

*Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.  
May your glory shine over all the earth.  
Psalm 108:5*

MAY

2014

## SERVING THIS MONTH

### ELDERS

Herb Peak, Todd Peak

### ELDER ALTERNATES

Mick Arnold, Jack Dale

### DEACONS/USHERS

Tony Legard (D/U), Jon Grunstra (D/U),  
Ed Redmond (D), Bascom Brannon (D)  
*(An usher needs to be responsible for  
locking foyer door after service starts.)*

### JUNIOR DEACON

Koty Peak

### DEACONESSES/Jr DEACONESSES

Sharon Dorsey, Alice Legard

*If you cannot serve during your scheduled  
month, please contact another server  
to see about switching with you.*

*If you know of a shut-in desiring  
communion be taken to them, please  
call Jean Brannon at 276-669-7311.*

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



### COOK OUT & BINGO NIGHT

Tues., May 6th • 6:30 pm • Bethany Hall

We will be ministering to our neighbors with a "Cook-Out/Bingo Night". We'll have grilled hot dogs, chips and desserts. Call Tracey Peters if you would be willing to help furnish any of these items. ALSO, we will need donations in the form of money or prizes. Maybe you've cleaned your closets for spring and have items you don't need but would be suitable for prizes. Volunteers to help with this event are also needed. This is always a fun event and a great way to let them know they are welcome to worship with us.

### LADIES TUESDAY TIME-OUT

MAY 13TH, 10:30 AM AND 6:30 PM

Be listening for a possible change in schedule for our regular May date.

Also, be looking at Psalm 119. We will begin a study of Psalm 119 that will be helpful and applicable to your daily living. As we read through this Psalm you will find yourself in it many times.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

311 SPENCER STREET {ON THE MLK JR. BLVD.} • BRISTOL, VA 24201

276-669-2014 • FIRSTCHRISTIAN@BNU.NET



## WHAT FRAGRANCE ARE YOU?

Spring has been so beautiful; the colors stunning as the red buds stood in all their glory along with the Bradford pears. Then the grass started coming out of the winter season showing new shades of bright, beautiful green, which, unfortunately required the mowing to begin. Along with the change of the season came beautiful fragrances drifting through the air.

I know freshly mowed grass and all the new blooms creates misery for those who deal with allergies, and I'm sorry for that, but I must admit I love the accompanying smells. I'm not good with names of flowers for the season so I had to do some research. Some with beautiful spring/summer fragrances are lilac, hyacinth, sweet alyssum, wisteria, sweet peas, lily-of-the valley, gardenia, roses, four o'clock's, peonies, some tulips, magnolia, and jonquils, just to name a few. I can almost smell some of them now. Can you?

Did you know there is a fragrance, or an aroma, that comes from our life? It can be a pleasant aroma, or it can be one that stinks. To stink sounds rather harsh, but Isaiah 1:13-23 talks about ways of living that are a stench in the nostrils of God—lives once pure, once faithful, once just and righteous but no longer bring pleasure to God. How sad . . . but, in this same portion of scripture the Lord says that no matter how deep the stain of your sins, He can remove it and make it as clean as freshly fallen snow.

Let me go back to the beautiful fragrance—that which is pleasing to our Lord . . .

II Corinthians 2:15 & 16: For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death to death, and to the other the aroma of life to life.

If we are God's children, saved by grace, we are a sweet aroma to Him. We no longer have the aroma of death, we have a fragrance that brings joy to the heart of God. Jesus' life was a fragrant aroma to the Father. If we walk as Jesus, do our best to follow His ways, then our lives can have that fragrance. It is our aroma of praise to God, and as we go into our world we take with us the sweet aroma of God everywhere we go.

Ephesians 5:2: Jesus said, "And walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."

## GRADUATION DATES

Central High School – May 15 – 8pm  
TN High School — May 17 – 10am  
VA High School — May 23 – 7pm

## HONORING GRADUATES

Sunday, June 1st  
during morning worship service



## newcomer's coffee

**If you have been visiting or have become a member of First Christian within the last year, this is for you!**

*Current members – please join us to help welcome newcomers to our congregation.*

**Sunday, May 18  
10:15 – 10:45 am • Bethany Hall**

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday morning, May 10th  
8:30 • Bethany Hall**

## CHANGE FOR DIRECTORY

Debbie Keith: change to Apt. 17  
New phone #: 276-791-4099

## BABY SHOWER

for  
Jessica & Jeremy Stacy  
& baby Jonah

June 14, 2014  
(More info next newsletter)



Baby Shower



# MAY 2014



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FCC

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children's Church  Family & Kids CONNECT 6:00 pm	5	6 6:30– Cook-Out and Bingo Night	7 7:00 – Midweek Services Adults / Children	8	9  Meals on Wheels <i>We deliver smiles™</i> 10:00 – Meals on Wheels	10 8:30 – Men's Breakfast  10:00 – Work Day
11 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children's Church  No evening services.	12 1:00-4:00 – Food Pantry  7:00 – Board Meeting (All church members are invited to attend board meetings)	13	14 7:00 – Midweek Services Adults / Children	15	16	17
18 9:45 – Sunday School 10:15 – Newcomers Coffee 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children's Church  No evening services.	19 	20 10:30 – Ladies Time-Out  6:30 – Ladies Time-Out	21 7:00 – Midweek Services Adults / Children	22	23	24
25 9:45 – Sunday School 10:50 – Worship Service 11:15 – Children's Church  No evening services.	26 	27	28 7:00 – Midweek Services Adults / Children	29	30	31

Margie is in the church office from 8:30-12:30, Tuesday thru Thursday.

Please have items for June's newsletter to Margie, Pastor Herb, or Judy by May 19th.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
PO BOX 158  
BRISTOL, VA 24202

## NEWNESS OF LIFE

BY GINNY EDWARDS (PARAPHRASED)

*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4 NKJV).*

I love that phrase, “newness of life”. It reminds me of God’s mercy and how He is always ready to give us a fresh start. Spring reminds me of the newness of life, too. Everything just seems to come alive again. And then there are all the birds nesting, ducklings and goslings waddling around behind their mothers. To me it proves that God loves new things, new beginnings, and new hope for the future.

Notice how this scripture in Romans talks about dying and being buried first, before it talks about walking in “newness of life”. My pastor once created a challenge within myself during one of his sermons when he said, “If you’re not walking in this newness of life, maybe its because you haven’t died”. It challenged me not only in my spiritual walk, but also in other areas of my life. If you hold on to your old ways, or compromise your core values and beliefs, you really haven’t “died” to the old ways.

What do you do when find yourself reverting back to old habits, old thought patterns, and old destructive behaviors? Do you have a plan in place to combat the desire to revert back to your old ways? How do you climb out of that place if you find that you have slipped back into old patterns?



One thing is certain:  
we must always live  
close to the presence  
of God, for that is  
the newness of life.  
~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

One year I decided my theme for the year was going to be “My First Ascent”. I wanted to climb to a higher spiritual place. But one thing I discovered was there are many snags, hard places, and sharp rocks along the climb! But when I thought about this principle of death coming before life, and I really meditated on what my core values are, I realized that some of those snags were because I hadn’t really died to my old ways.

So if you find that you’re going back and forth, up and down, and every other way, remember this: you are promised newness of life, but you must be willing to “die” to the old ways and embrace that newness that God wants to give you. You can’t have it both ways.