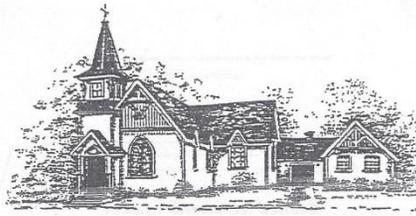


Bon Air Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2071 Buford Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235
804-272-6228
baccdoc@verizon.net
<http://www.baccdoc.org>



May 2016

Dear friends:

Exciting things are happening at Bon Air Christian Church. Sitina, Ahmed and Abdi arrived. It is a joy to welcome these very kind friends and to help them build a new life. They endured much hardship when they fled for their lives from Ethiopia to a Kenyan refugee camp. They are so grateful and we are so grateful that God called us to reach out and help these friends in need. How happy we are to make such a significant difference in their lives.

We are also helping those in the community by feeding the homeless shelter and welcoming CARITAS. Our Caritas guests will arrive for their week at Bon Air Christian Church on May 28th.

Our Associate Minister Search Committee is diligently at work and our Sunday school classes, fellowship groups and committees continue on going vital ministries. **We do need you.** We need your participation and enthusiasm. If we are to have a positive and uplifting children's ministry we need parents to affirm our ministry by bringing children to Sunday school, worship and youth group. As it has been said, "it takes a village." It does take all of us being involved, engaged and committed.

The last day of Sunday school for the summer is May 22nd. I would like to thank all of our Sunday school teachers who take time to study and prepare so that they can share the good news with us. The fellowship class does continue on throughout the summer. We will recognize our youth group leaders and Sunday school teachers on May 1st and express our gratitude to them for their dedication.

One more proverbial phrase – the measure you give is the measure that comes back to you. When we become involved and give of ourselves we find that we get back so very much. We are fed spiritually as we reach out to others. Our souls are nourished whenever we are doing God's work. I continually give thanks for the privilege of sharing with you in ministry.

Shalom,
Cindy



Prayer Concerns:

Our sympathy is extended to Lou Scharon and Kate Burns upon the death of Joe Burns. Joe was Kate's son and Lou's grandson.

Our sympathy is extended to Linda Mills upon the death of her father, Bill Thornton.

We pray for Lloyd Thacher, Arlette Brown and Philip Burkhalter who are at the Laurels at Bon Air.

Please pray for:

- Wendy Etz's father Patrick Malone who was hospitalized this past month.
- Chris Bates who is undergoing treatment for esophageal cancer.
- Robin Lorraine who has a brain tumor.
- Linda Verheul who had back surgery this past month.
- Danny Simmons and Joe Atherton, who had knee replacement
- Maddie Smith as she continues her treatment.
- Peggye Alcock and Carnell Teachey continue recovering at home.

Our prayers are with: Carol McGowan's uncle, Fred McIntosh; Marjean Bernard's sister, Teresa; Arlene Blythe's cousin, Terry Tynan; Pete Landergan's friend, Meredith Britton; Guy Barker's brother-in-law ;"Chico" Alfred Dyett who has Multiple Sclerosis; Steve Kline's niece, Suzy Street who has a neurological disease; Gerry Roppe'; Bob McGowan; Dawn Mooney's sister, Debbie Roben; 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 and Hannah Bryant who has leukemia.

BACC has received the following thank you notes:

Dear Cindy and Church Family,

We thank you so much for your prayers, beautiful cards, food, phone calls, gifts and heartfelt wishes. The church family is a blessing and is always close to our hearts.

Love,
Iva and Carnell Teachey

BACC Family,

Thank you all for the out pouring of support that you have showed us the last few weeks. The phone calls, cards, texts, and hugs have made us feel so loved and supported. We are so grateful to have such a wonderful group of people to call our church family!

Many Thanks,
Katie & Joe Smith

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of the cards, visits and phone calls that I received since the death of my daughter Cindi. I thank you for the prayers during her illness.

