



# The Courier

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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August 2017

Court Street United Methodist Church

### Confession

Confession, like other Christian spiritual disciplines, is not merely a private business. Although our individualistic culture orients us toward viewing the faith in private terms we ought to reject that idea. Faith, in both the old and new testaments, is a community affair. Nothing less. This point comes out clearly when we observe the plural language employed in scripture. The bulk of Paul's letters were written to communities, not individuals. The Apostle often talks about '*brothers and sisters*', not '*brother and sister*'. Jesus himself had disciples and from the outset he created a community. In doing this he was not inventing anything new. It was at Genesis that God thought '*it was not good for man to be alone*'. Clearly God has always seen the community as the very place where the individual finds his existence meaningful. Let us keep this point in mind even as we reflect briefly about its relation to confession. For many of us, when we think of confession what immediately comes to mind is the image of one penitently kneeling down in prayer as one makes known their sins to God, pleading for divine mercy. Now, that image is correct. But it is incomplete. James' epistle contains an expanded vision of confession: confession to other fellow believers (5:16). It is understandable that many of us feel uneasy about making public deeds whose memories still evoke feelings of shame. Besides, we all know of unfortunate instances where confessions that were supposed to be heard in strict confidence became public knowledge so that the reputation of the confessor became irredeemably stained. Surely we feel safest that our evils be forgotten in God's ears. But have we considered, beyond these legitimate fears, that confessing to another believer offers many goods that sometimes supersedes those of private confessions. It has been my experience that the guilt that some sins cause are so deep that even repeated confessions to God in prayer do not take them away. Like David, '*when I kept silent, my bones wasted away....for day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped*' (Psalm 32: 3-4). *But after confessing the Lord forgave the guilt of my sin* (vs 5). In the act of confessing to another we open ourselves up to new vistas of grace. The one we confess to is able to act as God's priest and forgive our sins. Isn't that what is meant when Jesus tells his disciples that '*whoever's sins you forgive, they are forgiven them*'? (John 20:23). Certain sinful strongholds and habits that have held us captive are destroyed. They are first severely weakened by the very fact that they have been exposed. As the devil hates the Light so sins cannot stand public disclosure. Confession also helps us experience our humanity afresh. I know of nothing more humbling than confessing our fault to others. Perhaps, that is why the Lord allows the guilt of some sins to persist until we confess to another person. It might be the means to help us loose that veneer of perfection we so like to project to others. That pride which likes us to be seen as God. Confession reminds us of our true state as fallen sinful beings who are always going to need help. Also, we really have no right to hear the confession of others if we ourselves cannot bring ourselves to confessing to others. To be sure, we must exercise discernment in this matter as in all other Christian matters but we cannot over stress this: the restoration of a backslidden believer is a community project.

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

**EXERCISE DAILY, WALK WITH THE LORD**

## Court Street Welcomes

# Ecclesia!

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

We want to extend a big WELCOME to our newest occupant on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor starting in August. This nonprofit organization offers dance, acting, arts, crafts, photography, choir, and many other programs for young children through adults - All with the mission of **“Glorifying the Lord Through the Arts”**.

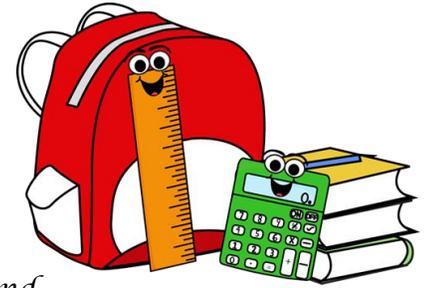


Ecclesia began in 2009, and since then they have had partnerships with several churches, and are now excited to branch off to become a non-profit school of the arts. The school additionally has an evangelism team -- Ecclesia Dance Company, that travels in Virginia and North Carolina, sharing the love of Christ through dance. Their founder, Megan (House) Horst has a B.S. in Communications, and a M.A. in Theological Studies. She began dancing at the age of 6, and is passionate about instilling in students a love for sharing Christ through the arts. She and her husband Michael, Ecclesia's business manager, are excited about this new direction with Ecclesia School of the arts, and look forward to getting to know the people of Court Street UMC.

You can find out more at: <http://ecclesiaarts.com/> and on Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/ecclesiasota/>

## August Mission Focus

It seems like summer break has just begun and we are already thinking about getting ready for students to head back to school in mid-August. Court Street will be collecting school supplies from the list below for Madison Heights Elementary School. If you would like to contribute items, please put them in the collection container located in the Bishop Early Hall.



