

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."
bethanycc@verizon.net / www.bethanyccd.org / www.facebook.com/bethanyccd

Dr. William E. Blake, Jr.
Interim Pastor

Donna Wicker
Church Financial Secretary

Duane Toole
Director of Music

Carol Molinares
Pianist

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**

NOVEMBER SERVANTS:

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER - all month

Johnny Grubb (except 11-15 --
will be Jim Evans)

COMMUNION PREPARATION

1 - Johnny and Linda Grubb
8 - Johnny and Linda Grubb
15 - Lori Blair and DeLois Evans
22 - Johnny and Linda Grubb
29 - Johnny and Linda Grubb (Advent)

WORSHIP LEADERS

1 - Donna Wicker
8 - Tyler Hawthorne
15 - Kevin Scholl
22 - Kevin Scholl
29 - Kevin Scholl

NOV. SERVANTS (cont.)

USHERS - all month

Ray Crawford
Christopher Gangloff
Jim Rountree

ELDERS

1 - Johnny and Linda Grubb
8 - Elizabeth Little and Linda Spencer
11 - Ray Crawford and Becky Murrell
18 - Mary Penn Hawthorne and
Barbara Ozlin
25 - Ross Dorneman and Kevin Scholl

Communion to Home Bound

primary: Johnny and Linda Grubb
backup: Brian and Penny Gradwell

DEACONS - all month

Captain: Barbara Koch
Jo Anne Dorneman
Jackie Fore
Robin Lancaster
substitute: Christopher Gangloff

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

"For you to learn, you have to listen; and for you to listen, you have to be silent. Did you know that "listen" and "silent" are words formed from the same letters?"
~Sheye Hassan

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
~Winston Churchill

SECURITY AND HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS

- ✓ Please make sure that doors are tightly shut and locked and lights turned off if you are one of the last to leave the building.
- ✓ Please don't leave random boxes, bags, or items in the kitchen, parlor/library, or hallways. You need a plan as to what you had in mind for those items and who is going to execute your plan ☺.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Members and Friends of Bethany Christian Church,

Every now and then near the end of October, you read in some church papers “warnings” regarding participating in Halloween because it is a “pagan,” rather than a Christian holiday. Let me make the following observations:

Christianity did not come into a “Garden of Eden” world. Civilization had started some 5,000 years earlier, and there were multitudes of religions around. It was inevitable that events in the birth and development of Christianity would coincide with the religious observances of some of the older religions.

It is further true that some of the practices and objects connected with those festivals would have passed into the Christian celebrations. This is not only true of Halloween, but also of Christmas and Easter. Christians have taken over numbers of pagan religious objects and practices and reinterpreted them in the image of Christian events and understandings. For instance, the light of the sun was the centerpiece of many pagan religious observances, especially the winter solstice, which occurs near December 25. However, Christians gave new meaning by celebrating the birth of the Son of God, who brought Divine Light to the world.

So, Halloween, while pagan in origin, came to mean for Christians the evening before a day honoring all the “saints” who weren’t named in the Liturgical Calendar - the day - November 1 - known as All Saints’ Day. Just as there is excitement and anticipation on the evenings before Christmas and Easter, so there is excitement and celebration on the eve of All Saints’ Day, which, in the Middle Ages was called “Hallowed Eve.” Medieval people thought that the spirits of the saints, to be honored on the next day, rose from their tombs and swirled about!

So, don your ghostly costume and swirl about with the spirits of the saints without fear or guilt. ~ Dr. Bill Blake

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Sunday School Program

We have revamped the children’s Sunday School program. These are the classes and the ages of the children in each class:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| • Nursery – newborn to age 3 | teachers: Emily Harman and Marie Peebles |
| • age 3 through 3 rd grade | teachers: Chris and Scot Hawthorne |
| • Middlers – 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th grades | teacher: Kim Gangloff |
| • High School and College aged | teachers: Sarah Oatman and Jimmy Wicker |

The Young Adults Class has combined with the Focus Class.

The Jay Waters’ Class has combined with the Seekers Class.

Children’s Christmas Program – Practices are starting on Sunday mornings during children’s church for the program that will be held on **Sunday, December 20**. If your child would like to participate, please call Carol Kimmel at 363-6312.

Attendance

Teachers please be sure to turn in your Sunday School folders with your attendance marked for each Sunday.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

The Congregational Life department would like to thank all those who helped make the celebration of Bethany Christian Church’s 125th Anniversary a wonderful experience. Special recognition to Duane Toole, Donna Wicker, Carol Molinares, Carol Kimmel, Jimmy Wicker, the kitchen crew, and Dr. Blake for a very special sermon.

Brunch after Children’s Christmas Program

There will be a brunch following the Children’s Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 20**. The program will be during the Sunday School time, so all classes should meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend.

EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

The Evangelism Department would like to say a great BIG THANK YOU to all of the volunteers and for the donations and support that Bethany gave for the Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat held Saturday, October 24, 2015!! We had a ton of people from the community, some very happy little ones running around in costumes of all kinds and some pretty funny-looking adult creatures as well playing games, bingo, and eating hot dogs and pizza. The Trunk or Treat had eight vehicles decorated to show fun and fellowship to everyone; what a great new addition to our Autumn celebration!!!

~ Thank you again and all in HIS Service, Penny P. Gradwell

Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day Dinner - Saturday, November 14, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Please know that we will be looking for volunteers to serve our guests food and drinks - contact Penny Gradwell to be added to the list of helpers. Please invite others to come join us in thanks, prayer and fellowship with the Westover Hills Community and Bethany Christian Church.

STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

Stewardship report as of September 30, 2015 (75% of the year)

Offering income received year-to-date \$120,924.20 (85% of annual budget)

Total operating expenses year-to-date \$116,526.49 (61% of annual budget)

Year-to-date, we have also received \$10,915.70 in other income (including interest and dividends) and accounted for a \$28,598.30 fund loss in our Perpetual Endowment fund.

Thank you for your response to our request for pledges for 2016. We are quite pleased that many of you were able to find a way to increase your pledge or have pledged for the first time. Our Departments and Committees are hard at work planning meaningful programs of ministry that would not be possible without your generous support. As you know we are still grieving the loss of some faithful members in recent years. There is a tangible aspect to this loss in addition to the personal grief we feel. Despite the increased pledges that we appreciate so much, we are planning for a flat or level budget for next year with few, if any, increases in expenditures. We will be presenting a proposed budget to the General Board on November 15th and then to the members for approval on December 13th. It is not too late to turn in a pledge if you are able. Again, thank you for your faithful support of Bethany Church.

WORLD OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

C.A.R.I.T.A.S.

Thank you for your support for this ministry. We just found out that another organization took our week for housing men for 2016; in fact, there were only three weeks in 2016 not signed up for (those three empty weeks in the summer wouldn't suit our church for housing). The good news is that the men will have shelter and food – the bad news is that we won't be taking care of their needs here. We will look into possibly helping another organization with a meal or with lunches.

Keep your eyes peeled for other outreach opportunities, and let Jimmy Wicker or Dolores McCann know of them!

WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

Thanks for the Melodies – Many thanks go to Duane Toole for the wonderful arrangements he creates, and all the beautiful music he produces on the organ for Sunday worship services. He works hard and long to provide the sounds that add beauty, praise and meaning to the worship experience.

And Carol Molinares is blessing us every Sunday with amazing music. She has certainly come forward, sharing her talent and serving God through contributing beautiful music to the worship service. It is a wonderful gift to Bethany, and an honor to her mother Jane Reeves, that Carol has returned to the piano.

A tremendous "Thank You" goes out to both Carol and Duane.

Sound System upgrade – Thanks to an anonymous donor who gave \$5,000.00, we have been able to upgrade our sound system in the Sanctuary. This donation was used to purchase a new mixer, speakers, and cables!

Sign Language – Diana Case-Foster does interpretation for the deaf and hard of hearing (aka sign language). If you know of anyone who wants to come to church but feels uncomfortable because of his/her hearing impairment, please contact Diana so she can help them.

Advent Booklet – Advent starts in a month! Your Worship Department wants to continue our celebration of our history by collecting short entries of one of your favorite Christmastime memories at Bethany Christian Church (or at Cowardin Avenue). Please submit your entry by **Monday, November 9**, by email or by leaving it in the office, so we have time to compile the booklets. Thank you!

Community Thanksgiving Service – We are trying to find out if the Hills and Heights Community is going to have a Community Thanksgiving Service this year. We will let you know when we have more information.

Live Poinsettias – Poinsettia order forms are in the Narthex. The cost for this year is \$12.00 per poinsettia, and the deadline to order is **Sunday, November 22**, so that we can have them during our Christmas season.

Christmas Cantata “A Celebration of Carols” – You are invited to sing with the Chancel Choir for the presentation of the Christmas Cantata on **Sunday, December 13**. Come to choir rehearsals on Wednesdays from 8:15 to 9:00 p.m., or if you cannot come to the Wednesday evening rehearsals, see Duane Toole to get a CD so you can practice at home. There will be a special rehearsal on Saturday, December 12, at 10:00 a.m. so all can feel comfortable singing together.

DISCIPLES WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP (DWF)

D.W.F. Chili and Soup Harvest Luncheon will be **Saturday, November 7**, at noon. All ladies are invited! We will have a nice lunch and play harvest BINGO. The service project is to collect cleaning supplies for refugees. Come enjoy some nice fellowship!

