OUTREACH

Seeking and Serving Christ, Sharing God's Love For All Creation

October 2026

Do you find pledging puzzling?

Have you ever wondered why people pledge? Pledging can be puzzling and as the church's pledging season is fast approaching, it is a great time to consider this spiritual moment of great decision.

As we each ponder our 2027 pledge we will consider how God challenges us and inspires us, and **how we glorify God**.

We want to hear from you! Consider why you pledge and share with us (anonymously) by clicking this link: **Why I pledge!**

During the next few weeks, you will see the "pieces of the puzzle" emerge of why we pledge on the walls throughout the church. It could be one word, "faith", it could be a mission you support, there are no wrong answers. The right answer is giving this important act of pledging the careful thought and spiritual reflection it deserves.

Throughout this campaign we invite you to ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask "why" and submit your questions here: **Ask the moderator**. We will publish questions and answers to those questions submitted sharing with all of you.

Back by popular demand, we are also going to have a fun opportunity to learn about the budget and 2027 coming attractions at an **October 21st Wednesday Night Dinner**. As you expected it will all culminate in a **pledge packet** for each church household and those will be distributed, **Sunday, October 18th** following each service.

So why the mustard seed, sparrow, and other items in the puzzle? Pastor Alex will be sharing a special series with us examining "the little things" that show how God truly makes great with little things. So, listen to the message each Sunday and see what you think completes the puzzle. **Thank you in advance** for prayerfully considering your pledge for 2027 and take some time to read what inspires your fellow members to pledge. We all offer our piece of the puzzle to pledge season and **together**, and only together, **we complete the picture that is Bon Air Presbyterian Church by submitting our pledges Sunday November 8th on Commitment Sunday.**

We each offer our piece to the puzzle this pledge season. Together God will complete the great picture that is Bon Air Presbyterian Church.

October
Monthly Birthdays

Harry Marxen	10/1
Jackson Rowe	10/1
Dana Peace	10/5
Harold Greer	10/6
Frances Kennedy	10/6
Bob Andersen	10/8
Nancy Van Auken	10/9
Dwight Mortiz	10/12
John Knight	10/14
Scott Krzastek	10/14
Margaret Leynes	10/14
Garth Nelson	10/15
Cynthia Boeger	10/16
John Caparoula	10/17
Grayson Miller	10/17
Diane Berg	10/19
Holton Torbey	10/19
Lynn McFadden	10/22
Michael Atkins	10/24
Alisha Gallini	10/27
Gemma Murney	10/28
Noemi Baldwin	10/29
Kraig Negaard	10/30
Judy Skimin	10/30
Becky Bullock	10/31

Second Sunday South of the James
Sunday, October 11th at 3:30 PM

Join us for our first concert of the 2026-2027 season!

A concert of spirituals, gospel, and classical selections

Russell Wilson, principal pianist of the Richmond Symphony
Danah Dargon, soprano

Free admission, donations welcome!

RALLY DAY BREAKFAST – September 13

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Rev. Alex Creager, Pastor;
Brenda Norton, Editor.

Articles may be submitted to Brenda Norton, office@bonairpc.org by the 15th of the prior month.

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Prayer Ministry

To request prayer support from our church's prayer chain, or to join in this ministry, please call or email Deborah Houghton, 804-484-0152 or debho@comcast.net or contact the church office at 804-272-7514 or office@bonairpc.org.

PRIME-TIME CIRCLE - Monday, October 5

The Prime-Time Circle will meet in the **Garden Room at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, October 5.**

All women are invited. If you wish to join us, please call Barbara Howson, 804-357-3087.

SISTER'S CIRCLE - Tuesday, October 13

The Sisters Circle will meet in **the Garden Room at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13**. We continue our Horizon Bible study "*United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*" with lesson #2. Bring your Bible.

All women are invited. If you wish to join us or need further information, please contact Gisela Stech.

R.O.M.E. O'S - Tuesday, October 13

The ROMEO's men's group will meet on **Tuesday, October 13** at **Noon** at **Joe's Inn, Bon Air** for lunch and fellowship. All men are invited. If you plan to join us, please contact Pat Clayton, 804-276-6420.

EARTH CARE CORNER – Recycling Plastic Bags and Wraps

The first piece of good news is that the bags you take to the grocery store really are being recycled into outdoor furniture and decking.

The second piece of good news is that much, much more than stretchy grocery bags are recyclable.

- Stretchy: grocery, bread, newspaper, Ziploc.
- Non-stretchy: cereal bags, frozen veggie bags, produce bags (like around lettuce), bags for nuts
- Non-bags: bubble wrap, saran wrap, dry cleaning, overwrap on cases of water

Go to NexTrex.com to see this information and also the products that the recycled material is being turned into. The website will also tell you where to "Find a Drop Off" and you will see that they are many of the grocery stores you already patronize. If your grocery store is not on the list, there is also a drop off box at church located near the door to the preschool courtyard.

