

**Churchland Baptist Church**  
3031 Churchland Boulevard  
Chesapeake, VA 23321  
Office (757) 484-2351  
E-mail churchlandbaptist@verizon.net  
Website churchlandbaptist.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 101  
PORTSMOUTH, VA

January 2017

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Churchland SPIRE



Volume 60, Issue 1

January 2017

## Worship with Us as We Enter 2017



**Worship with Communion**  
**Sunday, January 8 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12**  
**Meditation: "Reflections"**

**Church**  
**DEACONS**

**Deacon Ordination and Installation**  
**Sunday, January 15 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Scripture Lessons: Psalm 40:1-11 and 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**  
**Sermon: "Strengthened by Grace"**

### Birthdays

3 Kayleigh Eason  
Erin Greathouse  
4 Aaron Oliver  
Gayle Rowe  
6 Sharon Moore  
7 Judy White  
8 Mary Perry  
9 Mildred Clark  
Sarah Turner  
10 Terri Coble  
15 Terri Cherry  
Anne Porter  
16 Paige Boyd  
18 Susan Parsons  
Rebecca Stephenson  
Dee Sword

19 Vivian Rayfield  
21 Brenda Bolton  
Scott Pardue  
22 Emily Coyle  
23 Dan Koger  
24 Tandy Coyle  
Todd Williamson  
25 Alice Fticsar  
Ian Laing  
Tom Ullom  
29 Alleigh Milam  
Margie Wood  
30 Brenda McCoy

### Anniversaries

10 Cindy and Jon Bolling  
27 Allison and Rickie Milam (21)



### Church Staff

JoAnne Fisher  
Custodian

Jenny Hodge  
Minister of Children/Youth/  
Young Adults

Ramona Kirsh  
Records & Financial  
Secretary

Dan Koger  
Pastor

Dennis Price  
Director of Music

Patricia Price  
Organist/Pianist

Trudy Smith  
Director of  
Weekday Preschool





## NEW BEGINNINGS

This has been a year of new beginnings for all of us. Many of you have taken on new leadership roles in our church to guide and help us through our transition. Many of you have begun to ask questions that have pressed and challenged us. Questions that have asked us to look at our church and community with “new” eyes and through “new” lenses.

In many ways, we have been on a journey. On a journey together. I have had a series of new beginnings myself this year. New beginnings with you. New beginnings through you. First, as “Acting Pastor.” Then, as you extended a congregational call to me to become your “new” Pastor. This

is a new role for me. With your encouragement, support, and yes - even with your challenge - I am on the journey of *becoming* the person you have called me to be. I chose “Pastor” rather than senior pastor or senior minister because *pastor* more closely reflects how I see myself and who I want to become among you. I am learning, almost daily, about this new relationship. Thank you for helping me learn and grow. Thank you for your patience as I learn and grow.

From our church, to many of you who are associated with our church, this year has been full of new beginnings. New beginnings will continue as we enter 2017. I have found comfort and challenge in the words of John O’Donohue. The poem below speaks to the power of new beginnings. We like the way things are, so we “never think to wander.” New beginnings wait until we are “ready to emerge” (or need to emerge, ready or not). New beginnings can be difficult when we are “unable to leave what you had outgrown.” Stepping out of “new ground” - regardless of the reason - can be scary. Yet, new beginnings are moments of grace. And, God always gives us grace for the new beginnings. I share these words with you as we begin a new year. God has much in store for us. God will ask much of us. God will be with us...each step of the way.

### “For a New Beginning”

In out-of-the-way places of the heart, where your thoughts never think to wander  
This beginning has been quietly forming, waiting until you were ready to emerge.  
For a long time it has watched your desire, feeling the emptiness grow inside you.

Noticing how you willed yourself on, still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety and the grey promises that sameness whispered.

Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent, wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled, and out you stepped onto new ground,

Your eyes young again with energy and dream a path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not clear, you can trust the promise of this opening;

Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning that is one with your life’s desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure, hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk.

Soon you will be home in a new rhythm for your soul senses the world that awaits you.

*(John O’Donohue, Benedictus: A Book of Blessings)*

Grace and peace,  
Dr. Dan

## Doing the Will of God: Studies in Matthew

Wednesday Evening Bible Study  
6:45 - 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall  
Continues Weekly beginning January

Join us as we continue our study of the Gospel of Matthew from January - March.

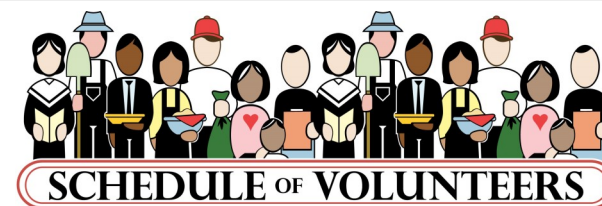


### Deacon Luncheon and Orientation

**Sunday, January 8, at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Our deacons and families will share lunch together after worship.

