



## BETTER COMMUNITY

There is a now old Paul Newman film, *Cool Hand Luke*, that has always spoken to me, communicated with me if you will, about the human penchant to have communication issues. You likely know the scene and can likely quote the line that kind of zeroes in on that fact. It is where the warden wants to make a point with all of the inmates and uses Paul Newman's character to do that. The famous line is, "What we've got here is failure to communicate."

**"What we've got here is failure to communicate."**

In case we think that communication issues are a modern or rare phenomenon, I want to remind us of a passage from the Letter to the Hebrews, another place that has always spoken to me about us. Chapter 1 begins, **"Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds."** What I read here is that God has been from the beginning trying to communicate the message of love, the message of grace, the message of salvation and we haven't quite got it yet despite an in person communication from the Son of God! So I am not surprised that we struggle to communicate with each other – I don't think God is surprised either. God knows us intimately.

I am also enough of an optimist to think that we can do better and enough of a realist to think that bad communication habits are hard to break – we have to be intentional if we want to improve. I also believe that better community happens through better communications so it is worth the effort.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 4<sup>TH</sup>: SUE WALLACE  
2553 Retreat Road  
Boones Mill, VA 24065  
(540) 334-3947
- 5<sup>TH</sup>: SHERRIE AMOS  
120 Coys Lane  
Boones Mill, VA 24065  
(540) 334-1009
- 11<sup>TH</sup>: DONNA COLLINS  
824 Foggy Ridge Road  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151
- 12<sup>TH</sup>: SALLY SCOTT  
4074 Overlook Trail Drive  
Roanoke, VA 24018  
(540) 772-1649
- 12<sup>TH</sup>: DONNIE AMOS  
575 Gap Gate Road  
Callaway, VA 24067  
(540) 484-1681
- 24<sup>TH</sup>: VICKI AMOS  
3427 Moran Street SW  
Roanoke, VA 24014  
(540) 427-5622

So here is what I am willing to do and what I need from you:

Willing to do:

1. I will, on every Sunday that we meet at our building and I am there, have all the announcements that I am aware of and that seem germane to our community life, scrolling on the overhead and the narthex television.
2. I will, with some help from a couple of editors, put this newsletter together monthly and include a calendar as part of the communication. We will attempt to have it disseminated by a week before the month involved.
3. I will faithfully check my email and my phone for communications from you that need to be added to calendar and announcements.

Need from you:

1. Input into what belongs in a newsletter and what would be helpful to you or the community to have included.
2. Email or cell phone notification of events for calendar in a timely fashion (if we intend to publish the newsletter/calendar a week before the beginning of the month then we need all items by three days prior to that – items for Sunday announcement by Wednesday if possible).
3. Read and critique the newsletter – it is in my mind a dynamic tool that will change as we need it to change and it will be published as long as it is useful in making us more of a community and helps us to live out our mission in this world.
4. Volunteer to write an occasional reflective piece to encourage us in our walk with God and with each other.

OK, I am already saying to myself, “We’ve done all of this before and it just didn’t help all that much – it became more fodder for the recycle bin and busy work that nobody needs.” Maybe you are saying the same thing – God knows that if you are not you are from another planet! So here’s my offer: come up with a better idea that will help us be a better community through better communication – PLEASE! I will get behind you and support you all the way! I am serious about this. My desire is to really have a community that works together on every level from taking the trash out to spiritually counseling each other to visiting each other to praying and providing for each other all the time. Together I believe we can figure out and implement new spirit-filled ways to do that. With God, nothing is off the table. May God bless us in that endeavor. I hope to hear from each one of you.

God Bless,

Joe

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# BMCC September 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 FRANKLIN COUNTY DISCIPLES MENS DINNER – 7:00 PM AT BMCC	2	3
4 16 <sup>TH</sup> PENTECOST STUDY @ 9:15 AM WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM	5	6	7 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	8	9	10 APPLEBEES PANCAKE BREAKFAST: 8:00 AM TO 10:00 AM
11 17 <sup>TH</sup> PENTECOST BMCC WORSHIP AND PICNIC 11:00 AM MONTE VISTA ACRES	12	13	14 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	15	16	17 BOONES MILL APPLE FESTIVAL: 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM STEPPING STONES: 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM
18 18 <sup>TH</sup> PENTECOST STUDY @ 9:15 AM WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM	19	20	21 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	22	23	24 FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST 9:00 AM AT THE ROANOKER
25 19 <sup>TH</sup> PENTECOST STUDY @ 9:15 AM WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM	26	27	28 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	29	30	