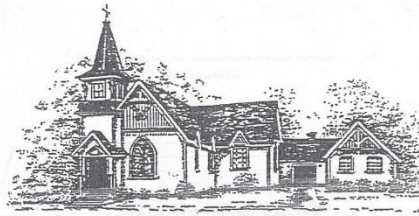


Bon Air Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2071 Buford Road
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804-272-6228
baccdoc@verizon.net
<http://www.baccdoc.org>



January 2016

Dear friends:

Magical, mysterious and wondrous - that is how this holy time has felt. Beginning with the first Advent candle being lit I could feel the growing expectation, the warmth of love shared, the joy of God's promise. We smiled as families bedecked our sanctuary with Christmas symbols and apparel. We made our way down our Advent path and watched as one person said; "angels ran amuck" during the pageant and in doing so touched all of our hearts with their sweetness.


Our youth presented a wonderful Christmas message during the pageant. Not only are we blessed with very talented youth but also they are incredibly compassionate and caring.

How wonderful it was to see the smiles on the faces of those to whom we caroled. I am so grateful for the warmth of your friendship and for your kindness. I thank God for our church family. You shower my family and me with your loving care and we appreciate it so very much. My prayer for our church is that we will feel the holy presence of Christ fill us. As we begin a New Year let us carry the light of our Christmas spirit into the world. Let us light the candles of grace, love, joy, light and peace as described by Howard Thurman.

*"I will light Candles this Christmas;
Candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,*

*Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long."*

May God's shalom, holy peace; abide with you and your family always.

Cindy 

Family Concerns:

Please pray for Harriet Griggs will have knee surgery on Friday. Please pray for Sara Reese's mother, who will have surgery on Tuesday. Our prayers are also with Norton Snead who will have open-heart surgery to replace his aortic valve on January 13. Our prayers continue with Philip Burkhalter who is at Johnston Willis Hospital.

Our prayers are with Angie Goff, who underwent surgery for a brain tumor. We are praying for Steve Craft as he undergoes chemotherapy for lymphoma and we also pray for Alice and Ray Beasley's son, Doug, who was hospitalized this past month.

Our prayers are with: Arlene Blythe's cousin, Terry Tynan; Pete Landergan's friend, Meredith Britton Guy Barker's brother-in-law "Chico" Alfred Dyett who has Multiple Sclerosis; Steve Kline's niece, Suzy Street who has a neurological disease; Bob McGowan; Shirley Acree; Helen Macklin's daughter, Cindy; Dawn Mooney's sister, Debbie Roben; Duke Dale's sister, Leslie Brinson; Joe Bancroft's friend, Johnny Guilliams who has cancer; Gerry Roppe's Uncle Jack; Shirley Burkhalter's nephew, Kevin McGuire; Shea Hollifield's friend, Denise Ambrose who is being treated for leukemia; Tom Mayfield's friend Mickey Denke; Leigh Anne Phan's friend, Ron Evans; Steve Kline's friend, Ed Winfield; Steve Goff's friend, Beth Ann Molter; Rhonda Ringel's friends, Hailey Lane and Harrison Zierenberg; Peggy Hill; the Landergan's friend, Dan Bickett; Stacy Price; Arlene Blythe's friend, Donna Leake; Hannah Bryant who has leukemia and the Macfaddens friends, Barbara and Lewis Bell.



Christian Women's Fellowship

The Christian Women's Fellowship is open to all women of the congregation.

There are three groups to choose from:

The **Day group** meets the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be January 12th. Everyone is asked to bring a sandwich to the meeting. Meeting starts at 10:30.

The **Evening group 1** meets the first Tuesday of the month in members' homes. The next meeting is January 5th at 7:00 at Andee Kirk's. Kitten Whitlow is the group leader.

The **Evening group 2 (Salad Group)** meets once a month at 6:15 at the church. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13th.

Disciples Women Retreat July 15-17, 2016 Lynchburg College

The retreat is for women of all ages, and they don't have to be active in CWF to attend.

The theme is "Just Breathe" and the speaker is Linda Whitmire from Georgia. The retreat is a time for study, worship and fellowship with women from all around the region. Andee Kirk and Cathy Law are the retreat planners.

Thank You

Our appreciation is extended to all who helped decorate our church for Advent: Steve Blythe, Janet Lenhart, Zayden Snoots, Jane McKinley, Arlene Giffel, Susan Baum, Paula Craft, Diane Clark, Sandy Logan and Sam and Carol Herrin for decorating the church for Advent. A special thank you is extended to Steve and Arlene Blythe who cleaned the sanctuary chandeliers.

