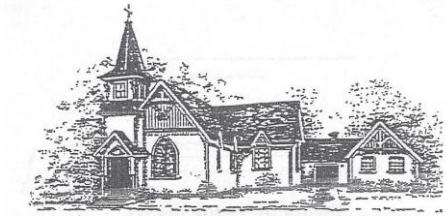


Bon Air Christian Church
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Is it Lent?

What a weird Lent. Lent usually begins with our Ash Wednesday prayer vigil. When we were snowed out of that important prayer time then everything else seemed off kilter. Our schedules for things we do, like our Pastor's classes have also been complicated by the snow

Well, we finally have the purple cloth on the communion table and we're working on getting our minds focused on this holy season of preparation. If you grew up in some other church you may not have heard about Lent when you were growing up. We at Bon Air Christian Church aren't exactly a high liturgical church but Lent is certainly a meaningful time for us.

Lent invites us to do some spring-cleaning of the soul. You know how it is when you're busy and tending to many things you might not really notice the cobweb growing in the corner or the dust bunny under the bed until you begin spring-cleaning. It's that glorious time of washing things that haven't been washed for a little while. My mother-in-law, Dot Dutrow, use to wash the walls and the ceilings. I tried to steer clear of her house during this rather manic time.

Lent actually comes from an Old English word meaning "spring". It speaks about the days getting longer. We're all ready for that, right? We also seek to be ready for Holy Week. We spend 40 days (not counting Sundays, which are feast days) getting out the cobwebs and the dust bunnies that pollute our souls. Those require even more attention. For that clean up job we need prayer, and lots of it. We need to find ourselves immersed in God's word. We need disciplines that remind us of the sacrificial love of Jesus.

So even if you didn't get started on Ash Wednesday, it's not too late. It's never too late to ponder the amazing grace, the wondrous love poured out on our behalf. If giving up tv, or chocolate or broccoli causes you to think about Jesus' walk to the cross then by all means, give it up. If practicing a discipline of daily random acts of kindness then give all the kindness you have. Find some way to remember. Find some way to focus your thoughts, your prayers and your life on the one who bears the cross on our behalf.

So even if were late to get in gear and focused, Jesus is always glad to welcome prodigals home.

Shalom, Cindy





The Worship Committee is grateful to Arlene and Steve Blythe and Cassie Price for their donations to us.

So, a special THANK YOU to Arlene and Steve for purchasing and replenishing, on an ongoing basis, all the candles we use. And Cassie for lining up our members to serve as Lay Leader and ushers/greeters at our two Sunday morning services.

The continued support of everyone at BACC is incredibly important and all contributions, in whatever form, are very much appreciated. We are blessed to have such a caring and giving family.

We also want to thank Sandy Logan and Cynthia Lehan for recovering our bulletin boards. The boards look great!!!

WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO!!

The JOY group will meet on Wednesday, March 17, 10:30 AM at the church for white elephant bingo. Bring an item that you don't want/need anymore, but in good condition. Also bring your lunch. Coffee and dessert provided. We will play BINGO using "LSM"'s!! Come have fun!!!

Disciples Men's Retreat 2015 April 10-12, 2015

The Disciples Men's Retreat will be held April 10-12 at Chistmount in Black Mountain NC. This year the guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. The full cost of the retreat is \$241.00 for single occupancy and \$160.00 for double occupancy. Roommates may register separately. The cost of the treat includes \$35.00 program fee. Partial retreat packages are available. Full payment is due no later than March 15th. Contact the church office for a registration form.

Disciples Women Retreat June 5-7th at Lynchburg College

The Virginia Regional Disciples Women's Retreat will be June 5-7 at Lynchburg College. This year's theme is "Change." The special guest and keynote speaker will be Rev. Pat Donahoo, Executive Director of the Office of Disciples Women International.

This year a Woman of the Year will be selected at the retreat. Please nominate a person you would like to receive this honor. She should be active in the church. She will be recognized for her contribution, support, leadership, dedication and hard work in God's kingdom. In a few paragraphs describe why you are nominating this person. Send your nomination to Kay Ainsworth 10134 Sycamore Landing Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188 by April 30th. Please include the nominees address, phone and email along with your name, address and email. Enclose a picture if possible.

