

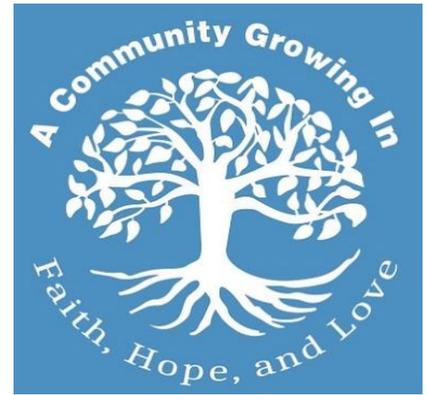
May Memorial Baptist Church

E-Connect Newsletter Printed Edition 9/10/19

Opportunities to Connect with God, Each Other,
and the World this Week

Reaching, Teaching, Touching...In the Heart of Powhatan

3922 Old Buckingham Rd., Powhatan, VA 23139
In the heart of the Courthouse Village (804) 598-3098
visit our website at: maymemorialchurch.org



A BIG Thank You!

Yesterday the church family enjoyed a wonderful breakfast as we heard from each Sunday School Class about their unique way they learn about God and build community together each Sunday morning. We say a BIG THANK YOU to all the men (and a couple of women) who shopped, cooked, served, and cleaned up for our wonderful Friends and Family Breakfast yesterday morning.



Listening

I spend a lot of time in hospitals. There are not many weeks in the year that pass without me stepping into a hospital to see a member of our church family who is about to have surgery, recovering from surgery, or spending time healing. If the doctor steps in when I am there I always offer to leave the room, but I am rarely asked by a church member to do so. As I hear the conversation between the patient and the doctor, it is clear that the doctor is the expert in the room, and I (along with any family members present) am praying that the patient

will do exactly what the doctor says. After the information is gathered from tests, the doctor is the one who prescribes exactly what should be done. I don't think I have ever heard a patient listen to the doctor's plan of treatment, and then reply with an alternative plan that is as hopeful as the doctor's. The doctor is the expert, and even if one doesn't like the plan, one has the most hope for a meaningful recovery if that plan is followed.

There are pastors who think they are the doctors and everyone else in the church is the patient. These pastors view themselves as the expert, the final word. These pastors think that if they can only get the church to follow *their* plan, preferences, and ideas, the church will be fruitful and fully live into God's mission in the community and world. In their estimation their opinion is the only one that should be taken seriously, and they have little time for suggestions, observations, and constructive criticism.

This is not the image of a pastor that I embrace or aspire to, and it is not how I view myself or our church family. I believe that every Christian at May Memorial is called by God to help our church family live into the fullness of God's mission. Every Christian at May Memorial can be led by God's Holy Spirit, and when the Holy Spirit impresses something on someone's heart about what we can do, or what we can do better, I want to hear it.

I will listen to you.

I believe that theological education is essential for the vocation of pastor. But seminary does give a man or a woman God's unique vision for a particular congregation. A pastor along with the church, with hearts open to God's leading, discover through committed dialog how to live into God's mission for the church. Your voice is essential.

This does not mean every idea is a workable idea. I have had many bad ideas that did not work. This also does not mean that "gossipy" complaints or the use of the "anonymous we" is healthy for churches

either. But healthy dialog in which constructive ideas are used to improve May Memorial is essential for our church life, and I will listen to you.

There are no ideas that are too “outside the box” for me to hear. All ideas are worthy to be spoken and heard, and it is essential that you share those. God uses each Christian who is a part of the May Memorial family to form us and guide us into the church that God is calling us to be, and I pray that each member feels the freedom to come to me and share your ideas.

My door is always open. My cell phone number is in the bulletin, the newsletter, and is on the answering machine message at the church. I will listen to you.

Connecting to Each Other...Fellowship



WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Next Wednesday will be Baked Spaghetti, Salad and Dessert by the Rachael Circle

Wednesday Night Study at May Memorial Has Begun. *Simply Christian*

Not since C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* has such a wise and informed leader taken the time to explain what Christianity is and how it is practiced. In *Simply Christian*, renowned biblical scholar N.T. Wright makes a case for Christianity from the ground up. Walking the participants through the Christian faith step-by-step and question by question, Wright's *Simply Christian* offers explanations for even the toughest doubt-filled skeptics, leaving believers with a reason for renewed faith.

A participant guide will be provided to each participant by the church, and can be picked up on the table in the Commons Area or the Narthex.

