

# BON AIR CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

## Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2071 Buford Road  
North Chesterfield, VA  
23235  
(804) 272-6228  
worship@baccdoc.org

### VISIT US:

<http://www.baccdoc.org>



## WORSHIP WITH US!

### Saturday Evening Worship:

4:00 p.m. Casual Worship Service

### Sunday Morning Worship:

8:45 a.m. Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service in  
person and via Zoom

**(Please Note:** Dec 24th we will  
have 1 combined morning  
service at 10:00 a.m.)

### Sunday School:

10:00 a.m. Adult and Youth  
Sunday School

### Prayer and Fellowship:

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
via Zoom

**All are welcome!**

*"Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace."*

These words from the beloved Christmas carol, *O Holy Night*, remind us of the deep interweaving of holiness and wholeness. As we enter this Advent season, our world needs this holy night – and the love, peace, and wholeness it brings us – as much now as ever before. In addition to our usual worship services throughout this month, we hope you will join us for our Advent and Christmas worship services, as we gather in our lovely Victorian sanctuary, sing carols, and hear the Christmas story told afresh. Invite your friends and family and let us prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus Christ, whose law is love and whose gospel is peace:

### 12/2: 4:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens Worship Service, Dinner After

A traditional service in which we hear the Christmas story anew through the symbols, scriptures, and songs of the season. **Please note:** this service will be held on Saturday evening this year.

### 12/16: 4:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Worship Service

A service for all for whom the holiday season is difficult, because of grief, mental health struggles, or simply the shortening of the days. It is a quieter, more solemn observance of this holy time.

### 12/17: 4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Bring some Christmas cheer to BACC members who aren't able to make it to services regularly.

### 12/24: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

Our children and youth help us tell the Christmas story. **Please note:** this single, combined 10:00 a.m. service takes the place of our usual 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on this Sunday.

### Christmas Eve: 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Services

Both services will be in-person, with the 5:00 p.m. also streamed via Zoom. Share the bread of life and the cup of salvation as we celebrate God's greatest gift.

### 12/25: Christmas Day

Merry Christmas! May God's love and Christ's gospel of peace surround you and warm your spirit on this holy day.

Grace and Peace,

*David*

# Advent



## *Christmas Families*

***Christmas gifts (unwrapped) will be due by December 10th***

BACC will be supporting 6-8 families from our local school communities for Christmas.

The gift sign-up online document will be available. Look at your weekly “Church News” emails. For those who prefer, there are gift tags on trees to select a gift. We will be providing gifts for approximately 25 children plus their parents. For each child, they will receive an outfit, socks, underwear, a special gift and a book. Parents will receive household cleaning and personal care items. The deadline for returning gifts (unwrapped) will be **December 10th**.

## **Advent Devotionals**

Thanks to all who contributed to the BACC Advent Devotional booklet. The booklet will be available for pick up in the church office on **Sunday, December 3rd**. We hope you will use this devotional at home as a tool to grow closer to God during this time of expectant waiting, a time to reflect on our need for the one who came to “save his people from their sins” and to watch for his coming again.

## **Advent Book Study - starts Dec. 6th**

Discover how everything changed when God was born. Everything seems different at the end of the year. We put lights on our houses to dispel the growing darkness, Christmas music floods local radio stations, and wrapping paper and tape are always ready. Things just look, smell, and taste differently during the Advent and Christmas season, and these differences are a sign to us that God is about to do something radical and different. Christmas is when God surrounded the divine with senses of his own. That first noel was when God had eyes to see suffering, ears to hear our cries, and hands to hold those in need, and all of these senses were bundled in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. “This will be a sign to you,” the angel told the shepherds, and they traveled to Bethlehem and found a child. What signs do you see during the Advent and Christmas season that point you to the divine?

Books are available in the church office.



***Join us...***

**via Zoom on Wednesdays, at 7 p.m., using the same link as Prayer & Fellowship; and in-person Thursdays, at 10:30 a.m., in the BACC Library.**



# Youth Group

*Children are not just the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today as well.*

For our monthly Youth Group meeting in November we attended the Congregational Meeting, enjoyed lunch together, talked with David about the importance of mental wellness, talked about the upcoming Christmas pageant and played some fun games! It is always a wonderful day when you get to spend time with the youth of BACC.

