

Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

September 2011 Newsletter

Dear friends:

There are lots of different ways to pray and to grow closer to God. We have some standard things we have learned. We thank God for our food as we say a blessing before we eat. Funny they never said a single word about that in seminary and it wasn't part of my family tradition. As my kids were growing up they said the "God is good, God is great let us thank him for our food...." Robin had her own blessing "For these gifts..." Then as often happens with various aspects of our lives, we all got out of the habit. I have rediscovered the beauty of having this opportunity to come to God several times a day and say thank you. It isn't earth shaking but it is a pause along the day, a simple time to remember that all good gifts come to us from God.

Speaking of earth shaking, we have had quite a week. During the earthquake I walked outside and there was a young man with his little "teens against drugs" crate and he was looking like he was about to jump out of his skin terrified. I said, "It's an earthquake." He said, "Oh I thought it was just your house and I was getting ready to turn around and get out of here." I wanted to tell him no, I am not doing any exorcisms today but come back tomorrow, but I thought the joke might get lost. It really did shake people up. Between the hurricane and the earthquake maybe it is a good time to do a "get right with Jesus" sermon. Actually every Sunday is a "come to Jesus" day, actually every day is. Sometimes it just takes something to shake us up. We have a tendency to get lost in the mundane. We are incredibly capable of being preoccupied with routine trivialities that don't matter "in the end."

Richard Foster in his book Celebration of Discipline reminded us that we need to detach from the confusion all around us in order to have a richer attachment to God. Worship is one of those times when we can unplug from the cacophony and focus on the one who renews, nourishes, refreshes, challenges, and reminds us who we really are. I have missed seeing many of you over the summer and look forward to sharing together with you as we get our fall ministries and programs underway.

Shalom, Cindy 

Family Concerns:

- Our sympathy is extended to Arlene and Steve Blythe upon the death of Arlene's mother, Margie Best. O
- Our sympathy is extended to Gary Archer and his family upon the death of his father.
- Bill Wright is in the trauma unit at MCV due to a fall at home.
- Shirley Acree was hospitalized this past month. She is recuperating at home.
- We continue to pray for all our friends who are undergoing treatment for cancer: Laura Hollis' friend, Sydney, Joe Bancroft's friend, Margaret, Susan Holsworth (friend of the Blythe's), Kevin Stargell, Stacey Price, Susie Smith; Brand and Debbie Inlow's friends, George & Vicki Coleman; Frank Clark's uncle, Robert Nichols and Frank's sister, Cindy Middleton, Joe Edwards' sister, Jeanean Lile and the Ver Beeks friend, Benjamin Byers.
- We pray for Bob Barden who has emphysema and for Cathy Wheless who has a ruptured disc in her thoracic spine. We pray for Gerry Roppe'; Chris Verheul; Peggy Hill; Dottie Edwards' brother, Clyde Toon, Jeanne Tyson's friend, Deborah who is having heart problems and Mary Ann Casdia's granddaughter, Daisy Hansen.
- We pray for Jay Saldana (Bill & Shirley Heath's son-in-law) who is in Pakistan; Rob Atherton who is deployed on the USS Howard; Keith Hagen, Mark Burkhalter's son who is in Iraq; George Smith's son who is in Afghanistan

**Virginia Disciples Women's Retreat
Blackstone Methodist Retreat Center
October 14-16
"Come to the Waters"**

The Virginia Disciple Women's Retreat will be held October 14-16 at the Blackstone Methodist Retreat Center. This year's theme is "Come to the Waters." The keynote speaker for the weekend will be Rev. Julia Marie Brown Karimu, president of the Division of Overseas Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries.

There's a special captain's ball on Saturday night. Just like a cruise, have your picture taken with your church or with one of our special guest. Dress as formally as you would like. Another feature will be a retreat choir. If you have a suggestion for the name of the choir or would like to participate in the choir, indicate so on the registration form.

Cost of the full retreat is \$177.00. Registration forms are available in the church office. In order to avoid a late fee, completed registrations forms must be returned to the regional office by September 24.



