



**Bethany
Christian Church**
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

The Newsette

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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September, 2017
Volume 56, Issue 9

"A Family of Faith, Growing in Christ, Growing through Service."

Rev. Jaclyn Twedell
Senior Pastor

Donna Wicker
Financial Secretary

Duane Toole
Director of Music

Carol Molinares
Pianist

William Lynch, Jr.
Custodian

*To submit information
for the Newsette, you
can send an e-mail to:
bethanychristiandoc@gmail.com*

**see separate calendar for
dates and meetings**

SEPTEMBER TEAM

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER
David Brown

COMMUNION PREPARATION
3 – Kim Brown & Sue Marion
10 – Geoff & Kim Gangloff
17 – DeLois & Jim Evans
24 – Bob & June Sears

USHERS - all month
Chloe Blair
Brian Gradwell
Johnny Grubb

WORSHIP LEADERS
3 – Penny Gradwell
10 – Ross Dorneman
17 – Kevin Scholl
24 – Chloe Blair

SEPTEMBER TEAM (continued)

ELDERS

3 – Brian & Penny Gradwell
10 – Kim Gangloff & Ross
Dorneman
17 – Kevin Scholl & Linda Spencer
24 – Bob & June Sears

Communion to Home Bound

primary: Brian & Penny Gradwell
secondary: Ross Dorneman &
Johnny Grubb

DEACONS - all month

Captain: Ollie Peebles
David Brown
Mark Kimmel
Barbara Koch
substitute: Tyler
Hawthorne

BETHANY CHRISTIAN CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

"To share the Good News of God's activity in our lives through witness and service to Westover Hills, Stratford Hills, and beyond, in order to encourage people to find their unique place in God's family."

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

"Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes."

~ Oscar Wilde

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible."

~ Walt Disney

"Never interrupt someone doing what you said couldn't be done."

~ Amelia Earhart



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

One of my favorite things on Sunday mornings is greeting each one of you as you leave worship. It is always so lovely to take a moment with each of you to say "Hello! It's so nice to see you, and I hope you have a wonderful week!" It is also a time for quick check-ins – "How is the pain today?" "When is your next doctor's appointment?" "How is your family doing?" Each Sunday, in that line, I learn something new. We shake hands, or hug, and it is a beautiful moment of connection.

This past Sunday, I preached a sermon about Jesus' question to his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" In it, I talked about how important it is that each of us be able to answer that question for ourselves. At the end of my sermon, I asked my own question, "How will you answer Jesus' question? Who do you say that Jesus is?"

After worship, a few people came up to me in the greeting line and told me their own answers. I loved hearing their responses to my sermon! And their answers were wonderful! I am so grateful that they shared them with me! As I was driving home, in my reflections on worship, I had one small regret – I wish that I had provided you all an opportunity to respond to the question "Who do you say that I am?" I wish that I had invited you all to write your own answers and lay them on the communion table at the end of worship.

I may have missed that opportunity to include it in the worship service this past Sunday, but I have found another way. On one of the bulletin boards in the Narthex, you will have an opportunity to give your own answer to Jesus' important question. There will be slips of paper and post-it notes, and a few pens and markers. You are invited to take some time this week to pray about and discern how you would answer that question. And on Sunday, I hope you will add your answer to the bulletin board. The board will be up for a few weeks, so you will have plenty of time to think over your answer.

"Who do you say that I am?" Jesus' question to his disciples, and to each of us, is an important one that we should all be able to answer. Because, as theologian N.T. Wright says, "What you say about Jesus affects your worldview."

Jesus asks each of us, "Who do you say that I am?" My answer? You are God's love made known in the only way we could know it – as one of us, who lived like one of us, who experienced the fullness of life like each of us. You are love, and you reveal God's heart to us, and just how much God loves us all. You are the one in whom I am loved, and called to love. And my life is about figuring out what that means for who I am and how I live.

"Who do you say that I am?" How will you answer?