*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:16*

#2 Pencils, 3 Ring Binders, Boxes of 24 Crayola Crayons, Boxes of Tissues, Disinfectant Wipes, Elmer's Washable School Glue, Glue Sticks, Hand Sanitizer, Highlighters, Ink Pens (Black, Blue & Red), Large Pink Erasers, Packages of Ruled Note Cards, Packs of Colored Pencils, Packs of White Copy/Printer Paper, Paperclips, Pencil Bags or Boxes, Pencil Sharpeners, Plastic Folders with Pockets, Post-it Notes, Rubber Bands, Blunt Tip Scissors, Spiral Bound Ruled Notebooks, Staples, Black Dry Erase Markers, Box of Thick Crayola Washable Markers, Packages of Loose Leaf Wide Ruled Paper, Plastic Folders with Pockets and Brads.

## COMING IN SEPTEMBER

### Feeding His Lambs



Members and friends of Court Street will once again provide, prepare, and serve dinner to neighbors at Park View Community Mission on Wednesday, September 27th. The evening for neighbors will begin with a devotion and music starting at 5:00 p.m. (food preparation will begin earlier).

Dinner will be served at 5:30.

#### *Volunteer opportunities include:*

- Food preparation on site
- Cooks to make their best desserts
- Setting up
- Serving food
- Cleaning up

Contact Mary Tyree 434-239-2270 or Harriette Cash 434-942-1798 to volunteer.



## COMING IN OCTOBER

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 7th



### CHURCH YARD SALE & BBQ

October 21st



# Trunk or Treat



### TRUNK OR TREAT

October 27th

For more information on these events, please contact Susan in the church office



## 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

### SICK

Parker Graham – Grandson of Walter Wright

\*Clara Gurkin - 501 V.E.S. Road, Drinkard 613, Lynchburg, VA 24503

\*Nancy Lane – 411 Oak Point Road, Forest, VA 24551

Genesis Marichal – 1220 Commerce St. Apt. 116, Lynchburg, VA 24504

\*Bobby McDaniel – 3743 Woodside Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503

\*Phil Ripley – 1101 Federal Street; Lynchburg, VA 24504

Sylvia Shuff - Mother-in-Law of \*Pastor Bill Burleigh

\*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503

\*Bill & Nada Sweeney – 1930 Royal Oak Drive; Lynchburg, VA 24503

\*Flo Traywick – 2934 Rivermont Ave #12, Lynchburg, VA 24503 (knee surgery)

\*Audrey Tyree – P. O. Box 4463, Lynchburg, VA 24502

\*Mary Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502

Barbara Wojcik – Mother to Susan McConnell

\* Church members



### We send our love and sympathy to:

Anne and Bruton Langley in the passing of their nephew,  
 Isaac Lewis "Lew" Langley, III on Thursday, July 6th.

Susan Cobbs and family on the passing of her mother,  
 Midgie Schmidt, on Wednesday July 26th

### Gifts in Memory

To the General Fund in memory of:

*Dona Forehand* by:  
 Frances & Don Giles

## October 6, 7 and 8, 2017

**CHARITY HOME TOUR 2017**

Friday and Saturday 10AM-5PM  
 Sunday 1-5PM

Tour eight spectacular waterfront homes by car or boat.  
 Tickets valid all three days, one visit per home.  
 Tour held rain or shine.

**TICKETS**  
[www.smicharityhometour.com](http://www.smicharityhometour.com)  
 Buy tickets online and save!  
 (All fees included • Tickets are non-refundable)

\$22 July 1 – 31 ("Early Bird" special price)  
 \$25 August 1 – September 22  
 \$30 September 23 - October

**Purchase at designated outlets**  
 \$30 July 1 – September 22  
 \$35 September 23 - October

Beautiful Setting ♦ Beautiful Homes  
 ♦ Beautiful Cause ♦

Benefiting these area charities: Adult Care Center of Central Virginia, AGAPE Center, Franklin County YMCA, Bedford Pregnancy Center, Free Clinic of Franklin County, Henry Fork Service Center, SML Good Neighbors, and STEP, Inc.

**DIAMOND SPONSOR**

540.297.4055

**GOLD SPONSORS**

### 2017 TICKET OUTLETS

**BRIDGEWATER**  
 SML Visitors Center  
 16430 Booker T. Washington Hwy.

**WESTLAKE**  
 The General Store  
 213 Scrogue Rd.

**UNION HALL**  
 Lakescapes Nursery  
 11509 Old Franklin Tpke.

### Update on Capital Campaign for church repairs:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 7/23/17	\$238,776
Balance needed to reach goal	\$61,224
Received to Date	\$180,986
Received since last update	\$3,350
<b>Elevator fund</b>	<b>\$9,328</b>

Court Street UMC  
621 Court Street  
Lynchburg Va. 24504



### Mission Statement

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

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)

