BON AIR
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUTREACH

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

September, 2026

Adult Christian Education

Summer is almost behind us and the fall Sunday School program at Bon Air kicks off at Rally Day on Sunday, September 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. We invite young and old(er), visitors, new to the church or longtime members to join us at Rally Day for fellowship, BREAKFAST, and a time to learn about the different adult class offerings for the year. Bring a friend, make some new friends, Rally Day is a time to catchup and discover what God is doing in education through Bon Air Presbyterian Church! Classes begin meeting in person Sunday, September 20th. (You can sign up for the Rally Day breakfast by contacting the church office, signing up on the bulletin board signup sheet by the welcome center, or digitally.)

This year Adult Christian Education offers THREE adult Sunday School classes. Below are descriptions of the classes, where they meet, and what they are studying. We hope you will join us and come grow in your faith.

Beck Class (9:35-10:35 a.m., Beck Room)
The Beck class is diverse in what it studies and who attends. Designed for curious minds who want a deeper learning, class studies often are lecture based with follow-up discussion and conversation. Topics can range from biblical themes to individual books studies to mission and outreach to current and world events that speak to and with our Christian faith. It is not uncommon for the Beck class to bring in outside experts or people who serve through mission. Upcoming studies include:

The Gospel According to Popular Music of Johnny Cash, Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, John Prine, Brandi Carlile, and the Song Hallelujah (Alex Creager) - September 20, 27. October 4, 11, 18, 25

God, The Father: A Closer Look at the Prodigal Son (Harold Houghton) - November 1, 15, 22

Missionary Speaker: Shelvis Smith-Mather - November 8
Shelvis Smith-Mather will be visiting BAPC that day, preaching in both services. He will also spend the Adult Education time presenting a special overview of his and Nancy's ministry in South Sudan and nearby countries. Their ministry focuses on implementing faith-based pathways toward reconciliation among groups experiencing conflict.

Women in Matthew's Genealogy (Susan Gravely, Sidney Whitlock) - November 29, December 6, 13, 20

Coffee & Conversation (10:00 a.m., Parlor) - Facilitators: Kristin Roberts, Paul Achter
The Coffee & Conversation class is a class for all age adults who enjoy a time of relaxed fellowship, study, and conversation. The group meets in the church parlor on Sunday mornings during children's programming beginning at 10:00 a.m. Grab a cup of coffee, some food from the Garden Room, and then come across the hall to the parlor (between the childcare room and the sanctuary) for a time of study, prayer, and deeper connection. No preparation required!

Book by Book: A Bible Study (9:35 a.m., Room 101)
This new Sunday morning adult study is designed for all age adults who are looking for an in-depth Bible study that examines books of the Bible. Using Lifeway's *Explore the Bible* study guide, this class will dive into Scripture exploring chapter and verse of the multitude of stories found in each biblical book. Bring your Bible and come discover God's Word. This class encourages shared leadership and each lesson is independent of the other, so if you miss one week you will not be lost (but we do hope you won't miss any)! The class begins at the beginning of the Old Testament as they explore *Genesis* and *Exodus*!

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

Names	Birthday
Hap Robson, Joslyn Shipman	Sept. 1
Barbara Jacocks	Sept. 2
Dan Syrett	Sept. 3
Peter Stech	Sept. 6
Dorothy Seawell, Irene Caperton, Marcia Wyatt	Sept. 7
Tom Ogburn, Elizabeth Horn	Sept. 8
Kit Vaughan	Sept. 9
Alden Peters	Sept. 10
Pat Wilson, Kathy Kelley	Sept. 13
Alise Anzelone	Sept. 15
Mae Greiman, Jim Little	Sept. 16
Katie Smouse	Sept. 17
Judy Anderson, Anthony Maslanka	Sept. 20
Tray Pankey	Sept. 23
Jonathan Pucci	Sept. 24
Kellie Olsen	Sept. 26
Nellie Knight, Julia Gallini	Sept. 28

Many thanks to the Congregational Care team and so many fellow members (and my fleet of limo drivers!) for your cards, calls, emails, and other well wishes regarding my broken clavicle, subsequent surgery, and much-too-long recovery. It has made a world of difference. Sorry for wiping out in the first place — wish I could promise it won't happen again, but the trails keep calling me back!

