

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019



BONSACK
BAPTIST CHURCH

STAYING CONNECTED

IN A WORLD FULL OF STRANGERS

WON'T YOU BE
MY NEIGHBOR?
*Summer 2019 in the
Student Ministry*

FALL DISCIPLESHIP
Grow in Community

VOLUME 60 | NO. 5

FROM THE PASTOR



Over two years ago we held a church-wide celebration to honor Carolyn Krisha as she retired from her role as Director of Children's Ministries. By then we had already established a search team to look for the person who would succeed her in that position. Our hope was that we could find someone soon enough to allow for some overlap with Carolyn to enable a smoother transition. We did not anticipate it would take as long as it has to find the right person to fill that very important role, but our search team has remained diligent and prayerful in their search. In the meantime, we have been very blessed that Carolyn has been willing to continue her service while this search has continued, which has enabled us to carry on without interruption.

I am excited to report that we are now ready to present the person we believe is the next Director of Children's Ministries. After searching far and wide, it turns out that person was right here in our midst! Michele Quesenberry, along with her husband, Tim, has been an active member of Bonsack for almost 15 years. They have two children, Isabella, 15, and Hayden, 10. Michele initially came on board earlier this year in a part-time role as our Children's Ministry Assistant. As she became more immersed in her engagement with the children of Bonsack and their families, she felt a growing sense that God was calling her to something more. So, she applied for the position. After interviewing her, our search team was

unanimous that she is the right person for the job.

Michele has had a long and effective career as an educator, having worked in various roles with the Botetourt County School System for almost 19 years. She has taught at both the elementary and middle school level, and has served as an instructional reading coach who assisted other teachers in growing their effectiveness in the classroom. Michele holds a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Greensboro College, and a Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction from the University of Virginia. With her educational background and her professional experience, Michele has a deep understanding of how children learn and develop.

Just as important, Michele has a deep faith, and she is passionate about helping children discover that for themselves. Michele recalls with deep appreciation how her grandmother took her to church, where Sunday School teachers introduced her to the love of Jesus. She wants to see other children and their families have that same kind of encounter with God here at Bonsack. To that end, Michele has already begun to deepen her education so she can be better equipped to use her educational knowledge in a ministry setting. She is currently taking classes toward the completion of a Certificate of Children's Ministry, which is offered through the Baptist

General Association of Virginia. She will complete this certification program in March of 2020. She then plans to take several online classes through New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Her commitment to this additional learning is just one of the reasons our search team is so excited about her.

Michele's candidacy for this role will be presented for consideration by the church at our next quarterly business meeting, which will happen on Wednesday, September 25, at 6:00 p.m. Prior to that meeting you will have a chance to hear directly from Michele about her sense of calling to this work. I hope you will join us on September 25 to respond to this opportunity. More importantly, I hope you will help us cover this entire process in prayer.

Grace and peace,

CHRIS CADENHEAD

Pastor

ccadenhead@bonsackbaptist.org

Organ Dedication

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

3:00 p.m.: *Hymn Festival*
followed by Reception in the CLC Atrium

5:30 p.m.: *Organ Dedication Concert*
featuring Samuel Metzger



**BONSACK
BAPTIST CHURCH**

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T: @bonsackbaptist

FB: facebook.com/bonsackbaptist

IG: instagram.com/bonsackbaptist

Make a DIFFERENCE

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING LIVE EVENT

Saturday,
OCTOBER 5

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
ROANOKE HALL
FREE EVENT

LEARN SIMPLE WAYS TO SHARE YOUR FAITH.

LOOKING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day (Church Office Closed)
- 7 Community Block Party
- 13-22 Kenya Missions Trip
- 14 WEEC Consignment Sale
- 15 Week of Prayer for Alma Hunt Offering (State Missions)
- 17 Senior Adult Birthday Celebration
- 25 See You at the Pole
- 25 Quarterly Business Meeting
- 28 Beth Moore Simulcast
- Senior Adult Driver Training
- 29 Baptist Women's Day
- Hymn Festival & Organ Dedication

OCTOBER

- 4-6 High School Beach Retreat
- 5 Make A Difference Conference- Discipleship Training
- 6 New & Potential Member's Class Begins
- 11-13 Middle School Ignite Weekend, Eagle Eyrie
- 13 World Hunger Sunday
- 18-20 Special Needs Retreat, Eagle Eyrie
- 26 Fall Festival

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR AVAILABLE AT CHURCH INFOCENTERS OR ONLINE: BONSACKBAPTIST.ORG/EVENTS

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

SUMMER IN THE STUDENT MINISTRY

REV. ROB COVINGTON

Won't you be my neighbor?

