

Lenten Thoughts

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, 2016. Christians started celebrating Lent in the 4th century, 300 years after Jesus lived. What did the 4th century Church think about Jesus?

“Jesus began his ministry by being hungry, yet he is the Bread of Life.

Jesus ended his earthly ministry by being thirsty, yet he is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary, yet he is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute, yet he is the King.

Jesus was accused of having a demon, yet he cast out demons.

Jesus wept, yet he wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver, yet he redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, yet he is the Good Shepherd. Jesus died, yet by his death

he destroyed the power of death.”

—Gregory of Nazianzus
(fourth-century church father)



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The Messenger  El Mensajero

February
Febrero
2016

RAMSEY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5900 Hull Street Road, Richmond, VA 23224,

804-276-4628, www.ramseymemorial.org

Just These Lines My Friends.... From Pastor Deb.

To say that I am looking forward to a preaching series on marriage and family life. Every year of my ministry I have chosen in some way to preach on the covenant of Christian marriage. In the past, I have led marriage enrichment classes and divorce recovery workshops. As you have heard me say, I truly believe regarding Christian marriage that Marriage is our Ministry to one another. Coming up in worship our themes will be the following:

Jan 31 God's Grace in Singleness

Feb 7 God's Grace in Divorce and Remarriage

Feb 14 God's Grace in Sacred Marriage

(the Reaffirmation of Christian Marriage will be offered to any married couples on 2/14)

I hope you will join me in praying for these special times of teaching/preaching and worship. I would love to have your responses to some of the following questions to ponder as I prepare for each Sunday.

For Singles/ Single Agains:

How is Singleness a gift?

Did you want to marry? If so, and you did not marry, how did you learn to accept or adapt? If not, how would you advise others who do not want to marry?

How has the church supported your 'single' status? How has it been hard to be a 'single' in church?

How is it to go from being a 'couple' to being a 'single' in church and community life?

For married couples

How did you meet? What are the best parts of marriage? What are the tough parts of marriage? How has the church supported you in the journey of marriage? What would you like to see the church offer?

For all: What ideas do you have on what the church could be offering for singles, marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, grieving the loss of a spouse, and separation/ divorce recovery.

Send your notes to the church office or emails to Pastor Deb at dkoontz@ramseymemorial.org.

As Pastor Deb prepares for these services, she is updating her list of resources and many will be available in the church library.

- Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas
- Love to Stay by Adam Hamilton
- Growing Love in Christian Marriage by Jane and Clifton Ives
- The Fresh Start Divorce Recovery Workbook by Bob Burns and Tom Whiteman
- Divorce Care by Steve Grissom and Kathy Leonard

Request for Housing

Wesley Seminary student Maria Barrera is looking to rent a room the summer while she does CPE at VCU. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

María Barrera es un estudiante de seminario . Ella tiene que alquilar una habitación en Richmond este verano . Póngase en contacto con la oficina si le gustaría ayudar .

Charge Conference

A Charge Conference has been scheduled for February 3rd at 7:00PM at the beginning of our Church council meeting time. The purpose of the Charge Conference is to review and approve the recommendation of Sarah Russo for candidacy in licensed, commissioned and ordained ministry. All are welcome to attend the gathering in the fellowship hall. Rev. Deborah Koontz will preside over the meeting.

Habrà una conferencia en 7:00 antes de la reunión de la junta el 3 de febrero con el fin de recomendar Sarah Russo para la ordenación y el ministerio. Todos son bienvenidos a venir.

USO MISSION

The mission efforts to serve our traveling armed forces personnel are going very well. Please continue to bring your donations of small packaged cookies, crackers, and chips to the church office.

VALENTINE DINNER/DANCE

Our annual Valentine Dinner/Dance will be

Saturday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 per person.

If you have 8 people in your party, we will reserve a table for you. Come join us for good food, good music and good fellowship. Tickets are now available from the members of the Fellowship Committee or the church office. Members are: Sally Wheat, Sue Wheat, Ann Hallinan, Kathy & Dwain Holmes, Chante Brown, Benjamin Rodriguez, Matt & Erin Amason, Pat Dyson, Katie Smith, and Joyce Walsh. We do hope you will come and join us.

La cena de San Valentín

Sábado, 13 de febrero a las 6:30 pm .

Las entradas cuestan \$ 15 por persona .

Si usted tiene 8 personas , vamos a reservar una mesa para usted . Venga a disfrutar de la música, la comida, y el compañerismo. Póngase en contacto con la oficina para comprar un billete .

