



Bush Hill Presbyterian Church

**A Guide to Worship, Activities,
Ministries, and Opportunities**

Revised July 2009

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Letter from the Pastor



I'm excited you are taking the time to learn about this wonderful faith community we call Bush Hill Presbyterian Church. The activities and ministries described in this booklet are meant to help you grow spiritually. Whenever we work or play together, we are trying to put into practice what we believe God is calling us to become.

Our congregation is seeking to grow in our relationship with Christ and with one another. It takes lots of practice to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We hope the ministries described here and those that will emerge in the future will help you in your faith journey. This congregation is a permission-giving group of people that is open to new ideas and new participation. This is a place to become involved and to find purpose and meaning. It is easy to make a difference here by your participation and together we are enriching the lives of others.

All the members of Bush Hill are ministers, and we hope your gifts for ministry will be put to use for God's glory. The Body of Christ is stronger because you are in our midst. It is truly a privilege to serve as the pastor of such a dynamic church. Please contact me if I can ever assist you, your family, or your neighbors.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl". The script is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Carl A. Rush
Pastor

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WORSHIP

“Then you, together... shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.”

- Deuteronomy 26:11

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:30 and 11:00 AM
(Christian Education is offered at 9:30 AM)
- There is one service (10:00 AM) during the summer.
(Check our calendar for summer Christian Education activities.)



Nursery Care

Nursery care is provided for infants through children under age three during Church School classes, Worship services, and for most other church activities. Nursery workers consist of paid workers and church volunteers.

Enrichment

Enrichment activities are designed to complement the lessons in church school and are provided during the second Sunday morning worship service (also during the summer) for children who are three years old by September 30 through Kindergarten age. Children accompany their parents to worship and leave for Enrichment class after the Children’s Message. The classes are led by rotating teams of volunteer teachers.

Service for Wholeness

A Service for Wholeness focusing on healing the mind, body, soul, and relationships is usually held every month on the day when Session meets (normally during the third week of the month) at 7:00 PM. Check our online calendar on this website for the exact dates each month.

Acolyte Program

The Acolyte Program is open to anyone in 4th–6th grade. The acolytes receive formal training before assisting in the worship services. They also participate in service projects for the community and the church.

Special Services



World Communion Sunday

Communion held throughout the world—
Celebrated in October

Music Sunday

Service of Music Dedication;
with special music provided by all the choirs of the church

Christmas Eve

Two Services: a family-friendly service and a candlelight communion service.

Youth Sunday

Services led by the Youth

Women's Sunday

Service led by Presbyterian Women

Ash Wednesday

Service of Communion and Ashes

Palm Sunday

Special music presented by the Sanctuary Choir

Maundy Thursday

Service of Darkness with Communion

Easter Sunday

Special Music including a Brass Ensemble

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Class joins the Church

Men's Sunday (Summer Schedule)

Service led by the Men of Bush Hill Presbyterian Church

MUSIC

Bush Hill Church has a long-standing tradition of musical excellence in worship. The choral ensembles, handbell choirs, instrumentalists, and soloists lead worshipers through expressive service music, inspired anthems, and vibrant hymn singing. A variety of musical styles from traditional to contemporary are woven into the worship experience. The music program offers opportunities for all ages to serve God through fellowship and spiritual expression.



SANCTUARY CHOIR **Melvin Goodwyn,** **Director**

*Rehearsals: Wednesdays,
7:30–9:00 PM*

The Sanctuary Choir leads the 11:00 AM service weekly and the 8:30 AM service on special Sundays during the months of September through June. Small

groups and individuals also provide music at the 8:30 AM service and during the summer. The choir presents a Lessons and Carols service during Advent and usually performs a major work during Lent. This choir is open to anyone high school age or older.

CALVIN CHOIR **Melvin Goodwyn, Director**

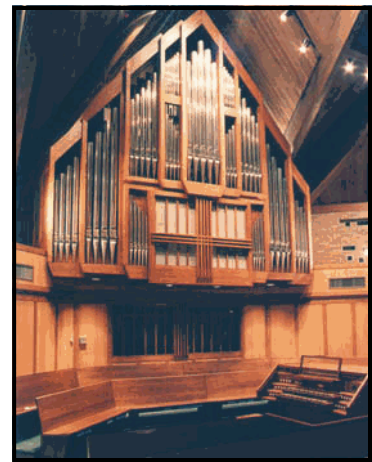
Rehearsals: Sundays, 8:00–8:25 AM

Occasionally, from September through June, the Calvin Choir will prepare a simple anthem and then lead the congregation during the 8:30 worship service. Please refer to our online calendar on this website and/or the bulletin calendar for rehearsal dates.

