

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

Dr. William E. Blake, Jr.
Interim Pastor

Donna Wicker
Church Financial Secretary

Duane Toole
Director of Music

to be hired
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**

SEPTEMBER SERVANTS:

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

PROPERTY OPENER and CLOSER - all month

Eddie Basl

COMMUNION PREPARATION

6 - DeLois Evans and Sue Marion
13 - Geoff and Kim Gangloff
20 - Jo Anne and Ross Dorneman
27 - Geoff and Kim Gangloff

WORSHIP LEADERS

6 - Ross Dorneman
13 - Kevin Scholl
20 - Kevin Scholl
27 - Ross Dorneman

SEPT. SERVANTS (cont.)

USHERS - all month

Jackie Fore
Brian Gradwell
Johnny Grubb

ELDERS

6 - Linda Spencer and Elizabeth Little
13 - Johnny and Linda Grubb
20 - Becky Murrell and Kevin Scholl
27 - Ray Crawford and Barbara Ozlin

Communion to Home Bound

primary: Mary Penn Hawthorne and
Donna Wicker
backup: Bob and June Sears

DEACONS - all month

Captain: Robin Lancaster
Tyler Hawthorne
Barbara Koch
Frances Pully
substitute: Christie Rolston

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Members and Friends of Bethany Christian,

Miriam joins me in expressing our pleasure at your giving us opportunity again to lead as interim pastor of the church. (Most of you recall our being with you in the same role between 2004-2006. That was ten years ago.) The world and the church have moved on, as Ross Dorneman made clear in his excellent August 9 message. The truth of God's incredible and unfathomable love "was, is, and ever shall be," but the wrapping in which the truth comes to us has changed, and must change to meet the needs of each generation. We must recognize what those needs are and find all legitimate ways to focus God's passionate love upon them. Sometimes, people get the wrong idea about the meaning of "interim." They think of it as a time in which the church is not working at full strength – a kind of holding action between two more-or-less settled ministries. Some use the term "full time minister" to contrast with "interim minister." No, the interim is as "full time" as the settled minister for whom the church will be searching. The difference between the two is very simple – the interim minister's stay with the church is set for a specific period; the settled minister's is open-ended.

I will begin my ministry on **September 1** in the office from 10:00 to 2:00. My door will be open, as it was when I was here before, and as it will be Tuesdays and Thursdays during this ministry. Come by, and tell me what's on your mind.

~ Dr. Blake

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 PREVIEWS

September 6 - Let’s Get to Work!

September 13 - Listen Up, Young People!

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE – KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

The Pastoral Search Committee has continued to meet on a regular basis, scheduling around vacations as needed. We are so very appreciative of Dr. Blake stepping in to be our interim minister. Now the committee can focus totally on a pastor. Just to give you some data about the profiles we have received:

Out of the last six we received, five are women.

Only two of the nineteen profiles live in Virginia.

Most of the profiles are from the Midwest, to New Mexico and Florida.

Several profiles are requesting a salary we cannot offer.

Change is a part of life. We are not the same congregation we were last year, or ten years ago. Times have changed, things have changed, and for many, ways of thinking have changed. I ask each of you to prayerfully be open to changes Bethany may be making in who we call as our pastor. Please let me or a committee member know of what concerns you may have as we go through this process – your input is important. ~ Serving Christ, Sue Marion, Chairperson

MUSINGS OF AN ELDER

It Takes a Congregation

Many of you know me to be one who needs to have things organized, likes her life orderly and wants to solve problems and find out the outcome of situations. (I even sometimes read the end of a book before I get to the last pages to see how it turns out.)

With that said I am spending a lot of time thinking about Bethany Christian Church, worrying about a limited budget and the need for a permanent minister and organist, and praying for a positive outcome to all our needs. Before I get too bogged down by all the needs and difficulties we face, I am reminded of James 1:2, “Consider it pure joy my brothers [and sisters] whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

JOYS! Of course! Look at our congregation. People who step up to organize and participate in worship services, others who deliver sermons and musicians who provide lovely music. Many use their financial resources to underwrite the mission of the church. Competent staff members continue to serve. We have shepherds, elders and others who minister to those in need. Many come forward to plan and provide food, shelter and fellowship to the homeless. Leaders and helpers carry on the business and work of the church through projects and programs. A devoted and loving pastor commits to leading us during the interim.

