

February 22 Baptisms

9:00 A.M. SERVICE

Baptism Candidates

Nick Estep
Brenda Harkness
Kim Dilday
Martin Givens
Patrick Large
Chris Bennett
Alexa Jones
Brooke Hummel
Mara Kish
Lauren Mills
Karly Bardy
Sam O'Brien
Joanne Calapodas
Samantha Smith
Lois Enlow

Confirmation of Baptism

Ben Knecht
Ellen Knecht
Mara Hallett

11:00 A.M. SERVICE

Baptism Candidates

Kathy Holcomb
Steve Flanary
Patti Flanary
Allison Mock
Kristy Whitehead
Mike Allen
Stephen Kish
Peg Padgett
Rick Phillips
Scott Owens
Caroline Rowell
Rachel Matherlee
Ben Willis
Matt Partlow
Rachel Partlow
Will Quiram
Marlene Poto

Confirmation of Baptism

Margaret Keithly
Sue Frye
Dan Syrett

Their Stories



DAN SYRETT I became a follower of Jesus between my senior year of high school and my freshman year of college. Growing up, my family didn't talk about religion and kept each other at arm's length. I had always considered myself an "intellectual" and prided myself on my knowledge and my reasoning abilities. So I looked down at Christians and thought religion was a crutch they leaned on to get through life. At the same time, I tried to please everyone. I desperately needed approval and validation, and I did that by adapting myself to who I thought other people wanted me to be.

I started down my path of questioning my senior year in high school when I got in an argument with one of my Christian friends and my girlfriend. All of a sudden, I asked myself if I had actually looked into what they were talking about. I hadn't, so I decided to investigate God. Through my investigation, I learned about Jesus and what He did on the cross for me. With the help and support of my friends, I became a Christian that summer. Through Christ, I have all the validation and acceptance I need. I spent the majority of my time in college with Campus Crusade developing my faith and even considering going on staff. I moved to Virginia to be closer to my dad, and that's when I started going to the Chapel. I was baptized as a child; I have always wanted to confirm the baptism I had as a child since my faith is now my own. I haven't done so yet because, honestly, I was too timid. God convicted me recently that today was the day to do so.



BRENDA HARKNESS I attended church when I was a small child until my family moved to Hawaii when I was seven. I didn't attend church there, but we had a neighbor who held an after-school Bible Study program. During this time I accepted Christ into my heart as my savior. I was about 9 years old. I have always felt incomplete because I wasn't baptized. We were military and moved several more times. I attended church off and on over the years but never really felt connected enough to approach anyone about being baptized until I came to the Chapel.

From the very first visit, I felt like the message was being spoken directly to me and I was able to comprehend more of it than I ever had before. I have attended the Chapel regularly for the past year and a half. When Bill spoke a couple of Sundays ago about the upcoming 40 days and the opportunity to be baptized, I knew once again he was speaking to me and that it was time to take the next step in my journey. Thank you Lord for leading me to the Chapel!



KIM DILDAY I am blessed to have always known God's presence. There hasn't been a time when He hasn't been with me. I have felt His loving faithfulness every day of my life--even when I have been faithless. By all circumstances I should not have had the experience I have had. He is sovereign and I am humbled by His love because He loved me first--and not because of anything I have done but just because. My aunt and uncle took me to evangelistic meetings with them during the summer and I heard messages of God's love from infancy.

His love was confirmed in the birth of my daughter. He gave His only Son for me. Could I give my daughter to save thousands, even millions of people? I'm sorry, but no. How wonderful to know that my Father gave His Son, just for me.

I want to be baptized to proclaim publicly that I am a child of God and I am in Him and He is in me. The Chapel is more than a church to me; it is where my husband, my children, and most of my friends worship. When I married and moved here, I prayed for Christian friends and God boldly answered by

giving us this loving church and an abundance of friends. The Chapel may seem large to some, but to me it feels like home; I can't walk down any hall without running into someone that I call a friend.



