



# The Newsette

**Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513**  
**(804) 233-1066 and (804) 233-9515**

bethanychristiandoc@gmail.com / www.bethanyccdoc.org / www.facebook.com/bethanyccdoc

*Our Vision: Bethany Christian Church is committed to worshipping God, deepening our faith, spreading the gospel, and serving where Christ leads.*

**Rev. Jaclyn Twedell Woods**

Senior Pastor

**Naomi Moon**

Financial Secretary

**Duane Toole**

Director of Music

**Carol Molinares**

Pianist

To submit information for the Newsette, call (804) 233-1066 or send an email to bethanychristiandoc@gmail.com

We are still broadcasting our Sunday service online on Facebook for those members and friends who choose to worship at home.

**OCTOBER TEAMS**

If you are unable to serve on the date(s) assigned, please arrange for a replacement.

**PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER**

David Walls

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

5 – Jo Anne & Ross Dorneman  
12 – Brian & Penny Gradwell  
19 – Kathy Rende  
26 – Becky Murrell

**USHERS** - all month

Ray Crawford  
Pat Rende

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

5 – Kristin Wolfe  
12 – Sue Marion  
19 – Donna Wicker  
26 – Ross Dorneman

**DEACONS**

Stephanie Lewis  
Linda Walls

**ELDERS**

5 – Brian Gradwell  
12 – Ray Crawford  
19 – Donna Wicker  
26 – Ross Dorneman

**ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND**

Barbara Ozlin & June Sears

**OFFERING COMMITTEE**

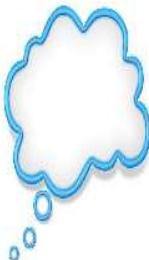
Jo Anne Dorneman & Karen McClain

**NOTE 1:** The Into Action AA group will be meeting in our Youth Center: •Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. •Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

**NOTE 2:** Crown and Joy Presbyterian Church meets in our main building: •Sundays at 1:30 p.m. •Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and other times as coordinated with us

## THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

"Ah, Lovely October, as you usher in the season that awakens my soul, your awesome beauty compels my spirit to soar like a leaf caught in an autumn breeze and my heart to sing like a heavenly choir." Peggy Toney Horton



"I'm so glad that I live in a world where there are Octobers" L.M. Montgomery

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart, yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." Ecclesiastes 3:11

## STEWARSHIP INFORMATION

### **Stewardship report as of August 31, 2025** (66.67% of the year)

Income received year-to-date ..... \$120,033.89 (77.46% of annual budget)

pledged donations; "give-as-I-can" donations;  
transient, Sunday School, budgeted special offerings and  
receipts; budgeted facility donations; budgeted  
interest/dividend income

\* also YTD, we have received and disbursed through Misc Special Offerings: \$860 to CrossOver Ministries, \$630 to ACTS,  
WHOA Foundation \$600

Total operating expenses year-to-date.....\$125,400.38 (58.61% of annual budget)

For 2025, we:

- accounted for \$400.00 donation to the church for a funeral of a Seventh Street member
- accounted for \$8,854.18 miscellaneous donation to the church
- accounted for \$19,386.45 gain in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund

### Information on our accounts as of August 31, 2025

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 75,660.46
Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 639.86
Truist CD (matures 10-5-2025 – original principal \$25,000)	\$ 25,881.47
Truist CD (matures 3-27-2026)	\$ 50,000.00
Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment (principal cannot be used - matures 11-14-2025)	\$ 10,000.00
Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 408,642.96
*principal.....	\$ 237,855.59
*dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends.....	76,010.46
*income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board .....	94,776.91

## THANK YOUS

Big hugs and thank yous to my church family for the lovely retirement celebration on Sunday, September 7! The Congregational Life Department and helpers did a wonderful job with the refreshments and welcome table. I so appreciate the beautiful wind chimes marking my years of service as your church financial secretary. Many blessings to you all!

Love, Donna Wicker

Thanks to all our friends at Bethany for your prayers, cards, and meals. I am moving around, slowly but surely, and hoping to return to normal activities very soon.

Sincerely, Johnny and Linda Grubb

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

Please join us for the final "Combined Sunday School" event of the year starting on **Sunday, October 10, at 9:15 a.m.**

~ Ollie Peebles, chairperson



## PRAYER CONCERNS – Please notify the church office when this information changes.

•Acute – examples are: a surgery and release, an accident, a procedure, a hospital stay and release, etc.

