

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

Reverend Ben Moore
Senior Minister

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**

March Servants:

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER - all month

Jim Evans

COMMUNION PREPARATION

1 - Rod Grundy - Becky Murrell
8 - Rod Grundy - Becky Murrell
15 - Rod Grundy - Becky Murrell
22 - Rod Grundy - Becky Murrell
29 - Barbara Ozlin - Sheila Thayer

WORSHIP LEADERS

1 - Tammy Tripp
8 - Donna Wicker
15 - Penny Gradwell
22 - Kristin Hawthorne
29 - Ross Dorneman

March Servants (continued):

USHERS - all month

Ray Crawford
Christopher Gangloff
Jim Rountree

ELDERS

1 - Johnny and Linda Grubb
8 - Kevin Scholl - Donna Wicker
15 - Bob and June Sears
22 - DeLois and Jim Evans
29 - Mary Penn Hawthorne
- Barbara Ozlin

Communion to Home Bound
primary: Brian and Penny Gradwell
backup: DeLois and Jim Evans

DEACONS - all month

Captain: Sue Marion
Cari Alton
Kristin Hawthorne,
John Lancaster/Kim Gangloff
(substitute: Frances Pully)

THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Is our hope in things we can see or is our hope in that which is unseen – the temporary or the eternal? We can look around and see suffering, pain, struggle, and loss. But as believers, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we find hope that this is only temporary, and that what is unseen, what is eternal, is far greater than the present sufferings.

It is in living out this hope that we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. As individuals, and as a congregation, do we worry about that which is temporary, or do we trust in the Lord who has promised hope and life eternal? This is a sign, to one another, and to the world around us as to whether or not we really and truly believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our bodies, our building, our church will pass away, but the life and hope of Jesus Christ will keep us eternally. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let's spread it.

Sharing in the Good News with you, 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 MARCH

March 1 - **“I Must Die”** – Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

March 8 - **“Kill Me”** – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 15 - **“Believing in God’s Life”** – Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21

March 22 - **“Do What We Must”** – Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33

March 29 - **“Victory in Defeat”** – Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; John 12:12-16

MODERATOR MESSAGE

Progress

For over 20 years (1950-70+), General Electric’s advertising slogan was “*progress is our most important product.*” Many of you will remember that slogan and the fact that Ronald Reagan often delivered it in ads. While GE would later switch to different slogans, I’ve always liked the message that progress, generally, is **as** important (or perhaps **more** important) than any specific product.

So, how do we feel about our church’s progress? I would submit that while we have lots to do, we are moving forward in a positive way by keeping traditions intact and changing when necessary. Some examples are a just-announced and unique approach to Sunday School – exciting youth programs – Bible studies – Disciples Women’s Fellowship initiatives – email ministry – educational programs – praise worship – uplifting music – a new web site – electronic communications – activities aimed at the local community – photo boards for members – a pictorial directory – etc.

It’s easy to say we don’t have this and haven’t yet accomplished that, but I’d rather focus on the fact that many good things are happening in our congregational and spiritual life, and I’m sure there is more to come. **More progress.** Stay tuned – **and join in!!**

~ Ross Dorneman

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

Greeters – Beginning in **March**, the Congregational Life Department will be re-introducing the “Greeter Program”.

The volunteers for this program would:

- Stand at the double doors beside the kitchen, and greet members and especially visitors to church. The times that you would be needed are from 9:30 to 10:00 and then again from 10:40 to 11:00.
- Hand out gift bags to new visitors.
- Get contact information from the visitors.
- Ask if the visitor would mind wearing a visitor tag.
- Direct visitors to important places like the Sanctuary, restrooms, and Sunday School classrooms.
- Be available to answer questions.

