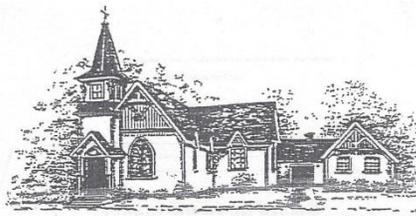


Bon Air Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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N. Chesterfield, VA 23235
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baccdoc@verizon.net
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No. 54 Volume 11 November 2015

Ready for worship

While reflecting on communion a minister told the story about her daughter. She said, "My daughter is three. Recently she asked me, "Mom, is Jesus real or pretend?" I said, "Jesus is real, we just can't see him all the time." She responded with the classic, "Why?" So I said, "Well, he doesn't walk around like we do, but he does live in our hearts." My daughter was quiet for a while. Then she put her hands on her chest. When I asked her what she was doing she replied, "I am trying to feel Jesus in my heart but I can't, so I think he must be in my tummy."

The minister reflected that in light of the gospel what her daughter said makes sense. "Jesus gives himself to us fully in communion. When we receive the bread and wine, we swallow a tangible promise—that we abide with Jesus and that he abides within us. That promise enters our bodies and literally becomes a part of us."

Communion for our church is the central focus of worship. Some folks come to Sunday school and "skip" worship. I would be lost without worship. How important it is to me to be in the sanctuary, to be fed week after week. To come around the table and be reminded that there is one who abides with us, who is a part of us and whom communes with us every Sunday.

Worship is that wonderful time when God's word speaks. A word of comfort, a word of challenge, a sustaining and nourishing word is given to us. Worship is that moment when God dresses us up and sends us into the world to make the world better. Worship is when we bring our whole hearts, our being, our soul and offer it to God for God's consecration.

During the silent moments of worship we offer our wordless adoration. When we sing we lift up our lives and are bathed in God's spirit. We must come ready to worship – ready to open our lives for God's transforming power, ready to hear a new word for our lives and ready to be called and sent out into ministry.

Blessings

Cindy 

Family Concerns:

Please keep Ruth Ann Bates in your prayers as she continues to recuperate at home from surgery on her aortic valve.

Please pray for Steve Craft who has been diagnosed with lymphoma. Our prayers are also with Joe Bancroft, who underwent surgery on Thursday.

Please pray for Arlene Blythe's cousin, Terry Tynan who has cancer.

Our prayers are with: "Chico" Alfred Dyett who has Multiple Sclerosis; Steve Kline's niece, Suzy Street who has a neurological disease; Jan Skeens who has a kidney disease; Harriet Griggs; Bob McGowan; Shirley Acree; Helen Macklin's daughter, Cindy; Dawn Mooney's sister, Debbie Roben; Duke Dale's sister, Leslie Brinson; Joe Bancroft's friend, Johnny Williams 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; Steve Kline's friend, Ed Winfield; Steve Goff's friend, Beth Ann Molter; Rhonda Ringel's friends, Hailey Lane and Harrison Zierenberg; Peggy Hill; the Landergan's friend, Dan Bickett; Stacy Price; Arlene Blythe's friend, Donna Leake; Hannah Bryant who has leukemia and the Macfaddens friends, Barbara and Lewis Bell.

Minister Appreciation

October was official Clergy Appreciation Month which was mistakenly forgotten so let's make November our month to show our appreciation to Cindy! Any time of year is the right time to honor Cindy for all she does daily for each one of us. She is always there willing to listen when we have concerns and stresses going on in your lives. Each Sunday she prepares a wonderful message to keep our spirits nourished. Now it is our turn to tell her how much we appreciate all she does for each one of us especially as 2015 draws to an end.

– Andee Kirk, Worship Committee Chair

DECORATE the Church

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 Friday, November 27th beginning at 9:30 a.m. If you can't stay for the entire morning, come and stay as long as you can.

Please let Cindy know if you can come help by calling the office and leaving a message with Becky. Many folks that usually come help will not be available. Many hands make the work lighter.