Our next monthly meeting will be **Sunday, December 3rd -- Noon - 2:15 p.m.** and we will be practicing the Christmas pageant. All youth are encouraged to attend.

*"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see."*

*-Neil Postman*



*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*  
*Matthew 2:10*



# What's Happening

## Search Committee update

The work has begun and we are excited about moving forward in the Search and Call process. The Spirit is moving here at Bon Air Christian Church and great things are happening!

The Church Board and Congregation approved the search for an Associate Minister who will focus on helping build relationships across multiple generations in the life of the congregation, including children, youth, and older adults. We are hoping to build on our strengths as a multigenerational congregation committed to sharing the wholeness we find in Christ with people of all ages. Ultimately, we are looking for the right person who fits our team and our church, and who is excited about our mission.

The search committee will be co-chaired by Russ Johnson and Diane Clark, with David Finnegan-Hosey and Kendra Ver Beek representing the staff. The other members who make up the committee are Cindy Johnson, Karson Clark, Andy Trezza, Emily Rucker, Ruth Ann Bates, and Tom Snodgrass.

The committee had their first meeting with our Regional Minister, Bill Spangler-Dunning on November 15th. Bill did a great job of explaining the process of calling a minister, the steps that need to be taken and also talked about how lucky this new minister will be by becoming part of BACC -- a healthy, thriving, strong church. The process is fluid and the timeline can not be predicted when you are looking for your perfect fit.

We are currently in the "Prep" phase of the process. The team is finalizing the job description and writing our church profile. Bill is scanning potential prospects. It is a 'rolling' process and we plan to keep the congregation up to date on the progress we make.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to anyone on the Search Committee.

*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*  
*John 1:29*



# What's Happening

## JOY GROUP

A very big thank you to Halina Zimm who spoke to the JOY Group on November 15th. Halina is a Holocaust survivor, originally from a Jewish village in Poland, who now lives in the same complex as Jean Turlington and Nancy Roper. She shared her story of her parents' foresight and sacrifice to get her to safety and of assuming another identity in order to avoid capture by the Nazis, at a time and place in which simply being Jewish was enough to be arrested. Her story is harrowing, and an important reminder of the power of courage and compassion in the midst of terror. We are so grateful for Halina's courage, vulnerability, and conviction in sharing with us.



Thanks to all who came to support Halina and hear her share her story.

**JOIN US**

For our next meeting which will be **Thursday, December 21st** for our Holiday Luncheon. All are welcome! Details are to come so check your church emails for specifics and to RSVP.

*And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'*  
*Luke 2:10*

# Fun & Fellowship

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWF has been busy. The CWF Night Group continues to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Andee Kirk's home: 906 Buford Oaks Circle, N. Chesterfield, 23235. Their next meeting will be **December 7th**.

The Day CWF met on November 14th. Brenda Kidd led the lesson about the bent over woman. We continue to support the Women's Shelter of the Richmond YWCA with gift cards and the Bainbridge food pantry with canned goods. Many went to Candela's for lunch. November outings included a play at Swift Creek Playhouse followed by dinner at Howlett's Tavern. The beach retreat in October was fantastic! Upcoming outings include a tea and tour at Magnolia Grange (**December 6 at 1 p.m.**) and our spring beach retreat. The next meeting is **Tuesday, December 12 at 10:30 a.m.** with lunch at Tazza Kitchen.

I hope all of the women at BACC will join us for Christian Women's Fellowship. And don't forget the Chili Cook-off and the Work of our Hands Silent Auction on Saturday, February 17, 2024.  
~ Jamie McDonald

The CWF Salad Group meets on the **second Thursday of the month** at 6:15 p.m. for a potluck salad. Our meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. and some members join us on Zoom. We continue our study of different perspectives of Jesus, as portrayed in the New Testament and other writings. The Salad Group donates food and household items for the pantry at Safe Harbor, a program for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. New members are welcome!  
~Cathy Law





# Fun & Fellowship

## CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On November 9th, a group of twelve BACC Men met to identify activities for the CMF in 2024. Activities include dinning in fellowship, enjoying group events, contributing 'manpower' to the BACC Mission, and identifying opportunities to raise funds to support that mission. Through December, the list of activities will be refined and prioritized to provide events that all men can participate in.



