



# Riverdale *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | RIVERDALE BAPTIST CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2016 – VOLUME 10

## BIG CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP PLANNED FOR SUNDAY OCT. 30TH

*October 30th is going to be a FRESH START at Riverdale Baptist Church. We are going to celebrate what the Lord God has done in this church over the last eighteen months. There is a new spirit to go along with the renovated facilities. We plan to have many guests present. It would be a great time to invite unchurched folks from all over the Valley.*

Transitioning a church from a church in decline to a church that is making progress towards biblical health is not an easy task. Riverdale Baptist Church is a church that has come to grips with some things that may not have been helpful and even unhealthy. That process of adjusting towards church health still goes on today. But we know this: the Lord God has seen fit to move in His Grace (His power, His Holy Spirit, His work on and in His people) to change the spirit and outlook of the church. This church is NOT THE SAME AS WHEN I STARTED AS THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR. Now granted we still have a good ways to go (and we NEVER ARRIVE!!). But praise the Lord, Jesus is in the midst and working on us. People's lives are being touched. I have witnessed some church members changed right before my very eyes. I have seen some children and some parents repent and trust Jesus! I have seen the spirit of the worship services change to a more

upbeat, contagious, and participatory style of worship. The Lord has used Paul and Abbi French, Stephanie Griffin, and the choir to encourage us in sincere Gospel centered praise. Our Children's Ministry under the guiding hand of Melanie Brown is growing. Students are being challenged to get real and follow Christ. People in the community are thankful for the life and ministry of the body of people known as Riverdale Baptist Ch. I am planning to bring a bit of a different message Sunday Oct. 30th. There will be guests from all walks of public service present in the service that day. We will take a tour of the renovated facilities after the worship service. We still have a long way to go, but for this one Sunday we are going to take stock; take a look at where we have come from; and PRAISE THE LORD with a full and glad heart. See you Sunday morning October 30th at 9:45 AM Bible Study and 11:00 AM Worship. Hey I love you all !  
Pastor Michael

## Upcoming Events

- Oct. 30th OUTREACH CELEBRATION DAY
- Monday Oct. 31st, 5:45 pm TRUNK OR TREAT in Riverdale BC parking lot
- Wednesdays ~ JAM Club, Children's Choir, Prayer, Adult Choir (prep for Christmas!)
- LIFE GROUPS Sunday nights at 6 PM on November 6th (all), 20th (Paul's) & 27th (Mike's)
- NOVEMBER 10th, 7 PM Neighborhood Mtg. @ Riverdale B. C.
- SAT. NOVEMBER 12th CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING EVENT 9 AM

## A WORD FROM PAUL FRENCH WORSHIP LEADER

Hello Riverdale!

What an exciting time to be a part of this church and the mission God has given to us! We've had many changes in the life of our church. The downstairs fellowship hall/kitchen area has taken on a new appearance, fall temperatures have finally arrived, five people have been saved in the past month (FIVE!!! Praise God!), our Life Groups are going strong, and Christmas is coming sooner than we may realize. I wanted to take a minute to share with you what a blessing our Life Group has been to us. Abbi and I lead and host a group every other Sunday evening and we usually have around 10 people present. Our histories may all be different, and we have different viewpoints on some issues. But, we are united together as brothers and sisters in Christ, seeking to grow closer to Him as we learn more about Him. The recurring theme of our study is not "shrinking the cross." When we are aware of the holiness of God and our own sinfulness, the only bridge to connect us to God is the cross of Jesus Christ. And, as we grow in awareness of those two things, the cross is magnified in our lives. If we don't acknowledge the incredible holiness and perfection of God and we think, "Well, I'm not *that* sinful. I can try my hardest to attain the same level of holiness as God," we actually

*shrink the cross!* There is nothing we can do on our own to become justified before God. And you know what? That's actually GOOD news! Praise God He has offered a substitute—Jesus Christ—to take our punishment upon Himself. God is holy and will accept nothing less. Thanks be to God that through His Son we are seen as holy! We have been given the holiness of Christ. Such news should excite us all to go and tell the world of His marvelous grace. PF

## NEWS FROM "BUCK" STUDENT MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

Wow! God has been so busy here at Riverdale. The youth group continues to grow, the youth room itself is looking fantastic, and people are coming to the saving grace of Jesus. This coming month we will enjoy a movie night—November 19 starting at 5:30 PM. We are going to absolutely have a great night of food (with an awesome kitchen!), fellowship, and prayer before we watch "The War Room."