This humble sentence, this gracious invitation, was etched into the minds of a generation of Americans through a humble minister of the gospel. Fred Rogers, through his television program *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood*, invited a generation of children to both acknowledge the world as it was and envision the world as it could be. This tension between the way things are and the way they could be is a central tension of the life of faith.

This past summer our students were invited to embrace this tension. On our choir tour, they saw poverty first hand, and worked to help a pillar of

Birmingham's musical community rebuild his inner-city ministry. Also while in Birmingham, they sang at the graduation ceremony for a group of men completing phase one of addiction



treatment. Each one of those men's stories is an example of how a better future can be built.

At Youth VBS, we invited students to

consider how they might grow *Closer*: closer to God, closer to one another, and closer to our world. In a world of disconnectedness, we invited students to embrace a different way. When

Fred Rogers popularized the phrase "Won't you be my neighbor?" two generations ago, he could not have known that it would continue to strike a chord in our deeply disconnected world.

At Centrifuge camp at North Greenville University in Greenville, South Carolina, the students were invited to consider God's restorative

work in the world and in their lives. We watched as several of our students invited God into their lives. They invited God to restore their lives. On September 8, we will see the result of the work that

God did in their hearts as we baptize these students into our community. It will be a holy day.

It is undeniable that God has been on the move in our student ministry over the past few months. The adults have seen it and the students have seen it. We look toward our future as people of hope, safe in the knowledge that our God who moved in our hearts this summer will move in our hearts again. As scripture says he who began a good work in us will see it through until the day of Christ Jesus.

Perhaps as you read this newsletter, you are finding it hard to hope. You are excited that God has been on the move at Bonsack, but the world just seems so broken. Maybe your family is not what you thought it would be. Maybe your job does not bring the joy that it once did. Maybe the decisions of your grown children are breaking your heart. Maybe the ticker at bottom of your favorite news channel brings you constant anxiety. Maybe in your own way, you are acutely aware that the world is not as it should be.

If that is you, my hope is that this article is your invitation to embrace the radical promise of our God: that one day everything will be restored to the way it is supposed be. God has invited each and every one of us to be his neighbor, and God loves his neighbors.



FALL DISCIPLESHIP

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN COMMUNITY



Through the Bible Study

Meeting each Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Chapel, you're invited to join Pastor Chris in walking through the Bible each week.



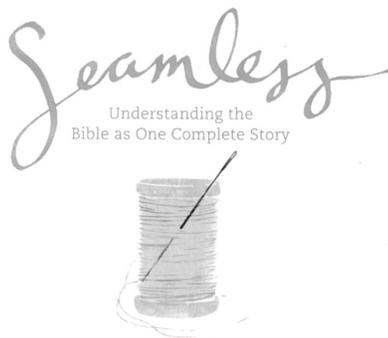
Coffee House

Looking for some inspiration on Wednesday evenings? While your child is attending Music Time for Kids, stop by our coffee house discipleship class for community and a video based study from Christian authors and speakers such as Andy Stanley. Meet in the Gathering Room each week from 5:55-7 p.m. No sign-up, just show up!



World Religions

Freddie Mercury was Zoroastrian, many celebrities are Scientologists, and your neighbors might be Jewish, Arabic, or Buddhist. Knowing something about how all these religions relate to each other can help you understand and dialogue with other people. This class is an introduction to major world religions with comparison to other religions and Christianity, as well as mention of some fascinating ancient religions that influenced today. Join us for three weeks beginning Wednesday, September 4 at 6 p.m. in Room CLC 2. Led by Dana Harris.



Seamless (for Ladies)

Whether you've grown up hearing Bible stories or you're exploring Scripture for the first time, the full story of the Bible can be overwhelming. Seamless covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Join one of two groups, one which began Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 6:15 p.m. in Roanoke Hall C, or a second study which starts Tuesday, September 10 at 6:15 p.m. in CLC 3.



