



The Newsette

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513
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May, 2025

Volume 64, Issue 5

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

Donna Wicker

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.

MAY 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 – Sarah McLillard
11 – Sarah McLillard
18 – Sarah McLillard
25 – Sarah McLillard

USHERS - all month

Ray Crawford
Scot Hawthorne

WORSHIP LEADERS

4 – Kim Gangloff
11 – Donna Wicker
18 – Barb Koch
25 – Ross Dorneman

DEACONS

Jo Anne Dorneman
Sarah McLillard

ELDERS

4 – Kim Gangloff
11 – Donna Wicker
18 – Barb Koch
25 – Ross Dorneman

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND

Barbara Ozlin

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. and other times as coordinated with us

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

Happiness is not by chance, but by choice.

~ Jim Rohn



Horticulturally, the month of May is opening night, homecoming, and graduation day all rolled into one.

~ Tam Mossman

Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come; the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

~ Song of Songs 2:12

STEWARSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of March 31, 2025 (25% of the year)

Income received year-to-date \$37,710.26 (24.34% 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 \$500 to CrossOver Ministries, \$500 to ACTS

Total operating expenses year-to-date.....\$41,138.92 (22.03% 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 \$2,834.08 loss in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund

Information on our accounts as of March 31, 2025

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 75,284.91
Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 628.62
Truist CD (matures 5-3-2025)	\$ 25,465.30
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*	\$ 380,264.45
*principal.....	\$ 237,855.59
*dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends.....	73,111.69
*income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board.....	69,297.17

THANK YOUS

Dear Bethany Family and Friends, please know that I felt all the love and blessings from you all before and after my surgery January 27th! The cards, phone calls, and prayers were greatly appreciated! The surgery went well – just moving at a slower than normal speed. Praise the Lord to all of you for the strength you give us as a church family!
~ Penny Gradwell

Jim and I would like to thank everyone for all the love and prayers given to our family during Story's surgery and recovery, and also for the delicious meals served to us during our health difficulties. Hopefully, we are on the mend and will be back at church before long. God bless you all and thank you for everything.
~ Blessings, Dee and Jim Evans

Thank you for your prayers for Story Sims through her surgery and her recovery. We so appreciate them all.
~ Lexie Cowick

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.
Mark Kimmel

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

•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 Hazel Heider Jean McNeely

•Extended Church Family – family and friends of church members

Art John Shell's brother-in-law

B. J. & Megan Barlow

Rev. Alice Clarke Sarah McLillard's friend

Nicole Craig Barbara Ozlin's niece

Harrison Gradwell Penny & Brian Gradwell's grandson

Michael McNeely & April Gray

Doug Reeves Carol Molinares' father

Geraldine Russell Penny Gradwell's mother

Karen Peregoy Dee & Jim Evans' daughter

Story Sims Dee & Jim Evans' great-granddaughter

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.

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY (DWF)



WOMEN! Please join us on **Saturday, May 3**, at 12:00 noon for some good food, fellowship, and getting to know the ladies of Crown and Joy as they have also been invited to attend. Our project will be to bring items for the food bank (canned or boxed). If you can, let Barb Koch know if you can attend to get an idea of numbers. Let's have a good showing for our new extended church family!

WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS (WSC) DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to Pastor Jackie for a wonderful **Easter season**. Bible study, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Service, and the sermons based on Meeting Jesus at the Table enhanced our spiritual growth.

Also, a big hallelujah to our choir. The music on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday was absolutely beautiful. Thank you to our choir members and Duane for your continued dedication.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's **prayer vigil**! Because of you, Good Friday was a meaningful day of prayer and reflection as we lifted up one other, our communities, and the world with loving intention.

In April, a group of us enjoyed a leisurely walk to the James river, as we marveled at butterflies and bees, wildflowers, and baby Amelia! We look forward to gathering again on **Saturday, May 10**, at 10:00 a.m. for another prayerful walk. We will gather at the Wetlands Park Entrance – 3340 Landria Drive. There is street parking available. We will **walk in God's creation** for 30 minutes, then enjoy refreshments and share reflections on what we've observed.

