

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

JANUARY SERVANTS:

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER - all month

Jimmy Wicker

COMMUNION PREPARATION

3 - DeLois and Jim Evans
10 - DeLois and Jim Evans
17 - Geoff and Kim Gangloff
24 - Geoff and Kim Gangloff
31 - Geoff and Kim Gangloff

WORSHIP LEADERS

3 - Jackie Fore
10 - Tyler Hawthorne
17 - Kevin Scholl
24 - Penny Gradwell
31 - Dee McCann

JAN. SERVANTS (cont.)

USHERS - all month

Jackie Fore
Brian Gradwell
Johnny Grubb

ELDERS

3 - DeLois and Jim Evans
10 - Mary Penn Hawthorne and
Becky Murrell
17 - Bob and June Sears
24 - Elizabeth Little and Linda Spencer
31 - Dee McCann and Kevin Scholl

Communion to Home Bound

primary: Becky Murrell and Kevin Scholl
backup: DeLois and Jim Evans

DEACONS - all month

Captain: Ollie Peebles
John Lancaster or Kim Gangloff
Sue Marion
substitutes for Carol Molinares
substitute: Chris Hawthorne

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

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."
~ Mother Teresa

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito." ~ African Proverb

HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS

- ✓ Please don't leave random boxes, bags, or items in the kitchen, parlor/library, hallways, or office. You need a plan as to what you had in mind for those items and who is going to execute your plan, and label accordingly.
- ✓ Everyone appreciates you cleaning up after yourselves and putting things away.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To Members and Friends of Bethany Christian Church,

Advent: “Coming,” the period of expectation and patient waiting, the Church’s New Year, the first “Season” in the Christian Calendar is now past. Christmas finally came. Most people think that by midnight, December 25, Christmas is over. Well, when you look around, it does seem that way, doesn’t it? Torn and balled up present wrappers scattered about, left-overs from big family dinners chocking up the fridge, a few burned-out holiday bulbs to replace - all make it seem that Christmas is over and done.

But for centuries Christians observed Christmas for twelve days, through February 5 – a period known more popularly by the fun song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” So, how might you spend these twelve days (assuming you’re not occupying them by delivering “twelve swans a’swimming” and “six geese a’laying” among other bizarre gifts to your “true love”)? Well, how about taking some time to reflect on the future of Mary, Joseph, and the baby after Christmas morning. Was it an easy delivery? How about post natal care for the mother and the baby? What of diapers and water? Did any of the shepherds come back the next day to see if there was anything they might do to help? Did the innkeeper and/or wife come over to check on them? How long could they stay in the cattle stall? When would they be able to make the journey back north to their hometown of Nazareth?

The writer, Luke, would seem to have them back as early as nine or ten days after the birth, whereas the other birth story in Matthew, does not get them back to their home town for several years. In fact, the latter writer, who relates the visit of Wise Men, tells us of a period spent as far away as Egypt, to escape the rage of King Herod. And that brings up another fact that most people don’t know: the Christmas Season is over before the Wise Men arrive, and with their arrival, a new season in the Liturgical Calendar begins on February 6, Epiphany.

So, there is much to contemplate during the “Twelve Days of Christmas” and Epiphany as we end the month of December and enter 2016.

Yours for peace and the Happiest of New Years,

~ Dr. Bill Blake

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

It is with great joy that I report the calling of Reverend Jackie Twedell to serve as our Senior Pastor. Rev. Twedell comes to us from First Christian Church in Hopkinsville, KY. We look forward to her starting in March. The Pastoral Search Committee wants to thank Dr. Blake for his continued service as Interim Minister.

I also want to thank my committee: Chloe Blair, Lori Blair, Jim Davis, Jim Evans, Penny Gradwell, Barb Koch, Sarah Oatman, Barbara Ozlin, and Linda Spencer for their faithful service and commitment to finding the best minister for Bethany.

~Sue Marion, chairperson

STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

Stewardship report as of November 30, 2015 (91.67% of the year)

Offering income received year-to-date \$142,650.76 (100% of annual budget)

Total operating expenses year-to-date \$145,572.36 (76% of annual budget)

• Year-to-date, we have also received \$21,959.02 in other income (including interest and dividends) and accounted for a \$28,598.30 fund loss in our Perpetual Endowment fund.

WORLD OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Week of Compassion Offering – The theme for this year’s Week of Compassion special offering is “Where you go I will go; and where you stay I will stay” (Ruth 1:16-17). We can follow the example of Ruth to say to the refugee, the displaced person, the one seeking asylum that we will go where they go and walk in solidarity beside them throughout their journey. We can give of ourselves through time, talent, prayer, and tangible resources. At the end of this Newsette is a Sharing Calendar that you can use in January to make a daily collection of “units” so you’ll be ready for the offering when it’s collected **February 21 and 28**.

CHOIR NEWS

HERE IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY! January is a great time to join the choir. We are beginning a new season, learning new music, and beginning to prepare for Lent and Easter.

