



Ridge Digest

September 1, 2023

I was thinking about Labor Day as we move into September. Most years in the past, as we approached Labor Day we were focused on the students getting back into class. This year they are already in place and the learning has begun. The change in the calendar gave me an opportunity to think about Labor Day, not the Labor Movement focus that initiated the day, but just the idea of labor. Labor, the ability to do work, is a gift from God. Sometimes it may not feel that way. If we are having trouble getting along with co-workers, the boss is breathing down our neck or we are just simply tired, we may think of work as a necessary evil, a drudgery. But rather than just endeavoring to put food on the table, God has given us the opportunity to not just earn the bread we eat, but to find meaning and purpose in the things we do. When I was a seminary student, I worked in the Sports Department of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* newspaper. I received a paycheck every two weeks that I used to buy food, pay for my rent, tuition and books. Sometimes it was a struggle to get up and go to an 8:00 a.m. class when I had worked until after midnight the night before, but then I would walk through the classroom building or the dining hall and see a student, or perhaps a professor, sitting and reading the newspaper that had been delivered that morning. As I saw them reading the paper, I would look at it and think, "I had a part in putting that together." There is a sense of meaning, of accomplishment in that. When we look at our work as a calling, a "vocation" that God has given us, we can view our toil as a source of meaning, of purpose.

There was a time when young people prepared for a "career". Today, more often than not we do our preparation in hopes of finding a "job." The changing attitudes toward work call us to ask ourselves the question, "How do I view the work I do? Am I doing a job to earn a paycheck or am I engaging in a career that ultimately makes a difference for the glory of God?" In recent days the Henrico County Schools Adult Education Center moved to their new environs on the first floor of the Regency Square property, our neighbor on the next block. One of the engaging things about the new center is the fact that they kept many of the display windows from the former retail establishments. In those places there are displays showing mannequins dressed as firefighters, nurses, technicians and the like. It is an invitation to students (and potential students) to enroll for more meaningful reasons than simply earning a GED or learning specific job skills. It is an invitation for those who walk by to see themselves in a meaningful career. I like to think of this as an invitation to Christians to take a similar view of our work, like that reflected in Colossians 3:17...*Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.* As God's children, let's view our work, whether we are actively employed or retired, as an opportunity to exercise the gifts God has given us, a chance to build God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. That's how we all can have a "Happy Labor Day."

Weekly Online Presence:

SUNDAYS:

9:30 Sunday Morning Worship Service - in person; Facebook Live and YouTube

WEDNESDAYS:

10am Morning Bible Study with Alan Ray (ray5778@gmail.com)



May God Bless You on Your Birthday...

9/1 Lena VanDevander

9/2 Melinda Ray

9/3 Donnie Ford

9/4 Jonathan Carlton

9/4 Karen Honeycutt

9/6 Autumn Olsavicky

9/6 Patricia Snead

9/7 Ira Helmick

9/11 Peggy Burroughs

9/12 Debbie Daniels

9/12 Dayton Honeycutt

9/13 Cori Bider

9/13 Cari Corr

9/16 Jamie Coble

9/19 Samantha Weiss (16)

9/21 Woody Flora

9/23 Phyllis Coffman

9/25 Linda Wegner

9/25 Dan Holt

9/25 Amber Pisano

9/25 Myrna Sayd

9/26 Bob Coffman

9/27 Janet Jones

9/29 Garrett Martin (18)

9/29 Deanna Janss

9/30 Owen Gibson (3)

Walk Through the Bible...

Sept. 1	Proverbs 21-23; 1 Corinthians 6	Sept. 16	Isaiah 19-22; 2 Corinthians 5
Sept. 2	Proverbs 24-26; 1 Corinthians 7	Sept. 17	Isaiah 23-25; 2 Corinthians 6
Sept. 3	Proverbs 27-29; 1 Corinthians 8	Sept. 18	Isaiah 26-29; 2 Corinthians 7
Sept. 4	Proverbs 30-31; 1 Corinthians 9	Sept. 19	Isaiah 30-32; 2 Corinthians 8
Sept. 5	Ecclesiastes 1-3; 1 Corinthians 10	Sept. 20	Isaiah 33-35; 2 Corinthians 9
Sept. 6	Ecclesiastes 4-7; 1 Corinthians 11	Sept. 21	Isaiah 36-39; 2 Corinthians 10
Sept. 7	Ecclesiastes 8-12; 1 Corinthians 12	Sept. 22	Isaiah 40-41; 2 Corinthians 11
Sept. 8	Song of Songs 1-4; 1 Corinthians 13	Sept. 23	Isaiah 42-43; 2 Corinthians 12
Sept. 9	Song of Songs 5-8; 1 Corinthians 14	Sept. 24	Isaiah 44-47; 2 Corinthians 13
Sept. 10	Isaiah 1-4; 1 Corinthians 15	Sept. 25	Isaiah 48-50; Galatians 1
Sept. 11	Isaiah 5-7; 1 Corinthians 16	Sept. 26	Isaiah 51-53; Galatians 2
Sept. 12	Isaiah 8-9; 2 Corinthians 1	Sept. 27	Isaiah 54-57; Galatians 3
Sept. 13	Isaiah 10-12; 2 Corinthians 2	Sept. 28	Isaiah 58-60; Galatians 4
Sept. 14	Isaiah 13-14; 2 Corinthians 3	Sept. 29	Isaiah 61-63; Galatians 5
Sept. 15	Isaiah 15-18; 2 Corinthians 4	Sept. 30	Isaiah 64-66; Galatians 6

