

**JULY 2018**

Volume 32.7

**St. John's  
United Church  
of Christ**

*St. John's United Church of Christ is a diverse community forming a united congregation, seeking to grow our faith, share it with others, and serve God's people wherever the need is present. We are living God's love and all are invited!!!*

**An Open and  
Affirming  
Congregation**

503 Stuart Circle  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

**Telephone:  
804.358.9291**

**Rev. Linda Higgins  
Pastor**

**Email:**

[office@stjohnsrichmond.org](mailto:office@stjohnsrichmond.org)



**Web Site:**

[stjohnsrichmond.org](http://stjohnsrichmond.org)



# THE *Messenger*



Dear All,

This month my letter has to do with a few things that are very important in the life of our church.

First, we look to be getting closer to a closing date for the sale of the parking lot. It is because

of this that we have a called meeting of the congregation for July 15<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for the Trustees, who have taken the lead in both the sale and the planning for renovations, to report to you where they are and to get your approval to move forward with planning for renovations. You will find an article from them in this newsletter explaining what they need to move forward.

We will meet right after church on the 15<sup>th</sup> and I will preach briefly, so we can start at 11 am. Please plan to be here and to speak your thoughts. We are an amazing congregation but if we do not speak our truth when we are together for what ever reasons, we are weakened as a congregation.

On a more celebratory note, mark you calendar for **October 5<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>** for our **175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St John's**. The 5<sup>th</sup> we will have a happy hour gathering. The 6<sup>th</sup> will be our traditional German Dinner and on Sunday we will have a celebratory worship at **10 AM**.

Other things we are working on is updating the church history with context of what was happening in Richmond, including our part in the racial history of Richmond. This will allow us to be more authentic in our work with Coming to the Table and other racial discussions we are a part of. Also, it will make our history more compelling to put it in context as many of us are not from Richmond and do not know Richmond history. I also have been in conversation with an artist about painting some pictures of the inside of the church. We are looking at having a silent auction over the weekend as well.

Also, we may be coming down the home stretch on our new website so watch the eblast for the announcement it is up. Once it is up, know that we have a contract where it can be modified as much as we want over the next 6 months so please give your input. I hope this helps keep you informed. Happy July!

Pastor Linda

*Pastor Linda Higgins*

# CONGREGATIONAL - MEETING -

## Call to Congregational Meeting, July 15, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's United Church of Christ,

You are called to a Congregational meeting after church on July 15<sup>th</sup> to receive a report on the status of the parking lot sale and proposals for church renovations. In addition, church members will be asked to vote to authorize church leadership to enter into contracts to spend up to \$850,000 from the \$1.5 million in parking lot sale proceeds, including approximately \$600,000 to replace HVAC systems for the church sanctuary, parlor, fellowship hall and office/education wing; approximately \$30,000 for lavatory improvements (including installation of hot water and accessibility improvements); approximately \$50,000 to upgrade the existing elevator/lift; approximately \$30,000 to replace the coverings on the stained glass windows; approximately \$50,000 to replace or repair education wing windows; approximately \$10,000 to repair the education wing top floor/attic ceiling; approximately \$30,000 for electrical improvements (previously approved); and related engineering, design, architectural, legal, project management and historic tax credit consulting costs.

These are the most critical infrastructure needs that have been identified by the Trustees (Sarah Allen, Jeff Jacobs and Rob Osborn) and other members of the *ad hoc* Parking Lot Working Group, currently consisting of Betsy Bighinatti (as Endowment President), Richard Bighinatti (as Facilities Chair), Jeff Hetzer (as Finance Chair), Dreama Terrill (as Church Council President), and Pastor Linda (*ex officio*). The identification and retention of contractors and professionals for these projects needs to begin immediately in order to be able to take advantage of efficiencies and cost savings associated with the presence of the construction crew that will be working on the apartment building in the parking lot area.

