

Bon Air Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2071 Buford Road  
N. Chesterfield,  
VA 23235

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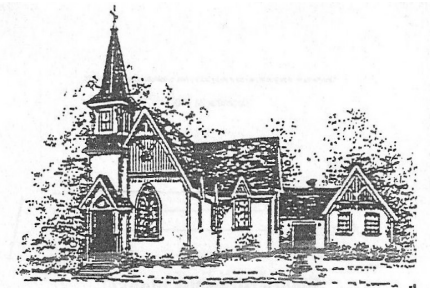
Worship Services  
Sunday 8:45 & 11:00  
Saturday 5:00

Sunday School 10:00

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# Bon Air Christian Church Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2017 Edition

## CHOOSE LOVE!

*...choose this day whom you will serve,  
...as for me and my household,  
we will serve the Lord."*

- Joshua 24:15

Joshua called the people to choose where their allegiance and devotion would lie. Every day we choose. We choose what will receive our loyalty. God has set before us the way of goodness and righteousness. It saddens and angers us to see people who choose hate. We have often wondered how extremist in other religions, in other countries, can spout hate and teach their children the way of hate. But here we are in our fair commonwealth, right in the middle of this pot of boiling hot hate.

We are perhaps tempted to think we can do nothing. I love the church because every Sunday we come and hear this prophetic challenge from scripture to work for justice and to keep on spreading love, even in the face of hate. I love the church because here we have a group of people who continue to affirm that we will not let hate win, we will hold on to our hope and we will be about Christ's mission of reconciliation and healing.

The challenge is before us to live out of our faith – to let our words and actions reflect God's love. It is tempting to adapt to our culture but as followers of Christ we have a higher calling. Our faith must inform all the choices we make. Our faith and the choices we make are the foundations of our character. What kind of people will we be? What will we teach our children? Pray always and believe that love conquers hate.

Jesus called us to choose love in all things. He said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Rather than returning hate for hate we are called to pray for those whose lives are filled with hate. We pray for those who are victims of discrimination. We pray for those who are lost in bitterness, anger and hate. We pray that we may build a world where others may see and know God's love, grace and mercy. Let the light of God's love shine through you. *I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*Shalom,  
Cindy*



## Youth Group Kick Off



We have missed you!

Let's reconnect and kick-off our Youth Group fun at the farm! Bring a dish.

Thank you to the Vaden's for hosting our amazing youth group and their families!

We plan to leave after the late service on September 10:

140 Jennings Road, Cartersville, VA 23027

There will be fishing, swimming, farm animals and just a good 'ole day in the country! YG is providing hamburgers and drinks. The Sign Up link is:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0549aeaa292-endofyear>

## JOY RETURNS!

Michael McCall will open JOY!! September 19, 10:30 AM, "Same Fun Time, Same Fun Place!!" **POT LUCK luncheon**. Fried chicken provided, bring a side dish or dessert.

Michael majored in Comparative Religious Studies and Psych at UVa. He just retired from his job as Chief Appraiser for VDOT and has started a consultant company. He did back up for Chuck Barry at U Hall, and we need to ask him when his wedding anniversary is!

*joy*



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank you to our VBS Volunteers!!!

It was such a busy week. The adults were worn out by Friday! It was the love for Jesus that enabled 40+ adult volunteers and 39 children to gather at this year's GOD'S GARDEN 2017. The kids were anxious to come to church to do crafts with rocks, leaves, paint, and glue. They loved to sing the songs and do the hand motions, too. They enjoyed the skits with Farmers Andee, Joan, Steve and Angie. They learned Bible stories from Gail, Barbara and Cassie who dressed up as Bible characters. And most definitely, the children loved the outdoor games in good weather with Diane and her crew. What a good time was had by all. Thanks to all our volunteers who provided food each night, our children were nourished both physically and spiritually this year!



**Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF)** is starting up again in September. We currently have three CWF groups and we invite all the women of the Church to join one or more of the groups. We will have a joint meeting on September 24th after the 11:00 a.m. service. We will be discussing our upcoming fall fund-raiser, a Cook-Off being held on Saturday, Nov. 18. Mark your calendars. The entire Church is invited. We'll be working on the details at the joint meeting.

