

The Newsette



Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23225-2513

"A Family of Faith, Growing in Christ, Growing through Service."
www.facebook.com/bethanyccdoc bethanycc@verizon.net

Donna Wicker

Church Financial Secretary

Duane Toole

Director of Music

Lia Ferrell

Organist

William Lynch

Custodian

*To submit information for the
Newsette, you can send an e-mail to:*
bethanycc@verizon.net

Telephones:
(804) 233-1066
(804) 233-9515 fax

**see calendar insert for
dates and meetings**

JULY SERVANTS:

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

**PROPERTY OPENER
and CLOSER - all month**

Christopher Gangloff

COMMUNION PREPARATION

5 - DeLois and Jim Evans
12 - Lori Blair and Brian Gradwell
19 - Bob and June Sears
26 - Dolores and Ed McCann

WORSHIP LEADERS

5 - Ross Dorneman
12 - Ross Dorneman
19 - Dee McCann
26 - Ross Dorneman

JULY SERVANTS (cont.)

USHERS - all month

Ray Crawford
Christopher Gangloff
Jim Rountree

ELDERS

5 - Ray Crawford and Barbara Ozlin
12 - Brian Gradwell and Kevin Scholl
19 - Johnny and Linda Grubb
26 - DeLois and Jim Evans

Communion to Home Bound

primary: Dolores McCann and Linda
Spencer

backup: Ray Crawford and Barbara Ozlin

DEACONS - all month

Captain: Cari Alton
Jo Anne Dorneman
Frances Pully
Linda Walls
(substitute: Robin Lancaster)

THE PASTOR'S DESK

The writer of Ecclesiastes says that there is a time and a season for everything. In the changing of seasons we can remember the good times, celebrations, and successes we have had as we open our arms to new opportunities. Even when there are times and seasons that we just don't like, the changes can remind us that God is with us through it all.

There are a lot of things I would like to say in my last article. It's hard to let go, to trust that God will be there. Instead of trying to impart everything I think I could have or should have said, let me say the one thing I must say. Thank you.

Thank you for giving me the privilege to be your pastor. Thank you for sharing your gifts with me and with the church over the last six years. Thank you for trusting me, even when I might have seemed too young or too crazy or any other number of things. Thank you for taking care of Tammy and me, and then Oliver, in our times of need, and celebrating with us in our times of joy. Thank you for being more than a congregation, but being our friends and our co-workers for the kingdom of God. Thank you for the freedom to try new things. Thank you for your challenges, your willingness, your support, and, most of all, for your love.

Pastor Ben

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.”

SERMON TITLES AND SCRIPTURES FOR JULY

July 5 - Dr. Bill Blake preaching “1st Century Christians Speak to 21st Century Christians”

July 12 - Dr. Bill Blake preaching

July 19 - Dr. Bill Blake preaching

July 26 - Dr. Bill Blake preaching

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

The Pictorial Directories are HERE! For those people who had their pictures made, submitted pictures, or paid for a directory, they are in the Narthex for you to pick up when you’re here or you can stop by the church during office hours to get yours. If you can deliver one to someone who isn’t here regularly, we would appreciate it.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Vacation Bible Camp – Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) is scheduled for **Monday, July 6, though Thursday, July 9 – 6:00 to 8:30 pm!** Sign up sheets are in the Narthex for kids and volunteers (or see Lori Blair) - deadline is Tuesday, June 30. There will be an adult study led by Ross Dorneman on these nights also.

Thank you for your donations to our “bucket” in the Narthex. For your dinner enjoyment at VBC: Monday-spaghetti, Tuesday-hot dogs, Wednesday-pizza, Thursday-taco bar!

EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

Yard Sale Update - The yard sale items left from April are finally gone to the Love of Jesus Thrift Store, but they would not take non-flat screen TVs or books, so we had to take these items elsewhere - next year we will have to remember this. Thank you again for all your support of our efforts to reach out to our neighborhood.

Teacher Appreciation - For “Teacher Appreciation” for Elizabeth Redd Elementary School we took breakfast items, such as donut holes, pastries, muffins, coffee cake and fresh fruit. The staff that was spoken to LOVED everything and was very grateful for our offerings to their day. Thank you to the Evangelism Department for all your help, and please look for news on a meeting planned for August to get ready for the Fall Festival/Haunted House.