Thanks to our Habitat for Humanity volunteers!



In September Tim and Cathy Vaden and Frank and Diane Clark worked on the Habitat home. It was a rainy Saturday but we worked inside on interior trim. We worked hard alongside the homeowner. It was a fun day for all of us. The house will be completed before the holidays.



***Sunday, November 1
immediately following
the 11:00 worship service.***

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Advent Devotions booklets will be available for all who attend worship on either of the two Sundays before Advent -- Nov. 15th and Nov. 22nd. They will also be available for pick up in the church office. If you are unable to come to church and would like a booklet, call the church office and one will either be mailed or delivered to you.

Food for Bainbridge

An ongoing ministry of BACC is the collection of non-perishable food for the Bainbridge ministry. Suggested food donations for November: hot and cold cereals. Collection bins are located by the church office and the Fellowship Hallway. Thank you for your generosity.

Reaching out to Thanksgiving and Christmas Families

It's that time of the year again; Thanksgiving and Christmas are around the corner. We will be helping seven families for Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. We are working with three schools in our area. The food collection baskets are in the hallways and you can also help by making a donation. Please make



checks payable to the church but write Thanksgiving families on the envelope. The Thanksgiving food and money donations are due on Nov. 19th.

The Christmas Mother Trees will be out shortly. We will be working with local families and several church members who are part of our Armed Services. Keep your eye out for our special tree.



Begin your Thanksgiving Day by giving Thanks to the one who is the giver of every good and perfect gift. Our Thanksgiving Day Worship service will be at 8:45. Following the service, join us for a potluck brunch. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship and let us give thanks to the one who gives every good and perfect gift.

Please join us for the Christian Women's Fellowship!

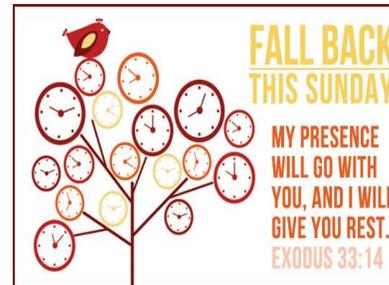
There are three groups and we would love to see you at any or all of them.

The morning group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30. The next meeting will be November 10th. Please bring a sandwich for lunch.

There are two evening groups.

The Salad Group meets the second Wednesday of each month at the church. One person in the group will bring the salad greens and everyone else brings things to add to the salad. The group meets, eats and shares in a time of study and reflection. Their next meeting is November 11th.

The other evening group meets the first Tuesday (November 3rd) of every month in a member's home at 7:00. November's meeting will be at Barbara Bancroft's.



October 31 Reminder:

Go ahead get an extra hour shut eye and don't forget to turn your clocks back Saturday night before you go to bed on October 31st.

The time of our **Saturday Casual Worship Service** will change to 4:00 p.m. beginning November 7th.

BACC has received the following thank you notes:

Dear Cindy and the BACC Community,

I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for my family, and particularly for my dad in his final days. I think I mentioned this, but you were his final visitor, the night before he passed away. I know that your presence allowed him to feel safe moving on to the place he is now. It was an incredible gift to him, and so for us as well. Your kindness and calming presence around those final days brought me much comfort. We couldn't have asked for a better service or a more generous community to host our good-byes to dad. Please share and extend my most heartfelt, warmest and most sincere thanks to everyone at Bon Air Christian. I hope to visit when I am in town. Dad found so much comfort and inspiration there, and I do as well.

Most Sincerely,
Anne Love

Dear Members of the Bon Air Christian Church,

I apologize to everyone for taking so long to express my thanks and appreciation to you for everything you did for Joe during his illness, for the beautiful and moving memorial service and the reception afterwards.

I know you that you know how blessed you are to be members of this church. The care and devotion toward each other is a supreme example of Christian love. Joe loved this church and I cannot thank you enough for being there for him.

