

BON AIR CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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

VISIT US:

<http://www.baccdoc.org>



Worship With Us:

Saturday Evening Worship:

5:00 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)

Adult & Youth Sunday School:

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Prayer and Fellowship:

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
via Zoom

All are welcome!

Dear friends:

During the Advent season, we open our hearts and our lives to prepare for the arrival of Christ in our midst. This arrival is long-expected and long-awaited, and yet, somehow, it is also always a surprise. This year, how might we allow ourselves to be surprised by the hope, peace, joy, and love of this season? We hope you will join us and invite your friends and family as we gather in our lovely Victorian sanctuary, sing carols, and hear the Christmas story told afresh. Let us turn our faces to Bethlehem to greet a Savior born to us in the most surprising of places.

In addition to our regular worship services throughout Advent – Please join us for our special services and events:

11/30: 12:00 p.m. Decorating the church for Advent/Christmas – Come join the fun! Light lunch provided.

12/6: 5:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens Worship Service*, followed by Potluck Dinner. 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 again be held on Saturday evening this year.

12/14: 4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling. Bring Christmas cheer to BACC members who aren't able to make it to services regularly.

12/20: 5:00 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.

12/21: 8:45 a.m. Christmas Hymn Sing*. Our early worship will include a time for Christmas hymn requests. Come make a joyful noise!

11:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant*. Children, youth and members of all ages help us tell the Christmas story.

12/24 Christmas Eve – 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.* Christmas Eve Worship Services. Both services will be in-person, with 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 Christ's love surround you and warm your spirit on this holy day.

In Christ's love,

BACC

(* Childcare will be provided at these services)

'Tis the Season

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

The Christmas Offering supports regional ministries. In 31 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

Special offering will be collected at special services throughout Advent and Christmas. You can also give to the Christmas Special Offering on Givelify.



2025 CHRISTMAS OFFERING
supporting the work of your Region and its ministries

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

...the One who began a good work in you will continue to complete it ...
~Philippians 1:6

ADVENT BOOK STUDY



The CHRISTMAS LETTERS

Celebrating Advent
with THOSE WHO TOLD THE STORY FIRST

MAGREY R. DEVEGA

This Advent, we'll be studying *The Christmas Letters* by Magrey DeVega. Pastor DeVega explores the miracle of the Incarnation from a perspective we don't often highlight during this season: the New Testament Epistles of Romans, 1 John, Philippians, and Colossians. You're invited to read these as your first "Christmas Letters" of the season, and find within them an invitation from God to deepen your understanding of the Incarnation and embrace a fuller commitment to Jesus Christ.

The study will take place over three weeks, with the option of either a Wednesday online study **prior to Prayer & Fellowship** (beginning at 5:30 p.m., using the same Zoom link as Prayer & Fellowship) or a Thursday in-person study (beginning at 10:30 a.m. and meeting in the church library). The dates for the study will be Dec 3&4, Dec 10&11, and Dec 17 & 18. Books are available in the church office.

We won't meet for the study on Dec 24th or 25th - we have other plans!

Intergenerational Ministry

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The adult and youth volunteers performing in the intergenerational Christmas pageant are busy with rehearsals! Between learning lines and making props, our thespians of all ages are getting ready to tell this fun take on the Christmas story.

For parents (or grandparents!) of young kids: If you've got some kiddos who aren't ready to learn lines but ARE ready to wear a costume and be part of the fun, then keep reading! Pastor Amy will be using a little bit of Sunday School time in December to teach a song (or two?) to be sung during the pageant. If your little ones would like to sing with the group, make sure they're in Sunday School on December 7th and/or 14th to practice! Can't make it to Sunday School? Don't worry, we'll still work them in! Email amyoblinger@baccdoc.org for more detailed info.



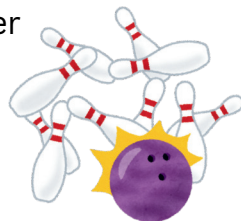
CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Our annual Christmas caroling is set for Sunday, December 14th. As usual, we'll spread some holiday cheer to BACC members who typically worship from home or otherwise struggle to get to church regularly. As an added treat this year Pastor Amy's music group, Mosaic (who does a booming caroling business this time of year!), will lend their voices to our brigade. Following all that singing, EVERYONE is invited to a Christmas party at the home of Revs. David and Leigh Finnegan Hosey!



