The Newsette

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513
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October 2026
Volume 65 Issue 10

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.

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER
David Walls

COMMUNION PREPARATION
4 – Ollie Peebles
11 – Sue Marion
18 – Penny & Brian Gradwell
25 – Barbara Ozlin & Sheila Thayer

USHERS - all month
Primary: Ross Dorneman
Backup: David Walls

WORSHIP LEADERS
4 – Tyler Hawthorne
11 – Donna Wicker
18 – Ross Dorneman
25 – June Sears

DEACONS
Kristin Wolfe
Sarah McLillard

ELDERS
4 – Johnny Grubb
11 – Donna Wicker
18 – Ross Dorneman
25 – June Sears

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND
Barb Koch

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.
•Third Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. and other times as coordinated with us

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

"October is a symphony of permanence and change." ~ Bonaro W. Overstreet

"There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October." ~ Nathaniel Hawthorne

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:10



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

•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

•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
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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the members of the church who supported me and sent cards during my father's illness and death over the summer. ~Sarah McLillard

DWF NEWS

Circle #1 and Circle #4 are combining! Starting in October, there will be only one DWF group and they will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the church. The first combined meeting will be **Oct. 20 at 10:00 a.m.** If you have any questions, please contact Jo Anne Dorneman.

WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL
STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of August 31, 2026 (66.67% of the year)

Income received year-to-date .....$112,008.73 (72.75% 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.....$129,464.42 (61.42% 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 August 31, 2026

Truist Checking Acct	$ 27,890.16
Truist Business MM Acct	$ 655.08
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)	$ 52,291.43
Perpetual Endowment*	$ 470,656.94

*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.....156,681.85

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.

Reconciliation Offering – On **Sunday October 4**, we will collect our Reconciliation Offering. 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. 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.

Blanket Offerings will be accepted **Sunday, October 11**, and **Sunday, October 18**. For over 75 years, Church World Service has provided blankets to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty). You can give hope to people in the United States and around the world by donating.

CWS

Each $10 gift provides a blanket and enables someone to feel God's love in their lives. Please make your checks payable to "Bethany Christian Church" and indicate "*CWS Blankets*" in the memo.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2026

To Members of Bethany Christian Church:

Our Annual Membership Meeting to Elect Officers and Leaders for 2027 will be held on **Sunday, October 4, 2026**, immediately following worship. Members unable to attend may vote before that time by email to the church office (bethanychristiandoc@gmail.com) or by telephone at 804-233-2066.

Thank you,
Jim Davis, Moderator

The following faithful members are hereby presented to the Membership for election for one- year terms (unless designated otherwise). This slate was recommended by the Nominating Committee (Barb Koch, Chair, with Becky Murrell, Christie Rolston, and Linda Walls) and approved by the General Board at its September 20th meeting:

Moderator……..Jim Davis

Vice Moderator…….....Ross Dorneman

Secretary to the Board…….....Barbara Koch

Treasurer/Stewardship Chair……Ray Crawford

Elders Chair (as selected by Elders)……Barbara Ozlin

Elder-at-large……..Linda Grubb

Deacons Chair (as selected by Deacons).....Sue Marion

Deacon-at-large……..Kristin Wolfe

Spiritual Growth/Worship/Communications Chair……Sue Marion

Evangelism/Outreach Chair……Linda Walls

Congregational Life Co-Chairs……..Ollie Peebles and Christie Rolston

Property Chair……Scot Hawthorne

DWF Representative (as selected by DWF)……..Jo Anne Dorneman

Trustees
Jim Davis (year 6 of 6)

Ross Dorneman (re-elect for year 1 of 6)
Brian Gradwell (year 3 of 6)

Offering Committee
Team 1 – Barbara Koch and Linda Walls
Team 2 – Jo Anne Dorneman and Karen McClain
Substitutes – Linda Grubb, Becky Murrell, Barbara Ozlin

Deacons
Sue Marion, Chair
Kristin Wolfe, Deacon-at-large Board Member
Jo Anne Dorneman
Chris Hawthorne
Tyler Hawthorne
Frances Pulley
Kathy Rende
Christie Rolston
Linda Walls
Ollie Peebles
Sarah McLillard
Catherine Parrish

Nominations Chair (as recommended by Moderator).....Barbara Koch (Chair recruits two other members of Committee)

Auditor/Audit Committee Chair (as recommended by Moderator).....Ray Crawford

Human Resource Committee (as recommended by Moderator):
Jim Davis, Moderator
Ross Dorneman, Vice Moderator
Ray Crawford, Stewardship Chair
Sue Marion (as recommended by Moderator)
Linda Grubb (as recommended by Moderator)

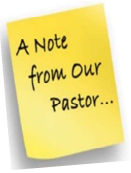
Pastoral Relations Committee (as recommended by Pastor and Moderator):
Scot Hawthorne (year 2 of 2)
Christie Rolston (year 2 of 2)
Sue Marion (re-elect for year 1 of 2)
Barbara Ozlin (re-elect for year 1 of 2)

GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



The Advent season is fast approaching. We will have combined Sunday school classes again this year. Any suggestions of topics for discussions or themes will be greatly appreciated. Check out our up dated website. Thank you Naomi. ~ Sue Marion

FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS



Fall has always been my favorite season! I love pumpkins, the beautiful colors the leaves turn before they fall, and crunchy leaves. I love the cooler weather. Mostly though, this year, I love watching Amelia discover the beauty of Fall!

Right now, Amelia is fascinated with pinecones and acorns. Our neighbor has a pine tree, and she encourages Amelia to watch for pinecones. We point them out up in the tree, and celebrate when a new one falls to the ground. As we add new pinecones to our collection, we watch the different stages of their disintegration. "Why is this one flat?" she asks. But then we hear another acorn fall, and we are off to gather acorns!

I've never really thought much about pinecones or acorns (except for complaining about how loud the acorns are when they fall, and how many of them there are this year!). But each time I hold an acorn that Amelia has carefully picked out and joyfully handed to me, I am reminded that this little nuisance is a seed with potential to become a big tree.

These past few weeks of collecting acorns has helped me see that all of the things that fall from the trees – pinecones, acorns, even the leaves – are beautifully laying the groundwork for the growth, possibilities, new life that comes in the Spring. So even though the season of Fall, on the surface, seems like a dreary reminder of the coming cold, dark nights, and dying leaves that leave a tree bare, it is so much more than that.

Amelia's acorns remind me that Fall is the time when trees let go of all of their seeds, trusting that, come Spring, some will begin to grow into mighty oaks. What a beautiful reminder of the promise of potential…of opportunity…and life in the midst of death…

As author Angie Weiland-Crosby so beautifully said, "Autumn whispered to the wind, 'I fall: but always rise again.'"

May this Autumn bring you blessings of comfort in the midst of change, joy in every small moment, and the gifts of life and beauty when so much looks like death. But as our faith promises, it is only in death that we can rise again!

Blessings,
Pastor Jackie



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 AA-YC 7:00 pm	**2**	**3**
4 Reconciliation Offg Stewardshp Sun #4 Worship 11:00 am •membership mtg-offcrs Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	**5**	**6** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**7** C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	**8** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**9**	**10**
11 CWS Blanket Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	**12**	**13** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**14** C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	**15** Theology on Tap at Maldini's 6:30 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	**16**	**17** C&J 8:30 am
18 CWS Blanket Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	**19**	**20** DWF MTG 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	**21** C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	**22** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**23**	**24**
25 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm • **Nov Newsette deadline**	**26**	**27** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**28** C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	**29** AA-YC 7:00 pm	**30**	**31**

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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