



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

September 2026
Volume 65 Issue 9

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.

SEPTEMBER TEAMS

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER
Johnny Grubb

COMMUNION PREPARATION
6 – Jo Anne & Ross Dorneman
13 – Jo Anne & Ross Dorneman
20 – Kathy Rende & Barbara Ozlin
27 – Stephanie Lewis

USHERS - all month
Primary: Brian Gradwell
Backup: David Walls

WORSHIP LEADERS

6 – Barbara Ozlin
13 – Stephanie Lewis
20 – Penny Gradwell
27 – Barb Koch

DEACONS

Jo Anne Dorneman
Frances Pully

ELDERS

6 – Barbara Ozlin
13 – Ray Crawford
20 – Penny Gradwell
27 – Barb Koch

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND
Donna Wicker

OFFERING COMMITTEE
Barbara 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 1:00 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

"By all these lovely tokens, September days are here. With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer." ~ Helen Hunt Jackson

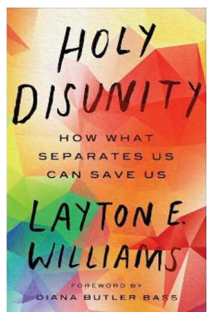
"And then the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep, and autumn awakened."
~ Raquel Franco

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."
Psalm 32:8



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

Combined Sunday School - Plan to come to the combined Sunday School class and the congregation's Donut and Fellowship Hour on **Sunday September 13** at **9:15 am**. We will have a local leader in OMA, (Bonnie Cauthorn) tell us about this very interesting and needed program. **Opening Minds through Art (OMA)** is a national initiative that empowers people living with dementia by facilitating creative expression and social engagement. The service brings joy and contentment to persons suffering from dementia and relief and hope to caregivers.



New Sunday School Class begins on **September 20th**. Catherine Parrish will be leading a new Sunday school class for Bethany members and friends still in the work world. The class will begin by reading a book together - one that we hope will give us insights into living our faith in an increasingly secular and polarized world.

If you are interested in participating, take a look at the book "Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us" by Layton E. Williams. (Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us: Williams, Layton E.: 9780664265663: Amazon.com: Books). If you have any questions, please call Pastor Jackie.



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.

Barb Koch

Carol Kimmel

Carolyn Moore

Carol Roland

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

Diana Case-Foster

B. J. Gradwell

Mark Kimmel

Mary Kline

Eliana Oatman

Alyssa Oatman Morris

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

Jean McNeely

● Extended Church Family – family and friends of church members

Ben Anderson.....JoAnn Crawford's brother

Rev. Alice Clarke Sarah McLillard's friend

Nicole Craig Barbara Ozlin's niece

Larry Downie..... Duane Toole's Brother in Law

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

Shannon Saweikis.....Catherine Parrish's Friend

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.

WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Church is more than a building – it's a place to worship God, grow in faith, find encouragement, and connect with others. If you've been away for a while, consider coming back. Now that summer is coming to an end, we hope to see you. Don't forget to check out the Devotional Box in the Narthex.

~ Sue Marion

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of July 31, 2026 (58.33% of the year)

Income received year-to-date\$90,493.54 (58.78% 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: CrossOver \$705, ACTS \$630, WHOA \$500

Total operating expenses year-to-date.....\$106,642.72 (50.59% of annual budget)

For 2026, we:

- accounted for \$600 in facility donation from Crown and Joy to help with the heat repair
- accounted for \$24,414.20 gain in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund

Information on our accounts as of July 31, 2026

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 23,379.48
Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 654.79
Truist CD (matures 6-22-2027)	\$ 26,839.81
Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment (principal cannot be used - matures 11-14-2026)	\$ 10,000.00
Christian Church Extension Fund CD (put in MM 3/30/2026)	\$ 52,247.04
Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 469,192.68
*principal.....	\$ 237,855.59
*dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends.....	76,119.50
*income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board.....	155,217.59

September 2026

Dear Members and Friends of Bethany Christian Church,

This has been a good year at Bethany. We continue to be blessed with a dedicated staff and through flexibility we have tried to have our traditions continue to play an important role in our church life. Just as importantly, our membership remains focused on the needs of our friends, members, community and region.

With that in mind, September 13th, 20th, 27th, and October 4th are our Commitment Sundays. This is the time during the year that we ask you to prayerfully consider what you will give financially so we can effectively plan our church activities for 2027.

I am asking each of you to please consider your overall giving patterns for Bethany and other areas you support. Is the support you give your church consistent with your ability to give, and reflective of overall needs within your giving program? Our church needs your giving more than ever. Our giving continues to fall short of expenses. We are fortunate to still be able to draw on savings and investment interest – but such may not always be the case. While we are slowly recovering from past market changes effecting the church investments funds, it is still very important that we attempt to have pledges that support the budgeted needs of our mission.