~ Blessings! Pastor Jackie

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

The picnic scheduled for **Sunday, September 24**, after church at the church has been cancelled.

EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

September will be a busy month of preparation for Evangelism, and we offer many blessings your way! Please contact chairperson, Sarah McLillard, at shmclillard@gmail.com or (540) 220-4820 if you have any questions about our activities or would like to be involved.

Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat/Haunted House – Saturday, October 28, is fast approaching! There will be a box in the Narthex soon to gather small toys and candles for our children for this fun program for our church and community that runs from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. As in the past, we will have games inside that we will need volunteers for as well as autos outside dressed up in different themes; all of these activities will be giving candy and treats to our visitors. Help will be needed that day as well as the Saturday before to make sure the game booths have working parts (and to have time to fix if need be), check lights, etc.

- **Haunted House Planning** – We are meeting **Sunday, September 10**, after church during youth choir practice to share ideas and begin planning for the Haunted House. If you cannot make this first meeting but want to volunteer and help plan, please email Margot Krantz at mkrantz1982@gmail.com or call (804) 539-6757. We'd love to hear your ideas!
- **Trunk or Treat** – Please contact Robin Lancaster at (804) 467-2228 if you would like to decorate your vehicle (aka "host a car"). We have decorations stored in the Youth Center, and we can help you with this.
- **Fall Festival** – Please contact Penny Gradwell at (804) 402-7468 if you can help with a booth inside with preparations and/or man- or woman power the night of the event.

RVA Peace Festival – On **Sunday, October 1**, we will be participating in the RVA Peace Festival from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Villa. We are planning to have an activity and hand out balloons. If you would like to take a shift at our booth, please let Sarah McLillard know at shmclillard@gmail.com or (540) 220-4820.

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Bainbridge – Charles Stevens took eight bags of food and paper bags to the Bainbridge Community Ministries Food Bank.

C.A.R.I.T.A.S. – Our Outreach Department reached out to Bon Air Christian Church to offer help with their week of C.A.R.I.T.A.S. hosting families from Saturday evening, September 2, to Saturday morning, September 9. Remember that "if you help the least of these, you will be helping our Lord." Thank you!

Penny Gradwell and team are meeting at 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, September 3**, to get food together for supper that evening at Bon Air at 5:30. If you want to help, please contact Penny at (804) 402-7468. The menu is baked battered cod fish, scalloped potatoes, green beans, broccoli, desserts, unsweetened tea, milk, water, and coffee (we were asked not to bring sugary drinks or candy).

Dee McCann, Jo Anne Dorneman, Dee Evans, June Sears, and Donna Wicker are meeting at 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, September 7**, to make lunches for the families for distribution on Friday.

Area Congregations Together In Service (A.C.T.S.) is a Greater Richmond interfaith mission that helps clients for a limited, situational, and temporary crisis who otherwise are sustainable with bills like rent, mortgage payments, and utility payments. We partner with A.C.T.S. to refer people who call the church for help and meet the basic criteria. There will be a special A.C.T.S. offering collected on **Sunday, September 3**, and **Sunday, September 10**.

Reconciliation – Most of us have not experienced the pain of being discriminated against, but we have all seen the effects of it on others. This is why our church supports the movement to change hearts, minds, and systems that diminish the human spirit. This is why we support the work of the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your giving to this ministry funds programs that provide the knowledge, relationships and tools to end discriminatory practices that break the heart of God. When we work to be reconciled one to another and each to God, we are the living story of Christ. Please prayerfully consider your gift to this ministry on **Sunday, September 24**, and **Sunday, October 1**.

Eyeglasses – We are still collecting used eyeglasses for the Lions Recycle for Sight program, a part of the Lions Clubs International. Throughout the year, volunteers collect these used eyeglasses and deliver them to regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERCs) – our eyeglasses were and will be taken to the LaPrade Library on Hull Street Road. LERC volunteers clean, sort by prescription strength, and package the glasses. Recycled glasses are distributed to people in need in low and middle income communities where they will have the greatest impact. Thank you for your donations → the box is in the hallway towards the Fellowship Hall next to the Lost and Found box!