The cost of the retreat is \$154.00 for single or \$117.00 for double occupancy. The registration fee is \$25.00 if received **in** the regional office by April 18th; \$30.00 if received before May 16 and \$30.00 plus \$10.00 late fee if received in regional office after May 16th. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Christian Church in Virginia School for Congregational Leaders Saturday April 18th First Christian Church Lynchburg

The Christian Church in Virginia is sponsoring the School for Congregational leaders, Saturday, April 18th at First Christian Church in Lynchburg. Learn new skills in: Conflict Management; Digital Reformation (Social Media); Hospital Visitation and Public Speaking. The cost is \$20.00 if received in the regional office before April 1 and \$25.00 if in the regional office after April 1 and before April 10th. Registration forms are available in the church office.



2015 General Assembly is coming!

The 2015 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is set for July 18-22 in Columbus, Ohio and planning is well underway. If you've been before, you'll find a bounty of new worship experiences and learning tracks. If you've never been, there is a website with a wealth of information, including a page just for you. Go to ga.disciples.org to see the schedule, workshop offerings and register online. Register on line if paying by credit/debit card. If you are paying by check you may register by mail. Contact the church office for a registration form. Early registration (ends April 1) is 155.00. After April 1 the cost to register is \$210.00.

Christian Women's Fellowship

The Christian Women's Fellowship is open to all women of the congregation. There are three groups to choose from:

- ⇒ The Day group meets the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be March 10th. Everyone is asked to bring a sandwich to the meeting. Meeting starts at 10:30.
- ⇒ The Evening group 1 meets the first Tuesday of the month in members' homes. The next meeting is March 3rd at Jean Dowdy's at 7:00 p.m. Kitten Whitlow is the group leader.
- ⇒ The Evening group 2 (Salad Group) meets once a month at 6:15 at the church. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11th.



Mark your calendars for Craig Springs Camp!

Registration forms are available in the church office or from a youth group leader. The church will pay for half of the cost of camp. Listed below are camp dates:

Nature Camp: June 22-26 Directors: Lydia Hall and Kim Sherrat

Special Camp June 28 – July 3
Director: Janice Austin

First Triple July 5-10
Directors: Steve & Rhonda Williams

Second Trip - July 12-17
Directors: Robert Sharp and Sarah Trezza (This is the camp most of our Bon Air members attend)

New Covenant/ChiRho: July 19-24 Director: Sally Good

AMPDD Camp July 26-32 Directors Chris and Kim Crowley

Family Retreat July 31 – August 3 Director: Amy Jones

Spring Work Weekend is scheduled for June 5-7th.

2015 Men's and Women's Retreat Craig Springs Camp and Retreat Center July 31 through August 2

This year's Men's and Women's Retreat will be held July 31 through August 2 at Craig Springs Camp and Retreat Center. The theme is "Feeling Overwhelmed : Christ Uplifts and Sustains". The retreat leaders are Tom and Jennifer Larson. The cost of the full retreat is \$100.00. Partial retreat fees are also available. Registration forms for the retreat are available in the church office. Deadline to register is July 1.



BACC collects food to support the Bainbridge Ministry, which helps individuals and families in need. Collection bins for non-perishable foods are located by the church office and in the Fellowship Hallway. Each month, a food or personal care item is suggested for donation. The suggested food for March is **canned vegetables**. If each BACC family brought at least one item per month, multiple families would receive much-needed assistance!

Update from Gerry Roppe'

During the Lenten Season, many of us try to give something up as we walk with Jesus awaiting that wonderful day when He will rise to proclaim the kingdom of God. As most of you know, I have been forced to give up more than I ever imagined due to my failing health. My home, my money, most of my personal property, and my health insurance are gone. Yet, my spirit won't be shaken and neither will my love for you and my devotion to God and Jesus. I have decided to give up some of my idle time and hopefully try to use it in service to others.

I will be starting a faith based support group for people like myself who suffer with Charcot's Disease. I've been a part of the association (cmtausa.org) for 3 years and am ready to take this next step. As a member of Ampower, a nationwide group of amputees, I understand the importance of communicating one's feelings, especially to others in similar circumstances. Hopefully, I'll be able to help in some way.

After nearly 2 years of constant paperwork and insurmountable frustration, the court date for my disability appeal has been set for March 16th. Let us hope and pray that the judge rules in my favor. I have been informed by my attorney that it won't be until about mid-May until he renders and notifies me of his decision.

Please, dear friends, I need your help more than ever. Gayle, my friend who has Alzheimer's disease, moved to a nursing home and my services were no longer needed. Because I had to leave, my expenses have changed dramatically and I have no means of support. You have been so gracious and caring and have literally saved my life. If you could consider helping me out both financially and in your prayers for the next few months, I pledge to you my undying gratitude. I have no one else to turn to. You are more than a "church family". I consider you my family.