Enclosed is a “My Personal Commitment” card. Whether you make a pledge amount or mark your card “I will give as I can,” please return the enclosed commitment card as soon as you have made your decision. You can scan and email it, call the church office with the information, put it in the slot in the office closet, or mail it to the church office.

I would also like to make you aware that there are multiple ways for you to send your offering/fulfill a pledge to the church. The traditional way of placing offering in the offering plate/box, mailing a check to the church (5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513), calling the church (804-233-1066), scheduling a repeating electronic payment with your bank, or sending your donation weekly or monthly through electronic check from your bank are all easy options.

Thank you for your time, talent and treasure that you have shared and will continue to share with Bethany Christian Church.

In His Service,



Geoff Gangloff, Stewardship Chairman

Enclosure

2 Corinthians 9:7

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Stewardship Moments: Ross Dorneman (9/13), Jim Davis (9/20), Ray Crawford (9/27), Geoff Gangloff (10/4)

Please clip the following commitment card (make copies if you need to), and return it to the office.

Commitment Sundays are September 13, September 20, September 27, and October 4.



MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT

January 1 - December 31, 2027

In recognition of my time, talent, and treasure as gifts from God, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment:

► I will give ... **fill out** one of the four choices **or** check "as I can":

\$ _____ per week \$ _____ per month

\$ _____ per quarter \$ _____ per year

OR as I can _____

► Please provide ... **circle** one choice:

monthly envelopes OR NO envelopes

Name _____

E Email _____

This commitment may be increased, decreased, or cancelled by notifying the financial secretary of the church (804-233-1066).

Thank you for your support.

EVANGELISM | OUTREACH DEPARTMENT



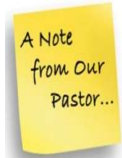
Bainbridge Community Ministry box in the hallway near the Chapel is always open for your donations of non-perishable food (and there is a box for paper bags with handles). Tim Skeens, from Bon Air Christian Church, is always so kind to deliver our food donations.

• *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 September 6 and **Sunday September 13**, are designated for monetary donations for the Bainbridge Food Bank. Please make your checks payable to "Bethany Christian Church" and indicate "Bainbridge Food Bank" in the memo section of your check.

Reconciliation Offering – On **Sunday September 27** and **Sunday October 4**, we will 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.



FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

Monday was the first day of school for Amelia! She starts in the Twos class at her daycare today! She has been going to this daycare for over a year, so she knows the building and loves her friends and teachers. Even with that familiarity, change is sometimes hard. It may take her a few days to settle in to her new room, but I know she is loved and cared for, and once she does settle in, she will have so much fun learning and playing with her friends.

So as I send my little one off to school, and we send our students and teachers back to school, we send them all with our blessing and with our prayers.

I wanted to share this prayer with you...a prayer for this exciting...and nerve wracking Back to School time...that speaks to those who go to school...and those whose school days were long ago...

O God, who calls us to keep learning – to keep learning about God and our faith...to keep learning about one another...to keep learning about our community – we pray that we will be open to Your teaching. As we experience a new school year, we know that even when things are new and uncertain, You are there. We can count on You.

We ask, O God, that you will bless our students, teachers, parents, office staff, cafeteria workers, student aides, custodians, bus drivers, volunteers, and everyone else who helps make learning possible. We ask that You will protect them, be with them, and give them peace in a time that is full of new possibilities.

And help us all to see the good in one another, the good in this world, the good in ourselves, and most of all, the good in You, O God. Help us to reflect Your love to everyone we meet, and just like the bags we carry into school, may we carry You wherever we go. In the name of Your son we pray. Amen.

May this become a blessing for Amelia, and for each of you.

Blessing,
Pastor Jackie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AA-YC 7:00 pm	2 C&J 6:30 pm	3 AA-YC 7:00 pm	4	5
6 Bainbridge Food Bk Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	7 Labor Day <i>church office holiday</i>	8 DWF Circle #1 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	9 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	10 AA-YC 7:00 pm	11	12
13 Bainbridge Food Bk Stewardship Sun #1 Combined Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	14	15 AA-YC 7:00 pm	16 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	17 Theology on Tap at Maldini's 6:30 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	18	19 C&J 8:30 am
20 Stewardship Sun #2 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Board mtg noon Crown & Joy 1:30 pm • Oct Newsette deadline	21	22 AA-YC 7:00 pm	23 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	24 AA-YC 7:00 pm	25 DWF Circle #4 7:00 pm	26
27 Reconciliation Offg Stewardship Sun #3 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	28	29 AA-YC 7:00 pm	30 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm			
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