## BON AIR CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

## **VISITUS:**

http://www.baccdoc.org









## Worship With Us:

**Saturday Evening Worship:** 5:00 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)

## **Adult & Youth Sunday School:**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

### **Prayer and Fellowship:**

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

All are welcome!

## Worship & Rest

"The one who entered God's rest also rested from his own works."
- Hebrews 4:10

As I'm writing this, it feels like Halloween is everywhere – pumpkins, ghosts, skeletons, and candy! If you're like me, you may have noticed that Halloween is a much bigger holiday than it used to be. And you're not wrong! It's estimated that Americans spent roughly \$13.1 billion on Halloween this year, and that's almost double what it was in 2015!

Now, I love Halloween as much as the next person. But the growth of Halloween as a holiday – and the seemingly ever-earlier creeping of the Christmas season into November and even October – means that the last three months of the year can feel a little overwhelming. And our church life is no exception! While the fun activities we offer for fellowship and community outreach are crucial to our ministry, it can be easy, especially this time of year, to forget that church is also a place to encounter God and rest in God's gracious presence.

Maybe it's a good thing, then, that our sermon series through the month of November will largely be focused on worship – what we do when we gather together in the sanctuary every week. David and I will be preaching about the deeper spiritual aspects of Christian worship, but I think it's important to remember that the Sabbath is also for rest. I think we can encounter God with the sacred acts of wonder, joy, truth, and hope while also being reminded that resting is a sacred act.

So I encourage us all to find one or two moments during worship, each Sunday in November, to pause and find some of that holy rest. As the skeletons get replaced by turkeys and the turkeys by Santas, I pray that the holiday busyness can be put on hold for an hour or so each week. May our worship be a time of rest, renewal, and rejuvenation for everyone who walks through our doors.

Blessings,





## BACC Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 2nd after late worship

Dear Bon Air Christian Church,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the beautiful Fall weather. .

I am writing to announce that we will be having our annual congregational meeting on November 2 after the 11 o'clock service, and to invite you to please attend.

We will be voting on our 2026 budget, which was proposed by our stewardship committee and approved by our board at this past Sunday's meeting, as well as our slate of officers, elders, deacons and trustees as proposed by our nominating committee. This will be your opportunity to ask any questions and have any discussion needed before we vote.

I want to thank the stewardship and nominating committees for all of their work to get these proposals together!

This has been a very busy year at BACC, and Fall is the time of year when our church activities ramp up as the holidays rapidly approach. I encourage you to watch our weekly newsletters for activities that interest you and for ways you can help us serve our church, our community, and Christ!

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,

Scott

G Scott Graham
President of the Congregation, Board Chair



On **Saturday, NOVEMBER 1st** and **Sunday, NOVEMBER 2nd**, we will remember the faithful lives of all the saints of Bon Air Christian Church who have passed into God's eternal arms over this past year.

This year, we have grieved the loss and celebrated the lives of friends in our beloved BACC family. We invite you to join us in worship to remember our dear loved ones.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2025 / 5:00 P.M. CASUAL WORSHIP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2025 / 8:45 A.M.& 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

## WE REMEMBER

William Woolridge Martha Wright Kathy Morton Wanda Russell David Limbrick

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

~Romans 8:38-39





## **THANKSGIVING WORSHIP**

Thursday, November 27th at 8:45 a.m. potluck brunch to follow.

## **HELP US DECORATE FOR ADVENT!**

Sunday, November 30th, Noon (light lunch provided)

## HANGING OF THE GREENS WORSHIP

Saturday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m. potluck dinner to follow.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 p.m.
Fellowship to follow afterwards. More info to come.

## **BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

Saturday, December 20th at 5:00 p.m.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

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

# Fellowship & Service

## THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

The Thanksgiving Special Offering benefits the colleges, universities, seminary, and divinity houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for disciples since the very beginning of the movement.

Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world, including the University of Lynchburg, Barton College, and Lexington Theological Seminary. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education.

Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our 15 colleges and universities, as well as our seven seminary and divinity houses. It also supports the HELM Leadership Fellows which includes BACC's own, Emily Rucker!

We will receive the Thanksgiving Special Offering on November 23rd and 30th.



## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE**

As David has said, many times, there is lots going on in the life of the church. Nothing could be more-true for Worship in regards to the decorating of the church for the Advent season.