Helen Macklin

Dear Friends at BACC,

I thank you for your support during my treatment for lymphoma and all other times as well. Your food, cards, calls and prayers were and are much appreciated. I am sure that prayers were the key to my recovery.

Because of your support along with my family, I was never afraid or left alone. Maybe it was my ignorance, but during the six months of treatment I felt comfort and assurance that the outcome would be positive.

Thank you,
Steve Craft

Dear BACC Family,

Thanks so very much for the visits, flowers, and many cards. I am slowly recovering at home in part because of your love and support.

Peggye Alcoke

Dear BACC Congregation

My family and I would like to thank you for the outpouring of love and support you showed us when my father, Bill Thornton, passed away. Cindy officiated over a lovely memorial service at the church, and Wendy Sydnor, Susan Baum and Laura Hollis provided us with hospitality and comfort.

Although dad was not a long-time attendee at BACC, having only moved to Richmond in 2003, he was a life-long Disciples of Christ member. He felt like BACC was his church home.

We are honored at the love you showed us.

Love,
Linda, David, Kendall and Ian Mills

Thank you for my Retirement Celebration

Thank you all for my retirement celebration! Thank you for making me feel so blessed! Thank you for all the beautiful gifts—the wreath, letter album, signed picture of the church, all the posters and verses, decorations, the luncheon and the generous check. Thank you for all the time and effort to make my celebration so special.

For the past 25 years you have been my family. You have shared my joys and sorrows and I have shared yours. Thank you for being a part of my life.

It has been my privilege to be a part of such a faithful, loving, kind, caring, generous, thoughtful and forgiving congregation. You made me a better person.

You will always have a special place in my heart.

This is not good-bye. We will start a new journey together. I look forward to continuing a future fellowship and service together.

Love,
Becky

Caritas 2016

Virginia Disciples Women Ministries 2016 Retreat “Just Breathe”

Finding our Sabbath time and being in the moment with God

The Virginia Disciples Women Ministries 2016 retreat will be Friday July 15th through Sunday morning July 17th at Lynchburg College. This year’s retreat speaker is Rev. Linda Whitmire, a Disciple minister and retreat leader from Atlanta, GA.

This year’s theme is “Just Breathe”. Retreat highlights:
The retreat is open to all Disciples women.

The retreat starts with dinner on Friday evening, July 15th. There are various registration options. If desired, retreat participants may choose to stay off campus at a location of their choice.

Contact the church office for a registration form. Registrations and fees are due by June 30th. Make check payable to Christian Church in Virginia and mail to Christian Church in Virginia, 1290 Enterprise Dr. Lynchburg, VA 24502.

If you have any questions about the retreat, contact Cathy Law or Andee Kirk.



If you are graduating from high school, college or other learning institute this spring, please contact the church office. Please include where you are graduating from as well as any plans made for after graduation. Graduate recognition is scheduled for Sunday, June 5th.

May 28 to June 4

BACC will host the CARITAS single women’s program from May 28 to June 4. During this time homeless women will spend the nights at Bon Air Christian Church. We will provide them with breakfast in the morning, dinner in the evening and a bag lunch to take on their way during the day.

We will need a large number of committed volunteers to make this week successful. We will need people to provide food for breakfast, bag lunches and a hot dinner each night. We will need volunteers to spend the night at church to be on call as needed, a lead volunteer each night, folks to help with laundry and transport to showers. On-line sign-up can be accessed at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1swUlWZIRJY6TyhIBPkbyMJ03edphNi11Ei7hP9shfUk/edit#gid=0> and a sign-up poster is on the bulletin board outside the office. Please consider ways you can help the homeless.

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you as stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the King will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:35-41

What is the Micah Initiative?



Micah

Our church has five volunteers that participate in the Micah Initiative and go to Redd Elementary at 5601 Jahnke Rd. Micah places over a thousand volunteers from 130 faith communities in 23 Richmond City elementary schools. The faith communities are Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim. The purpose of the volunteers is to enable every child feel that "I can achieve".