KRISTY WHITEHEAD Thank you Father for a new day in a life filled with Your presence. I run to You as a child runs to her father when he comes home from work or being away, allowing You to hold me, pat my head, and kiss me on the cheek. Father, I thank You for blessing me with all the people in my life: my husband, children, family, and friends, and for those I haven't even met yet. I praise You for the community of this church and Your presence in those that come alongside of me to hold my arms up when I am tired and rejoice with me through all things. I have been so blessed to be surrounded with a family that continues to grow in their love for You.

Lord, You have been beside me my whole life, whispering to me along the way. At times the noise of the world may have been too loud for me to hear. When I draw close to You I am able to hear Your voice so clearly and tenderly saying, "I'm here, trust Me, I'll give you exactly what you need to get through today."

I have always tried to please others, ease their pain and make them happier. In reality, it was not me that could make them feel better; it was only You. Today I give my life to You, Lord. I ask you into my heart again, Father. Tomorrow I will turn 40 and I will begin my new life in the fullness of Christ, ready to serve my King. Thank You for loving me so much and may I forever be grateful for the road I travel with my Lord in the driver's seat.



ALLISON MOCK What a blessing it is to have been exposed to the Gospel since birth! I am the daughter of a worship leader, so my family was always one of the first to arrive on Sunday mornings and among the last to leave. I honestly cannot remember a day that I didn't know of the love and redemption found in Christ Jesus. I became a Christian at age five and have tried to serve the Lord faithfully since that day.

When I was in middle school, the church my family attended split and eventually destroyed itself over several issues. I was deeply hurt by all that happened, and while my trust in God didn't waver, I no longer looked forward to fellowship with His people. For the next several years, I went to church every week but my heart wasn't in it. I dreaded every Sunday, afraid that what happened before would happen again. But He is faithful. Throughout my senior year of high school and my first few years of college, an amazing thing happened: God slowly healed my wounded heart and changed my attitude toward the church. I now look forward to fellowship with believers, and I'm not afraid to be part of it anymore.

Today, nearly 20 years after making the decision that has since directed the course of my life, I am choosing to be baptized. In doing so, I publicly announce that I am a follower of Christ and want to honor and obey Him all the days of my life. I have died to my old self, and have been given new, abundant life in Him. Not only this, but I am also finally ready to be identified with His body, the Church. I am so thankful for the blessing that the Chapel has been to me since moving to Williamsburg several months ago, and I am excited to be baptized in what I consider my new church home.



MARLENE POTO I have been a "believer" all of my life. My mother taught me to take my sins to God in prayer, ask for His forgiveness, and believe in Jesus' death and resurrection for my redemption. As a young adult, I married only to learn my husband was "gay." I spent some time in denial and some time thinking I could change him, but eventually a five-year marriage ended in divorce. It was a devastating time in my life, but as I grew

as an adult I was always aware of an inner strength that I seemed to possess.

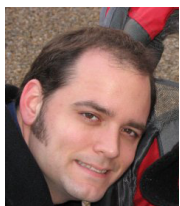
I remarried at age 30 to the love of my life. Our loving marriage, my husband's gentle ways, and my inner strength resulted in a close family bond and the birth of our precious son. Life was certainly not without difficulties, but we always seemed to win the fight and to grow closer and stronger in the end.

Twenty seven years later, in 2005, my world came to what seemed like a painful end when God took my sweet husband, Jon, from me. I went through the many stages of mourning and decided that I could only survive by finding "Marlene" again--the girl with so much inner strength who always made the right decisions, who survived a totally deceitful marriage because she was able to put problems in perspective, move forward, and not look back.

When I moved to Virginia, I rediscovered myself at the Chapel. More "sparks" started to fly when I joined a Small Group, where kindness, warmth, caring, and love embrace me weekly. As a result, I found Him. I have always been a Believer; now I am a Receiver. It was never about my strength, but about Him in me. He is my strength, my Redeemer, and my friend. I choose to obey God because I love Him. I am a sinner who is loved, forgiven, and redeemed because I accept Christ as my Lord and Savior.



