

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, 2025
 Volume 64, 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

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.

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
 7 – Sarah McLillard
 14 – Sarah McLillard
 21 – Stephanie Lewis
 28 – Barbara Ozlin & Sheila Thayer

USHERS - all month
 Ross Dorneman
 David Walls

WORSHIP LEADERS

7 – Penny Gradwell
 14 – June Sears
 21 – Barbara Koch
 28 – Kim Gangloff

DEACONS
 Sarah McLillard
 Frances Pully

ELDERS
 7 – Penny Gradwell
 14 – June Sears
 21 – Barbara Koch
 28 – Kim Gangloff

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND
 Brian & Penny Gradwell

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

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

Welcome September ... new month, new chapter, new page, and new wishes. May the
 month give you courage, strength, confidence, patience, self-love, and inner peace. May
 every day in September fill your days with hope, love, sunshine, and energy. Let there be
 joy, fun, and laughter.

~ anonymous

Here's to falling leaves, crisp breezes, and the tranquility of Autumn. Happy September.

~ anonymous

For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the
 world, even our faith.

~ 1 John 5:4



STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of July 31, 2025 (58.33% of the year)

Income received year-to-date\$86,872.97 (56.06% 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: \$860 to CrossOver Ministries, \$630 to ACTS

Total operating expenses year-to-date.....\$109,474.43 (51.16% 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
- accounted for \$19,386.45 gain in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund

Information on our accounts as of July 31, 2025

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 59,705.17
----------------------	--------------

Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 638.75
-------------------------	-----------

Truist CD (matures 10-5-2025 – original principal \$25,000)	\$ 25,881.47
---	--------------

Truist CD (matures 3-27-2026)	\$ 50,000.00
-------------------------------	--------------

Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment (principal cannot be used - matures 11-14-2025)	\$ 10,000.00
---	--------------

Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 407,364.39
----------------------	---------------

*principal.....\$ 237,855.59

*dollars available as directed by designated gifts
from members/friends.....76,010.46

*income available for general church needs as
directed by the General Board.....93,498.34

COST OF SANCTUARY ARRANGEMENTS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS



Coleman Brothers Flowers informed us that, **effective September 1, 2025**, the cost of a regular arrangement that they deliver to us for our Sunday Worship services will increase from \$26.00 to **\$34.50** (\$27.50 for the arrangement + \$7.00 delivery charge). We have been paying \$26.00 per week for a little over seven years, so to us this seems like a large increase, but this cost is still a bargain for arrangements such as ours.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

CHURCH FAMILY INDOOR PICNIC

Please join us for the annual church picnic on **Sunday, September 28**, immediately after church. All are invited. ~ Ollie Peebles, chairperson

WORSHIP|SPIRITUAL GROWTH|COMMUNICATIONS (WSC) DEPARTMENT

Thank you to all who have participated in our "Walks with God" series over the last five months! The sixth and final walk at the Wetlands Park will be held on **Saturday, September 13, at 9:00 a.m.** (moved to the second Saturday due to the Labor Day holiday week). Hope to see you at the wetlands trailhead near 3340 Landria Drive! *after the walk you can go to the 43rd Annual Festival of Arts – see other article ☺*

September 2025

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 14th, 21st, 28th, and October 5th 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 2026.

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 (bethanychristianchurchdoc@gmail.com), call the church office with the information (804-233-1066), put it in the slot in the office closet, or mail it to the church office (5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513).

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, 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 (9/14), Jim Davis (9/21), Ray Crawford (9/28), Geoff Gangloff (10/5)

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

Commitment Sundays are September 14, September 21, September 28, and October 5.



MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT

January 1 - December 31, 2026

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 _____

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.



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.

B. J. Gradwell Linda Grubb Mary Kline Matt Koch Carolyn Moore

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

Mark Kimmel Ed McCann Eliana Oatman Pat Rende Sheila Thayer

•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 Jean McNeely

•Extended Church Family – family and friends of church members

Adia Clelland Hazel Heider's 9-yr-old great-granddaughter

Art John Shell's brother-in-law

Rev. Alice Clarke Sarah McLillard's friend

Nicole Craig Barbara Ozlin's niece

Harrison Gradwell Penny & Brian Gradwell's grandson

Odell Ingram John Shell's mother-in-law

Susan Lowe Mary Lowe's sister

Michael McNeely & April Gray

Doug Reeves Carol Molinares' father

Geraldine Russell Penny Gradwell's mother

Karen Peregoy Dee & Jim Evans' daughter

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.

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 7, and Sunday, September 14, 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.

Sunday, September 28, and Sunday, October 5, 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.

43RD STREET FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS – TO RAISE MONEY FOR CARITAS



The 43rd Street Festival of the Arts will take place on **Saturday, September 13**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The festival features 75 artists competing in a juried show, an art raffle, food vendors, and live music filling the streets of the Forest Hill neighborhood. More than 5,000 attendees come out every year to help raise money for CARITAS.

BOARD MEETING / MEMBERSHIP MEETING



The regularly-scheduled **Board Meeting** for **Sunday, September 21**, is very important, because included in the agenda is the discussion and vote on Officers and Leaders for 2026. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please notify Ray Crawford, Moderator.

The **Membership Meeting** to discuss and vote on business from the Board meeting will be **Sunday, October 5**.

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – All women are invited and welcome!



Circle #1 will have their first Fall meeting on **Tuesday, September 16**, at 10:00 a.m.

Circle #4 will have their first Fall meeting on **Thursday, September 25**, at 7:00 p.m.



