

BRANCH'S BAPTIST CHURCH

3400 Broad Rock Blvd.
Richmond, VA 23234

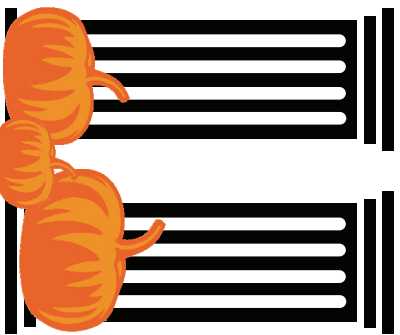
Office: 276-5000

Fax: 675-0759

Website: www.branchs.org

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

The Columns



October 2011

Newsletter of Branch's Baptist Church

STAFF

Rev. Mat Brown, Pastor

Rev. Joe Edwards,

Minister of Youth & Child Development

Rev. Michael Gibson, Minister of Music

Rev. Dorryce Ann Rudd,

Minister of Visitation & Sr. Adult Ministries

Branch's Baptist Church

3400 Broad Rock Blvd.

Richmond, VA 23234

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ordinary Radicals

by Mat Brown

In his book The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical Shane Claiborne makes the following statements:

I asked participants who claimed to be “strong followers of Jesus” whether Jesus spent time with the poor. Nearly 80 percent said yes. Later in the survey, I sneaked in another question, I asked this same group of strong followers whether they spent time with the poor, and less than 2 percent said they did. I learned a powerful lesson: We can admire and worship Jesus without doing what he did. We can applaud what he preached and stood for without caring about the same things. We can adore his cross without taking up ours. I had come to see that the great tragedy of the church is not that rich Christians do not care about the poor but that rich Christians do not know the poor.

But what had lasting significance were not the miracles themselves but Jesus’ love. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, and a few years later, Lazarus died again. Jesus healed the sick, but eventually caught some other disease. He fed the ten thousands, and the next day they were hungry again. But we remember his love. It wasn’t that Jesus healed a leper but that he touched a leper, because no one touched lepers.

These quotes interest me because I’ve been thinking similar things. I’ve been in a reflective and introspective mood lately and I’ve been asking these kinds of questions about the church and about my role as pastor:

1. Are we really being what a church is intended to be?
2. Are we really doing what a church is intended to do?
3. Is God pleased with our Worship?
4. Is God pleased with our Service to the community?
5. Am I really being what a pastor is supposed to be?
6. Am I really doing what a pastor is supposed to do?

In the coming weeks, I want to use the message time to explore what it means to be the church and **IS GOD CALLING US TO BE ORDINARY RADICALS?** Come to the 11:00am services in October to find out!



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Quarterly Business Meeting

October 23rd

5:00pm Potluck ~ 6:00pm Meeting

please email reports to office@branchs.org no later than October 17th

Music Crescendos

by Mike Gibson

"Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord who minister by night in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord." Psalm 134:1,2 (NIV)

October will be another exciting month of music here at Branch's. The Praise Team directed by Rebekah Brown will begin our worship services with new and fresh contemporary worship songs and which will then flow into a more blended and traditional service.

The Bluefield College's "Variations Choir" will be giving a concert Saturday, October 1st at 6:00pm in the sanctuary. I still need host families to provide overnight housing for the students, breakfast and transportation to the church Sunday morning. Please call me today at 231-3318 if you can help.

On Wednesday night we begin at 6:30pm with the Kid's Worship ("High Praise"). We are beginning to rehearse the new Christmas musical "How Far is It to Bethlehem?". It will be presented December 4th for the White Christmas service.

At 7:00pm the Joyful Ringers Handbell Choir (children/youth) rehearse. The director this year is Judy Clarke. All parents are encouraged to bring their children for these activities.

The Festival Ringers have resumed rehearsing at a new day and time: Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm. This year they are directed by Joanne Neal. Let Joanne know if you are interested in joining the handbell choir and have prior handbell playing experience.

The Chancel Choir has begun rehearsals for the new Christmas cantata "Hark the Herald" to be presented Sunday, December 11th @ the 11:00am service. We do need more singers to come and join us for this special presentation and also to become a regular choir member. Call me today at 231-3318 for more info.

Hope you have a great month of service for our Lord.

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important dates

October 23, 2011

Present budget as new business
at scheduled business meeting (6:00pm)

October 25, 2011

Tentative Date for Finance meeting if needed

October 30, 2011

Called Business Meeting to adopt "Proposed budget"
no discussion before the 11:00am service

Deacon Ministry

by Gail Harris, chair

The deacon body will complete their year long study of "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire" by Jim Cymbala at our October deacons' meeting. The book shows us what the Holy Spirit can do when believers get serious about prayer and about sharing God with those who need to hear the word. Cymbala states "that we are always either drawing nearer to God or falling away. There is no holding pattern". I would encourage us all to reflect on our own life to determine the direction in which we are moving.

Praise the Lord for a spirit filled church wide Prayer Meeting to pray for Rally Day and for God's will for our church. What a blessing this special Prayer Meeting poured out on us. It was good to pray and praise together.

Rally Day is always a great time of worshiping together, good food, and warm fellowship. Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently to make it a success. Our lead deacons on the Rally Day Committee were Lewis Hobson, Daniel Shelton, and Steve Carnes. We were honored to have several of our Deacons Emeritus serve on this special Sunday.