If you are interested in this ministry (no experience required), give me a call (363-6312) or email me (Carol_Kimmel@comcast.net). The number of volunteers I get would indicate how many times you would serve. Prayerfully consider this ministry so we will get lots of volunteers; I have already gotten some calls!! It’s time for us to **DO SOMETHING!!**

~ Carol Kimmel

2015 Bethany Christian Church Pictorial Directory – Please mark your calendars and **SIGN UP NOW** if you haven’t! Photos for the Pictorial Directory will be taken:

Thursday, March 26	2:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Friday, March 28	2:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Saturday, March 29	10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Contact Becky Murrell (745-8024) or Christie Rolston (675-0249) with any questions; Donna in the office may be able to help you as well. We think this will be a wonderful experience for everyone and helps you put a face to a name. Each family that is photographed gets a FREE 8 x 10 photo and a FREE directory!

There are opportunities to save money if you are interested in purchasing pictures: **\$10 coupon** if you give an email address when you sign up for your directory picture, **20% off coupon** for purchases on picture day, and **\$5 coupon** if you bring canned goods on picture day. You have the opportunity to bring your four-legged family members if you wish – they won't be in the directory photo, but if you wanted a professional family photograph, here's your chance!

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

L.I.F.E. CLASS – I hope everyone will join us for our new Sunday school class, L.I.F.E. (Living In Faith Everyday). This is a bible study class for all ages and is for all members and guests. It will be biblically based and taught by a variety of our own church members. Come learn and discuss the word of God. Come get to know your church family with this unique opportunity. Classes will be on the first Sunday of every month starting **March 1** at 9:45 a.m. and will be held in the sanctuary. Make sure you bring your bibles. ~ Sarah Oatman

Lenten Bible Study – Pastor Ben will be continuing his Lenten Bible Study titled “A Bulwark Never Failing” focusing on how we can be faithful to a God whose promises do not fail. We will read stories of those who have walked alongside God, fallen away, and found that God still does not fail. The study can be attended on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 or Wednesday afternoons at 1:15 and will run until **March 31/April 1**.

EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

Community Easter Egg Hunt – Well, spring is almost here, and with the start of Lent, we should know that the Community Easter Egg Hunt is right around the corner! This project will happen the **Saturday before Easter, April 4**, at 10:00 a.m. Please know that we will need donations of small toys, small candies, and money (if you would prefer); we do not need any plastic eggs this year. The crew from Create Worship will be sorting, stuffing, and preparing for the egg hunt if you would be interested in helping. There is a box in the Narthex for donations. Thank you so very, very much for your help in preparing for this big event at Bethany.

Also, please keep **Saturday, April 25**, open for the Bethany Christian Church Bake, Barbecue, and Yard Sales and Car Wash. All donations are welcome for the proceeds to be used at Bethany. If you would like to rent a table for yourself, order barbecue pork or chicken, or have your donation for the church picked up, please contact Penny Gradwell at (804) 402-7468.

WORLD OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Bainbridge – “It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” ~Mother Teresa / “Jesus answered them “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none and he who has food let him do likewise.” ~Luke 3:11 NKJV / “Giving of our time, money or talents is compassionate because we are giving of ourselves.” ~Prayer Edition Bible for Women.

Think on these things when you prayerfully consider donating money to Bainbridge Community Ministries on **Sunday, March 1, and Sunday, March 8**. Also, the food box in the hall on the way to Sanctuary is always hungry for your non-perishable food donations (especially dried milk and jelly).

Easter – Springtime touches the earth with freshness, renewal, and hope. May it touch our lives in the same way by sharing and giving like God showed us love through His son Jesus Christ. “We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” ~Mother Teresa

We will collect our Easter offerings on **Sunday, March 29** (Palm Sunday) **and Sunday, April 5**. Your Easter offerings support the general ministries of our national and regional bodies.

WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

Our Create Worship praise band and singers invite you to an early Easter service on **Friday, March 20**, at 6:30 p.m. Please come join us for an uplifting service to our risen Savior!

Lily orders in honor of or in memory of our loved ones will be taken for our Easter service on April 5. The cost is still \$11.00 per lily, and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday, March 15**.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

We have a new home on the web. Visit bethanyccdoc.org to check it out!