This 2015-2016 school year is moving toward the end of the year. There have been several Kindergarten students that stick out in my mind as benefiting from attention, encouragement, and extra help in mastering a skill. I have worked with four students that could not write their name earlier in the school year. One gained more self-control and attention to his work and with much practice can now nicely write his name. One made improvement but still needs practice so that all the letters are legible. The third student no longer scribbles across the name line and is forming many of the letters. The fourth student had much farther to go and with one to one work can now name most of the letters of his name and form half the letters when each is demonstrated.

You might say, that is not for me, that progress is too slow. However for these children this is progress for which they are very proud. When I sit with a group that is practicing identifying the beginning sound of pictures on cards. It is a pleasure to see the progress that is made by those that move from struggling to mastery. To become a reader there are many skills involved with letters and sounds that must be learned.

I love working with struggling students because I know how quickly students decide that they are not smart and that the hard work that is needed to progress is not worth it. I want the children who are struggling to see that hard work is worth it and that they are smart even if school work remains a challenge. My hope is that one day they understand that there are many different ways one can be smart so they can develop their gifts and talents to be the most that they can be. What more could a volunteer want?

There are so many different ways that you can volunteer at Redd Elementary School. No matter what your interest or skill, there are children with which you can work as a mentor, lunch buddy, tutor, helper in the classroom, run a reading group during lunch, or work with a group of advanced students. Even if you don't want to work with students, a job can be found for you. Think about if you have an hour or two a week to help. A job utilizing your talents can be found. Volunteering is flexible and missing a week when you go out of town is done by everyone. You are welcome to tour the school, meet staff, and observe one of our volunteers if you think you may be interested. Redd would love to have you.

For more information contact Barbara Bancroft at 804-204-1688.

SAVE THE DATE

On October 23, 2016 there is going to be a luncheon after the 11:00 service to celebrate Cindy Stratton's 30th year as minister of Bon Air Christian Church. Be sure to mark your calendar! More information will follow once plans get finalized.

**Vacation Bible School
Now and Forever Land
August 8 - 12**

Registration is open for children ages 3 years to rising 6th graders. Children must be potty trained. Nursery is provided for children up to age 2. For more information please contact the church at 272-6228. To register, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phones: Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Email Address: _____

Child's Age & Birthday: _____ Last school grade completed _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Relationship to child: _____ Phone: _____

Food Allergies/Other Medical conditions: _____

These persons can pick up this child from VBS:
(name) _____ (relationship to child) _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date _____

Each day we have a color of the day and if your child would like to wear those colors they are: Monday – Orange; Tuesday – Blue; Wednesday – Red; Thursday – Yellow; Friday - Green. On Monday we will be using FABRIC MARKERS. Please dress child appropriately.

**Craig Springs
Work Weekend
June 10-12**

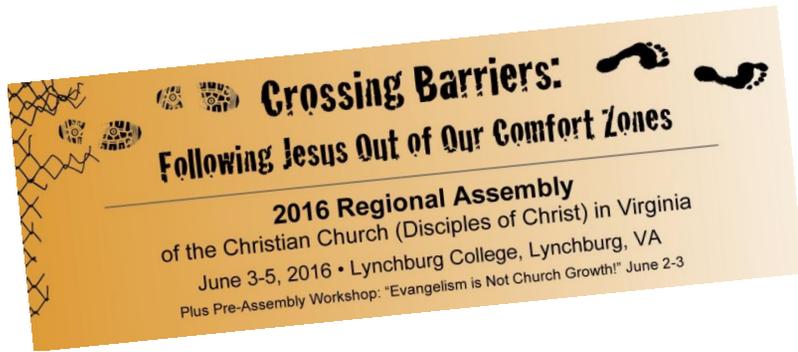
Craig Springs Work Weekend is scheduled for June 10 – 12. Work Weekend is a free event open to anyone. The camp provides food, indoor lodging, and friendly fellowship in exchange for labor. There are tasks suitable for all ages and abilities. Come alone, or with a group.