With Thanksgiving coming later this year, Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, that leaves only three days to get the decorations up from the basement and ready for display. Advent decorating is planned for the afternoon of Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. We welcome help from everyone. An All-Hands-on Deck approach is needed.



### **WORSHIP LEADERS & GREETERS:**

We are in need of Worship Leaders (individuals to lead the congregation through the Words of Assurance, Lord's Prayer, and  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$  Reading) along with Greeters (greeting guests with their warmth and smiles). A link to this sign-up program has been included for your convenience: <u>SIGN UP HERE</u>

If you would like more information regarding these positions, please feel free to reach out to Karen Basalay, 804-687-1852



## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Chili Cook-off is almost here: **Saturday, November 15, 2025.** The event will be held in the fellowship hall following the Saturday evening service (about 6:00 pm). This will be our CWF fund raiser for the year. The final decision of where the money is going has not be made.

If you would like to enter a chili, please email Jamie McDonald. Last minute entries are also welcome. You do not have to be a member of BACC to enter. We also ask that you provide a list of ingredients so people with allergies will know if it is safe for them to taste. Winners will be announced in the December newsletter.

We will also be having a silent auction that night. You can get started on your Christmas shopping. If you would like to donate anything for the auction, email Arlene Giffel.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend a great evening of fun, food, and fellowship. You will be doing good ~ See you on the 15th!



## Regular CWF Meetings:

If you are free during the day, come join the Day CWF on **Tuesday, November 11th at 10:30 a.m.** We meet in the multi-purpose room. Don't forget to bring your canned goods for the Bainbridge food pantry and your gift cards for the Women's Shelter of the Richmond YWCA. We also collect money to buy books for the Redd Elementary Library. So far we've collected \$711.30. We'll be going to lunch at Cabrera's Pizza (in Robious Hall Shopping Center at 10020 Robious Road). Read Genesis 18:23-19:26 to prepare for the lesson on Lot's wife. Taylor Bono from Communities in Schools came to speak to the group about our support of Redd Elementary at our October meeting. We are also supporting "Books for Vets." This is a DAR project. Please get your book donations to Janet Lenhart by November 18th. Coming up later in the month is a Silent Retreat at Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, VA on November 21-23.

The Salad Group meets on **Thursday, November 13**<sup>th</sup> **at 6:00 p.m.** For our service project this year, we will be collecting needed items for CARITAS, Safe Haven, Richmond SPCA and Redd Elementary. Our study this year is "God's Promise-I Am With You." If you can't attend in person, let Cathy Law know, and she'll send you the Zoom link so you can join us.

The next meeting of the DAY BOOK STUDY CWF Group will be on **Thursday, November 20th at 11:00 a.m.** at Andee Kirk's home. *BIBLE WOMEN All Their Words And Why They Matter* by Lindsay Hardin Freeman is the book study. November's study is Zipporah on page 114 in Chapter 4. If you are interested or know someone who is interested please contact Andee.



## **CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Men's Fellowship Opportunities for November 2025.

**Men's Lunch.** Wednesday, Nov 5th (First Wednesday of each month). Joe's Inn Bon Air (11:30 AM). Contact Tom Snodgrass to reserve your seat at the table (804-370-5279 or <a href="tesnodgras@aol.com">tesnodgras@aol.com</a>).

**ROMEO\*s Breakfast.** Wednesday, Nov 12, 19, and 26 at Joe's Inn Bon Air (9:15 AM). No reserved seating, no reservation required.

**Men's Dinner.** *No dinner this month.* Instead attend the CWF Chili Cook Off on Saturday, Nov 15th. Join the competition for Best Chili. Find a treasure at the Silent Auction.



## **PRAISE n PLAY**

Praise 'n' Play is on **Thursdays at 9:15 a.m.**, in the Multipurpose Room. It's designed for infants – age 3, though older siblings are welcome. BACC's own, Jane Finnegan, is teaching the class.

The class has been well attended since it began in September, it is a lot of fun for the kiddos! If you have family members or neighbors that might be interested, please pass the information along. We would love to have them!



