

MATURE TIMES

Just for Boomers

Welcome to the back page of the "Mature Times" reserved just for Baby Boomers! Thank you for taking the time to stay informed and proactively plan for your future.

We recently concluded another year of Boomer Conversations. I learned a lot in these last two years about your unique view on the world, and I hope that together you have felt a sense of camaraderie with others facing the very same issues that accompany aging. So what's next?

I think we have uncovered a number of important issues that you face as Boomers, particularly those related to being in the "sandwich generation". In the fall, look for a regular Sunday or Wednesday night opportunity that will be broken into sections similar to the following: parenting your parents, parenting your adult children, and preparing yourself for the "golden years". You may not fit all of those categories, so I invite you to join us on the weeks where you do need the support and resources that such a group could provide. We'll publish the schedule ahead of time so you can plan accordingly.

Also ahead, look for a new blog just for you. It will be available through the church web site and will address a wide range of issues from resources to discussion starters. You will have the opportunity to "talk back" and share your thoughts as well. Do you have a topic you would like to learn more about or one that you would like to dialogue with others? Please let me know! We're just getting started, so hang on for more dreaming still yet ahead of us!

Melissa Fallen

Mature Times

A publication of the Huguenot Road Baptist Church older adult ministry for those 55+.
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June 2009

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My Church

Several months ago I had the opportunity to preach at my home church. For any minister, going "home" to preach is always a unique experience. In my case, many in the congregation remembered the first day I was brought into the nursery, so I have quite a history with them. I had the opportunity to preach as a youth at that church and even a few times since then, but this time was just a little different. What I called "my church" was different. In the last several years, they completed a large building project for a new sanctuary and additional fellowship space.

The old sanctuary of the church where I grew up had been converted into a youth gathering area. The aisle I walked to publicly profess my faith in Christ was now a concrete floor used for playing games. The pew my family had sat in for thirty years was now replaced by a ping pong table. And the stage where I preached my first sermon and appeared in children's plays had been transformed with couches and coffee tables. Other areas of the church had received similar modifications. I felt a twinge of nostalgia walking back into the building. "My church" no longer looked the same.



While it was strange to see the church in a new light, I felt a sense of excitement that God is doing something new there. It would have been easy to leave things the way they were. It would have also been easy to leave the old sanctuary as a shrine to another era. But they realized that the church is more than the sum of its buildings. Put differently, the buildings are simply a resource to making ministry happen. The church is about the fellowship of believers gathered together to worship and serve God. In fact, "my church" growing up was not about the specifics of the sanctuary, the pew where I sat, or the educational space. My church consisted of the people who nurtured me in the faith, called out my gifts for ministry, and empowered me to go forth and serve the kingdom of God.

My experience there led me to think about who "my church", HRBC, is today. We too, are more than the sum of our buildings. Our church is more than the Sunday school class we sit in each week, more than the pews/chairs we sit in for worship, and more than the bulletin boards on the walls. In fact, these things are not "ours"; they belong to God and are simply resources to use to enhance our ministries. Our church is about the people of God gathered together to worship and serve God.

As we think about our church's 45th birthday, it is natural to think about who we were, who we are, and what we will become. Let us never forget however, that our church is far greater than the sum of its material resources. We cannot claim ownership of those things. They belong to God. What we can claim as our church is the gathered body of believers that God calls his church. Wherever the path ahead may lead, let us faithfully live out our call not to simply attend the church buildings but to *be* the church.

Melissa Fallen

Annual Picnic

June 30, 2009

One of the highlights of our ministry year is our annual summer picnic! Bert and Rose Browning (14320 Regatta Pointe Road) have graciously agreed to host us again this year on June 30. We invite you to join us anytime after 4:30 p.m., and we will begin serving dinner at 5:30 p.m. As always, we will provide the chicken, paper products, and drinks and ask that



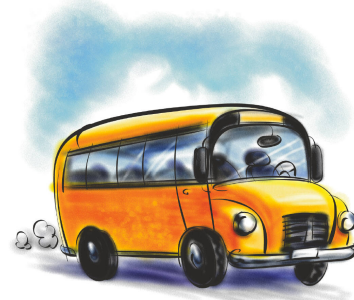
you bring a side dish to share as well as a lawn chair. Please encourage your LIFE communities, WMU groups, prayer groups, etc. to be a part of this annual event. Bring a friend, and introduce them to our ministries! For additional information or to sign up, please contact Lorene Wyatt (378-7864) by Wednesday, June 24. Remember, it is during these times of fellowship that we build relationships within our community and build up the body of Christ. Please join us for this time of fellowship!

