

The Newsette

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513
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February, 2025
 Volume 64, Issue 2

*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.

FEBRUARY TEAMS

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER
 Christopher Gangloff

COMMUNION PREPARATION

2 – Ollie Peebles
 9 – Ollie Peebles
 16 – Ollie Peebles
 23 – Ollie Peebles

USHERS - all month
 Mary Lowe
 David Walls

WORSHIP LEADERS

2 – Barb Koch
 9 – Stephanie Lewis
 16 – Linda Grubb
 23 – Sarah McLillard

DEACONS

Mary Lowe
 Christie Rolston

ELDERS

2 – Barb Koch
 9 – Ray Crawford
 16 – Linda Grubb
 23 – Brian Gradwell

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND
 Ross Dorneman & Becky Murrell

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 1:00 p.m. •Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
 and other times as coordinated with us

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH



February is the border between winter and spring.

~ Terri Guillemets

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength while loving someone deeply gives you
 courage.

~ Lao Tzu

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a
 clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I
 have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the
 poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

~ 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of December 31, 2024 (100% of the year)

Income received year-to-date\$160,953.96 (143% 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 \$799 to CrossOver Ministries, \$770 to ACTS, \$675 to Dignity of Work

Total operating expenses year-to-date.....\$181,714.89 (93% of annual budget)

For 2024, we:

- accounted for \$21,961.87 gain in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund
- accounted for \$2,500.00 grant from Pension Fund of the Christian Church for parental leave assistance for Pastor Jackie Twedell Woods paid out to Rev. Cindy Stratton
- accounted for \$100.00 donation from the Riverside Heights Homeowners' Association for use of our space

Information on our accounts as of December 31, 2024

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 79,086.09
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Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 624.89
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Truist CD (matures 5-3-2025)	\$ 25,465.30
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Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment (principal cannot be used - matures 11-14-2025)	\$ 10,000.00
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Christian Church Extension Fund CD (matures 3-22-2025)	\$ 50,000.00
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Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 379,475.56
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*principal.....	\$ 237,855.59
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*dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends.....	73,111.69
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*income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board.....	68,508.28
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THANK YOU

My dear Bethany family, thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It was very much appreciated! Love you all! ❤️

~ Carol Molinares

Thank you to Jo Anne Dorneman, Penny Gradwell, Sarah McLillard (and Philip), and Donna Wicker who prepared and/or brought food to help with a meal for the CARITAS Healing Place for Women; we participate with two other churches to serve 90 women. We appreciate your assistance!

SYMPATHY

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Kathy and Pat Rende on the death of their daughter-in-law, Malela, on January 2 in Spain.

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.

Jim Evans Penny Gradwell Pat and Kathy Rende

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

— none

• **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 Evans Ann Hasty Hazel Heider Jean McNeely

• **Extended Church Family – family and friends of church members**

Art John Shell's brother-in-law

Nicole Craig Barbara Ozlin's niece

Marianne Dickerson David & Linda Walls' daughter

Michael McNeely and April Gray

Karen Peregoy Dee & Jim Evans' daughter

Geraldine Russell Penny Gradwell's mother

Story Dee & Jim Evans' great-granddaughter

Penny Walker Pastor Jackie's grandmother



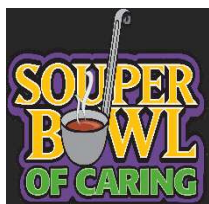
Please pray for those who suffer from natural disasters and war; for all of our men and women in the military and their families; for our country, its leaders, and peace in our world; and for our church.

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*



"Souper" Bowl of Caring – As we enjoy the Super Bowl, there are people in the Richmond area wondering where their next meal will come from. On Super Bowl **Sunday, February 9**, we will have soup pots out to collect cash (or checks made out to "Bethany Christian Church" marked "Souper Bowl of Caring") – you can "vote" for the Kansas City Chiefs OR the Philadelphia Eagles OR the puppies OR the commercials! These donations will be sent to the Bainbridge Food Bank to help feed people in our area. Please give generously.



Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Week of Compassion has pursued its mission, working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, toward the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. Week of Compassion brings immediate relief and long-term recovery after disasters; equips churches and leaders for disaster preparedness; responds to assist refugees; and supports global development projects that empower communities. Our Week of Compassion offerings will be collected on **Sunday, February 16**, and **Sunday, February 23**. Please make checks out to "Bethany Christian Church" and mark them "Week of Compassion."