THE BAPC SESSION REPORTS

At September 19, 2026, Stated Session Meeting
the following items were discussed …

- A motion was made, seconded to elect Elders J. Ferguson and B. Jacocks to serve as commissioners at the Presbytery of the James Stated Meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2026. The meeting will be held art Bon Air Presbyterian Church (BAPC) and via the Zoom platform. The motion was adopted.
- A motion was made by the Worship and Music Team requesting up to $250.00 from the Memorial Fund (#3730 – General Memorials) to buy a cart for the Sacristy to transport communion elements to and from the sanctuary on communion days. The motion was adopted.
- A motion was made by the Family and Youth Christian Education Ministry Team to approve a request from the Bon Air Presbyterian Preschool (BAPP) board to hold a 70th anniversary celebration and fundraising event at BAPC church on Saturday, April 24, 2027. The motion was adopted.
- A motion was made that Tricia Cushnie be appointed Chairman, and Julie Brebner be appointed Secretary/Treasurer of the Memorial Garden Committee. The motion was seconded and adopted.
- A motion was made by the Church and Society Ministry Team to invite Rev. Liz Yates to bring her "Bethlehem Market" to the church on Sunday, October 18, 2026, and sell goods she brought back from her recent trip to Bethlehem. Rev. Yates is selling goods to raise money for those affected by the conflict. The team would also like Rev. Yates to present a Moment for Mission on Sunday October 18, 2026, during the 11:00 worship service. The motion was adopted.
- A motion was made by the Church and Society Ministry Team for the Session to discuss the principles for Session discussions and how we can lift up core value of inclusion, justice and love (as detailed in the overarching dream for BAPC). This will be discussed at the Stated Session meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2026. The motion was adopted.
- A motion was made that BAPC participate again in Bridging RVA's 150 Beds for 150 Kids by collecting bedding (sets of twin sheets, pillowcases and blankets) and inviting Bridging RVA's Executive Director to present a Moment for Mission on Sunday October 25, 2026, at the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. The motion was adopted.

Adult Christian Education

Perhaps you attended Rally Day on September 13 and enjoyed the delicious breakfast prepared by the Chef's Club and heard about the exciting fall program for all ages. And if you were there, hopefully you had an opportunity to glance at some of the 100 things every child should know before Confirmation (From Rebecca Kirkpatrick's 2015 book, ***100 Things Every Child Should Know before Confirmation***). There is a lot of essential Christian knowledge to unpack – even for adults! Topics ranged from questions about the Bible composition to specific stories included in both the Old and New Testaments to our theology as a denomination to church polity. One could be overwhelmed! Fortunately, Sunday School is a great place to learn about the Bible and our faith. More importantly, Sunday School is an opportunity to learn God's story and how we are part of that story. Here is what is coming in October in adult Sunday School.

Beck Class (9:35 a.m., Beck Classroom) - *The Gospel According to Popular Music of Johnny Cash, Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, John Prine, Brandi Carlile, and the Song Hallelujah* (Alex Creager)

Book by Book: A Bible Study (9:35 a.m., Rooms 101-103) – The study of Exodus continues. Bring your Bibles!

- October 4 – *Delivered from Egypt* (Exodus 12:21-32)
- October 11 – *Power Revealed* (Exodus 14:19-31)
- October 18 – *Provision Given* (Exodus 16:11-19; 17:1-6)
- October 25 – *God's Commands* (Exodus 20:1-17)

Coffee & Conversation (10:00 a.m., Parlor) – "Follow Me" curriculum that parallels what children and youth are learning during Sunday School.

Monthly Book Club

Join us on the third Thursday of each month as we dive into a different book together. This will be a mix of brand-new studies, classic works, and even some fiction and poetry. We will gather from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Parlor. If you are able to join us or have questions reach out to Pastor Alex at: alex@bonairpc.org.

October 15 - *Better Ways to Read the Bible* by Zach Lambert
https://bakerbookhouse.com/products/9781587436680_better-ways-to-read-the-bible

In this compassionate guide, Lambert dismantles four common lenses for reading the Bible that lead to harm, then offers four new lenses that promote healing and wholeness. This book welcomes all Christians--regardless of background, doubts, or wounds—to reengage Scripture in life-giving ways.

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OPEN TRUNK FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, October 3
9:30-10:30 in the parking lot.

The food will be taken to Bainbridge Food Pantry this month.

