

BON AIR CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2071 Buford Road
North Chesterfield, VA
23235
(804) 272-6228
worship@baccdoc.org

VISIT US:

<http://www.baccdoc.org>



WORSHIP WITH US:

Saturday Evening Worship:

5:00 Casual Worship Service

Sunday Morning Worship:

8:45 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in person and via Zoom

Sunday School:

10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom

10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at BACC

Prayer and Fellowship:

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

All are welcome!

Still ticking, or still crazy, after all these years

Dear friends,

A lot has changed in 35 years. Remember when zoom meant "to go fast, like Tom Cruise in *Top Gun*"?

Some things have stayed the same. There is a beautiful chapel in Old Bon Air that continues to be a place where God's love is proclaimed.

There are no words to thank you for the many ways you touched my life through the years and the ways you continue to do so today. I am truly humbled that you give me the privilege of being a part of your lives. I am blessed that I am able to bless your babies, baptize your children, officiate your weddings and stand alongside of you as we give our loved ones into God's eternal care. I thank you for all that has been, and I'm looking forward to year 36.

October is Week of the Ministry. I am grateful for the ministers in my life who helped me find a home in the church. Bill McDonald and Mike Moore were truly mentors, advocates, friends, and changed my life.

Ministry happens in many different ways. We have wonderful ministers in our church who serve as chaplains: Reverend Steve Scott and Reverend Leigh Finnegan-Hosey. We are blessed with retired clergy in our church: Reverend Dan Griggs, Reverend Clay Boyd and Reverend Jim Phifer. We celebrate our Priscilla and Timothy, those who entered ministry from Bon Air Christian Church: Reverend Amy Spangler Dunning and Reverend Bill Garmon. Our former Associate Minister, Reverend Paul Simrell, now serves as a pastoral counselor with VIPCare as well as pastoring his church in Elpis. Gail Macfadden served as a lay minister to Ephesus Christian Church in Foneswood, Virginia.

We are all called by God. We give thanks for those who have heard the calling as their life's vocation. With this calling comes many sacrifices, many joys, many heartaches, and much love.

I am grateful for our friend and co-minister, the Reverend David Finnegan-Hosey. I am excited about continuing in ministry with him and with you as we look to new and exciting ways of ministry.

With love and prayers, Cindy

Week of the Ministry



Rev. Paul Simrell



Rev. Cynthia Stratton
Rev. David Finnegan-Hosey



Rev. Dan Griggs



Rev. Jim Pfifer



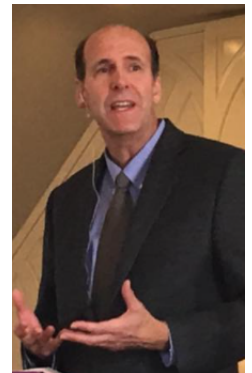
Rev. Clay Boyd



Rev. Amy Spangler-Dunning



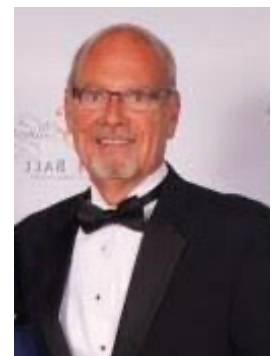
Gail Macfadden



Rev. Steve Scott



Rev. Leigh Finnegan-Hosey



Rev. Bill Garmon

HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE CALL TO MINISTRY SINCE 1933

Week of Ministry was created in 1933 as a reminder to honor and celebrate the call to ministry. Every year during Week of Ministry (usually the second full week in October), Pension Fund provides resources for congregations and ministry workers to:

- Show appreciation for those in ministry.
- Encourage congregations to celebrate their pastors.
- Foster relationships among ministry peers.
- Support and encourage those who might be interested in a ministry career in the future.

We at Bon Air Christian are so blessed with all of the wonderful ministers among us. Please consider making a moment during the month of October to acknowledge and thank these wonderful ministers who have blessed our lives so richly through their work, time, and talents.

God Goes Before Us

God Goes Before Us: Stewardship Campaign for 2022

The 2022 Stewardship Campaign has begun and runs from September 26 through October 10. October 10th is Commitment Sunday. During this time, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you can use your time, talents and resources to grow and support Bon Air Christian Church's ministries.