Update on Refugee Family Ministry

Earlier this fall, the BACC Board voted unanimously for our congregation to co-sponsor with Church World Service a refugee family in early 2016. We hope the family will arrive in February 2016. We won't have information about our family until 2-3 weeks before their arrival.

All refugees go through vigorous background checks by two U.S. government agencies and the United Nations that usually take 3 years to complete. It is the most rigorous means by which anyone enters the United States. Refugees have fled their home country due to violence and war and have been in a refugee camp for many years before coming to the U.S. They sometimes have a family connection in the U.S.

Nearly all refugees arrive with little more than the clothing they are wearing. As co-sponsors, BACC has agreed to help furnish and set up a home (probably an apartment) and to support the family for at least 3 months, with transportation, learning/improving English and helping them become oriented to our community. There will be many ways BACC members and friends can help. We will need furniture for at least a 2-bedroom apartment, food for a kitchen pantry, perhaps clothing donations and, most importantly, volunteers to help with transportation, visits and more tasks. Cathy Law and Shea Hollifield are serving as the lead coordinators for this ministry, and there will be coordinators needed for other tasks. CWS will continue to work with the family also during this time.

On January 10, after the late service, there will be a meeting for anyone interested in learning more about this ministry and the ways you can help. The meeting is open to all who want to participate and who want to learn more about the process. It will last about an hour. If you have furniture that you might want to donate for the family, please let Cathy or Shea know. If you can store it at home until we need it that will help because BACC has little storage space. Please keep this ministry in your prayers, and pray for the refugees around the world.

Cathy Law email – cathylaw@verizon.net , home 273-6370,
cell 512-9092

Shea Hollifield email – sheahollifield@comcast.net, home 323-5991,
cell 433-7883

Thank You

The BACC staff wishes to thank all of our BACC friends for their generosity and thoughtfulness at Christmas. We are so grateful for the many ways you support us. Wishing you all a blessed 2016!!



**Recycle the old
and use the new!**

Please fill in the blanks!

Each January the offering envelope list is updated. This means that **you may not** have the same number you had in 2015. Therefore you should discard any unused 2015 envelopes or return to the church office to be recycled.

Envelopes are distributed monthly. The usage of envelopes is encouraged for all members and all who contribute financially to Bon Air Christian Church. If you are not receiving envelopes now and would like to have them, please call the church office at 272-6228.

The Financial Secretary and the Offering Committee want to be accurate in seeing that your offerings are used in the way you intend. For example, please indicate whether you mean Current Operating Expenses, and/or Other. If you choose Other it is necessary that you be specific in indicating what you mean i.e. a Memorial Gift, Note Cards, Minister's Discretionary Fund, or any number of other offerings you may choose.

We appreciate your use of envelopes. It makes the offering committee and the financial secretary's jobs much easier. Thank you.

A Holy Calling Installation Service is January 3

The installation of our new church officers is Sunday, January 3. Our new elders are: Joan Mielke, Rick Bernard and Paul Seemiller. Our deacons are: Madison Arthur, Claire Deitch, Sam Herrin, Andee Kirk, Tammy Rucker, Joe Smith, Charles Stevens, Jake Ver Beek and Zachary Moon.

Our committee chairs are:

*Christian Education: **Pete Landergan***

*Worship: **Frank and Diane Clark***

*Church in Community: **Shea Hollifield***

*Evangelism: **Jean Dowdy***

*Membership: **Paul and Martha Seemiller***

*Inside and Outside Property: **Doug Collins***

*Stewardship: **Joe Bancroft***

*World Outreach: **Cathy Law***

*Long Range Planning: **Doug White***

Sandy Collins will be serving as chair of the board and president of the congregation. Jon Ver Beek will be Treasurer and Andee Kirk is Sunday School Superintendent.

As we prepare to ordain new elders and deacons, and install new church officers and committee chairs, we are reminded that God calls us to holy and sacred service.

For all of us who have been ordained through the years, we are invited to remember our calling and renew our covenant of service to Christ and his church.

We are grateful to all who have agreed to serve. Let us all support these friends who have committed to serve in these leadership positions.