Thanks,
Glenn Hurlbert

New Director of CE - Children and Youth
Briana Stewart w/Rev. Charles Grant
Introduction on Sunday, August 9

Outreach is published monthly by Bon Air Presbyterian Church, a non-profit organization.
Rev. Alex Creager, Pastor;
Brenda Norton, Editor.

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

Bon Air Presbyterian Church
9201 W. Huguenot Rd., N. Chesterfield, VA 23235
Telephone: 272-7514. Fax: 272-9752
Internet address: www.bonairpc.org

Prayer Ministry **-** To request prayer support from our church's prayer chain, or to join in this ministry, please call or email Deborah Houghton at 804-484-0153 or email debho@comcast.net, or call or email the church office at 272-7514 or office@bonairpc.org.

THE BAPC SESSION REPORTS

At the August 16, 2026 Stated Session Meeting the following items were discussed …

- A motion was made by the Christian Education - Youth and Children Ministry Team to approve the Bon Air Presbyterian Preschool Teacher 2026-2027 contracts. The motion passed.
- A motion was made by the Church and Society Ministry Team to approve displaying the "100% Voting Congregation" banner again this year outside the Welcome Center. This was a request from the Peace Group. The motion passed.
- A motion was made by the Worship and Music Ministry Team on behalf of the Second Sunday South of the James committee to approve sending their annual letter to the congregation prior to the 2026-2027 season, giving people the opportunity to make donations in honor or in memory of someone. The motion passed.
- A motion was made and seconded that Bon Air Presbyterian Church (BAPC) become one of the pilot congregations for a Seminary for Every Congregation through Union Presbyterian Seminary. After a discussion with Rev. Jamie Lynn Haskins, Project Director for Seminary Extended at Union Presbyterian, the Session voted to approve the motion.

CORNERSTONE Endowment Fund Grant Requests Due September 30

We're coming up on the September 30 deadline to submit grant funds to the Cornerstone Endowment Fund to benefit ministries, benevolences, or facilities of Bon Air Presbyterian Church.

The Cornerstone Endowment Fund, established in 2005, continues to grow through gifts and investments, allowing for annual grants totaling 4.5% of the Fund's average value over the past 16 quarters. The available distribution amount is $24,329 for calendar year 2027.

What types of requests may be funded?

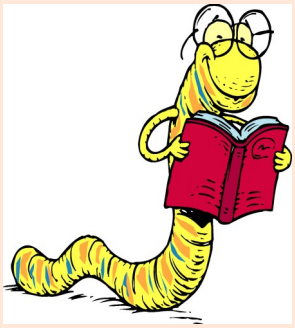
New or expanded ministries that are not budgeted or exceed annual budgeted expenses in these areas:

- Outreach ministries and benevolences
- Building and capital improvements
- New or special church programs

Grant request forms are available in the Cornerstone Endowment Fund box in the office workroom or on BAPC's website. Completed requests should be returned to the church office or emailed to office@bonairpc.org. For more information, contact any member of the committee (Alise Anzelone, Pete Gallini, Nora Narum, Mark Fagerburg, Linda Bollinger, Ray McAllister, Catherine Barnes, and David Huffine).

And remember: the deadline for Cornerstone Endowment Grant applications is September 30.

VOLUNTEER READERS NEEDED



For many years, our church has had a team of volunteers who work in a local elementary school. For the past 5 years or so we have been volunteering at Southampton Elementary. We are looking for a few new helpers for this coming school year.

Each volunteer is paired with a classroom teacher (we have been mostly in Kindergarten and First Grade Classes, but it would be nice to expand up to the next grade level as well if we can get enough readers). Many of us read once a week to the classroom of children, but sometimes the teacher asks us to work in smaller groups, usually with reading activities.

The interaction with the children is uplifting, and it is fun to explore children's book titles each week as we get ready to read. The school administration has been very supportive of our presence there. The schedule is flexible if you ever need to be away for a week.