Spring is coming! The Spring Festival and Agape Yard Sale is Saturday, April 23rd. We need your help to make this Spring Festival one of our best. You may sign up by filling out the yellow card or call the church office to speak to Sue Newman, 276-4628. It takes a lot of hands to have the Spring Festival, but please know that the community loves and appreciates what we do.



La fiesta de la primavera y la venta de garaje será el 23 de abril. Necesitamos la ayuda de todos para que sea un éxito. ¡Apreciamos toda su ayuda! Llame a Sue Newman para más información.

Kitchen Dues: Once again it is time for all groups (circles, 55+, Sunday School classes, etc.) that use the kitchens or church paper products and supplies to pay their annual kitchen dues. The Finance Committee has increased the dues for 2016 to \$60 for the year. So please send a check for that amount to the church office. Thanks and Happy New Year!



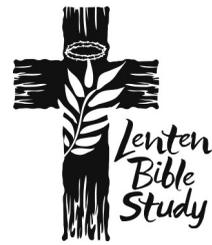
Neighborhood Supper

February 27th, 5:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall

White Christmas Report for December 2015

Ramsey folks,
Your donations of time, food, and money have once again helped your neighbors and their families have food in their pantry and some basic items for their children and grandchildren this past Christmas Season. They send their many thanks for your gifts.
In December 2015 we supported 8 families consisting of 36 people.
The Hazel Gibbs, McGuire Park and Nina Woodfin UMW Circles, along with the Agape, Kirkie-Powell, New Spirit and Otto-Whitt Sunday School Classes shopped for gifts and fresh fruit. Several individuals in the church made cash donations which enabled us to help two more families and purchase the fresh hams, eggs, milk and butter for all eight families. The congregation brought food to fill grocery bags for the families and have some left over for the January Food Pantry sponsored by the Ada Mae Bookman UMW Circle. Carol and Gary Hotchkiss, Dick Guilmart, Steve Meadows, Kat Burton, Erin Shrader-Amason, Lisa Lowe, Sharon and Matthew Cheatham, Sally Wheat, Patrick, and Scotty Doyle helped bag, load and deliver items for the families on the cold and clear Sunday before Christmas Day. God is good. God has blessed us with many gifts. Thank you Ramsey for your caring spirit and the sharing of your blessings for this Outreach Ministry.
~ *Scotty Doyle*

Our Lenten Study this year is entitled "John" --- The Gospel of Light and Life by Adam Hamilton. It will run for six weeks from February 21st through Easter Sunday, March 27th. It will be held in the Sanctuary from 9:45am until 10:30am. John includes some of the most loved verses in all the Bible. This study on John, the Gospel of light and life, a study of spiritual growth and renewal, could change your life. "As John explores the questions of the identity and meaning of Jesus, I invite you to do the same. Come join us beginning February 21st.



Our Ash Wednesday service will be on February 10th at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.



Desde un Rincón Pastoral

Ustedes sólo han tenido las mismas tentaciones que todos los demás. Pero Dios es fiel y no va a dejar que sean tentados más allá de lo que puedan soportar. Así que sepan que cuando sean tentados, van a poder soportar, porque Dios les dará una salida. 1 Corintios 10:13

Quiero comenzar esta primera edición de nuestro periódico mensual reconociendo la fidelidad de Dios para su pueblo. ¡Qué bueno es saber que la fidelidad de Dios es inmutable y para siempre, y que a pesar de nuestra indiferencia y falta de fe, Dios permanece fiel. Que consuelo da saber que a pesar de nuestras propias experiencias u opiniones acerca de Él, la fidelidad de Dios no actúa ni mucho menos se sujeta a nuestras variables personalidades, circunstancias, emociones o estados de ánimo; Su naturaleza es permanecer fiel. Muchas son los individuos que preguntan y se preguntan así mismo ¿Cómo logras o cómo lograr enfrentar las pruebas o las tribulaciones día a día? La única respuesta clara y sincera que pudiera responder a esta pregunta es, ¡solamente por la fidelidad de Dios! Y en el verso ya mencionado podemos llegar a descubrir que en todo punto, alto o bajo en nuestro diario vivir, solamente Dios es el único que puede ayudarte o ayudarme a sobrellevar cualquier cosa.

