

# BON AIR CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



## Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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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!**

## Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.

These timeless virtues echo through the Advent season as we prepare our homes, our hearts, and our lives for the arrival of the Christ Child. We hope you will join us and invite your friends and family as we gather in our lovely Victorian sanctuary, sing carols, and hear the Christmas story told afresh. Let us turn our faces to Bethlehem to greet a Savior born to us in the unlikeliest of places. What unlikely places in our lives might we find hope, peace, joy, and love born anew?

In addition to our regular worship services throughout Advent, please join us for our special services and events:

**12/1: 12:00 p.m.** Decorating the church for Advent/Christmas

**12/7: 4:00 p.m.** Hanging of the Greens Worship Service, followed by Potluck Dinner

*Please note: this service will be held on Saturday evening this year, rather than Sunday.*

**12/15: 4:00 p.m.** Christmas Caroling to BACC members who aren't able to make it to services regularly.

**12/21: 4:00 p.m.** Blue Christmas Worship Service - A service for all for whom the holiday season is difficult, because of grief, mental health struggles, or simply the shortening of the days.

**12/22: 8:45 a.m.** Worship Service with Hymn Sing

**11:00 a.m.** Worship Service with Christmas Pageant

**12/24: 5:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Worship Service with Choir, also on Zoom

**7:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Worship Service with Soloists

**12/25: *Merry Christmas!***

The church office will be closed from 12/25 - 12/27

I pray that the love of God and the great gift of Christ warms your heart and enlivens your spirit during these holy days.

Grace + Peace,

*David*

# Advent



## Christmas Families

### **Christmas gifts (unwrapped) will be due by December 8th**

One of the most fun mission opportunities for BACC is buying Christmas gifts for families in need! This year, we are sponsoring 22 children, in 8 families. There are two different ways to sign up for gifts for the families.

#1) Gifts for 6 of the families are listed in this link: [Christmas Families 2024 - Google Sheets](#). (The link is also in the Wednesday emails.) When you find a gift(s) you'd like to buy, type your name in Column C, next to the gift(s).

#2) If you don't use the internet, there are gift tags on trees outside Fellowship Hall. Put your name on both copies of the gift tag, leave the white copy and return the color copy with your gift(s).

ALL gifts need to be returned to the church by DECEMBER 8. Please put the gift tag or the child's number and your name on each gift. If you have any questions, contact Cathy Law, Christie McAuley, Nancy Maiden or Cassie Prise.

Monetary donations are also welcome. Designate the donation for "Christmas Families". Our gifts make a difference for so many families. Thank you for your generosity.

**Thanksgiving families update** Thanksgiving food and gift cards for perishable foods were delivered for our families on November 25. We've already received thanks from the families for our generosity, in making their holiday special.

## **Advent Devotion and Study - starts Dec. 4/5**

This year, we wanted to try something a little different: incorporating our beautiful Advent devotional into our usual Advent study time. Each week we'll read together one of the devotions from the week and then take a deeper dive into the scripture behind it.

Join us via Zoom on **Wednesdays at 7:05 p.m.** (using the same link as Prayer & Fellowship); or in-person **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the BACC Library.**

Note: the study will run from December 4/5 through December 18/19; we won't meet on Christmas Day or the day after.



# Youth Group



There are a lot of opportunities to be together in the month of December. We hope you will mark your calendars and join us for some holiday FUN!

## Sunday, Dec 1st - Noon - 2:15 p.m. / YOUTH GROUP

This is our regularly scheduled Sunday for Youth Group -- we will be at the church, will eat lunch together, play some games and then help decorate the church for Advent! Many hands make for light work! It will be fun to transform and prepare our beautiful building for the coming of the christ child.

## Sunday, Dec 15th @ 4:00 p.m. / INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN!

We will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. and then carpool to houses of members who can no longer join us at church in person. This is always such a special night bringing Christmas cheer to people's front doors! Carolers will gather for food & fellowship at The Ver Beek's home afterwards.

## Sunday, Dec 22nd @ 11:00 a.m. / CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We hope all the youth will participate in this year's pageant. We will go over parts at our Dec 1st YG meeting and then have practices on Dec 7th & 15th at 10:00 a.m. If you have any special requests for the pageant, just reach out to Kendra Ver Beek or Nicole Vaden.

## Sunday, January 5th - Noon - 2:15 p.m. / YOUTH GROUP

More details to come for a local mission outreach.

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.  
Matthew 2:10*



# What's Happening

## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Our gifts to this Christmas special offering support the work of our regional ministries. The Christian Church in Virginia coordinates the camp program at Craig Springs, which many of our youth attend each summer. It gathers Disciples congregations through the Regional Assembly and district activities, nurtures the development of a new generation of pastors and assists local congregations with the search for ministers. Our regional minister Bill Spangler-Dunning has been a valuable resource in our current search for an associate minister.