ELDERS AND DEACONS WORKSHOP

Dr. Richard Weis, a professor from Lexington Theological Seminary, will lead a study on “Keeping Faith in Times of Change” on **March 6 and 7** at Christmount Christian Assembly, Black Mountain, NC 28711. Lodging, meals, and conference cost \$110.00 per person, double occupancy, and \$150.00 single occupancy. Sounds like a good getaway and an opportunity to learn as well. Register at christmount.org/elderworkshop.html or call (828) 669-8977.

Perhaps a group from Bethany might go together. If you are interested, please see Pastor Ben or Barbara Ozlin.

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Ladies' Tea – All ladies, dig a hat out of your closet – plain, fancy, silly, or even an old baseball cap – and wear it to our Ladies' Tea on **Saturday, March 21**, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring along a teacup and enjoy tea, refreshments, fellowship, and fun on that Saturday afternoon. Pat Mays, a member of Seventh Street Christian Church, will be telling us about her trip to France and Italy on the Woman-to-Woman Mission; she was our region's representative to that event. Please come out and join us on the afternoon of the 21st, and bring a friend.

Blessing Box Offerings – There is an old hymn that says: “Count your blessing; name them one by one.” When we do that, we realize how very blessed we really are. On **Sunday, March 15, and Sunday, March 22**, the Disciples Women's Fellowship invites the congregation to join us in receiving our offerings for our blessings. This money goes to further the wider mission of the Disciples of Christ. Envelopes will be in the Narthex for this offering, or just note on your check that the money goes for the “Blessing Box Offering”. Our D.W.F. thanks each member of Bethany for his/her continued support of this worthwhile project.

YOUNG AT HEART GROUP

The “Young at Hearts” will be going to the Peking Restaurant at 13132 Midlothian Turnpike on **Thursday, March 19**, at noon. Contact Bob Sears (804-794-5419) or Vernon King (804-744-2134) to be counted in for the reservations.

SYMPATHY

We express our Christian love and sympathy to:

- Eddie and Phyllis Basl and family on the death of his aunt, Rose P. Basl, on Feb. 8 at the age of 95
- Eddie and Phyllis Basl and family on the death of her cousin, Odell “Dicky” Crews, on Feb. 8 at the age of 83
- Evan Carpenter and family on the death of his uncle, Ed Carpenter, on Feb. 9
- Ann Hasty and family on the death of her sister-in-law, Kitty Hasty Bridges, on Feb. 22

PRAYER CONCERNS

Merrily Baber; June Bailey (Duane Toole's friend); Audrey Blake; Michael Britton; Carol Browder; Kitty Case; Mac Case; Doris Cochran; Bobbie Corsaro; Billie Crawford; Holly Fleek & family (Alton family friends); Jean Fore; Tina Frank (John & Linda Spencer's daughter); John and Mandy Fuhrman; Brenda Gradwell; Russell Harris; Ann Hasty; Hugh Hawthorne; Linda Haase (Barb Koch's co-worker's sister); Misty Insley; Jen (Margot Krantz' friend); Mark Kimmel; John Lancaster's grandmother and aunt's family; Sam Leverett (Ben Moore and Tammy Tripp's friends' baby); Bob & Janice Midkiff; Hilda Murrell; Bobby Nelson; Zachary Pletcher; Karen Pugh; Doug Reeves; Ken Roland; Gladys Rountree; Holly Scholl; John Spencer; Zach Street (Mary Kline's grandson); Duane Toole; Frances Waters; Donna Yates

HILLS AND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Here are the locations for the **Wednesday Lenten luncheons**. The luncheons, which begin at noon, feature speakers from various outreach ministries in the Hills and Heights area. Contact Pastor Ben for more information.