New schedule begins!
On Sunday, September 11th
we will begin our fall schedule.

8:45 Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service

Saturday Evenings: 5:00 Casual Service

"CWF Work of Our Hands" Silent Auction

Do you draw, paint, sew, cook, arrange flowers, make jewelry? Do you perform a special service 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? Then, the CWF Work of Our Hands Silent Auction team needs you! The event will take place the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Donations of time and talents are needed. Please contact Rose McCaferty if you are interested in volunteering to help with this project.

Money raised helps to support Nature Camp, the CWF Spring Project and the Week of Compassion.

September's Book Club Meeting

The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford is the book for the September meeting.

The story is about Henry Lee, a Chinese-American in Seattle who, in 1986, has just lost his wife to cancer. After Henry hears that the belongings of Japanese immigrants interned during WWII have been found in the basement of the Panama Hotel, the narrative chronicles the losses of old age and the bewilderment of youth.

Henry recalls the difficulties of life in America during WWII, when he and his Japanese-American school friend, Keiko, wandered through wartime Seattle. Keiko and her family are later interned in a camp, and Henry, horrified by America's anti-Japanese hysteria, is further conflicted because of his Chinese father's anti-Japanese sentiment. Henry's adult life in 1986 is also part of the story and shows Henry's difficulty in communicating with his college-age son, Marty, with Henry's own alienation from his father, who was determined to Americanize him. The wartime persecution of Japanese immigrants is presented well.

The meeting date is September 15th at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the church. Andee Kirk has 3 copies of the book which she will gladly share with anyone who is interested in reading the book. She can be reached at 929-2270 or 330-9275.



September 11th Promotion Sunday

On September 11th we will begin our regular Sunday schedule with Sunday School at 9:45. We will begin the day with a reception in the fellowship hall. Children and youth will be promoted on this day to their new classes.

Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF is open to all women of the congregation. The fall kick-off is a CWF joint meeting and potluck.

There are three groups women can choose from:

- **Day Group** meetings begin in October on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (October 11th) 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 Diane Clark's on October 4th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Evening Group 2 The Salad Group** meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:15 at the church beginning in October. Each member brings an item to add to a tossed salad. Kris Shouldice is the group leader.



Congratulations!

Congratulations are extended to Sean and Alison Hylton upon the birth of their daughter, Bridgette who was born on July 6th. She weighed 8 lbs. 8 ozs.

Congratulations are extended to Jerrell Todd upon the birth of his granddaughter, Abigail Hope Snyder who was born July 27th. Abigail weighed 7 lbs and was 21 inches long.

Congratulations are extended to Kendall and Landon Graham upon the birth of their daughter, Mary Carter who was born August 14th. Mary Carter weighed 6 lbs 15 ozs. and was 20 inches long. The proud grandparents are Chris and Barbara Isenberg.

Parents Morning Out

Parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers may drop off their children Wednesday, September 14th at 9:00 a.m. in the church nursery. Please let Shirley know you will be coming. The cost is \$10.00. Parents can pay Shirley

JOY Group - September 20

September 20, the JOY group will have a covered dish luncheon at 10:30 AM at the church. Joe Love will present a travelogue about his trip to Israel!! Betty Scharon has signed up to be a hostess and I would like at least one other volunteer. Please call Laura Hollis at 320-3466. So happy we are getting back together!!!

Concerns

Cathy Law is a social worker with Louisa County schools and she reports that they have experienced one of the worst disasters ever in Virginia Public schools. The damage to several of the schools made them unusable. Trying to provide for the students a safe educational environment is quite a challenge. Please pray for all those who are experiencing these troubling times.

Many of our members have struggled with unwanted trees adorning the inside of their homes. Carnell and Iva Teachey, the Ver Beeks and the Grois have had extensive damage to their homes. Kim and Susan Teachey had a tree fall on their garage. We keep all those who are dealing with the stress of having to repair and rebuild in our prayers.

Habitat Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to paint the Nicely's home in Powhatan on September 3 and 10th. There will be Saturdays available September 24th and October.

