

THE HATCHER HERALD
HATCHER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

2300 Dumbarton Road, Henrico, Va. 23228-6014

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March 23, 2011

Number 6

STAFF

REV. J. MICHAEL POOLE.
PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Gerald E. Robinson
Minister of Music and
Discipleship

Rev. Joseph Kendrick
Associate Minister of Youth
and Pastoral Care

Mrs. Jo Mitchell
Director, CDC

Mrs. Vivian Huckstep
Love and Fellowship
Coordinator

Mrs. Janice Lynn, RN
Parish Nurse

Mrs. J. Warren Mitchell
Church Organist

Ms. Marsha K. Taylor
Financial Secretary

Mrs. Debra R. Nicholls
Administrative Assistant
and Editor of Herald.

OUR MISSION
STATEMENT:

Hatcher Memorial, a Baptist Church with a rich heritage of worshipping God through fellowship, music, and proclamation, is committed to reaching people for Christ and developing them through sustaining relationships, caring ministries, and Christian education supported by continuous prayer.

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 17 Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to a
Covered-dish Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
(Please bring breakfast food to share.)



9:30 a.m.—10:15 a.m. All adults are invited to remain in the Fellowship Hall for a time of sharing and Bible Reading

9:30 a.m. All the Children's Classes which meet together and hear the Easter Story and make an Easter Craft.



10:30 a.m. Combined Worship in the Sanctuary
Live Outloud and Traditional Worship will meet together to experience the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the telling of his arrest and crucifixion through music and readings.

12:00 Noon

**Following the Worship there will be an
Easter Egg Hunt
on the Church playground.**



Separate hunt areas will be provided for preschoolers and grade-schoolers.

Good Friday

April 22, 12:15 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

April 24

9:00 a.m. Live Outloud Service
10:00 a.m. Bible Fellowships
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service



Show Us the Rainbow, Lord

Double rainbows are rare. Last summer on East Parham where the road crosses the tracks I risked a wreck to catch a picture on my iPhone. (It's on my blog – see below) The recent earthquake/tsunami reminded me of rainbows and God's promise, "Never again will I do as I have done." (pastormikepoole.blogspot.com)

Ancient civilization on Japanese isles dates back to 12,000 BC. Genetically and culturally – Japanese are some of the most enduring people of all time. Like many of you, I've seen dozens of videos where that damnable tsunami shows her murderous teeth and swallows whole chunks of this ancient, beautiful and courageous race... including children, grandkids, moms and dads. "Never again will I do as I have done." Where does God go from here? Dare we ask?

I try to make sense of these things: the Sumatran Tsunami, Haitian earthquake, Hurricane Katrina, and now this... not to mention some terrible local tragedies of late. Do you? Do you struggle with seeing pain in people you love? How do you do it?

A few would suggest, "Those Japanese/Shinto/Buddhist/non-religious Asian people should take their lumps and learn their lessons (recalling Noah's day.) What lessons? Others deal with problems by resorting to the cry of that silly duck – AFLAC! (A faith like a child)

But do 'moralizing' and "AFLAC" satisfy... even the questions of six and seven year olds? They see the carnage played out on TV many times each day. Does it help to say, "Jesus loves and protects little ones like you but not other children of the world?" Does it help you? What about honesty. Might that help? What if we try to grasp what is real in a way that is faithful?

A few days ago I tried writing a very stern memo to God in which I stated emphatically that if it were up to me "I" would have stopped that Tsunami. "How could You, God, watch that happen?" I stated the obvious, "God, You have an enormous faculty for pain... and even bigger, the capacity to bear pain IN OTHERS!" I was serious and I was angry. Of course, such a stern memo must have frightened God, made God crouch in fear, or, worse, burn with anger. You bet.

Have you ever done anything like that? In your own words, shake a finger as though God wouldn't kill you... at least not on the spot? I confess, my religion made it a bit scary. But, if you can imagine an ant kicking an elephant toenail, you'll get the point. Disrespectful? Maybe. Bordering blasphemy? NOT my intent. Just trying to be honest with the One Being who, more than any other, values what's true and real in the world even if it kicks religion in the toe. God is the One True Being who doesn't give a whit about keeping appearances.

By morning (and with a smarter smart mouth) I *respectfully* added to the memo, "Okay, God... I do apologize. Please forgive my short sighted, ignorant self righteousness."

Fact: being honest with God creates "soul" space. Faith gets oxygen, breathes. I reflected again on the Parham Road rainbow and the ancient story of water and waste (which I read several times in Genesis 8- 9.) I underlined the "never agains." "Never again will I do as I have done." Well - thank You, God! "Never again will I do as I have done." It's as though when God saw the carnage God got ill. Again, thank You God. "Never again" intones remorse, regret, sorrow and pain.

The past 18 months 15 Hatcher members and many Hatcher prayer partners have been using the language of "JOURNEY." "Being on journey" with God means never quite arriving. ON JOURNEY means learn

ing and growing, sometimes getting stuck and needing a push or a pull but always in motion. It also means that GOD IS ON JOURNEY WITH US, teaching us how to travel. God says, "Do as I have done." God says, "Say as I have said, 'Never again will I do as I have done.'" In other words, Follow me. Grow. Find a way forward.