MEN'S ENSEMBLE **Melvin Goodwyn, Director**

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, TBA

This choir is open to any male in the congregation who enjoys singing. The Men's Ensemble prepares an anthem for Men's Sunday. They may sing periodically at either the 8:30 or 11:00 AM service.



HANDBELL CHOIRS

Nick Hanson, Director

With joyous dedication, the adult and youth handbell choirs participate regularly in worship and special services.

Festival Ringers

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:15–7:15 PM

Membership is open to anyone high school age or older.

Carillon Ringers

Rehearsals: Sundays, 5:00–6:00 PM

Membership is open to children and youth in grades 3–12.

TEEN CHOIR

Jennifer Willard, Director

Rehearsals: Sundays, 10:30–10:55 AM

The Teen Choir (grades 7–12) rehearses periodically for special worship services. They may perform a musical alone or with the Youth Choir (below).

YOUTH CHOIR

Kelly Andrews, Director

Rehearsals: Sunday 10:30–10:55 AM

The Youth Choir (grades 3–6) sings for worship monthly and may perform a contemporary musical in the spring.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Nancy Scott

Rehearsals: Sunday 10:30–10:55 AM

The Children's Choir (ages 3 to grade 2) sings during worship once a month.

IMPROMPTU SYMPHONY

Kelly Andrews, Director

Rehearsals: TBA

On special occasions, several instrumentalists gather to rehearse and play for worship. Rehearsals are announced in advance. People of all ages and abilities are welcome.

STUDY

“Teach me your way, O Lord. And I will walk in Your truth..”

- Psalm 86:11

Christian Education is the primary means by which we as a congregation implement the covenant we make when anyone is baptized. We seek to help all in our church family—children, youth, and adults—develop a basic knowledge and experience of the Christian faith and Biblical heritage, and to understand that we are children of God and disciples of Christ.

For Adults—

Adult Education

There are several different classes offered at Bush Hill Church throughout the year. Some classes are formatted like a typical Bible study, others are based on topics or books. Most classes run 6–8 weeks. There are also small groups that meet outside of the church based on the needs of the participants.

Discipleship Connections Class

For those new to Bush Hill Presbyterian Church, this class is offered for them to get to know one another and the pastor, and to help them make informed, personal decisions about their Christian faith and church membership. The class will also be helpful to people who are simply interested in learning more about the Christian faith or the Presbyterian Church. The course is led by our pastor, who may be assisted by various church members. There will be an opportunity to join the membership of Bush Hill Church at a later time.

For Youth—



Christian Education

On Sunday mornings from 9:30–10:30, the middle and high-school-age youth meet separately for fellowship, teaching, discussion, exploring God’s Word, and to discover practical ways to live as Christ’s disciples in today’s world. Classes vary according to topic and grade level.

Senior High Bible Study

Held in the evening once a week, this group meets to learn and grow together as they study God’s Word. Anyone in Senior High is welcome to attend. New members are welcome at any time.

Confirmation Program

Led by church members, the Confirmation Class, for grades 8–12, meets each Sunday morning during the Christian Education hour from 9:30–10:30. It runs from September through May, with Confirmation Sunday taking place in the spring. There is also a separate class for parents of those attending the Confirmation Class. The group attends weekly meetings, participates in a retreat, is involved in mission at church and off-site, meets with mentors, and shares their experience with their families and the congregation.

For Children—

Christian Education

Children at Bush Hill Church learn the basic Bible stories, the ones that tell us who we are and whose we are. They begin to learn how to use the Bible for themselves, and how to connect the Bible stories to their own lives. Classes are usually broken down into the following age groups: Age 3–K, 1st–3rd Grade, and 4th–6th Grade.