All are welcome. If you can't read music, we'll teach you. If you can't carry a tune, I'll give you free lessons. The age range is 12 to 120. (Singers outside that range can audition, too.)

Rehearsals are Tuesday, January 5th from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., and Wednesdays at the same time, beginning on January 13, 2016. Come and see!
~ Duane Toole

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (DWF)

Eighty-eight knitted and crocheted caps will be delivered to the Infusion Center at the Virginia Cancer Institute. The patients could use lap blankets if you need a project this winter to keep the blood flowing in those chilly fingers; a standard size of a lap blanket is a finished 34 x 44.

NEW MEMBER

We welcomed Carole Lee Morris into our family of faith by transfer of membership from Gayton Road Christian Church. Carole lives at 10607 Northcliff Place, Richmond, VA 23236-2970. New number is (804) 897-1343, her email is cm2505053@gmail.com, and her birthday is July 11.

SYMPATHY

We express our Christian love and sympathy to Barbara Ozlin and family on the death of her mother, Mary Andrews Kidd Csiki, on Tuesday, December 8.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Acute:

Dee and Jim Evans; Bobby Nelson and Karen Peregoy (Dee and Jim Evans' son and daughter); Holly Scholl; Rob Smith; Donna Wicker; Donna Yates

Ongoing:

Florence Banks
Carol Kimmel
Gladys Rountree

Carol Browder
Hilda Murrell
John Spencer

Mary Penn Hawthorne
Ken Roland

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)
Marita Jenkins (Carol Kimmel's co-worker)
Janel Kane (co-worker of Donna Wicker's friend)
Donna King
Brett Lewis and family (Kevin Scholl's friend)

Elijah Pennington (Danny & Margot Krantz'
son)
Doug Reeves (Carol Molinares' father)
Geraldine Russell (Penny Gradwell's mother)
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Seaton (David Walls' friends)
Duane Toole

CHRISTMAS "THANK YOU"

To all of the "behind the scenes" workers ... My sincere thanks to all of you who helped put up and decorate the Chrismon tree, as well as the Nativity Scene in the china cupboard. Also, the Sanctuary is decorated more beautifully than I think I've ever seen it, and I appreciate the hard work that goes into the living Advent wreath. I am not going to name names because, as surely as I do, I will accidentally omit someone. A special thank you to William for bringing the tree upstairs.
~ a grateful member

THANK YOUS

Your love gifts to the staff at Christmas were so greatly appreciated! We thank you for your support in our efforts here at Bethany to do God's work.
~ Dr. Blake, Donna, Duane, Carol, William, Emily, Marie, and Kim

My family is so touched by the many acts of kindness we have experienced since my mother's death. Your cards, calls, visits, food, contributions and prayers mean so much to us. Having Bethany as our church home is a wonderful blessing. Thank you for being a loving family of faith.
~ Barbara Ozlin and all of Mary Csiki's family.

Thank you to everyone who Christmas caroled at Kenmore, Sunrise at Bon Air, and Envoy Health and Rehab Center of Westover Hills. I don't know who was blessed more – the singers or the ones who heard and participated!

PLANNING CONFERENCE

Sunday, January 17, is a very important date at Bethany. We will install our newly elected officers and leaders during morning Worship. Then after Worship, we will hold our annual planning conference, with board meeting to follow. Looking forward, with your help, to a productive and meaningful 2016.
~ Ross Dorneman, Moderator

REDD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thank you to all who have placed supplies and clothing in the Redd School box for the nursing office; there is still time to make donations. I will deliver them after school resumes in the New Year.
~Barbara Ozlin

Boys

Sweat pants sizes 5, 6, 8, 9, 10

Sweat shirts or top shirts 6, 8, 10

Underwear 6, 8, 9

Wipes to freshen up after accidents

Girls

Sweat pants or leggings sizes 5, 6, 8, 10

Tops 6, 8, 10

Underwear 6, 8, 10

Socks

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please email (or leave in the office) the information on ANY changes to our directory – new address, new home phone or cell number, new email address, EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION, etc.

2016 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2016 is up on the small board next to the kitchen. Please sign up for your special day for flowers for the Sanctuary.

