

**Bon Air Christian Church Newsletter**  
**March, 2010**

Some of you may know that winter isn't exactly my favorite time of year. Shocking, right? This winter many of us were snowbound and had at least a touch of cabin fever. Even if we did dig out during the week another blast of bad weather kept us out of church for two weekends in a row. There was truly something wondrous the Sunday we were finally able to get back. There was a deep and abiding sense of how intrinsically important it is to worship, to be in the house of God. There was a realization of what a gift it is to gather with the community of faith. I really missed you all.

Another special thing that happens in the "bleak midwinter" is Lent arrives. Lent is always a signpost of hope. Lent by its very name harkens hope. The word lent comes from a latin word which means "lengthen" – the days are lengthening – hallelujah, there is more sunlight. We could all use a boost in our vitamin D and we need our happy melatonin to brighten our days. So Lent says "it's coming, bit by bit, minute by minute, day by day."

Such are the cycles of creation, they are the cycles of our lives as well. There are the winter times, the dark night of the soul times within our spirituality. Always through the darkness, there is a light in the window. The holy one is so much better than motel 6 in that God truly keeps the light on – we may have to work at parting the dark cloak of despair or self absorption, but always the light is there. As it says in one of my favorite hymns, "In the bulb, there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

As we tread our way through Lent, let us hear those soul filled hymns pondering the cross, reflecting on the unfathomable gracious love of Christ Jesus our Lord. Let us hear our story told to us, the gospel message which unfolds even now in the bleak midwinter. The dawn breaks, the warmth of God's love is ours now and always.



**Concert**  
**March 6, 2009 7:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. It will be a delightful musical evening featuring our own Frank Coleman. The concert will be held here at BACC, and all are welcome. Donations will be received for BACC. We are also collecting food for the Central Virginia Food Bank.

**CARITAS 2010**

The Caritas families were at Bon Air Christian Church for the week of February 6th. During that week we experienced a few hiccups that required us to make changes so we could accommodate our guest. Many of you took on extra responsibilities during the week. Thank you to all of the volunteers for your dedication and hard work.

We extend a special thank you to Becky Skowron for her dedication and for coordinating Caritas.

**The Church Staff**

The Rev. Cynthia K. Stratton, Sr. Minister  
Vickie Brooks, Organist & Choir Director  
Shirley Acree, Nursery Attendant  
Becky Harvell, Church Secretary



## **Habitat House Build June 19**

Bon Air Christian Church will be participating in the Habitat building in Powhatan on June 19. **This is a date change!** Our work day has been set back because the bad weather has delayed laying the foundation. Work begins at 9:00 a.m. at Deborah Lane (Chandler house). There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Directions to the house: left off of 60 west at Holly Hills Road, right on Oak, a right on Teresa and a left on Deborah.

## **JOY Group**

Tuesday, March 16, the Joy Group will meet at 9:30 a.m. at BACC. We will carpool to Monument Heights Baptist Church for a program of gospel music by Jimmy Branch. He formerly sang with the Bill Zickafoose band in the Richmond area. Everyone bring your lunch. Peggye Alcoke & Shirley Burkhalter will bring desserts to add to the desserts that their group provides. Drinks will be provided. Their donation amount is \$2/person, or \$3/couple. To make your reservation, please call Laura Hollis @ 320-3466 or Arlene Giffel @ 897-6845 by March 12.

## **Parents Morning Out Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers may drop off their children Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. at the church nursery. Please let Shirley or the church office know you will be coming. The cost is \$10.00 and parents can pay Shirley when picking up their children.

## **Food and Clothes Drive**

Bon Air Christian Church continues to provide food for the Bainbridge Community Center. Drop off food in any of the various containers labeled "food" throughout the church building.

The church is also collecting shoes and winter coats. These items may be left in the grocery cart outside the church office.

Both of these projects are ongoing. If you have any questions, contact Craig Huddle at 275-7525.

## **From our Missionaries in South Africa**

Below are some excerpts from our missionaries, Dawn and Jon in South Africa:

...The agriculture project at Peelson has harvested tons of potatoes and pumpkins and they are currently on the "Umfundi Special!" (the minister's special) at R30 for a pocket of potatoes and a pumpkin. What a deal! We bought our own and they were so good - enjoyed by the whole family! So now it is time to replant and start over again. The beans were harvested earlier in December as well, but we missed the special on those!