El año nuevo ya dio su comienzo y con él son muchas las tentaciones y pruebas que ya se nos llegaron. Mas que bueno es saber que en medio de todos esos nuevos desafíos y tentaciones de si seguir creyendo en Dios o no, Dios todavía nos muestra y seguirá mostrando su fidelidad. Su fidelidad todavía nos seguirá guiando hacia la tierra prometida a pesar de los desiertos que crucemos. Si pasamos por momentos difíciles, fortalezcamos nuestras vidas recordando que Dios nunca nos deja en ninguna de nuestra luchas o tentaciones. El llamado es que todavía podemos seguir creyendo, insistiendo y contando con la Palabra de Dios y su fidelidad cada día; porque a pesar de nuestras circunstancias, podemos salir triunfantes porque Dios siempre nos dará una salida.

En la fidelidad de Dios que permanece para siempre y en su gracia y paz, ruego por ustedes al Señor Dios todopoderoso que sus ojos puedan siempre ver su fidelidad siempre en acción.

Gracia y Paz de Dios,

Pastora, Norma Aguilar.

District and Conference News

Covenant for Spiritual Discipline: Prayer is essential to sustain our faith. Jesus modeled a life of prayer that established the DNA for the Christian Wesleyan heritage of prayer. Bishop Cho has envisioned spending his episcopacy in the VA Conference creating a culture of prayer. In his episcopal address at Annual Conference, he established a goal for at least 10% of clergy to engage in spiritual disciplines for one hour each day, and for 10% of our churches to become Prayer Covenant Congregations. VA Conference Clergy and laity are invited to engage “one hour daily” in spiritual disciplines (fasting, intercessory prayer, Lectio Divina—sacred reading, centering prayer, breath prayer, contemplative prayer, Tongsung Kido prayer, a service of common prayer, etc).

Day of Prayer: On Sunday, January 31, at 3pm at Mt Pisgah UMC, 1100 Mt Pisgah Dr, Midlothian, the Bishop will be meeting with all of the Richmond District congregations who have entered into a prayer covenant. It will be a fruitful time of learning from our Bishop who is uniquely and passionately gifted in this area of prayer.

Ramsey is a Prayer Covenant Congregation.

How are we making progress in our covenant?

Important Dates: 1/31: Day of Prayer at Mt Pisgah UMC
2/4: UMC Day at General Assembly
2/26-28: Lay Servant Academy at Blackstone
3/5: Bishop’s Convocation on Prayer
3/8: 5 Talent Academy Worship Event

Offering on Christmas Eve for *United Methodist Family Services*: \$551

A Prayer for General Conference:

For the decisions before us, Lord.

Make plain your way.

For the actions our decisions require,

Grant us courage and resolve.

For those touched by the decisions we make,

Fill us with compassion and guide us with your wisdom.

In the name of Jesus Christ, in whom we live, lead, and pray.

Amen.

Una Oración por la Conferencia General :

Para las decisiones que tenemos ante nosotros , Señor .

Hacer llanura tu camino.

Para las acciones de nuestras decisiones requieren ,

Danos la valentía y determinación.

Para los afectados por las decisiones que tomamos ,

Llénanos de compasión y nos guíe con su sabiduría.

En el nombre de Jesucristo , en quien vivimos , plomo, y

oramos .

Amén.

February is Heart Havens Month

What makes your life full and rich? Is it your involvement in church? Your job? Could it even be the small choices you make every day, such as what to have for breakfast or what to watch on TV? All of these things are what fill our lives with joy and keep us engaged in our communities. Adults with intellectual disabilities want a life just like yours: a life where they are part of a community, get to experience the many joys the world has to offer, and make their own choices. Heart Havens is a Virginia Conference Advance Special mission that provides residential support to adults with intellectual disabilities. Heart Havens empowers people to discover what it is they love and then pursue it. Soon, our congregation will lift up Heart Havens Month, a time to both support the Heart Havens mission with our gifts and celebrate the gifts that people with intellectual disabilities bring to the church. To learn more, please visit www.hearthavens.org.

CARITAS report to the Congregation.

During the week of Oct 17-24, we provided 270 beds, 830 meals, 51 loads of cleaned laundry, and 13 haircuts. Our **volunteer roster had 139 people providing this ministry.** Our guests for the week were kind, gracious and appreciative of our hospitality.

Thank you to everyone who assisted in any way. It takes a village to provide this service. In addition to providing for the CARITAS guests, the gifts (food and toiletries) were shared with the youth group, Hispanic ministry, food pantry, White Christmas and the Love baskets. WOW, reminds me of the fishes and loaves miracle! Our week for 2016 is Nov 5-12.

