The Newsette

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

NOVEMBER 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
1 – Geoff Gangloff
8 – Geoff Gangloff
15 – Sue Marion
22 – Becky Murrell
29 – Sarah McLillard

USHERS - all month
Primary: Johnny Grubb
Backup: Linda Grubb

WORSHIP LEADERS
1 – Sarah McLillard
8 – Linda Grubb
15 – Tyler Hawthorne
22 – Barb Koch
29 – Barbara Ozlin

DEACONS
Stephanie Lewis
Tyler Hawthorne

ELDERS
1 – Brian Gradwell
8 – Linda Grubb
15 – Ray Crawford
22 – Barb Koch
29 – Barbara Ozlin

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND
Barbara Ozlin and June Sears

OFFERING COMMITTEE
Barb Koch and 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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 1**. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour ("fall back") before you go to bed on Saturday, October 31.

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

"Some of the days in November carry the whole memory of summer as a fire opal carries the color of moon rise." ~ Gladys Taber

"It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful." ~ David Steindl-Rast

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chron. 16:34



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.

Carol Kimmel Carol Roland Mark Kimmel Marie Peebles

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

Diana Case-Foster B. J. Gradwell Mary Kline Eliana Oatman
Alyssa Oatman Morris Dee & Jim Evans Carolyn Moore Carol Browder

•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
Beth McClain..... Sarah McLillard's sister
Michael McNeely & April Gray
Michelle..... Maren McClain and her son's friend
Karen Peregoy ..... Dee & Jim Evans' daughter
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.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



On **Saturday November 14**, there will be a Celebration of Life for Merrily Baber from **2-4 pm** in the fellowship hall at Bethany Christian Church. There will be food, singing, music, and an opportunity to share stories about Merrily.

Please rsvp to Cari Alton or Pastor Jackie Woods.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Please join us for the final "Combined Sunday School" event of 2026 starting at **9:15 am** in the fellowship hall on **Nov. 1**.

We are having a "Pot Luck" luncheon after the service on **Sunday November 22** starting at **noon** in the fellowship hall. The Congregational Life committee will be providing the meat but we will need some assistance from the congregation. If you have a dish you are particularly proud of please bring it.

Please let Ollie Peebles, Christie Rolston, or Becky Murrell know if you intend to bring a dish.

WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

All Saints' Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, **November 1**. We will remember our saints by naming in the Pastoral Prayer all of our members who have died this year. According to our records, we will remember Patsy Anthony Rende and Merrily Baber. Also during worship that morning, as the Pastoral Prayer is ending, we will take time for you to come forward as you are able to light candles in honor of or in memory of all the saints in your life.



As we prepare for the Christmas season, we ask for help decorating the Sanctuary and the tree in the Narthex on **Monday November 23, at 10:00 a.m**. Hope you can come to help.

We will have combined Sunday School classes again this Advent season beginning **November 29**. Pastor Jackie will lead our lessons.



A Festival of Christmas Carols

December 20, 2026

Want to join the choir just for the Christmas music service? Just come to rehearsals at **7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings**. The choir will rehearse for the regular service music from 7:00 – 7:30 pm, then we'll rehearse the Christmas music until 8:15 pm. We'll have rehearsal music available for you to listen and practice at home, too. Come and sing!

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*

Outdoor Movie Night – Crown and Joy is hosting an Outdoor Movie Night that is free and open to the public. It will be held at the church on **Saturday, November 7 (4:30 – 9:30 pm)**. This is a great way to reach people in the neighborhood with the love of Christ.

Thanksgiving Offerings will be accepted **Sunday, November 16**, and **Sunday, November 23**. These offerings support Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering provides a direct connection to fifteen colleges and universities, seven seminaries, and theological programs to continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church.

Please make your checks payable to "Bethany Christian Church Christian Church" and indicate "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo.

