



# The Courier

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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February 2017

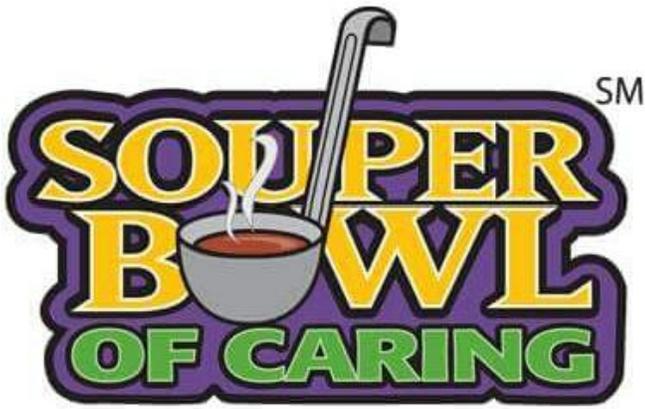
Court Street United Methodist Church

### Groundhog Day

Superstitions abound regarding certain days, numbers, or objects. People fear that somehow Friday the 13th, black cats, broken mirrors, or ladders may have a hand in shaping the future. Most of these superstitions have murky, ancient origins and have been passed down from generation to generation. Groundhog Day is a superstitious tradition that dates back to ancient times. February 2 occurs halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, so special significance was attached to this date. It seems that, from early times, the weather on this day was thought to relate to the length of winter. The early European Christians adopted this tradition and called it Candlemas Day. On Candlemas Day, the local clergy would bless candles, and people would carry the candles home and place them in their windows. The Germans are responsible for coupling an animal (a hedgehog or badger) seeing its shadow with the Candlemas Day tradition. When they came to the New World, they carried these traditions with them. Since the state of Pennsylvania was settled largely by Germans, soon the groundhog became associated with Candlemas Day to replace the European hedgehog or badger. According to the Germans; “the Groundhog peeps out of his winter quarters and if he sees his shadow he pops back for another six weeks nap, but if the day be cloudy he remains out, as the weather is to be moderate.” In 1887 a newspaper in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, popularized the idea, and it quickly caught on. Today, this small town holds a massive Groundhog Day celebration every year that attracts crowds of close to 40,000 to watch “Punxsutawney Phil” predict the weather.

So how should Christians respond to superstitions such as Groundhog Day? Well, Groundhog Day can simply be a fun day to get out with family and enjoy the festivities. But superstitions also provide a reminder for us of the sovereignty of God and an opportunity to point others to the gospel. God’s actions are not bound or controlled by what happens here on Earth. Psalm 115:3 tells us, “*Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.*” Just because a groundhog sees, or doesn’t see, his shadow makes no difference to the God who controls the weather. We can use superstitions as a doorway to introducing the gospel. The next time a friend or coworker “knocks on wood” or avoids walking underneath a ladder, use it to segue to the gospel message. We do not need to fear superstition or participate in superstitious rituals to avoid bad luck, because we can know the sovereign God who is in control of the world. We also need to remember that Christians are not immune to superstitions either. Often, without even meaning to, we behave in a superstitious way. For example, if \$6.66 pops up on a cash register while buying groceries, some Christians freak out. Christians might cross their fingers (to make a cross), an old Christian superstition, for good luck and protection. Now, some of these things have become cultural traditions over the years or are just done in fun or jest. However, we often do these things routinely in a superstitious manner, without even thinking about it, and this is often little different from what the world does. But what we need to do is start our thinking with God’s Word as our foundation. In the same way that the weather is not controlled by a groundhog, so are the events of our daily lives not controlled by superstitious things such as mirrors, black cats, or ladders. Instead of trusting in manmade superstitions, we need to trust in our sovereign God who loves and cares for us and teach others to do the same.

~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*



**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING OFFERING:**

*Sunday, February 5th*, we will be taking a special offering for PARK VIEW COMMUNITY MISSION. Please drop your donations in the bowl located right outside the sanctuary in the Bishop Early Hall. Large bills, small bills, coins or checks are welcome! Checks should be made payable to COURT STREET UMC with PVCM listed on the memo line.

***VALENTINE'S BRUNCH***

Court Street's Missions and Ministry Team will sponsor a Valentine's Brunch:

~ Following Worship Service ~

Sunday, February 12th in the Refectory.

*Entertainment will be provided by:*

◇ Karen and Randy Speer ◇

Join us for delicious food and great fellowship!