SOFTBALL TEAM REUNION

The BACC softball got together for an off-season reunion. These premiere athletes tried their hands at another sport – bowling! Jeff Branyon and Brandon Morey walked away with the top scores, but everyone was a winner when it came to having fun. 😊 Stay tuned for more info about joining the softball team in the spring! You never know what other sports it might lead to...



"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:14

What's Happening

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES



Directions for CHRISTMAS FAMILIES GIFTS

-There are gifts for 12 children on the online sign-up. The link for the online sign-up for these gifts is in the Wednesday and Friday emails. *Return your unwrapped gifts with the child's number on it.*

-For those who prefer a paper format, there are tags on the hallway trees for 6 children. For these gifts, put your name on both tags and leave the white tag on the tree. Take the colored tag with you for shopping and put it on your gift when you bring it to the church.

****RETURN ALL GIFTS unwrapped, with the colored tag or the child's number attached to the gift, to the Fellowship hallway trees by Sunday, December 7.**

QUESTIONS? Contact Cathy Law or Jeff Branyon

ONLINE SIGN UP LINK HERE

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

~Acts 20:35

What's Happening

CROP WALK

Way to go, BACC! We won the Golden Sneaker and raised over \$1,700 from our church alone. We had a beautiful day for the walk and 89 walkers showed up! Over half of those walkers were from BACC – thus the Golden Sneaker trophy stays with us! The total raised for the Bon Air CROP Walk was over \$10,000 which included a generous gift from a Midlothian resident, who donated in honor of her father, a long-time participant in CROP Walks. What a blessing!

Thank you to all who participated either by walking, donating, or praying. Together, we are fighting to end hunger!



CHILI COOK OFF



The Chili Cook-off has come and gone. We had a great turnout and a fantastic time. We had 14 chilies entered. Kitten Whitlow won first prize, Bernie McDonald placed second and the Gills were third. Ruth Ann Bates won the Vintage Quilt raffle. We had a lot food and Pastor Amy looked into donating the leftover food.

I want to thank everyone who entered a chili and those who donated to the silent auction. Also a big thank you to everyone who helped set up and clean up. A shout out to Sandy Logan who made the drinks and dealt with the mac & cheese.

So far, we raised \$1,656.00 with more expected. Part of the money usually goes to the Disciples Women's Spring Projects. The final decision on how the money will be spent will be made at the joint CWF meeting this spring. If you were unable to come this year, we hope to see you next year.



PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Ohh What Fun! We had a total of 18 kids attend our 3rd annual Parent's Night Out, and everyone had a great time! Thanks to all who volunteered to make it such a special evening for our guests.





Fellowship

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of the CWF BOOK STUDY Group will be on **Thursday, December 18th at 11:00 a.m.** at Andee Kirk's home. Her address is: 906 Buford Oaks Circle, North Chesterfield VA 23235. The group will continue the study on page 119 - Women Who Speak in Numbers in the book Bible Women by Lindsay Freeman.

The Day CWF will be meeting on **Tuesday, December 9th at 10:30 a.m.** Don't forget to bring your canned goods for the Bainbridge food pantry and your gift cards (Target, Wal-Mart, Food Lion, etc.) for the Women's Shelter of the Richmond YWCA. The December lesson will come from John 4:6-42. We plan on going to lunch at Napa Kitchen in Westchester.

- Ballet outing (Giselle) coming up **February 15th**. More on this later.
- Beach trip will be **March 13th-15th**.

The CWF Salad Group will be collecting donations for the Richmond SPCA for the month of December. The next meeting will be on **December 11th**. They gather at 5:45-6:00 p.m. for fellowship and pot luck salad, and the program starts at 7:00 p.m. for in-person and those who attend on Zoom. If you can't attend in person, let Cathy Law know, and she'll send you the link.

Coming up **March 13th-15th** is the big, multi regional Disciples Retreat at Christmount. Theme is "You Are Enough." Mark your calendars. More information on this will be available later.

~Jamie McDonald



CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship Opportunities for December 2025.

Men's Lunch. Wednesday, Dec 3rd (First Wednesday of each month). Joe's Inn Bon Air (11:30 AM). Contact Tom Snodgrass to reserve your seat at the table (804-370-5279 or tesnodgras@aol.com).