En octubre , ayudamos a las personas sin hogar a través de CARITAS . Proporcionamos 270 camas, 830 comidas , 51 cargas de ropa , y 13 cortes de pelo . Tuvimos 139 voluntarios! ¡Gracias! Haremos CARITAS de nuevo este mes de noviembre.

~Joan McGowan, CARITAS team leader

BIRTHDAYS—CUMPLEAÑOS

Hunter Flynn	1	Sandra Gentry	12
JD Jump	2	Sarah Russo	12
Roy Simmons	4	Nell Yoss	16
Tammy Howe	7	Matt Amason	17
Marsha Hallinan	9	Wilma Templeman	21
Dorothy Davis	9	Tammy Heller	22
Melissa Rivera	9	Benjamin Hoover	25
Jessica Rivera	9	Stephanie Ching	27
Martha Gilliam	10	Pauline Miles	28

ANNIVERSARIES—ANIVERSARIOS

Donald & Brenda Cameron 14

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

The youth group will be collecting canned soup for the food pantry again! We will collect soup for 4 weeks, 1/25—2/14. Please put donations in the food pantry box.

Estamos recolectando latas de sopa para la iglesia , a partir de mañana y hasta el día de San Valentín . Ponga la sopa en la caja de “Food Pantry”.

United Methodist Women News:

We would like all women that attend Ramsey Memorial to ask themselves what it means to be a member of Ramsey's United Methodist Women.

1. Mission giving supports institutions and programs empowering and improving the lives of women, youth and children in the United States and around the world.
2. It provides food, shelter, education, employment, healthcare and human rights advocacy for many living on the margins of society.
3. It funds spiritual growth programs, leadership development events and mission education opportunities for United Methodist Women members.

If you would like to know more about the United Methodist Women, please call:

Sue Newman 271-0230 (Nina Woodfin Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 2pm)
 Jean Chandler 232-1399 (McGuire Park Circle meets the 1st Saturday at 2 pm)
 Pat Beville 303-2660 (Hazel Gibbs Circle meets 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm)
 Dot Davis 794-8795 (Ada Mae Bookman Circle meets 2nd Tuesday at 11 am)

United Methodist Women Calendar:

February 4, 2016 - United Methodist Women's Day at the General Assembly
Call Katie Smith for a Registration Form. Contact your legislators' Richmond offices in advance to set up an appointment.

February 13, 2016 - UMW District Racial Justice & Reconciliation
“Hearts For Justice Tea” at Providence United Methodist Church
Registration: 10:15-10:30AM, Focus: Equal Justice in America's Criminal Justice System

A Love Driven Ministry

Thank you, Ramsey United Methodist Women & BUCS men for your generous support to our “Bikes for Christ” 2015 bike giveaway. This event continues to be a success because of donors such as you. Your contribution has given a kid within the community a Christmas to remember. We as a body of Christ strive each and every day to change someone’s life. Your efforts have assisted us with doing just that.

Your faithful servant in Christ—*Linwood Alford*, Bikes for Christ Chairperson.

Finance:

Once again, the Finance Committee is sponsoring our annual Lenten Drive. This money is used for maintenance items around the church that are not included in the general budget. The Trustees have made a list of possible uses of these funds, which could include several painting projects, repair work to walls in the library and other spots around the building, new carpet in a Sunday School classroom, and replacement of ballasts on some of the lighting fixtures.

Love Basket Success!

Thank you for helping to make the 2015 Love Baskets a success by showing God's love through your contributions, your visits and being the love and face of Ramsey Church. We delivered 47 baskets to members and friends in the community. Our church family extended itself beyond the walls of the church into the lives of many members who cannot make it to church on a regular basis or not at all. We love remembering them and they truly love being remembered.

Blessings, - *Pat Beville*, Ramsey United Methodist Women

Dear Ramsey Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful Christmas love bag Rita was kind enough to bring me. In addition to all the good things, I felt the love of my church family. May I wish you all a blessed 2016.

Gratefully, *Sandy Loan*

Thank you for such a beautiful gift, cards, calls and visits.

Love you all, *Cecil & Perley Goolsby*



Thanks for all our gifts. God bless you all.

Love, *Gloria & Jerry Flournoy*

We would like to thank our Ramsey family for the wonderful basket at Christmas. It was packed full of goodies. We really appreciate you for taking the time to remember us this way.

- *Herndon and Louise Smith*

Thank you for all of the cards and calls, and for the lovely Christmas basket.