~ In HIS Service, Penny Gradwell, Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

Stewardship report as of May 31, 2015 (42.67% of the year)

Offering income received year-to-date \$72,249.34 (51% of annual budget)

Total operating expenses year-to-date \$72,584.49 (38% of annual budget)

We have also received \$4,351.65 in other income (including interest and dividends) and accounted for a \$57.59 fund gain in our Perpetual Endowment fund.

WORLD OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Bainbridge – Don’t forget the food box in the hall across from the Chapel for your non-perishable food donations. Last month, nine bags of food were taken to Bainbridge.

Special Offerings – In May, we collected \$369.00 for the Week of Compassion designated for the Nepal earthquake relief and \$265.00 for Pentecost offering.

WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

Joys and Concerns – In an effort to have more time for our guest preachers to give their messages, we are going to do the Joys and Concerns a little differently in the service. Please be sure to list your information on the pad as you come into the Sanctuary.

What is a disciple? – For several people who have asked the question “What is a disciple?” here is an article by Rev. Erin Wathen, Senior Pastor of Saint Andrew Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in the Kansas City area..

~ Geoff Gangloff, Worship Chairperson

The Disciples grew out of the Stone Campbell movement in the early 1800's. The early founders sought an alternative to the divisive denominationalism of that time. They wanted a way to live faith in community without “tests of fellowship,” and with “no creed but Christ.” It was a frontier journey, in more ways than one. Most literally, it was a fellowship that grew out of rural, Central Kentucky — which was the very edge of all that lie ‘west’ of civilized America. But it was also a wilderness outside of polity and strict doctrine. This was to be a place where all were welcome to receive communion; all would be received in baptism; and all could worship together, even if they did not entirely agree on the letter of the law.

Over 200 years of shifting social paradigms have led to several splits. What started as a single, unified church is now three different denominations; sometimes we're speaking to each other, sometimes not. Depends on the day (and what part of the country you're in). At the same time, the Disciples of Christ, on the whole, can still point to those founding tenets of unity in Christ and freedom of belief at the heart of who we are as church together.

This has led to the occasional identity crisis and what has been a centuries-long marketing nightmare.

“What does your church believe?” a newcomer might ask. “Well...” we venture... “Depends on who you're talking to. And where you are on the map. And who made the coffee this morning, among other things.”

Most of our congregations affirm and empower women for leadership; but a few still don't. Some are welcoming of LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] people; some aren't. Some embrace a progressive understanding of scripture; but not all. Some of our churches use gender-inclusive language for God, avoid violent imagery of crosses and blood, and are comfortable hearing about social issues from the pulpit. Others... you see where I'm going with this.

When everybody is welcome, doubt is affirmed, questions are encouraged and nobody wants to tell anybody else what to believe... then what in the world do you put on the brochure?? The website? The t-shirt?

True to those ideals of our founders, authority lies within the local congregation. We handle our own money, own our property, hire (and fire) our pastors, select our own leaders, and are not bound by the demands of any hierarchy. Our mission is expressed from the ‘bottom up,’ in that churches support the larger structure for ministry — and not the other way around. That means the local church can hone its own mission statement, set its own vision, find its own way to serve and establish presence in the community... We are guided by the same basic principles, but not bound by them.

It means we don't always know how to sit together when we disagree. It means we struggle to navigate the racial tensions, present in the world outside our walls, when we come together within. It means we don't always know how to share our message ‘out’ there, when we can't always get it together ‘in’ here. It means it can be hard to focus our energy and our resources to affect real change in the world... when everybody's idea of ‘change’ is broadly varied, but deeply valued.

The current Disciples identity statement says that “we are a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.”

And the world, as we know it, is indeed fragmented. It is complicated. And the not having of easy answers is, yes, a marketing problem. Because easy answers, proven growth models, and colorful packaged programming is what most folks are in the market for.

What we do offer is a safe place to live with all that ambiguity. A place where people worship together (however imperfectly) and try to organize for good. A place where ‘movement’ of the collective body, and the Spirit, are valued over any statement of faith; and where the communion table, at the center of worship and community, calls us back to a shared belief in Christ's love: embodied within us, and made flesh for the world.

