

OCTOBER 2023

The Messenger

CURT'S CORNER

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

In my own life, at least, October has often functioned as a transition month: the dog days of summer have finally ended, the leaves begin to change and fall, and the days get shorter. All the changes that the month of October brings signal that something new is right around the corner: winter.

In the same way, I hope that this October will signal a transition in our spiritual lives. We're really excited about our Fall Renewal, a brand new initiative that arose from our deacons and other leaders in the church. Much like an ol' time revival, we'll gather together on October 13 and 14 for food, special music, and preaching from Dr. Tom Stocks. But instead of focusing simply on our eternal destination, like many revivals do, Tom is going to help us discover God's call for our lives right now. It's my prayer that all of us find a renewed sense of calling and purpose at our Fall Renewal.

Tom Stocks is a phenomenal preacher. He spent the formative years of his childhood and adolescence in Zambia as a missionary child, where each week he attended church under a tree. His unique upbringing colors his ministry today. Tom has pastored churches all across Virginia, large and small. Most recently, he served as pastor at Bon Air Baptist Church. In addition, Jerry Jones will be leading worship for us. Jerry is a remarkable musician who served as a missionary with his family in Salzburg, Austria for many years.

The two Renewal worship services on October 13 and 14 at 7:00 pm have been planned to help us all hear from God in a unique way. Everyone is invited for a free, catered BBQ meal at 6:00 pm on October 13. Similarly, everyone will be encouraged to stay around for ice cream (from an ice cream truck!) after the service on October 14. Free childcare will be provided on both nights for infants – second graders. Please sign up for childcare on our website.

Because we're focusing on God's call in our lives right now, we'll also be offering service projects for the entire church to participate in throughout October. We'll be partnering with GoochlandCares to build ramps for those in our community in need. We'll be hosting a free cookout for the residents of Caritas RVA at their facility on October 21 at 10:30am. At the same time, our children will be making care packets for babies at church. We'll also have a group knitting hats for cancer patients and newborn babies on October 21. It's our hope that everyone will find a way to serve this month.

October marks a transition in my preaching, too. I'm trying something new this year: in anticipation of Christmas, I'm preaching from key Old Testament stories this fall that help give context and understanding to the life and death of Jesus.

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PRAYER MINISTRY:

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer requests, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com



WEEKLY EMAILS:

If you are not receiving our weekly emails and Sunday sermons and would like to, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com

Address:

2454 Manakin Road Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103

Church Office:

804-749-3522

Email:

Goochlandchurch@gmail.com

Website:

www.goochlandchurch.org

Facebook:

GoochlandBaptistChurch

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

Pastor

Rev. Sharon Condrey

Minister to Families

DEACON MINUTES

Jessica Stanley

Every year, as the afternoon light gets longer, I have a ritual. I pull out my scarves and boots, decorate the house with all manner of fall-themed baubles, and make a pilgrimage to the pumpkin patch. I tell myself that this yearly ritual happens because I love fall. If I'm really honest, though, I'm attempting to disguise the oncoming darkness and cold of the next few months with a dash of pumpkin spice. Perhaps it's no wonder that in a season known for its uptick in melancholy and depression, I find myself preemptively seeking out glimmers of hope. One of them happens to come from Linus and the Great Pumpkin.

In *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*, the Peanuts gang prepares for Halloween. While Lucy, Sally, and Charlie Brown all look forward to trick-or-treating, Linus writes a letter to the Great Pumpkin. As he explains, "On Halloween night, the Great Pumpkin rises out of the pumpkin patch and brings toys to all the good little children everywhere." Linus's belief in the Great Pumpkin draws nothing but mockery from the other children (and Snoopy), but Linus holds firm in his hope that the Great Pumpkin will come. In fact, he is so certain that he forgoes trick-or-treating in favor of sitting in the pumpkin patch so he won't miss the Great Pumpkin's arrival.

Of course, the Great Pumpkin doesn't come, and Linus is left sitting alone all night. The next day, he discusses these events with Charlie Brown. Rather than giving in to his disappointment, though, he doubles down on his belief. "Just wait 'til next year, Charlie Brown! You'll see! Next year at this same time, I'll find a pumpkin patch that is real sincere, and I'll sit in that pumpkin patch until the Great Pumpkin appears!" he cries.

If this all sounds like a metaphor for those times in life when it seems that we're desperately waiting for a miracle in the darkness, I think it is. Charles Schulz, the beloved creator of Peanuts, made no secret of his faith in God. In fact, it is common to find nods, both subtle and overt, to that faith in his work. What I appreciate most about Schulz's approach is that he doesn't shy away from the reality that sometimes life is painful and faith is hard.