The past year has been an unprecedented challenge for us as a church and for many of us as individuals. Through it all we know that God goes before us, just as He did as the Hebrew people made their way through the wilderness, and so will we!

To facilitate your support for BACC we have mailed out a Time and Talent survey and pledge cards. Please return those to church by October 10. You may mail them in, return them in the offering plate or **email your pledge to Diane Clark, co-financial secretary at dianewclark@hotmail.com**. If you need a Time and Talent survey or a pledge card please contact the church office at 272-6228.

On Commitment Sunday, October 10 pledges are due and **there will be a Commitment Sunday Brunch at 10:00 a.m.** We hope you will be able to participate. The final budget will go to the Board on October 17 and the full congregation will vote on it at a Congregational Meeting on November 7.

God goes before us now and always.



Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

Helping Those in Need

An Opportunity to Help Lina's Family

Dear friends:

Below is a letter from Cassie Price's friend, Lina. We have been praying for Lina's family ever since the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. **We would like to know if there are those among us who would like to help this family with housing, household items, clothing, toiletries, funds for necessary items.** We give thanks to God for the opportunity to help and the means to do so. If you are able to assist in this ministry in any way please let the church office know so that we will have a list of those who are interested.

Blessings,

Cindy and David and the Church in Community committee

Dear Bon Air Christian Church Congregation,

I hope this letter finds you well.

My name is Lina Tori Jan, and an asylum seeker from Afghanistan. I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Richmond and am currently finishing my master's at the University of Oxford. During my time at Richmond, Va, I had the wonderful opportunity to meet Cassie, Tom and their family. Cassie and Tom opened their home to me, accompanied me to dental procedures, supported me however and whenever, but most importantly, they became my good friends and mentors.

As you may have seen on the news and heard from Cassie and Tom, the humanitarian crisis of Afghanistan led to millions of displacements. Most people were forced to evacuate, including my 8 family members. On August 23rd, 2021, my mother, newly-wed sister in law, sister, brother in law and their four children were evacuated from Kabul, Afghanistan by one of the US C-17 aircrafts. Today, I am writing to you on behalf of my sister, Maria Muradi, and her family who are in need of sponsorship to resettle in Virginia upon their release from Fort Dix military base located in New Jersey.

Maria is married to my brother in law, Khalid Popal. They have four children: Tabasum (female, 12), Hamed (male, 9), Behishta (female, 5) and Marwa (female, 3).

Khalid served with the US Government through American companies that were contracted under the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for more than 10 years in various capacities, including serving as Water Plant Supervisor both in the provinces of Khost and Kabul. Khalid understand English but can speak with limited vocabulary.

Maria received her MD from a private medical school in Kabul Afghanistan and worked both as a nurse and a family doctor treating women and children. She was studying to become an ultrasound specialist. Maria speaks English well.

(continued on next page)

Helping Those in Need

An Opportunity to Help — continued ...

Tabasum was in 6th grade, Hamedullah in 5th grade, Behistha in 1st grade and Marwa went to daycare. The two older kids can read, write and speak limited English.

Due to Khalid's work with the US government, his and his family's life was in danger as he was being haunted by the Taliban. Khalid received several death threats including letters. The risk to their lives increased due to their marriage as they are from different ethnic groups in Afghanistan. Maria is Hazara while Khalid is Pashtun: two ethnic groups that don't get along well due to the history of Pashtuns oppressing the Hazaras. In August, when the Taliban took over, the family was in hiding and going from safe house to safe house until their escape.

Over the course of their escape, the family undertook three attempts to make it into the airport, crossed Taliban checkpoints, were shot at, were tear gassed, were trampled under desperate crowds (leading to multiple broken bones), and hid inside while the Taliban searched nearby homes. We were in touch with hundreds of people from around the world—ranging from members of the US Congress to professional security operatives to help the family escape. We explored options ranging from emergency visas and airline tickets for neighboring countries to helicopter evacuations to covert extraction operations. Thankfully, they eventually were taken to Qatar where they spend over two weeks and finally were brought to the US on September 23rd.