Now for your CWF choices. The Day Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Church. It begins at 10:30 a.m. This group has fellowship time, Bible study, and lunch. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 12th and we're planning a tea party. I love this because I get to use all my fancy teapots. I hope you will join us. It's a great time to get to know women from the Church. Arlene Giffel is the group leader.

The CWF Evening Group (Ladies of the Evening) meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. We meet for dinner around 5:00 p.m. at a local restaurant and then go to the meeting which is held at a different home each month. Mary Ann Casdia will be hosting our first meeting on September 7th. The hostess usually provides a few snacks and a dessert. This group also has a lot of activities outside of the meetings. We go to plays, tour plantations, go to the beach and to Smith Mountain Lake. We usually have a monthly game day at the Church. Kitten Whitlow is the leader.

The CWF Salad Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Church. Each month a different member of the group leads the Bible study and provides the salad greens. Everyone else brings something to add to the salad. This group also has activities besides the monthly meeting. This is the only group I don't attend. Maybe I should remedy that. This is an excellent way for me to get to know women I don't know very well. And I like salad. If you have questions, contact Cathy Law.

The Bible study this year is Hebrews in the New Testament. Each group also contributes to several very good causes such as the food bank, the battered women's shelter, Nature Camp & Craig Springs. We also provide help when the Church hosts Caritas and Vacation Bible School. We have a great time. If you are not a part of a CWF group, I hope you will consider joining us. And in case you can't tell, we love to eat. If you have been waiting to receive an invitation, consider yourself invited.

*Jamie McDonald*

## THANK YOU'S

"Many Blessings"

It's difficult for our family to put into words what your many kindnesses have done to enrich our lives. The church family has wrapped their arms around us and we have been blessed by your generosity and acts of love.

Our family is trying to persevere through all of our recent medical issues which have impacted our lives in every way. We find solace in what our Grandma Jane used to say; "This too shall pass".

We thank you from the

bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,  
*The Lyda Family*

Thanks to everyone who sent me cards and letters both before and after my liver transplant. I went thru some dark days but I always felt the Lord's presence. I walk with God daily and trust Him totally. I know that your prayers had a great deal to do with my apparently successful journey, and I will never be able to thank you enough! Cindy Stratton was always there for me. My wife, Carol, was a selfless caregiver and I couldn't have done it without

her support. She's a true gift from God. Lastly, I want everyone to know how blessed I feel to be a part of the BACC Community. I have never known a group of folks more compassionate, caring and encouraging as you. Thank you and now that I'm off "house arrest", I hope to see you in the near future in worship on Sunday.

*Bob McGowan*

Thank you to Doug Collins for overseeing the installation of our new carpet in the multi-purpose room. We are grateful for the many ways he keeps our building looking wonderful.

## Sunday School and Youth Group Begin September 10

We are so excited about Sunday school and Youth Group getting started again on September 10<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing all of you at our **Sunday School reception** at 10:00 along with the **Blessing of the Backpacks**. A dedication service for teachers and youth group leaders will be held during the 11:00 worship service.

### Children and Youth Classes

**Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade** – Barbara Bancroft, Gina McKenney

**Grades 3-5** – Robin Blanchard

**Middle School** – Russ and Cindy Johnson

**High School** – Diane Clark and Cathy Vaden

**Helper and Substitutes for Youth classes:** Martha Seemiller and Marie Boger

### Adult Classes

**New Class** – Faithful Families. The class will discuss the book *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home*. The class will meet in the library.

**Parlor Class** – Steve Craft, Danny Simmons and Jamie McDonald. The class will study covenants in the Old and New Testaments from the Uniform Series of Lessons.

**Foundations Class** – Sandy Collins. This class will study a four-part series on the major themes in the Bible: God is with us, God is concerned with the least; God loves us, God is bigger than we think.

**Fellowship Class** – Kitten Whitlow. This class will study the *100 Most Important Events in Christian History*.

**Sojourners Class** – Susan Deihl, Cathy Law and Sara Reese. Using historical information, archeological data and biblical texts, this class will study *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet*.

### Youth Group Leaders

Kendra Ver Beek, Robin Blanchard and Joan Mielke

# CARITAS—SEPT 2ND thru 9TH

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BACC will host homeless families from September 2-9. We will provide a safe place to sleep, three meals a day, showers, laundry and Christian love and fellowship. Please check the on-line sign-up or the task chart next to the office to see if

you can participate in this critical ministry.

