

Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

November 2011 Newsletter

Thank God for Burned Biscuits, Imperfect Things and Imperfect People

George and I have received some wonderful and some funny advice from folks. One of his friends suggested that he always remember the three magic words: "yes, my dear". I got a wonderful note from Patti and Ted Sellman. Ted hand delivered a handkerchief, two candlesticks and two red candles to me the week of our wedding. Patti wrote: "These candlesticks were a wedding gift to us seventy three years ago. I hope you have as many years and are as happy. We still are as polite to each other as we were the first month. We sit in our rockers on our porch and hold hands. We are ninety three and ninety seven." She went on to wish us God's blessing. (George and I had the red candles and silver candle holders on the piano during our wedding.) God has surely blessed us with bringing our lives back together again and he has richly blessed us with good friends, family and the most wonderful church family ever. We give thanks for our many blessings.

Tom Neumyer sent me this story of sage advice from a wise dad.

"When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then and I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He ate every bite of that thing... Never made a face nor uttered a word about it! When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then." Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, 'Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired, besides - a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!' As I've grown older, I've thought about that night many times.

Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else, but what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults - and choosing to celebrate each other's differences - is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship. So, please pass me a biscuit, and yes, the burned one will do just fine.

Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle."

Cindy

New Member Correction!

Last month's newsletter introduced Alison and Sean Hylton to our church family. Sean Hylton is from Dublin, Ireland not Iowa. The church apologizes for the error.

David Crank Receives Leslie Cheek Award from William and Mary

David Crank, the son of John and Judy Crank received the 2011 Leslie Cheek Award from the college of William and Mary

In 1986, Leslie Cheek, Jr., created an endowment at The College of William & Mary to establish a national award for outstanding presentation of the arts. The Medal is bestowed to a person who has substantially contributed to the field of museum, performing, or visual arts.

David graduated from William and Mary in 1982. He has played a significant role in the film and theater industries over the course of his successful career.

David has also dedicated twenty years to production design and art direction in the film industry.

There Will Be Blood earned him an Emmy Award and the Art Directors Guild Award. His considerable influence on theater and film has distinguished him as a major player in the realm of art direction and production design today.

Congratulations David!

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 6th

Immediately following the 11:00 worship service



Decorate the church for Advent

What better way to get in the holiday spirit than to come and help decorate the church for the advent season! All are invited to join the fun on Saturday, November 26th starting at 9:00 a.m.



Thanksgiving Day Service/Brunch

Begin your Thanksgiving Day with us at 8:30 for our traditional Thanksgiving Day service. Following the service, please join us for a potluck brunch. Come enjoy this time of fellowship and let us give thanks to the one who gives every good and perfect gift.

A Thank you Note from Cindy & George

Dear friends:

Wow, Where do we begin? Thank you seems sorely inadequate. You have all done so much to bring joy to us. You helped park cars, fix food, greet and seat, your presence with us and your prayers have meant much to us. The music was beautiful, the DJ energetic, and the friendship is truly priceless. We are incredibly moved by your love and kindness. You made our special day absolutely perfect. We give thanks for all of your thoughtful, loving words and deeds. You are our family and we love you.

Cindy and George

Library Renovations complete!

The library/bridal room is now complete. If you have not seen the room since its completion, please take a peek! It was finished just in time for Cindy to be the first bride to use it as a bridal room.

Many thank yous go to all who helped Andee Kirk make her vision for the room happen. Thank you Andee, for all the time spent looking for just the right furnishings. Andee made the curtains, Bobby and his sons donated the Oriental rug. Her son, Casey, made the bookshelves and the bench for his Eagle Scout project. The chairs were given to us by Lois and Jim Zarefoss. Stephen Blanchard and Jon Ver Beek put in many hours of labor to refinish the walls and ceiling. Stephen hung the new light fixtures. Steve Blythe and his painting crew caulked and painted the room and Bobby Kirk painted the existing bookshelves.

Andee and Bobby and their sons, Connor and Casey put the finishing touches on the room. In the process, the room on the other side of the nursery has also been cleaned out.

Thank you to all who shared their time, energy and talent to make this beautiful room. We will dedicate the new library soon.