Donations received will benefit:



***Valentine Spaghetti Dinner***

February 11, 2017 ~ 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Marsh Memorial UMC**

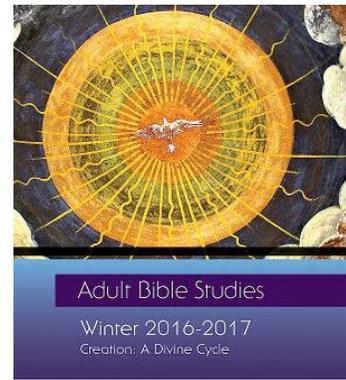


Adults \$8.00~ Children \$4.00~Children 2 and Under free

**All proceeds benefit Marsh Memorial Early Learning Center**

**THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** is blessed with a wonderful teacher line-up and would encourage all members to join them each week at 9:45 in the Refectory. Teacher line-up is as follows:

- First Sunday: Ann Ripley
- Second Sunday: Lewis Johnson
- Third Sunday: Eleanor & Doug Pillow
- Fourth Sunday: Richard Chaffin
- Fifth Sunday: Megan Straw



**Congratulations to Drew Leazer on his graduation from ODU.**

Drew received his Bachelor of Science degree at the Winter 2016 commencement. He majored in computer science. Mail your congrats to his new address:  
Andrew Leazer 3008 Link Road; Lynchburg, VA 24503.

**\*Birthdays and Anniversaries\***

February Birthdays	February Anniversaries	March Birthdays
Lauren Hudnall February 02	Kathy & Robert Draper Feb 09	Sharon Brooks March 04
Mary Tyree February 02	Robin & Irby Hudson Feb 12	Tom Coleman March 04
Mark Tyree February 05	Gigi & John Sweeney Feb 21	Randy Speer March 05
Kevin Sandridge February 09		Mike McConnell March 09
Xander Arbaugh February 13	<b>March Anniversaries</b>	Lori Letchford March 12
Kenneth Bagshaw February 13	Amy & Rick Pillow Mar 15	Susan Angus March 14
Lewis Averett February 15	Karen & David Hudnall Mar 20	Noemi Lee March 15
Dottie Diuguid February 17	Eva & Reiman Shober Mar 30	Amy Pillow March 15
Deanna Hester February 17		Louella Wright March 16
Sarah Leazer Johnson February 18		Rick Pillow March 18
Reiman Shober February 22		David Petty March 19
Brenda Whitehead February 22		Bill Puckett March 22
James Blankenship February 23		Eric Lee March 25
Bill Burleigh February 24		Stuart Prutch March 26
Bobbi Hurst February 24		Owen Selden March 26
John Spencer February 24		Marty Diuguid March 27
		Shanda Rowe March 31



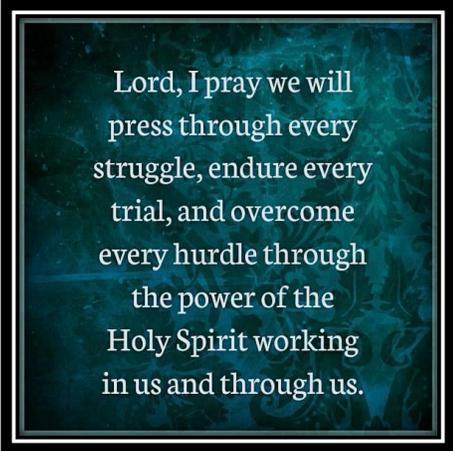
**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday is  
Lunch with members living at  
Westminster-Canterbury**  
 Join us on February 9th  
 Fauber 2 - 11:30am



## PRAYER CONCERNS

### All Men and Women serving in the Military

Robert Shober - The Pentagon, son of \*Eva Lee and \*Reiman Shober  
Kenny, Laura Kincaid, and children, son of \*Bobbi and \*Randy Hurst  
Sylvia Shuff, Mother-in-Law of \*Pastor Bill Burleigh



Lord, I pray we will  
press through every  
struggle, endure every  
trial, and overcome  
every hurdle through  
the power of the  
Holy Spirit working  
in us and through us.

### SICK

Kerry Bell – 185 All American Way; Amherst, VA 24521  
\*Clara Gurkin - 501 V.E.S. Road, Drinkard 613, Lynchburg, VA 24503  
\*Nancy Lane – 411 Oak Point Road, Forest, VA 24551  
\*Bobby McDaniel – 3743 Woodside Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503  
\*Phil Ripley – 1101 Federal Street; Lynchburg, VA 24504  
\*Alicia Speer – 217 Lansing Ave; Lynchburg, VA 24503  
\*Bill Sweeney – 1930 Royal Oak Drive; Lynchburg, VA 24503  
\*Audrey Tyree – P. O. Box 4463, Lynchburg, VA 24502  
\*Mary Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502

### SHUT-IN

\*Mary Anderson- Runk & Pratt, Liberty Ridge Apt. 143  
30 Monica Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24502

*\* Church members*

### Update on Capital Campaign for church repairs:

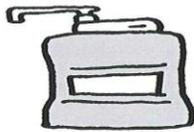
Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 1/15/17	\$238,276
Balance needed to reach goal	\$61,724
Received to Date	\$165,786
Received since last update	\$5,990
<b>Elevator fund</b>	<b>\$9,228</b>

### Want to support Heart Havens with a supplies drive?

Great! Here is what all our houses can use:

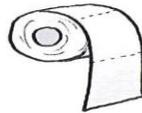
#### Paper Products

toilet paper (*septic safe, please*), paper towels, paper napkins, facial tissues, paper plates, paper bowls, paper cups, etc.