The Samaritan Care Centre is in full swing! We received our 2nd US Consulate Grant for 2010 and already a new container (that will hold all of the extra machines/supplies/materials) and a floor scrubber/polisher has been purchased. A garden training will be held in Feb. to train and employ 2 gardeners at the centre. The idea is to use the land to produce more vegetables to sell in the community, thus creating an income for the centre.

Jon has helped start up a new agriculture project at the LLC Duze Church and at one of their outstations in Sutterheim. They are both off to a good start and the people are working hard to get a crop harvested before winter settles in.

We are busy preparing for a group of Disciples from Virginia that will arrive on 12 Feb. They are a group of 12 from various churches in Virginia and they will be with us until 22 Feb. We are looking forward to finally hosting some of the people from our home church! And we are also preparing the way for a group of NY UCC folks, Germans and South Africans who will spend 2 weeks together here in the Eastern Cape in August.

On top of all of these things, we are winding down, officially now, our time here in the Eastern Cape. We will depart for the USA at the end of May. We are excited to have a date to look forward to and to plan for. However, it is going to be a sad day to leave our SA family behind. We truly have built a family here over the last 8 years of living and working in this area. But it is time to move on and see what else is in store! We will be in the USA from end of May thru end of December. We are not 100% as of yet what comes next, but are looking to move to Mozambique to continue our service with Global Ministries there in the capital, Maputo. ...

Lots of love to you and yours in this new 2010! May you be happy, blessed and filled with peace!

Dawn and Jon

### Family Concerns

Stephen Andrick had surgery this past month in Boston. If you would like to send a card, you may send it to: Cecelia and Stephen Andrick, c/o Thornton Naums House, 48 Francis Street, Boston MA 02115. Also, please keep Stephen's father in your prayers. He was hospitalized this past month.

Ron Hill is home after 17 months at the Laurels at Bon Air. He is doing outpatient physical therapy.

Our sympathy is extended to Shirley Heath upon the death of her sister. Our sympathy is also extended to Mary Ann Casdia upon the death of her niece.

Bob Skowron's mother had hip replacement this past month.

Mazie McCann had surgery this past month and is now at home.

We keep in our prayers: Gerry Roppe, Ron Hill; Joe Smith's mother, Glenda who has cancer; Joe Edwards' sister, Jeaneen Lile who has cancer, Kendra & Jon Ver Beek's friends son, Benjamin Byers who has cancer and Brenda Bracey's sister, Sandra Blount. We continue to pray for the Burkhalter's son-in-law, Tray Isley; Kevin Stargell; Bria Pendergast; Mary Ann Casdia's granddaughter, Daisy Hansen; Susie Smith; Arlene Blythe's mother, Margie Best who has leukemia; Stacey Price; Debbie New's friend, Rick Cline who has lung cancer and a brain tumor, Brand and Debbie Inlow's friend, Tom Harris who has cancer and Cathy Law's friend, Milo Marr who has cancer.



### Christian Women's Fellowship

The C.W.F. is open to all women of the congregation. There are three C.W.F. groups women can choose from:

**Day Group:** Meets on March 9<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month) at 10:30. Alma Spivey is the group leader. The hostesses will be

Jane Miller, Dot Bennett and Beulah Proffitt.

**Evening Group 1:** Meets on March 2<sup>nd</sup> (first Tuesday of the month) at 7:00 p.m. in different members home. Kitten Whitlow is the group leader. This month's meeting is at Arlene Giffel's house.

**Evening Group 2-The Salad Group:** This month the group will meet on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 at the church. Group leader brings the greens and each member brings an item to add to a tossed salad. Carol McGowan is the group leader.

This year all three groups will be studying the Old Testament book of Joshua. Our country of study for the year is Bosnia.



## Spring forward!

### Daylight Savings Time begins March 14<sup>th</sup>

Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Easter Flowers

*Easter Flower orders will  
be taken until March 14<sup>th</sup>.*

- # \_\_\_\_\_ Azaleas at \$17.50 each  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Bulbs at \$ 10.50 each  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies at \$10.00 each  
# \_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangeas at \$ 17.50 each

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

### Craig Springs Camp 2010

Camp forms have arrived. Contact Diane Clark or the church office for a camp registration form. Forms must be turned in to the regional office by May 15<sup>th</sup> to receive the early registration discount.