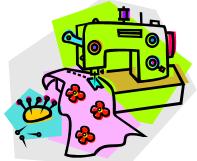
Kim and Susan Teachey are proud to announce the engagement of their son, Adam to Colleen O'Toole. Adam and Colleen are both seniors this year at Longwood University. The two will be married sometime in 2012 after graduation.

Church in Community News

Church in Community would like to thank all our Crop walk walkers and to all those who sponsored them! A special thanks to our youth group and their leaders for rockin' the walk!

Our Thanksgiving food drives for CCHASM and our local school families have begun. Once again we have CCHASM donation lists in the Adult Sunday school classes and ask for collection for the CCHASM drive. Boxes are outside the sanctuary and fellowship hall for the general Thanksgiving food collection for our local families! All food needs to be brought to church by November 12th.

Look for our Christmas family trees outside the fellowship hall in early November!



Work of our Hands Silent Auction Saturday November 19th - 1:00 until 4:00

The annual CWF Work of our Hands Silent Auction will be Saturday, November 19th from 1:00 until 4:00.

You can be a part of the mission outreach of the CWF in two ways:

1. Donate to the auction. Do you draw, paint, sew, cook, arrange flowers, make jewelry? Do you perform a special service (tax preparation, genealogy skills) that others may enjoy or need? Do you have a vacation space that you are willing to share? Do you have a skill or hobby that you are willing to teach?
2. Come to the auction with a generous heart and bring your friends. It is much more fun and exciting when there is a large crowd. This is an opportunity to buy food for Thanksgiving Day as well as Christmas presents.

If you have questions or can assist with the day of the sale, please contact Cathy Law, Barbara Bancroft, or Rose McCaferty. This is the single largest fundraiser for the mission outreach of the CWF. Money raised helps to support Nature Camp, the CWF Spring Project and the Week of Compassion.

Come and be a part of the fellowship!



Thank You, Cindy!

25th Anniversary Scrapbook by Janet Lenhart

If

you would like to write a special story, poem or thank-you to celebrate **Cindy's 25th Anniversary**, Janet Lenhart will be putting together a scrapbook. It would be great if someone could find some photos from 1986 or 1992 or 2001 or whenever! Also, if your children or child would like to create a drawing, we would love to include that too. Your family can create a whole page or just give a photo or two.

We would like the scrapbook to reflect **all** of Cindy's 25 years at Bon Air Christian Church, for it to show how much we appreciate her ministry and to give her something to enjoy and cherish in the years to come.

So look through your drawers and cupboards to see what treasures you can find or take time to write

something. There will be a box in the church office marked "Scrapbook" to put the things you would like to include or if you are out of town, please send something by mail. Of course, the sooner the better so Janet will have time to create a masterpiece. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Lenhart 276-8026 or Andee Kirk 929-2270.

The scrapbook will be presented to Cindy on Sunday, November 20th at the potluck luncheon celebration after the late service.

Ministerial Appreciation Celebration Weeks

You work vigorously, often neglecting personal needs to give us comfort and direction. You do so much, yet you receive so little in return. We take time out to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts of your leadership from Monday, November 7th through Sunday, November 20th when we wrap up this celebration with a luncheon that will also acknowledge your 25 years of service at Bon Air Christian Church.

There are many little ways and ideas that you and your family may want to show appreciation to Cindy during these weeks. Here are a few:

You could smile more during the sermon, sing your heart out during the church service, write a story about Cindy and read it on Sunday, November 20th, bring her flowers one day, ask Cindy what you can pray about for her during the upcoming week, write her a note of appreciation, give her a card, drop off bake goods, bagels or fruit one day, remember to pray for Cindy each day, give her a small gift certificate to Starbucks, Panera Bread, or Barnes & Noble, pick up a small gift with a butterfly on it, or just give her a big hug and say Thank-you!



The Book Club will read Have A Little Faith by Mitch Albom for November. The true story begins with an unusual request: an 82-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy.

Feeling unworthy, Albom insists on understanding the man better, which throws him back into a world of faith he'd left years ago. Meanwhile, closer to his current home, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor – a reformed drug dealer and convict – who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof.

Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, Mitch observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi, embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat.

As America struggles with hard times and people turn more to their beliefs, Mitch and the two men of God explore issues that perplex modern man: how to endure when difficult things happen; what heaven is; intermarriage; forgiveness; doubting God; and the importance of faith in trying times. Although the texts, prayers and histories are different, Albom begins to realize a striking unity between the two worlds - and indeed, between beliefs everywhere.

In the end, as the rabbi nears death and a harsh winter threatens the pastor's wobbly church, Albom sadly fulfills the last request and writes the eulogy. And he finally understands what both men had been teaching all along: the profound comfort of believing in something bigger than yourself.

Have a Little Faith is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.

The meeting is on Thursday, November 17th at 7:00 pm at the church. Everyone is welcomed. If this story interests you, read the book and try a Book Club meeting. We have a great time. This book is available at Chesterfield County Libraries.



December's Book Club is an event for the whole family!

The Book Club will read the Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson, a favorite children's book. When the Herdmans (the nastiest kids in the neighborhood) decide they want to be in this year's Christmas pageant, everyone is sure it will be a disaster. But when the curtain finally goes up, a miracle happens---making it the best ever!

We invite all ages of our church family and friends to read the book and join the Book Club on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 pm at the church. We will play the game Jeopardy to see if the kids or the adults remember more about the story, discuss the book and have cookies and punch.

The book is available at the Chesterfield County Libraries. This will be a special time for children and adults in our church to share and enjoy Christmas.



How wonderful it is to have Reverend Cindy Stratton lead our congregation faithfully, wisely and filled with compassion for 25 years. Her ministry is a blessing to all of us.

Please join in the special celebration on Sunday, November 20th after the late service. We invite all to bring a dish to share for a luncheon.



Special Note: The 25th Anniversary Celebration & Ministerial Appreciation Sunday was moved back 1 week due to a conflict. Remember to change your calendar. We will celebrate Ministerial Appreciation for 2 weeks (Monday, Nov. 7th through Sunday, November 20th) and Cindy's 25th Anniversary on Sunday, November 20th.

Thanksgiving Offering November 13th and 20th

The Thanksgiving Offering provides direct support to Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 14 colleges or universities, 3 seminaries and 4 seminary foundations/divinity houses. Gifts from the Disciples Mission Fund Thanksgiving offering continue a Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the church. The Thanksgiving Day offering will be received November 13th and 20th Please give generously.

BACC Welcomes New Member

We are delighted to welcome Joan Cross to our congregation and also extend congratulations to her and Eddie Cross on their September 10th marriage. Joan is a native Richmonder. She has a daughter, Megan, age 22, and a son, Dustin, age 30. And she has 2 grandchildren, Casek, age 6, and Ella Grace, age 22 months. She also has one brother and one sister. She is a graduate of Meadowbrook High School. Joan is a Facilities Manager for Media General, Inc. and has worked there for 35 years. Her interests are swimming, gardening, the beach, and she loves her dogs, "Domino", a Puggle and Pig, a "Boston Terrier".



2011 Tithes and Offerings

The last deposit for the 2011 Fiscal Year will be made on December 30th at 12:00 noon. If you would like any last minute donations to be included on your year-end statement, they must be received at the church by 11:00 am on December 30th.

Thank you in advance.

Debbie Inlow,
Financial Secretary

Please make the following update to your church directory:

Joan & Eddie Cross
8908 Emory Oak Lane
Richmond, VA 23237
Work: 649-6960
Cell: 908-7514
Email: jshifflett@timesdispatch.com

Gerry Roppe'
3715 Grubbs Lane
Richmond, VA 23234

Karen Baum
1020 North Quincy Street Apt. 212
Arlington, VA 22201

Christian Women's Fellowship

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

- **Day Group** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (November 8th) at 10:30. The group leader is Beth Roane.
- **Evening Group 1** meets on the first Tuesday of each month in different members' home. Kitten Whitlow is the group leader. The next meeting will be at Kitten Whitlow's at 7:00 on November 1st.
- **Evening Group 2 The Salad Group** meets on the second Thursday (November 10th) of the month at 6:15 at the church. Each member brings an item to add to a tossed salad. Kris Shouldice is the group leader.



