



The Newsette

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513
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January 2026
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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.

JANUARY TEAMS

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER
Scot Hawthorne

COMMUNION PREPARATION
4 – Geoff Gangloff
11 – Jo Anne & Ross Dorneman
18 – Kathy Rende
25 – Stephanie Lewis

USHERS - all month
Ross Dorneman
Brian Gradwell

WORSHIP LEADERS

4 – Linda Grubb
11 – June Sears
18 – Ross Dorneman
25 – Ross Dorneman

DEACONS

Tyler Hawthorne
Kathy Rende

ELDERS

4 – Linda Grubb
11 – June Sears
18 – Ross Dorneman
25 – Ross Dorneman

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND

Johnny & Linda Grubb

OFFERING COMMITTEE

Barb Koch & Linda Walls

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.
•Third Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. and other times as coordinated with us



THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."
- Martin Luther King Jr.

"New Year's Day is a good time to fix one's eyes on the only One who knows what the year is to hold." - Elisabeth Elliot

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!". 2 Corinthians 5:17

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of November 30, 2025 (91.67% of the year)

Income received year-to-date	\$151,207.38 (97.58% 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, \$600 to WHOA Foundation	
Total operating expenses year-to-date	\$174,140.50 (81.38% of annual budget)

For 2025, we:

- accounted for \$1,350.00 in facility donations
- accounted for \$8,854.18 miscellaneous donation to the church
- accounted for \$35,971.47 gain in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund

Information on our accounts as of November 30, 2025

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 54,303.67
Truist Business MM Acct.....	\$ 641.95
Truist CD (matures 1-7-2026 – original principal \$25,000)	\$ 26,284.03
Truist CD (matures 3-27-2026)	\$ 50,000.00
Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment (principal cannot be used - matures 05-14-2026)	\$ 10,000.00
Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 429,216.54
* principal \$ 237,855.59	
* dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends..... 75,853.51	
* income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board 111,518.88	



INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION



Pastor Jackie, Ross Dorneman, and Jim Davis have the information for CBS and NBC to notify them if we have to cancel services due to inclement weather. If you have a question, please tune to one of those stations, check your email, or call someone.

2026 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2026 is ready. Please sign up for your special day for flowers for the Sanctuary by writing on the board outside the kitchen if you're here on Sundays OR by calling Naomi in the church office. The cost is currently \$34.50 to be paid to the church.





SYMPATHY

We express our Christian love and sympathy to the family of Ann Hasty who died on December 12, 2025.



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

Carolyn Moore

Jim Evans

● Ongoing – examples are: rehabilitation and recovery, new treatments, waiting on tests results

Mark Kimmel

Ed McCann

Eliana Oatman

Pat Rende

Sheila Thayer

Dee & Jim Evans

● 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

Jean McNeely

● Extended Church Family – family and friends of church members

- Art John Shell's brother-in-law
- Ben Anderson JoAnn Crawford's brother
- Rev. Alice Clarke Sarah McLillard's friend
- Nicole Craig Barbara Ozlin's niece
- Harrison Gradwell Penny & Brian Gradwell's grandson
- Jackie Holliday Ellett Christine Rolston's daughter's friend
- Odell Ingram John Shell's mother-in-law
- Susan Lowe Mary Lowe's sister
- Karen Peregoy Dee & Jim Evans' daughter
- Michael McNeely & April Gray
- Geraldine Russell Penny Gradwell's mother
- Mary Elizabeth (Liz) Smith Barbara Ozlin's sister
- Michelle Friend of Karen McClain and her son
- 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.

INFORMATION FOR 2026 CHURCH DIRECTORY



IT'S TIME! Please send all of your updates for the 2026 Church Directory – email and address changes are important! Send updates to nmoonbcc@gmail.com.



Thank you to Duane Toole for opening the church for the Peabody's Piano Co. recital on Saturday, December 13.

Thank you all for the generous Christmas gifts! They were such a sweet surprise and much loved. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's.

~ Naomi Moon

Dear Bethany family, thank you so very much for the monetary Christmas gift. I was truly blessed to be a part of the church staff and able to keep some of the administrative tasks running smoothly. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a joyous new year!

~ Donna Wicker

SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS (WSC) DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to everyone who helped with making Christmas season so meaningful and special.

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*



PLANNING CONFERENCE AND BOARD MEETING

The Annual Planning Conference will be **Sunday, January 25** (fourth Sunday), after Worship.