It gives me and my family peace and comfort to know that he had so much love and support helping him prepare for his meeting with our Lord.

Blessings to you all.
Patty and Ann Love

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful card and your well wishes.

I know with God's loving heart and your prayers I will feel much better.

Thanks again for thinking about me.

Sincerely,
Jan Skeens

Hello,

I would like to thank everyone for calls, cards, visits and flowers during my hospital stay.

Love to all,
Mazie McCann



From the Micah Initiative:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$450.00 to the Micah program of Richmond Hill.

This ministry depends for its life on the generosity of those who pray and work with us. We are very grateful for your contribution.

We hope you will join us in daily prayer for Metropolitan Richmond, in the way that feels appropriate for you. Our community's weekly rhythm of prayer is printed in our monthly update newsletter.

Please avail yourself of the hospitality and grace of this community and monastery whenever you wish. Thank you for being a steward with us of this monastery and this ministry.

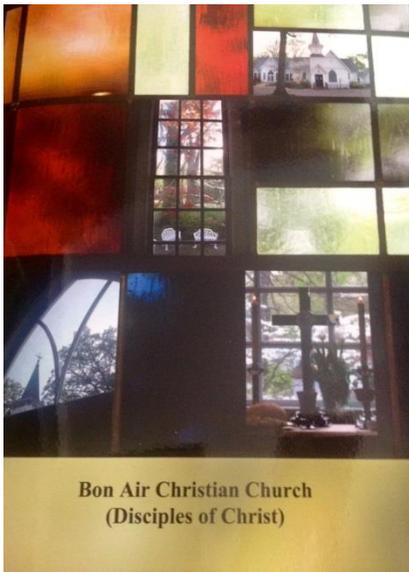
Blessings,
Don Cowles Council President and
The Rev. Robert Hetherington
(Development Committee Chair)

Update to your new church directory:

Gerry Roppe
512 Edgewater Drive
Ellenton, FL 34222
(804) 503-9074
napper11@live.com

Richard Seeds
2141 Old Indian Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235
272 3551
jseeds1131@verizon.net

Mary Ellen Cummins
1941 Denton Drive
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235
249-9787
midgecummins@aol.com



Thank you Janet!
A special thank you
is extended to Janet Lenhart for
the design layout of our new
church directory.



Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve.

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps underwrite the education of students attending one of our fourteen undergraduate institutions and our seven seminaries or divinity houses.

Your financial gift provides scholarships and support for spiritual life offices. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering you are investing in our students and helping keep education costs down. The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for those pursuing theological education at one of our seven seminaries or divinity houses. Consider the many generations of pastors, who, if not for the support of faithful congregations and individuals over the ages would not have flourished as our pastors, teachers and leaders. What impact has your pastor had in the life of your church, community or region? You can thank them by supporting the Thanksgiving Offering.

Attending a Disciples College or Theological School is possible through the scholarships and grants that are made available by generous individuals, the Disciples Mission Fund and your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering.

[Please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving Offering.](#) The Thanksgiving Special Day offering will be received November 8th and 15th.



Youth Group

Youth Group has had lots of fun this year. We kicked off with games and picnic dinner at the Ver Beek's home. At our last meeting started working on the Christmas Pageant.

On November 1st we will walk in the Crop Walk and still need sponsors. Each Youth has set a goal of \$100. We will prepare a meal for the CARITAS families on Sunday evening November 8th. On Friday, November 20th we will have a lock-in. Look for e-mails with more detailed information. Youth, remember your friends are always welcomed to all Youth Group events – the more the merrier!

Thank you from Bud and Susan Deihl

Susan and I want to thank Bon Air Christian Church for supporting our annual bagpipe concert. We are especially thankful for members who helped us set up and clean up following the concert.

This year's concert was the 15th year and again, the sanctuary was packed with visitors from near and far; some as far away as Kentucky. The concert and the reception that follows are always free and is our gift to the community. It is also an opportunity to expose and share Bon Air Christian Church with those who attend and has in some cases resulted in new membership.

