



Seventh Street Christian Church

www.seventhstreetchristianchurch.org
4101 Grove Ave Richmond, VA

January News

January At A Glance

January 6	Epiphany
January 8	Remove Christmas Decorations -10AM
January 12	Disciple Men's Fellowship
January 14	Board Meeting - 7PM
January 20	Brown Bag Elder-Deacon Orientation - 12:15PM
January 21	MLK Day - Office Closed
January 25	Faith, Family, & Friends
January 27	Elder's Meeting Congregation Annual Meeting



When I was a kid, the end of Christmas was (jokingly) marked by the last present being opened. After I tore off the wrapping, took note of the last gift (usually it was *the* gift. You know, the BIG one!) my dad would proclaim “Christmas is over!” Of course it wasn’t over, there was still an afternoon of playing with all the new toys, eating copious amounts of food and enjoying the family.

Older, wiser and a Divinity graduate, I now embrace that Christmas doesn’t end until Epiphany: Twelve days after December 25. This Sunday marks Epiphany. Epiphany comes from the Greek word, *epipháneia*, meaning manifestation or appearance. It is the day that commemorates the visit of the Magi to Jesus. It also marks the revelation of the Christ child to the gentiles (that’s us!)

As we put away our Christmas decorations, or take a deep breath post our Christmas travels; as we try to shed the weight of too many cookies, and as we enter into the excitement of a new year - I hope we can hold on to the mystery of the birth of Christ entering into our world. Christmas is never over.

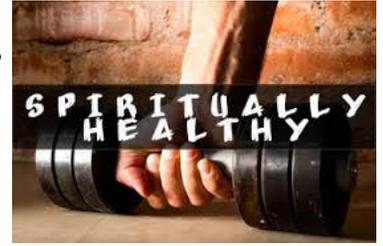
As we learned during Advent, the story of Christmas is so transformative because we see God ushering in a new way - a different way - than what the powers and principalities were claiming. (domination, envy, murder, oppression) This new way of peace and love is open to all - not just some. But this new way is also deeply rooted in believing that we are part of sharing the light of Christ in the world. Like the Magi, it’s about recognizing what the birth of the Christ child brings and choosing to be a part of sharing this light with the world.

I pray that you continue to recognize this hope manifested in Jesus. I pray that you choose to share it with all you meet.

Shalom,
Rev. Hollie

Spiritually Fit in 2019

As we celebrate ringing in 2019, many of us mark the new year with resolutions. According to statistics, most of our resolutions are about getting healthier. In 2018 53% of those making a new year's resolution wanted to be financially fit and 45% wanted to get in shape! Perhaps neglected in our resolutions for healthier living is becoming spiritually fit! What can (or will) you do to be more spiritually fit in 2019? Here are some ways...



- **Pray:** Prayer is, at its core, the expression of your hopes. Whether you speak to God, the Universe, or your own subconscious, when you pray, you're usually asking for something or you're expressing thanks.
- **Meditate:** We often confuse meditation with prayer but meditation is different. In prayer you reach out, with meditation you reach within and attempt to change your own state of mind for the better. Meditation can help cultivate clarity, concentration, emotional stability and peace. Start by taking 5 minutes of silence each day.
- **Journal:** Writing down our thoughts, feelings, struggles and gratitude helps us name what is stirring inside. It is also a great way to note patterns - both destructive and constructive.
- **Resist temptation:** Every belief system warns against wrong action, and most of the time, it's for a good reason. These actions and thoughts hurt us, hurt others, and make the world a worse place to live in. But you can strengthen your spiritual life by intentionally resisting these things, while at the same time, forgiving yourself and accepting your own imperfection. It is vital that you do both.
- **Study:** What do you know about your religion's history? What beliefs do you hold about your own faith? Pick up a book and read. (Rev. Hollie can share resources)
- **Challenge your Worldview:** This one is tough! Listening to another's perspective is challenging. Dialogue is an exchange of ideas. Listening to another's spiritual beliefs, and responding with your own ideas, is a great way to stretch and grow.
- **Practice your faith:** Our faith does not happen in isolation. Through worship we share our joys, concerns, and burdens with one another. Worship is just one way of practicing our faith, others include actively living out the ways of Christ outside the church walls!

Updates on Church Flood and Maintenance



As you know 2018 was a year of record rain! While some of our areas have always been prone to flooding, 2018 was particularly hard on our building. A mixture of too much rain, clogged drains, unkempt gutters, changes in landscape grading, lead to a broken window in the west basement, wall moisture issues and tiles popping up in Hanover Hall! This flooding was particularly devastating for our GreenSpring partners who experienced damage to some of their items kept in west basement.

Thanks to our property committee and board, we are working to address the flooding problems and fix what is broken. Our immediate response was to assist GreenSpring in finding new storage space (per our agreement with them). The space behind the chancel area was identified (i.e. baptistry changing area). The space, which was currently being used for SSCC storage was not well organized. To make better use of the space, the partitions were removed, toilets capped and shelves added. The left side is now designated for GreenSpring use and the right side for SSCC. Since the reorganization, the room can neatly hold our flowers and Christmas decorations. There is even room to continue using it for its intended use.

The board also approved that the drains around the building be cleared. Flinn's Rooter Service was hired and has completed the work. (Though two downspouts are too clogged to be cleared and we are reviewing recommended next steps).

