

Battery Park Christian Church

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Letter from the Pastor

Dear friends,

I have an app on my phone that holds me solidly accountable. At the beginning of each year I dedicate time to read a particular number of books. In 2020 I hope to read forty! As of the beginning of February, I have so far read one. The app is rather merciless. As of today it tells me that I am two books behind schedule. And while I tell my phone that I'm doing my best, it doesn't seem to be especially understanding.

As for our church, perhaps we can learn something from this phone app. I think there is one detail that we can follow and one that perhaps we should avoid.

I would encourage all of us to think about the dedication that we are able to offer the church during this second month of the year. What can we achieve? How can we shift the bottom line of BPCC and not just in terms of finance but in terms of discipleship? What can be this month's aspiration? Can we attend one more weekly service than perhaps we attended last month? Can we aspire to participate in the upcoming adult education program on Tuesday evenings? Can we join in our new service programs or perhaps even find opportunities ourselves? Can we make a visitation to a congregant in need or even join one another at a meal? After all, as we know well from the gospel of Matthew... "where two or three are gathered". (cont. page 2)



Winnie Honored

Sunday January 26th we celebrated Winnie Bobbio's 90th birthday with a reception in the Parlor. While delighted with all the hugs and well-wishes, Winnie's first thought was for others.

"If we have this party for me, won't everyone else want one?" So, if you make it to 90 years of age, please let us know because the answer is "Yes"! You deserve a party!

Yet we don't need the guilt. Come out of joy and not just obligation. Don't worry about conflicts of time but understand that every moment that we share is a blessing. We would love to see you at every event. We would love to share fellowship once.

As many of us learned in an old Sunday school song- the church is the people. I am thankful that we share not only this space but also this faith. Let us give thanks for Battery Park Christian Church and give thanks for one another!

Peace and grace,

Rev. Jonah



Little Free Library. Donate a book. Leave a book for others.

Battery Park Welcomes New Members

(In order to know each other better, we feature Battery Park members in The Evangel each month. This month we have two new members to introduce plus one long-time member tells his story. If you'd like to be in the spotlight next month, please let Patsy Stockdon or Winnie Bobbio know.)

New Member – Linda Westbury

Linda Mae Westbury, was born in April. Her older sister, Shirley Ann Westbury, was born in October just 18 months earlier. They lived in Northside at the Chamberlayne Garden Apartments. Shirley was more serious while Linda liked to have fun. They went to Ginter Park Elementary, Chandler Jr. High and Thomas Jefferson High Schools.

Linda has done some traveling. She loves animals, crafts, reading, the beach and the mountains. Her mother's mother talked to the girls about the Bible and religion. They had a piano which their mother played by ear. Singing gospel music was a favorite. Linda's twin uncles worked after the service at The Clover Room, so they had ice cream all the time.

Linda lived in Anchorage, Alaska for a year and Texas for 23 years, where she went to nursing school in Clarendon, TX and worked at the hospital in Childress, TX. She attended Central Christian Church in Texas. In Richmond, she attended First Baptist and Colonial Place Christian Church most recently, until they closed the doors.

Linda said "God has certainly blessed me and never left my side. I believe He guided me to Battery Park. I feel right at home thanks to the wonderful congregation. I love singing in the choir. I have not seen anyone with fingers in their ears yet!"

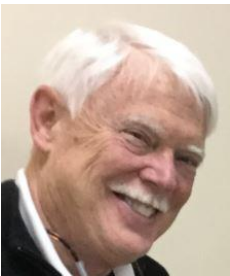
New Member – William F. Slater

William Slater (Bill) was born in Wytheville, VA and grew up in the Baptist Church in Sales, VA. After attending high school, he went to Shenandoah Conservatory and College studying music education. After and while attending VCU, he participated in various areas in music including choral and performance. While there, Bill was active in some coaching during various functions in collaboration with the Music and Drama Departments.

He was employed in Richmond, and after some years went to the New York area for further employment and to continue his interest and involvement with music. After 26 years there, he moved on to California for a period of 14 years, returning to Richmond in 2009 after retirement.

He became a member of First Baptist Church, and then Colonial Place Disciples of Christ Church. Bill joined Battery Park in 2019. He enjoys music, mostly vocal and orchestral events and concerts. He also enjoys involvement with fellow musicians and friends. Bill has already been helpful working in and with Battery Park Church. He also likes to travel.