Week of Compassion for Hurricane Harvey – The Week of Compassion is collecting monetary donations for the victims of this hurricane, and our information is that 100% of your donation will go to help the communities! Make your check payable to "Bethany Christian Church" marked "Hurricane Harvey".

PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

The Property Department wishes to thank everyone who participated in its workday on Saturday, August 19. We had a wide range of ages and had a wonderful day. ~ David Walls, chairperson

STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

Stewardship report as of July 31, 2017 (58.33% of the year)

Offering income received year-to-date \$82,965.62 (69% of annual budget)

pledged donations; "give-as-I-can" donations;
transient, Sunday School, and special offerings

Total operating expenses year-to-date \$95,574.84 (52% of annual budget)

• Year-to-date, we have received \$11,233.77 in other income (interest, dividends, facility/custodian donations). We accounted for \$10,734.85 gain in the value of our investments in our Perpetual Endowment fund. We also transferred \$10,000.00 from our Scottrade investment account into our checking account to help cover expenses and received a \$20,000.00 memorial bequest from an estate.

Stewardship - Take a Broad View

We often talk about **the three "T's" of Stewardship** - Time, Talent and Treasure. While it is certainly true that providing the church time and talent is necessary and appreciated, we also need to realize that providing financial resources is equally important.

It's never easy to talk about money, so let me just offer one thought as we approach our very important Fall Stewardship Campaign. Specifically, it's easy to get into what I would call inertia giving. We gave "x" last year; we are giving the same "x" this year and plan to give the same "x" next year, etc. - both at church and in other areas.

I think it's important we look at all our giving patterns and make certain we are giving consistent with both our ability to give and the priority we place on that giving. With that thought in mind, please consider if your Bethany giving is reflecting the impact and import of that gift versus your other giving decisions. You will be receiving your 2018 Personal Commitment Card with a return envelope in the next few weeks; our Stewardship Sundays are September 17, September 24, October 1, and October 8. We appreciate you returning your cards no later than October 8.

And above all, the Church does appreciate all your gifts (Time, Talent or Treasure).

~ In HIS Service, Ross Dorneman, Stewardship Chair

WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

Thank you to everyone who filled the pulpit in Pastor Jackie's absences and to the choir and others who provided special music this summer. Bethany is blessed with many talented people.

Worship Hymn Survey – Your Worship Department is again requesting your input on hymns YOU find most meaningful in these categories (and thanks you for your participation):

- Processional
- Communion
- Invitation
- Other parts of the morning service

To offer this opportunity to the most people, this survey will be available in this Newsette (see page before the calendar), weekly bulletins, Sunday School folders, and on the table in the Narthex. The survey is due by Sunday, September 17, to the box in the Narthex and must have your name to be included in the tally.

Let All Creation Praise – Pastor Jackie will be leading a Blessing of the Pets service on **Sunday, October 8**, at 3:00 p.m. In honor of St. Francis of Assisi (a monk who founded the contemporary order of Franciscans and who was known for his vow of poverty and his special connection to animals, among many other things) and our own 'church dog' Gracie McCann, we will be offering a service of blessing for the pets of our church and the community. This short, outdoor service will be an opportunity for you to bring your pets (or a picture of your pet, or their leash or favorite toy, if you would prefer to leave your pets at home) so that they, and you, can receive a blessing. We all know that pets are an integral part of our families, and are a beautiful part of God's family. All are welcome, and flyers will be made available shortly so that you can invite all your pet-owning friends. If you have any questions, please let Pastor Jackie know.

ELDERS

Our next meeting is set for **Sunday, September 10**, following Worship Service, beginning with a light lunch. We will continue our discussion of Elder responsibilities, prayer needs and other issues.