ANNIVERSARIES		
January		
Date		Years
1	Chris & Joella Davenport	2
17	John & Peggie Massie	11
22	Hugh C. & Nancy Hawthorne	38
22	J. C. & Roberta Lewis	18

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2016</h1>					1 office closed	2
3 Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	4	5 AA-YC 7:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm (note change of day)	6 Epiphany begins	7 AA-YC 7:00 pm	8	9
10 Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	11	12 AA-YC 7:00 pm	13 Choir 7:30 pm	14 AA-YC 7:00 pm	15	16
17 Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Installation of Officers ----- Planning Conf noon Board Mtg -after-	18	19 DWF Circle #1 at church 10:00 am ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	20 Choir 7:30 pm	21 AA-YC 7:00 pm	22	23
24 Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	25 DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSETTE	26 AA-YC 7:00 pm	27 Choir 7:30 pm	28 DWF Circle #4 at church 7:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	29	30
31 Sun School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am						AA: Alcoholics Anon YC: Youth Center FH: Fellowship Hall DWF: Disciples Women's Fellowship

Sharing Calendar, 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Church World Service helps make schools in Kenya safer through their "School Safe Zones" program. Give one unit for every safe school your family members attend. 1/3	Because of foreign assistance, deaths of children under age 5 have dropped from 12.6 million to 6.6 million since 1990. Give two units to make that number even smaller. 1/4	Girls are often severely excluded from education systems, yet educated girls are key to reaching many other developmental goals. Give two units in honor of significant women in your life. 1/5	Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." —Mark 10:14 Walk the extra mile with children around the world by giving two units today. 1/6	Millions of youth are illiterate in the world's poorest countries, yet education is critical to developing better job skills, health, and future. Give one unit if you can read these words. 1/7	More than 60,000 Syrian babies have been born in exile and are in danger of being categorized as stateless. Give one unit if you enjoy the benefits of citizenship. 1/8	Since 2014, over 57,000 unaccompanied children have fled violence to the U.S. Give one unit for children you care for, and one for those who cared for you as a child. 1/9
It is estimated that over 1.5 million persons have been internally displaced in Nigeria, many because of religious persecution. Give two units if you are free to attend church without fear. 1/10	About 45% of the world's refugees reside in countries with per capita incomes below \$3,000—countries least able to afford them. Please help! Contribute one unit. 1/11	Church World Service helps provide shelter for thousands of displaced persons at a refugee camp in Tanzania. Give one unit for every time you've been to camp and had a safe place to sleep. 1/12	Give counsel, grant justice... hide the outcasts, do not betray the fugitive... be a refuge to them." —Isaiah 16:3-4a Give one unit on behalf of displaced persons around the world today. 1/13	It is estimated that 9 million Syrians have been forcibly displaced since civil war began in 2011. Write at least one letter to Congress on their behalf (examples can be found at refintl.org) and contribute one unit for each letter. 1/14	Church World Service works with many congregations to welcome more than 7,000 refugees to the U.S. every year. Give two units to celebrate the last time you were hospitable to others. 1/15	Conflict in South Sudan has forced more than 2 million people from their homes since 2013. Contribute one unit for every time your family has moved. 1/16
46.2 million U.S. Americans live in poverty. Help address poverty issues worldwide by giving two units. 1/17	One quarter of all humans live without electricity (approximately 1.6 billion people). Give one unit for every item you have plugged into an outlet at your house. 1/18	Nearly half the world's population (3 billion) live on less than \$2 per day, and over 1.3 billion on less than \$1.25 per day. Give two units if you will spend more than \$2 today. 1/19	Children, let us not love in word or speech, but in truth and action. —1 John 3:18 Take action today. Say a prayer and give as many units as you feel led. 1/20	Church World Service's Innovative Energy Technologies program has helped create self-sustaining communities that are now less susceptible to poverty. Give one unit for every energy efficient appliance in your home. 1/21	More than 1 billion children live in poverty around the world, and 22,000 children die every day because of it. Give one unit for every regular paycheck that your household collects. 1/22	Signs of poverty include inadequate income, housing, food, fresh water, opportunity, power over one's life and prospects, human dignity. Stand up to poverty by contributing three units. 1/23
Acute malnutrition affects 34 million children worldwide and often overlaps with conflict and war. Give one unit for every nutritious meal you will eat today. 1/24	More than five years after the earthquake in Haiti, Church World Service still supports agricultural production and food security programs for over 5,000 people there. Give one unit per variety of fresh produce in your kitchen. 1/25	49 million Americans struggle to put food on the table, and one in five children are at risk of hunger (among African Americans and Latinos, that number is one in three). Give two units if your family had enough to eat today. 1/26	"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." —Matthew 25: 35a Give a unit to feed the hungry today. 1/27	Hunger causes cognitive and physical stunting, and a variety of other health problems. It constrains economic growth and perpetuates poverty. Contribute one unit for every kind of canned food in your pantry, and consider donating a few to a local shelter. 1/28	Hunger is the number one cause of death in the world. Consider skipping a meal today and praying for the hungry in our world. Then give three units to feed others. 1/29	Your generous gifts given through this special offering will make a difference in the lives of hungry, hurting, and impoverished persons around the world. Give five final units in solidarity and celebration. 1/30

Sources: www.SyrianRefugees.eu, Refugees International (www.refintl.org), Church World Service, International Displacement Monitoring Center, UNICEF, Action Against Hunger, United Church of Christ, Poverty USA, DoSomething.org, OXFAM International, The World Bank.

Week of Compassion Offerings will be collected Feb. 21 and Feb. 28