Set your clock back!

Before going to bed on November 5th, remember to set your clocks back one hour! We're back to standard time!

Joy Group Plans November and December

The JOY Seniors group will meet November 15th at 10:30. Monica Hughes, Director of The Lifelong Learning Institute will address our group. Please bring a covered dish, luncheon to follow. Two hostesses are needed for this meeting. Please contact Laura at 804-320-3466 to volunteer

On December 20th, the group will be going to Crab Louie's in Midlothian. Luncheon will be at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$14.75 per person, Please bring cash to facilitate payment. Please RSVP to Laura Hollis (804-320-3466) ASAP so I can let Bruce at Crab Louie's know how many to expect.

Family Concerns:

Our sympathy is extended to Martha Wright upon the death of her husband, Bill. Our sympathy is extended to Chris and Ruth Ann Bates upon the death of Chris' sister, Beverly.

Please pray for Clairee Cochran who has been diagnosed with lupus. She is will be undergoing a kidney biopsy and also cardiac tests. We continue to pray for the following members of BACC: Peggy Hill; Gerry Roppe; Chris Verheul; and Cathy Wheless. We also pray for Kelsey and Madison Arthur's dad, Stephen Arthur; Arlette Brown's son- in -law and brother-in-law of Rhonda Ringel, Al Sanderson; Shea Hollifield's mother, Barbara, Dee Drezek's friend, Bob McCaffrey; Joe Bancroft's friend, Margaret; Jean Turlington's friend, Ethalene Slayton; Laura Hollis' friend, Sydney; Catherine Tejnecky's friend Leslie Dame; Kevin Stargell; Stacy Price; Susie Smith; Brand and Debbie Inlow's friend George Coleman; Frank Clark sister Cindy Middleton; Joe Edwards' sister Jeanean Lile; Dottie

Edwards' brother Clyde Toons; the Ver Beek's friend Benjamin Byers; Mary Ann Casdia's granddaughter, Daisy Hansen; Jean Dowdy's dentist, Joshua Rubinstein, who has Leukemia, Jean's friend, John Hamilton, who has cancer and Jean's cousin's baby, McKinley and for we pray for Reverend Milo Marr.

We continue to pray for Rob Atherton who is deployed on the USS Howard; Keith Hagen (Mark Burkhalter's son) who is in Iraq; for Jay Saldana (Bill & Shirley Heath's son-in-law) who is in Pakistan and George Smith's son who is in Afghanistan.

SERVING SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2011

November 6

Elders: Bill Heath, Lloyd Thacher

Deacons: 8:45 Cynthia Lehan (P), Guy Barker

11:00 Joe Love (P), Julie Coleman, Kitten Whitlow, Michael Whitlow

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Carol McGowan 11:00 Kitten Whitlow

Acolyte:

Storyteller: Helper: Jon Ver Beek

November 13

Elders: Gail Macfadden, Jon Ver Beek

Deacons: 8:45 Arlene Blythe (P), Steve Blythe

11:00 Casey Kirk (P), Karson Clark, Russ Johnson, Shea Hollifield

Worship Leaders 8:45 Sara Reese 11:00 Debby West

Acolyte:

Storyteller: Andee Kirk Helper: Frances Atherton

November 20

Elders: Doug White, Sandy Collins

Deacons: 8:45 Joe Smith (P), Polly White

11:00 Polly White (P). Cindy Cochran. Kitten Whitlow. Michael Whitlow

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Emily McKenney 11:00 Doug White

Acolyte:

Storyteller: Kendra Ver Beek Helper: Jon Ver Beek

November 27

Elders: Steve Goff, Bob McGowan

Deacons: 8:45 Joe Love (P), Joanne Hodgson

11:00 Cindy Landergan (P), Jasmine Heath, Pete Landergan, Josh Vaden

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Suzanne Dale 11:00 Paula Craft

Acolyte:

Storyteller: Sylva Montgomery Helper:

Offering: Debby and Wayne West

Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 Ed and Sally Parks 11:00 Tim and Cathy Vaden

(P) denotes communion preparation