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY (DWF)

DWF Officers for 2017-2018

- President Linda Spencer
- Vice President/Service Coordinator Carolyn Moore
- Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Koch
- Group Leader:
 - Circle #1 Linda Grubb, President
 - Circle #4 Barbara Koch, President
- Group Representatives:
 - Circle #1 Jo Anne Dorneman
 - Circle #4 Merrily Baber

DWF Meetings

Our monthly DWF Circles resume meeting this month at the church. Please come join us!

- Circle #1 – third Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. (so the September meeting will be **Tuesday, September 19**)
- Circle #4 – fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (so the September meeting will be **Thursday, September 28**)

Supplies

Circle #1 will be collecting school supplies again this year for low-income schools. We appreciate your past support and look forward to your help this year. There is a box in the Narthex for donations.

School days are beginning, and as always, needs abound. Redd Elementary School could use new underwear, tee shirts, and stretch pants. The school nurse keeps a supply to use as needed for young children. Sizes 4 to 10 underwear, shirts, and pants for boys and girls are welcome. A box for your donations will be in the Narthex.

DISTRICT VII

The District VII Assembly will be held at here at Bethany this year on **Saturday, September 30**, starting at 11:00 a.m. The price will be \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family. Our Worship will include Interim Regional Minister, Rev. Coretha Loughridge, and special music from the HARP Institute. Please let the church know before Wednesday, September 27, if you will be attending. We would love to see you here to support our District especially since we are the hosts!!! If you have any questions, please contact Penny Gradwell at (804) 402-7468 or Pastor Jackie.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please update your 2017 Directory to reflect these changes:

- **Hawthorne**, Kristin at James Madison University – 2103 Lupine Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
- **Lancaster**, John, Robin, Ava, & Kinsley 1560 Bolling Hall Farm Road, Goochland, VA 23063-3612 (effective 9-5-2017)

ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Names	Yrs
September 16	Ned & Ginger Neece	22
18	Matt & Hilarie Koch	7
18	Wyatt & Emily Wolfe	3
19	Bob & June Sears	58
20	Les & Cynthia Nevins	30
26	David & Mary Roberts	25
30	Philip Lillard & Sarah McLillard	11

PRAYER CONCERNS – Please notify the church office when this information changes.



Acute:

Micah Davis (Jim Davis and Barbara Ozlin's grandson)
 Pat Featherstun (Penny Gradwell's friend from Disciples Women's Cabinet)
 Ann Hasty and Teresa Lynch
 Linda (Mary Kline's daughter-in-law's sister)

Ongoing:

Florence & Paul Banks	Carol & Sonny Browder	Kitty & Mac Case
Mary Penn & Hugh Hawthorne	Hazel Heider	Helen Knighton
Dick & Barbara Koch	Sandy Lewis	Charley & Bettie Lindsey
Earl & Elizabeth Little	Ken & Carol Roland	Charlotte West

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"

Extended Church Family:

Miriam Adams	John Lancaster's grandmother
Mary Booth	Mary Kline's friend
Charles Thomas Brown	David Brown's brother
Ella	the Gradwells' friend's child
Lois and Art Foster	Mark Foster's parents
Kahn family	Johnny and Linda Grubb's friends
Calvin Lawrence	Kevin Scholl's friend
Chris Leach	the Kimmels' friend
Barbara Loose	Barbara Koch's friend
Hilda Ozlin	Barbara Ozlin's mother-in-law
Clay Powell	Sheila Thayer's friend
Geraldine Russell	Penny Gradwell's mother
Kellen Strader	Kevin Scholl's friend
Gloria Stroupe	Margot Krantz' grandmother
Nell Toole	Duane Toole's mother

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.

"THE WILD BOAR" SERIES

Dr. Bill Blake will be presenting a program at Westminster Canterbury Richmond on *Remembering October 31, 1517: Luther, "The Wild Boar" Series*. The sessions are Tuesdays, **October 24, October 31, and November 14** at 3:00 p.m. in Cochrane Commons.