Then our deacons will spend time considering the role and ministry of deacons.



### Sunday Morning Narthex Greeters

January 1 - Barbara Crowson

January 8 - Dee Sword and Steve Fisher

January 15 - Debbie Fehrm

January 22 - Mark and Bonnie Vinson

January 29 - Cydney Cavender

### Sunday Extended Session

January 1

Heather Pruitt, Marion Wotring

January 8

Michele Leonard, Alice Ftiscar

January 15

Linda Francis, Marsha Perry

January 22

Dorothy Wise, Sandy Wotring

January 29

Beverley Byrd, Penny Overton



Income vs Expenses  
as of December 18

Income: \$ 479,906  
Expenses: \$ 439,313



January 16  
Martin Luther  
King, Jr. Day



Oasis Food Drive

**"Feed My Sheep" Oasis Social Ministry Food Drive:** Thank you for helping to provide food to our neighbors in need. The **January** food pantry focus item is: **Peanut Butter, Jelly and Powdered Milk**, but any non-perishable food item is always appreciated! **Adult and baby diapers** of all sizes are always needed. Please be sure food you bring is not expired.





# January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> Worship Only 10:30 am	<i>2</i> Office Closed	<i>3</i> Staff 9:30 Choir 7:45	<i>4</i> Dinner 5:45 Bible Study 6:45	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> Leadership Council & Vision Team 9 - 11 am
<i>8</i> <i>Epiphany</i> Communion Deacon Lunch & Ordination 12:30 Missions 4:00 #107	<i>9</i> Susie Person 7:00 Social Hall	<i>10</i> ERGC 10:00 Social Hall Choir 7:45	<i>11</i> Dinner 5:45 Bible Study 6:45	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> Deacon Ordination & Installation	<i>16</i> <i>Martin Luther</i> <i>King, Jr. Day</i> Office Closed	<i>17</i> Choir 7:45 Social Hall reserved 11 - 2:00	<i>18</i> Dinner 5:45 Bible Study 6:45	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> Newsletter Deadline	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> Dan Koger Installation 3:00	<i>23</i> Care-a-Van	<i>24</i> Choir 7:45	<i>25</i> Covered Dish 5:45 Business Mtg 6:45	<i>26</i> Social Hall reserved 7:00	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> Chili Cook-off 12:30	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Choir 7:45				

## Thank You to Our Church

Thank you so much for the visits, cards, food, and prayers at the passing of my husband, Neil. My words could never express just how much my church family has meant to me during this difficult time. I am so appreciative of you all.  
**Cydney Cavender**

The **Holly Banquet & Auction** was a big success again this year. After expenses, we had over fifteen hundred dollars from the ticket sales & auction. These funds will go toward our "Global Mission" offering. Thank you for your support, **Suzie Person Women on Mission WMU Circle**.  
P.S. Come join us as we learn about our CBF Field Personnel (Missionaries) at our next meeting Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

The **Mission Council and Shelter Committee** would like to thank everyone that donated or gave of your time to make the shelter a success. We served from 37 to 44 each night. They had good food, activities and felt the spirit of Christ from our church members. We had 138 signed in plus others that gave their time during and before Shelter Week. We had over 800 volunteer hours signed in, plus other hours not recorded. We gave out kits, socks, wash cloths, etc. We donated all extra supplies to the Portsmouth Volunteer for the Homeless Center. Thank you again for your kind and giving hearts.  
**Judith B. Walker, Sara Stewart, Tom Leonard and the Mission Council**



Join us in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

Our Worship will begin and end in the Sanctuary. Through scripture, guided prayer, and music, we will worship together. We will make a Prayer Walk throughout our church as we pray for God's guidance and blessing in 2017. As we walk, we will pause at various places and pray. Dress comfortably. We will not have Sunday School. Child-care will not be provided.



Soup Luncheon and  
Quarterly Business Meeting

Hang on...we are going to try something new. We will hold our 1st quarterly business meeting for 2017 on Sunday, February 5, immediately following the worship service. We're planning a simple lunch of homemade soups, bread, and cookies. In January, we will ask members to sign up to bring in crockpots of soup and cookies. As you know, quarterly business meetings are normally held in the evening on the last Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. Church members have recommended that we hold our business meetings on Sundays after worship to enable more members to participate. We also want to encourage more open discussion, with a greater focus on our church's ministries, so we will adopt a more town hall meeting style to enable more participation. If you have any other helpful thoughts, please let me know. Mark Vinson (484-9406)

# YOUTH NEWS

JANUARY 2016

## Let the Passport 2017 Fundraisers Begin!!

**Sunday, January 29th  
Bake Sale and Chili Cook-Off**



Donate your best homemade baked goods - breads, pies, cakes, and cookies. Items may be purchased in the Social Hall after Sunday School and morning worship.



## BAKE SALE

**Make a pot of your favorite chili recipe  
and bring it to the Social Hall  
in time for lunch at noon.**

\$7 per person for lunch (hot dogs/chips for children)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO PASSPORT 2017

Sign-up in the office or your Sunday school class.