ROMEO's Breakfast. Wednesday, Dec 10th, 17th, and 31st at Joe's Inn Bon Air (9:15 AM). No reserved seating, no reservation required. ROMEO's will not meet on Dec 24th (Christmas Eve); but will celebrate the last breakfast of 2025 on Dec 31st at Joe's Inn (9:15 AM).

Men's Dinner. No dinner the month of December. Instead, enjoy fellowship with your family during this Advent Season.



Thank You

Dear ladies and gentlemen,
Thank for your generous gift of \$500 for the Craig Springs kitchen fund. Thank you for all your continued support of Craig Springs!

Thank you also to the Daytime CWF for their blessing box offering of \$75 and their \$1.000 support for the 2025 DW Spring Projects. I have sent these checks directly to OGMP.

Blessings,
~ Sue Gordon CCinVA



Dear ladies,
Thank you so much for the many cards and well wishes we have received since Randy's stem cell transplant in July. God has blessed him through his journey, and although he still has a way to go to full recovery, we are confident and have faith in his healing.

Your prayers of support have lifted our spirits during this time. May God continue to bless your ministry.

~Randy and Melanie Slayton



Dear BACC Family,
My heart is grateful for all of your calls, texts, cards, visits, and expressions of concern after my surgery in August. They were each a blessing in my recovery. I'm doing well now, and your love and support helped. I thank God for you.

Peace,
~Cathy Law



"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!"
~Psalm 117:1-2

Church Family Update

WELCOME ALTHEA!

We welcome our newest member, Althea Genadopoulos to our church family. Her father was a military veteran and she was born in Portsmouth Naval Hospital, as her father was stationed there. They moved to Long Beach, California and when Althea was 5 years old, they moved to Okinawa, Japan. When she was 5 years old, they moved to San Diego, California, and after 20 years in the Navy, her father retired and they moved to Pearisburg, Virginia, as this was her parents' home before she was born. Her father then ran a restaurant there. Both of her parents were from West Virginia and grew up less than 10 miles from each other, but never met in West Virginia. She has a sister who passed away 4 years ago on November 16, which is the date Althea was baptized. She and her partner, John Smith, have been together for 15 years. She has 3 degrees: A BS in Social Work from Radford, an AS in Medical Technology from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, and a BS in Medical Technology from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is retired now, but at one time her boss was Rose McCaferty at Parham Doctors Hospital and Rose invited her to attend our church. She has a medical condition that causes her to experience weakness at times and on her first visit to BACC, she came up the back steps, opened the door, and fell on her knees. She says this is where "God brought her to her knees". She also is a retired adult reader from the group "Tell Tale Hearts" who performed story telling events at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center. Her hobbies include knitting, reading, and baking. She has a Yorkie and Maltese mixed dog named "Reese". We are delighted that Althea has joined our BACC family!

Address:

2507 Kenwood Avenue
Henrico, VA 23228

Cell: 804-833-9523

Email: altheag@yahoo.com

Birthday: May 14



"And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name."

~Acts 22:16



2025 Ministers Report

It's always a joy to look back over a year in the life of Bon Air Christian Church, and to see all of the beautiful ways the Holy Spirit is at work as we try to live out our mission and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In 2025, Bon Air Christian Church reached out to proclaim the gospel through ministries both familiar (such as an Intergenerational Mission Trip, Vacation Bible School, Trunk or Treat, Parents' Nights Out, and relationships with NAMI, the Bon Air Ministers Association, the Bon Air/Southside Interfaith Trialogue, and Redd Elementary) and new (like Praise 'n' Play, a NA group now meeting at our church, and meeting transitional needs at HomeAgain through a supply drive).

We reached up to worship God, walking with Jesus through the gospel of Luke through the first half of the year; exploring faith questions raised by our Pastor's Class youth over the summer; and reflecting on themes of sharing and worship this fall. We've averaged ~120 in-person in worship each week (~15 in our Saturday worship services, ~27 at our early service and ~78 at our late service, with ~82 during our summer combined Sunday worship service). Those numbers are relatively steady from this time last year. Our online engagement is down slightly from this time last year, with an average of 17 on Zoom and 38 views on our YouTube worship videos. Special services throughout the year marked particular seasons in our life together, as well as particular moments of celebrations, such as the Installation of Rev. Amy Oblinger, the ordination of Rev. Laticia Lee in recognition of her new church ministry, the baptisms of Clorie Metcalf, Maisie Lloyd, and Althea Genadopoulas, and the dedications of Delilah Gilbert, Jude Finnegan-Hosey, and Jack Vaden. In addition to new members by baptism, we also welcomed other new members into the fellowship of Bon Air Christian Church: Jan Jones, Charlie Young, Laura Stankiewicz, Evan Gross, and Amy Oblinger.

