



**Bethany
Christian Church**
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

January, 2025
Volume 64, Issue 1

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

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.

JANUARY 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

5 – Becky Murrell
12 – Brian & Penny Gradwell
19 – Jo Anne & Ross Dorneman
26 – Sue Marion

USHERS - all month

Ross Dorneman
Brian Gradwell

WORSHIP LEADERS

5 – Tyler Hawthorne
12 – Barb Koch
19 – Barbara Ozlin
26 – Sue Marion

DEACONS

Tyler Hawthorne
Kathy Rende

ELDERS

5 – Ray Crawford
12 – Barb Koch
19 – Barbara Ozlin
26 – Barbara Ozlin

ELDER SERVICE TO HOMEBOUND

Linda Grubb & Barbara Ozlin

OFFERING COMMITTEE

Barb 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 1:00 p.m. •Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH



January is the perfect month for wishing yourself the highest good in whatever you do.

~ Remez Sasson

January is the quietest month in the garden. But just because it looks quiet, doesn't mean that nothing is happening.

~ Rosalie Muller Wright

Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.

~ Job 8:7

KITCHEN INFO

Since Crown and Joy Presbyterian Church will be using our kitchen a lot (they have dinners on first and third Sundays), please be sure to put away everything you use and mark things in the refrigerator after an event.

STEWARSHIP INFORMATION

Stewardship report as of November 30, 2024 (91.67% of the year)

Income received year-to-date \$129,632.88 (115% 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 \$799 to CrossOver Ministries, \$770 to ACTS, \$675 to
Dignity of Work

Total operating expenses year-to-date \$166,988.37 (85% of annual budget)

For 2024, we:

- accounted for \$31,691.08 gain in the value of our Perpetual Endowment Fund
- accounted for \$2,500.00 grant from Pension Fund of the Christian Church for parental leave assistance for Pastor Jackie Twedell Woods paid out to Rev. Cindy Stratton
- accounted for \$100.00 donation from the Riverside Heights Homeowners' Association for use of our space

Information on our accounts as of November 30, 2024

Truist Checking Acct	\$ 63,866.39
Truist Business MM Acct	\$ 623.53
Truist CD (matures 12-2-2024)	\$ 25,000.00
Christian Church Extension Fund CD for Loving & Caring Endowment (principal cannot be used - matures 11-14-2025)	\$ 10,000.00
Christian Church Extension Fund CD (matures 3-22-2025)	\$ 50,000.00
Perpetual Endowment*	\$ 387,982.67
*principal.....	\$ 237,855.59
*dollars available as directed by designated gifts from members/friends.....	72,797.79
*income available for general church needs as directed by the General Board	77,329.29

NEW MEMBER



We celebrate the addition of **John Carey Shell, Jr.**, into our family of faith on Sunday, December 15, by profession of faith. John's address is 2236 E Tremont Court, Richmond, VA 23225-1947. His phone number is (434) 594-1310, and his email is johncareyshelljr@gmail.com. His birthday is May 25. His wife's name is Dee Ingram, and their anniversary is June 5.

THANK YOUS



A HUGE "thank you" to Scot Hawthorne and team for supplying a dumpster and man/woman power to remove church items that were in the way of Crown and Joy Presbyterian and no longer needed here. This project was a challenge, and Scot really stepped up to help ... thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you to Sue Marion and Ray Crawford for their efforts, and we appreciate the owners of the loaned items removing them (if the church no longer needed them) or marking them as to ownership (if the church is still using them).

~ Donna Wicker

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and calls after my accident. Special thanks to Barbara Ozlin for the delicious food she made for me and the visit. I am so blessed to have such a caring and loving church family. Thanks again. ~ Love, Carol Roland

Thank you to Duane Toole for opening the church for the Peabody's Piano Co. recital on Saturday, December 14. He said that it was very entertaining and everything went well.

Thank you all for the generous cash Christmas gift! I so appreciate your support. ~ Donna Wicker

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.
— none

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

— none

• 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 Jim & Dee Evans Ann Hasty Hazel Heider Jean McNeely

• Extended Church Family – family and friends of church members

Art John Shell's brother-in-law

Nicole Craig Barbara Ozlin's niece

Marianne Dickerson David & Linda Walls' daughter

Michael McNeely and April Gray

Karen Peregoy Dee & Jim Evans' daughter

Geraldine Russell Penny Gradwell's mother

Story Dee & Jim Evans' great-granddaughter

Penny Walker Pastor Jackie's grandmother

friends of Jo Anne Dorneman

friends of Brian Gradwell

friends of Mary Lowe



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.

SYMPATHY

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Rod Grundy and Becky Murrell on the death of Rod's mother, Eleanor Grundy, on Thursday, December 5. She had been receiving hospice care.

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*

WORSHIP | SPIRITUAL GROWTH | COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to Ross Dorneman, Jim Davis, Barbara Ozlin, Stephanie Lewis, Duane Toole, and Pastor Jackie for leading our Advent season combined Sunday school classes. Thank you to Ollie Peebles for preparing coffee each Sunday.