Please contact Shea Hollifield at 804-433-7883 or [sheahollifield@comcast.net](mailto:sheahollifield@comcast.net) if you have questions or would like additional information.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1swUlWZIRJY6TyhIBPkbymJo3edphNi1IEi7hP9shfUk/edit#gid=0>



## CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

*Congratulations* to Chris Verheul and Amber Witt, who were married at Bon Air Christian Church on August 5, 2017.



*Our Sympathy* is extended to Duke, Suzanne and Anna Leigh Dale upon the death of Duke's sister, Leslie Brinson.



**Praying!**  
We are lifting these dear ones into the holy light of our loving God. May you feel the warmth of our love and know that you are ever in our thoughts and prayers.

**Please pray for:**

- ♦ Mary Elizabeth Jonas who fell and broke her hip
- ♦ Harriet Griggs who had her 12th knee surgery

- ♦ Phyllis Barker who is at home
- ♦ Bob McGowan who is doing well after a liver transplant
- ♦ Traci Eagle who continues to undergo radiation
- ♦ Becky Harvell's mother and Shirley Heath who are at Sunrise.
- ♦ Dot Nuckols who had a spinal procedure

**Our prayers continue with:**

- ♦ Steve Blythe
- ♦ Cathy Wheless
- ♦ Maddie Smith
- ♦ Lewis Bell
- ♦ Robin Lorraine
- ♦ Jane Miller
- ♦ Carnell Teachey
- ♦ Terry Tynan and her friend, Donna Leake
- ♦ Steve Kline's friend, Ed Winfield
- ♦ Rhonda Ringel's friends, Hailey Lane, Harrison Zierenbergand, Crista Cole
- ♦ The Landergan's friend, Dan Bickett

- ♦ Pete Landergan's friend, Meredith Britton
- ♦ Dawn Mooney's sister, Debbie Roben
- ♦ Steve Blythe's cousin, Brandon Clements
- ♦ Susan Baum's friend, Geri
- ♦ Diane Clark's brother, Dennis
- ♦ Julie Bock's friend, Theresa Robertson
- ♦ Frances Atherton's mother, Bettie Miles
- ♦ Gerry Roppe
- ♦ The Ver Beek family friend, Sue Nagy
- ♦ Guy Barker's brother-in-law, Phillp Gibson
- ♦ Tom Mayfield's friend, Mickey Denke
- ♦ Mary Ann Casdia's sister, who has cancer
- ♦ Jackie Nilles friend, Kathryn Noftzger
- ♦ Tom Neumayer's great-granddaughter, Kassidi Stevens
- ♦ 7 yr old Eleanor Brooks

## PLEASE BRING FOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRIES

With fall just around the corner, and our thoughts going to back-to-school activities and getting ready for the holidays, let's not forget the folks who depend on Bainbridge Community Ministry for part of their food supply. School and holidays take part of these folks finances, and they depend on Bainbridge for help. Current needs continue to be powdered milk products, canned fish products, and jelly. As usual, any non-perishable food items are welcome.

*Charles Stevens*



## Sunday School

### Great Themes of the Bible

Please consider joining the Foundations Sunday School Class for a four-part series on the major themes in the Bible. These themes tell us about God and God's role in our lives.

First, God is with us; we are not fugitives wandering the earth bereft of larger meaning. Second, God is most concerned not with kings and human power but with "the least of these my brothers and sisters." Third, God loves us; at the

center of the creation is a heart of compassion. And fourth, God is always bigger than we think; our minds are repeatedly too small to fathom the enormity of God's mind and heart. We will use Old and New Testament texts and stories to help us see these four themes. This study is a great way to kick off the new Sunday School year.

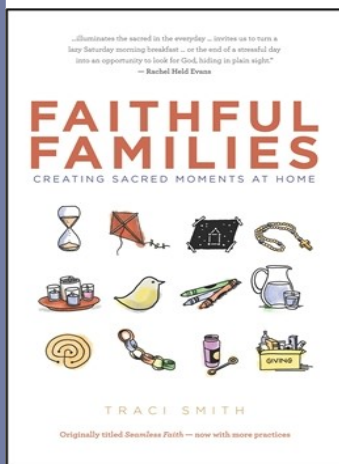
I look forward to seeing you in class!