Wednesday Club

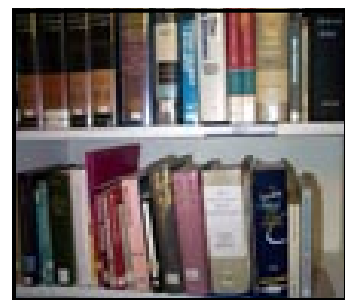
We believe that nothing is more important than building a relationship with Jesus Christ and that we should all seek to be His disciples. Wednesday Club focuses this belief on the nurture of children—helping them to develop into life-long believers and practicing disciples of Jesus Christ. Wednesday Club meets on Wednesday evenings from 5:30–7:30 from September through March and is open to elementary children, grades K–6.

Enrichment – See page 5.

For Everyone—

Church Library

The Henderson Memorial Library seeks to provide an inspirational ministry to all in our congregation. The library has a well-balanced collection of books, tapes, videos, picture files, and magazines. (Note: There will be limited access to library materials during construction of the new Christian Education building.)



Drama

Bush Hill has a long tradition of innovative church drama. Drama continues to be a valued part of the life of the church, bringing generations together and continuing to reach out to our community.

FELLOWSHIP

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Romans 15:5-6

Sports—

Softball Team

A slow-pitch softball team, consisting of players ages fifteen and up, participates in the Fairfax County Church League. Bush Hill teams have won many division titles and one county-wide title. There is a nominal fee for registration.



Volleyball Team

Through the years, Bush Hill Presbyterian Church has had a number of men's and co-ed teams participate in Fairfax County Adult Volleyball leagues, winning several championships. New teams are normally formed during the summer to begin play in the fall. Participants of all levels of ability are welcome.

Men's and Women's Ministries—

Men's Prayer Group

The Men's Prayer Group is an ecumenical group involving men in our community. The group meets at the church at 8:00 AM on the second Saturday of each month and 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month for fellowship, prayer, and study. On Saturdays, a hearty breakfast is served; on Thursdays, the men enjoy a light snack. Meetings usually begin in early September and end just prior to Memorial Day; occasionally there are meetings during the summer. Also, during the summer, the men have the opportunity to attend a Men's Conference at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA. The men are involved in mission work such as Habitat for Humanity/Rebuilding Together. All men are warmly invited to attend.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women (PW) at Bush Hill Presbyterian Church is part of the church-wide organization of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Membership is open to all women. Circles meet the first full week of each month (October through June). Every woman is encouraged to join a circle and may do so by simply attending a meeting.

(See page 12 for more PW)



Four Circles provide opportunity for women to meet regularly in a smaller group. In the circles, participants:

- nurture their faith through prayer and Bible study.
- learn about the mission of the PC(USA) and support it through special offerings.
- discover and utilize the gifts and talents of members.
- participate in ministries to the congregation (e.g., food for ill and bereaved members, receptions for officers and new members) and to our community (e.g., Thanksgiving/Christmas food baskets and gifts to a local ecumenical organization, Koinonia, for their clients).
- provide friendship and loving support to one another.

RUTH	Tuesday	1:00 PM	Church
JOANNA	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Church
FAITH	Thursday	12:30 PM	Church—child care provided
LYDIA	Thursday	7:30 PM	Members’ homes, rotates

Young Adult Ministries—

Young Adult Fellowship includes people older than college age, in their 20s, 30s, and early 40s.

Young Adult Fellowship—First Fridays

Young adults meet on the first Friday of the month (with some exceptions) at a local restaurant for “First Fridays.” Join the group for food, drink, fellowship, and a good time. Check the online calendar for dates, times, and locations.



Young Adult Bible Study

The Young Adult Fellowship meets for Bible Study to study God’s Word and how it relates to their lives today. New members are always welcome. Bible Study is held once a week, usually at the home of Jen Reiff, Director of Family and Adult Ministries.

Youth/College Age Ministries—

Middle School Fellowship

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to attend *Core: Middle School Fellowship*, Wednesdays (after school), 2:45–4:00 PM. Core includes plenty of fun games and activities, serious discussion of issues important to middle school students, and crazy, special events as the participants learn what it really means to be in relationship with God. Often times the group goes offsite to participate in service projects; or for pure fellowship, attend baseball games, or play laser tag.

Senior High Fellowship

Senior High Fellowship seeks to promote spiritual growth, Christian service, and Christian fellowship through social activities. Senior High Advisors are known for planning fun and exciting activities like the popular *Destination Unknown* and also for leading meaningful discussions about God and our faith. The group has taken several trips to such places as New York City for mission work, North Carolina for the Montreat Conference, and Pennsylvania for the annual Ski Trip. Meetings are usually held Sundays, from 6:30–8:00 PM.