Older Adult Ministry Team – we need YOUR feedback!

Our newly formed older adult ministry team has met several times now with great opportunities for dialogue about our current and future ministries. We have a fully staffed team now and *always* welcome additional input at each of our meetings. In fact, we often have several folks who are not members of the team present at our meetings to provide feedback and suggestions. So you know what to expect, we begin with a brief devotional or thought for the day that helps us in our own leadership responsibilities. Then we review the prior quarter and plan through the next quarter to see what opportunities for ministry are ahead of us. Our next regular meeting is July 15 at 4:00 p.m. I hope you will consider joining us and bringing your eye for ministry opportunities. If you are not able to attend, please pray for the work of this ministry team. We are far more than a “planning committee” but truly are a ministry group that is continually looking for ways to fulfill our God given calling.

Church Bus

What’s all the hype about a church bus and really, why do we need one? Well let me start by asking, have you ridden in our church van lately? If not, meet me at the church one afternoon, and we’ll go for a joy ride! Our van is a useful ministry resource, but it can also be a hindrance to our ministries because of its limitations. With our seating restrictions, we can only carry eleven on the van and as few as eight on longer trips. Accessibility for our older adults is limited – getting in and out of the van is very difficult for many people. A new church bus will comfortably increase our passenger space, add more cargo space, and provide greater accessibility for travel. This bus will be more than just a fun new vehicle, but truly a tool for ministry across ages and ministry groups. We will use it for travel to and from discipleship conferences, mission projects, and fellowship events. Please consider how you can give generously to make this ministry resource a reality!



Receiving Email Updates?

If you are not currently receiving email updates regarding older adult activities, please email Melissa Fallen at melissa@hrbcrichmond.org.

Chesterfield Older Adult Programming – Mondays at HRBC

HRBC welcomed the Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Older Adult programming beginning in early February. Every Monday, we welcome a number of seniors into our buildings for activities like exercise classes, card games, and other social opportunities. Programs will continue throughout the summer (except VBS week). I especially invite you to join us from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for cards and games each week. You can start your own game or join another table during that time. I would love to see more of our seniors involved in the programs so we can get to know our visitors and share with them HRBC’s gift of hospitality.

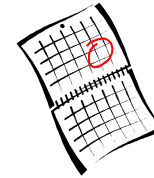
Save the Date – Mark Your Calendars Now

June 30: Picnic at the Brownings

September 11: Senior Adult Kickoff Dinner

September 13: Back to Church Night

December 4: Annual Christmas Dinner



We Can Make a Difference and We Are!

HRBC’s theme for 2009 has been “make a difference!” People have embraced this theme in many ways from making a difference within our church, just outside our walls, and well beyond. Here are just a few ways I have witnessed HRBC seniors making a difference:

- Participating in mission experiences to Camp Alkulana, Port Sulphur, Hyaets, and Bland County.
- Teaching on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights.
- Volunteering to help with Vacation Bible School.
- Sending encouraging notes and making phone calls to those who need a caring hand.
- Ministering regularly at Morningside Assisted Living Facility.
- Volunteering in the HRBC office.
- Completing another valuable year of mentoring at Reams Road Elementary School.
- Visiting those who are sick or bereaved.
- Knitting for our prayer shawl ministry.
- Participating in CARITAS.
- Packing and delivering food for our Baptist Centers.

Certainly, I have only touched on a few of the ways you are already making a difference in the name of Christ. Please continue to share the stories with one another so we can testify to the ways God is at work in our community! If you are still looking for ways to use your gifts, please contact me, and we can match you with appropriate ministries.

Thoughts from a broken nose...

It’s not every day that a person walks face first into a pole and breaks her nose on a Sunday morning before arriving for worship. It takes a lot of talent and a lot of grace. Fortunately, I have both. While the experience was, of course, painful, I have certainly had a good laugh at myself for such an incident! On a serious note, however, thank you for your many expressions of concern. It is so nice to be part of such a loving church family, who knows just the time to offer a gentle hug or thoughtful wish while at the same time knowing exactly when to laugh alongside you!