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

## Intergenerational Ministry

## YOUTH

It's been a busy few weeks for the youth of BACC. We had a great Fall Fun event where we had lunch at Frank & Diane Clark's house, and then went to the Chesterfield Berry Farm for pumpkins, hayrides, corn maize and "all things Fall!" And we had another WONDERFUL Trunk or Treat where we welcomed the community, handed out tons of candy and had a great time with themed trunks and cute costumes! Thanks to all who made these events so special for our



## **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN-UP - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

We still need about **THREE YOUTH or ADULT ACTORS** to take on some speaking parts in our intergenerational Christmas pageant! You don't have to memorize lines (unless you really want to), and the rehearsal schedule will be super light. Please contact Pastor Amy to sign up for a part and get more info: amyoblinger@baccdoc.org

Also... Younger kids will, as they have in the past, learn a Christmas song or two during Sunday School in the weeks leading up to December 21<sup>st</sup>. There will also be plenty of opportunities for folks who prefer to work behind the scenes. More details coming soon!

## What's Happening

## THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

We are sponsoring several families this year, to help them with the holidays. There are multiple ways everyone can participate. For Thanksgiving, the families will receive a box of non-perishable food and a gift card for perishable foods (eg., turkey, fresh produce, dairy). For Christmas, the children will receive gifts of clothing, a toy or two and a book. The families will receive a gift card for Christmas dinner food.

## Ways to participate:

- Donate non-perishable food for a Thanksgiving meal: **November 1st 16th** (e.g, canned fruit and vegetables, potato mixes, rice, dessert and breakfast mixes). Collection boxes will be outside the Fellowship Hall and church office.
- Donate money for the gift cards (designate your donation for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas families)
- Sponsor gifts for the children. Each child will receive an outfit, a toy or two and a book. Parent gifts will be household paper items and cleaning supplies. The online sign-up form will be in the Wednesday emails starting November 12th. For those who prefer, there will be trees, in the Front Hallway, near the Fellowship Hall, with ornament tags for gifts, starting November 19th. All gifts are to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 7th. Place the unwrapped gifts in collection boxes by the office or Fellowship Hall.

## Timeline for our holiday giving:

**November 1st -16th:** donations of non-perishable food for Thanksgiving meals, and/or monetary gifts for Thanksgiving grocery gift cards

**November 19th -December 7th:** Select and purchase Christmas gifts for children and parents; monetary donations welcomed too. All gifts (unwrapped) must be returned by December 7th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Cathy Law or Jeff Branyon.



"Do everything in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:14



# What's Happening

## **CROP WALK**

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 9th.** We will have a joint lunch before we head out for the walk. The host church this year will be St. Michael's Episcopal Church. Stayed tuned for details in your Wednesday Church News emails. We hope to have a record number of walkers this year, raise tons of money to help end hunger by providing life-saving support including emergency food and resources, and we hope to keep the GOLDEN SNEAKER at BACC! Everyone is welcome to join the team!

## **PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

Drop the kids for some fun, and go to dinner, get some Christmas shopping done, take a nap or just enjoy a kidfree evening out.

BACC will be hosting our **Parents Night Out on Saturday, November 22nd from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** 

We will have games, crafts, music, story time and dinner with the kids and end the evening with a movie and quiet time. Children 11 & under are welcome and we will have the nursery open for the babies (and toddlers under 3). Limited space available.

Scan the QR Code to the right or register HERE.



## **CCHASM THANKSGIVING EVENT**

Our Thanksgiving meal bag event will be held on Saturday, November 22, at the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds exhibition center. This year, our goal is to serve 3,500 families.

## Provide a Thanksgiving Meal with a \$20 Grocery Gift Card

Each family served receives a grocery gift card to purchase a turkey or protein of their choice. We rely on your generous donations to make this possible. Please consider donating \$20 grocery store gift cards (Walmart, Kroger, Food Lion, or other area stores). You can also donate funds directly to CCHASM for this purpose.

## Pack a bag with non-perishable items\*

Each Thanksgiving gift package includes non-perishable staples like canned vegetables, mashed potatoes, and stuffing. A full list is available at cchasm.org/pledge. Your donation of complete meal bags ensures families receive a thoughtful and filling holiday meal.

\*There will be some groups at BACC assembling bags. If you are interested in helping, contact Diane Clark. Thank you for your continued support!

# What's Happening

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, we invite you to take part in a special BACC tradition—our Advent Devotional Book. Each year, members of our congregation write reflections that inspire and bless others throughout this sacred season.