The stories of God mean that God knows how we feel, what we're going through. God knows and shows us how to improvise, rethink, and re-invent. What if God says, "As for that great epic flood so long ago, I'll take the rap. I will take the blame because, given where you are, it's the only way you can 'grow' forward. "I will take the rap this once, but never again."

How interesting that several times throughout the bible we find the phrase "God repented." Don't you think that's amazing? God repented. Some of the most beautiful words from Holy God might be "I'm sorry." Wow. Thank You, God. That really helps un-stick me.

Does "never again" or "God repented" nullify, explain, or excuse tragedy? Make guarantees for the future? Not really. Do they admit that God causes earthquakes, tsunamis or Noah's flood? I don't think so. I mean, absolutely not. *Honestly, I don't know exactly what to make of the "God repented" and "never agains" in the Story of God.*

I do believe that journey means passing through valleys with shadows of death as well as lying down beside still waters. It means experiencing life as life is and not as we would have life be. Many things defy explanation. JOURNEY TOGETHER means God is with us; God cares. God's vision of reconciliation means inseparable love.

We must never forget that God's hands scooped a bit of clay, formed a tiny body with dangling legs and toes, and then God stooped with heavenly hands, mopped God's brow and washed those earthy feet.

Of course, we in Virginia mustn't think that we are better than our Asian/Japanese/Shinto/Buddhist brothers and sisters. We are not. Nor are we immune to unforeseeable and uncontrollable disasters. Even so, our task will always be to find a way forward.

What if, in this present darkness, we bear our common grief by doing for the dear people of Japan as we would want them do for us? Let's gather the children and make cards and send offerings in Jesus' name. Let's carry their broken hearts into God's presence with our prayers. Let's become the hands that wash Asian/Shinto/Buddhist-Non-religious feet in Jesus' name. He says, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Awesome! Therefore, let those who claim Jesus live in the *WAY* of Jesus; together, let's become God's *REALITY* (Truth) and, let's extend the *LIFE* that lasts forever.

On a dying stump, a node appears, then two or three become sprouts, even in Chernobyl. Flowers flourish behind fallen logs. In the midst of freaking death LIFE unfolds. God and Creature journey on. Thanks be to God.

I hear you, Lord. I was nowhere when You were creating somewhere. As for grief, You've been there, done that too. Of course, Dear God, I may return by morning light, sweet as a rose or mad as a hornet. Either way, God, let mercy flow. Lord, let mercy flow. And please... keep shining that "never-again"- "ever-lasting"- "find a way forward" double rainbow!

NOTE: Our Endowment Committee recently donated \$1000 to the VBMB Relief Fund. We will be glad to send your donation or you can do it yourself through the Virginia Baptist Mission Board website. <http://www.vbmb.org/>

Among Our Church Family

CHRISTIAN SYMAPTHY TO

Helen Elliott, in the death of her sister,
Anita Nicholls, on March 20, 2011.

June and Bob Llewellyn, in the death of her niece, Barbara Howell, on March 14. Barbara is the daughter of June's sister, Mildred Seamster.

Brenda Birkitt and Joy Birkitt Mays, in the death of their husband and father, John E. Birkitt, Sr., on March 8.

Jewell Whitlock, in the death of her sister,
Lucille Jones, in North Carolina.

HOSPITAL

Memorial Regional: Pat Patterson, Room 3117

MCV: Juanita Cequin, ICU, 11th floor, Room 138 - sister of Carolyn Berry, Ann Hughson, Sam and Sonny Dunn

St. Mary's: Jesse Fultz, Room 604

Son of Cathy Kennedy and grandson of Betty Bancroft Sally Baughan, Room 671 (Will be moved to Sheltering Arms on March 24.

Henrico Doctor's Forest: Earl Phaup, Room 315 Home address: 7002 Marcliff Court, Apt 102, Henrico, VA 23228

UPCOMING SURGERY

Joyce Tignor on Thursday, March 24,
at Henrico Doctor's Forest

William Moseley on March 28

HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL

Charlotte Phaup

Cathy Carter

Mary Bryant

Linwood Kotney, son of Missy Kotney, a friend of Rose Bookman

Kim Hyatt, daughter of Joyce and Henry Tignor

REHAB

Westport Manor, 7300 Forest Ave., Richmond, Va. 23229:
Brenda Holt Clark

CONGRATULATIONS

Ryan and Jennifer Perkins are the proud parents of a baby girl, Rylee Ann Perkins, born on March 9. Grandparents are Sharon Gayness, Terry Eades & Rick Perkins.

ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Jerry and Nancy Kersey celebrated their 58th Wedding Anniversary on Monday, March 21.