My Church Memories, by George Nuckolls



Some of my oldest memories would include teachers like Ms. Livesy who later became a neighbor. I remember Pastor Gupton's forceful messages and his red face every Sunday. I was baptized by Dr. Kingsbury. He was tall and wore a long black robe each Sunday. I realized he was a regular guy like the rest of us when he showed up in shorts to go hiking one time.

I remember playing hide and seek in Marian and Charlie Sheffield's backyard on Bellevue and on train trips to Buckroe Beach. The church was given "7 Acres" around then and later a river cottage. 7 Acres had a nice pavilion, but I mostly remember the vines you could swing on over the river. The cottage was on the Rappahannock River, and I remember a time working with Patsy's brother, Nicky, and their dad, Nick Ware and others rebuilding a pier. The river bottom was soft and muddy, just like Naylor's Beach, another favorite memory. That was fun but a lot of hard work.

Mentors didn't know it, but there were many over the years. I particularly remember in their day, Fred Giese and Herman Perks and his rose bud, Herman Fields, Ben Blanton and Ben Walker, Hermon Lucord, Johnny and Rita Lucord, Fred Heckman and Pat Williams. It was their level of dedication and the way they showed it that impressed me. There are many more, some I see each Sunday. (cont. pg. 4)

In the Community

One goal of the city Office on Aging and Persons with Disabilities is to promote lifelong learning through adult educational programs for seniors (over 55). The following classes are being offered in February & March.

Book Club

Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn how to join a book club near you. Guest author Sabin Prentis talks about "Compared to What". Lunch provided.

Integration & Civil Rights in Richmond

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Soul of a Community

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Ballot Battle: Richmond's Social Struggle for Women's Suffrage

Wednesday, March 11, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Register by calling 804-646-1082. All classes are held at the Huguenot Community Center, 7945 Forest Hill Ave., Building #26.

There was a time I drifted away from the church, but I came back and attended the Hawkins Bible class. They're long gone, but I've been coming ever since. Daddy was there most Sundays. Mom loved the yard sales, both as a seller and a buyer. She loved getting the day-old bread for CARITAS and going to yard sales with Jegn Dalle Mura and Miriam Tucker.

We've blocked the parking lot for Sunday services, and at least one time offered games, food and chalk drawing for a neighborhood event. And speaking of the parking lot, I remember a workday to enclose the AC units. Fred Heckman shot a nail through his finger! He was the only one calm about it. The flood in our basement was another all-hands effort – the salvage, demolition and evolution to a Great Room. We never figured how a racoon got into the church unnoticed, but he set off midnight security calls for a long time, and ended up in the organ, literally, costing us tens of thousands of dollars in repairs.

There are many other people and events – all good memories. I'm blessed to be part of Battery Park Christian Church.

February Adult Education Classes on Tuesdays

Mark your calendars for Feb. 4, 11 and 18 at 6 p.m. to attend Rev. Jonah's classes. A light supper will be offered each week, and if you haven't added your name to the list on Sunday morning, call the office and leave word you'd like to be included. Each class is independent from the others, so you can attend one, two or all three classes. Bonnie Garrett has volunteered for the first meal – thanks, Bonnie!

Session 1: "Why Jesus? Our God With Us"

Session 2: "Why Jesus? Our Greatest Teacher"

Session 3: "Why Jesus? Our Redeemer"

For March or April, Jonah is planning to provide a short program for parents (of kids of all ages) as to why youth/children need church in an increasingly secular culture. Parents in the community will be invited to attend.



Fran Pleasants	02/01
Vicki Ogozaly	02/05
Tomas Carr, Jr.	02/06
Andy Stone	02/12
Walt Garthright	02/20
Chockie Roberts	02/28

Blessings to you, and may you have many more happy birthdays!

Report from the Pastor's Cabinet

The first Cabinet Meeting of the year was held January 22. You'll be seeing evidence of the planning that came from this meeting as the days go by, but a brief summary is as follows.

Education – We begin with Rev. Jonah Smith-Bartlett's three-session classes on "Why Jesus". See article, pg. 4. A meal is included. Childcare and rides are available for those who'd like to attend and need that help. We'll be discussing themes like *Why Church* and *Finding Our Faith*.