As we start our new church year we want to welcome returning deacons Dallas Brewer and Kevin Spence. We also welcome new deacon Oscar Contreras was ordained September 11, 2011. Afterwards our church enjoyed a delicious watermelon feast (thanks to Lewis, Dale, Warwick, and Dallas) and some wonderful fellowship.

Several of our deacons and others have been serving to provide disaster relief over the last few weeks. They have served countless thousands of meals and have performed major cleanups, but most importantly have spread the love of God to those in need. May they be blessed as they continue this ministry.

I encourage you to pray for one another, our church, our community, and our staff. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.



Branch's Senior Adults Thursday, October 27th @ 10:30am



We want to see **YOU** at our next meeting in Kincheloe Hall. Boy, do we have a great program featuring **4 the Lord**, Gospel quartet. A scrumptious meal follows. Join your friends and meet new ones. You'll be glad you did!

Karen Collins WMU October 18th @ 10:30am in Kincheloe Hall

Karen and Don Barnes, returning tentmaker missionaries to China, will talk about the state of the Church in China. They will be glad to answer your questions and address your prayer concerns. We invite all interested Branch's members to join us for this informative time.

A graphic with a blue sky background, green grass at the bottom, and a trail of red petals falling from the top left. The text is arranged in a vertical stack.

free
to live

offering goal
\$1,167,500

week of emphasis
September 11-18

Branch's Goal: \$1500
Collected: \$615

Alma Hunt
Offering for Virginia Missions

Reflections
Mondays @ 11:30am
Choir Room A203

Mary Saunders WMU
October 18th @ 6:45pm
Chippendale Retirement Cnt.

Thank You!

Nellie Landrum (sister of Fred Clements) thanks Branch's for celebrating Fred and Shirley's years of service. The expressions of love were overwhelming.

A VOICE FROM THE GRAVE



Did you know the Rev. Dr. Howard L. Arthur, pastor of Branch's from 1931 thru 1941 and his wife Marie are buried in our cemetery (section "B" on the side at the top)? There will be more info about the many other pastors buried here later.

**Women's Get-Away
November 4-5**

*Ordinary Life
Extraordinary God*

at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center
in Lynchburg, Virginia
cost ~ \$43.40

www.wmuv.org/getaway
Contact Beth Kahl @ 271-4084



**Deacons Meeting
October 3rd @ 7:00pm**



**remember
our
homebound**

Cecile Firesheets
birthday ~ 10/11

Russell Blankenship
birthday ~ 10/13

Fred Clements
birthday ~ 10/29

Mrs. Dorothy Barden

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Month September 2011

Budget Req'd thru 09-18-11	\$	32,739
Actual Budget Rec'd thru 09-18-11	\$	33,331

Year to Date September 18, 2011

Budget Required	\$	403,781
Actual Budget Received	\$	362,994

**Branch's Baptist Church Condensed Financial Budget
Year-to-Date as of August 2011**

<u>Account Description</u>	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget YTD
Regular Offering	329,663	381,948	(52,285)
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
World Programs	28,533	32,575	(4,042)
Personnel	196,331	207,145	(10,814)
Educational Ministries	15,204	18,780	(3,576)
Service Ministries	15,981	22,791	(6,810)
Building & Equipment	73,178	85,743	(12,565)
Debt Retirement	11,076	11,076	(0)
Miscellaneous	193	200	(7)
Total Expenditures	340,497	378,310	(37,813)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(10,834)	3,638	(14,472)

October *activities*

Saturday, October 1

6:00pm Bluefield College Concert

Sunday, October 2 ~ services

Monday, October 3

7pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, October 4

Wednesday, October 5 ~ activities

Thursday, October 6

Friday, October 7

Saturday, October 8

Sunday, October 9 ~ services

Monday, October 10

Tuesday, October 11

Wednesday, October 12 ~ activities

Thursday, October 13

Friday, October 14

Saturday, October 15

Columns Deadline

Sunday, October 16 ~ services

Monday, October 17

Quarterly reports due

7:00pm Church Council

Tuesday, October 18

10:30am K. Collins WMU

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

Wednesday, October 19 ~ activities

Bon Secours Care-A-Van

Thursday, October 20

Friday, October 21

Saturday, October 22

Sunday, October 23 ~ services

5:00pm Potluck

6:00pm Quarterly Business Mtg.

Monday, October 24

Tuesday, October 25

Wednesday, October 26 ~ activities

Thursday, October 27

10:30am Sr. Adults ~ KH

Friday, October 28

Saturday, October 29

Sunday, October 30 ~ services

1pm Stop Hunger Now ~ KH

Monday, October 31



Mondays

11:30am Reflections Choir

Tuesdays

1:30pm Adult Fitness

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

6:30pm Festival Ringers

Thursdays

9am Computer Class

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Services

9:15am Prayer Time

9:45am Sunday School/Bible Study

11:00am Worship Service

Wednesday Activities

5:30pm Family Supper

6:30pm Kids Worship, Praise Team

Youth, Prayer Meeting,

Festival Ringers, Broad Rock Café

7:00pm Joyful Ringers

7:30pm Chancel Choir, FWFriends

**Deadline for the November
Issue of The Columns is
October 15th.**