ELLEN KNECHT My mother took my sisters and I to church for as long as I can remember. I was baptized as a baby and went to Sunday school growing up. When I was 15, I spent a week at a Christian summer camp. One evening we did a reenactment of the last hours of Jesus' life. Everyone took turns carrying a huge cross through a dirt street ending at the top of a hill where we were given the opportunity to accept Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. At that moment, I realized that Jesus wasn't just crucified on the cross, he was crucified for ME. I had always thought of the Bible as historical, but at that moment it became so current. I was called to a lifestyle and to action, not just a Sunday morning commitment. I want to confirm my baptism today because I have made the decision to give my life to Christ. It isn't my parents' decision, and I'm not doing it out of a sense of tradition. I am a new person: Christ is in me.



BEN KNECHT I grew up in a Christian family that went to church every week, and God seemed very real to my parents. By the time I was a teenager I had decided that I was going to live my life the way I wanted and then have a deathbed conversion. I wanted to have my cake and eat it, too. That was pretty much how I lived my life until about five years ago. I had been dating Ellen (now my wife) for about two years, and we were pretty serious about getting married. After a very close friend of hers died, our relationship started to fall apart. One beautiful March day, I was riding my bike on the Colonial Parkway and thinking how miserable I was. I cried out to God and asked Him to save and help me. I felt a sense of peace, and I knew that whatever happened to my relationship with Ellen, God would do what was best for us. I was baptized as a baby, but today I am doing so of my own volition. I want to confirm my baptism as a sign of my decision to dedicate my life to the Lord.



MARGARET KEITHLY I was raised in the church, baptized as an infant, and went through confirmation when I was 12. I had an intellectual understanding of God and Jesus, but it wasn't until college that I accepted Christ in my heart. I've truly found a church home at the Chapel, and through Apples of Gold and my Small Group, I have a closer relationship with God than I've ever had. I am confirming my baptism because, while my parents made the decision to baptize me and send me to confirmation classes, this is my decision to publicly acknowledge Jesus as my Savior.



LOIS ENLOW God has slowly opened my eyes to a God who I knew existed but I didn't have the faith to accept. I went on several mission trips as a nurse, but came home feeling like I missed something. When 9/11 happened, I was working in the Recovery Room and actually saw one of the Twin Towers blow up. I thought, "What is the purpose of working, making money, and living the good life when all these people lost everything?"

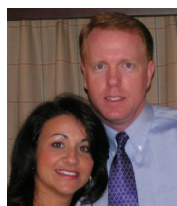
Moving to Virginia was very depressing. I missed my job, my friends, and developed hypo-thyroidism. I started to go to the Chapel but it didn't move me like I wanted. So I took up golf to make friends and met a woman who had something I wanted. I learned that she belonged to a Small Group and also went to the Chapel. I joined the Small Group, and found that their love for the Lord was so deep, and their attitudes and compassion were beyond anything I had ever encountered. I can't remember exactly when, but sometime during that period I accepted our Lord as my Savior.

I still belong to that group and it's one of the most important things in my life. Today I am professing my faith and acceptance of the Lord as my Savior. I love the Lord and know in my heart I can't do anything without him. I believe my life is so much better, and I wish this for everyone!



PATRICK LARGE I didn't find Christ, but Christ found me. In 1998, I was sentenced to eight years in prison. I was 18, and knew that as bad as I thought I was, there were 30,000 convicted felons who thought the same thing and were willing to prove it. For the first time in my life I hit my knees. I told God that if he would protect me I would spend my years in prison fearlessly seeking Him out and I would continue to so upon my release.

During my seven years in prison, not one hair was harmed on my head. He was faithful to protect me and still is to this day. I've been out of prison since 2004. I no longer feel like I'm keeping my part of some deal. That "deal" was His way of getting me on the path back to Him. Since my release, I have found He is the only reality and my only sanctuary. My baptism is fulfilling His will for me and serves as confirmation that I want to be like His Son, my blueprint and travel guide.