We reached in to nurture and grow in faith and love. A Lenten book study and two Pastor's Classes, one for youth and one for adults, offered opportunities for deepened faith. I've recorded 125 in-person pastoral conversations so far this year, in hospitals, homes, assisted living facilities, coffee shops, and the church building – looking back, that's about 35 more than I had reported at this time last year. As a congregation, we have grieved the deaths and celebrated the lives of Will Woolridge, Martha Wright, David Limbrick, Wanda Russell, Kathy Morton, and Russell Nunnally. I've also officiated 7 memorial services and 1 wedding for folks without a church home.

Of course, it's impossible to capture everything, and there is so much faith and fellowship that happens here through shared meals, meal trains, visits, informal conversations – the stuff of life together as a church. I am grateful for it all, and give thanks to God for this congregation where there is always a lot going on in the life of the church!

It's my blessing to serve this "church on a mission." I am grateful for these past 4 and a half years with you, and I thank God for each of you.

Grace + Peace,

David

Prayer Concerns

Our Prayers...

Please pray for: Steve Goff; Vickie Brooks' mother; Traci Eagle

Continued prayers for: The Nunnally Family; Shea Hollifield; Kim Handy; Greg Morrison; Diane Fearnley's sister and brother-in-law; Mary Garrison; Rosario and Robie Hocog; Bernie McDonald; Peg Eagle; Skip Logan; Tery Sarver; the McCaferty family; Gary Giffel; Dana Hatton's mother; Taylor Brooks; Zachary Moon; Rob Morey; Helen Liscio Deitz; Angie Branyon's brother, Berkley; Sandy Collins' cousin, Susan Stouffer; Wayne Varnier; Randy Slayton, Laura Stankiewicz; Gerry Roppé; the family of Kathy Morton; Debra & Lindley Vaughan's daughter in law, Janice, and brother, Danny; Nancy Wyman's brother, David; Arlene Giffel's niece, Laurie Querbo; the Basalay family; Debbie Blackburn; Janet Lenhart's sister Phyllis, and brother Bill; Cassie Price's sister, Liz; Julian Flores' grandfather, Anthony; Jeff and Angie Branyon's friend, Adrianna; Deb Shiro; Ethelene Slayton; Faye Lester; Andrew Crank; Steve Kline; Paul Stairs; Troy Plummer; Angel Huff and family; Bud Deihl's Mother; Paula Spencer; Pat Cosby; Marion and Gary Hosey; Sylvia Montgomery; Harold & Gail Campbell; Gail Macfadden; Jake & Mazie McCann; Teresa & Larry Lafoon; Chris Verheul; Rick Lewis; Diane & Phil Harris; Cathy Law's friend, Carol; Bernie McDonald's sister, Norma; Kris Foster's sister in law, Jane; Cindy Stratton's nephew, Keith, and her friend, Vlad; Gina McKenney's friend, Jimie Lee; Linda Verhuel's sister, Amy and her friend, Judy; Dana Hatton's friend, Tiffany; Anna Claire Jurman; Shirley Gibson's son, Drew; Cathy Wheless; Richard Seeds; Vickie Shannon's mother; Tery Sarver's brother, Butch; Tammy Rucker's Mom, Pat; Devon Forehand; Betty Jurman; Eric Moorehouse; Bill Mahoney; Nancy Rucker; Teresa McLaughlan; Jim & Rose McCaferty's family; Will Monger; Lanny Saylor; John Foster; Caroline Laughorn; Jerry Ayers; Claire Marling's student, Victoria; Joann Ivey; Phil Hepler; Diane Fearnley's friend, Nancy; Faye Ringel; Eric Morris; Gail Cox, friend of the Baum's; Connie Graves; Ada Slayton; Scott McCann; Janice Hoover.



"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."
~ James 5:16