B. J. Gradwell

Mary Kline

Matt Koch

Carolyn Moore

•Ongoing – examples are: rehabilitation and recovery, new treatments, waiting on test results

Mark Kimmel

Ed McCann

Eliana Oatman

Pat Rende

Sheila Thayer

•Members of our church family who may be struggling with chronic health issues, sadness, loneliness, and other burdens or who might just need a "prayer hug" to include

Merrily Baber

Dee & Jim Evans

Ann Hasty

Jean McNeely

•Extended Church Family – family and friends of church members

Art ..... John Shell's brother-in-law

Rev. Alice Clarke ..... Sarah McLillard's friend

Nicole Craig ..... Barbara Ozlin's niece

Harrison Gradwell ..... Penny & Brian Gradwell's grandson

Odell Ingram ..... John Shell's mother-in-law

Susan Lowe ..... Mary Lowe's sister

Michael McNeely & April Gray

Doug Reeves ..... Carol Molinares' father

Geraldine Russell ..... Penny Gradwell's mother

Karen Peregoy ..... Dee & Jim Evans' daughter

Penny Walker ..... Pastor Jackie's grandmother

Heather White ..... Diana Case-Foster's cousin



Please pray for those who suffer from natural disasters and war; for all of our men and women in the military and their families; for our country, its leaders, and peace in our world; and for our church.

## WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS (WSC) DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to Jackie for leading the Bible study on The Sermon on the Mount. Great conversations and fellowship was meaningful to all who attended.

Also thanks to Stephanie Lewis for hosting the Walks with God.

The Advent season seems far away, but it will be upon us before we know it. This Advent season we will once again combine the Sunday school classes. Last year the lessons were the candles on the Advent wreath and their meanings. This year we are asking YOU for lesson ideas. If you have suggestions, please let Sue Marion know.

## EVANGELISM | OUTREACH DEPARTMENT



**Bainbridge Community Ministry** box in the hallway near the Chapel is always open for your donations of non-perishable food (and there is a box for paper bags with handles). Tim Skeens, from Bon Air Christian Church, is always so kind to deliver our food donations.

• *things to think about when donating to the food bank: cans with pop tops (no can opener required); smaller portions not oversized boxes; items that don't require ingredients not in the box (i.e., some mac & cheese requires milk and butter); cooking oil, sugar, and spices are needed also*

**Sunday, October 5**, is our second Sunday to collect our **Reconciliation Offering**. The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthen our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity. Please make your checks payable to "Bethany Christian Church" and indicate "Reconciliation Offering" in the memo section of your check.

---

**Blanket Offerings** will be accepted **Sunday, October 12**, and **Sunday, October 19**. For over 75 years, Church World Service has provided blankets to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty). You can give hope to people in the United States and around the world by donating.

---

Each \$10 gift provides a blanket and enables someone to feel God's love in their lives. Please make your checks payable to "Bethany Christian Church" and indicate "CWS Blankets" in the memo.

---

**Trunk-or-Treat** is coming and we need volunteers!!! We will be meeting after church on **Sunday, Sept. 28th** to brainstorm and get signups for people who would like to decorate a vehicle for our Trunk or Treat event on October 25th. We will be collecting candy donations throughout the month as well. Please place them in the box in the narthex. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Sarah McLillard- 540-220-4820 or [shmclillard@gmail.com](mailto:shmclillard@gmail.com). Even if you can't help we would love if you would invite friends and family to join us on October 25th in the church parking lot for an evening of spooky fun!

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to our new church financial secretary, Naomi Moon, as of September 8! Members of the Human Resources Committee were all impressed with Naomi's strong background in administrative church ministry through her prior work with Redemption Hill Church in Richmond, as well as her extensive administrative experience in a corporate environment working as an executive assistant, technical writer, and receptionist.

Here's how Naomi introduces herself... "I am originally from TN and moved to Virginia when I got married. My husband and I have two teenage sons, ages 14 and 17, and we are members of Sycamore Presbyterian Church. For the past 12 years, I have been homeschooling my boys, and with them now getting older, I am transitioning from hands on teacher to unpaid Uber driver. I served for three years as a Kids Ministry Assistant at Redemption Hill Church and look forward to serving in another church."

Naomi's in-office hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and she will work off site on Thursdays.

## **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

September 22, 2025

Members of Bethany Christian Church:

A Membership Meeting is set for **Sunday, October 5, 2025**, after Worship. You will have the opportunity to vote before that time by email to the church ([bethanychristiandoc@gmail.com](mailto:bethanychristiandoc@gmail.com)) or by telephone to (804) 233-1066. The agenda for the meeting is to approve and elect officers and leaders of the church for 2026.

The Nominating Committee's recommendations for 2026 officers and leaders is below. Your General Board approved this list of officers and leaders at their meeting on September 21, 2025. Please note that this list only includes those officers/leaders that are new and require election for 2026. Other leaders are listed for information only.

Should we have inclement weather, we will try to post church closing decisions on CBS Channel 6 (website: [wtvr.com](http://wtvr.com)) or NBC Channel 12 (website: [www.nbc12.com](http://www.nbc12.com)). Weather, however, will not effect this Membership Meeting because you can vote by email or telephone should our in-house church service for October 5 be cancelled.

Remember you may cast your votes for or against the slate of 2026 officers/leaders in one of three ways:

- email the church before Sunday, October 5 – members who share an email address have to identify who is voting
- call the church before Sunday, October 5
- attend the Membership Meeting on Sunday, October 5

Thank you.