On All-Hallows Eve, October 31, 1517, a German monk, priest, and professor, Martin Luther, posted 95 propositions regarding a major issue in the Church that he wished to have debated. Little did he know that act would set off a movement which would reshape the world significantly. This series will examine the life of the man, Luther, for an understanding of what led him to that moment on All-Hallows Eve and how it shaped the remainder of his life.

SEVENTH STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CALLS SENIOR MINISTER

On June 25, the congregation of Seventh Street Christian Church Disciples of Christ, also known as 7th on Grove, voted to call Rev. Hollie Woodruff as its new Senior Minister. Rev. Woodruff accepted the call and met with the congregation at an informal meet-and-greet on Sunday, July 16.

The Seventh Street Christian Church Pastoral Search Committee ardently searched and prayed for over a year to be led to the new Senior Minister. They conversed regularly with the Disciples of Christ Regional Office leadership and support staff, as well as many highly esteemed and well regarded friends from Seventh Street's history.

Rev. Woodruff has an extensive history of working with non-profits, growing leadership ministries, higher education programs, and coordinating large-scale events. Woodruff's corporate and grassroots approach to development will fit into the eclectic and diverse RVA culture. Her attention to humanitarian efforts emphasizes Seventh Street's goals of "engaging the community and world with a lived faith that responds to the needs of the environment and all living things with compassion, the potentials of restorative justice, peace, and hope."

Not only has Rev. Woodruff served as a minister and chaplain in numerous churches, she also possesses limitless creativity. Her references extol her ability to make an impact upon people's lives, citing example after example of their unique collaborations with her, each making a palpable difference in our world. Rev. Woodruff has an energetic spirit, and her energy is infectious. Rev. Woodruff will begin her full time ministry September 11, preaching her first sermon as Senior Minister on Sunday, September 17. We are pleased to announce that the Festival Brass will be our guest musicians at that worship service.

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♪♪ Worship Hymn Survey ♪♪

Hymns **YOU** find most meaningful in these categories:

Processional

Communion

Invitation

Other parts of the morning service - identify

Name of person completing the survey: _____

Please return your survey by Sunday, September 17, to the box in the Narthex. This information will be shared with Pastor Jackie, Duane, and the Worship Department members. Thank you from your Worship Department.

September 2017

AA: Alcoholics Anon
YC: Youth Center
DWF: Disciples
 Women's Fellowship
ELIM: Elim Church
FH: Fellowship Hall

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	2
						ELIM-FH 7:30 pm	ELIM-FH 6:00 pm band practice
3 ACTS Offering Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Youth Choir noon make dinner for CARITAS 3:00 pm ELIM-FH 4:00 pm	4 Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6	7	8	9	
		AA-YC 7:00 pm	Choir 7:30 pm	make lunches for CARITAS 1:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	ELIM-FH 7:30 pm	ELIM-FH 6:00 pm band practice	
10 Grandparents's Day ACTS Offering Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Youth Choir noon Elders' Mtg noon "Haunted House" noon ELIM-FH 4:00 pm	11	12	13	14	15	16	
		AA-YC 7:00 pm	Choir 7:30 pm	AA-YC 7:00 pm	ELIM-FH 7:30 pm	ELIM-FH 6:00 pm band practice	
17 Stewardship Sunday Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Youth Choir noon Board Mtg noon ELIM-FH 4:00 pm	18	19	20	21	22	23	
		DWF Circle #1 at church 10:00 am AA-YC 7:00 pm	Choir 7:30 pm	"Theology on Tap" at O'Toole's 6:30 pm (nursery at church 6:15 pm) AA-YC 7:00 pm	ELIM-FH 7:30 pm	ELIM-FH 6:00 pm band practice	
24 Stewardship Sunday Reconciliation Offng Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Youth Choir noon ELIM-FH 4:00 pm Oct Newsette deadline	25	26	27	28	29	30	
		AA-YC 7:00 pm	Choir 7:30 pm	DWF Circle #4 at church 7:00 pm AA-YC 7:00 pm	ELIM-FH 7:30 pm	District VII Assembly 11:00 am ELIM-FH 6:00 pm band practice	