Together we are stronger, as evidenced through our Regional ministries. Your donations to this offering help to make these ministries possible. The offering will be collected **December 15th & 22nd.**

God's love  
*visible*



 2024 CHRISTMAS OFFERING



*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*  
*John 1:29*

# What's Happening

## REBUILDING EFFORTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Dear all,

Below are a few links and information regarding our common effort to help with recovery and rebuild efforts in North Carolina following the hurricane. Like most disasters, there has been lots of attention for recovery and clean up efforts but this area will need years of rebuilding. We are working with Christmount and Week of Compassion to determine when and how we can be part of long term recovery/rebuild efforts.

With this goal in mind we are beginning to collect names/contacts for individuals/churches who might want to be part of mission trips to the area. We know not every church can organize something but together as region we can join together and make a real impact. Please pass along the link/QR code to individuals who might be interested. We will also continue to meet via zoom calls every other week to share information, resources and ways churches/individuals can make a real difference... Thank you, as always for being willing to work together as Disciples in Virginia.

~ Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, Regional Minister

<https://youtu.be/ee0-a8DTo8M>

<https://www.ccinva.org/hurricanerelief>

Bi-Weekly Mission Zoom Meetings 12 noon -1pm  
November 27  
December 11  
January 8th  
Future meetings will be announced



*And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'*

*Luke 2:10*

# Fun & Fellowship

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. The CWF group that meets at Andee Kirk's house (906 Buford Oaks Circle) will have their next meeting on **Thursday, December 5th at 6:30**. The lesson will come from the first chapter of Exodus. The story of Shiphrah and Puah starts on page 94 in the lesson book. Please join us.

The Day Group will meet at 10:30 am in the Multi-purpose room on **Tuesday, December 10th**. Our lesson looks at how John views Jesus (John 1; 9; 10). Don't forget to bring your canned goods for the Bainbridge food pantry and your gift cards (Target, Wal-Mart, Food Lion, etc.) for the Women's Shelter of the Richmond YWCA. After the meeting, join us for lunch at Four Seasons.

The Salad Group meets on the second Thursday in the Education Wing. So that means the December meeting will be on the **12th**. Come at 6:00 to share a meal. The meeting starts at 7:00. You can join this meeting on Zoom. Cathy Law can send you the link.

I hope you can find time during the busy month of December to attend one of our meetings. Or take a break and attend all three.

## CWF FALL CHILI COOK-OFF



I want to thank everyone who attended the Christian Women's Fellowship Chili Cook-off. Your participation made the evening a success. And a great big thank you to everyone who helped with the Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction on November 16th. You made my job easy. We had our largest turnout and had 16 chili entries. Thanks to everyone who made chili. All were very tasty. Made it hard to pick a winner. In fact, we had a tie for first place and a tie for third place, so a coin toss determined the winners. Grand prize went to Shea Hollifield, First place to Bernie McDonald, Second place to Jane Finnegan, and Third place to Arlene Giffel. Congratulations to all our winners.

Diane Clark won the beautiful State Flowers quilt made by Andee Kirk. Thank you Andee for making the quilt which made the raffle possible (our largest money maker). We also had fantastic auction items. I want to thank Dan Butler (Butler Portraits), Dee Caras, Diane Clark, Maggie Clark, Paula Craft, Claire Deitch, Diane Fearnley, Carol Herrin, Shea Hollifield, Cathy Law, Nancy Maiden, Melanie McClaskie, Bernie McDonald, Sara Reese, Cathy Surowka, Cindy Taylor, James Taylor, and Taylor Trezza for their donations to the Silent Auction. A lot of talent here at BACC.

The CWF was able to raise over \$3,600! We will have a joint CWF meeting in January to decide how to distribute the funds. In conclusion, the Chili Cook-off was a win, win, win: a great fundraiser, a great meal, and great fellowship.

~ Jamie McDonald



# Fun & Fellowship

## CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

RECAP - November Activities.

The BACC Men gathered in fellowship for a lunch and three breakfast meals at Joe's Inn Bon Air and a dinner at Capital Ale House in Midlothian, VA.

DECEMBER Fellowship Events.

