



Pilgrims' Progress

Winter 2014

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The Christmas Pope

Everyone seems to agree that Pope Francis has captivated the world with his honest freshness, honesty, humility, and grace. He has won the hearts and minds of religious leaders by taking difficult issues head on, even when it means he is on the wrong side of popular opinion. As of late, conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh has accused Pope Francis of being a Marxist because of comments he made regarding the rampant spread of materialism and the dangers of materialism taking over one's personal identity.

"Whenever material things, money, worldliness, become the center of our lives, they take hold of us, they possess us; we lose our very identity as human beings," Francis said in a September 29 mass observance. He continued on to say that Christians must be on guard against "the danger of complacency, comfort, worldliness in our lifestyles and hearts, and making our individual well-being the most important thing in our lives."

Funny, he doesn't sound like a Marxist to me. He sounds a lot like someone informed by the teachings of Jesus. Limbaugh appeals to millions of Christians with his brand of talk radio. Most would say they are followers of Jesus' teachings, I would imagine. So what would these folks do with these scriptures?

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21) Or, "No one can serve two masters, for either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24)

And there's more!

"What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?" (Luke 9:25)

So I am thinking if Jesus were to walk into Rush's studio, fan the cigar smoke away from his face and utter the above pronouncements, he too would be labeled a Marxist no doubt!

Why is it such an offense for a person of faith to address the very issues Jesus addressed in his life and ministry? I am convinced we really prefer to ignore teachings that do not reinforce our need for more and more and even more. And I am also convinced that none of us escape unscathed in this battle over our lust for things.

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Pilgrims' Progress

News of the journey at Vienna Baptist Church

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Our Pilgrimage of Faith

We are a congregation of Baptist Christians with a tradition of being progressive, inclusive, and culturally diverse. We hold dear the historic Baptist principles of the priesthood of all believers, the individual's right and responsibility for his or her own relationship with God, and the separation of church and state.

As the people of God, we gather to worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer—but our response to God's call does not end there. We actively pursue the disciplines that form us as followers of Jesus Christ: the inward journey of individual spiritual growth and the collective outward journey of mission and social justice.

Our Affiliations

In our outward journey of mission and social justice, VBC joins with the following Baptist organizations:

The Alliance of Baptists
www.allianceofbaptists.org

American Baptist Churches/USA
www.abc-usa.org

Baptist General Association of Virginia
www.vbmb.org

Baptist World Alliance
www.bwanet.org

D.C. Baptist Convention
www.dcbaptist.org

NorthStar Church Network
www.northstarchurchnetwork.org

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New Pastor for Youth and Children Joins VBC Staff

We are pleased to welcome Ginny Richardson to the Vienna Baptist Church Staff as our new Pastor for Youth and Children.

For most of her life, Ginny has wanted to work with youth and children in some capacity. As both her parents worked in education, Ginny thought she would become an elementary teacher and volunteer with a church's youth ministry. She studied psychology and leadership at Christopher Newport University, focusing her studies on developmental psychology and learning how people work together to affect change.

During the spring semester of her sophomore year of college, she volunteered to be a small group leader for a retreat with her home church, Second Baptist Church in Richmond. That year, she led a group of sixth- and seventh-grade girls. While driving to church from an afternoon activity, one of the girls casually said, "Ginny, you would make a good youth minister

someday."

That simple comment from a youth helped Ginny to consider a vocation in ministry. Since then, she has served as a ministry intern in churches and has served four summers with Passport Camps ministering with youth. Ginny attended McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta, where she earned her master of divinity degree with a concentration in Christian education. She loves spending time with children and youth, whether in Bible study, in play, or in discussion with them.

Ginny wants children and youth to know that God loves them, to explore their identities in Christ in community, and to ask questions to learn more about their faith. As a minister, she desires to create space for others to experience God in their lives. This space could look like a conversation, a Bible study, a retreat, a prayer experience, a mission trip, worship, or even a community picnic

As it can be very difficult to hear God in the midst of the busyness of our daily lives, she views the church as providing opportunities for us to make this sacred space where we meet God. As she continues to see hints of the Kingdom of God in her own life, Ginny wants to help others see these moments in their lives and know how they can be involved with what God is doing in the world. She also wants youth and children to feel welcomed by the church, knowing that the church helps them discover and affirms their spiritual gifts and passions.