August Summer Choir for you! – Sing? No time for Wednesday rehearsals? Come and sing in August! We're having an "Anybody Can Sing Summer Choir" in August. The age range is 6 years old to 106 years old, so children, teens and adults are all welcome. We will rehearse for 15 minutes in the Chapel at 10:35 on Sunday morning and then sing in worship. We'll sing easy, familiar songs and hymns that are upbeat and fun. Come, sing, and see! If you play any instrument, you're welcome to come play along, too; just let Duane know!

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your Pastoral Search Committee (the "PSC") is meeting regularly. If you have concerns, ideas, suggestions, or opinions about a new minister, please contact a committee member: Sue Marion (chairperson), Chloe Blair, Lori Blair, Jim Davis, Bobbie Corsaro, Jim Evans, Penny Gradwell, Barbara Koch, Sarah Oatman, Barbara Ozlin, or Linda Spencer.

SHEPHERDS

During this transition period in our church, I am asking all Shepherds to be especially mindful of your flock members. There may be those who need attention, and, without a pastor, might not be so quickly identified. If the church office or I learn of specific needs, we will contact you. Likewise let us know of situations needing attention from Elders or others. Thank you for your care and concern for our church family. ~ Barbara Ozlin, Elder Chairperson

FROM AN ELDER

COPING WITH CHANGE

As you all know, with Pastor Ben's resignation a few weeks ago, we as a church are gearing up to welcome guest speakers for several weeks, followed, hopefully, by an interim pastor who will help us in the transition to welcome a new full time pastor.

I do not like change. I do not like facing the unknown. However, I have noticed that in many articles and devotionals I have read lately, a lot of the subject matters deal with change. I think God is trying to tell me something.

The Upper Room is one of two devotionals I read each morning. Several weeks ago, one daily devotional really focused on change. It was written by Pat Watson from Texas. She began by saying that her musical group, *Joyful Noise*, was learning a new hymn. She was having problems with the rhythm; soon she realized it was an old, familiar hymn, but the timing was changed. Even though she could read music, she had difficulty staying on the new rhythm.

She goes on to say that her church was also experiencing change with the resignation of their much-loved pastor of eight years. She wrote that although we want to hold on to what we know and love, we need to open our hearts to what *GOD* has in store for us. She ends by saying that the only constant any of us has is the promise that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). Our circumstances may change, but Christ's message remains the same.

I will close by saying that one of Pastor Ben's "practices" for one evening was to pray, "I thank you for the people I have met this day." As I read it I remembered that I had met a new lady at the gym that morning. As we ended our conversation, I told her my and Monika's names. She replied, "I'm Hope." Do you think God is speaking to me?

Adjusting to changes with you,

~ Dolores "Dee" McCann

THANK YOUS

Many thanks to my Bethany family for all the cards, prayers and visits. They are greatly appreciated. ~ Charlotte West

Dear Church Family, thank you so much for the gift card, devotional prayer book, and key chain for my graduation. I have enjoyed growing up in Bethany Christian Church and I appreciate everything you have done for me. Thanks again for all your well wishes! ~ Love, Kristin Hawthorne

It is with much gratitude and love that I am sending my thanks to all of my Bethany friends for the cards and food that I received while recuperating from my accident. They were so appreciated by Johnny and me and we enjoyed all of the delicious food. It made things easier for us and hopefully, I will be back to normal very soon.

~ Sincerely, Johnny and Linda Grubb

I want to take the opportunity to thank each of you for your lovely cards with such uplifting messages, your prayers, your kind offers to help, and your support. A special thanks to Pastor Ben for his visit and prayer with Jim and me. Also special thanks to Dee and Jim Evans for being my “special family”, to Elizabeth and Earl Little who sent me home with their pretty Sanctuary flowers for me to enjoy, and to Dee and Ed McCann who not only gave me a nice gift bag but also a beautiful angel that Ed made for me that watches over me every day. Thank you again for all your prayers and love.