*Sandy Collins*



## New Sunday School class for Parents

Join us as we begin a new Sunday School class for families, as we review the book *Faithful Families*!



Add family faith moments to your daily routine and share meaningful spiritual experiences with your children! This will be a great opportunity for us to find ways to create a firm foundation for Christian family life. Faithful Families helps you:

- ◆ connect faith to your family's everyday life
- ◆ add family faith moments into your daily routine
- ◆ learn new spiritual practices alongside your children
- ◆ teach your children to appreciate religious diversity with time-tested spiritual practices
- ◆ respond to life's everyday challenges and opportunities with meaningful practices

## 2017 Reconciliation Offering

### **"Everyone has a story"** **Matthew 13:10;13**

"When we have insight about one another's journey, we are less inclined to deny one another's humanity."

*Rev. April G. Johnson, Executive Director/  
Minister of Reconciliation*

The Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become an pro-reconciling and anti-racist church. Our efforts to promote healing relation-

ships and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering.

Through the Reconciliation offering we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

The Special Offering will be received on Sunday, September 24th and October 1st.

The BACC goal is \$700.

## Stewards Tending God's Garden

Wow! It has been quite a summer. Church has remained very busy. It has been a joy to see so many folks faithfully serving Christ and his church. You have generously offered your gifts of time, talent and resources. Thank you. Thank you for taking the time to touch the lives of our youth through Mission Week, Vacation Bible School and Church camp. Thank you for sharing your love and kindness by teaching, fixing food, sprucing up our dear old building and by the many, many things you do.

As we think about our stewardship we are mindful that everyone has a calling. When we yield our lives to God, God is able to use our lives to make the world better. Our theme for Bible school is also our stewardship theme, "God's gardeners". We sow God's seeds of mercy and goodness. We weed out the unwanted habits and influences that clutter our lives and choke our spirits. We pray that God will help us be good stewards and care for the good Earth, care for one another and care for ourselves. We are so blessed to be entrusted with God's wonderland.

## Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers are a well trained lay caregivers who provide high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing various difficulties in life. They come alongside a person after a crisis occurs and walk with that person for as long after as necessary. If you would like to learn more about this ministry please contact Cindy. There will be an introductory workshop held on September 30th at Good Shepherd Baptist Church which includes :

### **A Half-Day Workshop Featuring:**

*Session 1:* Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

*Session 2:* An Introduction to Stephen Ministry

*Session 3:* How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way

**WHEN:** September 30, 2016

9:00 am—1:00 pm (check in and on-site registration begin at 8:00 am).

**WHERE:** Good Shepherd Baptist Church  
2223 S Crater Rd, Petersburg, VA 23805

**COST:** \$15 per person, or \$50 per congregation (four or more).

### **TO REGISTER:**

Visit [www.stephenministry.org/workshop](http://www.stephenministry.org/workshop) or call Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600

## **Week of Compassion—Hurricane Harvey**

We are collecting monetary donations for those lives who have been devastated by Hurricane Harvey. **100% of the donation will go to Hurricane Harvey victims.**

Please make your check payable to BACC with a memo line of "Week of Compassion or Hurricane Harvey".

## **SATURDAY CASUAL SERVICE**

We are all busy during the summer months, travelling here and there, and tending to so many things. But we must not forget our church attendance. That is just as important as all the other things we keep up with (and maybe more so). The Saturday Evening Casual service is a popular alternative for those whose schedules become full on Sundays. We start at 5 PM - see you there!

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Website: [http://  
www.baccdoc.org](http://www.baccdoc.org)

Senior Minister:  
Cynthia Stratton

Associate Minister:  
Jerusha Moses

Choir Director &  
Organist:  
Vickie Brooks

Secretary:  
Kelly Edwards

Nursery Attendants:  
Kyla Brooks  
Sage Miller

## District VII Disciples of Christ Assembly

Sept 30th, 11:00am

Bethany Christian Church  
5400 Forest Hill Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23225

\*\*\*Our special guest will be our interim regional minister

Rev. Coretha Loughridge.