Maybe that's why I watch *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* every October. I've always admired Linus's faith, because it remains firm in the midst of disappointment, ridicule, and darkness. Like Hebrews 11:1 tells us, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Linus doesn't give up on the Great Pumpkin just because his vigil in the pumpkin patch was unsuccessful. He remains assured that he will see the Great Pumpkin one day, and neither outside circumstances nor commentary from naysayers change that conviction.

Linus's story is a reminder it's possible to hold onto hope even in the darkest night. It's a good reminder for this season, and for every season. Now, if you need me, I'll be waiting on the Great Pumpkin.

CURT | CONT. FROM PAGE 1

I'm convinced that understanding the Old Testament gives us a better appreciation of Jesus Christ. I'm calling this fall sermon series "The Back Drop," because that's what many of the Old Testament stories do: they provide a back drop to help us better understand Jesus.

I hope you'll make plans to join us for our Fall Festival on Sunday, October 29, too. We'll be inviting families and children from the community to join us for dinner and a trunk or treat. If you can set up your trunk to hand out candy, please contact Kitt Townsend at kitt23.ct@gmail.com

This October has the potential to be a transition not only in the seasons, but also in our spiritual lives. I hope you'll join us for Renewal and all the special opportunities to serve and grow.



SHARON'S UPDATES

Rev. Sharon Condrey

The crispness of the mornings and the cool blanket of the evenings is heralding the onset of the fall season. The changing of the seasons - fall, winter, spring and summer - reminds me that we have seasons in our spiritual lives as well. I am excited for our Renewal Services on Oct 13 and 14. What an opportunity to embark on a new season in the life of the church and to embrace a new sense of purpose and mission. I look forward to the opportunities for mission and outreach that will kick-off following these special services beginning with our Service Day on Oct 21. How wonderful it will be to see our families and all generations coming together to serve our community and to spread the love of Christ! It will be amazing to see how God works through us for the community and within us, growing our sense of the church as family and building strong relationships.

Recently, parents had a great opportunity to gather together for a meal at Tazza Kitchen during a Parent's night out event. The children enjoyed their time playing, sharing a meal, doing a fall craft, and having music time. The relationships built and memories made from these times together are priceless and we will be planning more opportunities like these in the coming months.

The youth enjoyed their summertime gatherings and have decided to continue to come together for a time of Bible study, fun and fellowship during the school year. See below for more information regarding these youth gatherings/schedule.



Children 5 years of age through 5th grade are invited to join us following Pastor Curt's Children's Sermon.

**Children will be learning the following
"Need to Know" truths:**

- Oct 1** | God is My Lord
- Oct 8** | God is My Shephard
- Oct 15** | God is My Healer
- Oct 22** | God is My Defender
- Oct 29** | God is My Provider





Sign-up a trunk today!

**Contact Kitt Townsend
or Sharon Condrey to
join the fun!**

GBC FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 29 | 3-5pm

All are welcome!

**PUT ON YOUR COSTUMES
AND JOIN US FOR**

**TRUNK -OR- TREAT
& HOT DOGS!**

**MIDWEEK
BIBLE
STUDY**

with Pastor Curt

**Questions
JesusASKED**

A SIX-WEEK STUDY IN THE GOSPELS

MAGREY R.
DEVEGA

**Wednesdays @ 430pm
in the Multi Purpose Room**

*Starting Sept 6
Before Community Table*

The image shows the cover of the book 'Questions JesusASKED' by Magrey R. De Vega, which is a six-week study in the gospels. The cover is orange and features a black and white illustration of Jesus' face. Next to the book is an open Bible showing the text of Psalm 23.

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Renewal Service Projects

Where do you feel called to serve during this time of Renewal?

Read the service project details below, then sign-up via the church website or on sign-up sheets provided in the sanctuary foyer and MPR building.



Critical Home Repair Program

What

demolition and removal of a porch that poses a danger to the Goochland resident

Project Leads

Jonathan Spaulding and Dwight Grissom

Service Dates

Saturday, Oct 7th - 9:00 am
(afternoon of Oct 8th if needed)

Location

At the resident's home in Goochland

Ages of Volunteers

Adults and Youth

Clothes Closet Organization

What

join a GBC group to pull "past date" items from the GoochlandCares store

Project Lead

Shannon Wilson

Service Date

Saturday, Oct 28th - 8:00 – 11:00 am

Location

2999 River Road West, Goochland

Ages of volunteers

Adults and Youth

Renewal Service Projects | CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



Through their in-house residency program, they provide pathways from recovery to hope for those struggling with addiction.