It's Not Supposed to Be This Way (Ladies)

In *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way*, Lysa Terkeurst invites women into her own journey of faith and, with grit, vulnerability, and honest humor, helps us to see our lives in the context of God's bigger story. Join us on Thursday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in B215 beginning September 5.



Prayer

Is prayer a mystery to you? Would you like to know more, but don't know where to start? On Wednesday, October 2 in Room CLC 2, we'll explore prayer and how we can better understand and utilize the discipline. Led by Andrea Greene.



Psalms

The book of Psalms is a collection of poems, songs and prayer that explore praise, lament, thanksgiving, and many other facets of our faith journeys. We'll be walking through the Psalms for three weeks in October with Bill Drennan in Room CLC 2. Join us to experience the Psalms in a new way, regardless of your prior knowledge.



New & Potential Member's Class

Learn more about Bonsack with Pastor Chris beginning Sunday, October 6 at 5 p.m. in the Chapel. Call Lisa in the church office (977-5701) to register.

STAYING CONNECTED

IN A WORLD FULL OF STRANGERS

CHRIS CADENHEAD

One of the ironies of modern life is that while technology enables us to connect with more people in more places with ever increasing convenience, people also tend to feel more and more cut off from each other. Back in 2017, former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, wrote an article for the *Harvard Business Review* in which he referred to loneliness as an epidemic in our culture, one with significant risks for mental and physical health. In 2018, Great Britain's then Prime Minister, Theresa May, even appointed a cabinet level position called "Minister of Loneliness," to address the issue. Harvard and Great Britain may feel far removed from the Roanoke Valley, but it is safe to say we feel the same effects here. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, but most of us would find it a challenge to even know our neighbors.

This uncomfortable fact forms the backdrop against which we do ministry. Jesus does not want us to remain strangers to each other; He wants to pull us out of ourselves so we can become more intentional about forming relationships and sharing the gospel. To that end,

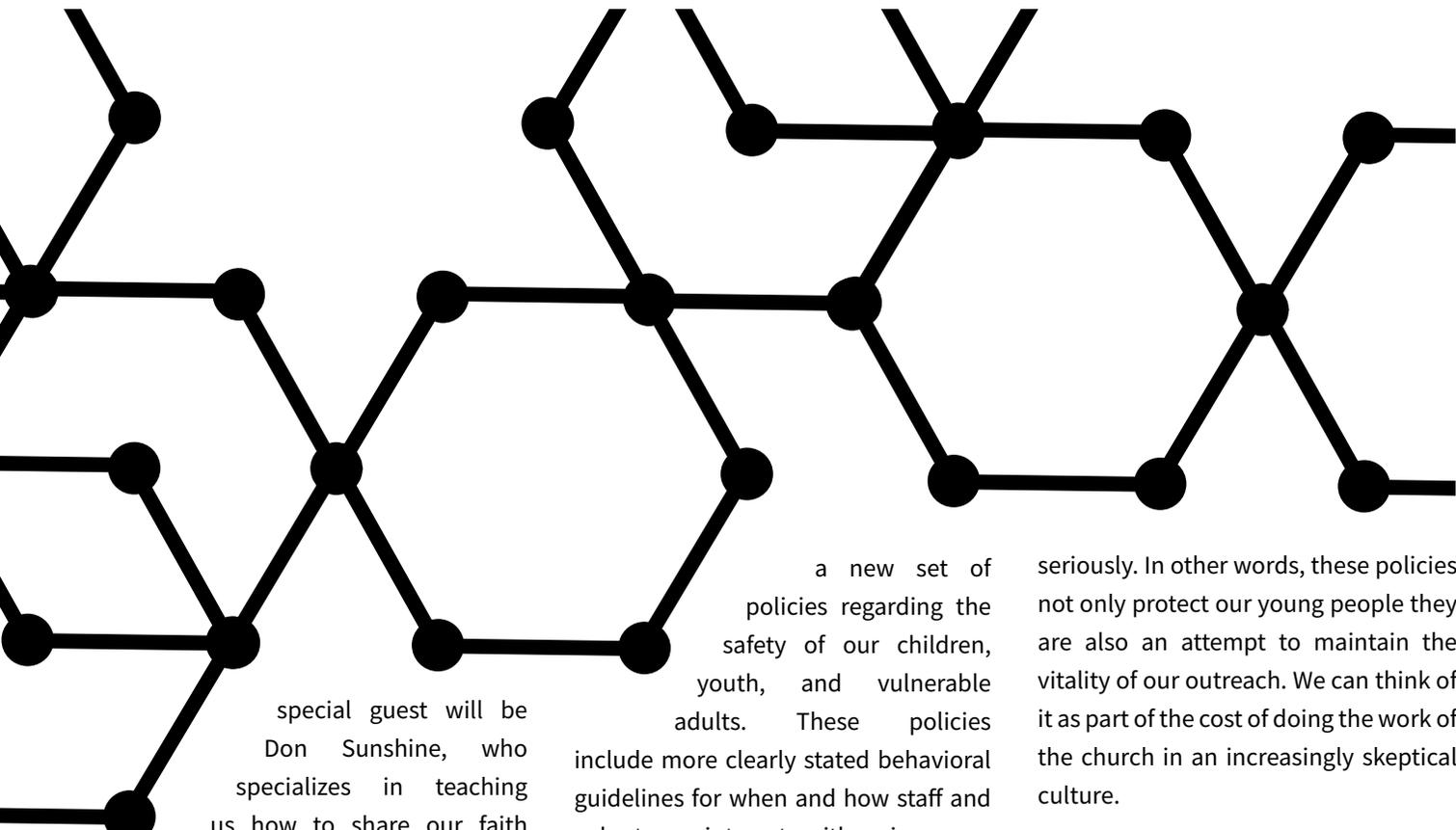
here are three quick updates about things going on in the life of our church.