The church will pay for half of the cost of camp. Please make your half of the cost of camp payable to the Christian Church in Virginia. Also, a completed registration form includes a copy of your insurance card.

The camp that our youth usually attend is the one listed below as "cross-roads" which is scheduled for July 18-23. This camp fills up quickly. Please turn in completed registrations to the church office as soon as you possible.

Listed below are the dates for 2010 at Craig Springs:

- GAP (graduated 12<sup>th</sup> to age 22) June 10-14
- AMPDD-Art Music Photography Dance Drama - June 20-25
- CYF- June 27-July 2 (high schoolers)
- Special Camp - July 4-9
- Nature- July 11-16
- Cross-Roads - July 18-23 (Accepting all three age groups)
- Outdoor Adventure- July 25-30
- Chi Rho- July 25-30 (middle schoolers)
- New Covenant- August 1-6 (elementary)
- Family Retreat- August 6-9

## **Sign Up!**

The acolyte chart for 2010 is up. Lighting altar candles is a good way to get your child involved in Sunday morning worship.

Another way to get involved with morning worship is to provide flowers for the altar on Sunday morning.

The acolyte and flower charts are both on the bulletin boards outside the church office. There are also sign-up sheets for nursery and extended session volunteers. Please consider signing up to help with our youngest church members.

## **Haiti Relief Contributions sent for Week of Compassion**

During January, a total of \$1,050.00 was received to support relief efforts in Haiti. This money has been sent to the Week of Compassion offering designated as Haiti Relief.

We also have been receiving our Week of Compassion offering during February. These funds will be available whenever a crisis arises in our world.



## **Spiritual Renewal Retreat**

March 19-20 Bon Air Christian Church will be going to Richmond Hill for a spiritual renewal retreat. You are invited to be a part of our retreat. Our elders and committee chairpersons will be meeting during the retreat. If you are interested in attending the cost of the retreat is \$55, which covers lodging and food for the retreat.



## **Frank Coleman in Concert March 6, 2010 7:00 p.m.**

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## **Youth Sunday**

We are grateful to our youth and our youth leaders for their worship leadership on February 28<sup>th</sup>, Youth Sunday. We are thankful for the many contributions our youth make to the mission and ministry of the church. We have a great youth group and wonderful youth group leaders.

## **The World Day of Prayer**

This ecumenical day of celebration is sponsored by Church Women United. It will be Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to share in an interfaith worship service which will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church, 324 North 29<sup>th</sup> Street at 10:30 a.m. BACC women will gather at the church parking lot at 10:00 to carpool. After the service the group will have lunch at Richmond Hill. Contact Dot Morrison or Shirley Burkhalter if you are interested in going.

## **Men's Group to Clean up the Basement**

The men's group will have a breakfast and clean up day on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 at church. Contact Frank Clark if you plan to attend. His cell is 712-1231 or email him at [fcclark@pfgc.com](mailto:fcclark@pfgc.com)

The men's group will be cleaning up the basement area. Unless the item is labeled for Christmas, CARITAS or Vacation Bible School, the item will likely be thrown away. If you have something in the basement that belongs to you, please pick it up as soon as possible.

March's Book is The Jedburghs: The Secret History of the Allied Special Forces by Will Irwin. It tells the story of pioneering special forces units known as the Jedburghs—three-man teams comprised of American, British and French soldiers dropped deep into enemy-controlled territory, where they armed and trained local resistance fighters in support of the invasion of Normandy and the subsequent liberation of France. Despite the risks associated with Jedburgh operations, many Jed teams thrived under these extraordinary circumstances. “A gripping and authoritative account of the soldiers whose exploits formed the basis for modern special warfare.” according to General Wesley Clark.

April's book Three Cups of Tea (One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time) by Greg Mortenson has been on the New York Times best seller list over a 159 weeks. It is the inspiring account of one man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote and anti-America reaches of Asia. In 1993 Greg Mortenson was the exhausted survivor of a failed attempt to ascend K2, an America climbing bum wandering emaciated and lost through Pakistan's Karakoram Himalays. After he was taken in and nursed back to health by the people of an impoverished Pakistani village, Mortenson promised to return one day and build them a school. From that rash, earnest promise grew one of the most incredible humanitarian campaigns of our time -- Greg Mortenson's one-man mission to counteract extremism by building schools, especially for girls, throughout the breeding ground of the Taliban.