March 4	Woodland Heights Baptist	611 West 31 st Street
March 11	Forest Hill Presbyterian	4401 Forest Hill Avenue
March 18	Westover Baptist / Rising Liberty	1000 Westover Hills Boulevard
March 25	Westover Hills Methodist	1705 Westover Hills Boulevard

BETHANY CONNECTIONS

Dorothy “Dot” Smith Welch married Joseph “Joe” Jackson Welch, Jr., in 1943, and joined Bethany in 1947. Joe was born and raised in Cowardin Avenue Christian Church. Another member of the “old back row,” Dot especially remembers the times she spent with her friends at Bethany. Her travels with Dot Brown and Frances Laws, as well as Bob and Janice Midkiff, were some of the favorite memories she had. Another one of Dot’s memories of Bethany was Sue Marion’s children’s moments; she said that Sue always did such a wonderful job with them. As we close out February, the month of love, she had a message for everyone at Bethany – love is the most important thing. She said again and again how important love is. What a lovely message from a lovely woman. P.S. Dot turned 93 years old in September!



NEW MENTOR TRAINING

An “Introduction to Mentoring” will be presented by The Virginia Mentoring Partnership on **Thursday, March 5**, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Gilead Full Gospel International Ministries, 2501 Mt. Gilead Boulevard, North Chesterfield, VA 23235. Feel free to bring a brown bag supper; beverages and dessert will be provided. Please **RSVP by March 3** to Qasarah Spencer (micah@richmondhillva.org) or (804) 783-7903 ext 24. In your RSVP, indicate your contact phone number, Bethany Christian Church, and Redd Elementary School (if you wish to mentor there).

OLD HYMNALS

We have EIGHT boxes of our former hymnals in the basement, many of which were given to the church in honor of or in memory of our loved ones. If you are interested in adding one or more of these hymnals to your collection, please contact Sue Marion at (804) 740-5251, or look on the table near the Bainbridge food donations box in the hall.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

~Anonymous

ANNIVERSARIES

March

6	Jim Davis & Barbara Ozlin	5
8	Terry & Alice Nelson	1
14	Thom & Sheila Morgan	28
21	Bill & Lia Ferrell	22

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

January, 2015

Pledge Offerings, Transient Offerings, and Sunday School Offerings	\$ 20,240.56
Expenses	(14,949.69)
Other Activity	<u>(332.43)</u>
Net “Income” for January	\$ 4,958.44

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2015</h1>						AA: Alcoholics Anon DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship YAH: Young At Heart YC: Youth Center
1 Bainbridge offering Sun. School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am ----- Elders' mtg 12:15 pm	2 "Dr. Seuss Day" at Radd Elem 9:00 am ----- Financial Peace Univ session 6:30 pm	3 ----- Bible study 6:30 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	4 Lenten lunch noon <i>(Woodland Heights Baptist)</i> ----- Bible study 1:15 pm ----- Chair 7:30 pm	5 ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	6 ----- Create Worship practice 6:30 pm	7 ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm
8 Bainbridge offering <i>(daylight savings time begins)</i> Sun. School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	9 ----- Financial Peace Univ session 6:30 pm	10 ----- Bible study 6:30 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	11 Lenten lunch noon <i>(Forest Hill Presbyterian)</i> ----- Bible study 1:15 pm ----- Chair 7:30 pm	12 ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	13 ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	14 ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm
15 Blessing Box offering Sun. School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am ----- Board mtg 12:15 pm	16 ----- Financial Peace Univ session 6:30 pm	17 DWF #1 10:00 am ----- Bible study 6:30 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	18 Lenten lunch noon <i>(Westover Baptist Meeting Liberty)</i> ----- Bible study 1:15 pm ----- Chair 7:30 pm	19 YAH group & friends - lunch at Peking Midlothian noon ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	20 ----- Create Worship Easter Svc 6:30 pm	21 Ladies' Tee 2:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm
22 Blessing Box offering Sun. School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	23 ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	24 ----- Bible study 6:30 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	25 Lenten lunch noon <i>(Westover Hills Methodist)</i> ----- Bible study 1:15 pm ----- Chair 7:30 pm	26 Pictorial Directory pics 2:00 - 9:00 pm ----- DWF Circle #4 at church 7:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	27 Pictorial Directory pics 2:00 - 9:00 pm	28 Pictorial Directory pics 10:00 am - 5:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm
29 Easter offering Sun. School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	30 ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	31 ----- Bible study 6:30 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm				