

BON AIR CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) NOVEMBER 2023 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:

4:00 p.m. 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 and Youth
Sunday School

Prayer and Fellowship:

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
via Zoom

All are welcome!

Journey Toward Wholeness

As I write this, I am sitting on a porch at Christmount, our Disciples of Christ national retreat center in Black Mountain, NC. I'm here for a gathering called "Journey Toward Wholeness," and can't help but see the resonance between the language and focus of these few days and our mission focus at Bon Air Christian Church. At BACC, we say we are committed to a long-term vision of wholeness ministry - understanding ourselves and our neighbors as whole people, body, mind, and spirit, all in need of healing and wholeness.

I appreciate, too, the image of a journey *toward* wholeness - to say that we are committed to wholeness is not to say that we have arrived, but that we are on a journey together. And that journey together can be a challenging one. We are reminded, daily if not hourly, that there is much that is fragmented and hurting in the world around us and in our own lives. I wonder whether I even need to name things: earthquakes, wars, and horrific violence around the world; crises of mental health challenges and addiction, division, and economic disparities in our own communities; the realities of loneliness, isolation, and despair in individual lives.

In view of all that, speaking of wholeness is a radical message of hope. This is exactly what our scriptures, and the Jesus we meet in our scriptures and within the gathering of the Body of Christ, the church, calls us to: to speak wholeness over fragmentation, hope over despair, and love over hate.

When faced with the vast needs of a fragmented world, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. If that's how you're feeling, know that you're not alone - and know that it's ok to start with a small step on this journey toward wholeness. Take a glance at this newsletter, and pick one way to serve, one person on our prayer list to give an encouraging phone call or card, one fellowship opportunity to be a part of. That one step may not seem like much, but on this shared journey toward wholeness, every step makes a difference.

Grace and Peace,

David

Looking Ahead

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Thursday, November 23rd at 8:45 a.m.
potluck brunch to follow.



HELP US DECORATE FOR ADVENT!

Saturday, November 25th, 9:00 a.m. - Noon



HANGING OF THE GREENS WORSHIP

Saturday, December 2nd at 4:00 p.m.
potluck dinner to follow.



BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Saturday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m.
party to follow at The Ver Beek's home



CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th -- morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
(Christmas Pageant)

Christmas Eve Worship services will be at
5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.





Looking Ahead

Thanksgiving and Christmas Families

Thanksgiving donations will be due by November 19th

Christmas gifts (unwrapped) will be due by December 10th

BACC Supports families during the Holidays

BACC will be supporting 6-8 families from our local school communities for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Non-perishable foods for Thanksgiving will be collected November 1st-19th. Boxes for Thanksgiving will be by the church office and the Fellowship Hall. Financial donations can also be made (designate for Thanksgiving Families).

For Christmas, the gift sign-up online document will be available on November 12th. Watch your weekly "Church News" emails. For those who prefer, there will be gift tags on trees to select a gift. We will be providing gifts for approximately 25 children plus their parents. For each child, they will receive an outfit, socks, underwear, a special gift and a book. Parents will receive household cleaning and personal care items. The deadline for returning gifts (unwrapped) will be December 10th.



Advent Devotionals

Advent is fast approaching and one of our favorite traditions here at BACC is our Advent Devotional Book written by members. This is a daily devotional spanning the four weeks of Advent that helps us remember that our God is always with us, every day, and even in the most unlikely of places. We are asking for volunteers to write a devotional this year. This is an important and meaningful tool we put together to help us grow closer to God as we approach the birth of our Savior. **Devotionals will be due to the church office by November 19th** – please see the sign-up genius in your Wednesday "Church News" emails to sign up. Thank you in advance!



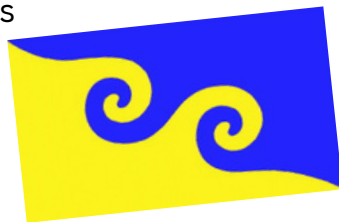
Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Youth Group

On October 1st for our monthly Youth Group meeting, we had ten youth and adults serve with Sails Angels of Richmond doing a clean-up on the James River. It is always a great adventure when we do this mission work. Sails Angels is dedicated to get people out on the James and since they started this work, they have collected over 32 tons of debris! Their programs and activities provide a unique interface between the James and surrounding community. This work helps create future stewards of God's great creation. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve with Tom at Sails Angels of Richmond!

To learn more about this organization, you can visit sailsangels.com



Not pictured: Jill Lutz, Claire Lutz and Cooper Hammitt

And then on Sunday, October 22nd we were off the water and on our feet walking in the annual CROP Hunger Walk which Bon Air Presbyterian Church hosted this year. Many youth and even more adults joined in the effort to help end hunger in our community and around the world. We had 30 walkers from BACC and we are happy to report, **WE WON THE GOLDEN SNEAKER TROPHY** for the 3rd year in a row! Way to go! We also raised over \$2,137 which is an even better reason to celebrate! And donations are still coming in. Thanks to everyone who walked, donated money and those who donated food to the Chesterfield Food Bank. It was a wonderful day for such an important event.



Not pictured: Andee Kirk, Karson, Maggie, Bode & Berkley Clark, Jane Finnegan, Leigh & Laila Finnegan-Hosey



PROUD Minister with his Golden Sneaker Trophy!



thank you



What's Happening

BACC Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 5th after late worship

October 18, 2023

Dear Bon Air Christian Church,

I hope you and your families are doing well and enjoying the beautiful weather.

Over the past 12 months we have had a number of changes here at BACC. David, Kendra, and our church staff have done a terrific job leading and supporting our church family with these changes. We also have been growing with new members and new births being added to our church family. David and Kendra have recognized the opportunity for our church to expand our staff to better meet the needs of our growing church and its members. Based on this recommendation the Board approved an initial budget which supports the search for a new Associate Pastor. This past Sunday the Board met again and approved the 2024 Final Budget recommendation as well as approved our Nominating Committee proposal.

We will now be presenting these board approved items to the congregation for your consideration at the **Annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 5, 2023** after our 11:00 a.m. worship. In this meeting we will discuss: 1) The most recent Nominating Committee's proposal and 2) the Stewardship Committee 2024 Final Budget proposal. We appreciate everyone attending the meeting who is able so we can discuss these items, answer your questions, and vote. It is an exciting time to be here at BACC as we look to grow our church family, support our existing staff, and continue to maintain this beautiful place of worship.

I want to thank each and every one of you for all you do to support our church and each other. We are truly blessed to have this wonderful place to worship and our BACC family. Yours in Christ's love,

Russ Johnson
President of the Congregation
Chair of the Board

*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the
outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.
Hebrews 13:7*

What's Happening

Daylight Savings ends November 4th!

Months into daylight saving time 2023, there has been no significant action on the Senate or House bills to make daylight saving time effective year-round. As it stands, daylight saving time will end on November 4th, 2023.

Don't forget to "fall back" Saturday, November 4th before you go to bed!



Thanksgiving Special Offering

Our Thanksgiving special offering (November 12th and 19th) supports the 15 colleges and universities and 7 theological schools and programs affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including the University of Lynchburg and Barton College (the two institutions closest to us and the alma maters for several of our members). Your gifts for this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church.



Barton College | Wilson, NC
Bethany College | Bethany, WV
Chapman University | Orange, CA
Columbia College | Columbia, MO
Culver-Stockton College | Canton, MO
Drury University | Springfield, MO
Eureka College | Eureka, IL
Hiram College | Hiram, OH

Jarvis Christian College | Hawkins, TX
University of Lynchburg | Lynchburg, VA
Midway University | Midway, KY
Texas Christian University | Fort Worth, TX
Tougaloo College | Tougaloo, MS
Transylvania University | Lexington, KY
William Woods University | Fulton, MO

What does it mean to be a college or university of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? The 15 schools, while diverse, have a number of things in common:

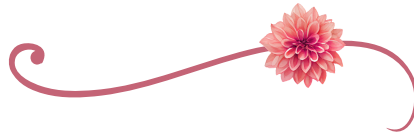
- A commitment to academic excellence and the liberal arts;
- An environment of open inquiry;
- An inclusive, welcoming community that respects all people and cultures;
- A focus on character, service, and leadership; and
- A passion for social justice.

You'll find students and faculty with strong values and faith. You'll also notice a philosophy of faith paired with reason: The best learning and personal growth occur when the intellectual and spiritual are combined.

What's Happening

Opportunity to Serve

BACC has supported the work of CCHASM (Chesterfield Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry) for many years, including collecting food for Thanksgiving. **November 13th-18th**, CCHASM needs volunteers to sort and organize donations for Thanksgiving meals. Volunteers can work a couple hours or all day, in a variety of tasks, most involving lifting, sorting/packing and moving non-perishable foods in their warehouse in Chester. The CCHASM website has more information, and volunteers are asked to register in advance. www.cchasm.org/volunteer If you have questions, please contact Diane Clark or Cathy Law.



Community Prayer

Interfaith Candlelight Prayer Vigil for Peace Thurs, November 2nd, 7:30 - 8:00 pm, Outdoors at Bon Air Methodist (indoors in inclement weather)



GREAT NEWS!

Back in June, BACC applied for a “Dream Ministry Seed Fund” from the Christian Church in Virginia. This grant was designed to help support new ministry ideas throughout congregations in VA. *Sometimes it just takes a little seed money to help a dream ministry idea to get started ...* and BACC was awarded the \$2,000 grant!

We are very excited to start planning more Mental Wellness initiatives. Stay tuned for more information on two new programs: Mental Health First Aid Training & Hope Renewed, and some community counseling partnerships and opportunities.

We are very grateful to the region for giving BACC the opportunity to grow our mission focus of mental wellness and wholeness.



*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
Romans 12:13*

What's Happening

JOY GROUP

Our next JOY Group will be meeting on **Thursday, November 16th at 10:30 a.m.** and this is one you will not want to miss! Halina Zimm, a Holocaust survivor is going to come talk with us and share her story. Halina lives in the same complex as Jean Turlington and Nancy Roper and has visited BACC and felt so welcomed and loved! She has an incredible story and travels the country to share it with different schools and groups. We will have a potluck lunch after Halina shares. We hope you can join us!

Here is a short bio on Halina:

Halina Drexler (later Zimm) grew up in Lodz, Poland, with her parents and two sisters, Helen and Nana. In Poland life was pleasant until Nazis invaded the country in 1939. The invasion closed schools and Jews were forced to wear the Yellow Star. Recognizing the eminent danger to his family, Halina's father Solomon Drexler and his family evacuated Lodz and made their way to Zarnow. En route Nazis stopped the Drexler family, stealing almost everything that they had with them. In Zarnow, rumors circulated about the existence of concentration camps. Few people believed the stories; however Halina's father did. He obtained two forged birth certificates for Halina and Helen. In November, 1940, Halina said goodbye to her parents, fearing then she would never see them again. Two weeks later, the Nazis arrived and deported the Jews of Zarnow. Halina escaped to Warsaw where, in a train station, searched for someone to help her. Halina met a woman who took her in but neighbors began asking questions, so Halina knew she needed to leave. Eventually, Halina found employment as a housekeeper for a young couple who lived directly across the street from the Warsaw Ghetto. Halina lived many terrifying moments. On one visit to a market, she saw a woman she had known in Lodz. That woman denounced her to the police. Shortly thereafter, two Nazis arrived at the apartment and accused Halina of being a Jew. Halina also is able to recall the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Standing outside, she could hear people weeping and crying as the Nazis dynamited buildings where Jews were hiding. Eventually liberated by the Russians, she met her future husband Alan Zimm in 1945. With marriage came immigration to the United States where Halina and Alan established new lives, raised a family and became active members in the community. Halina often speaks to groups of students and teachers inspiring all who hear her.



*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."
Proverbs 3:5-6*

Fun & Fellowship

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The CWF Day Group had a wonderful turn-out for our tea party with 24 ladies in attendance, see picture below. A group of 19 ladies also had a fun trip to the beach! This month we will have our regular meetings at the following times ~ everyone is welcome to come!

- **Thursday, November 2nd @ 6:30 p.m.** CWF Evening Group meets at Andee Kirk's home. This group is reading the book, *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Mattered* by Lindsay Hardin Freeman for their study material.
- **Thursday, November 9th @ 6:30 p.m.** CWF Salad Group group meets at BACC (6:00 p.m. Gathering, 6:30 p.m. Dinner & 7:00 p.m. Meeting)
- **Tuesday, November 14th @ 10:30 a.m.** CWF Day Group will meet at BACC in the multi-purpose room. Those who are able and who want to eat afterwards, will have lunch at Candela's after the meeting.