As has been discussed in previous informational sessions and workshops at the church, it is also expected that funds from the parking lot sale will be reserved for mission and outreach projects, church marketing and membership development, and repayment of the currently outstanding \$400,000 loan from the Endowment Fund to the church, which has covered the church's operating deficits over the past ten or so years, as well as a number of miscellaneous improvements to make the church more accessible, more functional for use by community groups, more secure, and more attractive. But it is difficult to budget for these items until we know more precisely how much it will cost to complete the highest priority infrastructure projects.

**The developer of the parking lot project will be taking possession of the parking lot on August 1<sup>st</sup>, with demolition of the parking lot to begin shortly thereafter, so there will be no parking there after July 31<sup>st</sup>.** Beginning on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, the developer will be providing alternative parking, most likely at the VCU parking deck at Broad and Harrison Streets, with shuttle van service before and after church. We will provide more information as soon as all of the details have been finalized. In addition, we have noticed that there are generally Sunday parking spaces available on westbound Monument Avenue.

Please plan to attend the Congregational Meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>, and if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime please feel free to contact any of the Trustees or Parking Lot Working Group members listed above.



# COUNCIL MINUTES

Church Council met for the monthly meeting on June 11, 2018.

## Announcements:

- The Conference minister will preach at our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary worship service. Jill White from the Church Building and Loan Fund plans to meet with us in July to see how she can help us in the process as we move forward and will suggest options appropriate for investing the proceeds from the parking lot sale.
- Linda will be away July 19 – July 23 and August 10 – August 21. Lynn Litchfield from Grace Inside will preach July 22. Beverly Lindsay will preach August 19. At meeting time, no one was scheduled to preach August 12.
- The yard sale netted about \$200.
- The Messenger deadline is June 21.

Minutes – May 14, 2018 – approval deferred to July.

The Trustees gave an update on the parking lot sale and immediate repair needs. See their separate report in the Messenger. They are meeting with an Historical Tax Credit Expert on June 12. Endowment expects the church to repay the money loaned over the past years - \$391,000 once the proceeds from the parking lot sale are received.

Council is calling a Congregational Meeting for July 15, 2018 to seek approval for initial infrastructure investment and renovation. The congregation will need to be educated about parking once our lot is no longer available. Reserve parking is not available in the city. Trustees will include information regarding progress and process in the Congregational Meeting on July 15.

Finance Committee: The financial report was reviewed. It is noted that the report was just received and had not yet been reviewed by the Finance Committee. The money received from Helen Karnap (\$118,000) was placed in the general fund. The church will make a gift for this amount in Helen's name when we decide the best way to honor Helen's memory. It's time to begin the 2019 budget cycle. Committee leaders need to remind committee members to begin thinking about their proposed amounts.

Central Atlantic Conference was attended by Linda Higgins, Dreama Terrill and Marcie Agee. Council discussed the article "9 Top Trends Impacting Church Leadership." Council is challenged to think of the things we want St. John's to be known for, figure out how to be nimble, bold and unafraid to be edgy. We are called to be God's Hands and Feet in the community and doing that will help us grow.

Congregational Life and Care – Faith Night at the Diamond August 9. Summer supper signup sheets are in the Parlor.

Mission and Outreach – meeting June 18 to review monthly missions for the remainder of the year.

175th Anniversary – Mark your Calendars - October 5-8, 2018. Check for upcoming information.

No motions were voted on during the June 11, 2018 meeting.





Summertime often brings a slowing down of activities in the life of the church and that can be a good and God-centered thing. Yes, we have all heard that "God doesn't take a vacation," but then again, we can read in Genesis that after God created the heavens and the earth in 6 days, on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, "God rested from all the work that God had done in creation." So, we, too, need to take periodic rest from the busy-ness of our lives – not just from our professional work or paid employment, but also from the work we do on behalf of the church community. Yes, you are missed when you take a Sunday off, but we hope you are being refreshed by the Spirit through a special mission or change of scenery, time away with family or some quiet alone time with our loving God.

Having said that, we do have worship as usual (or unusual as the case may be) on every Sunday and if the Spirit moves you to be there, we could use your help in reading Scripture or hosting Coffee Hour. Hey, what about going out for brunch after worship? I remember we did that several times when I first came to St. John's. It was one of the things that attracted me to the congregation. What about resurrecting that practice during the summer?

