



Bethany
Christian Church
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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

April, 2025

Volume 64, Issue 4

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.

APRIL TEAMS

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER

Geoff Gangloff

COMMUNION PREPARATION

6 – Kathy Rende
13 – Palm Sunday: Sue Marion
17 – Maundy Thursday: Stephanie Lewis
18 – Chain of Prayer: **TBD**
20 – Easter: Ollie Peebles
27 – Barbara Ozlin & Sheila Thayer

USHERS - all month

Brian Gradwell
Ollie Peebles

WORSHIP LEADERS

6 – Linda Grubb
13 – Palm Sunday: Donna Wicker
20 – Easter: Barbara Ozlin
27 – Tyler Hawthorne

DEACONS

Chris Hawthorne
Kristin Wolfe

ELDERS

6 – Linda Grubb
13 – Palm Sunday: Donna Wicker
17 – Maundy Thursday: June Sears
20 – Easter: Barbara Ozlin
27 – Ray Crawford

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND

Becky Murrell & 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

April is made of such wonderful things, sunbeams and tulips and butterfly wings. ~unknown



April reminders: The best things are not things. If you can't be fearless, fear less. Always believe in magic. You have every right to cut off energy vampires. If you are tired, slow down, but never backward. Show up each day as who you want to be. ~ OurMindfulLife.com

Then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. ~ Deuteronomy 11:14

STEWARSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of February 28, 2025 (16.67% of the year)

Income received year-to-date \$22,552.99 (14.55% 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

Total operating expenses year-to-date \$31,786.40 (14.86% 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

Information on our accounts as of February 28, 2025

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 76,699.87
Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 627.33
Truist CD (matures 5-3-2025)	\$ 25,465.30
Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment (principal cannot be used - matures 11-14-2025)	\$ 10,000.00
Christian Church Extension Fund CD (matures 3-22-2025)	\$ 50,000.00
Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 381,880.11
*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.....	70,912.83

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.

Harrison Gradwell (Penny & Brian Gradwell's grandson)

Karen Peregoy (Dee & Jim Evans' daughter)

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

Mark Kimmel 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

Michael McNeely & April Gray

Doug Reeves Carol Molinares' father

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.

WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS (WSC) DEPARTMENT

Put on your walking shoes and join "**Bethany Walkers**" on **Saturday, April 5**, at 10:00 a.m. to walk/stroll along the James River enjoying the beauty of God's nature and having great fellowship! We will gather at the trailhead for the Wetlands Park, found at 3340 Landria Drive. There is street parking available, as well as a driveway if street parking is full. We will walk in God's creation for 30 minutes, then enjoy refreshments and share reflections on what we've observed. Our goal is to walk the first Saturday of each month through September.

Lenten lunches have been spiritually rewarding. If you have not attended it's not too late. We bring our bag lunches and meet **Wednesdays** at 11:30 a.m. The last lunch will be April 9.

SAVE THE DATES! The **Adult Vacation Bible School** will be held **Wednesday, June 25, Thursday, June 26, and Friday, June 27**. Glenna Tibbs, Catherine Parrish's mother, will be leading our study. Our craft this year will be making fleece blankets for children's hospital.

2025 Prayer Vigil: It's that time again! We are getting ready for our annual 24-hour prayer vigil beginning at 6 a.m. (note earlier start time ☺) on **Good Friday (April 18)**. Please sign up for a time slot(s) via this link: bit.ly/2025PrayerVigil or on the physical signup sheet on the bulletin board at church. Thank you in advance for another successful prayer vigil!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

We will be having our second "**Combined Sunday School**" event of the year on **Sunday, April 6**. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. for fellowship and study. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

Please join us for a **casserole breakfast** on **Easter Sunday, April 20**, around 9:15 a.m. after the "not so sunrise, Sonrise service." We will be soliciting casseroles from the congregation. If you have a casserole you are particularly proud of, please bring it to the breakfast.

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*

We will be open as a Church World Service/Lutheran World Relief **drop-off depot** in April.



Easter Offering – The Easter Offering supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift 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, and so much more → • Center for Faith and Giving • Central Pastoral

Office for Hispanic Ministries • Communication Ministries • Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry • Disciples of Christ Historical Society • Disciples Home Missions • Disciples Women • Division of Overseas Ministries • Higher Education and Leadership Ministries • National Benevolent Association • National Convocation • New Church Ministry • North American Pacific/Asian Disciples • Office of the General Minister and President • Treasury Services.

Our Easter Offering will be collected on **Palm Sunday, April 13**, and on **Easter Sunday, April 20**. Please make your checks payable to "Bethany Christian Church" and write "Easter Offering" in the memo section.