First, on Saturday, September 7, we will

host a Community Block Party, from 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. This event, which will be held on the upper field, will consist of live music, games, and an outdoor movie. The cost is \$5 per person, with a family max of \$15. (All proceeds go to support our local Baptist mission houses as well as Sodzo International, one of our international mission partnerships.) In addition, there will be food available for purchase from local food truck vendors. The goal is to create

a fun and relaxing environment where we can spend a little time getting to know our neighbors better – both those who are in our church and those who are not. It is a great way to make new connections and deepen old ones, so please come join us. And bring a friend!

Second, on Saturday morning, October 5, we will host a lifestyle evangelism training event called the Make a Difference Conference. Our



special guest will be Don Sunshine, who specializes in teaching us how to share our faith with others in a way that is comfortable and natural. Most of us would agree in theory that Christians should be willing to share their faith with others, but the practical reality is that most of us never get around to actually doing it. In fact, most of us are uncomfortable talking about spiritual matters with anyone outside of church. The result is that our conversations remain superficial. But it doesn't have to be this way. This event will show us how to talk about our faith with others without being pushy or awkward. The conference, which is free of charge, will begin at 8:30 a.m., and will conclude shortly after noon. For more information, visit the church website.

Finally, many of you are probably aware we are beginning to implement

a new set of policies regarding the safety of our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. These policies include more clearly stated behavioral guidelines for when and how staff and volunteers interact with minors, as well as a new screening process for staff and volunteers. Understandably, many people may wonder why these policies are necessary. Why be so intrusive? After all, this is church, and we are family. Why not just trust each other? But the question is not whether we trust each other. The question is whether the people we are trying to reach trust us. Remember what we said earlier. We live in a world of strangers. The people outside our walls don't know us. Even more to the point, they have been given plenty of reasons not to trust us. Like it or not, the church as an institution no longer occupies a place of moral privilege in the eyes of the wider culture. So, if we expect the world around us to give us a chance of ministering to their children and youth, we've got to go the extra mile to show them we take their well-being

seriously. In other words, these policies not only protect our young people they are also an attempt to maintain the vitality of our outreach. We can think of it as part of the cost of doing the work of the church in an increasingly skeptical culture.

