

**Bus Drivers Needed!**



Central Baptist Church

**WE NEED YOU!**

Do you have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL)? Would you be interested in getting your CDL? Please contact Nicole Averette in the church office (794-8055) for more information.



Ruby Cashion Caterpillars

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Contact Melissa West at [melissawest@cbrichmond.org](mailto:melissawest@cbrichmond.org)



**We will miss you, Sue!**

Dear Friends,

We want to take a moment to acknowledge *Sue Brannan* who has resigned as Administrative Assistant to care for family. Sue is a wonderful person and has been a great colleague with whom to work. She has served faithfully since she started with us mid-way through the pandemic. Unfortunately, her mother's health has declined considerably, and Sue needs to step away from her position here at Central so that she can fully devote herself to her mother and her family. Selfishly, we hate to lose her, but in caring for her mother she is doing the right and noble thing. Sue, we love you and are so grateful for your time with us. We pray God's blessings upon you, your mother, and your entire family. You will always have a place here amongst us.

# The Messenger

**Please join us in welcoming Michelle to Central! Michelle is serving as our Family Ministry Intern this summer.**

Michelle Schultheis is a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University studying elementary education and literature/creative writing. She is President of her university's Student Government Association and is highly involved within her church community both on and off campus. Michelle has taught faith formation, worked with middle and high school groups, youth groups, and has co-led worship with her parish's youth/young adult band, *Redeemed*. Overall, Michelle believes in living out the quote by Kid President, "Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody," as she gets to know and walk with people on their faith journeys.



**Please join us in welcoming Carole Studdard to Central! Carole is Central's new Receptionist/Office Assistant.**



Carole has a diverse background and is looking forward to being a part of the Central Baptist Team. Her background includes working in the private sector, nonprofits, a small business owner, and most recently working for a management company as property manager. Prior to moving to Richmond, she and her husband lived in Arizona where she was an executive director for an HOA.

Carole and her husband are in the process of relocating to Woodlake where they had lived prior to moving to Arizona in 2005. As their family was growing, they decided to return to Virginia to live closer to their children and their families. They enjoy traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Carole is a member of St Edward Catholic Church where she and her husband were married

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:45 a.m.

Sunday School classes are meeting in their individual classrooms.

**YOUTH GROUP**  
SUNDAY'S @ 5 PM

**FAITH NIGHT**

Saturday, August 6  
6:30 PM

There is no cost to you for the game. Just bring your money to buy refreshments.



*I can do all things through Christ  
which strengtheneth me.  
Philippians 4:13*

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Central Baptist Church  
1500 Courthouse Road  
Richmond, VA 23236

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Dear Friends,

As was announced a couple of weeks ago, a Congregational Transformation Team (CTT), was appointed by the Church Council to guide us (in partnership with the Center for Healthy Churches) during the next year as we continue the work of becoming the best version of who Christ has called us to be. As I said then, *“We are a church where love and grace are proudly professed and where we humbly seek to walk in step with Jesus, and where we also seek to be his presence to one another and to the world around us.”*

The CTT consists of the following individuals: *Kathy Blaska - Co-Chair, Doug Cox, Elsie Dillard, Whitley Ford, Terri Hammock, Keith Hightower, Chris Kaufman, Terry Maples - Co-Chair, Shawn Snead, Lynne Stockner, Elizabeth Sundberg, Heidi Thurmond, Jackie Tucker, and Bev Whitlock.*

They held their first meeting on Sunday, July 10. Dr. Mike Clingenpeel, our advisor from The Center for Healthy Churches, led the team through the orientation that is discussed in the report from the CTT included in this newsletter. I share their expectancy regarding the positive and hopeful movement toward the place God would have us be. Please continue praying for the CTT, for the staff, and for our church family.

The beginning of our transformative work within the church brought to my mind Adam Hamilton’s description of work he’s done on his property. He says, we ... “have pond on our property in Stilwell -- about a half to three-quarters of an acre. Over the last five years it was overrun with cattails and algae, silting in; and by last summer, the hundreds of fish in my pond died. So, in September, a trackhoe company brought out two trackhoes: a bulldozer and a bobcat, drained my pond, excavated a massive amount of muck, and gave my pond a new start. It filled up this spring and it is, once again, teeming with life.” It is an apt “metaphor for the spiritual life -- how we allow things (that are) the spiritual equivalent of cattails, algae, muck and slime into our hearts and minds, and from time to time it has to be cleaned out; we need to be spiritually excavated, and, in the words of Jesus, “born again.”

I wonder, what’s the muck that’s gunked up your spiritual life – your thoughts and actions – that may need to be excavated or mucked out by God? My prayer for me and for our church, as we are made new by God, is from Psalm 51:10, ***“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”***

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**This Fall we will begin anew our Wednesday Night Bible Studies at 6:00 pm.** We will kick-off in September with a study created by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship called ***Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus***. This study “calls us back to the central focus of our Christian faith, the Risen and Living Jesus! (This study also) ... invites congregations into deeper faithfulness with each other, equips congregations to offer a bold and positive witness to the risen Jesus and transforms us individually and corporately while we co-labor with God to transform the world.”

Later in the Fall/Winter, we will embark on a study called ***Unstoppable***. This study was created by the Virginia Baptist Foundation. “It’s hard enough to cling to faith when times are good. But what happens when life stops you in your tracks? This ... study shares how ordinary people respond to extraordinary challenges. Their inspirational stories show how, with God’s help, we can do more than just move forward.”

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I’m looking forward to sharing with you the details of the trip to Israel I took in May. I am pleased to have traveled with wonderful people and to have made a number of new friends. I am happy to have been able to catch just a glimpse of the holiness of that land. We saw beautiful sights and places of historical and spiritual significance. We took a boat to the center of the Sea of Galilee and prayed at the Western Wall. We swam in the Dead Sea and trekked in Hezekiah’s Tunnel. Below are just a few images which capture just a bit of the experience.

Finally, I pray you have many reminders of God's restorative and transformative love in the coming week.

Blessings,

# ISRAEL TRIP



***“Create in me  
a clean heart,  
O God,  
and put a  
new and  
right spirit  
within me.”***

***Psalm 51:10***

## Pastors and Staff Contact Information

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