Roy and Ann Lee celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary last week.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

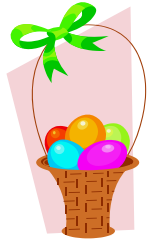
Baptized on March 13, 2011

Marcus Smith, 2416 Dumbarton Road, Henrico, VA 23228
804-869-2899 (Age 8)

Ashley Wine, 9420 Hoehn Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060
804-253-3212 (Age 11)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry Team is providing an Easter Egg Hunt for Hatcher and the community on Sunday, April 17, at noon. If you would like to be involved, you may do so by providing a bag(s) of individually wrapped candy which will be put inside the plastic eggs. Candy should be non-chocolate or the type that will not melt easily with heat from the sunshine. Your donations may be placed in the box on the bench outside the church office by Sunday, April 10.



Help wanted:

Gerry Robinson is putting together children's bags to be used on Sunday mornings during the worship services. It will include items needed for the children to do the children's bulletin (crayons, pencil, and paper pads, etc.). He is looking for a class or mission group that would be responsible for maintaining the bags each week. If you or your group would like to help, please call Dr. G or email him at grobinson@hatcherchurch.org

Love and Fellowship Group

Thursday, April 7, 10:00 a.m. Special Guest will be Willie Fishburn, wife of Charles Fishburn.

Thursday, April 21, 10:00 a.m. The CDC children will present a program in the Sanctuary followed by their special Annual Easter Luncheon, in the Fellowship Hall.



Lakeside HealthCARE is an organization that has grown out of the Lakeside Clergy Association. Our goals are to assess health needs in the Lakeside community and provide education and health resources. In the near future you may be asked to participate in a Health and Spirituality Seminar and take a short survey about your own health status. The surveys will not ask for your name. This will assist us in providing ministries and educational programs in the next year. This is also a research project of Dr. Beverly Aurand and information gathered will hopefully be helpful to others, as well as those in our community.

On June 25, LHC and the Kidney Foundation will sponsor a free health screening for kidney disease. Kidney disease often goes undetected and has serious consequences if left untreated. This will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Save the date and watch for more information.

We are also studying the possibility of organizing a Free Health Clinic for those in the Lakeside community with no health insurance. This is an exciting project and God continues to open doors in this direction. You will hear more about this in future months. As we begin the process you can help us now by submitting your name and expressing your interest in volunteering when it becomes a reality. We need to know of people in our congregations with a medical background or other skills that could help launch this ministry. All the churches involved will be making a list so please send me you name and area of expertise [davjan60@msn.com]. Thank you.

Blessings, Janice Lynn RN-Parish Nurse

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The Hatcher Herald is created and published twice a month by Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church. Information deadline is one week prior to the publication date. Editor: Debra Nicholls, Administrative Assistant



2011 Easter Lily Order Form

This year we will again be decorating our sanctuary with Lilies on Easter Sunday. They can be given in honor or in memory of loved ones or friends. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office with a check for \$11.25. Checks should be made payable to Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church, with a notation of Easter Lily in the memo section.

Orders must be received in the church office by Sunday, April 3, 2011.

Please print clearly and list the names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin.

Given in Honor of _____

Given in Memory of _____

Your Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Total number of Easter Lilies _____ Amount of Check: _____

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Due to Holy Week and Spring Break falling on the 3rd Wednesday of April, the Quarterly Business Meeting has been moved up one week to:

Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

Please plan to attend.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNER

You can order whichever meals (Main or snack) by phoning the church office or by marking the back of the attendance cards in the pew racks. Main meal: \$6.00.

Snack Menu Meals: \$3.00. Deadline for making or canceling reservations is Noon on Tuesdays.

March 30

Main Meal: Spaghetti, tossed salad, rolls, dessert, coffee or tea, and dessert. Snack Meal: Same as above.

April 6

Main Meal: Chicken barbeque buns, corn, cole slaw, baked beans, coffee or tea and dessert.

Snack Meal: Chicken patty on bun, green beans, French fries, dessert and drink.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Earl Moore Memorial Golf Tournament at The Crossings Golf Course on Saturday,

April 30 at 8:00 a.m.

Captain's Choice four-man, Shotgun start.

Cost: \$47.50 per person or \$190 a foursome.

Also, Mulligan's will be on sale the day of the event. Price includes green fee, cart, box lunch, drinks, range balls, trophies, prizes and a good time. To sign up contact

Danny Denton at 405-2290, dannydenton@comcast.net



VISIBLE RESULTS

Live Outloud Service for Jan 2 – March 20, 2011	105
Bible Study Fellowships for Jan 2 – March 20, 2011	182
Traditional Worship for Jan 2 – March 20, 2011	137

FINANCIAL REPORT

Projected Budget Needs per Week	\$ 12,891.37
Receipts March 20, 2011	\$ 12,661.92
Memorials/Endowment Gifts	\$ 20.00
All other receipts	\$ 1,606.00

Our Endowment Committee is sending \$1,000 to the VA Baptist Mission Board Disaster Relief Fund on behalf of the Japanese catastrophe. It will be in memory of Taylor Anderson of Chesterfield, the first known American victim of March 11 earthquake and tsunami. You may also contribute by marking checks to the VBMB Disaster Relief Fund.