The theme of this year's concert was a Touch O' the Pipe and for me, it was a meditation on how the pipe touches and impacts people and in some cases, changes their lives. In keeping with the theme, donations have always been shared to further the study of piping and change the lives of some young people who may not otherwise have an opportunity attend special workshops. This year donations are being shared with the Greater Richmond Pipes and Drums band and with Bon Air Christian Church to support our refugee family mission. It gives us great pleasure to share this music, great food, and love to all those who are touched either directly or indirectly by this event.

Thank you again for all the years of support. We look forward to next October. Shalom, Bud and Susan Deihl

Library Corner

David and Goliath - Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants

by Malcolm Gladwell.

We all know that underdogs can win—that's what the David versus Goliath legend tells us, and we've seen it with our own eyes. Or have we? In *David and Goliath*, Malcolm Gladwell, with his unparalleled ability to grasp connections others miss, uncovers the hidden rules that shape the balance between the weak and the mighty, the powerful and the dispossessed. Gladwell examines the battlefields of Northern Ireland and Vietnam, takes us into the minds of cancer researchers and civil rights leaders, and digs into the dynamics of successful and unsuccessful classrooms—all in an attempt to demonstrate how fundamentally we misunderstand the true meaning of advantages and disadvantages. When is a traumatic childhood a good thing? When does a disability leave someone better off? Do you really want your child to go to the best school he or she can get into?



Drawing upon psychology, history, science, business, and politics, *David and Goliath* is a beautifully written book about the mighty leverage of the unconventional. Millions of readers have been waiting for the next Malcolm Gladwell book. That wait is over.

Hand-made Holiday Market and Auction

On Sunday December 6th our Youth Group will be hosting our first Hand-made Holiday Market and Auction after church services and before the Hanging of the Greens dinner and service.

The youth need donations of your time or talent for the market such as: Arts & Crafts items such as paintings, photography, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, wreaths, aprons, etc; special services such as a gourmet dinner, tax preparation, babysitting, etc; a special hobby or skill you could teach such as sewing, crocheting or knitting or bake goods such as bread, a cake or a pie. Please contact Andee Kirk at 804 929 2270 or Cecelia Andrick at 804 840 3727.

The Longest Ride of My Life

By the time that you read this note, I should already be arriving at my new home near Sarasota, Florida. With my van fully loaded and Ziggy meowing directions at me, the journey begins on the morning of November 1. It's a long ride and a library of over 30 hours of "travel tunes" should help. But the "piece de resistance" is Betty Johnson my chauffeur. My friend, Betty who lives in Hampton, offered to drive us. She is retired and as a part-time driver for Enterprise, she's on the road for 10 hours a day dropping off vehicles throughout Virginia. "Piece of cake" she told me. She'll soon discover that there's nothing in my life that's a piece of cake. As my buddy Wayno says, "Gerry, you're a hard person to forget". What a trooper. What a wonderful gift from God. Betty, you are amazing!

Richmond has been my home for nearly half of my life. I first walked through the front door of our sanctuary 27 years ago with a beautiful and statuesque woman on my arm who 3 years later would become my wife. Carol and I were married here by Cindy in the Spring of 1991. For the next 14 years we rarely missed a Sunday. You could find us in either the choir loft or as I still call it "row 2, cushion 1, seats 1 and 2". During that period, I served as a deacon, Elder, outside property chair, choir member, and Board Chairman. I was even allowed to teach Sunday school a couple of times and for an encore after a stiff Easter morning breeze propelled the offering in many directions, Don Barefoot relieved me of that part of my Stewardship committee's duties. Those were the finest years of my life and I so dearly loved being in this building. Carol's passing in 2005 was a turning point in my life and quite honestly I was mad at God. I began to hide, more often than not, in the bottom of a vodka bottle.