The good news is we don't have to remain strangers to each other. In spite of the forces at work in our culture that tend to push us apart, the grace of Jesus pulls together. What draws us to each other is not our natural personalities or our innate sameness; what pulls us together is the cross, on which Christ has crucified the dividing walls and made us one by his grace. May everything we do be an intentional expression of this incredible gift!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Birthday Celebration

Join us Tuesday, September 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the Roanoke Hall to celebrate birthdays as we begin a new year of senior adult ministry. Our program (cost: \$10) will feature the Virginians with a menu including turkey, dressing & gravy, sweet potato casserole, green beans, roasted carrots, cranberry salad, rolls, drinks, and birthday cake with ice cream for dessert. Call Lisa in the church office (977-5701) to register by September 11, and let her know the month of your birthday.

AARP Driver Safety Training

The senior adult committee and the Bonsack/Blue Ridge Ruritan Club will host an AARP driver safety course on Saturday, September 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Bonsack hall. The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. To keep the cost at a minimum, each participant is asked to bring a bag lunch. Drinks will be provided. To register, call the church office @977-5701 by September 16. Registration is limited to 30 participants.

Helping Hands for the Rescue Mission

The rescue mission needs your skills to assist in a mass mailing for the holiday season on Wednesday, October 16. Sign up with Lisa in the office. Due to limited parking at the mission, the bus will leave the CLC parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

Fall Foliage Trip to Poplar Forest

Join us for a fall foliage trip to Lynchburg on Thursday, October 24. We will leave the CLC parking lot at 10:30 a.m. for a tour of the summer home of Thomas Jefferson, with lunch to follow at Olde Liberty Station. Cost for the tour is \$16 plus lunch. Reservations are needed,

please contact Lisa in the church office to reserve your place by October 16..

Contact: **Elmo McLaurin**
Minister of Senior Adults
emclaurin@bonsackbaptist.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Power Hour

Power Hour, our weekly worship and bible study for students has returned to its fall schedule on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Our theme for 2019/2020 is *Connected*, and we're exploring how we can connect to God and one another.

Upcoming Events:

See You at the Pole: September 25

High School Beach Retreat:

October 4-6

Middle School Ignite Weekend at

Eagle Eyrie:

October 11-13

Contact: **Rob Covington**
Minister of Youth
rcovington@bonsackbaptist.org

COMMUNITY LIFE

Fall Festival

Save the Date to celebrate fall with us, and invite your neighbors to our Fall Festival on Saturday, October 26. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends to engage with church for the first time.

Children's Basketball

Registration for our children's basketball league begins in October! More information is available online at bonsackclc.org.

Contact: **Ryan Saunders**
Director of Community Life
rsaunders@bonsackbaptist.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Organ Dedication

On August 11, we used our Walker Technical Organ for the first time in our Sanctuary worship services. This 167-rank, digitally reproduced Aeolian-Skinner organ is a one-of-a-kind instrument that is to be celebrated! We will dedicate this worship instrument to the glory of God with a series of events on September 29 featuring guest artist Samuel Metzger. You will not want to miss these exceptional events that will be not just a celebration for our church, but also a musical gift to the Roanoke Valley.

September 29 Dedication Events

3 p.m. — Hymn Festival

This dedicatory festival of hymns, led by Samuel Metzger, will focus upon congregational song, and will feature musicians from the choirs of Bonsack Baptist, Thrasher Memorial United Methodist, and Greene Memorial United Methodist. The festival will be followed by a light reception in the Community Life Center atrium that will precede the recital.

5:30 p.m. — Recital

Samuel Metzger will perform a solo recital that will feature a wide array of organ repertoire, showcasing the expansive breadth of the organ.

About Samuel Metzger

Born in Rochester, NY, Samuel Metzger grew up in northern Arizona, where his parents were missionaries to the Navajo Indians. Metzger's undergraduate studies were at Arizona State University with Robert Clark. There he studied on a Regents Scholarship and at graduation was named "Most Outstanding Undergraduate in Performance."

MUSIC MINISTRY CONTINUED

In 1995, Samuel was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and studied with Jon Laukvik at the Hochschule für Music und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart, Germany. He was awarded a second Fulbright Scholarship and in 1997 graduated with a degree of Kübsterliches Augbaustudium (KA). Mr Metzger then went on to study with Marie-Clarie Alain in St. Germain-en-Laye, France.

