

# BRANCH'S BAPTIST CHURCH

3400 Broad Rock Blvd.  
Richmond, VA 23234

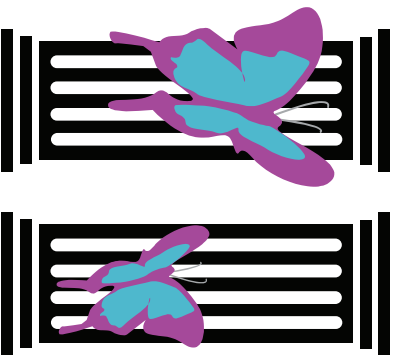
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Office Hours: Monday—Friday  
9:00am-12:00pm, 1:00-4:00pm

## The Columns



# June 2011

Newsletter of Branch's Baptist Church

## STAFF

*Rev. Mat Brown, Pastor*

*Rev. Michael Gibson, Minister of Music*

*Rev. Joe Edwards,*

*Rev. Dorryce Ann Rudd,*

*Minister of Youth & Child Development*

*Minister of Visitation & Sr. Adult Ministries*

**Branch's Baptist Church**  
3400 Broad Rock Blvd.  
Richmond, VA 23234

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Work of a Servant

by Mat Brown

*"In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."*

Over my five years here at Branch's Baptist Church, I have heard rumblings from time to time over our Deacon Body that usually go something like this: "The Deacons ought to be more diligent about attending \_\_\_\_\_!" (Fill in the blank with your favorite activity.) The implication is that all the Deacons should attend/participate in every activity of the church.

If our Deacons were "do nothing Deacons," then I would be the first to say so. I was part of a church once where all the Deacons did was have a monthly meeting and complain about the crack in the sidewalk or the roof that needed fixing. Very few lifted a hand to rectify the problems; one or two participated in ministries to the church or community; very few were teachers; none would go visiting; only one helped in the kitchen. In that church, if anything got done, it was the women (who were not deacons) who initiated, planned and organized the activities.

At Branch's I have been privileged to serve with the finest group of Deacons I have ever known. The things they do

often go unseen to the congregation:

*Visiting the sick; calling the widows; teaching Sunday School; running the audio/visual technology; washing dishes; setting up for special events; picking up people who need a ride; handing out flyers; greeting; singing in the choir; helping prepare food for bereaved families; praying for the church and the staff; helping with administration; fixing/painting around the building; going on mission trips; serving on disaster relief teams; mentoring in schools; helping with extended session; preparing communion; keeping the staff informed about needs in the church and community. We have a deacon who has led Grief Share classes; another comes in every Thursday to teach computer skills; another is heading up the New Members Picnic. Our Deacons contact people who visit the church; send cards to the homebound and build props for the children's ministry. Deacons drive and maintain the church bus, help with the Mosaic Service and Vacation Bible School and one of our Deacons serves the church as our Sunday School Director!*

I could go on but I think you get the point. When I need something done around the church, who do I call? A Deacon! From which group do I receive monthly (even weekly) encouragement to do the work of ministry—the Deacons!

Although not every Deacon is at every meeting, they are active around here. Think about this—if you took every Deacon off of every committee, there wouldn't be enough left for this church

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Thank You

It is a beautiful late spring morning and my heart is overflowing with thanksgiving. The sun is warming the plants that were watered with rain. The sky is blue and nature seems to be singing. I missed most of the early flowers in the Prayer Garden but the current blossoms are radiant.

This thought leads me to my second thanksgiving. I can not praise the Lord enough for Branch's Baptist Church and the family it provides for me. I must say thank you again and again to you for allowing me the time to be away to take care of my daughter and family. It was such a comfort to know that I could do what was needed and still would be welcomed back. This very thought brought me home when the time was right. Your graciousness

*by Dorryce Ann Rudd*

with phone calls, cards and gifts can never be underestimated. Every mail delivery brought some encouragement that brightened our day. Every gift was perfect and beautiful. I can assure you that every gift has been used and appreciated. I was even given a can of special coffee to sit down and relax with (perfect).