CARITAS Cookout

What

preparing and hosting a cookout at the CARITAS facility for 120 residents

Project Lead

Wayne Melton

Service Date

Saturday, October 21st - 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Location

2220 Stockton Street, Richmond

Ages of volunteers

Adults and Youth



Central VA Health Services offers free or low-cost medical treatment for expectant mothers and their newborns.

Newborn Kits

What

assembling items for kits to be given to expectant mothers at the Louisa location
(Items provided by GBC)

Project Lead

Erin Kruschwitz

Service Date

Saturday, October 21st - 10:30 – 11:30 am

Location

GBC Multi-purpose room

Ages of volunteers

Preschoolers thru Adults of all ages



Crochet/Knit

What

providing caps for chemo patients and/or baby blankets for babies in the NICU

Project Lead

Erin Kruschwitz

Service Date

Mondays, Octobers 2nd & 16th - 7:00 p.m

Location

Discovery Classroom in MPR Building

Ages of volunteers

Adults and Youth

October Sunday Serving Schedule

GREETERS

OCT 1	John Webb, Jessica Stanley & Diane Proctor
OCT 8	Gayle Stanley, Cameron & Angela Bassett
OCT 15	Betty Meador, Janet Koch & George Koch
OCT 22	Steve Novak, Betsy Alvis & Gale Chaisson
OCT 29	Dwight & Lois Grissom

USHERS

OCT 1	Justin Lingerfelt, Hope Webb & Cameron Bassett
OCT 8	Wayne Melton, Diane Proctor & Justin Lingerfelt
OCT 15	John Webb, Elizabeth Bowers & Nicole Lingerfelt
OCT 22	Gwen Padgett, Jean Fields & Gerry Nuckols
OCT 29	Al Henley, Amy Robinson & George Koch

**GOOCHLAND
CARES**
Free Clinic and Family Services

Volunteer Day!

**Saturday,
October 28th
8-10 am**

**Contact Shannon Wilson,
shannonwilson3@mac.com**



Do you knit/crochet OR do you want to learn? If providing caps for chemo patients or blankets for babies in a NICU sounds like a ministry you would like to be a part of please let Erin Kruschwitz know. You can also pick up a hand-out with more information in the foyers of the sanctuary and MPR building.

Meets first and third Mondays of each month.



October 1	Garry Nuckols
October 7	Megan Audia Kurt Flaig Jonathan Spaulding
October 10	Joyce Fallin Scott Hobson
October 14	Gordon Brown
October 15	Hannah Molnar
October 16	David Angel John Greenwell

October 17	Iris Nuckols
October 21	Trace Townsend
October 24	Jane Nuckols
October 26	Gale Chaisson



OCTOBER 2023

BUILDING TABLES @ COMMUNITY TABLE!



Come Join Us!
on
Wednesdays Nights

Oct 4th | Understanding Medicare
Guest Speaker Tracy Rutledge

Oct 11th | Free Vaccine Clinic
*Chickahominy Health Clinic offering
free Flu & Covid-19 vaccines*

Oct 18th | Service Night
Making treats to share with our neighbors in need

Oct 25th | Cake Walk
You'll have a chance to win a free cake!



GBC Seniors

Below are pictures from a few of our senior events in September.



▲ September Joy Club

True Spirit Gospel Band entertained us with some good bluegrass/gospel music!

◀ September Senior Outing

We had a delicious lunch at Jake's Place in Ashland.

JOY CLUB

Wednesday,

October 25th @ 10:30am

Centerville Development Update

We will have guests addressing the plans for Centerville roadways, zoning and development.

Meal provided by Kitchen 33



SENIOR OUTING:

The October Senior Outing will be on **Thursday, October 12th** at the Wood Grill Buffet in Charlottesville. The bus will leave GBC at **10:15am**.

Please RSVP to John Webb at (804) 334-9270

Any questions please call John Webb at 804-334-9270.

www.goochlandchurch.org/senior-adults

OCTOBER 2023 PRAYER REQUESTS

Allen Bowles - at home

Frances Bradshaw – living at the Laurels Convalescent Center

Eva Childress – recovering from a recent fall

Frank and Janet Faudree - health concerns

Linda Gibbs – Linda has transitioned to palliative care to help with her arm pain

Scott Hobson - has multiple myeloma

Amos and Judy Johnson – have moved into Vitality Living Assisted Care. They welcome visits!