Tea
Party



Beach
vibe

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CMF meets for breakfast every Wednesday at 9:15 AM in Joe's Inn Bon Air, 2616 Buford Road, Richmond, VA 23235. All men are welcome; no reservations required.

CMF will meet on **November 9th at 5:30 PM** for dinner and conversation. Location to be determined. See church bulletin & church Wednesday email for updates. Notify Tom Snodgrass of your plan to attend this gathering. Call/text 804-370-5279 or email tesnodgras@aol.com.

While feasting and fellowship are primary CMF activities, the goals for 2024 include fishing, golfing, poker, service projects, and fundraising events to benefit the church ministry. Contact Tom Snodgrass if you have ideas for activities that CMF should consider for 2024.

Fun & Fellowship

2023 BAGPIPE CONCERT – “Together Again”



The Six-Foot Journey



*Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:20*



Thank You

On October 14, 2023, BACC hosted the 21st Annual Bagpipe Concert with performance by Bud Deihl and Chance Bell, which was followed by Susan Deihl's legendary feast. As always, the house was packed with audience members from all walks of the community and friends from other states. It is a time of joyful sharing and an opportunity for many to be introduced not only to bagpipe music, but also to Bon Air Christian Church and the Disciples of Christ ministry. The concert and reception are always free, but donations are accepted and targeted for some charitable use. This year, donors contributed just under \$1000 to BACC for disaster relief.

The Bagpipe concert is one of the largest events held in the church and requires a lot of planning and work before, during and after. To borrow a phrase, "It takes a village." We want to thank BACC for hosting the event and particularly want to thank each of you who helped in any way.

When we put out the call for help, members of the BACC community and other friends once again responded in unbelievable ways. At last count, we had over 20 volunteers and we know that many helped indirectly. You all helped us set up, work in the kitchen, add special food to the table, greet guests, clean up and pack at the end of the night. We are most grateful. We are already looking forward to the 22nd Annual Bagpipe Concert in October of 2024 and hope you will be able to join us.

~ Bud and Susan Deihl

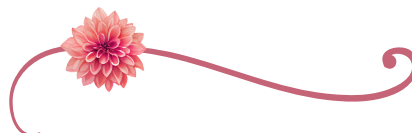


Thank you for all the ways you have shown love and appreciation for us during the Week of Ministry. The gift cards, homemade treats, cards and special gifts were so thoughtful. It is a pleasure and an honor to work at Bon Air Christian Church and serve such a loving and caring congregation.

We are honored and grateful to have a church family like you. Thank you for making us feel so loved and appreciated.

Peace and Grace,

~ David and Kendra



Dear Members and Friends of Bon Air Christian Church,

Thank you so much for the chalice pin and beautiful hand-made card! It was already a blessing to be able to worship with you, celebrating our unity with God and each other in Christ. You added to that blessing in your affirmation of ministry.

May God continue to bless you and the ministry, both of ordained and of each one of you!

In Christ's love and grace,

~ Rachel Scott Woodall



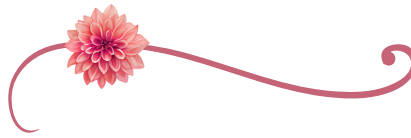


Thank You

Dear friends,

Thank you to everyone for your cards, calls, and visits following my recent fall. I do so appreciate all of your many kindnesses and well-wishes. It means a lot to me and I am truly grateful for my thoughtful and supportive church family.

~ Ethelene Slayton



Responding with partners to war in the Middle East

Since the Hamas attacks in Israel on October 7, violence and devastation have escalated in the Middle East, with years of political tension and conflict bearing out in the most horrifying and heartbreaking ways. Thousands of civilians have been killed and thousands more injured as the warfare persists. Week of Compassion has been in frequent contact with trusted partners, including through Global Ministries, the Middle East Council of Churches, and ACT Alliance. These partners are in close conversation about immediate needs in Israel/Palestine and the broader region - food, water, shelter, medical care, sanitation - and know there will be many considerations to come regarding a long-term solution and recovery.

Please know 100% of your gifts to Week of Compassion, designated 'Middle East Crisis', will be used for responses in the region. Thank you.

I Don't Know Where to Put This

Every bomb explodes in rage. Every death resonates with deep pain.
The unspeakable heaviness of war, and loss, and grief.
It is all so much - too much - and we don't know where to put it.