As I often say and always mean from the bottom of my heart, please call on me any time should you need somebody to sit with, to run errands, to take you to an appointment...anything. I can't see very well to drive at night but during the daytime and with some advanced notice, I am ready..set..go! My cell number is 503-9074 and I also can be reached at (804)561-2013 which is the land line at the house in Amelia. Thank you and bless you all.....Gerry Roppe'



Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Due to the snow on Ash Wednesday our Prayer Vigil has been rescheduled to Good Friday - April 3rd. A new sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board outside the church office. It is an uplifting experience and a very meaningful way to spend Good Friday, as we remember the sacrificial love of Christ.



Planning Meeting

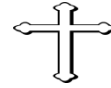
A planning meeting for Vacation Bible School will be held on **Wednesday, March 18th** at the **Panera Bread** on the corner of Midlothian Tnpk and Courthouse Road at **6:00 pm**.

At this meeting we start planning and brainstorming our 2015 VBS program, but we also will be evaluating the 2014 VBS program. If there is something you do not like about the program or have suggestions for change, please come to this meeting. It is your opportunity to speak up!

Anyone and everyone interested in Vacation Bible School is welcome to come to the meeting!

Joan Mielke and Andee Kirk will co-chair again this year and hope everyone will continue to be as generous as they have in the past years. This program takes almost as many volunteers as the children attending.

Our 2015 VBS Program is scheduled for the Week of August 10th in the evening if you would like to mark your calendar.



Faith Trail



On August 10th we will begin our journey on the faith trail during our 2015 VBS Program. We will discover God's plan for each and every one of us as we listen to stories from the Bible each day.

Plan to step out each evening with us as we hike and camp out along the faith trail starting at 5:30 with a kid friendly meal. Along the way we will hear a Bible Story, play games, make a craft project, sing fun Christian songs and end each evening in fellowship at 8 pm in our sanctuary.

Mark your calendars because the hike begins on Monday, August 10th and ends on Friday, August 14th and do not forget to invite your children's friends, grandchildren and neighbors. Everyone is welcomed!

Look for registration forms during the month of April.

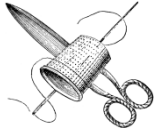
Greeters Needed!

Please consider being a greeter. Cassie Price has sent e-mails to have folks sign up to greet for the early or late service. All of your family is welcomed to greet or if you do not want to be by yourself, have a friend join you.

The biggest asset needed is a SMILE! A smile to welcome our members and visitors as they enter our beautiful church on Sunday mornings. Welcome them, as He welcomes us in all we do in his name.

If you have never been a Greeter before get in touch with Andee Kirk or Cassie Price, they can get you the instructions or meet with you before or after a service and walk you through the responsibilities. It truly is a very simple task but has a big impact, especially with our visitors.

Your service to our church will be appreciated. Cassie Price contacts are: 804 337 1052 or cprice@richmond.edu or Andee Kirk at 804 929 2270 or bobbykirk1@yahoo.com. We hope to hear from many of you!



Sewing Helped Needed

A new silky cloth for the communion table needs to be made. If anyone can help with this project please contact Andee Kirk at 804-929-2270 or bobbykirk1@yahoo.com. Thanks!



Library Corner

Here is a book you may want to read during the month of March:

Todd and Sonja Burpo's tells the much more of their story in the book, [Heaven Changes Everything - The Rest of the Story](#). In the book [Heaven is for Real](#) their almost-four-year-old son Colton made an unforgettable trip to heaven and back during the darkest, most-stressed-out days of their lives. Times were tough, money was scarce and the bills, frustrations, and fears were piled high. The story of Colton's visit to heaven changed their lives—and the book they wrote about it, [Heaven Is for Real](#), gave new hope to millions of readers.

In [Heaven Changes Everything](#), the Burpos share details about their experience and about Colton's visit to heaven that they weren't able to include in the original story or in the Sony Pictures release of the *Heaven Is for Real* movie. Practical and inspiring, the short essays shed light on living with a miracle and the afterlife, each ending with a relevant scripture. Listen in as Todd, and for the first time ever Sonja, from her perspective as a mom, show you how believing heaven is for real helps us survive hardships here on earth

Family Concerns:

Our sympathy is extended to Suzanne, Duke and Anna-Leigh Dale upon the death of mother and grandmother, Dot Morrison.

Our sympathy is extended to Paula Craft and Steve Craft upon the death of their mother, Polly Craft.

Our sympathy is also extended to Shirley and Philip Burkhalter upon the death of Shirley's sister, Ginny McGuire.

We pray for: Cathy Wheless, Lloyd Thacher, Harriet Griggs, Alice Beasley, Alma Spivey, Bruce Macfadden, Natalie Ringel, Shirley Acree and Gerry Roppe'.