Currently, they are in Fort Dix in New Jersey where they are being further processed. Due to Khalid's work with the US government, the family qualifies for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV). They just completed their biometrics for employment authorization. They have a group of 4 lawyers representing their case. The family is to be released from the base sometime next week. Given this, I am hoping to find a house for them either in Charlottesville or Richmond where they can resettle. The reason I share Charlottesville is due to my other sister who lives there with her family. This other sister will be hosting my mom and sister in law upon their release. Given the established community via family, I think it would be beneficial for Khalid and Maria's family to be near them. However, they are also open to resettle in Richmond as that's not too far from Charlottesville.

I want to add that at the time of their escape, the family left with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. Given this, they will have to start from scratch. Additionally, the family will need medical and trauma counseling services as the kids are extremely traumatized due to witnessing killings around them. The two young children continue to wet the beds and scream in the night from the horrors they experienced. Maria experienced dislocated shoulder and will need medical attention.

In writing this letter, I am hoping that Bon Air Christian Church could possibly sponsor Khalid and Maria's family with resettling in a home either in Charlottesville or Richmond if at all possible.

I am extremely grateful for your willingness to look at my family's case. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please feel free to reach out to me.

Lina



Youth Group

Youth Group KICK-OFF was a huge success!

We had so much fun at our Youth Group Tailgate to kick off another year of fun & fellowship. Our tailgate was complete with hot dogs, hamburgers, loud music and a tug-of-war! We are looking forward to another year filled with discipleship, evangelism, worship, and service to others.

Lots of great things are planned for 2022!



GO TEAM!



Volunteering with Chesterfield Food Bank

The youth helped distribute food from the Chesterfield Food Bank at Chalkley Elementary School on Saturday, September 25th. It was a beautiful morning of supporting the community and helping to meet the most basic needs of our neighbors.



OCTOBER:

Saturday, October 2nd — Youth Group feeds HomeAgain Men's Shelter.

Sunday, October 10th — YG @ BACC

Sunday, October 24th — YG @ BACC
Pumpkin painting & mask decorating,
prepping for Trunk or Treat.

Saturday, October 30th, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
— TRUNK or TREAT!

Friends and Fellowship



THE JOY GROUP

The JOY Group~~Has there ever been a group so aptly named? They bring so much JOY to us, and we have so missed having them here these past months. Our **JOY (Just Older Youth) Group** meets here at the church at 10:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. In September, David and Leigh Hosey-Finnegan, along with baby Laila, were warmly welcomed to BACC. It was so wonderful to have our friends back with us, and to have the Finnegan-Hosey family join us! For our **October 19th** meeting, our friend Jamey Davidson will be talking with us about financial planning. Please join us!



*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 1:7

Friends and Fellowship

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

SAVE THE DATE – Tuesday, **October 19th at 5:30 p.m.** – Men's Dinner. Venue will be announced by email and the church bulletin. Enjoy a good meal and discussions of CMF events planned for 2022.

September 2021 Recap:

On September 21st, eight men enjoyed a repast at Extra Billy's BBQ. The men discussed options for golfing in November and restarting the CMF Card Group. Additionally, a list of fellowship activities for 2022 was proposed.

On September 24th, five men supported the Church in Community mission by participating in a house building for the Metro Richmond Habitat for Humanity. This was a successful event: (great fellowship, no injuries, and a curb-side meal to celebrate the completion of the second floor interior framing of a single-family house in the Fulton neighborhood of Richmond. Weather was mild and sunny. An eagle was spotted from this hilltop home site overlooking Richmond. It doesn't get any better than this.

—Tom Snodgrass



QIGONG WITH JOY

Check out our Qigong Class with Joy Black, which takes place on **Mondays at 11:00 a.m.** This is an in-person class and is for everyone at all physical capabilities and levels. If you cannot get down on the floor, you will be able to do many, if not most, of the practices in a chair. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing, including layers and socks for warmth, and bring a yoga mat, blanket/cover, and water. If it's your first time, drop in fifteen minutes early so that Joy can talk about the background of QiGong with you. We hope to see you there!