MANY THANKS to our church friends who do tasks to make our church experience so pleasant and meaningful:

- Darlene Woodfin (owner of Nu Vision Cleaning Service) who cleans our church so we have a welcoming space.
- David Walls who tends to our outside and inside church property.
- Scot Hawthorne who helps with big and small property issues.
- Carol Molinares who prepares and fills us up with beautiful, thoughtful music.
- Duane Toole who corrals our "wild and crazy church choir ☺" and provides organ and choral music.
- Pastor Jackie who prepares messages in sermons, prayers, scriptures, and studies to touch our lives.
- Geoff Gangloff who takes care of our audio needs and helps to set up our Sanctuary for service.
- Property openers/closers, communion preparers, Worship Leaders, ushers, Deacons, Elders, and offering counters who take their respective jobs so seriously.
- Board Members and Trustees who discuss and make decisions for the business of the church.
- Sunday School teachers who lead in the study of God's Word.
- Departments and special groups who provide opportunities for us to be the church together and with our neighbors.
- Becky Murrell who provides our Advent wreath and other members and friends who create a special worship space.
- Members and friends who donate money and items to help those people needing assistance AND who offer prayers and/or send a card when they know of a need.
- Tim Skeens from Bon Air Christian Church who takes our food donations to the Bainbridge Food Pantry for us.
- Coleman Brothers Flowers who provide lovely arrangements for our Worship services.
- and so many more

THANK YOU



There were big shoes to fill when I took over for Anne Crumley as church secretary at Bethany Christian Church in 2012, and it took me a little while to acclimate to the job with more "other duties" than I realized. With the help of many of you, I made the job my own and enjoyed serving the Lord in this way.

I have decided to retire in September, and as Anne stated when she left, "I feel the time has come to let someone else take over." I wish many blessings to the new church/financial secretary, and I hope that he or she finds joy in the work for you and our Lord as I did! Thank you, everyone. Love, Donna Wicker

FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

A Note
from Our
Pastor...

Many of you are already aware that Donna Wicker, Bethany's dedicated, long-serving, and wonderful Church/Financial Secretary has decided that it is time to retire. She announced that her last day will be Friday, September 5th (with the flexibility to be able to stay on through the end of September to train her replacement).

Donna had shared with me earlier this year that she was thinking about retiring, so when she announced to our Human Resources department her plans, I was not entirely surprised. But I know that for many of you, surprise was your first reaction. And I get it! For 13 years, Donna has faithfully taken care of the business of our church, focusing on all the small details we might overlook. For 13 years, Donna has lovingly served as the first point of contact to people who call or come to the church during the week. For 13 years, Donna has loyally carried the institutional knowledge of our church, its members, and its ministries.

And for the past nine years, Donna has been a solid, honest, caring partner for me...a sounding board...a resource...and a trusted confidant.

The day after she announced her retirement, I gave her a big hug and told her I was so happy for her...and also, "What are we going to do without you?"

Ray Crawford, Bethany's Moderator, said something similar when he announced Donna's retirement to the church after worship on August 10th. "We all know this [retirement] happens and many of us here this morning have already made this decision for ourselves. Having myself retired at the end of December 2020, I know this was not an easy decision for her. We have been very lucky to have Donna as our Church/Financial Secretary since June 2012, a little over 13 years. Having talked to Donna's husband Jimmy the last time I saw him, and he told me he was going to retire next year, I was not completely surprised by her decision...although I was hoping for it to be next year also. I am sure that we all wish her many happy years of retirement, and are very thankful for her years of service to Bethany!"

We are, all, indeed, very thankful for Donna's years of faithful service to Bethany Christian Church! Happy Retirement! We will miss you dearly!

And while she will no longer be our Church/Financial Secretary, Donna will still be a committed member of Bethany Christian Church, continuing to serve as an Elder and a member of the choir. You will still see her at church (when she is not at the river!).

I hope you will all reach out to Donna to share your gratitude for her years of faithful service to Bethany Christian Church and to offer her your best wishes on her retirement!

P.S. – The HR department has been diligently working to create and post a job description on Indeed. Many resumes have already come in, and a few interviews are scheduled. Please hold the HR department in your prayers as they work to find a good candidate for this position. ~ Blessings, Pastor Jackie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day <i>church offc holiday</i>	2 AA-YC 7:00 pm	3 C&J 6:30 pm	4 AA-YC 7:00 pm	5 C&J Teen Night 6:00 pm room upstairs	6
7 Grandparents' Day Bainbridge Food Bk Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crow n & Joy 1:30 pm	8	9 AA-YC 7:00 pm	10 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	11 AA-YC 7:00 pm	12	13 "morning walk w ith God" 3340 Landria Dr 9:00 am Festival of Arts 10-4 Forest Hill & W 43rd St
14 Bainbridge Food Bk Stewardship Sun #1 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crow n & Joy 1:30 pm	15	16 DWF Circle #1 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	17 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	18 Theology on Tap at Maldini's 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	19	20
21 Stewardship Sun #2 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Board mtg noon Crow n & Joy 1:30 pm • Oct Newsette deadline	22	23 AA-YC 7:00 pm	24 C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	25 DWF Circle #4 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	26	27
28 Reconciliation Offg Stewardship Sun #3 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am church picnic noon EvanglOutrch mtg noon Crow n & Joy 1:30 pm	29	30 AA-YC 7:00 pm				
		Notes: AA: Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crow n & Joy Presbyterian DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship FH: Fellow ship Hall YC: Youth Center			© 2019 Vertex42 LLC Calendar Template by Vertex42.com	

