

# The Beacon

## The Newsletter of Pine Street Baptist Church



- 1: All Saints Sunday  
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 8: Annual Business Meeting
- 9: Deacon's Meeting
- 22: Christ the King Sunday
- 24: Thanksgiving Worship
- 29: First Sunday of Advent



- 6: Meredith Carrington  
Jim Arthur
- 8: Doug Clark
- 12: Allen Townsend
- 20: Freddie Ann Crouch  
Sara O'Mary
- 24: Glenn Neal
- 26: Vivian Paige
- 29: Buddy Thomas
- 30: Bryan O'Mary



### OHBC Thanksgiving Food Collection

Due to COVID-19 we are doing things a bit differently. We do not need any food donations this year, but will gladly accept \$10 gift cards to Kroger, Food Lion, or Walmart in order to assist families who need to supplement their Thanksgiving meal this year. If you are interested in contributing, please give your gift card(s) to Jennifer Turner, or mail them to her at:

Oregon Hill Baptist Center  
400 South Pine Street  
Richmond, VA 23220

Thank you so much for your faithfulness over the years in collecting food for the O.H.B.C. Food Ministry.



## Oregon Hill and South Richmond Baptist Centers

# Christmas Store

Thursday and Friday, December 4-5, 2020

South Richmond Baptist Center (St. Paul's Church)  
700 East Belt Boulevard  
Richmond, VA 23224

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CHANGES have been made to our Christmas Stores to ensure social distancing and to make it safe for everyone. The Oregon Hill and South Richmond Baptist Centers are asking groups or individuals to make a child's wish come true by purchasing items from their wish list.

If you, your class, or group are interested in helping make this Christmas a merry one for children this year, please contact Jennifer Turner at 804-648-1353, by email at [jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org](mailto:jennifer.turner@rbaonline.org), or by signing up on the bulletin board in the hallway on the first floor of the church to receive the name of a child and their wish list. The deadline for signing up to sponsor a child is November 2. Children's names and wish lists will be distributed the week of November 2 or before to those who wish to sponsor a child.

You may shop in person in stores or online. If you are uncomfortable shopping, maybe someone else (another church or family member) will do the shopping for you. You are asked to spend \$50 - \$75 per child if possible. This will help assure that each child receives approximately the same amount. If this cost is too much, consider partnering with a friend to co-sponsor a child.

Items from the wish list will include:

Coat or Outfit (top & bottom) or pajamas  
Hat and Gloves  
Two Toys (games, etc.)

Once your shopping is completed, place all of the child's gifts in a bag and place the child's name on the bag. Bring the bag to the O.H.B.C. no later than Sunday, November 29. Thank you.

## Our First Step

I don't guess any of us remember our first step, that moment when we stop crawling, stand up, and take a step. At first, we may only take a couple of steps before we fall again. But eventually, we get the hang of it and commence to walking wherever we go. It is the first step of many over the course of our lives. The average person takes around 7,500 steps/day. If this is maintained daily through the age of 80, you will have walked about 216,262,500.

As people of faith, each day we can choose what to do with our steps. No one is controlling us, but we are free to decide which direction our day will go. Our first step each morning is entirely up to us. It seems to me that the first step each day in our lives should be a step of gratitude. When our feet hit the floor after a night of rest, the best way to begin the day is in thanksgiving to the God who has brought us safely through another night. We are awake and alive, and this is worthy of praise.

In Psalm 92:1 we read, *"It is good to give thanks to the Lord."* The first step each day should be a step of gratitude. Before the worries of the day begin to settle in, or we face the problems we have to tackle, we should step out first in gratitude. If we begin the day with gratitude, then it can become our frame of reference for the rest of the day. Even though the day before us might be challenging or difficult, we can see it through a lens of gratitude and thanks. Andrew Murray, the great Dutch Reformed missionary sent from Scotland to South Africa and the author of many books on the Christian life, once wrote, *"Thanksgiving will draw our hearts out to God and keep us engaged with Him; it will take our attention from ourselves and give the Spirit room in our hearts."* If our first step of the day is gratitude to God, then this spirit of gratitude can guide the steps that follow and remind us that even in our most difficult steps how blessed we are.

In the Gospel of Luke, there is a story in which Jesus heals ten lepers all at once. They are elated at their healing and turn to go and share their healing with a priest so they can be officially declared clean. One leper, however, returns to Jesus, falls at his feet, and gives thanks for what the Lord had done for him. We should follow this leper's lead and offer God thanks each day with our first step. We can give thanks for all the Lord has done for us. If we step out first in gratitude to God, then we know that we will be heading out in the right direction.

*Philip*





## **Humphrey Home Thanksgiving Dinner** **Sunday, November 22nd**

The dinner will include turkey, casseroles, and pies, and will be delivered to the Humphrey Home after church on the 22nd. To sign up to bring one or more items, please meet Susan Townsend at the piano after church on Sunday, November 1. You may also call Susan to sign up. The following items are needed:

Two 20-pound turkeys (fully cooked if possible), ham, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn pudding, dressing, gravy, rolls, and pies.

Pine Street Baptist Church has hosted this meal for over twenty years, and it is always very appreciated by our friends at the Humphrey Home.

### *With Gratitude*

*Thank you to everyone in our Sunday school classes who contributed fruit for the Humphrey Home in October.*

## **Annual Business Meeting**

On Sunday, November 8, immediately after worship, the church will enter into our annual business meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to present for approval the church's 2021 budget and nominations.