Here are the Chairpersons for 2026:

- Congregational Life.....Ollie Peebles
- Evangelism/Outreach.....Linda Walls
- Property.....Scot Hawthorne
- Stewardship.....Geoff Gangloff
- Worship/Spiritual Growth/Communications.....Sue Marion

Anyone is welcome to be a part of the planning for our church, so contact a chairperson and come to the Planning Conference! The first Board Meeting will follow the Planning Conference; if you are a member of the 2026 Board but are unable to attend, please notify Jim Davis, 2026 Moderator.

2026 DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Newsette Deadlines:

for February	Sunday, January 25	for August	Sunday, July 26
for March	Sunday, February 22	for September	Sunday, August 23
for April	Sunday, March 22	for October	Sunday, September 20
for May	Sunday, April 26	for November	Sunday, October 25
for June	Sunday, May 24	for December	Sunday, November 22
for July	Sunday, June 21	for January	Sunday, December 20

Special Offerings:

"Souper Bowl of Caring" for Bainbridge Food Bank	Sunday, February 8
Week of Compassion	Sundays, February 15 and 22
Blessing Boxes	Sundays, March 8 and 15
Easter (supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains)	Sundays, March 29 and April 5
Crossover Health Care Ministry	Sundays, April 26, and May 3
Pentecost (supports Disciples new church development)	Sundays, May 17 and 24
ACTS (provides support and resources during periods of financial crisis to prevent homelessness)	Sundays, July 5 and 12
WHOA (provides	Sundays, Aug. 2 and 9
Bainbridge Food Bank	Sundays, September 6 and 13
Reconciliation (funds our Church's mission to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church)	Sundays, September 27 and October 4
Church World Service Blanket Sundays	Sundays, October 11 and 18
Thanksgiving (supports Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions)	Sundays, November 15 and 22
Christmas (provides pastoral care and enrichment programs)	Sundays, December 13 and 20

Holidays – Church Office Closed:

Monday, May 25	Memorial Day	Friday, November 27	Day after Thanksgiving
Friday, June 19	Juneteenth	Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve
Monday, September 7	Labor Day	Friday, December 25	Christmas Day
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving	Friday, January 1	New Year's Day

A Note
from Our
Pastor...

FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

That time between Christmas and New Year is a wonderful week – full of leftovers and family visits...when all the gifts still have that 'new-gift feel'...and you've got those last few days of enjoying the beautiful Christmas decorations before they are packed away for another year.

But it is also an in-between time. In between the joy and celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas – the birth of God in the world! – and all the hope and excitement as we ring in the New Year, we find ourselves here. Here we are still clinging to Christmas...while also looking forward to 2026.

In the midst of this in-between time, we find ourselves also looking to Epiphany, which we will celebrate on Sunday, January 4. In my family, Epiphany has always been a special day. The Christmas season wasn't complete until we followed the Star.

I've been thinking a lot about that Star, and what a gift it was to the Magi as it led them to the Holy Family. It is also a gift to us, because this star continues to lead us to the Christ Child, born again today. So I invite you to ponder on that bright star...and look for it shining in your midst. And as you do, I'd like to share with you a poem by Ann Weems, called Star-Giving:

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star...

Brilliance in a package,
something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.

Something to take out in times of darkness,
something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,
something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the darkness of this world.

But stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes
and packages without stars.

But I can wish you life
as radiant as the Star
that announces the Christ Child's coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood beneath its light.

And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.

Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

Blessings,
Pastor Jackie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day <i>church office holiday</i> AA-YC 7:00 pm	2	3
4 Epiphany Sunday Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	5 Undecorate 10 am	6 AA-YC 7:00 pm	7 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	8 AA-YC 7:00 pm	9	10
11 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	12	13 AA-YC 7:00 pm	14 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	15 HOA Meeting 6:00 pm Theology on Tap at Maldin's 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	16	17 C&J Meeting 8:30 am
18 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	19	20 DWF Circle #1 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	21 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	22 DWF Circle #4 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	23	24 C&J Game Night 6:00 pm
25 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Png Conf/Bd Mtg noon Crown & Joy 1:30 pm • Feb Newsette deadline	26	27 AA-YC 7:00 pm	28 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	29 AA-YC 7:00 pm	30	31 C&J Marriage Retreat 9:30 AM
		Notes: AA: Into Action Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian Church DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship FH: Fellowship Hall YC: Youth Center				© 2022 Vertex42 LLC Calendar Template by Vertex42.com