—*Dolores Thomas*

Many thanks for the thoughtful love basket that elf Jean delivered. It was filled with a great selection of goodies that we are enjoying. Know that Ramsey and her people are in our thoughts and prayers.

Love, *Joe & Jean Johnson*

To Pat Beville and her team,

We thank you for the tireless and caring work to provide the love baskets. We had the opportunity for Pat to deliver it to our home. To see the enthusiasm, charisma, caring, and joy on her face exemplifies that God is working through her to take on this mission. May God bless everyone on her team.

- *Helen & Cicero Gainer*

How do you say thank you to a wonderful church family? To say that 2015 was an interesting year would be an understatement. First I had my heart issues that didn't want to go away. I retired thinking this would help. Wrong...

Then cancer came along. I've had surgery that took care of that. I've had so many positives during all this. From the bottom of my heart I thank all of you for your love, support, calls, cards, food, prayers and more prayers for my loving family. It made such a difference in my life to have this love and support. A special thank you to Pastor Deb, Pastor Norma and Sarah for your prayers and hospital visit. I'm so blessed to have had the Lord Jesus Christ walk every step with me.

Love you all, *Pat Beville*

FEBRUARY – FEBRERO

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1. 8:00AM Care A Van 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM James River Home-School</p>	<p>2. 9:00AM Whiffleball 6:00PM Crossover Exercise</p>	<p>3. 10:00AM Pickleball 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 7:00PM Charge Conference & Administrative Council</p>	<p>4. 8:00AM Care A Van 9:00AM Prayer Group/Shawl 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM Crossover Exercise 6:00PM James River HS 7:00PM Estudio Biblico</p>	<p>5. 10:00AM Precious Blessings 6:00PM James River Home-School</p>	<p>6. 8:30 BUCS 2:00PM McGuire Park Circle</p>
<p>7. TRANSFIGURATION 8:30AM Worship Service 9:30AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship Service 11:00AM Escuela Dominical 12:30 Servicio en Español 6:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>8. 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM James River Home-School 6:30PM EL/CIVICS Registration</p>	<p>9. 9:00AM Whiffleball 11:00 Ada Mae Bookman Circle 6:00PM Crossover Exercise 6:00PM Hazel Gibbs Circle</p>	<p>10. ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00AM Pickleball 2:00PM Nina Woodfin 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:30PM EL/CIVICS Registration 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>11. 8:00AM Care A Van 9:00AM Prayer Group/Shawl 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM Crossover Exercise 6:00PM James River HS 7:00PM Estudio Biblico</p>	<p>12. 10:00AM Precious Blessings Valentine's Dinner Prep</p>	<p>13. 6:00PM Valentine's Dinner Dance</p> 
<p>14. LENT BEGINS 8:30AM Worship Service 9:30AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship Service 11:00AM Escuela Dominical 12:30 Servicio en Español 6:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>15. 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM James River Home-School 6:30PM EL/CIVICS Registration</p>	<p>16. 9:00AM Whiffleball 6:00PM Crossover Exercise</p>	<p>17. 10:00AM Pickleball 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM Finance Meeting 6:30PM EL/CIVICS</p>	<p>18. 8:00AM Care A Van 9:00AM Prayer Group/Shawl 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM Crossover Exercise 6:00PM James River HS 7:00PM Estudio Biblico</p>	<p>19. 10:00AM Precious Blessings 6:00PM James River Home-School</p>	<p>20.</p>
<p>21. 8:30AM Worship Service 9:30AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship Service 11:00AM Escuela Dominical 12:30 Servicio en Español 6:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>22. 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM James River Home-School 6:30PM EL/CIVICS</p>	<p>23. 9:00AM Whiffleball 6:00PM Crossover Exercise</p>	<p>24. 10:00AM Pickleball 10:00AM Food Pantry 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:30PM EL/CIVICS</p>	<p>25. 8:00AM Care A Van 9:00AM Prayer Group/Shawl 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM Crossover Exercise 6:00PM James River HS 7:00PM Estudio Biblico</p>	<p>26. 10:00AM Precious Blessings 6:00PM James River Home-School</p>	<p>27. 5:00PM Neighborhood Supper/Come and See</p>
<p>28. 8:30AM Worship Service 9:30AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship Service 11:00AM Escuela Dominical 12:30 Servicio en Español 6:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>29. 5:00PM Kingdom Dominion 6:00PM James River Home-School 6:30PM EL/CIVICS</p>					