If you are able, we hope that you will help us meet this need by contributing non-perishable food on October 3. If you are unable to come that day, please drop off your contribution to the church during office hours. We will make sure it is delivered to the food pantry.

Thank you for your continued support in meeting this need in our community.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
OCTOBER 2026				1 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 10:00 Chair Aerobics (101-103) 6:00 Yoga (GR) 6:30 Bible Study (B) 7:15 Pickleball (FH)	2 6:30 AA (FH/103)	3 9:30 Food Drive
4 Communion 8:30 Worship (S) 9:35 Adult Ed. Beck Class (B) 9:35 Book by Book Bible Study (101) 10:00 Harmony Hall (FH/Music Rm) 10:00 Coffee/Conversation (P) 11:00 Worship (S/Z) 1:00 B. Gregory (S) 1:30 Girl Scouts (FH, 101,103,104, B) 5:30 Youth Group (FH/B/Youth)	5 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 9:30 Yoga (101-103) 2:00 Prime Time Circle (GR) 6:00 Cub Scouts (FH, 101,103,104, B) 7:00 Communications (Z)	6 10:30 Staff Meeting (L) 1:30 SSSJ Committee (GR) 6:30 AA (FH/103) 7:00 Worship & Music (GR)	7 5:00 Hospitality & Welcome (L) 5:00 Prayer Time (Z) 6:15 Dinner (FH) 6:45 Handbells 7:00 Fellowship Team (GR) 7:30 Chancel Choir	8 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 10:00 Chair Aerobics (101-103) 6:00 Yoga (GR) 6:30 Bible Study (B) 7:15 Pickleball (FH)	9 6:30 AA (FH/103)	10
11 8:30 Worship (S) 9:35 Adult Ed. Beck Class (B) 9:35 Book by Book Bible Study (101) 10:00 Harmony Hall (FH/Music Rm) 11:00 Worship (S/Z) 12:15 Inquirers Class (B) 2:30 Earth Care Team (GR) 5:30 Youth Group (FH/B/Youth)	12 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 9:30 Yoga (101-103) 6:00 Cub Scouts (FH/B/101/103/104)	13 10:00 Sister's Circle (GR) 10:30 Staff Meeting (L) Noon ROMEOs (Joe's Inn) 6:30 AA (FH/103) 7:00 Church & Society (B) 7:30 CE-Youth/Children (Z)	14 2:00 Congregational Care (GR) 5:00 Prayer Time (Z) 6:15 Dinner (FH) 6:45 Handbells 7:00 Stewardship (Z) 7:30 Chancel Choir	15 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 2:00 Adult CE (GR) 10:00 Chair Aerobics (101-103) 6:00 Yoga (GR) 6:30 Bible Study (B) 7:15 Pickleball (FH)	16 6:30 AA (FH/103)	17 8-4 POI Event
18 (Begin Freecycle Event) M4M – Bethlehem Market 8:30 Worship (S) 9:35 Adult Ed. Beck Class (B) 9:35 Book by Book Bible Study (101) 10:00 Harmony Hall (FH/Music Rm) 10:00 Coffee/Conversation (P) 11:00 Worship (S/Z) 12:15 Mem. Garden Com. (GR) 5:30 Youth Group (FH/B/Youth) 7:00 Session (B/Z)	19 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 9:30 Yoga (101-103) 6:00 Cub Scouts (FH/B/101/103/104) 7:00 Cornerstone Endow. Com. (GR) 7:30 Preschool Board (L)	20 10:30 Staff Meeting (L) 6:30 AA (FH/103) 7:00 Property (GR)	21 5:00 Prayer Time (Z) 6:15 Dinner (FH) 6:45 Handbells 7:30 Chancel Choir	22 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 10:00 Chair Aerobics (101-103) 6:00 Yoga (GR) 6:30 Bible Study (B) 7:15 Pickleball (FH)	23 6:30 AA (FH/103)	24
25 M4M – 150 Beds 8:30 Worship (S) 9:35 Adult Ed. Beck Class (B) 9:35 Book by Book Bible Study (101) 10:00 Harmony Hall (FH/Music Rm) 10:00 Coffee/Conversation (P) 11:00 Worship (S/Z) 5:30 Youth Group (FH/B/Youth)	26 (End Freecycle Event) 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 9:30 Yoga (101-103) 6:00 Cub Scouts (FH/B/101/103/104)	27 10:30 Staff Meeting (L) 6:30 AA (FH/103)	28 5:00 Prayer Time (Z) 6:15 Dinner (FH) 6:45 Handbells 7:30 Chancel Choir	29 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 10:00 Chair Aerobics (101-103) 6:00 Yoga (GR) 6:30 Bible Study (B) 7:15 Pickleball (FH)	30 6:30 AA (FH/103)	31