



THE GATHERING at SCOTT MEMORIAL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The*

**Courier**

July 2017

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## Welcome Todd & AJ Byers

### From Todd Byers

*Church Planting Path 1 Resident  
& Spiritual Director*

Hello, we're Todd and Ajiri (AJ) Byers. While Todd is a native of Queens, New York City, Ajiri is a native of Durham, North Carolina. We met at Princeton Theological Seminary where we both attended as Master of Divinity Students. Ajiri graduated in May 2015 and Todd graduated in May 2017. While Todd was completing his education, AJ completed 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in

pediatrics at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in one year. Once she completed her CPE, she then started a business in child care for a year. After dating for a couple of years we got married in 2016. This year we're excited to start a new opportunity with the Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC. Before leaving New Jersey, we eagerly anticipated meet you all and looked forward to the opportunity to work with Rachel. Church friends, you

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## Upcoming Events

- **July 2** - Food Pantry Collection  
Sunday
- **July 2** - Youth Group Beach Day
- **July 8 - 15** - Youth Group Summer  
Mission Trips
- **July 10** - "The Broken Way" study  
begins
- **July 11** - "Celebration of Discipline"  
study begins
- **July 17** - Feed the hungry at the  
JCOC
- **July 20** - Begin Summer Evening  
Beach Services
- **July 22** - Couple's Night Out
- **July 23** - Society of St. Andrews  
Sunday
- **July 23** - Potluck with the Pastor
- **July 24 - 28** - VBS 2017





## Vacation Bible School

**July 24 - 28, 9 am - 11:30 am**

**@ 409 First Colonial Rd.**

Come experience God's Word through games, songs, and science experiments. Ages 3 years old - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Invite your friends as you build strong relationships and learn new bible stories all while having fun. We are looking for volunteers as well; middle school and up would be a great help.

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have been nothing but amazing! AJ and I have had a wonderful time getting to know you over this past week. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for extending such a tremendous invitation to join the Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC, and to serve you. We thank you for treating us with such love as we enter into your lives as new staff members of the church. We're excited to see what the Lord will do with us and through us as members of your ministerial team. AJ and I look forward to serving you in love, spirit and truth. As AJ and I keep an eye on the present, we're also looking towards the future as we're preparing to plant a sister church somewhere here in the Greater Hampton Roads area. We solicit your

prayers, guidance, and suggestions as we serve this church as staff and as we look ahead towards planting a sister church.

May God Bless You All,

Love,

*-Todd and Ajiri Byers*



## Worship on the Water

**Summer Evening Worship @ the beach**

**Thursdays, July 20 – Aug. 24,**

**6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

**@ Little Island Park, Sandbridge & Chicks Beach**

## Food Pantry Collection

**Items for July:**

**Sunscreen & Bug Repellent**

## From Pastor Rachel

Alan Watts once said, "The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance." There has been a lot of "dancing" at the church lately, but we celebrate these changes because they are signs of growth and new opportunities for our church. We knew Todd Byers and his wife would be joining us, and are excited that they are finally here! We were surprised to learn that Andrew Schwartz will be full-time solo pastor at Portlock UMC beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. With Andrew's transition, we are excited to welcome Todd's wife, Ajiri Byers, as our Co-youth Pastor working with Sarah Picking. We are grateful that Bob Pearsall is willing to come back on staff as our Minister of Pastoral Care. Don't be surprised if Bob comes to visit you at home or at the hospital this year. If there are any other staff transitions, we will let you know. For now, we are excited to serve you as a staff team. Please contact Pastor Rachel or a member of Staff -Parish Relations Committee if you have any questions.

Thank you and have a blessed summer!

***Pastor Rachel Gilmore***



### Sunday Services for the summer:

- 9 am (Traditional)
- 10 am (Experiential)

### Church office hours:

Mon. & Thurs. 9 am - 1 pm

**[www.gatheratscott.com](http://www.gatheratscott.com)**

**[office@gatheringatscott.com](mailto:office@gatheringatscott.com)**

**757.428.3720**

### Find us on Facebook-

**The Gathering at  
Scott Memorial**

**THE GATHERING at SCOTT MEMORIAL**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**409 First Colonial Road**  
**Virginia Beach, VA 23454**

# Upcoming Events

## Sunday, July 2

### Additional 10 am Traditional Service offered during the summer

If you are unable to make it to the 9 am Traditional service, we are offering an additional traditional service at 10 am in the Pearsall Sunday School Room. This mini, chapel-style traditional service will include communion on the first Sunday of the month.

## Sunday, July 2

### Food Pantry Collection Sunday

**Help those who are food-insecure right here in our own community!** On the 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, we open a food pantry to those in need. We are looking for: **oatmeal, pancake mix, instant dry milk, cereal, fruit cocktail, cream of mushroom soup & chicken noodle soup, mac & cheese, canned carrots**

## Monday, July 17, 4 pm - 6:30 pm

### Feeding the Hungry at the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center (1053 Virginia Beach Blvd. 23451)

We looking for a team of 6 people will go to the JCOC from 4:00 pm -6:30 pm and feed the homeless.

Sign-up is available online or contact [office@gatheratscott.com](mailto:office@gatheratscott.com)

## Thursdays beginning July 20 – August 24, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

### Worship on the Water - Summer Evening Worship Services at the beach

#### @ Little Island Park, Sandbridge & Chicks Beach

We are offering a weekday worship service in addition to Sunday mornings. Surrounded by God's glorious creation, gather to sing, read Scripture, and hear & reflect on Sunday's sermon. Bring something to sit on, your Bible, sand toys for the kids or a picnic dinner. We will rotate between Little Island Park at Sandbridge and the Lynnhaven Pier behind the Lynnhaven Fish house at Chicks Beach. (July 20 @ Little Island Park) Childcare will be provided to help supervise the kids (we don't have trained lifeguards on staff). Contact Robby with any questions.

## July 24 - 28, 9 am - 11:30 am @ 409 First Colonial Rd.

### Vacation Bible School - Online Registration is OPEN!

Come experience God's Word through games, songs, and science experiments. Ages 3 years old - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Invite your friends as you build strong relationships and learn new bible stories all while having fun. We are looking for volunteers as well; middle school and up would be a great help.

# Prayer Requests

## Church Family

Agatha Sigley

Bettie White

Betty Wise

Carla Morrisette

Chris Ramsey & Family

Cindy Sager, daughter  
of Jean Schimmel

George Schimmel

Harriet VanBlarcom

Jackie Ginn

Janie Yamrick, recovering  
in rehab from a mini-  
stroke

Jill Moore

Joe Wise

Naomi Mitchell

## Friends & Family

Alan Reil, brother of Barney Reil

Bill Carroll

Chad Stokely, son of Herk & Len-  
nie Stokely

Charlotte Biggs

Donald Hall, Nephew of Betty  
and Barney Reil, kidney failure

Dwayne Einsphar

Elizabeth & Betty Rehpelz

Gene Sipe

Janet Deham

John Hendriksen

Johnathan Todd, Nephew of Lauren  
Graham

Larry Caffee

Patricia Childers

Sandy Vickers, Starke, FL