College Age Fellowship

The College Age Fellowship provides a ministry for those who are away at college. The group meets during college breaks, and every Sunday in the summer, for a planned activity. A winter service trip takes place during the Christmas break. With the help of our deacons, care packages are sent to the college age youth twice a year.



Other Opportunities—

Hilltoppers

A fellowship group primarily for retired members, the Hilltoppers normally meet for lunch on the second Thursday of each month and also schedule special activities at other times. This group does not generally meet during the summer.

Congregational Retreat

A two-day congregational retreat is held annually at a retreat center within a short driving distance. This is a unique opportunity for the church family to grow spiritually and to build intergenerational fellowship. Activities include lectures, small group activities, worship, fellowship, planned recreation, free time, and special programming for youth and children.

SERVICE

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

- 1 Peter 4:16

Deacons—

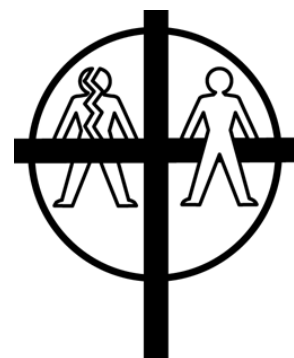
The Bush Hill Board of Deacons provides discreet, loving, and spirit-filled pastoral care to members of the Bush Hill church family. Deacons meet monthly to pray for, discuss, and plan for the needs of the congregation members. Deacons, elected by the congregation, serve three-year terms.

Deacon services include:

- Maintaining contact with church members to determine needs and concerns
- Praying for all members of the church family and others in the community
- Providing food, transportation, and child care to church members in need
- Providing financial assistance upon request to members or others in need
- Visiting members who are sick, grieving, or have other needs
- Helping arrange the service and church reception upon a member’s death
- Maintaining a closet of medical supplies for use by church members
- Sending “care notes” to church members who have experienced a family death or illness
- Maintaining racks of free literature at locations throughout the church on issues such as grieving, coping with illness, and peer pressure
- Sending mementos to church members who have moved out of the area
- Serving as front-door greeters at Sunday services

Stephen Ministers—

Bush Hill Presbyterian Church’s Stephen Ministers are especially trained to provide confidential one-to-one pastoral care to those in our church and community who are working through a difficult life situation by walking beside them as they journey toward wholeness. Stephen Ministers commit to a minimum of two years service which includes 50 hours of training; after being commissioned, they attend twice-monthly meetings for supervision, support, and continuing education. When assigned a care receiver, Stephen Ministers typically meet with the person one hour per week.





Session Committees—

As the church's local governing body, the Session is composed of the pastor and elders elected by the congregation. Session Committees oversee the life and ministry of the church and include both elders and other church members.

Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee is responsible for keeping the physical facilities of the church clean and in good repair. The committee supervises the following: two part-time custodians who handle the cleaning of the church buildings; lawn care and snow removal; maintenance, repair, and replacement of equipment, buildings, and other property; security; and use of facilities by outside groups.

Christian Education and Nurture

The Christian Education and Nurture (CE&N) Committee is in charge of staffing, supporting, and operating the entire Christian Education Program for all ages, including: Christian Education for children, youth, and adults; Enrichment; Nursery; Youth Ministry; Confirmation Program; Church Library; and Day School Liaison.

Community and Local Mission

The Community and Local Mission (CALM) Committee plans and oversees all efforts of the church to minister to human need within our area and some beyond this area. This committee encourages congregational interest and involvement in many local mission activities as well as support for the worldwide issues of hunger, peacemaking, and social justice.

Congregational Life: Friendship, Fellowship, and Outreach

The Congregational Life Committee plans and organizes various fellowship activities for the congregation and the community. It is also responsible for community outreach and evangelism. The committee is in charge of welcoming visitors and making sure they are included in the church family.

Finance

The Finance Committee supervises the financial situation of the church, oversees office equipment and the computer network, and manages the memorial funds. The committee also supervises the activities of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretaries, Counters, and Auditors.

Stewardship and Global Mission

The Stewardship and Global Mission (SGM) Team interprets the various missions and ministries of The Presbyterian Church (USA) and Bush Hill Church for the congregation and local community, and the committee serves as the focal point for the stewardship concerns of the congregation.