Thanks to a generous bequest from a former member of St. John's, the Worship and Music Committee has been able to recommend the purchase of several items to enhance our worship experience. We have purchased a new Lectern Bible which is the New Revised Standard Version. The NRSV is a more accurate and more inclusive translation. In the future, we hope to also replace our pew bibles with NRSV bibles which could be given as gifts by church members/friends in memory of or in honor of loved ones.

We have also purchased and installed automated hymn board TV monitors in the sanctuary which can also be used to receive and display a variety of images/messages for use in worship. We also continue to work on enhancing the sound production in the sanctuary.

The Altar Guild has been busy organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor storage area – neatly grouping silk floral arrangements, etc. by season. Helen Bunch, our newest Altar Guild volunteer, did 2 beautiful new silk arrangements which graced the altar on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Johanna Gilbert brought some lovely blue hydrangea from her garden for the week before. We welcome fresh flowers on the altar; they can be one or more potted plants or flowers from your own garden. Please use the sign-up schedule on the bulletin board outside of Pastor Linda's office and coordinate your flower plan with Sanya in the church office.

We are always in need of volunteers to serve on the Altar Guild and/or Worship Teams. We make every effort to keep their duties simple and safe. We hope that you will be moved to join one or both of these worship support groups. If you want to know more about what is involved, please speak to Richard Bighinatti, Johanna Gilbert or Beverly Lindsey.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of you who do so much in support of our worship, music and fellowship ministry. You are a blessing to St. John's.



May 24, 2018

President

Dena Frith Moore

Vice President

Alexandra Bayler

Treasurer

H.B. Thomson III

Secretary

Alison Keller

Bill Biedenbarn

Cindy L. Birsinger

Karen Buchanan

Earl C. Cox

Susan Brown Davis

Sheila Freeman

Otis Hall, Jr.

A. Brooks Hock

Carol A. Jones-Gilbert

Mark Kronenthal

Reba Mendoza

Helen J. Ryan

Richard Upton

D. Eugene Webb, Jr.

Jeffrey L. Wilt

Chief Executive Officer

Karen J. Stanley

Programs of CARITAS

CARITAS Shelter

CARITAS Furniture Bank

CARITAS Works

The Healing Place

Linda Higgins  
503 Stuart Circle  
Richmond, VA 23220

Dear Linda and friends at St. John's United Church of Christ,

On behalf of CARITAS and those we serve, thank you for providing a welcoming and safe environment for CARITAS guests. The dedication and generosity of host congregations like you enable us to serve individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis. We know the tremendous hard work and dedication it takes for a congregation to put on a shelter week, and we are very grateful for your service.

The CARITAS Shelter is one of four programs that help CARITAS fulfill our mission to help our most vulnerable neighbors break the cycles of addiction and homelessness to reclaim their dignity. Because of volunteers like you, CARITAS can also give the gift of second chances through The Furniture Bank, CARITAS Works, and The Healing Place. To learn more about these programs and how to get involved, please visit our website and follow us on Facebook.

As a token of our appreciation, this letter serves as a voucher for a Home Starter Package at the CARITAS Furniture Bank. This voucher will provide up to 3 beds, kitchen and living room furnishings for one family with no program fee (delivery of furniture may be added for additional cost). It is our hope that if a Richmond family is in need, St. John's United Church of Christ will have the opportunity to assist them by referring them to the CARITAS Furniture Bank.

Warm regards,

Tiffany Hall Terry  
Director of Community Engagement  
ttery@caritasva.org  
804.343.5008 x 424

Linda,  
Thank you for all of the ways that you support us! You all have been partners for years and I hope it will continue even when our model shifts. We couldn't do this work without you. Blessings!

