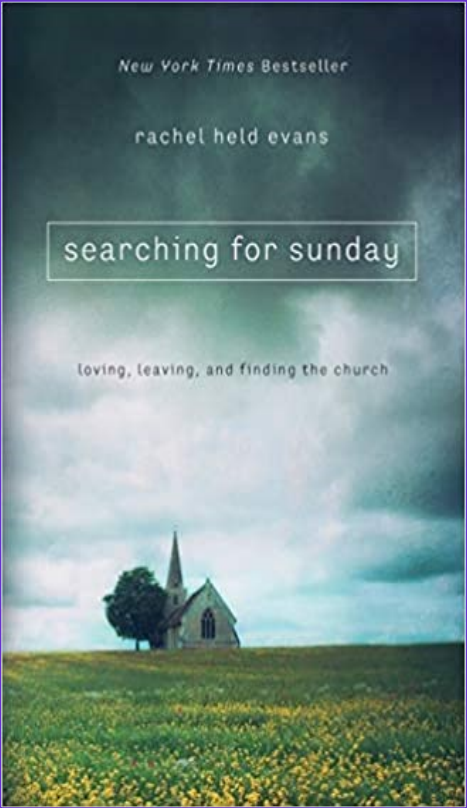
On Saturday, April 24th, we hosted CBF's annual Mission Madness event in our parking lot. Members from Tabernacle & River Road Baptist joined us for a day of service in the community. We were able to help local schools and senior citizens in need of assistance. Thank you to all of those who helped make this event a success!

The **Messenger**



**Mother's Day**  
**Sunday, May 9th**  
**10:00 am**

We will be holding a child dedication as part of our Mother's Day worship service. This is a special CBC tradition where parents proclaim their intention to raise their child(ren) in faith and where our church family affirms their own role in supporting the parents and children along their faith journey. Please join us to celebrate with these families and to honor the special "Moms" in your life.



Join Mary on Monday nights at 6:30 pm, beginning May 17, for our next book study. We will read Rachel Held Evan's *Searching for Sunday*. More details will be coming soon. You can order the book on Amazon. Please email Mary if you plan to attend.

**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."*

"The Lord says: Look, I'm extending prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream. You will nurse and be carried on the hip and bounced upon the knee. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you." Isaiah 66:12-13a



Letter from the Pastor:

Dear Friends,

This week was another week of news filled with stories of shootings, juries, verdicts, pain, uncertainty, and loss, or anticipated loss. There was also, in some states, a rise in the numbers of COVID cases. Yet, there is still hope. More and more of those who are eligible to do so are getting one of the available vaccines. We certainly need to respect the fact that some, because of health concerns, will be unable to (or choose not to) receive one of the vaccines. But for others, let's embrace the opportunity to build up the touted herd immunity that will allow things to normalize that much faster. I am pleased to say that each of the ministers and administrative staff have received both their shots.

In spite of my hope, my heart has been a bit heavy this week thinking about all the things going on in our world right now. I received a reminder, though, of Jesus' words, "In this world you will have trouble... but take heart! I have overcome the world."

You've certainly heard me reference our seeing light at the end of the tunnel. In talking about the pandemic, Pope Frances said, "The basic rule of a crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but never the same." Our faith in Christ requires/compels us not to throw up our hands and give up, but to roll up our sleeves, embrace the better, and get to work embodying love and acting as instruments of healing and hope. Let us look for, and embrace, opportunities to do just that.

\* \* \* \* \*

My friend George Mason recently told a story about Maya Angelou whose birthday was April 4. Maya was active in the civil rights movement. On her birthday in 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, and she fell into a state of depression. Maya was encouraged by friends to tell her story in the form of an autobiography, but she repeatedly refused.

James Baldwin knew her spirit. He suggested a different tactic to a Random House editor. The editor called one last time and told Maya that it was just as well she refused because it's too difficult to write an autobiography that is also good literature. Challenge accepted. The result was the acclaimed *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

Maya Angelou always kept the slave narrative in her mind, as it played itself out through her body, too. The legacy of slavery and white supremacy continues to haunt Black Americans, as they feel themselves assigned to the lowest place in the social hierarchy.

But Angelou also had her Christian faith to buoy her whenever she felt she was being pulled under the current for good. It's an Easter faith rooted in deliverance from the dead. Jesus' resurrection was foreshadowed in the deliverance from slavery of the children of Israel through the deadly waters of the Sea.

It wasn't an Easter poem per se, as she wrote 'Still I Rise' ... (for a presidential inauguration). But the theme of rising is most definitely an Easter truth. The first and last stanzas remind us that Christ's resurrection power, and the hope it brings, is still loose in the world.



*You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise...  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.*

Friends, on your darkest day(s), may you rise with resurrection hope.

In Christ,  
David Turner

# Graduate Recognition

## Sunday, June 6th

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ALL OUR GRADUATES:  
HIGH SCHOOL - POST SECONDARY

It's that time of year again! On Sunday June 6th, we will be celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates during our worship service. If you are graduating this year from high school or any post-secondary programs and would like to be included in this way, please contact Leslie Hepburn or the Church office.

### 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.

### The William D. Dietrich Endowment Scholarship Fund

The deadline to apply is Sunday, May 16.

William Dietrich, Pastor at Central Baptist Church from 1953-1984, greatly valued investing in future leaders of the church and society. We invite church members who are actively involved in Central Baptist Church, exhibit qualities of leadership within their school, church, and community, show an investment in faith, the church, and the future of the church to apply. You may call the church office to request an application be emailed to you. Please return your completed application to the church office or scan and email it to [nicoleaverette@cbcrichmond.org](mailto:nicoleaverette@cbcrichmond.org).

### A Mother's Day Poem

By Allison Woodard

*Recognizing that God is the Creator and Parent of us all, Woodard writes...*

To be a mother is to be a Touchstone,  
and the Source,  
Bestower of names,  
Influencer of identities;  
Life giver,  
Life shaper,  
Empath,  
Healer,  
and  
Original Love.

### Pastors and Staff Contact Information

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