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

God Bless, Buck

Cell: 540-293-0451; Email: [orhutton@liberty.edu](mailto:orhutton@liberty.edu)

Facebook: Buck Hutton

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 14. Emmett & Mary Caldwell
- 17. N. Stanford & Juanita Webster
- 20. Richard & Joan Nimmo
- 23. Paul & Pauline Doran
- 25. David & Becky Jones

### BIRTHDAYS

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 05. Ruth Flowers    | 20. Debbie Carrasco  |
| 06. Bobby Wimmer    | 23. Rachele McDaniel |
| 07. Michael Kelley  | 24. Jessica Thomas   |
| 07. Estelle Welch   | 28. Jim Lucker       |
| 11. Melvin Chisom   | 29. Gina Mathena     |
| 11. Barton Reynolds | 29. Sarah Vencill    |
| 12. Kenneth Boone   | 29. Oliver Price     |
| 12. Dianne Humphrey | 30. Mary Caldwell    |
| 20. Emmett Caldwell |                      |

My thanks and appreciation for all the phone calls, cards and prayers as I traveled to Atlanta several times in the past 2 1/2 years to be with my sister, Connie. She passed away on September 17, 2016 from complications of Parkinson's disease and LEWY BODY. Thanks again and may God bless everyone of you.

Dot Hogan & the Bennett Family

### SECURITY

#### Sunday School

- Church 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

- Glenn Welch
- Faye Draper
- Anita Ebersole
- Joel Ridenhour
- Faye Draper

### GREETERS

(Remember if you are a Greeter, you need to be here at 9:30 am)

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <u>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</u>              | Barbara & John Bouldin        |
| <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</u>              | Barbara & John Bouldin        |
| <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</u>              | Becky Brown & Melanie Wilmoth |
| <u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</u>              | Scarlett & Marshall Jenkins   |
| <u>All Sundays - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor</u> | Jimmy Morris                  |

### MISSION FRIENDS

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</u> | Charlotte Reese / Makaila Perkins |
| <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</u> | Cathy Martin / Cara Martin        |
| <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</u> | Becky Jones / Caitlin Morris      |
| <u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</u> | Barbara Bouldin                   |

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH


- All Sundays Donna Smith / Cara Martin

### NURSERY WORKERS

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</u> | Becky & David Jones               |
| <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</u> | Anita Ebersole & Valerie Williams |
| <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</u> | Becky Brown & Rachele McDaniel    |
| <u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</u> | Sylvia Nimmo & Christie Welch     |

# RIVERDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Pastor Mike gone for four days back Sat. night  HOMEWORK HELPS 3:15-5 pm HWH/ Elementary 4-5 pm HWH/Middle 5 – 6:30 YOUTH 5 – 6:30 CHILDREN'S JAM CLUB 6:30 – 7 PRAYER MTG. 7 – 8 CHOIR PRACTICE	3	4 	5  9 am MEN'S BREAKFAST (not sure where)    SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
6 LORD'S SUPPER  9:15 AM PRAYER 9:45 AM SUN. SC. 11 AM WORSHIP  <b>LIFE GROUPS</b> No other Evening Services	7  HOMEWORK HELPS 3:15-5 pm HWH/ Elementary 4-5 pm HWH/Middle	8	9  HOMEWORK HELPS 3:15-5 pm HWH/ Elementary 4-5 pm HWH/Middle 5 – 6:30 YOUTH 5 – 6:30 CHILDREN'S JAM CLUB 6:30 – 7 PRAYER MTG. 7 – 8 CHOIR PRACTICE	10  9:30 BUSY BEES ?  7 PM Riverdale Neighborhood Assoc. Mtg. Marla Robertson from Rke City USE NEW F HALL KITCHEN refreshments and light snacks served	11	12  9 am – 12 noon CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING EVENT AT RIVERDALE w/lunch  CROSSOVER ROANOKE SBCV AREA WIDE  5:30 PM YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT
13 9:15 AM PRAYER 9:45 AM SUN. SC. 11 AM WORSHIP  SBC of VA mtg at First Bapt. Ch. No Evening Services at Riverdale BUS MAY BE DRIVEN TO THIS	14  SBC OF VA mtg at First Bapt. Ch all afternoon and evening RIVERDALE PEOPLE ATTEND HOMEWORK HELPS 3:15-5 pm HWH/ Elementary 4-5 pm HWH/Middle	15  SBC of VA mtg. @ First Bapt. downtown Rke. Morning and afternoon	16  HOMEWORK HELPS 3:15-5 pm HWH/ Elementary 4-5 pm HWH/Middle 5 – 6:30 YOUTH 5 – 6:30 CHILDREN'S JAM CLUB plus Children's Choir 6:30 – 7 PRAYER MTG. 7 – 8 CHOIR PRACTICE	17  9:30 BUSY BEES	18  Pastor Mike gone for three days  NEWSLETTER INFO DUE	19
20 9:15 AM PRAYER 9:45 AM SUN. SC. 11 AM WORSHIP GUEST PREACHER David McNeas <b>THANKSGIVING LUNCH</b> use new kitchen  6 pm <b>LIFE GROUP</b> Paul French's tonight	21  HOMEWORK HELPS 3:15-5 pm HWH/ Elementary 4-5 pm HWH/Middle  Budget and Finance mtg.	22  STAFF MTG. 3:30 – 5:15 PM	23  NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES	24  THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26
27 9:15 AM PRAYER 9:45 AM SUN. SC. 11 AM WORSHIP LOTTIE MOON EMPHASIS  6 pm <b>LIFE GROUP</b> Mike's group meet tonight	28  HOMEWORK HELPS 3:15-5 pm HWH/ Elementary 4-5 pm HWH/Middle	29  STAFF MTG. 3:30 – 5:15 PM	30  HOMEWORK HELPS 5 DEACONS MTG 5 – 6:30 YOUTH 5 – 6:30 CHILDREN'S JAM CLUB plus Children's Choir 6:30 – 7 BUSINESS MTG PRESENT BUDGET FOR 2017 7 – 8 CHOIR PRACTICE	Notes:		



**Riverdale Baptist Church**  
**1624 Edgerton Ave. S E**  
**Roanoke, VA 24014**

**427-3141**

**Dr. J. Michael Palmer**

**Pastor**

**Paul French**

**Worship Leader**

**paulfrench84@gmail.com**

**"Buck" Hutton**

**Student Ministries Director**

**Melanie Brown**

**Children's Ministries Director**

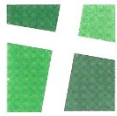
**Debbie Carrasco**

**Secretary**

**secretary@riverdale.roacoxmail.com**

**NOVEMBER 2016**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



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## **A WORD FROM MELANIE BROWN**

November is here! The weather is cooler, the colors vibrant, and construction is nearly done! Ms. Judy (teacher of Pre-K and Kindergarten) has a beautifully re-made room with space to contain not only Bible lessons and crafts, but the copious amounts of energy the wonderful children have! Ms. Melanie (teacher of 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Ms. Becky (teacher of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade) will each have space in the fellowship hall. By allowing the two classes to be closer, it helps the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders get a look at what's to come, and it helps the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders keep in touch with their energetic-spirit. Not to mention the convenience of parents who only now have to travel one area of the church to drop off all of their children! We are also still doing JAM on Wednesday evenings from 5-6:30 p.m. We are running a wonderful discipleship program full of games, Bible verses and most importantly, an in-depth understanding of why we are followers of Christ, and what that means for our lives. I just want all parents and the Riverdale Family to know that we are investing God's Word in these children.

## **EXCELLENT CHILDREN'S WORKERS TRAINING EVENT COMING TO RIVERDALE BAPTIST CHURCH NOV. 12, 9 AM TO 12 NOON**

Riverdale Baptist is hosting a Children's Ministry training event on Saturday, November 12th from 9 am to 12 noon. We are having Ms. Cindy Middaugh, SBCV Director of Children's Ministry Services, here to lead this important time of learning and sharing. A lunch will be served. If you are from a sister church and would like to attend we would LOVE to have you join in with us. Please give our office a call 427-3141 and let our secretary know approximately how many will attend from your church. We will cover the "how to's" of teaching and leading children. We will take a look at strategies for getting God's Word into hearts and minds. We will discuss how to handle special discipline problems, special needs kids, and the overall approach and philosophy of children's ministry. At Riverdale we are committed to continually improve our ministry to children across this Valley. Anyone currently or even mildly interested in working with children is encouraged to attend. This is an important training event at Riverdale; see you there!