BETH MOORE
Strong Sisters
WORSHIP with TRAVIS COTTRELL
September 28, 2019
May Memorial Baptist Church
2022 Old Buckingham Road
Powhatan, VA 23139
For more information and registration go to:
www.maymemorialchurch.org

The event will be from 9:15 am to 4:15 pm
To complete registration you must mail a check.
Make out the check to: May Memorial Baptist Church
Mail to: Beth Moore Simulcast, P. O. Box 1282,
Powhatan, VA 23139
To register, please call the church at 598-3098 or
go to our website.



A Day to Welcome New Members - Sunday

The deacons have designated Sunday, September 15 as a Day to Welcome New Members. If you have decided to make May Memorial your church home, you are invited to join on Sunday, September 15.

A cookies and lemonade reception will be held following worship on the 15th to get to know those who are new to our church family.

Connecting to the WorldMissions

WMU Rachel Circle - The Rachael Circle is already busy ministering to our congregation. They will be providing next Wednesday's meal. Also, next Tuesday night, they will have their monthly meeting. It will be at 7:00 p.m. at the church in the Open Door Classroom. They will discuss the community projects for this year and plans for the Circle. Come join the fellowship! All Ladies are welcome to join!

Announcements

Sanctuary Flowers - The flower committee asks for volunteers to provide flowers for Sunday services. There are many openings in September, October and November. Please see the sign up board in the church office. Thank you!

Congratulations to Nancy and Scott Richards who are blessed with another grandchild!

From Nancy: "My daughter Sarah Clift and her husband Jeremiah had their first baby born Aug. 30 weighing 5 pounds, 15 ounces and 19 inches long."



Leadership Development Conference
Monday, September 23, 2019, 5:15-8:30 pm
Huguenot Road Baptist Church
For all the details go to:
www.baptistleaders.org
(804) 314-0294

Sign up with May Memorial by September 15. Contact Diana in the church office at maymem@verizon.net. or 598-3098

Worship Notes by Joan Maples September 9, 2019

The following article was written by Matt Ward, former Middle Tennessee State University music professor, real estate agent, and long-time church choir member. Matt contributed his essay to a book titled Universal Rx: The Hug.

I have a confession to make. For years, despite my dependency on a good "ear," I didn't hear what I was singing. That is, I concentrated so hard on singing the right notes at the right time with proper articulation, style, diction, etc., that I paid no attention to the meaning of the words. If you have ever caught yourself daydreaming as you read a book and realized your eyes have robotically scanned every line on the page, but you have no idea what you just read, you have a fair comparison to my singing of anthems and hymns. That phenomenon usually doesn't happen to me when I read the text of hymns. On the contrary, I am rarely so moved by the Holy Spirit as when I

read the beautiful poetry of hymns such as Amazing Grace, It Is Well with My Soul, Abide with Me . . . Even some of the more obscure hymns have brought me to tears just reading their words with no thought as to their musical settings.

When I sang them, however, that was a different story. I didn't have any real idea of what I had just sung. Perhaps I was too concerned with my own pride of getting it musically correct that I didn't allow myself any diversion from that concentration. In a way, it was an affliction . . . an obsession with one facet of "why I thought I was there" to the exclusion of all others.

Thankfully the question finally crossed my mind, "Why am I here?" (Here in the choir, I mean.) And the answer was, "This is my witness." But, the video-recording of our church service and watching myself in the choir on the DVD made me realize I was defeating my own purpose. Here I was singing about God's love

Joy to the World!, He Lives!, We Shall Behold Him, Face to Face – all these wonderful promises and sentiments! But if this thrilled my soul (which it does), I had to admit someone forgot to tell my face!

For all the expression I was trying to put into my singing, I neglected to put any into my other means of communication: my eyes, my smile, my body language. If I had been a witness in court, my credibility would certainly have been called into question by the jury.

I set myself a goal: to become a believable witness. At first, I had some problems feeling like I was "acting" with insincere smiles and calculated eyes. I didn't understand why I felt so deceptive because I certainly did believe in what I was singing. And then I realized it was because I didn't allow myself to believe it as I sang it. I wasn't listening to the words. They had no meaning at that moment.

I decided to doubt a little of my own indispensability and allow myself the luxury of not concentrating so intently on the music that I was unable to think about the meaning of the words I was singing. I further decided to give up a little of the security of my inhibitions and allow myself to show the feelings those words caused me to feel. Finally, I felt like a credible witness!