If you would like to help, contact Terry Paquette at 804-794-1700 (O) or 804-690-0177 (C).



Light a Candle for Children

The theme: "*Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue: Answering God's Call to Protect Children.*"

The Light a Candle for Children - Prayer Vigil begins Sunday, September 11, and ends on Children's Sabbaths Weekend, October 14 to 16, 2011.

The Prayer Vigil is designed to help congregations focus on the needs of children and spiritually prepare for the annual observance of Children's Sabbaths.

Light a Candle for Children, is an advocacy and prayer vigil project that invites congregations to join in Days of Prayer for Children. It begins September 11th approximately forty days prior to the observance of the National Children's Sabbaths (sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, Washington, D.C.).

During these Sabbath celebrations, held annually on the third weekend of October (October 14-16) thousands of congregations unite simultaneously in witness for children through prayer, education, and worship.

If you would like to participate in the prayer vigil there are several options:

1. Read mediations each day of the vigil from the blog site.
2. A printable booklet of the mediations is available in the church office.
3. Get an RSS feed of the meditations. Check the Help for your browser if you are unsure how to do this.
4. Sign up for emails of the meditations (and other posts) made to the blog site www.lightacandle.blogspot.com. Just enter your email address in the box on the left (just below the Disciples Care for Children logo) and follow the directions.

Sunday School begins!

We are so excited about getting our Sunday School classes underway. It is always great to get together and learn from one another. We have a wonderful time reflecting on scripture, sharing our faith and discussing how God is working in our lives. Please come grow with us as we are fed by the word of God and refreshed with Christian fellowship.

September Is National Hunger Action Month

Around the world, almost one-billion people don't have enough food to eat. Even in the United States, more than 40-million people go hungry. Despite the abundance of food in the world, hunger plagues large populations, and starvation awaits those who hunger without relief.

A Big Thank-You

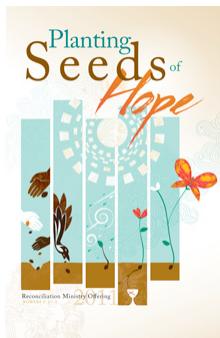
The Church in Community Committee extends a big THANK-YOU to the Vacation Bible School children (and adults) who brought food for the Bainbridge Center. The response to the food drive was overwhelming. Thank you.

Let's Follow Their Example

The response to our ongoing food drive for the Bainbridge Center is always good, but the needs are great, so let's follow the example of the VBS kids and do even better. Items most needed at the present time are Spam, Treet, Brunswick stew, and Beef Stew. Powdered milk (in pouches) is always needed because very little is contributed due to the price.

Remember to bring small cans as many of the clients are elderly singles or couples.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry.



Reconciliation Offering September 25 and October 2

The 2011 Reconciliation Offering will be received on September 25th and October 2nd. Reconciliation Ministry Offering is used to fund our Church's mission priority to become a pro-reconciling/ anti-racist church through experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue across difference. Funds from this offering provide Youth and Young Adult camps, training programs for leadership development, and resources to promote small group study and community-building.

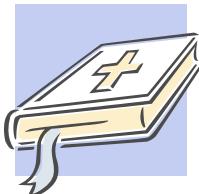
A New Sunday School Class

Are you looking for a Sunday School class? We are starting a new adult class this fall called the Foundations Class. The class will focus on a different topic each month. The class will meet in the Education wing directly across from the Fellowship Adult Class (1/2 of this large room is used for Worship and Wonder but there is a divider that will provide separate and dedicated space for this class). Here is the current lineup:

- .. September -- Brenda Kidd: Christian Church Disciples of Christ: What do Disciples believe?
- .. October -- Sandy Collins: Faith and Family.
- .. November -- Bob and Carol McGowan: Supporting Christian relationships -- How do you make a marriage/relationship last?

- ∴ December -- Sandy Collins: Let's get into the real Christmas Spirit and explore the meaning of Advent.
- ∴ January -- Brenda Kidd: Bible Basics.
- ∴ February -- Joy Black: Spiritual Renewal and Healing.