P.O. Box 25790 | Richmond, VA 23260-5790  
[P] 804.358.0964 [F] 804.354.8220  
[www.caritasva.org](http://www.caritasva.org)

# thisSummer@ CHURCH

## Summer Suppers with Friends

*There will be sign-up sheets in the parlor or you can call the host directly to sign-up. Please check with each host as to what they would like you to bring for the dinner to share at least a week before!*

### Saturday July 14th

Time: 5:00 PM  
Home of  
**June Smyth**  
2530 Cherrytree Lane  
Richmond, VA 23235  
804-272-5731

### Sunday August 12th

Time: 5:00 PM  
Home of  
**Jeff Jacobs and Carter Doswell**  
3 Calycanthus Road  
Richmond, VA 23221  
202-361-9887

### Saturday August 25th

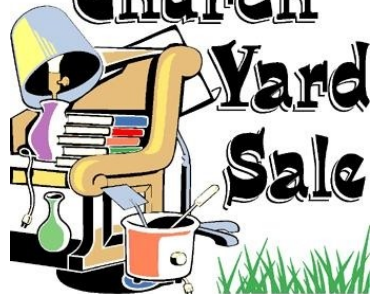
Time: 5:00 PM  
Home of  
**Richard & Betsy Bighinatti**  
12612 Lakestone Drive  
Midlothian, VA 23114  
804-379-3572  
Cell: 804 502-1007

There are many different activities in Richmond during the summer. If you see events or activities that others may be interested in attending, please contact Betsy and we will get the word out.

## Faith Night at the Diamond

Faith Night at the Diamond will be held **Thursday, August 9th at 6:15 PM**. Tickets are \$11.00 per person and we will be in a reserved section so we can all be together. Our name will be on the large board at the Diamond. If you are interested, Betsy Bighinatti will be taking orders for tickets and you must pay in advance. There are many different activities going on all around Richmond this summer. If you see any that you think might be of interest, please let us know and we will get the word out! Congregational Life & Care meets on the second Tuesday of the month and you are invited to join you as we continue to care for the needs our Congregation.

## Church Yard Sale Update



Many thanks to Dorothy Cooke, Betsy and Richard Bighinatti, Ashley Quick, Sarah Allen and Laura Totty for pricing, organizing, hauling, selling, and delivering purchases on a very hot June morning. Many thanks to all who brought their stuff. We had a wonderful assortment of items to buy. We had hoped for more sales, however, we had a great time!!!





LIVE PREGAME  
MUSIC PROVIDED BY A  
FAITH BASED BAND

PLAYER TESTIMONIALS

POST-GAME  
FIREWORKS!

GROUP  
TICKET PRICES:

FIELD LEVEL: \$11

TERRACE LEVEL: \$8

GENERAL ADMISSION:  
\$5.50

\*PRICING IS FOR  
GROUPS OF 20  
PEOPLE OR MORE

# 2018

## FAITH NIGHT

### AT THE DIAMOND

3001 N. BOULEVARD  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>

GATES OPEN: 5:30PM

GAME TIME: 6:35PM

[WWW.SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM](http://WWW.SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP, CONTACT GARRETT ERWIN  
804.359.3866 X 327 OR [GARRETT.ERWIN@SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM](mailto:GARRETT.ERWIN@SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM)



## Let's keep it cool in the Summer time!

Volunteers are needed for Liturgists and Fellowship Hosts during the summer months. All you need to bring for coffee hour is a fruit (like grapes) or a vegetable (like carrot sticks). We have the coffee, lemonade mix, cups, plates, crackers, and cookies. Sign-up sheets are in the parlor. Remember: **"All We Need Is Love"**, but cookies are pretty awesome too!! Thanks in advance for your help!



**SAVE THE DATE!! October 19-21, 2018** St. John's will have its Women's Retreat at Kiptopeke State Park. More details will be forthcoming. If you would like more information and to indicate your interest in participating contact **Helena DeLigt** @ [hdeligt@comcast.net](mailto:hdeligt@comcast.net). Please let us know as soon as possible of your intent to participate so enough space can be reserved.