I had a dear pastor who once gave an admonishment but softened it with the admission that when he pointed his finger at others there were three bent pointing back at himself. Forgive me if I point out there are many others in church choirs that need to start listening to what they are singing. Accept the blessings of those words and let your face communicate it! Most of you have much nicer smiles than I do. I would never get hired for a toothpaste commercial! I don't even have a very expressive face. Those of you who have been given more than one talent must not bury that which God has given you! Question the need for such propriety that we cannot show our emotions. It's a great feeling to be singing There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place and to smile and think, "Yes, there really is!"

Now I can smile with sincerity and weep without guilt. Now I can show joy and pathos as the words express it because I truly feel it. Sometimes, the feeling is so intense I can't go on and I have to drop out for a few bars. Perhaps this happens to you, too. I hope it does. If not, I hope it will. Like choirs' stagger breathing there will be enough to carry on, that each of us can be spared our moment. And if Holy Spirit ever does come over everyone in the choir at once, I think the silence would be the most beautiful anthem the church ever heard!

P.S. Consider this from Wondrous Depth by Ellen F. Davis, ". . . and therefore I return often to this endeavor of raising your hearts, dilating your hearts with a holy joy, joy in the Holy Ghost, for 'under the shadow of his wings,' you may, you should, 'rejoice.'"

Make a joyful noise – and face – every day! 😊

Joan

Prayer List September 11, 2019

CHURCH FAMILY:

Don Adkins
Barbara Barden
Don Fitch
Jean Hall
Fran O'Donnell
Jim Pinkley
Shirley Reynolds
David&Susan
Terry
Nancy Wilkinson
Janice Worsham

MILITARY:

Danny Myers, Brent
Templeton, Quint Sutton,
David Brizendine,
Jeremiah Clift, Nelson
Sutton

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Ron Davidson, friend of the Howard's
Stephen Breeden, Son of Martha Oberg
Estelle Davis, Debbie Elam's mother
Lacie Baggett
Libby Gregg, daughter of Carol Gregg
Stuart Yeorge
Ben Spoon, friend of Juli Garrett
Bob Tiller, Jeanne Matthews brother
Suzi and Steve McClung
Dee Hubbard, friend of Snead DeNoon
Matthew Berger, friend of Joy&Juston Sanudo
Clyde Martin, brother of Esther Fitch
Jeff Crews, Susie Brock's brother-in-law
Sheri Sadie, Nancy Flower's Daughter
Bobby Wells, Gladys Rabon's sister
Sharon Baltimore, friend of the Bradbury's
Bill Casper, Bill Karnolt's brother-in-law
Justin Yancey, Grandson of Irma Alvis
Todd Bradbury
Alex Shoemaker, nephew of Diana Schmitz

HOMEBOUND:

Janice Worsham, 2041 Rocky Ford Road
Frances Tilman, 3904 Old Buckingham Rd
Audrey Johnston, The Crossing at Bon Air, 9100 Bon Air Crossings Drive, Room 202, Richmond,23235
Audrey Mann, The Laurels of Willow Oaks, 11611 Robious Road, Midlothian, 23113
Jim Pinkley, Chesterfield Woods

Weekly Schedule

Birthdays

Wednesday, September 11

4:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids
5:45 p.m. Mid-Week Meal
6:30 p.m. Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, September 15

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. New members reception

September

10-Kayla Tibbs
10-Ben Cunningham
13- Ewell Flippo
16-Kerri Bilthuis
18-Ray Hay
23- David Deal
27- Fran O'Donnell
27-Juston Sanudo
28-Joann Cole
29-Bernice Koelzer

Upcoming Events:

October 13: A Blessing of the Animals.

With the belief that God created, loves, and cares for all His creation, May Memorial Church will hold a Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 13 at 2:30 p.m. The service will be held on the front steps and front lawn of the church, and you are invited to bring your pet, or a photograph of your pet. We will pray and ask God's blessings on our pets and on all living creatures. Invite your friends and neighbors! Refreshments will be provided following the service.

Fall Festival - Oct 31. This year we are taking our fall festival out of the basement and into the community! On Halloween, we will be doing some games, prizes, hot beverages and a popcorn machine in Scottville as the hundreds of kids trick or treat. This will be a community outreach as well as a ton of fun! Please consider helping with set up, hot chocolate, apple cider and especially with clean up the next day...Nov 1st. We are going to volunteer that morning to go back through and make sure it is all cleaned up!

November 1-3: Youth Retreat at Camp Willow Run.

Financial Information

Our gifts to our Lord for September 8, 2019

Attendance: Worship 113

Regular Offering \$ 4,144.14

Total giving for period: \$ 4,144.14