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

Please join us for the first Combined "Sunday School" event of the year **Sunday, February 9**, at 9:15 a.m.

2025 FLOWER CHART



The flower chart for 2025 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 Donna in the church office. The cost is currently \$26.00 to be paid to the church.

WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to everyone who helped in making the Advent season meaningful. The combined Sunday School classes enjoyed the fellowship and the in-depth study of the Advent wreath. The cantata was wonderful, and the Sanctuary was adorned beautifully. Thanks to Jackie for helping us see the awe in the Christmas story.

Our next spiritual growth opportunity will be **Wednesday, March 5**, the beginning of Lent. That day will be our first of the Lenten lunches and Ash Wednesday.

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION



Pastor Jackie, Ray Crawford, 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.

FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

A Note
from Our
Pastor...

At the beginning of each liturgical season, I typically get the same question... "Oh, is that a new stole? It's beautiful!" Most of my stoles, though, have been a part of my collection for many years. And many of them are quite meaningful to me. But, since I do have so many – 14 in total! – I understand why so many of them seem new. There are only so many Sundays in a liturgical season, and I fall into the habit of wearing a few of my favorites over and over again. But this year, I have decided that I am going to wear all of my stoles!

In my stole collection, I have three white, three purple, two red, and four green stoles. Here are some of my favorites (with just a little bit about why they are my favorites!)

First, is the first stole I was ever given. The church I was about to serve, First Christian Church in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, presented a beautiful handmade green stole with hand-stitched doves to me during the presentation of gifts portion of my ordination. A representative of the church was there to explain the significance of the dove images...in their sanctuary is a stained glass image of a dove, and the dove on my stole is the same as the dove in their sanctuary. They have since made and given similar stoles to every young woman from that church who has gotten ordained – including two of my friends. So every time I wear that stole, not only do I think of my first church, but I also think of my two friends.

First Christian Church, Hopkinsville, also gave me a red stole. About a year into my ministry there, the same woman who made my green stole came to me, having noticed that I did not yet have a red stole, and said "You need a red stole! I will make you one!" So she took me to the fabric store, helped me pick out the fabric that I liked, and a few months later presented me with a beautiful red stole, with sections of red, orange, and yellow patchwork fabric.

Another stole I was given, my beautiful white one with the colorful stained-glass window image on top, was a gift from my children's minister. Like many people from my home church, my children's minister, Georgann Turlington knew me, and taught me, as a child, and continued to teach and support me as I grew up. Every time I wear that stole, I think of her.

A few of my stoles are made by the same person, whose company In Stitches, no longer exists. But my mom first discovered these stoles at a General Assembly, and acquired a few for herself, which she has passed on to me. These include my "Faith, Hope, and Love Abide" stole, my Pentecost "Tongues of Flame" stole, and my Micah 6:8 stole, which has the words "Seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly," on them. Also created by In Stitches, is my favorite purple stole – the mosaic patchwork purple. I love all the textures created by all the different shades of purple. It's just simply beautiful.

I could go on and on about my stoles, telling you why I love them, and why they are so meaningful to me. I encourage you to ask me about them. As I said, I will be wearing every one of them throughout the course of this year! And I'm acquiring a new one soon – one that I am trusting a friend who is a textile artist to make. I don't know what it will look like, but I know it will be beautiful! I can't wait to share that one with you, too!

~ Blessings, Pastor Jackie



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	3	4 AA-YC 7:00 pm	5 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	6 AA-YC 7:00 pm	7	8
9 "Souper" Bowl of Caring (Bainbridge Food Bk) combined Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	10	11 AA-YC 7:00 pm	12 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	13 AA-YC 7:00 pm	14	15
16 Wk of Compassion Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	17	18 DWF Circle #1 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	19 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	20 AA-YC 7:00 pm	21	22 C&J-parlor 9:00 am-noon
23 Wk of Compassion Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm • Mar Newsette deadline	24	25 AA-YC 7:00 pm	26 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	27 NO Circle #4 AA-YC 7:00 pm	28	
Notes: AA: Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship FH: Fellowship Hall YC: Youth Center					© 2019 Vertex42 LLC Calendar.Template.by.Vertex42.com	



The Love of Jesus Christ

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”

Ephesians 3:17-18