YOGA WITH LINDA

Join us on **Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** for Yoga with Linda Verheul via Zoom. Watch for the link in your Tuesday morning email and dedicate some enjoyable and well-deserved time to self-care!

*But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him,
how does God's love abide in him?*

John 3:17

Friends and Fellowship

SO HAPPY TOGETHER!



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The September meetings for all the CWFs went wonderfully. The Ladies of the Evening had a great dinner at Firebirds and met at Carol McGowan's home. We collected gift cards for the Battered Women's Shelter at the Y. Our lesson was about Tamar from Genesis 38. She stands up for herself to right a wrong. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m.** at BACC. Janet Lenhart will be our hostess. We'll meet for dinner at Joe's Inn in Bon Air at 5:00 p.m. We also have our beach trip to the Outer Banks coming up in October.

The Day group had a tea party. Jamie McDonald made a variety of teas and Arlene Giffel made the food. Everything was yummy, and we had a great turn-out. The lesson was also about Tamar, not a story taught very often. Times were very different back then, but lessons can still be learned that can apply to our lives today. Our next meeting will be at BACC on **Tuesday, October 12th at 10:30 a.m.**

The Salad group met on Zoom. David Finnegan-Hosey talked to us about the time he spent a semester in Morocco. It was very interesting. Morocco was the country we studied last year. Cathy Law led an introduction and overview of our lessons this year.

All the CWF groups use the Disciples "Just Women" Bible Study. The theme this year is Power & Possibilities. We will continue to support Safe Harbor, a shelter for abused and/or trafficked women. The group also just got back from their retreat at Lake Gaston. All who were able to go had a great time. The food was awesome. The next Zoom meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 12th at 7:00 p.m.** See you in October! All women of BACC and their friends are invited to join us for CWF.

— Jamie McDonald



What's Happening



Advent

IN LESS THAN 85 DAYS...

...we'll be celebrating Christmas day! As we begin to plan for the Advent season, we would love to hear from those who are willing share their gifts and talents with us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. **Would you be willing to write a devotional for our Advent Devotional Book? Share a few words on "What Christmas Means to Me" during one of our worship services?** We'll also be looking for our younger members who might like to **light the Advent Wreath** one Sunday during the Advent season. Please call or email the church office if you're willing to participate in any of these ways as we observe this joyous time together!

TIME TO VISIT A FRIEND?

Though most of us are now excited about finally gaining some freedom to get out and see our friends again, we have many BACC members who aren't able to get out as often as they'd like. If you have some time to visit and brighten a friend's day, check out our Visiting Our BACC Friends link. Click on the week when you plan to visit, then click on those you friends you plan to visit. This will not inform our friends that you're coming and when, so you may want to give them a call before heading out for your visit. Thanks for sharing the BACC love!

[VISITING OUR BACC FRIENDS](#)



THANKS SO MUCH FOR SERVING!

One of the most special things about BACC is that there's room for all of us to use our variety of skills, talents, and interests to serve. As we move back into having our more traditional services, we once again need Worship Leaders, Greeters, and Worship and Wonder storytellers and helpers. Also, some of our seniors would so appreciate a ride to church from a helpful BACC friend! Please consider where you might be able to help out and go to our signup genius to sign up. Your time and talents are so appreciated!

[WORSHIP LEADERS](#)

[GREETERS](#)

[WORSHIP AND WONDER](#)

[RIDES FOR FRIENDS](#)

What's Happening

Reconciliation Special Offering 2021:



Our special offering will be taken on October 3, 2021.

Your advocacy and financial support are much appreciated. For more than 40 years, Disciples have had a visible ministry to address racism in society. Gifts to Reconciliation Ministry, through its Offering or throughout the year, support programs and initiatives aimed at dismantling racism.



We'll be walking for the cure again on **Saturday, October 23rd from 9:00—11:00 a.m.**

Our team is registered as "Bon Air Friends and Survivors."

The 5K 3.1 mile-walk will kick off at Christ The King Lutheran Church.

Please contact Wendy Moore with questions.

[REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE](#)

OUR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY...

is now underway! This will be different from our past directories, as it will be available online to our church family, and can be updated any time we have a change in info. There will also be print copies available. In addition, there will be no pressure to buy photos from a professional photographer. If you haven't done so already, just click here to sign up to have your photo taken by Ver Beek Photography.



[SIGN UP TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN](#)



What's Happening

2021 Crop Walk

- BACC will host the 2021 Bon Air CROP Walk on **Sunday, November 7th, 2021**.
- The walk will begin and end at our church.
- We have a congregational meeting that day so hopefully people will come to the meeting & stay for the walk!
- We will ask everyone to bring their own lunch – BACC will provide drinks & desserts. We will eat together and then other congregations will join us at BACC at 1:00 p.m. for “kick-off.”
- Pastor Randy Lohr from Christ the King will MC the event and play a few songs to kick off the walk.
- The walk will start at 1:30 p.m.
- The walk will take place in the neighborhoods behind the church and will be 3.1 miles total. We will also have a 1-mile route for those who can not walk the entire distance.
- At the end of the walk, BACC will provide water & snacks / treats as a thank-you for the community and participants.
- We have designated Shalom Farms & Chesterfield Food Bank to be the local agencies to receive 25% of donations.
- We will have our Sunday School food collection contests again this year.
- We will be collecting items 'most needed' per the food bank. (See flier below)
- Chesterfield Food Bank will bring a truck on day of walk to collect food donations.
- Start recruiting walkers & donations!
- **This year, more than ever, our help is needed 😊**

SIGN UP HERE:

[CROP WALK 2021](#)

There will also be fliers in the bulletin in the coming weeks.

Please email or call us if you would like to walk to help provide food for those who suffer from food insufficiency and/or would like to sponsor a walker.



Food Drive

OCTOBER 3: **PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY**

OCTOBER 10: **DRY BEANS, RICE OR RAMEN**

OCTOBER 17: **CANNED SOUPS**

OCTOBER 24: **PASTA & SAUCES (NO GLASS JARS)**

OCTOBER 31: **CANNED FRUITS & VEGGIES**

Illustrations of food items: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pasta, and Canned Fruit.

*Carry each other's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2*



Thank You



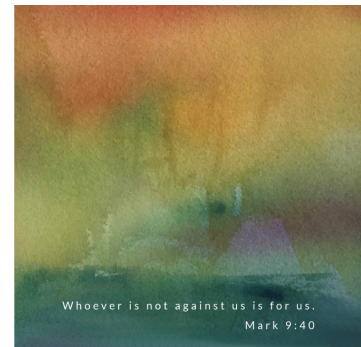
JOY BLACK



WENDY MOORE



LILLY VER BEEK



JOY BLACK

Many thanks to our talented artists who share their gifts in providing lovely artwork for our weekly bulletin covers.

A LETTER FROM AMY AND BILL:

Dear Bon Air Christian Church,

I have been wanting to write this for a long time but have only now had some emotional space to do so. Over the past week, Bill and I once again launched Tristan off into his adult world, this time on to New York at Union Seminary. This brings deep joy, immense gratefulness, and a dash of anxiety. Even as he moves on from six months of bi-weekly chemo and a clear PET scan (thanks be to God), he will still need several weeks of radiation which will take place there in New York. This is more cautionary than essential, and we hope this will put a period to this part of the story of his life. He will have a PET scan done every three months or so after this to catch anything that may surface again. We are hopeful and feel so fortunate that treatment has worked for him thus far.

Bill and I can't tell you enough how upheld and supported we have felt by Bon Air CC. Your prayers, words of support, and Cindy's efforts to check in with us have been such a tremendous source of strength. In times like these, life gets turned upside down. Old assumptions about life can no longer be made and yet one thing is for sure ----- God's sustaining presence is made more real through the prayers of the whole Body of Christ. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Peace and love to you all.

Amy & Bill Spangler Dunning

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

Thank You

YOU'VE GOT MAIL...

I would like to thank the congregation for all of your support during the passing of my mother, Margaret Tuck Thompson. Your many messages thru e-mails, cards, phone calls and personal visits meant so much and sustained me during some very difficult days. The food was appreciated, as well as the attendance from some CWF members and Family at my Mother's funeral. As always, my BACC family was so much needed, and your love and presence felt. Cindy, thank you for your comfort and prayers. My Mother lived to be 94 and led a good life until the last couple of years. We should all be so fortunate. May God continue to Bless all of you!