#### Art Supplies

construction paper, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, stickers, coloring books, washable paint, washable markers, modeling clay, etc.



#### Cleaning Supplies

disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray (Lysol), wet or dry mopping cloths (such as Swiffer), liquid dish soap, liquid hand soap, dishwasher detergent, laundry supplies (for sensitive skin), etc.



#### Fun Stuff

nail polish, exercise DVDs, simple board games, jigsaw puzzles (150 pieces or less), outdoor games (cornhole, ladder golf, etc), gift cards to local attractions

**Please call (877) 442-8368 to arrange to donate the supplies you've collected.**

**Thank you for your support!**

*Please note that we cannot accept donations of expired food.*

**Court Street United Methodist Church**  
**Report of the Nominations & Leadership Development Committee**  
**Church Officers & Committees - 2017**  
**Elected at Charge Conference November 13, 2016**  
**Church Council (§ 252 Book of Discipline)**

Jodi Center	Chair
*Bill Burleigh	Pastor, Nominations & Leadership Development Committee, Chair
Shanda Rowe	Lay Leader
Sherwood Newton	Lay Member of Annual Conference
To Be Elected	Pastor/Staff Relations Committee, Chair
Sherwood Newton	Treasurer
Susan Hall	Financial Secretary
*Randy Hurst	Board of Trustees, Chair
*Sherwood Newton	Finance Committee, Chair
Lillie McDaniel	United Methodist Women, President
David Case Jr	Young Adult Representative
*Bill Burleigh	Missions and Ministry Committee, Chair
Bobbi Hurst	Membership Secretary
*Shanda Rowe	Music Committee, Chair
Randall Speer	Director of Music
David Petty	Endowment
* <i>ex officio</i> , Book of Discipline	

**Administrative Committees** (as specified in *The Book of Discipline*)

**Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development (§ 258.1)**

Bill Burleigh	Pastor, Chair	
Shanda Rowe	Lay Leader	
<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Shanda Rowe	Lillie McDaniel	Sharon Brooks
Anne Langley	Kathy Mason	

**Staff/Parish Relations Committee (§ 258.2)**

<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Flo Traywick	Walter Wright	Shanda Rowe
	Bill Puckett	Sherwood Newton

**Board of Trustees (§ 258.3)**

Randy Hurst (Chair), Mike Russell, Susan Leazer, Susan Cobbs  
Charles Thaxton, Dave Petty; Flo Traywick; Lewis James; Sherwood Newton

**Trustees Sub-Committees**

**Property Committee**

Charles Thaxton	Co-Chair
Lewis James	Co-Chair
Randy Hurst, Tom Coleman, Walter Wright	At-Large

**Kitchen Committee**

Lillie McDaniel	Chair
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### **Committee on Finance (¶ 258.4)**

Sherwood Newton	Chair
Bill Burleigh	Pastor
Shanda Rowe	Lay Leader
Jodi Center	Church Council Chair
To be Elected	S/PRC Chair
Sherwood Newton	Treasurer
Bill Burleigh	Missions and Ministry Chair
Susan Hall	Financial Secretary
Randy Hurst	Trustees Representative
Charles Thaxton	Property Co-Chair
David Petty	Endowment Chair

### **Endowment Committee**

David Petty	Chair
Sherwood Newton	Treasurer
Shanda Rowe	Lay Leader
Randy Hurst	Trustees Representative
Jodi Center	Church Council Chair

### **Ministry and Missions Committee (¶ 258.5)**

Bill Burleigh	Coordinator
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### **Worship Team**

Charles and Anne Thaxton, Lillie McDaniel, Pam Jackson, Ann Lis,  
Chiz Logan, Ray Pulliam, Megan Straw                      Communion Stewards

### **Missions Team**

Kathy Mason - Chair, Anne Langley, Harriette Cash, Sharon Brooks, Bobbi Hurst, Sam Franklin, Mary Tyree, Susan Leazer, Nancy Russell

### **Communications & Media Team**

Kerry Bell – Chair, Mike Russell, Randy Hurst, Susan Hall, Kathy Mason

### **Education Team**

Susan Leazer, Pam Jackson, David Case

### **Library & Church History Team**

Nada Sweeney	Historian and Librarian
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### **Evangelism Team**

All

### **Music Committee (¶ 258.5)**

Shanda Rowe	Chair
Randall Speer	Music Director
Dr. Carol Williams	Organist
Jodi Center, George Clark, Kerry Bell, Mark Roper	At-Large

Court Street UMC  
621 Court Street  
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: [www.courtstreetumcva.com](http://www.courtstreetumcva.com)

EMAIL: [621courtstumc@gmail.com](mailto:621courtstumc@gmail.com)

PHONE: 434-845-3427

The sound track of worship services is now posted on Court Street's website: **[www.courtstreetumcva.com](http://www.courtstreetumcva.com)**

Please contact Randy Hurst at:

[rwhurstva@gmail.com](mailto:rwhurstva@gmail.com) or (910) 443-4865 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted on the church website.

(The newsletter, The Courier, is also on the website)