We hope to see you in this new class when Sunday School starts on September 11.



Welcome Back to Sunday School

Our teachers for the upcoming Sunday School year are:

Toddler Two's: Catherine Tejnecky

Pre-School-Kindergarten: Andee Kirk and Ellen Moon

Early Elementary (Grades 1-3): Shea Hollifield and Paula Craft

Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5th) Robin Blanchard and Katie Smith

Middle School (grades 6-8th): Russ & Cindy Johnson and Eric Thomas

High School (Grades 9-12th): Cassie Price

Adult Sunday School

Sojourners: Cathy Law, Sara Reese and Susan Deihl

Fellowship: Kitten Whitlow

Parlor Class: Danny Simmons and Steve Craft

A Letter to our youth:

Hello future leaders of BACC,

We are so excited to announce that our first Youth group meeting of the 2011-2012 year will be September 11th immediately following the late service.

What an exciting time!

We know we can't replace The Clark's, they have done an *amazing* job over the last decade, but we are excited to follow in their footsteps and keep the Youth Group strong and vibrant!

Your new leaders will be Kendra Ver Beek, Joan Mielke, Cecelia Andrick and George Smith. We are looking forward to getting to know all of you and moving forward with Youth Group with your input & direction!

We have big ideas for group outings, fun fellowship, sports activities, adopting a local charity or community service mission and also doing some of the stuff we have always done like helping around the church and supporting homebound members. There is much work to be done!

In order to communicate to the best of our ability, we would like to collect email addresses and phone numbers (for texting purposes) from all of the youth. If you can, please forward that information on to Kendra Ver Beek at theverbeeks@verizon.net.

Please also let us know if you will be able to make it to our first gathering on Sunday, September 11th after late service. We will meet in the multi-purpose room and lunch will be served.

Parents, we would also like to ask you to come to pick up your child/children *five minutes early* and meet with us in the Worship & Wonder room. We are talking about possibly changing the day/time we meet for Youth Group and would like your input as well as the children's.

If you have any questions at all, please let us know. We are blessed to have been asked to lead in this capacity at BACC. We know that these children are the future of our church and we are humbled to work alongside of them to share in this lively community of faith!

BACC is vibrant and alive; this is an exciting time indeed!

Let's worship and work together to the glory of God and share his good word!

Looking forward to seeing you on the 11th.

In all of God's Glory,
Kendra, Joan, Cecelia & George



Gifts That Keep on Giving - A Minute for Stewardship

Sunday morning after Hurricane Irene, I called the church office and the answering machine didn't pick up. I knew then the church didn't have electricity and assumed there would be no service. Barbara and I drove over Sunday afternoon to assure ourselves that the storm had not damaged our beautiful little church. Over thirty years ago we found Bon Air Christian Church and it became our church home and its members became our church family.

We believe good stewardship, of our gifts and talents, is our responsibility to our church home and church family; just as it is of our personal residence and our two daughters. We have been fortunate to drink from the spiritual well that others dug before our time and sit in the shade of the trees they planted. We feel stewardship is not an admission ticket to sit in a pew on Sunday, but an opportunity to support the mission of BACC through our gifts and service to God and the community.

Several years ago I worked on a committee with John Crank and Bob Smith to establish a Permanent Fund at our church. The fund is a way to make an everlasting gift to our church and it is also a way to receive devised gifts from an estate. It is basically a fund in which monies are deposited into principal and eventually, when it grew big enough, only interest and income would be distributed when needed. The expenditures are primarily for large capital repairs to our beloved church building. To date the Permanent Fund has only received a few thousand dollars.

Barbara and I have concern for the maintenance and preservation of our sanctuary, especially the exterior and steeple, due to its wooden construction and age. It is our prayer that the membership of the church will support the annual operating budget pledge campaign this year, to the extent that we may build a reserve account into our budget to help pay for non-budgeted capital expenses and preventive maintenance as is needed.

We feel lead by God, Cindy, and the leadership of this church to make our contributions to the operating budget of the church and a gift in the future from our estate to the Permanent Fund. We have been truly blessed in our life time, and Bon Air Christian Church is one of the greatest blessings.