\*\*\*Special music from the HARP Institute

\*\*\*offering collected at assembly will support the work of the Virginia Region

Luncheon will follow in Bethany's fellowship hall

\*\*\*Please call or message Bethany CC with number for dinner by

Sept 27th: 804-272-6228 or [worship@baccdoc.org](mailto:worship@baccdoc.org)

\*\*\*\$5 per person; max \$10 per family

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sept 10th 10:00 am

Join us on this special Sunday for our first ever "Blessing of the Backpacks!" during the Back to Sunday School reception.

We will pray a blessing over our students (and their backpacks), asking God to guide, nurture, and protect them this year. Students of ALL ages are invited to bring their backpacks with them for this special event!

This is a wonderful way to acknowledge the beginning of a new school year!





# SERVING SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

## **SEPT 3, 2017**

Elders: Doug White, Paul Seemiller

Deacons: 9:15 (P) Sam Herrin, Joe Bancroft

10:45 (P) Laura Hollis, Cathy Law, Tim Vaden, Kitten Whitlow

Worship Leaders: 9:15 Brenda Kidd 10:45 Jamie McDonald

Acolyte: 9:15 10:45

Worship & Wonder Storyteller:

Worship & Wonder Helper: 9:15 10:45

Ushers/Greeters: 9:15 Cassie Price 10:45 Jean Turlington

Offering: Rose McCaferty, Jim McCaferty

## **SEPT 10, 2017**

Elders: Shea Hollifield, Tom Snodgrass

Deacons: 8:45 (P) Cecilia Bingenheimer, Tammy Rucker

11:00 (P) Kris Shouldice, Whitney Graham, Jerrell Todd, Aidan Novak

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Shea Hollifield 11:00 Doug White

Acolyte: 8:45 11:00

Worship & Wonder Storyteller:

Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 11:00

Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 Jim and Faye Lester 11:00

Offering: Arlene Giffel, Laura Hollis

## **SEPT 17, 2017**

Elders: Jamie McDonald, Joan Mielke

Deacons: 8:45 (P) Sandy Collins, George Smith

11:00 (P) Zachary Moon, Ellen Moon, Jake Ver Beek, Allison Landergan

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Steve Scott 11:00 Charlie Ver Beek

Acolyte: 8:45 11:00 Audrey Kate & Arya Duke

Worship & Wonder Storyteller:

Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 11:00

Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 Lena Neal 11:00 Arlene Giffel

Offering: Jean Dowdy, Jean Turlington

## **SEPT 24, 2017**

Elders: Paula Craft, Steve Goff

Deacons: 8:45 (P) Madison Arthur, Claire Deitch

11:00 (P) Emily Rush Moore, Karson Clark, Sean Hylton, Charles Stevens

Worship Leaders: 8:45 11:00 Jean Turlington

Acolyte: 8:45 11:00

Worship & Wonder Storyteller:

Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 11:00

Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 11:00 The Clarks

Offering: Barbara Bancroft, Kris Shouldice

(P) denotes communion preparation



# SEPTEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 ♦ 5:00 Worship Service ♦ Tom's Flock Feeds Homeless Shelter ♦ CARITAS Begins →
3 9:15 & 10:45 Worship Services	4 	5 7:00 Choir practice	6 ♦ 8:00 Men's Breakfast	7 5:00 CWF Night Group	8	9 5:00 Worship Service  CARITAS Ends →
10 8:45 & 11:00 Worship Services ♦ 10:00 Back to Sunday School Reception ♦ 1:00 Youth Group Kick Off	11	12 10:30 CWF Day Group (Tea Party) 7:00 Choir practice	13 ♦ 8:00 Men's Breakfast ♦ 7:00 AA, ACA ♦ 6:30 CWF Salad Group	14	15	16 5:00 Worship Service
17 8:45 & 11:00 Worship Services  Board Meeting	18	19 10:30 Joy 7:00 Choir practice	20 ♦ 8:00 Men's Breakfast ♦ 7:00 AA, ACA	21	22	23 5:00 Worship Service
24 8:45 & 11:00 Worship Services ♦ Reconciliation Week ♦ 12:30 Youth Group	25	26 7:00 Choir practice	27 ♦ 8:00 Men's Breakfast ♦ 7:00 AA, ACA	28	29	30 District VII Assembly

Worship 8:45 & 11:00 Sunday School 10:00