

# The Spire

NEWSLETTER OF THE

VOL 59 NUMBER 1

WILLIAMSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2012

## This Month We

### *Celebrate*

...the Christmas Angels, back when and now, big and small, with and without halos that make Christmas happen all year long.

#### 2012 Offering Envelopes

...may be picked up in the Fellowship Lounge. If you are not currently using envelopes and would like to do so, please contact the church office to receive a set.

#### Men's Fellowship Breakfast

January 11, 8 am

Social Hall

RSVP's NEEDED!

#### Women for Missions

January 11, 10 am

South Wing

All ladies of the church and guests are invited for a program, fellowship and refreshments.

#### WBC Book Group

The group has chosen two books for its meeting on January 11 at 2 pm: *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo and *90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper. Everyone is invited to read one or both books and join the discussion.

#### January Birthdays

8. . . . . Alice Jones, Robert Clements  
13. . . . . Karen Sublett, Bruce Dittmyre  
17. . . . . Marge Giddings  
18. . . . . Jennifer Johnson  
20. . . . . James McReynolds  
22. . . . . Bob Jodon  
24. . . . . Elsie Parker  
25. . . . . Bell-Jo Rodgers, Jim Higginbottom  
26. . . . . Dot McGann, Jahnessa Cole  
28. . . . . Jerry Adamson

#### Thank You

The family of Elmer Charlier wishes to thank everyone who helped with the service and reception and also those who sent cards, prayers and food. We greatly appreciate your kindness.

- Peggy Charlier, Bev Coleman  
and Family

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE  
FEBRUARY SPIRE IS JANUARY 15**

WILLIAMSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH  
757-229-1217  
churchoffice@williamsburgbaptist.com  
[www.williamsburgbaptist.com](http://www.williamsburgbaptist.com)

## Annual Business Meeting and Covered Dish Luncheon

January 22, 2012, Noon

An amendment to the By-Laws creating a Deacon Ministry will be voted on at the meeting. Copies of the proposed amendment will be available in the Fellowship Lounge.

### *January Calendar of Church Events*

**January 1. . . . . New Year's Day**

**11:00 Service Only; 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Food Collection for FISH**

**NO Sunday School; NO 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Fellowship**

January 2. . . . . Church Office Closed

January 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 9 am. . . . . Women's Bible Study

January 4, 18, 25 @ 6:30 pm. . . . . Prayer Meeting

January 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 7:30 pm. . . . . Choir Rehearsal

January 8, 22 @ 5 pm. . . . . Kids Club

January 11 @ 8 am. . . . . Men's Fellowship Breakfast

January 11 @ 10 am. . . . . Women for Missions

January 11 @ 2 pm. . . . . WBC Book Group

January 11 @ 5 pm. . . . . Get Acquainted with WBC

January 11 @ 6 pm. . . . . Fellowship Dinner

January 12 @ 7:30 pm. . . . . Missions Council

January 15. . . 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Food Collection for Gym Bag Program

January 18, 11:30am. . . . Senior Adult Covered Dish Luncheon

January 21 (tentative). . . . Children's Outing to Yankee Candle

January 22 @ noon. . . . . Annual Business Meeting & Covered  
Dish Luncheon

## Senior Adult Covered Dish Luncheon

January 18, 11:30 am, Social Hall

Questions? Nancy Moore, 229-1217

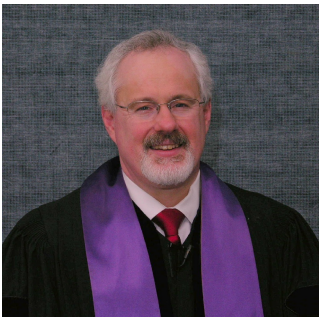


## Advent and Christmas 2011



DEAR ONES

“Oh that I had wings like a dove!” exclaimed the Psalmist (55:6), “for then I would fly away, and be at rest.” The context for the writer, David perhaps, was far more desperate than any circumstance I have ever known. But you and I certainly know the feeling.



Life can be demanding, the challenges insistent, the “have-to’s” and crises continue to string along, seemingly without end. Rest, quiet, renewal, the true Sabbaths for our hearts, minds and bodies, may be set aside in favor of the present need of the moment and linger long without attention for extended seasons, sometimes much longer than we ever intended.

So, upon the counsel of the Personnel Committee and in keeping with the Personnel Manual and the Covenant we struck eleven years ago, you have granted me a sabbatical. I am glad you understand the value, am certainly thankful for the time to rest, read and ‘rite, as well as your support for the strategy for renewal. We will execute this in three stages, two months in each of 2012, 2013, and 2014.

I’ve had several ask with a grin, “Are you really going to do this?” Well, yes (gulp!). It feels so awkward for us to be apart for a while, for to be together seems so natural, so theologically correct in a church that understands the value of God’s community, and so uncomfortable for “yours truly” who willingly admits his obsessive-compulsive inclinations.

But now is the right time. You will be all right. You are, after all, “a lay-led congregation.” Your lay-ministers will continue to provide the wonderful leadership and support upon which you and I have always depended. The contributions of those who supply the pulpit will enrich your heart and you will theirs, especially those who are a bit new at it and need your support and constructive feedback. And don’t worry – exceptional circumstances will be handled with grace by all of you.

As of January 15, we’ll flip a switch, like we do the radio or television, and my contribution will just be “off” for awhile, that is, until we reconnect like the good friends we are, for whom a little time does not threaten to undo our relationship. I’ll have the chance to take a “time out” and do some other things. You and I will return to one another after March 15, enjoy our reunion, compare how we’ve rested and grown, and testify with praise to a wonderful God who “makes all things new again.”

Soon, I’ll “see you where the church gathers.” JIM

**New Landscaping at Richmond Road Entrance**

Cathy Short has recently undertaken the task of having the Richmond Road entrance cleaned up and landscaped with new shrubs and bulbs. The total cost will come in just under \$1,500 which includes the purchase and installation of the discounted plants, the removal of two trees, the removal of a truckload of roots and other debris, and the cultivation and enhancement of the soil. This project was not budgeted in either the 2011 or the 2012 budgets. If you would like to contribute to the project, please make your check payable to WBC and put “landscape project” on the memo line. Questions? Cathy Short, 229-2590.

*Gifts and Memorials*

**DIRECTED TO THE MEMORIAL FUND**

***In memory of George Haynes:*** Mr. & Mrs. William Wall  
***In memory of Bobbie Johnson:*** Fannye & Bill Rorer; Debbie & Robert Chase; Rev. David L. Roper; Pauline A. Spalding; Dean Evans; Katherine Platzoeder; Mary Gallimore; Beatrice P. Drubel; Carolyn Olson; Paulette Moyce; Shirley & Charles Smith; Joyce N. McKnight; Helen L. Stanton Trust

**DIRECTED TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND**

***In memory of Bea Foster:*** Stan & Marge Giddings; Hal & Margaret Baber; Yancey & Dorothy McGann; Shel & Linda Thomas; Janice W. Haynes; Ruby D. Dunkley; Steve & Mary Gene Simmons; Tim & Cathy Cross; Cathy Short  
***In memory of Bobbie Johnson:*** Yancey & Dorothy McGann; Marge & Stan Giddings; Cathy Short

**DIRECTED TO HONDURAN MISSIONS**

***In memory of Bobbie Johnson:*** Tony & Pat Parrott

**WILLIAMSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH  
227 Richmond Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185**

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