This work weekend event provides an opportunity for you to share with others how outdoor ministry has affected your spiritual life. The facility of Craig Springs cannot grow and prosper if its supporters do not grow and prosper.

Because food and lodging requires careful planning it is essential that participants register in advance, even if you are coming for only one day. All youth 18 and under must have adult supervision. Adult leaders should be prepared to work with their youth as a group or as part of a larger group. Adult leaders must also lodge with their youth.

Contact the church office for a Work Weekend Registration form.





Join Disciples from across the state for a weekend of interest sessions, worship, fellowship, as well as doing the work of the region together.

The 172nd Regional Assembly will be held June 3-5 at Lynchburg College. The theme is “Crossing Barriers: Following Jesus out of our Comfort Zones.” Special events this year is “First! Mission Gathering and a Celebration of Craig Springs and 40 years of Nature Camp.

There will also be a Pre-Assembly workshop June 2-3 entitled: Evangelism is Not Church Growth! with Rick Morse.

Contact the church office for a registration form and let the office know if you are interested in serving as a delegate. Early bird discount deadline is April 15. Registration due by May 16. After May 16 late fees apply.

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 May 10th. *This will be the last meeting until fall.* It will be a brunch and everyone is asked to bring a brunch item to share. Meeting begins at 10:30.

The **Evening group 1** meets the first Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is May 2 at 7:00 at Jean Dowdy’s. 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 May 11th.

Please update your email directory with the following:

Susan Deihl
roundoor@gmail.com

Now and Forever Land Vacation Bible School August 8 – 12

Summer is approaching and now is the time to register for Vacation Bible School.

Our stories from the Old and New Testament will explore heaven and we will talk about how we can live our lives to create a heaven on earth.

Three year old children that are potty trained to rising 5th graders are welcome to participate. A nursery for the younger child will be provided.

Vacation Bible School will start with the children coming at 5:15 p.m. and being served a kid friendly meal at 5:30. Parents are welcome to stay for dinner. The program will end with a closing assembly at 7:50 in the sanctuary.

Be sure to let all your family, friends and neighbors know about this wonderful opportunity. We love to get to know your grandchildren, nieces and nephews!

Fill out the registration form included in the newsletter and leave it in the church office. And look for further details on the bulletin boards throughout the church.



BACC has also received these thank you notes:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being Christmount's partner in ministry through a gift to the 2016 Patrons Association. Your contribution is truly a blessing and is deeply appreciated by our staff and administrative board.

Your thoughtfulness enables Christmount to continue to improve its ministry. Your patron's gift is crucial in helping this ministry provide the place, the programs and the personnel that give children, youth and adults the opportunity for life-changing experiences. Know that your partnership in this ministry that touches so many lives for Christ is cherished.

Yours in Christ,
Michael P. Murphy
Executive Director

Dear Friends of LTS at Bon Air Christian Church,

The Lexington Seminary community is blessed by your generosity and kindness. We thank you for valuing the work of the seminary and joining with us in preparing men and women for service in Christ's church.

When students reflect upon their opportunity to attend LTS; words can't describe how enthusiastic and appreciative they are to be in the Seminary's Master of Divinity program. If they could speak to you face to face they would thank you for helping make their seminary education possible. So, on their behalf, thanks for your partnership and good gift of \$1,200.00.

Sincerely,
Mark V. Blankenship
Vice President for Advancement

Dear Pastor Stratton,

Thank you for your donation of \$750 to Habitat Powhatan. We couldn't accomplish our mission of building and preserving affordable housing in Powhatan County without donations like yours.

The Coon family moved in late last year thanks to volunteers from Bon Air Christian. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Terry Paquette

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of Lynchburg College. By making your gift of \$175 to the Annual Fund – President's Fund, you have joined the faculty and staff in our mission to produce the leaders & citizens of tomorrow.