Evangelism – Most evangelism these days is done via social media. We're looking for better ways to reach out online to find people who would be interested in coming to Battery Park if they knew more about us. Give your ideas to Patsy Stockdon or Jonah Smith-Bartlett.

Membership – one of our fellowship opportunities in the Spring will be to attend a play together. There will be a semi truck and trailer in the parking lot which opens to become a stage. We will bring our lawn chairs to enjoy the show. Plans are being formulated as to whether there will be food, etc. Everyone is invited, including the Northside Church and our community.

Property – it came to our attention recently that people coming to our Bellevue door might not know they've arrived at Battery Park. The sign which was once there is long gone, but the Northside Church does have a sign, making it a bit confusing. A. T. Scruggs has offered to help with a new sign.

World Outreach – we plan to have a Wednesday potluck meal featuring the Disciples missionary work around the world as our program for the evening.

Community Outreach – we hope to participate in the *Micah Project*, which is run from Richmond Hill to assist city schools students. Be in prayer about whether you can offer time to read with a child each week to help them learn. Also, we are hoping to help bus riders in our community by installing a park bench at the corner bus stop. Jonah had an appropriate scripture for a small plaque. We also plan to gather items desperately needed by homeless teens at John Marshall High School which we did previously. Counselors at the school said the items were much needed and appreciated.

Children and Youth – Jonah will be meeting with parents soon to discuss how we can start a program to encourage our youngest members to be a part of the church. Several ideas have been floated.

Our facility – A member kindly funded some painting to improve the appearance of our main hallway. In addition, we plan to open a couple of unused rooms and clean them as classrooms are needed. With the excitement we have been feeling, various members have offered to help clean and organize storage rooms. Finally, we talked about ways to use our property, such as providing space for a community garden or a dog park. There are questions about whether we actually have the proper space for either. That discussion will continue.

Directory Changes

Please make these changes to your Battery Park turquoise membership directory.

Cover – add P.O. Box #9314.

Remove – office manager, Marion Timbrook (this position is still open)

Add – Rev. Jonah Smith-Bartlett, 1224 Bellevue Ave., #2, Richmond, VA 23227. Cell phone (203) 506-8162
Email – jonahbartlett@gmail.com

Add – Shellie Johnson, accompanist, 11440 Marsden Rd., Chester, VA 23831

Pg. 2 – members deceased are Jean Carr, Lois Cosby, Dorothy Dillard, Molly Echols
change address for Chris Daniel (Joel C.), 2135 W. Aventura Way, Apt. 9314, St. Louis, MO 63146

Pg. 3 – change email address for Mary Frances Garr, mfgarva@gmail.com
Change address -- Jason and Audrey Heckman, 8134 Solitude Ln. Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Jason's cell phone (804) 543-1827, work (804) 798-4831

Pg. 4 – phone for Billy Kinsey is (804) 363-7921
remove Sam Marsh
address for Jerusha (last name should be Joshua), 2902 E. Stony Hill Ct. #28, Richmond, VA 23235

Pg. 5 – email for Judy Pollard is turkeymomjp@aol.com
remove home phone for Sharon Ramos

Pg. 6 – remove home phone for the Wagners
insert Herbert Tate, 12021 Greenwood Rd., Glen Allen, VA 23059
add new member Bill Slater, (804) 426-3652, email is slaterw189@gmail.com

Pg. 7 – change cell phone for Maxine Walker to (804) 349-9357
Add cell phone for Tim Williams (434) 298-8660
Add new member Linda Westbury, 2706 Greenway Ave., Henrico, VA 23228
Linda's phone (804) 282-3607, email Soph04Mae@outlook.com

Thank you!

Battery Park is grateful for the Memorial Gifts received recently.

In memory of Elinor Richardson.

In memory of Melissa Seiler's mother, Susan and her brother, Kevin.

Our finances

Income and Expenses, Jan 1 - Jan 27, 2020

Income

Offering	7,864
Building use	1,200
Other	1,721
Total Income	9,585

Expenses

Personnel	6,391
Utilities and Maintenance	5,266
Unexpected Major Expenses	0
Other	744
Total expenses	12,401

Net loss (taken from reserves) (2,816)