WMU's August Project

Playing Bingo with residents of the V.A. Hospital on the Southside will be our September mission project. Our church van will leave Ridge on Sept. 15 at 2:00 pm. If you would like to join us, please sign up on the sheet at the sanctuary table or contact Joan Moses at (804) 594-3580.



Prayer Concerns:

Members at Home:

Billy Gill

Christina Holleman

Bea Rahmlow

Jan Jones

Members in Hospital or Healthcare:

Phyllis Benner

Mae Callaham (at Beth Shalom rehab)

Pat Godfrey

Jim Lyles

B.J. Noel

Sue Douglas

Helen Price

Mary Jane Cook

Audrey "Kay" Meyers

Glen Wyrick

Irene Taylor

Friends of Ridge

Zlatko Buckoski (North Macedonia)

Helen Fitzgerald (P. Mahome)

Bobby Stallworth (E. Stewart)

David (R. Peed)

David Isom

Katie Koontz (D. Koontz)

Tracey Wade (D. Ford)

Rose Hall (D. Ford)

Jimmy McNamara (B. Rahmlow)

Joy Jones (B. Rahmlow)

Nelson Santana (B. & H. Johnson)

Sherrie & Grace Holliday (C. & P. Woolard)

Mary Gross (B. Rahmlow)

Debra Bartinikas (S. Colgan)

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Arabic Prayer Service (Chapel) 7:30pm
3 Reg. Sun. Sch Back to School Emphasis (Lunch at Noon) Handbell Reh. 1pm Arabic Church (Chapel) 11:30-12:30 VME Meeting 1-4pm ECHO 2:30-3:30pm	4 Labor Day (Offices and Promise Care Closed)	5	6 Reg Wed. Sch	7 ECHO Church Prayer 5pm (Chapel)	8	9 Arabic Prayer Service (Chapel) 7:30pm
10 Reg. Sun. Sch Arabic Church (Chapel) 11:30-12:30 ECHO 2:30-3:30pm	11 English Club 6-8:30pm (CLC)	12 WMU Meeting 1:30 pm (choir room) Richmond Gem & Mineral Society 6:30-9:30pm (CLC)	13 Reg Wed. Sch.	14 Finance Committee Mtg 3:30pm (Choir Room) ECHO Church Prayer 5pm (Chapel)	15	16 Arabic Prayer Service (Chapel) 7:30pm
17 Reg. Sun. Sch Handbell Reh. 1pm Arabic Church (Chapel) 11:30-12:30 Deacons Meeting 3pm (Choir Room) ECHO 2:30-3:30pm	18 English Club 6-8:30pm (CLC)	19 HappyHearts 11:30-12:30 Tarrant's West 11129 Three Chopt Rd	20 Reg Wed. Sch	21 Us Too 2-4pm (CLC) ECHO Church Prayer 5pm (Chapel)	22 Children's Ministry Game Night, Hymn Sing & Snacks 6:00pm (on the Lawn and CLC)	23 Arabic Prayer Service (Chapel) 7:30pm
24 Reg. Sun. Sch Arabic Church (Chapel) 11:30-12:30 ECHO 2:30-3:30pm	25 English Club 6-8:30pm (CLC)	26 RRSI Four Seasons Group 6:00 – 8:00pm CLC	27 Reg Wed. Sch	28 ECHO Church Prayer 5pm (Chapel)	29	30 Arabic Prayer Service (Chapel) 7:30pm

Ridge Baptist Church
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Ridge Baptist Church Worship Leaders & Support Staff

Rev. Alan Ray, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Jonathan Howard, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Lindsay Ray, *Minister for Students*

Mr. Robert Blaylock, *Media Director*

Mr. Robert Coffman, *Music Ministry Director*

Mrs. Phyllis Coffman, *Church Accompanist*

Ms. Deanna Janss, *Financial Secretary*

Weekly Schedule Online:

Sundays:

Worship Live Stream at 1:00pm

(Facebook and YouTube)

Wednesdays:

Morning Bible Study with Alan Ray @ 10 a.m.

Weekly In Person Schedule:

Sundays:

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship in the

Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. Morning Fellowship in the CLC **11:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Bible Study** **Wednesdays:**

5:45 p.m. Youth Fellowship in the Youth Center

6:15 p.m. Evening Bible Study in CLC with Alan Ray

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room