Dec 4th (Wednesday) 11:30 AM – Men's Lunch @ Joe's Inn Bon Air

Dec 11th (Wednesday) 9:15 AM – ROMEOS Breakfast @ Joe's Inn Bon Air

Dec 18th (Wednesday) 9:15 AM – ROMEOS Breakfast @ Joe's Inn Bon Air

**CANCELLED.** There will not be a Men's Dinner this month and no ROMEOS breakfast on December 25th (Wednesday).

If you have suggestions for CMF activities during 2025, contact Tom Snodgrass (804-370-5279) or email [tesnodgras@aol.com](mailto:tesnodgras@aol.com).

## DECEMBER JOY GROUP ~ Everyone is welcome!

We have reserved the theatre on **Thursday, December 12th at 11:00 a.m. at The Holocaust Museum** to see the Dimensions in Testimony Exhibition. This exhibit features four Holocaust survivors and one US Liberator with whom visitors can interact, ask questions, and hear their stories about topics like life before the war, hiding, experiences in concentration camps, life after the war, forgiveness, family, and more.

We will be watching Halina Zimm's story. Halina spoke to the JOY Group last year, so this will be extra special.

There is limited seating in the theatre so we will **need an RSVP by Friday, December 6th** if you plan to attend. **Please email or call Susan Baum to RSVP -- [sdbaum@verizon.net](mailto:sdbaum@verizon.net) or 804.240-8837.**

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.  
Matthew 18:20*

# Thank You



BACC CWF,  
4 1/2 years later and I'm still going strong. You ladies have powerful prayers! Thank you so much!

~ Janice Hoover



Dear BACC,

I am writing to you from the HELM Leadership Fellows retreat in Tucson, Arizona. This weekend has been extremely special and meaningful to me. I have gotten to meet so many other college students who go to colleges throughout the US, and belong to Disciples of Christ churches across the country as well.

I have had the opportunity to learn about the missions of the local Disciples of Christ churches here in Tucson and their work in helping the asylum seeking families that enter into Tucson. I have been able to learn so many things from this trip all while expanding my faith and growing closer to God.

We visited the US / Mexico border and learned about the history of Christianity in the area. My experience here in Tucson has truly been eye-opening to me. Thank you all for always supporting me and I can't wait for when I get to come home for a visit!

~ Emily Rucker



BACC,

Thank all of you so much for what you have done for the Henderson family. Youth thoughts and kindness is still in my heart.

My Love,

~Phyllis Henderson



*Generous persons will prosper;  
those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.  
Proverbs 11:25*



# Thank You



Thanks for your gift to the University of Lynchburg!

Your support creates undeniably, life-changing opportunities for our students, and provides important resources for our entire campus community.

We're grateful for everything you do for our Hive!

Warmly,

~Sarah Rhodes



Hello David and Bon Air Christian Church,

Thank you for donating towards the shipping costs of your Cleanup Buckets. Your donation helps us get your kits to their final destination. Through your generosity, dignity is being restored, and lives are being changed.

Attached, you'll find our 2023 and 2024 mid-year Shipping Reports, you are making a difference in the lives of individuals affected by [Hurricanes](#). As of October 18th, CWS has distributed 5,824 Emergency Cleanup Buckets, 10,310 Hygiene Kits, 7,280 Blankets, 1,800 Menstrual Hygiene Kits, 650 School Kits and 72 Welcome Backpacks to partners in Florida and North Carolina (a value of more than \$697,000). We are shipping more supplies as impacted communities become accessible. CWS will also be involved in long-term recovery to help meet the needs of those impacted in the months and years to come.

We hope this report and story help convey the impact and importance of the CWS Kits program.

Once again, thank you for your generosity!

Peace,

Tiffany DeTienne

Rev. Dr. Tiffany DeTienne (she/her)

Development Operations Coordinator—Congregations

[Church World Service](#)



# 2024 Minister's Report

*Below you will find the Minister's Report to BACC's Annual Congregational Meeting, held on Nov 3, 2024:*

Here at Bon Air Christian Church, we're on a mission! By the grace of God, we've lived into that mission over the past year. Together in the Spirit of Christ, we have:

## **Reached out to proclaim the gospel**

We have connected with our neighbors to meet needs and share God's love through ministries new (like Community Fun Day, Parents Night Out, Intergenerational Mission Trip, and Help Build Hope house framing project) and familiar (like Vacation Bible School and the largest Trunk or Treat we've ever hosted). Our mission focus on human wholeness and mental wellness continues to bear fruit, with YouTube "Mental Wellness Moments," a new NAMI Family Support Group meeting in our building, several members taking a Mental Health First Aid training, and a newly offered yoga class, along with deepening our long-standing partnerships with NAMI of Central Virginia and AA. NAMI and AA members helped contribute to our response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We served as a collection site for emergency cleanup buckets, sending 114 buckets to NC to assist with recovery efforts. Our annual CROP Walk raised thousands of dollars as we spent a beautiful afternoon walking through our community (and of course keeping the Golden Sneaker!). Coming up, another Parents Night Out (November 23rd) and a January sermon series (more on that later) will provide more chances to reach out, share God's love, and live out our mission in God's world.