So far, Ginny has enjoyed celebrating with VBC the four children baptized after attending the discipleship class and hearing them share their testimonies.

Ginny can be reached by calling the church office, or via email, ycpastor@vbc-va.org.



Youth Serve and Lead

During the fall, we have seen the youth use their gifts and abilities to help children at City Gate Ministries and in our own neighborhood! On Saturday, October 5, youth, adults, and children from our church traveled to Richardson dwellings, a public housing community for approximately 4,000 residents in Northeast D.C., to help with City Gate's fall festival. We set out clothes, books, and canned food so residents could shop, and later gave out lunches to the children. We also made crafts, read books, and played football and basketball with the children.

At VBC's Fall Festival, the youth set up and guided approximately 150 children through several fun activities. The children had opportunities to walk on dots and win a cupcake, go fishing for fruit snacks, throw rings at an inflatable spider, bowl with a pumpkin, transform into their costume's character through face paint, throw beanbags at a jack-o-lantern, dig up a rubber ducky, and score a goal. They also enjoyed some snacks, won prizes, and went trick-or-treating. It was a fun night for all, and the youth raised \$783.48 for City Gate. Thank you to all who volunteered for these events!



VBC youth Tess Kay, Danielle Cuppett, and Wyatt West operate the "Cupcake Walk" at the annual fall festival.

Missions

HopeTree Family Services

Did you know that Vienna Baptist Church supports HopeTree Family Services through the missions portion of our general fund giving? Some of you may remember HopeTree as Virginia Baptist Children's Home. Some of you may not be familiar with it at all. Here are some facts.

The mission of HopeTree Family Services is to provide Christian residential, educational, and support services to at-risk children and youth, and to adults with intellectual disabilities throughout Virginia.

HopeTree Family Services, headquartered in Salem, Virginia offers a wide range of ministries for at-risk children and youth and their families across Virginia, including treatment foster care, the HopeTree Academy, residential care, independent living programs, and the WOODS Program (Wilderness Outdoor Opportunity Discovery School).

HopeTree also serve the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities and their families through the developmental disabilities ministry, which operates 17 Christian group homes across Virginia.

Christian education provides opportunities for HopeTree youth and adults to participate in regular chapel services and bible studies on campus and throughout the community. Ministry groups and individuals from local churches and organization also volunteer their time to provide programs and activities for residents.

Virginia Baptists began a campaign in 1887 to help Virginia's children in need. Baptist ministers from across the state began rallying their churches to support the establishment

of a Baptist orphanage. As a result, the Baptist Orphanage of Virginia was chartered on Feb. 24, 1890, and a committee selected a site overlooking the small town of Salem for this important new ministry.

As time passed, society's needs changed and the services provided continued to evolve. Over the years the organization underwent several name changes to most accurately reflect the ministry. Still legally known as Virginia Baptist Children's Home & Family Services it uses HopeTree Family Services in all public endeavors as explained below:

"The word 'hope' is short, strong and defines in one word the single greatest benefit we offer all those who come to us for care. For over 20 years, a tree has been part of our imagery. A tree symbolizes strength, shelter, endurance and vibrant life. Keeping the tree as our logo represents the sheltering comfort we provide as well as the strength of an organization that has thrived for over 100 years.

"Our name has changed, yet the overall goal has remained the same: to provide quality Christian care to people in need."

We are truly impressed and inspired by how the love of Christ is shown through the work of HopeTree Family Services and are proud that our church supports this worthwhile effort.

—VBC Missions Committee

Snapshots

DC Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

Our VBC delegates, Ginny Richardson and Ben Wagener, attended the District of Columbia Baptist Convention at the University Baptist Church in College Park, Maryland, October 29.

Ben led two break-out sessions on "Embracing God's Loving Presence," using spiritual practices and storytelling with lay and clergy on how God's love came alive in their churches.

Ben and Ginny also attended the fall business session on the recent changes on the by-laws and standing rules. The final vote was postponed until spring for approving the changes.