MARA HALLETT I was baptized as an infant and was a believer and follower of the church's teachings for most of my life. As a married adult raising three sons, I felt the weight of the obligation to raise our sons in faith. My own faith was lacking, and I was having difficulty fitting my personal beliefs into the confines of my church. Last September, my husband, Stuart, and I decided we were ready to come back to church and focus our family on faith in God, but we had no spiritual home. We found the Chapel through friends and have felt not just at home, but completely embraced by God and our Chapel family. I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior in September 2008, and the affect on my life has been profound. I wish to personally confirm my baptism today in order to honor my commitment to God in this new way and to honor HIS faithfulness to me during a time of great challenge and joy.



SUE FRYE When I was a little girl I had many questions about God that my parents (one Mormon, one Jewish) couldn't answer. In my teens I took myself to a church that some of my friends attended. It was there that I heard and accepted the Good News about Jesus Christ. I went forward during the invitation and was told that I needed to be baptized, so I was. The years went by,

and my faith waxed and waned, and I had no real teaching or direction in the Lord. When I came to the Chapel in 1986 I was wounded, lost, and had all but given up on being a "Christian." The circumstances in my life were difficult--and I was definitely UNDER them. But God didn't give up on me! At the Chapel I finally started to learn things about God and His glorious love and grace that I never knew before. I was counseled about my problems and began a new life in Christ that I didn't know was possible. I love the Lord so much, and it is my desire to make my devotion to Him public once again since I didn't really understand what Baptism was the first time around! Thank you for this opportunity to reaffirm my vows to my Lord and Savior.



MARTIN GIVENS I am 67 years old and feel like I'm just learning what I thought I knew for so many years. I thought I knew who I was in my walk of faith. About 10 years ago, though, I realized that instead of just thinking I was a Christian, I had to know. A friend started me on the path toward discovering that Jesus really needed to be in my heart. Since then, I have continued to grow in Christ. I have been waiting more than 10 years to be baptized, and now God has given me the time. To be baptized is a personal act of commitment of my life to Christ. When I am baptized, everyone will know that I am washing away all of my past sins, and I'll have a fresh start--just like stepping out of a refreshing shower.



MIKE ALLEN I have always known of Jesus and the Trinity, the "Christmas Story," and the dramatic conclusion to the story of Easter. I believed, but could not fathom that it was "for me." I attended church growing up, but something was missing.

God led me to a "small group" with godly leaders. They weren't guided by denomination, dogma, or tradition, but by the Bible. There I first learned to "get into the Word, and get the Word into me." It was not religion I was missing; it was a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. All I had to do was ask Him into my life. I did, and I affirm that today in front of you.



STEVE FLANARY I was raised in an outwardly ideal home. My father was a successful businessman, elder, and deacon; and my mother was a school teacher. But my dad was also an alcoholic and my mom an enabler. At 16, I befriended alcohol and gained acceptance by getting it for others. College was more of a party than an education (10 years for a four-year degree). My first wife had no idea who I was. My relationship with alcohol progressed and my marriage relationship deteriorated. Five years later, my marriage ended, and my pride kept me from asking for help.

Patti and I were both single parents when we married and combined our families. Like my first wife, she also had no idea who I really was. I led us to financial ruin, and then turned again to alcohol. After two years, I went to a counselor to appease Patti. He suggested that I only drink on weekends; that lasted until Tuesday. At this point, facing my home foreclosure and the end of my second marriage, I came home from a trip with my son to find Patti gone. A note said she wasn't closing the door on our marriage, but I had to get healthy. I ended up in Bill Warrick's office. He loved me, prayed for me, and gave me new marching orders: Go to AA, be honest with my doctor, get a Stephen Minister, and get a financial advisor. I left knowing I was a case for grace and am now experiencing God's provision to fulfill that which He began.