The Lynchburg College experience provides students with opportunities for life. Your support helps LC students discover their talents and find their voices, connect and collaborate with peers and mentors, and achieve excellence in their careers, communities and around the world.

When you invest in Lynchburg College, you aren't just giving to students, buildings, teams, programs, and endowment, or even to an institution – you are changing the world, one student at a time.

Sincerely,
Denise McDonald
Lynchburg College

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$450 on 3/7/2016 to the Micah program of Richmond Hill. The ministry depends for its life on the generosity of those who pray and work with us. We are very grateful for your contribution.

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 Cowels &
Rev. Robert G. Hetherington

A Celebration of New Beginnings!

After a long journey extended by delayed flights, our refugee family safely arrived in Richmond on April 8. Sitina and her sons Abdi and Ahmed ages 17 and 15, initially stayed in a hotel for a couple days. With the help of many BACC members and generous donations, the family moved into a fully furnished apartment in Willow Oaks Apartments on April 11. It was an exciting day, with Sitina stating “I so happy, my family!” as she came to realize that they would be living in a safe place. It has been a blessing for each of us as we have come to know the family. Sitina, Abdi and Ahmed are warm and friendly people who have repeatedly expressed their appreciation for all they have been given. Sitina says she wanted to come to the US so that her sons can receive an education. She did not get to go to school as a child, while each of her boys attended school into middle school.

Sitina and her sons have had a long and often frightening journey from their home country of Ethiopia to the United States. In 2007, they fled Ethiopia, after Sitina’s husband was jailed for political reasons, then released and badly beaten. Fearful for his family’s safety, he told Sitina to leave immediately with their sons. She did so, without returning home to pack anything. They have had no contact with him since then and do not know if he survived. Out of concern for their relatives’ safety, Sitina and the boys have had no contact with them since they fled Ethiopia. In Kenya, the police were often corrupt, demanding money from them. The family eventually lived in an apartment building with other refugees. Sitina worked at various jobs, and Abdi worked in a clothing store for the past two years.

Sitina is learning English, while Abdi and Ahmed learned to speak and read English while in Kenya.

For Ethiopians, family relationships are very important. Children are given their father’s name for their middle name and their paternal grandfather’s name for the surname.

In the weeks ahead, Abdi and Ahmed will be enrolled in school with Richmond City, and we will work with Church World Service to find employment for Sitina. We will continue to support the family with some financial assistance, but our friendships with them are most important. They will need help with transportation for shopping, medical appointments, ESL classes and perhaps to work. They look forward to joining us for worship on May 1, so that they can meet more of their BACC friends.



A “selfie” taken by Ahmed after the family arrived in the US.

Craig Springs Camp Schedule

Registration forms are available in the church office. The church will pay for half of the cost of camp. Registration must be postmarked no later than May 15 to receive the early registration discount. Listed below are camp dates and the total cost of each camp:

	<u>Early</u>	<u>after May 15</u>
June 20-25 AMPDD	\$347.00	\$387.00
June 25 – July 1 Nature Camp	\$347.00	\$387.00
July 3-8 Special Camp	\$347.00	\$387.00
July 10-15 First Triple	\$347.00	\$387.00
July 17-22 Second Triple	\$347.00	\$387.00
July 24-29 New Covenant	\$347.00	\$387.00

July 29 – Aug 1 Family Retreat - \$75.00 per adult \$50.00 per child; free for children 5 and under

Summer Schedule Begins May 29, 2016

Sunday Worship Services

9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Saturday Casual Service 5:00

We do have an adult Sunday School class that meets during the summer at 10:00 a.m.

JOY Group May 17

End of Year luncheon will be at Crab Louie's Seafood Tavern @ 1:30 PM on May 17, 2016. Cost is \$14.95/per person with individual checks provided and 20% gratuity will be already added to check. We will be ordering from the "Lunch Banquet Menu". Please RSVP by May 12 to Laura Hollis at 804-320-3466 or LOLLIHOLLIS@VERIZON.NET.