Connie Jones - heart and lung issues

Lois Lane – low hemoglobin

Connie Long

Hazel Melton - recovering from stroke at home

Rebecca Michels— is thankful for good initial results from her drug trial. Some of her cancer has shrunk by 30-50%. Rebecca is grateful for the love and prayers of her church family.

Morris and Audrey Nuckols – Morris is recovering from foot surgery and Audrey has had muscular problems. Both are keeping their legs elevated most of the time.

Robert Nuckols – back home after ICU last week, but still very tired and weak

Don Powell – receiving in-home nursing care; family has recovered from COVID, but Don is still very weak. They welcome prayers but kindly ask for no visitors.

Amy Richardson (Gwen Padgett's aunt) - please pray for good results for an ultrasound this week

Family & Friends of GBC Members

Jaimie Algood (37 year old friend of Sherry Rosen, wife and mother of 3) – dealing with rare and serious form of cancer; is at MD Anderson in Houston for 31 days of chemo and radiation

Olivia Baker (10 yr old great niece of Betsy Alvis) – bone cancer. They are evaluating her options, but she will have surgery at the end of September.

John Bartlett - Linda Moore's brother

Larry and Debbie Barrett (parents of Robert and Kitt Townsends' good friends) – both were diagnosed with cancer in the same week

Julia Beaver (friend of Janet Myers) - has Crohn's Disease and significant weight loss

Travis Brown (Pastor Ken Stalls' good friend) - melanoma

Haley Caudrell (Janet Koch's great-great niece) – Eight months pregnant with both baby and mother facing issues. A C-section is scheduled for August 12.

Suzanne Coats - Recovering from back surgery last week

Wanda Coppedge (friend of Diane Proctor's son, Travis) – hit by forklift at work, has had 2 brain surgeries, and is in an induced coma

Megan Curry and family (Nicole Lingerfelt's cousin)

Ann Dalton (friend of Jackie Ford) – has cancer which isn't responding well to chemo

Ronald Faudree (son of Frank and Janet Faudree) – diagnosed with lung cancer

Jerry Fanning (friend of Willy Hall and John Webb) – health concerns

Jimmy Fincham (husband of former member, Sherry Fincham [Hughes]) – just started dialysis and is on a donor list for kidneys and pancreas

Ashley Harper (Wayne and Ellen Melton's daughter-in-law) – Pituitary macro adenoma

Bill and Virginia Hayden (Gayle Stanley's parents) - health concerns

Kimberly Ann Hill (sister of Mike and Kathy Nicholas' good friends) – stage 2 cancer

Stephen Hill (brother of good friend of Gwen Padgett) – praise that cancer is in remission

Christina Holleman (John Webb's granddaughter) – Presumed to have compartmental nerve syndrome in her left leg due to improper positioning during her hospital stay. She has come home. There has been no improvement as of yet. Please pray for a full recovery.

Jean (Amy Richardson's cousin) - has PET scan this week after being recently diagnosed with colon cancer

James Jett (Jessica Jett-White's dad) - has been diagnosed with lymphoma. He started chemo on 7/28.

Please keep James, his medical team, Jessica (his daughter), Paul and Colter in your prayers.

Patti Jenkins (Brenda French's sister) – cancer has emerged on her lungs

Linda Kellum (Rebecca Michels' Mom) – went home at the end of April 2022

Maggie Vaughan Lawrence (Brenda French's friend, a wife/mother in her 30s) – preparing for an upcoming MRI

Ashley May (friend of Brenda French lives in Alabama) – completed chemotherapy

Phillip Nicklas (husband of Brenda French's friend in Washington DC) – doing much better

Neal Purcell (David Purcell's brother) – health issues

Jay Ramsey (William and Lila Hicks' son-in-law) - diagnosed with liver cancer. Please pray for Jay and his wife Kim, as well as the entire Hicks family.

Frank Shields (Pastor Sharon's son-in-law) – still recovering from stroke but has returned to work half-time

Shirley (friend of a Joy Club member) – has very aggressive bone cancer

Sandra Survello (friend of Tami Ricketts) – Needs prayer while taking cancer radiation treatments everyday for 8 to 12 weeks.

Nick Sutphin (Janet Koch's brother) - Recovering from eye surgery. Please be in prayer for a full recovery

Dee Sutphin (Janet Koch's sister-in-law) – Stage 4 lung cancer

Dolly Vopelak (Ken Stalls' mother in NC) – on hospice; will have her 100th birthday later this month

Jackie Woods (family member of Brenda French) – received positive lab results

Mariam Egbal Yuen (Carla Yuen's daughter-in-law) – recovering from neuropathy