Easter cookout and community egg hunt: We are so excited to join with Crown and Joy Presbyterian Church for our Easter Egg Hunt this year, and we will be adding to the festivities with these activities – cookout, prayer booth, music, games, bubble station, face art, resurrection egg scavenger hunt, and crafts including bag and pot decorating and seed planting! Please join us and bring your friends on **Saturday, April 19**, from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.!

We have lots of opportunities for **YOU** to help with the event (Crown and Joy has over 30 children, so it will be great to have so many little ones participating). We have two sign ups (or you can email shmclillard@gmail.com if you want to help, but can't navigate the signup geniuses).

- Volunteer sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4BA5A62CAAF94-55724221-easter>
- Food sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4BA5A62CAAF94-55789995-food>

If you can't be here that Saturday, please feel free to donate small candies or toys to go in our eggs. You can place them in the box in the Narthex. Please direct any questions to Sarah McLillard through email or cell phone/text at 540-220-4820.

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, April 27**, and **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.

FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS



"You will go out in joy and be lead forth in peace; the **mountains and hills will burst into song** before you, and **all the trees will clap their hands.**" (Isaiah 55:12)

"Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; **let the fields be jubilant**, and everything in them. **Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy**; they will sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth." (Psalm 96:11-13)

"**Let the sea resound**, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. **Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together** for you; let them sing before the Lord..." (Psalm 98:8)

"The heavens declare the glory of God; **the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**" (Psalm 19:1)

I love these scriptures because they all tell of nature praising God (in very human ways!) Trees clapping hands! Mountains singing! Heavens declaring and skies proclaiming! It's just so vivid. I can see the trees' newly-green leaves trembling in the wind, and can easily imagine that they are hands clapping for joy! I can hear the wind as it pushes against me as I go on a walk, and can easily imagine a song of praise! And I see the surprise daffodils in my backyard, and I can't help but feel jubilant, even when some things feel so hard.

I say surprise daffodils, because I had no idea they would bloom this year. Yes, we have had daffodils in our backyard before, but we had a landscape company come out last summer and pull out all of our

overgrown wilderness of a yard. They cleared everything out! It has been wonderful to see how much open space we now have, and I continue to imagine playing with Amelia out there – running back and forth across our yard!

But ever since then, the yard has been just grass...until a few weeks ago, when these bold little green branches pushed their way up...and then buds appeared...and now so many beautiful yellow blossoms dot our yard! There's no order to it – in one spot, there are a few single blooms...and clear on the other side of the yard are two gigantic clusters. There's no rhyme or reason to it! They have just bloomed wherever the bulbs ended up when everything else was cleared out!

It is beautiful! And these surprise daffodils have brought me such joy! I was not expecting them at all, and here they are reminding me that God's presence (and love and grace and forgiveness) often find us when we least expect it...and in the most beautifully surprising ways!

And so I wonder, how have you been surprised by God's presence...God's beauty...God's grace...God's love?

~ Blessings, Pastor Jackie



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AA-YC 7:00 pm	2 Lenten bag lunch and study 11:30 am C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	3 AA-YC 7:00 pm	4	5 "morning walk with God" starts at Stephanie's home 3340 Landria Dr 10:00 am
6 combined Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	7	8 AA-YC 7:00 pm	9 Lenten bag lunch and study 11:30 am C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	10 AA-YC 7:00 pm	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Easter Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm • May Newsette deadline	14	15 DWF Circle #1 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	16 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	17 Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday Service 5:30 pm Theology on Tap at O'Toole's 6:30 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	18 Good Friday 24-hr Prayer Vigil begins church & home 6:00 am	19 24-hr Prayer Vigil ends church & home 6:00 am Easter Cookout and Egg Hunt - joint w/ C&J 11:00 am-2:00 pm
20 Easter Easter Offg "Sonrise" svc 8:30 am casserole brkfst 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	21	22 AA-YC 7:00 pm	23 [Admin Prof Day] C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	24 DWF Circle #4 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	25	26
27 Crossover Min Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	28	29 AA-YC 7:00 pm	30 C&J-upstairs 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm			
		Notes: AA: Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship accept Church World Service donations Mon-Thurs 9-noon				© 2019 Vertex42 LLC Calendar Template by Vertex42.com



You're Invited to a
Service of Gratitude and Transition
Saturday, April 26, 2025

Pre-Service Activities 2:30 PM
Service begins at 3:00 PM
Reception to follow



Rev. Terri Hord Owens, preacher
GMP of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

4101 Grove Ave.
Richmond, VA
23221



Join the Community Choir!
(please email if interested)

Seventh Street Christian Church invites the community to a heartfelt final worship service at its long-standing location. This special gathering will highlight the church's rich history, acknowledge its current transformation, and celebrate the many memories created within its beloved walls.

To stay updated on the festivities visit: www.seventhstreetchristianchurch.org