This year, you have two meaningful ways to contribute:

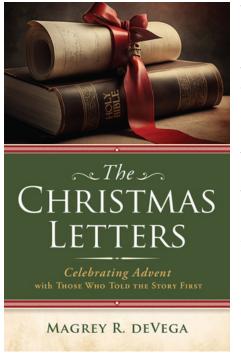
- 1. Write a devotional based on the suggested scripture for the day (see below), or
- 2. Share a story about a time when God surprised you—a moment when His presence or grace caught you off guard in a beautiful way.

Of course, you can always pick a favorite scripture as well.

A short devotion is ~ 1/2 of a letter size paper or ~3 paragraphs. It includes a brief reflection on scripture or theme, offers spiritual insight, encouragement, and a moment to connect with God through prayer.

You can sign up in your weekly "Church News" email or call the church office. **Devotions are due NOVEMBER 14th.** 

## ADVENT BOOK STUDY



This Advent, we'll be studying *The Christmas Letters* by Magrey DeVega. Pastor DeVega explores the miracle of the Incarnation from a perspective we don't often highlight during this season: the New Testament Epistles of Romans, 1 John, Philippians, and Colossians. You're invited to read these as your first "Christmas Letters" of the season, and find within them an invitation from God to deepen your understanding of the Incarnation and embrace a fuller commitment to Jesus Christ.

The study will take place over three weeks, with the option of either a Wednesday online study (beginning at 7:05 p.m., using the same Zoom link as Prayer & Fellowship) or a Thursday in-person study (beginning at 10:30 p.m. and meeting in the church library). The dates for the study will be Dec 3&4, Dec 10&11, and Dec 17 & 18.

We won't meet for the study on Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - we have other plans that evening!

# Thank You

On October 11, 2025, BACC hosted the 23rd annual Bagpipe Concert with performances 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 for Week of Compassion. This year, we received just over \$1,100 in donations.

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 24th Annual Bagpipe Concert in October of 2026 and hope you will be able to join us.

~ Bud and Susan Deihl









Eat, Pray, Pipe.



## BACC friends,

We truly appreciate your love and prayers over the last couple of years as Doug's Dad courageously battled cancer. While we mourn greatly our loss, we have found much comfort in all your cards and support. We are blessed to be part of this loving Church family.

With love and gratitude, Doug, Sandy, Caitlynn & Cassie Collins



Dear Bon Air Christian Church congregation,

Thank you all so much for the wonderful celebration of life for Aunt Wanda (Wanda Russell). Thank you for the wonderful service, food and flowers. The family appreciates all of the cards and kind words. I think she would've loved it.

I know she is at peace at her beloved church. Thank you all so much!

Love in Christ, Dawn Harrison, Jason Russell and family



## Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your faithful support of Disciples Mission Fund. Your generosity through DMF supports the work and ministries at Disciples Home Missions and we are so grateful. Your contributions ensure that DHM's ministries continue and thrive in countless ways – from supporting congregations and leadership development to outreach, justice, and care across the Church.

Enclosed you will find the Disciples Home Missions 2024–2025 mission report (*on back bulletin board at church*), which highlights just a few of the many ministries and lives touched by your giving. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this shared ministry!

With gratitude and blessings, The Rev. Bernard "Chris" Dorsey, President and CEO





## Dear Friend,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$300 given to the Youth Life Foundation of Richmond. Thank you for your support of the Youth Life Foundation of Richmond. Your gift will go towards the Youth Life Learning Centers of Richmond, offering unparalleled opportunities to our students in Richmond, Virginia. We thank you for your gracious donation.

You are leaving a legacy of hope in the lives of young people being reached through our learning centers. I thank you for your faithful support. Thank you again for your partnership!

## God Bless,

Heather Goodlett, Founder and Executive Director

Personal note: Thank you so much for giving to YLFR. We are doing well, I recently have subbed in 4th-5th grade and they are showing a love for scripture and asking for Bibles. It has been my joy to share Bibles with them. I just love to see them reading, especially God's word!



## Dear David,

Thank you for Bon Air Christian Church's recent gift of \$900 to Richmond Metro Habitat for Humanity. Your support enables families like Yoqueta's to provide a safe and healthy home for their children. Yoqueta is a teacher at a private Christian school where her daughter and two sons are students. The family shares rental housing in a neighborhood that is unsafe and poorly maintained.

Owning her own home will mean "safety, security, quiet, rest, a future that is bright." Yoqueta told Richmond Habitat. "I am a humble person, not proud, but I am thankful that things are getting better for my family."