~ Debbie and Jim Jett and family

PRAYER CONCERNS

Acute:

Bill Dickinson (former member-husband of a friend of Bobbie Corsaro's); Joanne Jenkins; Debbie Jett; Earl and Elizabeth Little; Bobby Nelson; Shannon Perry (Bobbie Corsaro's daughter); Jessie and Harold Reynolds; Susie Street (Mary Kline's granddaughter); Donna Yates; friends of Danielle Gangloff, Karen McClain, Sarah Oatman, and Karen Pugh; our Search Committees

Ongoing:

Stuart Adams	Phil Avery	Paul Banks
Carol Browder	Kitty and Mac Case	Jean Fore
Diana and Mark Foster	Marty Givens	Linda Grubb
Russell Harris	Ann Hasty	Hugh Hawthorne
Hazel Heider	Misty Insley	Carol and Marl Kimmel
Sandy Lewis	Charley Lindsey	Sara Mallory
Jean McNeely	Janice Midkiff	Carolyn Moore
Hilda Murrell	Bobby Nelson	Iris Parkhurst
Gay Purcell	Harold and Jessie Reynolds	Ken Roland
Gladys Rountree	John Spencer	Connie Stroupe
Frances Waters	Kelly Waldrop	Charlotte West
Donna Yates		

Extended Church Family:

Lisa Carson (Carolyn Moore's friend)	Shannon Perry (Bobbie Corsaro's daughter)
Donna Chavis (Donna Yates' friend)	Zachary Pletcher (Anne Crumley and Juan Pletcher's grandson)
Doris Cochran	Doug Reeves (Carol Molinares' father)
Arthur “Art” Foster (Mark Foster's father)	Duane Toole
Marita Jenkins (Carol Kimmel's co-worker)	Rick Williamson (Sonny and Carol Browder's son-in-law)
Carl Keesler (Brian Gradwell's co-worker)	Donna Yates' nieces
Samantha Knight (Petrina Miller's co-worker)	
John Lancaster's grandmother	

LOST AND FOUND/DONATIONS OF EYEGLASSES

The boxes for Lost and Found and for eyeglasses that you wish to donate are in the hallway towards the Fellowship Hall next to the CareNotes display. Please check them out.

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have. ~Margaret Mead

If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading.

~Lao Tzu

DAILY PRACTICE EMAILS

After June 30, the daily practice emails will no longer be sent out. If you are interested in receiving daily devotional emails, Pastor Ben has provided several resources for you:

Daily Scriptures

www.verseoftheday.com/
<https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/verse-of-the-day/today?version=NIV>
<http://www.christnotes.org/dbv.php>
<http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-verse-of-the-day/>

Daily Devotionals

d365.org/
odb.org/
<https://www.blueletterbible.org/devotionals/>
<http://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/>

If you have any questions about how to set these resources up to receive them, ask a teenager ☺ .

ANNIVERSARIES

July

Date		Years
1	Richard & Susan Fox	49
4	Harold & Jessie Reynolds	66
16	Daniel & Carol Molinares	2
18	Tim & Jenna Gradwell	7
26	Ken & Carol Roland	35
28	Ray & JoAnn Crawford	31
31	Bruce & Sue Marion	44

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>July 2015</h1>						AA: Alcoholics Anon YC: Youth Center
			1	2 AA-YC 7:00 pm	3 church office closed Create Worship practice 6:30 pm	4 Independence Day
5 Sun. School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am – Dr. Blake preaching	6 Vacation Bible Camp 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	7 Vacation Bible Camp 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	8 Vacation Bible Camp 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	9 Vacation Bible Camp 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	10 Create Worship practice 6:30 pm	11
12 Sun. School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am – Dr. Blake preaching	13	14 Pastoral Search Committee mtg 7:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	15	16 AA-YC 7:00 pm	17	18
19 Sun. School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am – Dr. Blake preaching ----- Board mtg noon	20	21 Pastoral Search Committee mtg 7:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	22	23 AA-YC 7:00 pm	24	25
26 Sun. School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am – Dr. Blake preaching	27 DEADLINE FOR AUGUST NEWSETTE ARTICLES	28 AA-YC 7:00 pm	29	30 AA-YC 7:00 pm	31	