At Pentecost, we celebrate the birth of the church. From those earliest days, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to be able to come together and worship in fellowship with Christ.

The theme for the 2016 Disciples New Church Ministry Movement has been titled "Our Second Wind," and emphasizes the ambitious goal of 1,000 new churches by the year 2020.

On May 15th & 22nd, we gather around our common table in support of this special offering, which provides the means to recruit, train, and coach new church leaders in our region and beyond.

SERVING SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2016

May 1

Elders: Bud Deihl, Paul Seemiller
Deacons: 8:45 Joe Smith (P), Sam Herrin
11:00 Andee Kirk (P), Tammy Rucker, Zachary Moon, Cathy Law
Worship Leaders: 8:45 11:00 Kitten Whitlow
Acolyte: 8:45 11:00 Angel Huff
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Christine MacAulay, Lauren Porter
Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Madison Arthur
11:00 Martha Seemiller
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 Cassie Price, Sandy Logan
11:00 Martha Seemiller
Offering: Rose and Jim McCaferty

May 8

Elders: Bill Sydnor, Joan Mielke
Deacons: 8:45 Tom Mayfield (P), Joe Smith
11:00 Madison Arthur (P), Jerrell Todd, Collin Thomas,
Whitney Graham
Worship Leaders 8:45 11:00
Acolyte: 8:45 11:00
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Deb Romig
Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Jean Dowdy
11:00 Zachary & Hannah Moon
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 Sandy Logan 11:00
Offering: Arlene Giffel and Laura Hollis

May 15

Elders: Rick Bernard, Shea Hollifield
Deacons: 8:45 Cathy Law (P), Sam Herrin
11:00 Jake Ver Beek (P), Arlene Giffel, Clairee Cochran,
Zachary Moon
Worship Leaders: 8:45 George Smith 11:00
Acolyte: 11:00 Reese Blanchard
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Gail Macfadden
Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 11:00 Maddy Boger
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 11:00
Offering: Jean Dowdy and Jean Turlington

May 22

Elders: Barbara Bancroft, Duke Dale
Deacons: 8:45 Jeanne Brock (P), Claire Deitch
11:00 Lauren Johnson (P), Charles Stevens, Doug White, Polly White
Worship Leaders: 8:45 11:00 Doug White
Acolyte: 8:45 11:00 Gavin Griffin
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Gail Macfadden
Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Frances Atherton 11:00 Andee Kirk
Ushers/Greeters: 8:45 11:00 Tom Neumayer
Offering: Barbara Bancroft and Kris Shouldice

May 29

Elders: Joe Bancroft, Bud Deihl
Deacons: 9:15 Charles Stevens (P), Tammy Rucker
10:45 Jake Ver Beek (P), Joe Smith, Doug White, Polly White
Worship Leaders: 9:15 10:45
Acolyte: 9:15 10:45 Logan Blanchard
Worship & Wonder Storyteller: Ask Cathy Law
Worship & Wonder Helper: 8:45 Anne & Madeline Rucker
11:00 Laura Hollis
Ushers/Greeters: 9:15 10:45 Barbara Bancroft
Offering: Angie Goff and Steve Goff

(P) denotes communion preparation

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School Teacher Recognition	2	3 7:00 Choir	4 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00 AA, ACA Quilters	5	6	7 Victorian Days 5:00 Casual Worship Service
8	9	10 10:30 CWF 7:00 Choir	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:15 CWF 7:00 AA, ACA	12	13	14 5:00 Casual Worship Service
15	16	17 10:30 JOY 7:00 Choir	18 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00 AA, ACA	19	20	21 5:00 Casual Worship Service
22 Board 12:15	23	24 7:00 Choir	25 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00 AA, ACA	26	27	28 5:00 Casual Worship Service CARITAS <i>guests arrive</i>
29 9:15 & 10:45 Worship Services CARITAS guests	30 -----	31 7:00 Choir -----	June 1 -----	June 2 -----	June 3 -----	June 4 CARITAS <i>Clean up</i>