Lost River Improvements

The Duke Street Trinity Baptist Foundation has provided \$15,000 toward the construction of the Jerry Duane Memorial Outdoor Chapel at Lost River. A fund was established in Jerry's memory following his untimely death in 2011. We have received a design from the architect that includes a concrete floor, a deck/stage area, a fireplace, and a roof. With the funds already donated plus this most recent generous gift, we should be able to complete all phases except the roof. Construction will begin soon.

We have just completed our busiest summer and fall in years. Thanks to the many volunteers who went up to Lost River and hosted retreats: Elaine Boomer; Trula Duane; Andrea Harvey; Derek Hopper; Jerry, Kira, and Wyatt West; Jim Wiley; and Joe and Yudy Wiley. We always can use more volunteers, contact Hank Dunn, hank@hankdunn.com, 703-869-0376.

Ministries and Activities

If It's Monday, It Must Be ART!

Mondays are special! A loyal group of painters has been meeting at VBC on Monday mornings for many years. Some are long-timers, some are professionals and some are beginners to painting and to the group. What a pleasure to pull out the oils, acrylics, watercolors (and occasionally snacks) and sit down to a few hours of concentration, relaxation, and fellowship! Whatever else is going on in our lives fades into the background and we are “in the moment!” No pressure—just fun! Not a class—just helpful hints! We wouldn't miss it for the world! On the occasion that Monday falls on a holiday, we are all disappointed.

You've probably seen the fruits of our labors at the yearly art show held in the Foyer. For years I was amazed at the talent in our congregation, so getting started required a “leap of faith.” Now Monday is my favorite day of the week!

If you are a juried painter, a budding Picasso, Rembrandt, Warhol, or a wannabe, we'd love to have you come and join us any Monday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Room 233. Bring your lunch, your supplies (we'll tell you what you need if you are just getting started), your desire and your excitement. We guarantee you an extraordinary day!

—Judy Campbell



Judy Campbell

Outreach Activities Continue at VBC

The Outreach Committee has continued its focus on young families. After conducting four Play Dates and two Family Movie Nights in July, the Outreach Committee members and almost all of the Outreach volunteers volunteered to help out with the VBC Vacation Bible School in August. Outreach also continues to sponsor Movie Nights each month. Attendance during Play Dates averaged more than 50 children and their parents/caregivers per Play Date. The average attendance for Movie Nights in September and October was over 50 people per night, with about 40 of those typically being from outside of VBC.

Two special events for children were sponsored in October. The Outreach Committee led VBC and VBCC children and their parents in participating in the Annual Vienna Halloween Parade. We also assisted

with the Trunk or Treat portion of the Fall Festival. Proceeds from the sale of concessions amounting to about \$275 were donated to the City Gate Ministry.

In August, the Outreach Committee cosponsored the Youth Drama workshop. This workshop included 14 youth participants who performed to a full house on August 24, raising nearly \$700 for Our Daily Bread and for future youth drama efforts.

In October, the Outreach Committee also sponsored a community yard sale that included 17 vendors and was attended by more than 200 people. Nearly \$300 was raised for Stop Hunger Now.

We also sent a mailer that reached over 1,000 new families who have recently moved into the Vienna area.

Ministries and Activities, *continued*

From the Church Hostess

If you are superstitious of the number 13, you may be glad that this year will soon close. For those of us on the many working teams at Vienna Baptist Church, it's not the number 13, we are just tired! It has been a busy year of happenings.

The Church Hostess and Hospitality Team have been kept busy beginning on Jan. 12, 2013, with the welcome/get acquainted day in the Adult Lounge with Pastor in the Interim Rev. Dr. Randy Ashcraft. The entire day was filled with one small group after another arriving to talk with and eat with Randy. We were busy refilling the table with food for each group. On the same day, another group from Hospitality was helping the Bereavement Team with a lunch reception in the Foyer after a memorial service for a long time VBC member.

50 More or Less

On September 29, several of our group gathered at Vienna's Wu's Garden to welcome Ginny as our new Pastor for Youth and Children and discuss future events.

In October, our group sponsored a genealogy lecture by Bill White, which included a bag lunch and workshop on researching your family history and background.

This year will complete the 10th year of our 50 More or Less meetings for luncheons as well as educational, mission, and recreational events.

Jackie Brooks and Trula Duane were two of several ladies who met with Ben in 2003 to begin planning events for us. Jackie Brooks made her vision clear to us: "I want us to have fun and not be too spiritual!"