Our prayers are with Joe Love and with Bob McGowan who were hospitalized this past month. Bob is recuperating at home. Joe is at St. Francis Hospital.

Our prayers are with: Sophie Sutphin, Juanita Coleman's great granddaughter who is undergoing chemotherapy; Dawn Mooney's sister, Debbie Roben; Jake and Mazie McCann's granddaughter, Jessie Abbate, Duke Dale's sister, Leslie Brinson; Nancy Maiden's brother-in-law John Maiden who has been diagnosed with cancer; Joe Bancroft's friend, Johnny Guilliams who has cancer; Gerry Roppe's Uncle Jack; Shirley Burkhalter's nephew, Kevin McGuire; Shea Hollifield's friend, Denise Ambrose who is being treated for leukemia; Tom Mayfield's friend Mickey Denke; Leigh Anne Phan's friend, Ron Evans; Rhonda Ringel's friend, Evan Smith; Steve Kline's friend, Ed Winfield; Steve Goff's friend, Beth Ann Molter; Peggy Hill; the Landergan's friend, Dan Bickett; Stacy Price; Arlene Blythe's friend, Donna Leake; Hannah Bryant who has leukemia and the Macfadden's friend, Lewis Bell.

Please pray for those who are deployed and serving our country: Captain Nicolle Bernard and Sergeant George Smith. Our prayers are also with Sydney McKenney who is working

**Easter Special Day Offering
Disciples Mission Fund**



The Easter offering (March 29 and April 15) supports the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

This special offering helps address the costs of these and other important outreach programs. The general ministries of the Christian Church provide teaching resources, communication services and support plans for new church growth. Your gift during this season of renewal will strengthen these ministries as they partner to provide assistance in 2015. Please give generously. Our Easter offering goal is \$3,000.00

SERVING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2015

March 1

Elders: 8:45 Joe Bancroft and Janet Lenhart 11:00 Bud Deihl and Janet Lenhart
Deacons: 8:45 Tom Snodgrass (P), Lauren Johnson
11:00 Rick Bernard (P), Connor Kirk, Paul Seemiller, Joan Mielke
Worship Leaders: 8:45 Jane McKinley 11:00 Kitten Whitlow
Acolyte: 11:00 Logan Blanchard Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Robin Blanchard
Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Emily Rush 11:00 Hannah and Zachary Moon

March 8

Elders: Joe Bancroft, Bill Sydnor
Deacons: 8:45 Tom Mayfield (P), Joe Smith
11:00 Daniel Whitlow (P), Jerrell Todd, Whitney Graham, Carol McGowan
Worship Leaders 8:45 Sara Reese 11:00 Shea Hollifield
Acolyte: 11:00 Logan Blanchard Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Barbara Bancroft
Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Maddie/Mallory Smith 11:00 Laura Hollis
Greeter: 8:45The Smith Family 11:00

March 15 Youth Sunday

Elders: Sydney Batton and Maddie Smith
Deacons: 8:45 Bryahna Raine, Sarah Spencer Lehan
11:00 Lilly Ver Beek, Sarah Boger, Schyler Fearnley, Reese Blanchard
Worship Leaders: 8:45 Parker Landergan 11:00 Logan Blanchard
Acolyte: Josh Brink Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Allison Landergan
Worship & Wonder Helper: Cassie Collins and Mallory Smith
Usher/Greeter: Youth Group

March 22

Elders: Barbara Bancroft, Duke Dale
Deacons: 8:45 Jeanne Brock (P), Carol McGowan
11:00 Doug White (P), Ian Thomas, Lauren Johnson, Polly White
Worship Leaders: 8:45 Steve Goff 11:00 Doug White
Acolyte: 11:00 Audrey Kate Duke Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Maggie Pace
Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Ben Pace 11:00 Jean Dowdy
Usher/Greeters: 8:45 Angie Goff 11:00 Steve Craft

March 29

Elders: Shea Hollifield and Frank Clark
Deacons: 8:45 Cathy Law (P), Tom Snodgrass
11:00 Joan Mielke (P), Jerrell Todd, Daniel Whitlow, Whitney Graham
Worship Leaders: 8:45 Jane McKinley 11:00 Shea Hollifield
Acolyte: 11:00 Reese Blanchard Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Deb Romig
Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Sandy Collins 11:00 Hannah and Zachary Moon
Usher/Greeter: 8:45 Sandy Logan and Madison Whitney 11:00 Paula Craft

Offering: Barbara Bancroft and Kris Shouldice (P) denotes communion preparation