I know that many of you think that your thoughtfulness and graciousness is nothing special. I assure you that it is. The way that you take care of each other and reach out to others in times of need is above many and most other churches. You touch lives when you are not aware of the touch. My prayer is that this love that you have will never diminish and will continue to grow with the Lord's guidance.



*(Servant, Continued from page 1)*

to function. Let's put aside the idea that the Deacons need to attend every event. Certainly, in order to be the spiritual leaders, they need to be active in the life of the church—and they are; often behind the scenes and unbeknownst to the congregation. The next time you see a Deacon, pat him/her on the back and say, "Thanks for all you do around here!"



**did you know...**

bulletins, The Columns and sermons are available online? See the links page at [www.branchs.org](http://www.branchs.org)



**Branch's  
Senior Adults  
June 23rd @ 10:30am**

Seniors, one and all, join us at our next meeting in Kincheloe Hall for **fun, fellowship, friends, and fine food**. We'll be visited by "Ten Thousand Villages" and learn how they sponsor artisans in 36 countries. Bring a friend!



**TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES**

## Music Crescendos

by Mike Gibson

“Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.” Psalm 29:2 (NIV). This verse proclaims to us that we have a great and mighty God and He is holy. Our music and praise songs that we sing should be great songs of praise offered up to our King!

Spring time with beauty and renewal is all around us. I've planted the flowers and tomato plants in my yard and now the work is to weed and water, to enjoy both throughout the Summer months. The cultivation in my yard reminds me of the cultivation I need to do in my ministry every week.

Many thanks to Rebekah Brown and her helpers for presenting the wonderful children's musical this past month. I know it was a blessing to all who were in attendance.

In June, July and August, all the music ministry groups do not continue to rehearse, but the Chancel Choir and Praise Team will continue to meet. They will **not** have a Wednesday night rehearsal during July, and will resume rehearsing on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There will be a snack lunch and sign up meeting for the Children's Music Camp 2011 at Eagle Eyrie on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:15pm, in the Old Fellowship Hall. The music camp is for grades 4-9. All parents and their children are requested to be present for this informative meeting. Adult assistants are needed and all adults volunteers must agree to a background check. You can call me at 231-3318 if you have any questions.

The Richmond Chorus (Sweet Adelines) will present a concert Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:00pm in Kincheloe Hall (doors open at 7:30pm). This is for all Branch's members, family, friends and guests.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have great patriotic music to celebrate Independence Day. Plan to be present and wear your red, white and blue too!

Hope you have a blessed month.



# Monday, June 27th

## 8:00pm (doors open 7:30pm)

*in Kincheloe Hall*

SWEET ADELINES  
INTERNATIONAL

This is for all Branch's members,  
family, friends and guests.



**2011 Music & Worship Arts Camp  
July 18-22 at Eagle Eyrie**

The registration fee is \$60.00 per person before June 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be an additional cost for meals in the dining hall. A Parent & Child registration / snack lunch will be Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:15pm in the Old Fellowship Hall. Adult volunteers are asked to come and register at this time. Call Mike Gibson at 231-3318 for more information.



**Ball Game!**

**Sunday, June 5th  
@ 2:05pm**

Tickets are still available for \$10.  
See Paul Kincheloe.



“Josephine Shifflette and family thank the Branch’s Church Family for all the prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, food, flowers, help and love during Bill’s illness and passing. You meant a lot to him and his family.”

Mildred Ramey thanks her church family for the cards, calls, visits, prayers and all the acts of kindness shown to Stan during his illness and to her at the time of his passing.

Linda Davis and the family of Lola Clifford thanks Branch’s for all of the prayers, cards, flowers, food, calls and visits, and most of all the love and true friendship shown to Lola. Thanks also for your continued prayers.

Lewis Hobson thanks everyone for their prayers, thoughts, calls and visits during his hospitalization.