So many blessings! So much hope!

Zach Brady in his recent message, described Christians as puzzles with multiple pieces. I suggest that the congregation is also a puzzle with many, varying pieces—all held firmly together with faith and dependence on Jesus Christ our Lord. The finished product is a beautiful collage of Worship, Praise, Study, Fellowship and Service.

~ Barbara Ozlin

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Remember this **Sunday, August 30**, we will have the Blessing of the Backpacks. All students and teachers bring your backpacks for Children’s Moment, AND we ask EVERYONE to bring a school supply so we can fill a backpack for children at Redd Elementary School who may need an item or two.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DEPARTMENT

The Church Picnic will be held **Sunday, September 13**, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Roslyn Center on River Road. The Congregational Life Committee will provide drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs, and fried fish. Please bring a dish to share. We will have volley ball, horseshoes, and other games; there is a swing set for young children. The facility is covered and screened in. We will have fellowship rain or shine. I hope to see everyone there. ~ Becky Murrell

STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

Stewardship report as of July 31, 2015 (58.33% of the year)

Offering income received year-to-date \$ 98,973.00 (69% of annual budget)

Total operating expenses year-to-date \$ 96,697.52 (51% of annual budget)

Year-to-date, we have also received \$7,459.75 in other income (including interest and dividends) and accounted for a \$5,282.90 fund loss 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.

C.A.R.I.T.A.S. (Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter)

We will be housing our gentlemen guests **Saturday, September 19, to Saturday, September 26**, and the week is creeping up on us! There are opportunities for EVERYONE, so please help.

WORSHIP DEPARTMENT

Do you have something to say to the children?

The Worship Department is looking for people who would like to offer a Children's Moment during Sunday Service in the next months. If you feel called to help with our Children's Ministry during the service, please contact Geoff Gangloff at 320-0860 or Donna at the church office.

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (DWF)

The Disciples Women's Fellowship elected officers for the coming year which runs from September, 2015, through August, 2016. Linda Spencer will serve as president, Carolyn Moore will be vice-president, and Barbara Koch will continue as secretary-treasurer. Over the course of a year, the DWF sponsors several events usually including a soup luncheon in the fall, a ladies' tea in early spring, and a mother-daughter lunch or dinner in May. A service project is often included with these events.

All women of the church are considered members of the Disciples Women's Fellowship; however, DWF works especially close with our two groups or "circles". Our groups meet once a month for study, service, and fellowship. If you are not currently a member of one of our groups, I cordially invite you to attend a meeting and see how much our groups accomplish as well as enjoying the fellowship of belonging to a women's organization.

Circle #1	third Tuesday of each month	10:00 a.m.	at church	leader: Linda Grubb
Circle #4	fourth Thursday of each month	7:00 p.m.	at church	leader: Barbara Koch

I want to especially thank those who worked with me on the executive committee of your DWF last year. Many thanks to Linda Spencer, Barbara Koch, Jo Anne Dorneman and Merrily Baber for all their work on behalf of DWF. I personally appreciate all the support I have received as president the past two years and hope you will continue to support our new officers. ~ June Sears, Outgoing President of DWF

SYMPATHY

We express our Christian love and sympathy to Jackie Fore and family on the death of her mother, Jean Miller Fore.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Christopher Thomas Gangloff on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Acute:

Ed McCann (surgery Sept. 2); Harold Reynolds (had surgery Aug. 29); Betty Stargardt (surgery Sept. 11); our Search Committees

Ongoing:

Stuart Adams	Phil Avery	Paul Banks
Carol Browder	Kitty and Mac Case	Marty Givens
Russell Harris	Ann Hasty	Hugh Hawthorne
Hazel Heider	Debbie Jett	Carol and Mark Kimmel
Sandy Lewis	Charley Lindsey	Earl and Elizabeth Little
Sara Mallory	Jean McNeely	Janice Midkiff
Carolyn Moore	Hilda Murrell	Bobby Nelson
Iris Parkhurst	Gay Purcell	Ken Roland
Gladys Rountree	John Spencer	Connie Stroupe
Kelly Waldrop	Frances Waters	Charlotte West
Donna Yates		

Extended Church Family:

Lisa Carlson (Carolyn Moore's friend)	Samantha Knight (Petrina Miller's co-worker)
Doris Cochran	John Lancaster's grandmother
Effie (Donna Yates' friend)	Doug Reeves (Carol Molinares' father)
Arthur "Art" Foster (Mark Foster's father)	Rose (Sarah Oatman's friend)
Tina Frank (John and Linda Spencer's daughter)	Susie Street (Mary Kline's granddaughter)
Marita Jenkins (Carol Kimmel's co-worker)	Duane Toole
Carl Keesler (Brian Gradwell's co-worker)	Rick Williamson (Sonny and Carol Browder's son-in-law)
Keith Kimmel	Donna Yates' nieces

THANK YOU

Harold Reynolds and family wish to thank you all who organized, donated food, and helped with and participated in Jessie's funeral and reception.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed so wonderfully to the two Memorial Service receptions we have had recently. Your hard work and unselfish dedication really shows what a loving family of faith this church is. It is really appreciated by the families.

~ In Faith, Dee Evans

INNERFAITH COUNCIL OF GREATER RICHMOND (ICGR)

ICGR's theme for this year is "Moving Forward with Love and Unity: We Are Our Neighbor's Keeper." We are working very hard to provide opportunities in which people can become better educated about faith traditions other than their own, so that we can serve our community as a united front.

- RVA Peace Festival: **Saturday, September 12** 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

7th Street Christian Church at 4101 Grove Avenue

Come out for ICGR's annual RVA Peace Festival at 7th St Christian Church and enjoy some great entertainment and good vibes. From food trucks to vendors to amazing musicians, this event will encompass the positivity and joy that ICGR hopes to spread through our community year round.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

L. Sandra "Sandy" Grubb: new address is 164 Pine Road, Dunneville, VA 22454-2154.

Donna Yates: new address is 38 Colonial Court, Colonial Heights, VA 23834-3163.

Kristin Hawthorne's college address at James Madison: JMU Box 3067, 800 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

“The difference between a flower and a weed is a judgement!”

~ unknown

“There comes a point in our lives when we have to get off the page in our book of life that we been stuck on, and start a new chapter. You will know when it’s time....”

~ Renee Scalfani

ANNIVERSARIES

September

Date		Years
16	Ned & Ginger Neece	20
18	Matt & Hilarie Koch	5
18	Wyatt & Emily Wolfe	1
19	Bob & June Sears	56
20	Les & Cynthia Nevins	28
20	John & Linda Spencer	18
26	David & Mary Roberts	23
30	Philip Lillard & Sarah McLillard	9

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2015</h1>						
		1 Welcome Dr. Blake! Pastoral Search Comm 7:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	2	3 AA-YC 7:00 pm	4 Bible Study and Create Worship Practice 6:30 pm	5
6 ACTS offering Sun Sch 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	7 church office closed in observance of Labor Day	8 Pastoral Search Comm 7:00 pm ----- AA-FH 7:00 pm	9 Choir 7:30 pm	10 AA-FH 7:00 pm	11 Bible Study and Create Worship Practice 6:30 pm	12
13 ACTS offering Sun Sch 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am ----- church picnic at Roslyn 3:00 - 7:00 pm	14	15 DWF Circle #1 at church 10:00 am ----- Pastoral Search Comm 7:00 pm ----- AA-FH 7:00 pm	16 Choir 7:30 pm	17 DWF Circle #4 at church 7:00 pm (different day) ----- AA-FH 7:00 pm	18 Bible Study and Create Worship Practice 6:30 pm	19 CARITAS BEGINS cot delivery 12:45 pm guests arrive 6:00 pm
20 Stewardship Sunday Sun Sch 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am ----- Board meeting noon CARITAS	21 CARITAS	22 Pastoral Search Comm 7:00 pm ----- AA-FH 7:00 pm CARITAS	23 Choir 7:30 pm CARITAS	24 AA-FH 7:00 pm CARITAS	25 Bible Study and Create Worship in conjunction with CARITAS	26 CARITAS ENDS cot pick up 11:45 am
27 Stewardship Sunday Reconciliation offering Sun Sch 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	28	29 Pastoral Search Comm 7:00 pm ----- AA-YC 7:00 pm	30 Choir 7:30 pm			AA: Alcoholics Anon YC: Youth Center FH: Fellowship Hall