So with all our might, we cast it onto you, Holy One.
You, Merciful Creator, who knows each heart and breath,
who knows every hair of every head.
You, Name Above Every Name, to whom no one is ever lost.
We fling our fumbling prayers to you, Divine Consoler -
receive our tears as emblems of devotion.

*'I don't know where to put my outrage and sadness', she said.
So she made a contribution as a prayer.
So he called a friend as a prayer.
So they held their child close as a prayer.*

We do not know where to put everything we feel.
So we breathe and cry and worry and hope, bringing every prayer to you.

God of All, lift the dead to your care and the living to your comfort.
Great Physician, heal and restore, both our hearts and this world.
Divine Wisdom, dismantle our vanities and reclaim your justice.
Comfort and Advocate, hold close each tender broken heart.

In the name and for the sake of the One who shows us who You are,
and who we can be. Amen.

 **Week of Compassion**
- for the Middle East - 10.18.23 -



Church Family Updates

Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Please pray for: Jim and Phyllis Henderson as Jim is beginning to receive hospice care at home after a long course of treatment for cancer. They are asking not to have visitors right now but cards and prayers are welcome; Tery Sarver who is home recovering from surgery; Bob Basalay who has a broken arm; Taylor Brooks who is experiencing health issues and awaits test results; Paul Stairs who is recovering at home; Bob McGowan who is receiving injections to help with back pain; Traci Eagle who is awaiting knee replacement surgery; Lisa McColm's friend, Eliza who is recovering from a stroke.

Please continue to pray for: Carol McGowan's aunt Diane; Kevin Heath's mother; Shirley Gibson's son; Josie Schmidt's sister, Mary; Wendy Moore's friend, Laverne; the family of Hayleigh Wilde; the family of Alma Spivey; Suzanne Dale's friends Cindy and Steve Edgerton; all people of the middle east; David Winders; Denise Olzer; Reverend Kevin McNeil; Caroline Laughorn; Ken Schmalenberger; Sam Morse and family; Steve Kline; Mary Ann Casdia; Glenda Turner; Nick Monger; the family of Gene Dunston; Bobby Saunders; the family of Liz Young; Gary and Marion Hosey; Jim Henderson; Wilma Pruett; Bridget Hengle; Joan Mielke's friend, Pete and Joan's nephew, Bucky; and her sister-in-law, Lynn; Shea Hollifield's niece, Holly; Faye Ringel; Megan Moran Bucholz; Kath Cartino; Bob Penley; Eric Morris; Gunnar Dickson; Terry Cope; Steve Goff; Gail Macfadden; Frances, Rob and Emily Atherton; Gerry Roppé and his friends, Chico and Sue; Doug Collins, Sr.; Terri Rudolph and Bill Heath; the Alcock and Teachey families; Peggy Gross; the family of Jeter Bourne; Kathy Morton's nephew, Sean; Diane Fearnley and family; the Flannery family; Gail Cox, friend of the Baum's; Clay Boyd; Emily Porter, Christie MacAulay and family; Cindy Stratton's friend, Vlad; Gina McKenney's niece, Jimie, friends Woody Campbell, Kathy Sanford, and John Mann, and former student, Jackson; Alice Murray's friend, Robin T.; Jack and Alois Ellis; Mike Vernon; Connie Graves; Kip Barefoot; Becky West; Ada Slayton; Angel Huff and her family; Scott McCann; Chris Verheul; Janice Hoover; Alice Murray's son Brett; Mary Ellen Cummins; Pat Cosby; Sylvia Montgomery; Harold Campbell; Wanda Russell; Nikki Todd; Carolanne Ivey; Jean Venner; Cathy Wheless; Larry Brown; Judi Wright; Evan O'Dell; Chris Lion; Lisa Perkins; Traci Eagle's cousin, Cindy; Frances Gilman; Stephanie Strobe; Jo Bailey; Judith Hazelo; Patrick Sibold; Barbara Barker; Stacy Price; Jim Pannell; Rose McCaferty's sister Judy.

Updating Prayers ~ Action Req'd

We would like to make sure our prayer requests are current and up-to-date. Please take a look at the back of our weekly bulletin and here on the newsletter and share with us any updates or edits on your prayer requests. E-mail the church office at worship@baccdoc.org with any changes.

Thank you!