The Tropical Depression That Almost Was

A career in a professional kitchen taught me the necessity of preparation. So when I dropped off my chauffeur Betty at the Tampa airport 6 weeks ago on my way to my new home and life, I was fairly certain that all my planning was about to pay off. Boy was I wrong. Norm “Mr. Buzz” Tiglio, my new roommate greeted me at the door of my new home. After a few minutes of the usual travel banter, we went inside and the odor of cat urine and more nearly knocked me over. Apparently The Buzzman had become “nose deaf” and his 2 elderly cats had literally used my end of the house as their personal litter box. Since I couldn’t turn around and head back to Richmond, I quickly sprang into action and explained to him our only option. After a couple of telephone calls, I arranged for a local handyman to come over and start the arduous task of ripping up all the carpeting, patching up the flooring, and basically gutting out the interior of the house. Unfortunately, Buzz had to have his two cats euthanized and in the process of driving around to the SPCA my van broke down.

So for the following 2 weeks, all of my belongings were still in boxes, the house was being torn apart, my van was in and out of the shop, I was sleeping in my power chair in the lanai, and my debit card was being scanned at practically every Lowes on the Gulf Coast. I also had to sign up for a Florida Humana health insurance plan, obtain a primary care doctor, find a pain management specialist, obtain a Florida driver’s license, update my GEICO policy, purchase an entire bedroom suite, run back and forth to the lumber yard, restore the patio area and screen it in for Ziggy to hang outside with us, run coax and cable, and prepare for the upcoming arrival of my cousin and his wife who live in Germany and speak no English. Yet between these periods of utter chaos were quiet times of sheer beauty and joy. It’s these times that cause me to pause and “wonder as I wander”. I could never have survived this ordeal without the greatness and goodness of God. All I could ever do or ever hope to do is to prepare the way for Him. And isn’t that what Advent is all about?

To all my dear friends at Bon Air Christian Church, let me wish you peace and prosperity in the coming year. You have been my strength and my source of inspiration for so many years. And although I may seem afar, I shall continue to hold you dear and near to me. For if I have learned anything in life; it is that the only true constant is God and the kindest and most caring of his children are my family and friends within these dual portals on Buford Road.

Peace be with you
Happy New Year...Gerry Roppe’

JOY Group January 19, 2016 Guest Speaker: Len Tuck

The JOY group will meet January 19, 2016 at the church at 10:30 AM. Len Tuck of the Bon Air Historical Society will be giving us a tour of the Hazen Memorial Library that is being restored. We will carpool and/or walk over. **Bring your lunch**; coffee, water, and dessert will be provided.



SERVING SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2016

January 3

Elders: Bud Deihl, Paul Seemiller
Deacons: 8:45 Tom Snodgrass (P), Whitney Graham
11:00 Jerrell Todd (P), Cathy Law, Clairee Cochran, Arlene Giffel
Worship Leaders: 8:45 11:00 Charles Stevens
Acolyte:
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Worship & Wonder Helper:
Offering: Rose and Jim McCaferty
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 Sandy Logan and Whitney Madison 11:00

January 10

Elders: Bill Sydnor, Joan Mielke
Deacons: 8:45 Joe Smith (P), Tammy Rucker
11:00 Lauren Johnson (P), Jerrell Todd, Collin Thomas, Whitney Graham
Worship Leaders 8:45 11:00 Susan Baum
Acolyte:
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Worship & Wonder Helper:
Offering: Arlene Giffel and Laura Hollis
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 11:00 Tom Neumayer

January 17

Elders: Shea Hollifield, Rick Bernard
Deacons: 8:45 George Smith (P), Sandy Collins
11:00 Clairee Cochran (P), Jake Ver Beek, Arlene Giffel, Andee Kirk
Worship Leaders: 8:45 11:00 Jean Turlington
Acolyte:
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Worship & Wonder Helper:
Offering: Jean Dowdy and Jean Turlington
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 11:00

January 24

Elders: Barbara Bancroft, Duke Dale
Deacons: 8:45 Jeanne Brock (P), Claire Deitch
11:00 Polly White (P), Doug White, Charles Stevens, Lauren Johnson
Worship Leaders: 8:45 11:00 Kitten Whitlow
Acolyte:
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Worship & Wonder Helper:
Offering: Barbara Bancroft and Kris Shouldice
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 11:00

January 31

Elders: Joe Bancroft, Barbara Bancroft
Deacons: 8:45 Claire Deitch (P), Tammy Rucker
11:00 Polly White (P), Doug White, Cathy Law, Joe Smith
Worship Leaders: 8:45 Steve Goff 11:00 Shea Hollifield
Acolyte:
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Worship & Wonder Helper:
Offering: Steve and Angie Goff
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 Steve and Angie Goff 11:00 Arlene Giffel and Barbara Bancroft
(P) denotes communion preparation