UPDATE

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Sue Marion uses cell phone only (804) 339-8527
- Emily Wolfe and family, 5332 Tamarind Lane, Honolulu, HI 96818-7083
- Janie Severance will be moving to 2230 Lakeview Drive, Powhatan, VA 23139-6134

INFORMATION FOR 2025 CHURCH DIRECTORY



IT'S TIME! Please send all of your updates for the 2025 Church Directory – email address changes are important! We also need names and phone numbers for emergency contacts for everyone (this information will not be printed in the Directory, but it will be kept in the office if needed).



INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

Pastor Jackie, Ross Dorneman, and Jim Davis have the information for CBS and NBC to notify them if we have to cancel services due to inclement weather. If you have a question, please tune to one of those stations, check your email, or call someone.



2025 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2025 is ready. Please sign up for your special day for flowers for the Sanctuary by writing on the board outside the kitchen if you're here on Sundays OR by calling Donna in the church office. The cost is currently \$26.00 to be paid to the church.

PLANNING CONFERENCE AND BOARD MEETING

Our annual Planning Conference will be **Sunday, January 26** (fourth Sunday), after Worship. Lunch will be provided by our Congregational Life Department (a basket will be there for your donations towards the food costs).

Here are the Chairpersons for 2025:

- Congregational Life Ollie Peebles
- Evangelism|Outreach Sarah McLillard
- Property Scot Hawthorne
- Stewardship Geoff Gangloff
- Worship|Spiritual Growth|Communications Stephanie Lewis, Sue Marion

ANYONE is welcome to be a part of the planning for our church, so contact a chairperson and come to the Planning Conference! The first Board Meeting will follow the Planning Conference; if you are a member of the 2025 Board but are unable to attend, please notify Ray Crawford, 2025 Moderator.

2025 DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Newsette Deadlines:

for February	Sunday, January 26	for August	Sunday, July 27
for March	Sunday, February 23	for September	Sunday, August 24
for April	Sunday, March 23	for October	Sunday, September 21
for May	Sunday, April 20	for November	Sunday, October 26
for June	Sunday, May 25	for December	Sunday, November 23
for July	Sunday, June 22	for January	Sunday, December 21

Special Offerings:

"Souper Bowl of Caring" for Bainbridge Food Bank.....	Sunday, February 9
Week of Compassion.....	Sundays, February 16 and 23
Blessing Boxes	Sundays, March 9 and 16
Easter (supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains).....	Sundays, April 13 and 20
Crossover Health Care Ministry	Sunday, April 27, and Sunday, May 4
Pentecost (supports Disciples new church development)	Sundays, June 1 and 8
ACTS (provides support and resources during periods of financial crisis to prevent homelessness).....	Sundays, July 6 and 13
Bainbridge Food Bank	Sundays, September 7 and 14
Reconciliation (funds our Church's mission to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church)	Sunday, September 28, and Sunday, October 5
Church World Service Blanket Sundays	Sundays, October 12 and 19
Thanksgiving (supports Disciples colleges, universities, and theological institutions)	Sundays, November 16 and 23
Christmas (provides pastoral care and enrichment programs).....	Sundays, December 14 and 21

Holidays – Church Office Closed:

Monday, May 26	Memorial Day	Friday, November 28	Day after Thanksgiving
Thursday, June 19	Juneteenth	Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve
Friday, July 4	July 4 th	Thursday, December 25	Christmas Day
Monday, September 1	Labor Day	Thursday, January 1	New Year's Day
Thursday, November 27	Thanksgiving		

FROM PASTOR JACKIE TWEDELL WOODS

A Note
from Our
Pastor...

On this day before Christmas Eve, as we frantically finish all of our Christmas preparations, I wish you a Merry Christmas! I pray that you will have a meaningful celebration – with family and friends, or all on your own – as you welcome Christ into our world again.

Christ was born in Bethlehem so long ago. And Christ is born – each day – in us.

So may this Christmas season remind you to be Christ-bearers in the world, sharing God's hope, peace, joy and love.

And God's light.

Each Christmas Eve, we end our worship service by taking the light from the Christ candle, sharing it from person to person, each of us holding our own bit of that great light. What was once one flame, will become more lights than we can count. In that moment, we become the light that shines in the darkness, knowing that the darkness will never overcome it. And we go from that service, taking the light of Christ with us into the world, becoming bearers of the light, shining it so that all can see!

Merry Christmas!

~ Pastor Jackie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day <i>church offc holiday</i> NO CHOIR	2 AA-YC 7:00 pm	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	6	7 AA-YC 7:00 pm	8 C&J-upstairs Choir 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	9 AA-YC 7:00 pm	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	13	14 AA-YC 7:00 pm	15 C&J-upstairs Choir 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	16 AA-YC 7:00 pm	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Crown & Joy 1:00 pm	20	21 DWF Circle #1 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	22 C&J-upstairs Choir 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	23 DWF Circle #4 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Ring Conf/Bd Mtg noon Crown & Joy 1:00 pm • Feb Newsette deadline	27	28 AA-YC 7:00 pm	29 C&J-upstairs Choir 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	30 AA-YC 7:00 pm	31	
		Notes: AA: Alcoholics Anonymous C&J: Crown & Joy Presbyterian DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship		FH: Fellowship Hall YC: Youth Center		<small>© 2019 Vertex42 LLC</small> <small>Calendar Template by Vertex42.com</small>