Blanket Sundays – We collected \$575.50 to contribute to Church World Service to purchase blankets for persons in need. Thank you so much!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Acute:

Carol and Sonny Browder; our Search Committees

Ongoing:

Kitty Case	Marty Givens	Debbie Jett
Carol Kimmel	Mark Kimmel	Ed McCann
Carolyn Moore	Bobby Nelson	Harold Reynolds
Ken Roland	Gladys Rountree	Betty Stargardt

members of our church family who may be struggling with chronic health issues, sadness, loneliness, and other burdens

Extended Church Family:

Lisa Carlson (Carolyn Moore’s friend)	Brett Lewis and family (Kevin Scholl’s friend)
Christopher Carmody	Michelle Lily (Sarah McLillard’s friend)
Morgan Gaynor (Sara Parnell’s roommate)	Christopher Mull (Connie Stroupe’s son)
Marita Jenkins (Carol Kimmel’s co-worker)	Elijah Pennington (Danny & Margot Krantz’ son)
Janel Kane (co-worker of Donna Wicker’s friend)	Doug Reeves (Carol Molinares’ father)
Keith Kimmel	Duane Toole
Donna King	Donna Yates’ nieces
Samantha Knight (Petrina Miller’s co-worker)	

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Robin and John Lancaster on the birth of their daughter, **Kinsley Royal Lancaster**, on October 16, 2015. Kinsley's big sister is Ava, and proud grandparents are Penny and Brian Gradwell.

THANK YOUS

Dear Bethany, thank you for your thoughtful peace lily. Bethany will forever be a part of our lives and spirit. Mom and Dad spent many years in the church. They would be so happy that they were remembered fondly. We appreciate all of your support during our parents' illnesses. ~ Love, Bryan, Jennifer and families [George and Linda Goodman's family]

We would like to thank you all for the many acts of kindness that our family received with the passing of our mom, Frances Waters. First of all, thank you to Dr. Blake for his visits and guidance, and especially the lovely service; to Mrs. Blake for playing the hymns at Mom's funeral; to Donna Wicker for her invaluable assistance and to all the church members who prepared the wonderful food and all the hard work that went into a fantastic reception. Thank you also for the peace plant, which is absolutely gorgeous. Lastly, we all appreciate and thank you for all the cards and the kind words that were in them. With the loss of a loved one, you are more aware of how fortunate you are to be blessed with knowing so many special people, and the congregation of Bethany definitely falls in that category. Once again, thank you for everything. It means so much to each of us and will always be remembered. ~ Ron, Craig, Gregg, and Mary

My dear friends at Bethany, I have missed you so very much these five years and was so happy to see you at Beepsie's service. There was so much love with everyone and I thank you. You sent me a beautiful peace lily, the sweetest notes and cards and calls. You have been so thoughtful but then you always have been and I love you for it. Due to the enormous amount of construction at Brandermill, leaving little room to park, I am going to visit our Dr. Blake soon. I hope to see you all. As I no longer drive (my choice), my sister, Carla, would bring me. Thank you all my dear friends. I send my love to each and everyone. ~ God's blessings, Dot Welch

ANNIVERSARIES

November

Date		Years
6	Howard & Gerry Jones	61
7	Jason & Kim Creekmore	6
10	Jeff & Suzanne Sears	25
15	Brian and Emily Harman	1
21	James & Debbie Jett	42
24	Johnny & Linda Grubb	48
25	Charley & Betty Lindsey	48
28	Bill & Cindy Jordan	34
29	Mark & Carol Kimmel	40
29	Jay & Mary Kay Paulette	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2015</h1>						AA: Alcoholics Anon YC: Youth Center FH: Fellowship Hall DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am (Children's Christmas Program practice during Children's Church)	2	3 AA-YC 7:00 pm	4 Choir 7:30 pm	5 Pastoral Search Committee 6:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	6	7 DWF Harvest Soup & Chili Luncheon noon (service project -- bring cleaning supplies for refugees)
8 Thanksgiving offering Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am (Children's Christmas Program practice during Children's Church)	9	10 AA-YC 7:00 pm	11 Choir 7:30 pm	12 Pastoral Search Committee 6:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	13	14 Community Thanksgiving Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 pm
15 Thanksgiving offering Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am (Children's Christmas Program practice during Children's Church) ----- Board Mtg noon	16 DWF Circle #4 at church 7:00 pm -- different day --	17 DWF Circle #1 at church 10:00 am ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	18 Choir 7:30 pm	19 Pastoral Search Committee 6:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	20	21
22 Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am (Children's Christmas Program practice during Children's Church)	23 DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSETTE	24 AA-YC 7:00 pm	25	26 Thanksgiving -- office closed -- AA-YC 7:00 pm	27 -- office closed --	28
29 First Sunday of Advent Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am (Children's Christmas Program practice during Children's Church)	30					