Then in May of 2007 my mother died. In 7 years I lost my parents and my wife and quite honestly, I was on the verge of checking out myself. Cindy's words of assurance, the music, and all of you were the glue that got me through those memorial services and beyond. That was merely the beginning.

I know with absolute clarity that I would not be alive if not for you. All the aches and pains I suffer through every day of my life have a label attached (Charcot's) to them and although incurable, I now have hope. When everything seemed so dim, it was you who lit my path with your prayers. When I became absolutely penniless, it was you who gave me food and shelter. When I came back to BACC and decided to give myself to God, you welcomed me back as if I never left. And so I depart, floating in a cloud of anxious expectation. With you in my left pocket, God in my right, and the absolute undying love of Jesus in my heart, I begin this new journey. Let us vow to never stop praying. Every minute of every day, someone is in need. I love you dear friends. With utmost pride, praise and joy I declare,

"God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; holy wings securely hide you, daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again. God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you, put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again."

Today and always,
Gerry Roppe'

JOY Group November 17th

Jim Rice, Laura's cousin, will present an accordion concert on November 17, 10:30 AM, at the church. It will be a pot-luck luncheon and our hostesses will be Mary Ann Casdia and Jamie McDonald.

Jim is President of Accordion Renaissance, which is a public benefit corporation organization that offers a variety of programs, service and events that promote the accordion instrument.

And he has been playing the accordion "all his life". We have a member of the JOY group who used to play the accordion!!! Who could that be?

SERVING SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2015

November 1

Elders: Bud Deihl, Janet Lenhart

Deacons: 8:45 Jamie McDonald (P), Tom Snodgrass

11:00 Rick Bernard (P), Connor Kirk, Paul Seemiller, Cathy Law

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Maddie Smith 11:00 Cathy Law

Acolyte: 11:00 Bryahna Mooney

Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Gail Macfadden

Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 11:00 Ann Thomas

Usher/Greeters 8:45 Janie and Jim Severance 11:00 Claire Deitch

November 8

Elders: Frank Clark, Bill Sydnor

Deacons: 8:45 Tom Mayfield (P), Joe Smith

11:00 Connor Kirk (P), Jerrell Todd, Daniel Whitlow, Jamie McDonald

Worship Leaders 8:45 Joan Mielke 11:00 Kitten Whitlow

Acolyte:

Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Robin Blanchard

Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Madison Arthur 11:00 Jean Dowdy

Usher/Greeters: 8:45 Janie and Jim Severance 11:00 Jean Turlington

November 15

Elders: Steve Kline, Shea Hollifield

Deacons: 8:45 George Smith (P), Sandy Collins

11:00 Clairee Cochran (P), Jamie McDonald, Laura Hollis, Arlene Giffel

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Sandy Collins 11:00 Barbara Bancroft

Acolyte:

Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Madelyn Smith

Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Mallory Smith 11:00 Rose McCaferty

Usher/Greeters 8:45 Janie and Jim Severance 11:00 Claire Deitch

November 22

Elders: Barbara Bancroft, Duke Dale

Deacons: 8:45 Jeanne Brock (P), Carol McGowan

11:00 Doug White (P), Collin Thomas, Lauren Johnson, Polly White

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Cathy Law 11:00 Zachary Moon

Acolyte: 11:00 Audrey Duke

Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Andee Kirk

Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Taylor Brooks 11:00 Maddy Boger

Usher/Greeters: 8:45 Janie and Jim Severance 11:00

November 29

Elders: Joe Bancroft, Duke Dale

Deacons: 8:45 Tom Snodgrass (P), Jeanne Brock

11:00 Jamie McDonald (P), Clairee Cochran, Arlene Giffel, Cathy Law

Worship Leaders: 8:45 Steve Goff 11:00 Kitten Whitlow

Acolyte:

Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Cassie Price

Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Cassie Collins 11:00 Martha Seemiller

Offering: Barbara Bancroft and Kris Shouldice; Rose and Jim McCaferty
(P) denotes communion preparation