Worship

The Worship Committee is responsible for scheduling all worship services and for their general format of the service. It also oversees the entire Music Ministry, including the Director of Music, volunteers, and all ensembles.

Mission—

Presbyterian Todee Mission in Goba Town, Liberia, is a global mission that is supported by our church. The Todee Mission school, after being destroyed during the Liberian Civil War, has been reopened by Bush Hill Church members, Ophelia & Carney Johnson. Donations, medical supplies, furniture, and school supplies have been forwarded to this mission site. More information can be found on www.bushhill.org.

Alternative Giving Fair annually provides members and the local community with an opportunity to purchase fair-market items, made by artisans around the world, and to make honorary donations to mission organizations.

Bread for the World supports national policies that meet the immediate needs of hungry people worldwide. Bush Hill Church usually participates in an *Offering of Letters*, where church members are encouraged to write to elected officials in support of bills and resolutions designed to alleviate world hunger.

Doorways for Women and Families, located in Arlington, VA, provides temporary shelter for homeless families and for women escaping domestic violence. Donations of cereal, diapers, and cash or gift cards are appreciated.

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry provides chaplains for jails and prisons around the country. Bush Hill Church provides financial support. The Alexandria location is also receiving recycled devotional booklets, *The Upper Room*.

Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide non-profit ecumenical group of volunteers whose goal is to build or renovate housing, so that all persons can be adequately sheltered. A *hand-up*, rather than a *hand-out*, requires every family or individual helped to spend a number of hours working on their new home.

Homeless Kits, consisting of new blankets, gloves, a hat, socks, underwear, and toilet articles in a small duffel bag are purchased, assembled, and donated to area shelters during the winter months.

Koinonia Foundation is an ecumenical organization, assisting people in need in our community by providing food, clothing, household items, and help with managing personal finances. Opportunities for service include: sorting clothing, providing transportation to medical appointments, making deliveries, distributing government-provided commodities, and participating in the annual food-sorting project in November.



Opportunities to share resources include: providing holiday food baskets or toys/gifts; making a monetary or food donation on Koinonia Sharing Sunday; and donating food, used clothing, and household items.

Miriam's Kitchen, located in Foggy Bottom, provides a hot breakfast for the homeless in Washington DC. Bush Hill Church volunteers prepare, serve, and clean up after the meal on two mornings a month. Workers car pool from the church at 5:30 AM and work from 6:00–8:30 AM.

Mount Vernon-Lee Child Development Center serves mostly low and moderate-income families in the local area. BHPC was one of the founding community churches and continues to have members who serve on the Board of Directors. Located in Cameron Elementary School, the center cares for approximately 60 children, funded mainly by county-administered subsidies based on family income. Supplemental funding comes from donations from local churches, individuals, and community organizations.

RPJ Housing provides repairs to homes of low-income families, primarily the elderly. Planning starts in September, culminating in a one-day Saturday work project, **Rebuilding Together**, at different homes throughout the county.

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure was founded in 1980 when Susan Komen lost her 3-year battle against breast cancer. Bush Hill Church "Friends of Linda" team participates in the *DC Race for the Cure* in June, in memory of church member, Linda Waitschies, who died from breast cancer in 2007.

United Community Ministries (UCM) provides counseling to assist people in the Rte. 1 corridor in becoming self-sufficient. UCM operates the Bryant Early Learning Center, runs summer recreational programs for youth, provides food and clothing vouchers, and provides help for working parents.

Bush Hill Day School—

The Bush Hill Day School is a supplement to the home and a place where the young child can feel cared for, protected, and secure. A stimulating environment for learning is created, an environment in which the child has an opportunity to develop a sense of achievement and self-worth. Sharing with others and caring for them is emphasized and encouraged. The relationship between child and teacher is one of loving acceptance. Respect for others is carefully nurtured. Classes are offered for 2, 3, and 4-year-old children. Three and four-year-olds who have reached the appropriate birthday by September 30 of the current year are eligible to enroll. The cut-off birthday for 2-year-olds is June 30. Two-year-old children may attend two mornings, 2 1/2-year-olds may attend two or three mornings, 3-year-old children may attend two or three mornings, and 4-year-olds may attend three or five mornings per week. Before and after school care is not provided.



GENERAL INFORMATION

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