## **Reached up to worship God**

Our worship is Spirit-filled and vibrant, connecting with long-time members and newcomers alike. Sermon series – on themes such as Searching, the Holy Spirit, the Lord's Prayer, Gathered at the Table, and Intergenerational Stories – help us deepen our understanding of scriptural themes and their relevance for us as disciples today. So far this year, our worship services have welcomed an average of ~120 in-person (14 on Saturdays, 29 at early service, 77 at late service, with an average of 88 in our combined summer Sunday service) and ~20 via Zoom each week, with our worship videos on YouTube averaging around 40 views. We have celebrated the baptisms of Sara, Nick, and Catherine; the dedications of Tillie, Brynn, and Natalie; and we've welcomed Ethan, Mackenzie, and Carol into membership.

## **Reached in to nurture and grow in faith and love**

Advent and Lent devotionals lovingly written by members and delivered to those who have a hard time getting to the church building. Meals made and delivered. Pastoral visitation – by my count, 82 in-person pastoral care conversations so far this year, including hospitals and hospices, homes and offices, coffee shops and care facilities, premarital prep and personal crises, and more texts and phone calls than I can really keep count of. Our Youth Group meets the first Sunday of every month for faith, fellowship, and fun. Our Zoom prayer and fellowship group continues to meet on Wednesday evenings. A summer book study invited participants' to journey deeper in our faith, with a focus on the Disciples' origins as a mission-driven movement re-focusing on mission today. Of course, we've also said farewell to beloved members of our church community, some of whom have moved on to different places or different congregations, and some – Jim Henderson and Lois Zarefoss – who have gone on into memory eternal, joining the great cloud of witnesses who keep us mindful that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

It's my blessing to serve a church on a mission. I thank God for each of you!

Grace + Peace,

Rev. David Finnegan-Hosey  
Senior Minister, Bon Air Christian Church (DOC)



# Church Family Updates

## *Lord, Hear Our Prayers*

### **Please pray for:**

Gerry Roppé as he begins radiation treatment for lung cancer.

### **Please continue to pray for:**

Bud and Susan Deihl; the Gilbert Family; Nancy Wyman; Diane and Phil Harris; Jane Miller; Mary Garrison; Brenda Kidd; Debra Vaughan; Cindy Johnson; Shirley Foutz; Vickie Shannon's mother; Rick Lewis; Paul Stairs; Traci Eagle; Angel Huff and family; Jane Finnegan's mother, Lois; Marion and Gary Hosey; Tery Sarver's brother, Butch; Adam Darby; Nancy Roper; Steve Goff; Linda Spence; Claire Marling's student, Victoria; Mary Ann Casdia; Jake & Mazie McCann; Teresa & Larry Lafoon; Debra Vaughan's daughter in law, Janice; Sylvia Montgomery; Marvin Robins; Tammy Rucker's Mom, Pat; Alice Murray's sister, Linda Lowers; Harold and Gail Campbell; Taylor Brooks; Gerry Roppé; Evan Lenhart; Zachary Moon; Natalie Trimmer; Mark Ringel; Darlene Hicks; Eric Moorehouse; Joel Blackwell; Jane Shuler; Janet Holder; Alice Murray's friend, Robin; Frances Gillman; Bill Mahoney; Richard Seeds; Judy Hall and family; Cindy Cochran and family; JJ Blum; Jack Ellis and family; Doug Collins, Sr.; Nancy Rucker; Teresa McLaughlan; Jim McCaferty's mother, Mary, and Rose's sisters, Barbara and Judy, and her niece and husband; Will Monger; Peg Eagle; Pat Cosby; Wanda Russell; Gail Macfadden; Cathy Wheless; Lanny Saylor; John Foster; Karen Shelton Smith; Caroline Laughorn; Barbara Horton and family; Fred Turner; Phil Hepler; Diane Fearnley's friend, Nancy; Wilma Pruet; Bridget Hengle; Faye Ringel; Eric Morris; Gail Cox, friend of the Baum's; Cindy Stratton's friend, Vlad; Gina McKenney's niece, Jimie, friends Kathy Sanford, and John Mann; Connie Graves; Ada Slayton; Scott McCann; Chris Verheul; Janice Hoover; Mary Ellen Cummins; Nikki Todd; Judi Wright; Traci Eagle's cousin, Cindy; Judith Hazelo.



### **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](mailto:worship@baccdoc.org) with any changes.

*Thank you!*