## Worship Guest Reception

In mid-December, we began a brief reception for guests immediately following worship. The reception is held in the Hospitality Room, across from the church office. The reception is printed on the worship folder insert. We ask your assistance by inviting guests to come. Your hospitality in bringing them to the reception will be a great support for this ministry. Information about our church is available and we will offer a gift to first time guests.



There is a silver communion plate and goblet that have been misplaced from the Lord's Supper Room. Both pieces go with the set that is placed on the Communion table most Sundays. If anyone knows where these two pieces are, please call the church office. Thank you.



**This Is How I Ended Up In A Homeless Shelter For A Night  
Never Forget to Count Your Blessings, Tomorrow It Could Be You  
By Sheena Noyes, CBC Member since \_\_\_\_**

On Sunday, December 10, 2016, I experienced what it was like to be homeless. I was among forty-five other men and women who were escaping the cold, night air and were seeking a warm place to bed down for the night. I spent ten hours with these people, who just like me, were blessed enough to have been directed to this place and so we wound up there at the same time. Like everyone else there, I had the privilege of being allowed to stay there all night. I feel as though I may have confused some of you, because it must seem strange to call it a privilege, but what you must understand is that being there overnight was a choice for me. I didn't have to be there, let alone spend the night and the following morning I was able to return to the comfort of my own home. So let me explain how I ended up in a homeless shelter for the night by going back to where the journey began for me.

When my husband, children, and I joined our church a year ago, I began hearing other members speak of something they referred to as "homeless week," and naturally, I was intrigued; I wanted to know more. I asked around and what I found out was that our church partners with two local organizations called Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, Inc. and Oasis Ministries to provide homeless men and women in our area with a hot meal and a warm place to sleep for the night. For one week every December, we open up the doors to our church each night to feed and shelter those who have nowhere else to go. It's difficult to describe the emotions that washed over me when I learned of this, but what I can put into words is how overjoyed and blessed I felt to be a part of a church who had such strong ties to service and helping the community.

As a child, I can remember my mother stopping and handing the homeless gentlemen on the corner money, and sometimes, when we had no money to spare, she would give him food and water. I never really gave it much thought though because to me it was just something my sisters and I were brought up to do, so when I learned that my church needed volunteers for "homeless week," I decided I would sign up and I did so as an overnight volunteer. This meant that I would come in when dinner was almost over around 8 p.m. and would stay until 7 a.m. the following morning. My only job was just to be there in case I was needed and to act as a sentry, or night watchman, making sure that should an emergency arise, I was available to contact the necessary authorities.

Unfortunately, when my night rolled around last year my youngest daughter came down with the flu and I was not able to fulfill my obligation. Needless to say, when December rolled around again this year, I sought out the individual who coordinated the overnight volunteers to make sure I signed up again.

And this year I was able to keep my word. When my night came around, I walked through those doors a little apprehensive, but ready to help out. I arrived about thirty minutes before dinner was over, but in time to hear the message of faith that was shared with the men and women that night. I was there to join with them and sing Christmas carols and to laugh with them. I was there to talk with them and watch a movie.

I met some of the sweetest, kindest, and friendliest men and women that night—human beings just like me. As I helped the women prepare their room for sleeping, we swapped stories of motherhood and family, of what they dreamed of doing with their lives, and stories of who they were before they had to rely on the kindness of strangers. Some of these men and women are just a little down on their luck this month, but most likely will bounce back fairly quickly. Others, are not quite so lucky and have been out of work and on the streets for years.

It's a very humbling experience to say the least. It makes you think about everything you have in your life and of those things you barely take the time to thank God for on a daily basis. More than once that night I can remember longing for a hot shower and to lay down in my bed to sleep because I was not used to staying awake all night. I don't know what it's like to not have a warm place to sleep because I have always had a home and a bed to sleep in. I know nothing of the intense longing for a hot meal, because I have always had enough to eat. And I pray that I never have to go to sleep wondering where my children are and if they might care enough to shelter me for the night like one woman I met.

More than once, I found myself wiping a few tears from eyes as I wondered how it was that God had allowed me to have so much and them so little. No one should have to be afraid to go to sleep at night because someone might steal what little possessions they own. No human being should be left wandering the streets on a cold night searching for food and shelter.

This is an experience I will not soon forget and I guarantee you I will be there next year, keeping watch all night long, just as I did this past Sunday night. Unfortunately, as I stated earlier, it will be a choice for me and once again, when my shift is over, I will get to leave and return to my home.

So, tonight, as I have every night this week since Sunday, I will lay my head down on my pillow and I will thank God for all that I have been blessed with. And then I will ask Him to please let me see some new faces next year, as strange as that may sound, because then that will give me hope that every bad situation can be turned around for the better. The takeaway from all of this: never forget to count your blessings. Tomorrow it could be you.