*Ray Crawford*

Ray Crawford, Moderator

## **2026 Recommendations for Officers and Leaders**

approved by Board on Sunday, September 21, 2025  
(one-year terms unless designated otherwise)

Moderator ..... Jim Davis

Vice Moderator ..... Ross Dorneman

Secretary to the Board ..... Barbara Koch

Treasurer/Stewardship Chairperson ..... Geoff Gangloff

Elder at Large ..... Linda Grubb

Deacon at Large ..... Kristin Wolfe

Deacons ..... Jo Anne Dorneman, Chris Hawthorne,  
Tyler Hawthorne, Stephanie Lewis, Mary Lowe,  
Sue Marion, Sarah McLillard, Frances Pully,  
Kathy Rende, Christie Rolston, Linda Walls,  
Kristin Wolfe

Offering Committees ..... Team 1: Barbara Koch, Linda Walls  
Team 2: Jo Anne Dorneman, Karen McClain  
Substitutes: Linda Grubb, Becky Murrell,  
Barbara Ozlin

### Department Chairpersons

Congregational Life ..... Ollie Peebles

Evangelism/Outreach ..... Linda Walls

Property ..... Scot Hawthorne

Worship/Spiritual Growth/Communications ..... Sue Marion

**INFORMATION ONLY** – These people have agreed to serve for 2026 (Nominating Committee is not tasked with filling these positions and no membership approval vote is needed):

Elders' Chairperson .....	Barbara Ozlin
Deacons' Chairperson .....	Sue Marion
Disciples Women's Fellowship Representative to the Board .....	Jo Anne Dorneman Nominating
Committee Chairperson .....	Barbara Koch
the other three members are Becky Murrell, Christie Rolston, Linda Walls	
Human Resources Committee At-Large Members (2) .....	Ray Crawford, Sue Marion
Pastoral Relations Committee (2) (two-year term 2025 and 2026) .....	Scot Hawthorne, Christie Rolston
Auditor .....	Ray Crawford

A Note  
from Our  
Pastor...

### FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

"There is nothing permanent except change." ~ ~ Heraclitus

Heraclitus, an ancient Greek philosopher, believed that the universe is in constant flux, and nothing stays the same forever. This idea encourages us to embrace change as a natural part of existence and find strength in adaptability.

While none of us love change, we do know that change is natural – as natural as summer turning to fall...as natural as chameleons changing their color to match their environments...as natural as ice turning into water and water evaporating into the air and that air in the clouds producing rain...as natural as the wind blowing.

We, at Bethany Christian Church, are going through one such change, as we say 'Goodbye!' to Donna Wicker as she retires from the Church Secretary position she has faithfully held for the past 13 years...and we say 'Hello! Welcome!' to Naomi Moon!

Naomi began working September 8th, training with Donna that whole week. And then manned the office by herself all last week while Donna was on vacation! She did great! And still, there is a lot to learn. Naomi is picking it up quickly, but I encourage you all to give her grace and be flexible as she settles into this position...and, once she is comfortable, as she makes it her own.

I encourage you to introduce yourself to Naomi, too! Call the church. Or come by! Naomi is in the office Monday through Wednesday 8:30 – 1:30, and works off-site with flexible hours on Thursdays. When you meet her, tell her who you are...maybe even tell her your name a few times, and share what you love about Bethany!

We all will miss Donna. But we wish her well in her retirement. And we give thanks that we will still see her most Sundays!

And we give thanks for Naomi! I can already tell that she will fit in well, and that her gifts will be a blessing for us here at Bethany! And while we navigate this change together, we trust that God will guide us and be with us...and we look forward to all the new opportunities that will develop as we work together, doing the ministry God has called us to do!

Blessings, Pastor Jackie

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 C&J Choir 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	2 AA-YC 7:00 pm	3 C&J Teen Night room upstairs 6:00 pm	4
5 Reconciliation Offg Stewardship Sun #4 combined Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am •membership mtg-offcrs Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	6	7 AA-YC 7:00 pm	8 C&J Choir 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	9 AA-YC 7:00 pm	10	11
12 CWS Blanket Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	13	14 AA-YC 7:00 pm	15 C&J Choir 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	16 Theology on Tap at Maldini's AA-YC 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	17	18
19 CWS Blanket Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	20	21 DWF Circle #1 AA-YC 10:00 am 7:00 pm	22 C&J Choir 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	23 DWF Circle #4 AA-YC 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	24	25 "Trunk-or-Treat" 4:00 - 6:00 pm
26 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm • Nov Newsette deadline	27	28 AA-YC 7:00 pm	29 C&J Choir 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	30 AA-YC 7:00 pm	31	
		<b>Notes:</b> AA: Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship				© 2019 Vertex42 LLC <a href="http://Calendar Template by Vertex42.com">Calendar Template by Vertex42.com</a>