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of September 30, 2026 (75% of the year)

Income received year-to-date .....$123,552.32 (80.25% 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 $620

Total operating expenses year-to-date.....$145,351.73 (68.96% 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 September 30, 2026

Truist Checking Acct	$ 22,014.30
Truist Business MM Acct	$ 655.35
Truist CD (matures 6-22-2027)	$ 26,923.02
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)	$ 52.334.43
Perpetual Endowment*	$ 472,145.81

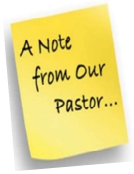
*principal.....$ 237,855.59

*dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends.....76,587.58

*income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board.....157,702.64



FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS



At the beginning of Paul's letter to the Philippians, he says, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." As we enter into the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, we all join in with Paul – offering our thanksgiving…and remembering those we love…and those we have lost. The end of the year – with all these celebrations – is always a challenge when we have lost loved ones. Which is why I am grateful that we begin this time of the year with a day to remember and give thanks for our loved ones who have died.

We do that every day, but especially on All Saints Sunday. All Saints is a day in the life of the church where we remember, honor, and celebrate all the saints, known and unknown, living and no longer with us. This year, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 1st. Most Protestant churches, including Disciples of Christ churches around the country, will celebrate All Saints Sunday by remembering and recognizing the saints in our midst who have died in the past year.

We, at Bethany Christian Church, will remember our saints by naming in the Pastoral Prayer all of our members who have died this year. According to our records, we will remember Merrily Baber and Pat Rende. Also during worship that morning, as the Pastoral Prayer is ending, there will be time for you to come forward to light candles in honor of or in memory of all the saints in your life.
I look forward to All Saints Day every year, and this year, while I gratefully remember all the saints in my life who have gone to be with God, I find myself thinking of those saints who are still living…who are still showing me every day how to love God and serve God with all my heart and soul and mind and strength. I think of my beloved Sunday school teachers, my mentors, and even my daughter – each one has shown me what it means to love…and be loved.

One of the most beautiful parts about All Saints Sunday happens after the worship service is over, though, when the candles are extinguished…and the smoke lingers and disperses into the air. We know that our Saint's presence lingers with us, still…lives on in us, always. As God has promised us, "I am with you always, to the ends of the age," so, too, are they.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in worship that Sunday as we collectively remember and honor all the saints of Bethany Christian Church and all of the saints in each of your lives.

Blessings,
Pastor Jackie

PS - Advent is just around the corner! Here is the important information and dates for us as we spend the season anticipating the birth of Christ – God with us – again this year.

Each Sunday of Advent (Nov 29th, Dec 6th, 13th, and 20th), Pastor Jackie will be leading a Combined Sunday School class. Inspired by the book Waiting: Spending Advent with the Psalms by Elizabeth F. Caldwell, each class will explore a Psalm that illuminates an enduring attribute of God. My hope is that each week we can take some time, in this busy holiday season, to take a breath, slow down, pause, and connect with the thoughts, feelings, and images the psalmist has offered, and then see how they speak to us, today.

November 23rd – 10:00 Decorate the church for Advent
November 29th – First Sunday of Advent
December 6th – Second Sunday of Advent and Membership Meeting
December 13th – Third Sunday of Advent and Fellowship Breakfast with Carol Sing
December 20th – Fourth Sunday of Advent and Cantata Worship Service
December 24th – Christmas Eve worship services at 11:00 am and 11:30 pm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving ends All Saints' Sunday Combined Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	**2**	**3** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**4** C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	**5** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**6**	**7** C&J Movie Night 4:30 - 9:30 pm
8 Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	**9**	**10** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**11** Veterans Day C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	**12** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**13**	**14** Merrily Baber Celebration of Life 2-4 pm
15 Thanksgiving Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Board mtg noon Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	**16**	**17** DWF Group 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	**18** C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	**19** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**20**	**21** C&J 8:30 am
22 Thanksgiving Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Potluck 12:00 pm Crown & Joy 1:30 pm • **Dec Newsette deadline**	**23** decorate church 10 am	**24** Choir 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	**25** C&J 6:30 pm	**26** Thanksgiving *church office holiday*	**27** *church office holiday*	**28**
29 combined Sunday School (Advent) 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	**30**					

Notes:

AA: Into Action Alcoholics Anonymous
C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian Church
DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship
FH: Fellowship Hall
YC: Youth Center

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