Join the Book Club as they meet on the *third Thursday each month* which will be March 18<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>. All members of the church, families and friends are invited to come. If you have a special book that you would love to share, then please come and suggest that book for our May meeting. We meet at 7:00 pm in the Sojourners Sunday school room. If you do not like to drive at night please call Jean Turlington 272-1561 or Andee Kirk 330-9275. They gladly pick anyone up that would like share the fellowship and enjoyment found in reading.

# March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:45 & 11:00 Worship Service  10:00 Sunday School	1	2 1:45 Exercise 7:00 Choir 7:00 CWF at Arlene Giffel's	3 8:00 Men's Breakfast  7:00 p.m. AA Quilters	4  7:00 Lenten Bible Study	5  World Day of Prayer	6 Goff's flock feeds homeless 5:00 Casual Worship Service 7:00 Frank Coleman's concert
7 Pastor's class 12:15  Worship committee 12:15	8	9 10:30 CWF  1:45 Exercise  7:00 Choir	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Parent's Morning Out 6:15 Elder's pot luck dinner 7:00 AA	11  7:00 Lenten Bible Study	12	13  5:00 Casual Worship Service
14 Pastor's class 12:15  12:15 Youth	15	16 9:30 Seniors 1:45 Exercise 6:15 CWF 7:00 Choir	17 8:00 Men's Breakfast  7:00 p.m. AA	18 7:00 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 Book Club	19 5:00 Richmond Hill Spiritual Renewal Retreat	20  5:00 Casual Worship Service
21 Pastor's class 12:15  12:15 Board	22	23 1:45 Exercise  7:00 Choir	24 8:00 Men's Breakfast  7:00 AA	25  7:00 Lenten Bible Study	26	27  5:00 Casual Worship Service
<u>28</u> <u>Pastor's class</u> <u>12:15</u>  <u>12:15 Youth</u>	29	30 10:00 DAR 1:45 Exercise  7:00 Choir	31 8:00 Men's Breakfast  7:00 AA			

## SERVING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2010

### March 7

Elders: Bill Heath, Lloyd Thacher

Deacons: 8:45 Doug White (P), Polly White

11:00 Kitten Whitlow (P), Jason Whitlow, Shea Hollifield, Susan Teachey

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Bud Deihl 11:00 Gail Macfadden

Acolyte: Zachary & Hannah Moon Nursery Helper: Dana Davis

Extended Session: 8:45 11:00

### March 14

Elders: Joe Bancroft, Barbara Bancroft

Deacons: 8:45 Bob Skowron (P), Chris Bates

11:00 Kristopher Clark (P), Casey Kirk, Andee Kirk, Russ Johnson  
Worship Leaders 8:45 Jeanne-Marie Andrews 11:00 Shirley Burkhalter  
Acolyte: Nursery Helper: Dana Davis  
Extended Session: 8:45 Katie Smith 11:00 Cassie Price

**March 21**

Elders: Steve Craft, Sandy Collins  
Deacons: 8:45 Steve Blythe (P), Arlene Blythe  
11:00 Doug White (P), Polly White, Lean Neal, Joe Love  
Worship Leaders: 8:45 Brenda Kidd 11:00 Debby West  
Acolyte: Madison Arthur Nursery Helper:  
Extended Session: 8:45 Anna Huddle 11:00 Maggie Pace

**March 28**

Elders: Steve Goff, Bob McGowan  
Deacons: 8:45 Joe Love (P), Guy Barker  
11:00 Josh Vaden (P), Jasmine Heath, Tim Johnson, Cindy Cochran  
Worship Leaders: 8:45 Sara Reese 11:00 Craig Huddle  
Acolyte: Jefferson & Joshua Huddle Nursery Helper:  
Extended Session: 8:45 Doug Collins 11:00 Robin Blanchard

Offering: Wayne and Debby West  
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 Jack & Jeanne-Marie Andrews  
11:00 Pete & Cindy Landergan  
(P) denotes communion preparation