## MISSION of the MONTH

**"GRACE INSIDE"** is our mission focus for July. GraceInside is Virginia's prison chaplain service. They share the love of Jesus daily at thirty-five sites throughout the state. This ministry is carried out by 32 chaplains, only 12 of whom serve full time. The hard work of these dedicated chaplains continues to transform the lives of those incarcerated and their families. The chaplains remain clear in their purpose, to

honor Christ's vision of redemption as shown in Matthew 25:36c, Luke 23:39-43 and Hebrews 13:3. Please support the continuation of this ministry. If you wish to contribute by check please make it out to St. John's and write Grace Inside on the memo line. On Sunday, July 22nd at our 10:00 am worship service, **Rev. Lynn Litchfield, GraceInside's Director of Development**, will be guest preacher at St. John's UCC. Please plan to join us as she gives a heartwarming and moving message.



**The Fellowship** will be having lunch on **Thursday, July 12th at 1:00 pm** at "The Pickle Barrel, located at 12912 Plaza Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233. If you need additional information, contact Dorothy Cook at 675-9269 or Lynda Merry at 756-0270. Hope you can join us!



# JULY Volunteer Ministries

Ministry	July 1 Team 3	July 8 Team 3	July 15 Team 4	July 22 Team 4	July 29 Team 1
Welcome Team Leader	Bill Watson	Bill Watson	Dorothy Cook	Dorothy Cook	Richard Bighinatti
Sound System	Bruce Miller	Bruce Miller	Jeff Michel	Jeff Michel	David Pittman
Tellers	Dorothy S. Cook Helen Bunch	Jeff Michel Beverly Lindsey	Jeff Michel Beverly Lindsey		
Liturgist	Jennifer Martin	Marcie Agee	Dreama Terrill		Sarah Allen
Facilities	Bill Watson	Bill Watson	Bud Higgins	Bud Higgins	Richard Bighinatti
Altar Guild	Erin Burnette Georgianne Stinnette	Lynda Merry	Johanna Gilbert Charlotte Quick	Dorothy Cook Helen Bunch	
Fellowship Hosts	The Martins	Theresa Pollock Ellen Roberson	Trustees Congregational Meeting		
Altar Flowers		Elisabeth Burnette			

**Teller Coordinator:**

Bud Higgins  
804-301-5059

**Fellowship Host Coordinator:**

Kate Schaefer  
804-239-2871

Celebrating a special occasion?  
Honoring a loved one?



*Please find a substitute if you are unable to perform your ministry and contact your Team Coordinator AND the office to let them know who will be filling in for you. Thank you for making our church ministries run smoothly!*

# JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship	2 5:30 pm <i>Finance Meeting</i>	3	4 	5	6	7
8 10 am Worship	9 6:30 pm <i>Church Council Meeting</i>	10	11 6:30 pm <i>Mission &amp; Outreach Meeting</i>	12 1:30 pm <i>Music / Worship Meeting</i> 6:15 pm <i>Congregational Life and Care</i>	13 5pm-9 pm Social and Environmental Justice Mtg. @ St. John's	14 9am-5 pm Social/Env. Justice Mtg. 5 pm <i>Summer Party home of June Smyth</i>
15 10 am Worship <i>Congregational Meeting</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 10 am Worship Rev. Lynn Litchfield Guest Preacher	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship	30 <i>Special Leadership Meeting with Jill White</i>	31				

*July*   
*Birthdays*

2 Richard Bighinatti  
2 Bill Watson  
4 Lynda Merry  
6 Cammie Allen  
7 Erin Burnette  
10 Sal Anselmo

10 Wyndham Anderson  
20 Will Atkinson  
21 Lynn Snyder  
22 Hank Harman  
29 Arthur Dewey

## Pray for Governments and Governing Bodies of Metropolitan Richmond.

*He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*

**July 1, 2018.** We pray for governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Mayor and City Council of Richmond, the City Manager, and all city employees.

**July 8, 2018.** We pray for the governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Boards of Supervisors, Councils, Administrators, and employees of Charles City, Goochland, New Kent, Powhatan, Ashland, Petersburg, and Hopewell.

**July 15, 2018.** We pray for governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Supervisors of Chesterfield County, the County Administrator, and all county employees.

**July 22, 2018.** We pray for governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Supervisors of Henrico County, the County Administrator, and all county employees.

**July 29, 2018.** We pray for governments and governing bodies of Metropolitan Richmond: For the Supervisors of Hanover County, the County Administrator, and all county employees.