You can see our team's work each Sunday before and after worship as we greet thirsty ones with coffee or tea at the beverage cart and after the worship service at the punch cart for a little more than a "cup of cool water." It is a casual time for members and visitors to meet and get acquainted or even do some church business. The chatter and return for refills of punch tells us that it is a meaningful time.

Pizza lunches before business meetings, indoor and outdoor picnics, socials, helping other groups with their occasions that include meals, celebrations for many occasions in the VBC Foyer, receptions such as the Living Nativity, all and more, keep us busy throughout the year.

It has been my privilege to serve VBC for 16 years as Church Hostess and three years before that on the Social Team, when Betty Frederick was Hostess. It is time for me to retire. In the summer of 2014, my husband, Roy,

and I will move to Asheville, N.C., to join our son, Earl, and his family, and where we will be a day's drive closer to our son, Charles, and his family in Orlando, Fla. Roy has been retired for 10 years and we are ready to move to the next phase of "real" retirement and enjoyable grandparenting. I will end my term as Church Hostess as of January 31, 2014.

It is important that there be continuity in transferring the hostess duties, as there are endless details to be communicated. I am happy to do anything I can to help with that transition. I know that the next person, be they male or female, will do a wonderful job. They will use their unique talents and past experiences and will serve you well.

—Kay Woodruff, Church Hostess



Members of the 50 More or Less group gather at Wu's Garden Restaurant for an after-worship meal.

Ben Wagener

Hundreds Learn About VBC Through Media Every Month

Some say that when an individual attends a VBC Sunday worship service for the first time, that person has already visited our church once—online.

Through the communications committee's work, VBC has an active presence in cyberspace as well as through more traditional media formats.

The VBC website

The church's site at www.vbc-va.org is targeted to those in the community who want to know more about who we are and what we have to offer. And hundreds of people have been checking us out! From September 1 through Oct. 31, 2013, our site has had 3,568 pageviews from 762 unique (nonduplicated) visitors. Of those, 42 percent were new visitors and 58 percent were returning, so there was a total of 1,562 visits.

What do they want to know? The top five pages visited were Home, Staff, VBCC, About VBC, and Regular Schedule. The communications committee keeps the home page updated with news about upcoming special events that might attract guests.

Most of our website visitors live nearby: the top five jurisdictions drawing visits were Vienna, Fairfax, Oakton, Reston, and Tysons Corner.

A presence on the WUSA9 website

But VBC also reaches our neighbors through a major media site with television Channel 9's WUSA9 site (www.wusa9.com), in a community marketing program. We are one of eight Vienna businesses whose banner ads appear on news pages in rotation, for those who identify Vienna as their home community. Those who click on the banner ad will see a page profiling our church, with photos and event listings.

During the month of September, VBC's banner ad was viewed 2,751 times—giving VBC exposure to many people who might never have heard of us or even thought about looking for a church.

What's more, someone visiting the WUSA9 profile page can link to the VBC website. In fact, the number of referrals to the VBC site has picked up lately, to the point that it's the site with the most referrals of any other site, including Baptist links and the VBC Facebook page.

Other communications

Beyond managing media messages, updating the VBC website, and placing event announcements in area newspapers and other online sites, your communications committee has other responsibilities. We work closely with church ministerial and office staff, helping with brochures, flyers, newsletters, worship PowerPoint slides, and materials for special groups such as the Pastor Search Team.

Committee members are Dorothy Wagener, Turner Bridgforth, and Elizabeth Wollin. If you need help spreading the word about a VBC effort, contact CJ Redden-Liotto at officemanager@vbc-va.org or Dorothy Wagener, communications committee chair, at communications@vbc-va.org.

—By Dorothy Wagener, Communications Committee Chair



The Christmas Pope (cont.)

I am glad we have a true “Christmas Pope” to lead the Catholic family. He gives me hope for all of Christendom, including those in our tribe called “Baptist.” The ultimate Christmas gift is the gift of love unadorned and simple in presentation and style. Christmas reminds us of a God who does not give us what ultimately fades and disappears, but rather offers to us a lasting peace, and an abiding love, discovered most clearly in the person of Jesus. I think Pope Francis is reminding the world that we do not live by bread alone. We live through the heavenly bread come down as a little baby born in a manger.