Next steps: We are currently working to obtain a collection of quotes to create a comprehensive plan for repairs and maintenance. This includes, but not limited to: new gutters, landscaping, grading, tile removal, floor refinishing, and painting. We will keep you updated as information becomes available.

2019 New Leadership

January marks the transition of leadership. We are grateful for those who have served in 2018 and give thanks for those who are helping lead Seventh Street Christian Church in 2019.

2019 Church Board Leadership

Chair – Terri Cheney
Chair-elect – TBD
Immediate Past Chair – Andrew Walters
Secretary – Whitney Walters
Treasurer – Clara Hamlett
Historian – Mildred Bruce
At Large Board Member – Mark Douglas

Your Elders

Judy Lindsay
Pat Mays
Mark Anderson
Mildred Bruce
Jamie Haskins
Paul Menetti
Terry Cheney
Ian Douglas (Junior Elder)
Terry Ragsdale (Elder Emeritus)

Your Deacons

Jillian Douglas
Ian Douglas
Sarah Schumacher
Jonathan Schumacher
Diaconate Chair – Janet Morris
Trustee – Barbara Dickinson

Search for new Music Director to begin in January

The Human Resources committee will begin the official search for a permanent Music Director in January. We know that music is an integral and vital part of worship at Seventh Street Christian Church. You can see the proposed timeline below. We ask that you keep the HR committee and prospective applicants in your prayers.

Review of resumes: January 12 - 18
Phone Interviews: January 21-25
Interview & audition: January 28-February 8

Anticipated hire by mid-February and starting February 25



**Faith, Family,
& Friends**
Friday, January 25th
6:30PM Hanover Hall

A white illustration of a die with black pips, shown from a three-quarter perspective.

Game Night!

Outreach

Liberation Veteran Services



Lunch will be prepared & served to our Veterans on Sunday, January 6 immediately following our church service. We serve lunch, deliver DVDs, novels, household supplies, & visit with our Veterans on the 1st Sunday of every month. In December, we also delivered 25 Christmas bags donated by one of our generous members!

Change for Change



This is an ongoing ministry to help animals in crisis & \$68.80 has recently been donated, bringing our total for the year, thus far, to \$188,80!!! Thank all who continue to drop their pocket change in the basket on the Welcome table in the Narthex.

Meals on Wheels



Our MOW's teams delivered meals on Monday, December 24th. They also delivered our non-perishable food donations for FeedMore. Many thanks to our teams: Olivette Cox, Nancy Garver, Carole Chaffin, & Pat Mays for their dedication to this ministry. Thanks also to Janet Morris & Tush Metcalf for subbing when needed. Our MOWs teams deliver meals on the 4th & 5th Monday of every month & our non-perishable foods for FeedMore is ongoing!

Outreach Soup Sales



Watch for delicious homemade soup sale starting in January! Soup will be available in the Narthex immediately following our church service-\$5.00/ container! All proceeds will benefit the Fisher House!

January Call to Action



Donations of non-perishable foods for FeedMore and basic toiletries for Liberation Veteran Services are always welcome and appreciated each month, regardless of that month's call to action.

Special Thanks to all our Volunteers!

Liberation Veteran Services:
Olivette Cox, Janet Morris

FeedMore/Meals on Wheels:
Carole Chaffin, Pat Mays, Olivette Cox, Nancy Garver
Janet Morris and Tush Metcalf (subs)

Kimote Foundation:
Sarah Anderson

Giving Tree Mission Project:
Stewart Shotwell

Thanks to you all at Seventh Street for your amazing support!

Thank you to all who so generously support our Outreach ministries! If you would like to join our Team or participate in any of our ministries, please contact Liz.Hulette(804-794-9219) or Steve Cheney(804-437-3058)!

Laity Schedule

Prayers of the People

January 6 - Rev. Hollie
January 13 - Jess Kelley
January 20 -
January 27 -

Communion Stewards

January 6 -
January 13 -
January 20 -
January 27 -

Worship Leader

January 6 -
January 13 -
January 20 - Sarah Anderson
January 27 -

Greeters

January 6 - Sharon Young
January 13 - Joyce Clarke
January 20 - Sue Cathell & Carroll Whitaker
January 27 - Terry & Mary Rose Ragsdale

Elders

January 6 - Terri Cheney & Jamie Lynn Haskins
January 13 - Mildred Bruce & Paul Menetti
January 20 - Mark Anderson & Judy Lindsey
January 27 - Pat Mays & Ian Douglas

Counters

January 6 - Frank Bedell & Bill Buckner
January 13 - Olivette Cox & Nancy Garver
January 20 - Judy Gunn & Pat Mays
January 27 - Joyce Clarke & Mary Rose Ragsdale

Anyone who would like to serve in one of these laity roles in the future, please contact Whitney Walters and let her know of your interest.

Stewardship Chair: Barbara Dickinson

January Birthdays

Barbara German - January 6
Lucy Sanderford - January 12
Olivette Cox - January 14
Debbie Londeree - January 17
Rev. Dawn Barnes - January 19

Jim Elliot - January 22
Adam Abernathy - January 23
Adam Kelly - January 23
Elaine Krauss - January 23
Hallie Sanderford - January 28

Stay Connected



Seventh Street Christian Church
4101 Grove Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Sermon Refreshers

Youtube: "Seventh Street Christian Church"
or visit www.anchor.fm/7thstreet

Social Media

Seventh Street Christian Church