Jean Dowdy



Dear Rev. Stratton, With heartfelt appreciation, I write to thank Bon Air Christian Church for your generous donation to the city-wide Micah initiative. We have all gone through so much over the past nineteen months. Your devotion to the children and the school community during these hard times and your financial contribution to sustain the work of the Micah Association makes your gift all the more significant. We are so grateful for your ongoing support and prayers.

At the recent Micah Back-to-School Kick-Off, held safely at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Rev. Herbert Ponder spoke on the topic: *What does God require of us?* He reminded us of the privilege it is to serve the students of Richmond Public Schools (RPS). Thank you for acting in your faith tradition for the common good.

As we move forward together into the 2021-2022 school year, with a dose of uncertainty for sure, we do so knowing that God is guiding us, watching over us and providing all that we need to be a source of light and love in the lives of children and families. In the future and with your help, Micah will build on its honorable legacy that embraces equity as a strength and grow in new and exciting ways. Just as a teaser, we hope you will consider joining us in exploring how Micah can also help serve the needs and desires of parents, caregivers, and guardians. Watch for updates!

Go forth in peace to love and serve God and one another.

Cordially, Pam Smith

Micah Coordinator



Church Family Updates



Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Please pray for: Ollie White, who suffered a heart attack; John Crank and the Crank family in the recent loss of Judy; Stephen Blanchard and family in the loss of Hollis Brown and Helen Maria Blaxton, his aunt and uncle, from Covid complications; Beulah Proffitt; Bill Heath, and Jeff and Terri Rudolph; Frances Atherton; Liz Young, who is recovering from surgery; Susan Baum's friend, Jeru Farkus Thomas; Traci Eagle's cousin, Cindy; Gail Campbell; Wanda Russell; Faye Lester; Iva Teachey; Steve Goff; Cindy Johnson; Kathy Morton; Gene Dunston; Sandy Logan; Sylvia Montgomagle; Jim Severance; Lois and Jim Zarefoss; Shirley Burkhalter; Jim Henderson; Jeter Bourne; Harold Campbell; Jimmy Clark; Pat Cosby; Cathy Wheless; Peggy Gross; Gerry Roppe'; Richard Seeds; Russell Shelton; Tristan Spangler-Dunning; Frank Harlow; Frances Gilman, aunt of Robin Blanchard; Patsy Layer, friend of Jim and Gina McKenney, who is being treated for cancer; Mary Williams, friend of Pat Cosby; Angie Goff's sister, Cathy; Stephanie Strobe; Gerry Roppe's, friend, Chico; Joan Mielke's niece, Eva, and her sister, Jan Crawford; Anne Heath's friend, Julia Bowman, and family; Hannah Moon's roommate, Caroline Laughorn; Pat Cosby's cousin, Jo Bailey; Nancy Maiden's friend, Betty Jo; Vickie Shannon's mother, Dorothea Mentzell; Rose McCaferty's siblings, Judy, Bonnie, and Richard; Barbara Barker; Cassie Price's friends, Jessica and Carter Pope, and Spencer; Laura Hollis' sister, Janice Hoover; Jamie McDonald's brother-in-law, George Fay; Frances Atherton's sister, Ann; Rhonda Ringel's friends, Pat Tilmon and Diana Barber; Tammy Rucker's friend, Judith Hazelo; Jackie Nilles'aunt, Brenda Grant; Jim Pannell; Gail Macfadden's friend, Lewis Bell; the Blythe's friend, Donna Leake; Steve Blythe's cousin, Brandon; Terry Tynan; Tom Mayfield's friend, Mickey Denke; Patrick Sibold; Stacy Price; Chip Wright; and Lynn Sarvis' friends, Jimmy and Pat Pitt.



Oct. 30th

5:00 - 6:30 P.M.

Join the fun! We will need lots of candy donated & volunteers to help make this a special community event. Contact Kendra if you are interested in helping in any way!

*The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.*

Psalm 145:18