If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact Deborah Houghton at debho@comcast.net. Again, we would love to welcome you to our team!

FREECYCLE EVENTS COMING

Our church's Earth Care Team is grateful for your participation in the two Freecycle events that we held in the spring. Now it is time to start setting aside things for the next two Freecycles.

In September we will collect Home Décor items (art, wall art, picture frames, knick-knacks, candles, vases, coasters, lamps, etc.), with the collection beginning on September 13, the "shopping" event after the September 16 Wednesday Night Dinner on the fellowship hall stage, preschool shopping on September 17, and a final opportunity to take home a treasure being on Sunday, September 20.

In October we will collect holiday items (decorations, holiday dishes, costumes, etc.), with the collection beginning on October 18, the "shopping" event after the October 21 Wednesday Night Dinner on the fellowship hall stage, preschool shopping on the 22nd, and a final opportunity to take home a treasure being on Sunday, October 23. This would be for all holidays: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Valentines, St. Patrick's, Easter, 4th of July, etc. Let the cleaning out begin!

CHANGES IN PC(USA) SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

For years, BAPC has collected four annual Presbyterian Church USA special offerings,. Starting this year, there are three special offerings. The Pentecost and Peace & Global Witness offerings have been folded into a new **World Communion Offering**, which will be collected on World Communion Sunday, October 4th. The new offering will promote peacemaking, global witness, racial & gender justice, and ecumenical & interfaith relations.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** and **Christmas Joy** offerings remain the same.

SISTERS CIRCLE
Tuesday, September 8
10:00 a.m. in Garden Room

We start our new HORIZON Bible Study Book "*United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*" with lesson #1. Bring your Bible.

Please contact Gisela Stech if you would like further information.

EARTH CARE CORNER - NATIVE PLANTS

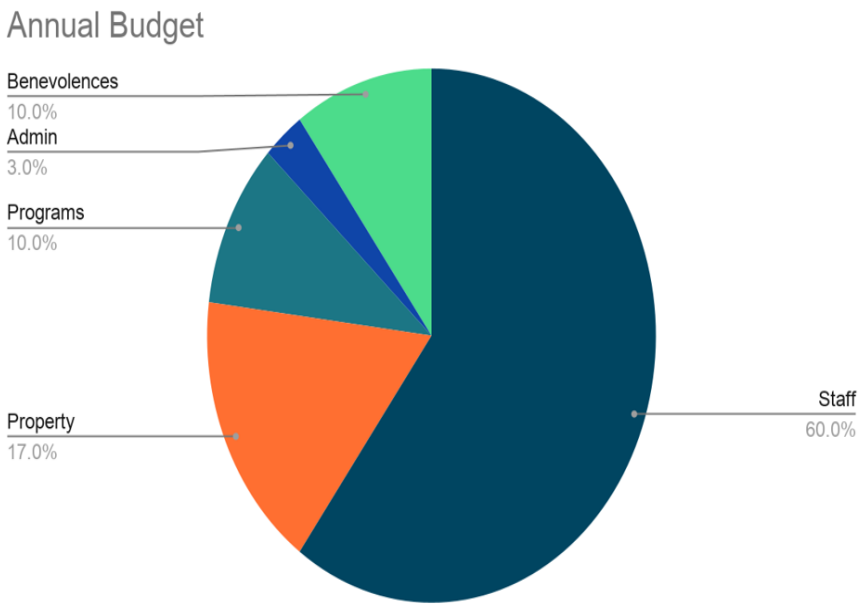
After our very hot and dry (now wet) summer, are you thinking about what you want to plant in your yard or garden next year?

Most of us are not thinking about that yet. But as fall approaches, now is actually a good time to consider plants for next year, and especially to take a look at planting what are called "Native Plants." Such Native Pants would be more tolerant of our severe weather conditions.