—Randy Ashcraft



Signposts

New Staff Member

Dianne Hannum recently joined our staff as our new part time Financial Secretary. Dianne comes to us with a wonderful church background, as she also serves as the office administrator for Community of Faith Methodist Church in Reston. We welcome Dianne to our staff, and look forward to working with her.

Celebrating Ministry: Updates From Around VBC

In all areas of our church, there are many day-to-day activities that support our ministries, our missions, and our church building. Here are just a few ways that our committees and teams work to make Vienna Baptist a great place to worship.

Worship Support

Who and what is the Worship Support committee? The committee is very much a behind-the-scenes group of workers. Probably the only ones you recognize on sight are the ushers, who are there every Sunday handing out bulletins and passing the offering plates. But who are the others and what do they do?

Do you ever wonder where the flowers in the foyer and in the sanctuary come from? These are done by the Worship Arrangements Team: Jean Matthews, Donna Hall, and Betsy Tharrington. They also put the candles on the altar table.

Why are the pews so neat when you come in Sunday morning, even though you left your bulletin laying on the pew the previous Sunday, and put the hymnal back in the pocket upside down? You can thank Audrey and Bob Grena and Diana Amsbaugh for that.

Where do the banners come from that hang around the sanctuary and are changed regularly as the seasons change? Those banners were made throughout the history of our church, and are hung seasonally by John and Judy Campbell.

There is a quiet group of volunteers led by John Campbell who work during the Sunday School hour before worship to prepare the elements for communion. Rich and Norma Behnke, Bill and Maxine Burke, Lou and Janet Ford, Susan Hall, Robert and Ginny Johnson,

Sylvia Linke, and Bets Thomas, assist with those duties.

Wolfie Scherer and Turner Bridgforth are hidden away in the sound booth adjusting the level of sound, depending on how quietly or loudly a person is speaking into the microphone.

Probably the most noticeable activity out of the usual for our worship services is when we have a baptismal service, but even then the work goes on behind the scenes as at our most recent one. Previous articles have listed those who helped in so many ways at the recent baptism.

Be aware of your surroundings and give a silent prayer of thanks for all the work that is done in the church by volunteers who work behind the scenes, often without being noticed.

VB Players

The VB Players were revived last fall with a production of the original play, "Silk Purse Project," by VBC member Ward Kay, who also directed. Turner Bridgforth starred as local businessman Azor Futterman who challenges the incumbent mayor (Mattie Cohan). Party chairwoman Mrs. Hufstetler (Ann Martin) thinks his young campaign manager (Randi Chambers) needs help calls in D.C. professionals (Watt Hamlett and Danielle Payne) who find things are not what they seem in Whitebread America.

The four-night run had good audiences each night and the cast and crew are so grateful for the many VBC members who attended. Half of the proceeds from the box office were donated to the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna. A donation of \$620 was made to support the center.

Teen Theatre

On February 14, the faculty of the Vienna Teen Theatre Workshop will present a revue of musical theatre songs about love. The revue, *Falling... the Ins and Outs of Love*, will present some of your favorite showtunes alongside some lesser-known gems of the repertoire. The concert is free, and all donations will benefit the Vienna Teen Theatre Workshop.

The Teen Theatre Workshop staff is busy planning the 2014 workshop, and more information will be available soon.

VBCC

VBCC, a mission of Vienna Baptist Church, this year has 146 children with 13 teachers, 11 aides, and three administrative staff, including the director. Many families from the school have been involved in our church's outreach activities, such as Play Dates, Movie Nights, and especially Trunk or Treat. This fall, the school is having visits from the Fairfax County Fire and Safety Program and Vienna Fire Department. We were pleased to have another in-house field trip from Bob Brown's Puppets in early December, and a Christmas Sing-along on December 17 and 18.

Christian Education

The beginning of the school year got off to a wonderful and delicious start with our annual kick off breakfast in September. Kudos to our hardworking church hostess, Kay Woodruff, and her trusty team of helpers for feeding many members, friends, and neighbors with yummy pancakes before we joined our Sunday School classes.