Yoqueta is working to complete 10 financial and homeownership education classes, and monthly one-on-one budgeting sessions to make sure she has the tools she needs to be a successful homeowner. She is also working to complete 350 hours of volunteer time – helping to build her own home, other Habitat homes, or by working at our ReStore.

After she completes these program requirements, Yoqueta will purchase a safe, secure, energy- efficient home and pay an affordable mortgage, which will make her dream of home ownership a reality. This affordable mortgage will ensure that she pays no more than 25% of her income on housing.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission to build strength, stability, and self reliance through shelter in the Metro Richmond Area.

With Gratitude,

Jennifer O'Rourke, CFRE / VP of Resource Development

## Church Family Update

## **BLESSED AND LOVED**

On Sunday, October 12th, our church family gathered for a truly special moment — the baby blessing and dedication of Jack Vaden. Surrounded by loved ones, Josh and Nicole Vaden dedicated their son to the Lord, committing to raise him in faith and love.

Proud grandparents are Cindy and Russ Johnson, and Cathy and Tim Vaden. Aunt Lauren and Uncle Daniel were present as well. Family and friends witnessed with joy and gratitude as the congregation joined in prayer and blessing for baby Jack's life and future.

It was a beautiful reminder of God's faithfulness across generations and the strength of our church family. We are so thankful to celebrate this milestone and watch Jack grow in the love and grace of God.







Blessed!

# Prayer Concerns

## Our Prayers...

**Please pray for:** Angie Branyon's brother, Berkley; Sandy Collins' cousin, Susan Stoffer; everyone impacted by Hurricane Melissa, including Diane Fearnley's daughter Madison and new husband Adam who had traveled to Jamaica for their honeymoon; and praise and thanksgiving to Dee & Dave Caras upon the birth of their grandson, Everett Lee Blair.

Continued prayers for: Rosario Hocog; Steve Goff; Bernie McDonald; Peg Eagle; Skip Logan; Traci Eagle; Tery Sarver; the McCaferty family; Gary Giffel; Dana Hatton's mother; Taylor Brooks; Zachary Moon; Doug Collins and family; Rob Morey; Wayne Varnier; Randy Slayton, Laura Stankiewicz, Kelly Logan; Gerry Roppé; the family of Kathy Morton; Debra & Lindley Vaughan's daughter in law, Janice, and brother, Danny; Nancy Wyman's brother, David; Arlene Giffel's niece, Laurie Querbo; the Basalay family; Debbie Blackburn; Janet Lenhart's sister Phyllis, and brother Bill; Cassie Price's sister, Liz; Julian Flores' grandfather, Anthony; Jeff and Angie Branyon's friend, Adrianna; Joan Mielke's family; Deb Shiro; Mary Garrison; Ethelene Slayton; Faye Lester; Andrew Crank; Steve Kline; Paul Stairs; Richard Law; Troy Plummer; Angel Huff and family; Bud Deihl's Mother; Paula Spencer; Pat Cosby; Marion and Gary Hosey; Sylvia Montgomery; Harold & Gail Campbell; Gail Macfadden; Jake & Mazie McCann; Teresa & Larry Lafoon; Chris Verheul; Rick Lewis; Diane & Phil Harris; Cathy Law's friend, Carol; Bernie McDonald's sister, Norma; Bill Murray's sister, Margaret; Kris Foster's sister in law, Jane; Cindy Stratton's nephew, Keith, and her friend, Vlad; Gina McKenney's friend, Jimie Lee; Linda Verhuel's sister, Amy and her friend, Judy; Dana Hatton's friend, Tiffany; Anna Claire Jurman; Shirley Gibson's son, Drew; Cathy Wheless; Richard Seeds; Vickie Shannon's mother; Tery Sarver's brother, Butch; Tammy Rucker's Mom, Pat; Alice Murray's sister & friend; Devon Forehand; Betty Jurman; Eric Moorehouse; Bill Mahoney; Nancy Rucker; Teresa McLaughlan; Jim & Rose McCaferty's family; Will Monger; Lanny Saylor; John Foster; Caroline Laughorn; Jerry Ayers; Claire Marling's student, Victoria; Joann Ivey; Phil Hepler; Diane Fearnley's friend, Nancy; Faye Ringel; Eric Morris; Gail Cox, friend of the Baum's; Connie Graves; Ada Slayton; Scott McCann; Janice Hoover.