Jennifer and Joe Edwards thank everyone for all of the kindness shown during Jennifer’s surgery and recovery. They appreciate all of the support and love received from the church family.





# ADDITIONS

## Waverly Marion Lowman

born on April 4th  
to Matthew and Nicky

Grandparents ~ Raymond and Vicki Lowman  
Great Grand parents ~ Tally and Thelma Lowman

## William Andrew Sasser, Jr.

born on May 18th  
to Andrew and Jamie

Grandparents ~ Ray and Judy Snyder



# Deacons Meeting June 6th @ 7:00pm



**Branch's Goal:**  
**\$4000**  
**Collected:**  
**\$3574**



9:45am in Kincheloe Hall



**remember  
our  
homebound**

### Ruby J. Chambers

*birthday ~ June 18*

The Virginian  
300 Twinridge Lane #410  
Richmond VA 23235

### Pauline Epling

Amelia Nursing Home  
8830 Virginia St. #129  
Amelia VA 23002

### John "Rex" Vencill

5806 Portrait Place  
Richmond VA 23234

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### For the Month May 2011

Budget Req'd thru 05-15-11	\$	32,739
Actual Budget Rec'd thru 05-15-11	\$	32,415

### Year to Date May 15, 2011

Budget Required	\$	218,260
Actual Budget Received	\$	201,621

### Branch's Baptist Church Condensed Financial Budget Year-to-Date as of April 2011

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Over/(Under) Budget YTD</u>
Regular Offering	169,206	185,518	(16,312)
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
World Programs	14,484	16,287	(1,803)
Personnel	100,213	103,573	(3,360)
Educational Ministries	9,538	9,390	148
Service Ministries	8,550	11,396	(2,846)
Building & Equipment	40,368	42,872	(2,504)
Debt Retirement	5,538	5,538	(0)
Miscellaneous	14	100	(86)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>178,704</b>	<b>189,156</b>	<b>(10,452)</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(9,498)</b>	<b>(3,638)</b>	<b>(5,860)</b>

# June activities

Wednesday, June 1

Thursday, June 2

Friday, June 3

Saturday, June 4

Sunday, June 5 ~ services

2:05pm Flying Squirrels game

Monday, June 6

7pm Deacons Meeting ~ CR

Tuesday, June 7

Wednesday, June 8

Thursday, June 9

Friday, June 10

Saturday, June 11

Sunday, June 12 ~ services

12:15pm EE Music Camp Mtg. ~ OFH

Monday, June 13

Tuesday, June 14

7pm Personnel Cmte.

Wednesday, June 15

Columns Deadline

Bon Secours Care-A-Van

Thursday, June 16

7pm Finance Cmte. ~ CR



Friday, June 17

Saturday, June 18

Sunday, June 19 ~ services / Father's Day

Monday, June 20

Tuesday, June 21

6:45pm M. Saunders WMU @ Chip. Ret. Cnt.

Wednesday, June 22

Thursday, June 23

10:30am Sr. Adults ~ KH

Friday, June 24

Saturday, June 25

Sunday, June 26 ~ services

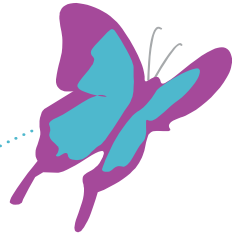
Monday, June 27

8pm Sweet Adelines Concert ~ KH

Tuesday, June 28

Wednesday, June 29

Thursday, June 30



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Sunday Services

9:15am Prayer Time

9:45am Sunday School/Bible Study

Mosaic Service (2nd & 4th Sunday)

11:00am Worship Service

### Tuesdays

1:30pm Adult Fitness

2:30pm Coffee & Prayer w/ Pastor ~ CR

### Thursdays

9am Computer Class

6:30pm Adult Creative Worship

### Saturday

1-3pm Young People Creative Worship

VBS ~ JULY 10-15



Deadline for the July  
issue of The Columns is  
June 15th.