Joe and Barbara Bancroft



BACC has received the following thank you notes:

Dear BACC Family,

The lovely meal provided to us by Cathy Law's flock was much appreciated and we thank you for your thoughts and concern following Joe's recent fall. It was a real treat to sit down to such good food that was delivered to our door by Cecelia Andrick on a very hot Sunday afternoon - A special thanks to her for this.

The stitches have been removed and the wound is healing nicely. Thanks again for all your love and God bless every one of you.

In Christ's Love,
Joe and Alma Spivey

Dear BACC Family,

Thank you so much for all of the cards, dinners, loving looks and hugs during the loss of Stephen's father. It has meant so much to all of us having so much support come from our church family. It has been so difficult to mourn being so far away and then having to travel such a great distance twice in the last 6-months has been emotionally and physically draining for us all. We cannot thank you enough for your prayers and enormous sympathy.

Love, Stephen, Robin, Logan and
Reese Blanchard

To Cindy, and the entire BACC family,

Thank you all so much for your outpouring of sympathy and kindness after the passing of my dad! Please tell everyone "thanks a million" for the cards, thoughts and prayers. My family and I are overwhelmed from the love we feel from all of you.

God bless you all and thanks again.
Gary, Barb, Michael, Abby and Jean Archer

Dear Bon Air Christian Church Family,

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, well wishes and get well cards during my recent illness. You lifted my spirits during a trying time. Susan and I are so fortunate to have so many friends at BACC.

Sincerely,
Kim Teachey.

Dear BACC:

Thank you for your kindness upon my mom's (Margie Best) recent passing. The cards, flowers and food for her service were greatly appreciated.

While my mom was not a member of the church you treated her like a BACC family member.

Your thoughts, cards and prayers throughout her illness these past few years meant so much to her and to her family. She also so enjoyed Cindy's calls and visits.

Steve and I feel so fortunate to be part of such a wonderful and caring church family.

Thanks again for your support at this difficult time.

Love,

Arlene and Steve Blythe, Ray and Diane Best & Family



Reverend Cynthia K. Stratton and Colonel George Smith (U.S. Army Ret.) request the honour of your presence at their marriage on Saturday, the eighth of October two thousand and eleven at one o'clock, Bon Air Christian Church. Reception to follow at the church.

Please rsvp to Becky Harvell at 272-6228 or Laura Hollis at lollihollis@verizon.net

SERVING SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

September 4

Elders: Bill Heath, Lloyd Thacher

Deacons: 9:15 Cynthia Lehan (P), Guy Barker

10:45 Michael Whitlow (P), Kitten Whitlow, Cynthia Lehan, Julie Coleman

Worship Leaders: 9:15 Andee Kirk 10:45 Kitten Whitlow

Acolyte:

Storyteller: Robin Blanchard Helper: Lindsay Reynolds

September 11

Elders: Gail Macfadden, Jon Ver Beek

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

11:00 Jasmine Heath (P), Russ Johnson, Casey Kirk, Karson Clark

Worship Leaders 8:45 Gail Macfadden 11:00 Cathy Law

Acolyte:

Storyteller: Cindy Landergan Helper: Robin Blanchard

September 18

Elders: Doug White, Sandy Collins

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

11:00 Michael Whitlow (P), Kitten Whitlow, Polly White, Cindy Landergan

Worship Leader: Doug White

Acolyte:

Storyteller: Robin Blanchard Helper:

September 25

Elders: Steve Goff, Bob McGowan

Deacons: 8:45 Joann Hodgson (P), Duke Dale

11:00 Josh Vaden (P), Kitten Whitlow, Michael Whitlow, Jasmine Heath

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Jean Dowdy 11:00 Kitten Whitlow

Acolyte:

Storyteller: Cynthia Lehan Helper: Cindy Landergan

Offering: Arlene Giffel and Laura Hollis

Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 Cassie Price 11:00 Christy Sprouse

(P) denotes communion preparation