



# The Newsette

**Bethany Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ)  
**5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513**  
**(804) 233-1066 and (804) 233-9515**

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May 2026  
Volume 65 Issue 5

*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.

### MAY 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**  
3 – Kathy Rende & Barbara Ozlin  
10 – Brian & Penny Gradwell  
17 – Sue Marion  
24 Pentecost – Sue Marion  
31 – Stephanie Lewis

**USHERS** - all month  
Primary: Scot Hawthorne  
Backup: Ray Crawford

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

3 – Barb Koch  
10 – Kim Gangloff  
17 – June Sears  
24 Pentecost – Ross Dorneman  
31 – Donna Wicker

### **DEACONS**

Chris Hawthorne  
Kathy Rende

### **ELDERS**

3 – Barb Koch  
10 – Kim Gangloff  
17 – June Sears  
24 Pentecost – Ross Dorneman  
31 – Donna Wicker

### **ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND**

Ray Crawford

### **OFFERING COMMITTEE**

Barbara 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



## THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

"May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope." —Emily Brontë

"Spread love everywhere you go." —Mother Teresa

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19

## STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

### Stewardship report as of March 31, 2026 (25% of the year)

Income received year-to-date .....\$43,818.11 (28.46% 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

Total operating expenses year-to-date.....\$48,931.09 (23.21% of annual budget)

For 2026, we:

- accounted for \$600 in facility donation from Crown and Joy to help with the heat repair
- accounted for \$4,138.17 loss in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund

### Information on our accounts as of March 31, 2026

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 42,068.46
Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 646.09
Truist CD (matures 6-12-2026)	\$ 26,616.57
Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment (principal cannot be used - matures 05-14-2026)	\$ 10,000.00
Christian Church Extension Fund CD (put in MM 3/30/2026)	\$ 52,000.00
Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 434,907.12
*principal..... \$ 237,855.59	
*dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends..... 76,178.51	
*income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board..... 120,873.02	

## DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY (DWF) CIRCLE #1



WOMEN! Please join us on **Tuesday, May 12**, at **12:00 p.m.** for some good food and fellowship at Carrabba's Restaurant 11450 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23235.

## WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to Pastor Jackie for a wonderful **Easter season**. Also, a big hallelujah to our choir. The music on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday was absolutely beautiful. Thank you to our choir members and Duane for your continued dedication.



If you have graduation news or an announcement, please let the office know by **May 24**. We will post the announcements in the June Newsette. Please email Naomi Moon or you can leave a note at the office.

**"SAVE THE DATE"** – **Vacation Bible School** will be held on **June 8-10** from **5:30-7:30 pm**. Retired Reverend John Hall will be our guest leader. Please plan to attend.



## EVANGELISM | OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Thank you to everyone for contributing and helping out with the combined Easter Egg Hunt with Crown and Joy in April. It was a beautiful day full of good food, fellowship, and fun Easter activities for the kids. There is a poster in the hall displaying photos of the wonderful event.

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**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, May 3**. 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.

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**Pentecost offering** days are **Sunday, May 17 and 24**. The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing, and sustaining of new congregations is part of the Disciples' vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs. Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they're given and the New Church Ministry. Make your checks out to "Bethany Christian Church" and put "Pentecost" in the memo.

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

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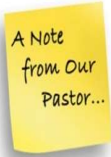
**Bainbridge Community Ministry** box in the hallway near the Chapel is always open for your donations of non-perishable food (and there is a box for paper bags with handles). Tim Skeens, from Bon Air Christian Church, is always so kind to deliver our food donations.

- 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

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT



Please join us for the second "Combined Sunday School" event of the year on **Sunday May 3rd at 9:15am**. Come for coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship time at 9:15 am. And during the Sunday School hour, Sarah McLillard will present information about her service organization WHOA. Please plan to come to hear this discussion about a program available in our community.



## FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

One of Amelia's favorite books at the moment is a board book called "100 Sheep." It is a retelling of the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Told simply and beautifully, we turn the pages together and marvel at the man who searches for...and finds his one lost sheep.

On the page where the shepherd finally hears the "baaa" of the lost sheep, Amelia adds her "baaa" to mine. And on the page where the shepherd invites all his neighbors to have a party, we cheer and celebrate together! And, of course, we count! Right now, we only count to 10...but one day, we could count all the way to 100!

I love this image of the Good Shepherd – the one who searches for the lost sheep. I also love the image of the Good Shepherd – the one who calls his sheep by name...and the sheep follow the shepherd because they know his voice.

As I said in worship yesterday, I continue to wonder how we will know if the voice we are hearing is truly the voice of the Good Shepherd. There are, indeed, so many voices that call to us. And it is sometimes difficult to recognize the voices we know. But then, I opened my email this morning, and read the poem I received from poet Steve Garnaas-Holmes...a poem inspired by John 10:3-4. Hear is what he wrote...

The shepherd

calls their own sheep by name  
and leads them out....

The sheep follow the shepherd  
because they know that voice.

—John 10. 3, 4

" There is no sound.

It's not a word.

It's the name rain has for earth,  
the name a mother has  
for the child inside her  
before it is born.

It is the name you become,  
the voice that speaks you into being,  
spoken only as the tongue  
speaks flavor to the mind,  
as a spring speaks the river.

A name that is not spoken in love,  
a voice that knows an algorithm  
but not your soul,

you safely ignore.

You listen for the voice that knows you,  
that wakens you into life;  
and that voice you follow,  
like roots for water,  
like leaves to sun.

You follow  
so that life, deep and flourishing,  
is yours."

May this blessing help you hear the voice that is calling you – the voice of the Good Shepherd!

Blessings,  
Pastor Jackie

## VACATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Naomi Moon will be out of the office on **May 18-25** and will be available by email only. The office phone will not be answered but should you need to reach out, Pastor Jackie will be here at the office during her normal hours.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Crossover Min Offg Combined Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> AA-YC 7:00 pm	<b>6</b> C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	<b>7</b> AA-YC 7:00 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Mother's Day Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> DFW Circle #1 Lunch at Carrabba's 12:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	<b>13</b> C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	<b>14</b> AA-YC 7:00 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> C&J 8:30 am
<b>17</b> Pentecost Offg Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Board mtg noon Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	<b>18</b> Naomi - out of office	<b>19</b> AA-YC 7:00 pm Naomi - out of office	<b>20</b> C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Naomi - out of office	<b>21</b> Theology on Tap at Maldini's 6:30 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm Naomi - out of office	<b>22</b> Naomi - out of office	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Pentecost Pentecost Offg Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm • Jun Newsette deadline	<b>25</b> Memorial Day church office holiday	<b>26</b> AA-YC 7:00 pm	<b>27</b> C&J 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm	<b>28</b> DWF Circle #4 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm		<b>Notes:</b> AA: Into Action Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian Church DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship FH: Fellowship Hall YC: Youth Center				