



The Newsette

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225-2513
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Volume 65 Issue 8

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.

AUGUST TEAMS

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER
Christopher Gangloff

COMMUNION PREPARATION
2 – Becky Murrell
9 – Becky Murrell
16 – Becky Murrell
23 – Becky Murrell
30 – Becky Murrell

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

2 – Sarah McLillard
9 – Sue Marion
16 – Kristin Wolfe
23 – Stephanie Lewis
30 – Tyler Hawthorne

DEACONS

Sarah McLillard
Sue Marion

ELDERS

2 – Becky Murrell
9 – Becky Murrell
16 – Becky Murrell
23 – Becky Murrell
30 – Becky Murrell

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND
Ross Dorneman

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

"The month of August reminds us that a fresh start is just around the corner, waiting for us to seize it."
~J.K. Rowling

"But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence."
Jeremiah 17:7

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of June 30, 2026 (50% of the year)

Income received year-to-date\$80,757.47 (52.45% 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.....\$93,914.54 (44.56% 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 June 30, 2026

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 27,866.66
Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 654.46
Truist CD (matures 6-22-2027)	\$ 26,839.81
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)	\$ 52,197.08
Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 439,177.53
*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.....	125,202.44

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT



Please join us for the Annual Church Picnic **Sunday August 30th** immediately after the service at noon. ~Ollie Peebles



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.

Barb Koch

Carol Kimmel

Carolyn Moore

Carol Roland

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

Diana Case-Foster

B. J. Gradwell

Mark Kimmel

Mary Kline

Eliana Oatman

Alyssa Oatman Morris

Dee & Jim Evans

•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
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
Dan McClain.....	Sarah McLillard's Father



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*

The **WHOA Foundation** offerings will be collected at Bethany on **Sunday, August 5 and Sunday, August 12**. WHOA Foundation has identified housing insecurity as one of the largest social determinants of health impacting our clients and the community we serve. Through planning and program expansion of the WHOA Foundation, we hope to address numerous social determinants of health, primarily safe housing, opportunities to develop skills, assessing barriers to financial literacy, job readiness, access to food, and nurturing an environment that promotes inclusivity and advancement. Building Blocks is the WHOA Foundation's vision to establish two "step-up" homes in the city of Richmond where male and female clients can reside for three to nine-month admissions. These admissions will follow psychiatric hospital discharge and a week-long admission to WHOA's crisis housing program.

WHOA Foundation is seeking funding to support our Building Blocks program. Funding support would include staffing to ensure participant safety, group therapy, case management, and overnight support. Funding would additionally support the monthly maintenance for the Building Blocks step-up houses. Maintenance would include rent and insurance on the buildings, electricity, routine home upkeep, and stocking nutritional/hygienic necessities. Funding would also be used to furnish our homes to ensure participants have an appropriate environment to heal.

If you have any questions about this foundation, please reach out to Sarah McLillard. Make your checks payable to "Bethany Christian Church" and put "*WHOA Foundation*" on the memo line.



FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

When I started in ministry, a beloved mentor told me to keep a drawer specifically for the notes of gratitude, the praise for your ministry, the recognition of important milestones. When I was first told this, I said "Yes, thank you, what a great idea!" But this suggestion didn't sink in until I got my first note after a funeral, thanking me for my beautiful words said at their beloved's funeral. That note became the first card to make it into my "notes of praise" drawer.

Every once in a while, I pull some out and read them...and remember.

Last week, I received a new note of praise. But this one came over email. So I'll have to print it out so that I can put it in my drawer. This note, however, is not just to me. It is to all of us at Bethany. And so I wanted to share it with you. Here is the note I received from Catherine Parrish on July 19th.

Dear Bethany,

If one doesn't teach summer school, have young kids, constantly in training or travel - a teacher on Summer break has a lot of time to think. Most of my summer has been focused on building a routine around home-improvement and self-improvement, which means lots of thinking time.

I walked away from today's (July 19th) service thinking about how the good and bad wheat in the field turned into a clever competition between TCU and SMU, then my afternoon yard work turned into thinking about how very welcomed I have felt at Bethany.

This preacher's kid went through a lot of different churches growing up and visited many more on travels with my parents. I have been noticing something very unique about Bethany - the collective willingness of the congregation to say "Yes."

You may not realize what a wonderful, beautiful, and generous gift you have within the heart of Bethany with that word - Yes.

A dying church is one where the members turn inward and focus so strongly on what they used to be and how they can hold on so tightly to the past that they have become a people of "No." A church where the members are saying "Yes!" to new people, new ideas - without the minister needing to push or remind them in every sermon - is a church that is ready to fertilize the soil for new growth. You are the seed. You are the soil.

This is particularly true of Disciples. Our very movement sprung from Alexander Campbell wanting to say "Yes" to anyone who affirms faith. The gift of communion was for all. When we say "Yes" we are affirming our discipleship.

Thank you for all you do for myself and the other new members we have welcomed over the last few years. I have spoken with Jackie and several others about beginning a new weekly Sunday School class that would focus on topics that would be particularly relevant for those of us still in the work world, but also to help us have a place to come together and build our group community and relationships. Our first text would be "Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us" by Layton E. Williams. Please keep us in your prayers and share with others that we would like to welcome them to our new class. We can begin meeting during Sunday School times on September 6th.

With Love,
Catherine Parrish

Thank you, Catherine, for your beautiful note of praise. And thank you, Bethany Christian Church Christian Church, for always being so willing to say "Yes!" What a gift you all are!

Blessings,
Pastor Jackie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 WHOA Foundation Off Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	3	4 AA-YC 7:00 pm	5	6 AA-YC 7:00 pm	7	8
9 WHOA Foundation Off Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Blessing of students & teachers Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	10	11 AA-YC 7:00 pm	12	13 AA-YC 7:00 pm	14	15 C&J 8:30 am
16 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	17	18 AA-YC 7:00 pm	19	20 Theology on Tap at Maldini's 6:30 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:30 pm • Sep Newsette deadline	24	25 AA-YC 7:00 pm	26	27 AA-YC 7:00 pm	28	29 AA-YC Deep Cleaning 8-1
30 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Church Picnic noon Crown & Joy 1:30 pm	31	Notes: AA: Into Action Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian Church DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship FH: Fellowship Hall YC: Youth Center			© 2022 Vertex42 LLC Calendar Template by Vertex42.com	