### *Changes to the CMF activities for December 2023:*

**December 6th** (1st Wednesday). The usual ROMEO's breakfast at Joe's Inn Bon Air will be cancelled on the 1st Wednesday of month in favor of a Men's Lunch. The lunch will also be a Joe's Inn, **starting at 11:30 a.m.** All BACC Men are welcome. Please call/text or email Tom Snodgrass by Monday, Dec 4th to reserve a seat at the table. Following the Wednesday lunch, the men will discuss the 2024 activities and pick a month for the events to occur.

ROMEO's December Breakfast at Joe's Inn Bon Air, **starting at 9:15 a.m.: December 13th , 20th and 27th** . Dress casual, no reservation required. Join in! YOU ARE WELCOME. You don't need to be retired to eat breakfast with your church brothers.

Men's Gathering —this monthly dining event will be suspended for December 2023. Mark your calendar for **January 18, 2024** as the next Men's Gathering Dinner. This dinner will occur each 3rd Thursday of the month in 2024.

Tom Snodgrass, CMF Chair, email [tesnodgras@aol.com](mailto:tesnodgras@aol.com) or call/text 804-370-5279.

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.  
Matthew 18:20*

# Thank You



Dear David and Bon Air Christian Church family,

It was good to be with you for worship on All Saints Sunday and to remember all of those who have passed on this year, including Joe. The service was lovely and the music was very moving. Thank you for the pretty potted plants in memory of Joe. You have been such a source of love and support for Rob, Emily and me and we really appreciate it.

It was so nice to see so many of my BACC friends. When Frank Clark greeted me at the door, it felt as if time had stood still and I had never moved away from Richmond!

I hope to be back to worship with you again soon.

Love,

Frances Atherton



Bon Air Christian Church,

Every one of you is an angel. This card is a hug with a fold in it. Your cards deliver what I need just when I need it. Your warmth and friendship mean so much!

Thanks so much,

Janice Hoover



Many thanks to our youngest disciples for bringing the light, love and their energy to Sunday School and worship! We love our BACC kids!



*Generous persons will prosper;  
those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.  
Proverbs 11:25*



# Thank You



A note of thanks to all of you kind and thoughtful ladies for the many beautiful cards of well wishes I have received. They truly have been a blessing for my family and me, and I am so very grateful.

My Love and Best Wishes,  
Peg Eagle



Bon Air Christian Church,  
Thank you for joining in donating items or services to YWCA Richmond. Your in-kind donation of \$2020 to YWCA Richmond is appreciated. The Bon Air Christian Church team has been spectacular! Thank you for all you do. I'd love to come to a meeting soon and give you a program update.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Coleman (Senior Director of Philanthropy) and Margaret (D.C.)



Bon Air Christian Church,  
Thank you for your \$75 contribution and for helping us start our fiscal year 2024 strong! We have a few things to celebrate this fiscal year! Our ReStore celebrated its 5th anniversary. And we are working on two houses along Dogwood Road - one a new modular, and the other, our first home renovation and sale to a partner household! We so appreciate that you make Habitat - Powhatan, a priority in your charitable giving. Your gift improves lives through safe, stable shelter, be at through our home building or critical repair programs!  
Susan Winiecki, Executive Director



Bon Air Christian Church,  
Thank you for supporting Kara's house. Your recent gift of \$832 makes it possible for us to provide our participants with the space and resources to heal and rebuild. Vibrant lives. It is because of caring community members like you that we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those to easily forgotten. Carrot toss, is ushering in a new era of growth and vision, because the landscape in which we operate has changed. Your gift also allows us to invest further in the safety and security of those. We serve, and ensure that each of our employees receive a living wage. ^ us will continue to adapt and innovate to meet the needs of our community while staying true to our mission of creating a safe space to heal and time to rebuild. Your generosity allows our participants to realize that they have a purpose in life; that there is more to their story than their situation, and there is no greater gift than that. So thankful for you!

With appreciation,  
Clara Stokes, Chief Advancement Officer

# Church Family Updates

## Welcome Nell Durham!

We welcome Nell Durham to our church family. She is originally from Lunenburg County, but has lived most of her life in Fairfax County. She has been in this area for a few years now. She is a widow and has 3 children; 2 sons and a daughter. One son lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan with his wife and 2 children and is a Professor at Western Michigan University. Her daughter lives in Wake Forest, NC with her husband and 6 children. Her other son lives in Union, Kentucky with his wife and 2 children. Her father, Ezra Dunnivant, and her brother, Anthony Dunnivant, both were ordained DOC ministers. Nell attended James Madison University and received her BS in Elementary Education and her Masters in Special Education. She taught 3rd grade for five years, 2nd grade for two years, and 1st grade for one year and then left to raise her children. She did substitute teach for 10 years and then was a special education teacher for 11 years prior to retiring. She enjoys sewing (mostly mending now) and reading and loves to be on the road and travel.

Address:

15418 Featherchase Drive  
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Email: [nelldurham69@gmail.com](mailto:nelldurham69@gmail.com)

Phone: 703-401-2445

Birthday: July 28

Welcome

## When college kids are home ...

They get put to work, haha. A big BACC thank you to Jake and Charlie Ver Beek for carrying all the Christmas decorations up from the basement! It was very helpful to have that all done by the time we decorated. **Thanks to ALL** who stayed after worship on November 26th, and helped adorn the building for Advent. It looks beautiful!



*We love because he first loved us.*  
*1 John 4:19*



# Church Family Updates

## *Lord, Hear Our Prayers*

**Please pray for:** Steve Kline who will have surgery next week; Phyllis Henderson and family upon the death of her husband, Jim; Paula Spencer and family upon the death of her mother, Glenda Turner; Debra Vaughan's daughter in law, Janice, who is recovering from back surgery; Paul Stair's sister who is recovering from a bad car accident; Kathy and Rick Morton, as Rick recovers from a heart catheterization procedure, and Kathy who had a bad reaction to new medication; Cathy Law's brother, Richard; Rhonda Ringel who is struggling with anxiety.

**Please continue to pray for:** Steve Goff; Doug Collins; Joan Mielke and family; Marion and Gary Hosey; James Huff Jr.; Darlene Edwards; Peg Eagle; Brynn Clark; Kris Foster; Tery Sarver; Bob Basalay; Taylor Brooks; Paul Stairs; Bob McGowan; Traci Eagle; Carol McGowan's aunt Diane; Kevin Heath's mother; Josie Schmidt's sister, Mary; Wendy Moore's friend, Laverne; the family of Alma Spivey; Pat Cosby; Sylvia Montgomery; Harold Campbell; Wanda Russell; Gail Macfadden; Suzanne Dale's friends Cindy and Steve Edgerton; Brad Munce; Shea Hollified's niece, Holly; Tanya Morgan; Rose McCaferty's sisters, Barbara and Judy; Steve Goff's uncle, Bob; Ted and Ellen Garrett and family; Erik Hopp; David Winders; Caroline Laughorn; Ken Schmalenberger; Sam Morse and family; Mary Ann Casdia; Glenda Turner; Nick Monger; Bobby Saunders; Wilma Pruett; Bridget Hengle; Joan Mielke's friend, Pete and Joan's nephew, Bucky; and her sister in law, Lynn; Faye Ringel; Megan Moran Bucholz; Kath Cartino; Bob Penley; Eric Morris; Gunnar Dickson; Gerry Roppé and his friends, Chico and Sue; Doug Collins, Sr.; Kathy Morton's nephew, Sean; Gail Cox, friend of the Baum's; Clay Boyd; Emily Porter; Cindy Stratton's friend, Vlad; Gina McKenney's niece, Jimie, friends Woody Campbell, Kathy Sanford, and John Mann, and former student, Jackson; Alice Murray's friend, Robin T.; Jack and Alois Ellis; Mike Vernon; Connie Graves; Kip Barefoot; Becky West; Ada Slayton; Angel Huff and her family; Scott McCann; Chris Verheul; Janice Hoover; Alice Murray's son Brett; Mary Ellen Cummins; Nikki Todd; Carolanne Ivey; Jean Venner; Cathy Wheless; Larry Brown; Judi Wright; Evan O'Dell; Chris Lion; Lisa Perkins; Traci Eagle's cousin, Cindy; Frances Gilman; Jo Bailey; Judith Hazelo; Patrick Sibold; Stacy Price; Jim Pannell.

### **Updating Prayers ~ Action Req'd**

We would like to make sure our prayer requests are current and up-to-date. Please take a look at the back of our weekly bulletin and here on the newsletter and share with us any updates or edits on your prayer requests. E-mail the church office at [worship@baccdoc.org](mailto:worship@baccdoc.org) with any changes.

*Thank you!*