In 2003, Mr. Metzger became Senior

Organist at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Flort Lauderdale, FL, serving with the late Dr. D. James Kennedy, Senior Pastor. Services were broadcast on the *Coral Ridge Hour*, a TV program that was broadcast throughout the USA and internationally to 202 countries. In 2009, Samuel joined the staff of New Presbyterian Church, Pompano Beach, FL, and in 2014, Samuel took the position of Organist & Music Associate of Second Presbyterian Church, in Memphis, TN.

Mr. Metzger is heard regularly around the country in concert. He has recorded six CDs, and his hymn arrangements are published by Morning Star Music, and commonly used at Bonsack.

Grant Frederick

Minister of Music

gfrederick@bonsackbaptist.org

COMMUNITY & STEWARDSHIP

SYMPATHY TO:

Regina Gross, sister – Mildred Adkins

Paul Walters, wife – Margaret Walters

Alvin Guthrie, brother – Joseph Guthrie

Sara Prillaman, brother – Ernie Clement

Larry Perdue & Laura Jurca, wife & mother, Phyllis Perdue

Charlotte Boyd, husband - Bob Boyd

Linda Miles, husband – Harold Miles

HOMEBOUND & NURSING HOME FRIENDS:

Betty Harman Gerald Robertson

Ruth Hill Jim Staley

Wilma Lay Joyce Wilson

Annie Laura Lee Jean Witt

STEWARDSHIP

JUNE 2019

Budget Receipts: 230,900

“Living Stones”: \$33,554

JULY 2019

Budget Receipts: \$201,192

“Living Stones”: \$29,077

YTD Budget Receipts: \$1,423,802

Detailed Stewardship available weekly in bulletin, or online at media>bulletin.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERS (JUNE/JULY):

Rob Covington- *General Officers*

Lucinda McDaniel – *Servant’s Heart*

Jacob Cockfield – *Little Lambs*

Ella Holland- *Little Lambs*

Leo & Angela Burnette – *Sojourners*

Allyson Scruggs – *Roots 2:7*

Tim & DeLane Coggins – *Believers*

Lauren Beckner -*Parents of School-Age Children (Agee)*

Ray Sherwood - *Parents of School-Age Children (Agee)*

Dan Janosko – *Seekers*

Lonnie Staton- *God’s Love*

Samuel Grooten- *7th Grade*

Rebecca Isaacs- *Noah’s Doves*

Kendall Isaacs- *Kindergarten*

JUNE/JULY WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE (AVERAGED)

| Worship | Ex. Session | Total |
|-----------|-------------|-------|
| June: 825 | 68 | 893 |
| July: 858 | 65 | 923 |

NEW MEMBERS:

Sixty seven new members have joined since the beginning of this church year (10/01/18). These nineteen since the last newsletter:

Christopher Palmero

Yana Conrad

David & Patricia Morris

Bradley Peters

Natalie Peters

Tom & Terri Lewis

Donna Paradiso

Zach Howard

Morgan Williams

Mia Pippin

Hayden Quesenberry

Addison Janney

Don & Connie Richardson

Abigail Williams

Ray Sherwood

Lauren Beckner

JUNE/JULY SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (AVERAGED): 667

June: 666

July: 668



Bonsack Baptist Church
4845 Cloverdale Road
Roanoke, VA 24019

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MINISTERIAL STAFF:

Dr. Chris Cadenhead, *Pastor*
Rev. Rob Covington, *Minister of Youth*
Rev. Grant Frederick, *Minister of Music*
Carolyn Krisha, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Rev. Elmo McLaurin, *Minister of Senior Adults*
Dr. Robert Moore, III, *Pastor Emeritus*
Rev. John Recktenwald, *Minister of Education*
Rev. Ryan Saunders, *Minister of Community Life*

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

SUMMER IN THE STUDENT MINISTRY

A photograph showing a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a blue shirt. The Bible is open to a page with text and page numbers (115, 116, 117).

FALL DISCIPLESHIP

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN COMMUNITY

A graphic featuring a network of white dots connected by thin white lines, forming a complex, interconnected pattern. The background is a solid orange color.

STAYING CONNECTED

IN A WORLD FULL OF STRANGERS