Discipleship

We are proud of our various opportunities for Bible study and fellowship on Sunday mornings.

- The Adult Discipleship class is studying the reign of King David and 2 Samuel.
- The Explorers' class is looking at Paul's letter to the Galatians.
- The Growth and Fellowship class is using a prescribed curriculum from Baptist-related press Smith & Helwys.
- The youth group is learning Baptist history and who we are as Baptists.
- The elementary-age children (FaithQuest) most recently finished their study of the Ten Commandments and the Widow's Mite and will study some Old Testament stories this spring.
- The preschoolers have been learning that God is love, Jesus loves all of us, and we are each wonderfully and uniquely made by God. Next, they studied the Christmas story and the study of Jesus' life.
- The babies and toddlers are learning that God loves us, and we are thankful for Him.

The Christian Education Committee welcomes with open arms Pastor for Youth and Children, Ginny Richardson. She immediately became an amazing resource, and we are excited to report that we are already in planning mode for next summer's Passport, Children's Camp, and Vacation Bible School.

VBC Celebrates Four Baptisms

On September 29, Vienna Baptist Church welcomed four of our children, Joey Brotemarkle, Daniel Fesenko, Camryn Frederick, and Grace Miller, who joined the church through the sacrament of baptism. After attending a seven-week discipleship class in the spring, these four children each came forward to profess their belief in Christ and desire to be baptized here at VBC.

Before the baptism, the children were asked to write testimonies about their beliefs and their journey to baptism. Joey Brotemarkle wrote, *"I am ready to become a follower of Christ. The discipleship class taught me about baptism and that helped me make my decision. I am excited to continue learning about God."*

Daniel Fesenko shared the following.

I attended the baptism classes and wanted to be a Christian. I decided to be baptized and do what Jesus did and told us to do. Jesus protects me and leads me through my life. Jesus helps me enjoy life. I will continue studying the Bible and attending church and doing what Jesus tells me to do.

Camryn Frederick wrote:

Being the youngest of the kids in my family, I got to see my older brother and sister be part of the youth group here at church. They got to go do so many fun things like go to the movies, bowling, play laser tag, go skiing and to camps. I always wanted to go do these fun things with them but was told I was too little and I need to have my own journey with Jesus. It was very confusing, but off to Children's Camp I went starting in the third grade. I thought I was beginning my journey and it was my ticket to those fun trips with the youth group.

When I was 9, my mom asked me if I wanted to be baptized. Dunked under water in front of all the people in our church—no thanks! But we talked to Pastor Ben and he told me about the discipleship class that he and Mrs. Flynn are going to have. I decided I would go. It was at one of those classes that Mrs. Flynn showed us a picture. It was one big, strong hand reaching down and holding a weak hand that was reaching up. That was when I got it! A journey with Jesus isn't just the fun things that a group of kids at church gets to do. That picture is how I figured out what making my own journey is and why I am here today to be baptized. Thank you.

Finally, Grace Miller asked her godfather to share her words. *"I decided to be baptized at Vienna Baptist Church because of the baptism class, God, the people of the church, my parents, and Pastor Ben."*

We congratulate these four new members, and look forward to supporting them in their journey as followers of Christ in this place.



A people of faith on the journey of life

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Upcoming Events at Vienna Baptist Church

Concert to Benefit Vienna Teen Theatre Workshop

Please join us on February 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a very special evening. The faculty of the Vienna Youth Theatre Workshop, along with local professionals, will present *Falling... the Ins and Outs of Love*, a Broadway revue featuring music from throughout musical theatre history. Admission to this special concert is free, and a free-will offering will be taken to support the 2014 Summer workshop.

Contemplative Gathering

Building on the revivalist tradition within Baptist spirituality, the Epiphany Institute of Spirituality (EIS) will lead a Contemplative Gathering in Northern Virginia on February 21-22. Participants will experience contemplative worship, learn how to practice contemplative prayer, and discuss ways to live contemplatively in their busy world. For more information, visit the VBC website or contact the office.

Lenten Study Series

We will begin our Lenten observance with our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. in the Worship Room. Each Wednesday night from March 12 to April 16, we will have a Lenten study led by faculty from the Leland Center for Theological Studies. We will use the book *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, which focuses on the last week of Jesus' life. We hope you can join us.