Bethany Christian Church's **Second Annual Vacation Bible School for Adults** will be held **Wednesday, June 25, Thursday, June 26, and Friday, June 27**, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Catherine Parrish's

mother, Reverend Glenna Tibbs, will lead our study. There will be door prizes, delicious dinners, music, and a craft. Our craft this year will be making fleece blankets for the Children's Hospital.

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

Crossover Health Care Ministry is a local, non-profit organization which provides health care to local persons who have no other way to obtain care. They will accept whatever monies one is able to pay, but they do not charge for their services. They provide internal medicine services as well as some other specialties, including dental care. To become a patient at Crossover, one must go through a screening process to be placed on a waiting list. Their demand is great. Crossover depends on donations to keep their ministry going, and with the increased demands of today, the need for donations is even greater.

Our offering for Crossover will be collected on **Sunday, May 4**. Please prayerfully consider making a much-needed donation for this very important ministry. Make your checks out to "Bethany Christian Church" and write "Crossover Ministry" in the memo section.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES



Avery Elizabeth Davis

granddaughter of Jim Davis

- graduates on May 22 from Charlottesville High School
- Avery will be attending the Belmont University College of Nursing in the fall.



Kyla Rose Davis

granddaughter of Jim Davis

- graduates on May 17 from James Madison University with a Degree in Business Management with a concentration in Entrepreneurship
- Kyla will be exploring employment opportunities and preparing for her upcoming marriage to Elijah Erkel in October.



Lidya Niguse

Circle #1's sponsored child

- graduates on May 17 from University of Virginia
- Lidya will be taking a year off and then plans to attend law school.



Anne Marie Ozlin Gregor

daughter of Barbara Ozlin

- will receive her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Holy Family University in Philadelphia on May 17
- Anne Marie plans to continue to teach in the Post-Graduate Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program at the Villanova University College of Nursing.

FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

A Note
from Our
Pastor...

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

What a joyous Easter we had at Bethany Christian Church! From the beautiful, simple, outside "sunrise" service, to the traditional, music-filled 11:00 a.m. service, we joined our many voices together to proclaim the risen Lord! We joined our voices with Mary, who first proclaimed, "I have seen the Lord!"

I once heard it said that the best Easter sermon ever preached was what Mary Magdalene said as she ran away from the empty tomb after encountering Jesus, alive. "I have seen the Lord!" she said.

In a way, that is all that needs to be said – I have seen the Lord! He is risen!

"I have seen the Lord!" is what we all proclaim on Easter morning...but Easter Sunday is really just the beginning. The season of Easter – called Eastertide – began on Sunday and continues for 50 days until Pentecost, so we must continue to preach through our words and our actions that we continue to see the risen Lord all around us!

So throughout this Easter season, I hope you will join your voice with Mary and say, "I have seen the Lord!"

Because the risen Lord is in our midst! I continue to see evidence of the resurrection all around me – in bright, blooming flowers, in majestic sunsets, in people who gather together raising their voices in song, in the communion meal we share every time we gather. And I know you see resurrection all around you, too!

So I wonder...how have you seen the risen Lord? And how does resurrection change your life?

May you have a blessed Easter season!

~ Pastor Jackie



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 AA-YC 7:00 pm	2	3 Ladies' Luncheon noon
4 Crossover Min Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	5	6 AA-YC 7:00 pm	7 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	8 AA-YC 7:00 pm	9	10 "morning walk with God" 3340 Landria Dr 10:00 am
11 Mother's Day Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	12	13 DWF Circle #1 lunch at Linda Edw ards' home noon AA-YC 7:00 pm	14 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	15 Theology on Tap at O'Toole's 6:30 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Board mtg noon Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	19	20 AA-YC 7:00 pm	21 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	22 DWF Circle #4 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm • Jun Newsette deadline	26 Memorial Day <i>church offc holiday</i>	27 AA-YC 7:00 pm	28 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	29 AA-YC 7:00 pm	30	31
		Notes: AA: Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship				<small>© 2019 Vertex42 LLC</small> <small>Calendar Template by Vertex42.com</small>