According to https://vnps.org/virginia-native-plant-guides/, Native Plants for Virginians are "species that naturally evolved in a specific region, ecosystem, or habitat without human introduction. In Virginia and the mid-Atlantic, popular native choices include purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta), and eastern columbine (Aquilegia canadensis), which thrive locally while supporting regional pollinators and wildlife." The sun-loving coneflower grows 2-4 feet tall and is drought and deer resistant. The black-eyed Susan grows 2-4 feet tall and can spread. The eastern columbine also grows about 2-3 feet tall and likes partial shade. All of these Native Plants can be purchased at our local greenhouses. Think Native Plants for next spring!

September Stewardship Corner

Pledge season is coming this fall. It will be helpful to understand how your pledge makes a difference. Pledging in the fall allows us to create a balanced budget for next year. Knowing the amount of income we can expect ahead of time, allows us to appropriately compensate our fantastic staff and maintain our property, as well as plan our worship, education, and fellowship programs and to allocate funds to benevolences. So, if you have not pledged in the past, please consider doing so this year. It is a tremendous help to our staff and all of our church leadership who strive to plan responsibly for the coming year. When we plan and spend responsibly, the whole church benefits.



Staff: Providing for our pastoral and staff leadership and support
Benevolences/Mission: Supporting Christ's work by empowering missional partners
Office/Admin: Resourcing the ongoing work of the church
Programs: Nurturing the body of Christ through welcome, witness, discipleship and care
Property: Ensuring our house of worship is welcoming, efficient, clean and safe for members, guests and missional partners.

2026 Mission Trip to Western North Carolina

By Pete Gallini

From June 28th through July 4th, seven of us from Bon Air Presbyterian Church traveled down to western North Carolina to serve with the Fuller Center Disaster Recovery. The group was made up of Pete Gallini, Harold Houghton, Mike Jackson, Doug Paz, Margy Paz, Rob Waltenabugh, and Pastor Alex Creager. We worked on new and rebuilt homes for individuals and families who faced the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

Hurricane Helene hit western North Carolina in September 2024. Twenty to 30 inches of rainfall fell in just a couple of days. Winds were 60 to 100 mph. The French Broad River in Asheville had the same flow of water as Niagara Falls. Rivers rose 20 feet in just a few hours. Electricity was out for weeks. Clean water was out for months. Schools were closed. Roads washed out. People trapped. And over 73,000 homes were damaged.* Many in the region are still working to back to normal life, including having a permanent home to live in.

Our work was centered on two homes in Old Fort and Marion, NC. There, we worked Monday through Friday, building a front porch, installing a platform for HVAC equipment, putting in attic stairs, taping exterior insulation, installing roof shingles, digging post holes, installing windows, hanging doors, and more. It was a very hot week with temperatures in the mid to upper 90's, but the crew hydrated well and rested as appropriate.

After a hard day's work, we enjoyed wonderful meals made by the Fuller Center staff and local eateries (including a fantastic South African restaurant). We also had a lot of fun, visiting Black Mountain, hiking to a nearby waterfall and swimming hole, finding a pub to watch the World Cup, (nearly) completing a puzzle, and simply spending time catching up, and sharing joys from our days. One of the greatest joys was getting to visit with homeowners we met last year, when we worked on their ramp, and the warm welcome they greeted us with.

The Fuller Center Disaster Recovery group does an amazing job organizing everything: the housing, meals, and guiding us through the daily work. One of the biggest highlights of our week is getting to spend time with them (mostly local residents) and the homeowners who offer so much gratitude and joy.

We are so grateful for the support of BAPC. The funding for the trip came from a combination of the Cornerstone Endowment fund and the Memorial Benevolence Fund. It was a blessing to be able to serve this hard-hit community and to work with the dedicated staff of the Fuller Center. We were filled with joy as we saw the progress being made in returning the community to a greater sense of normalcy. We also grew closer together in faith as we worked and rested side by side. The team would like to thank BAPC for the financial resources, support and prayers to help get us through the week.

*Stats come from a great book called *Stronger Than the Storm: Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina,* written by local writers who experienced Helene firsthand. A copy is in our updated library.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY THANK YOU!!

Dear Judi, Alex and our dear family at Bon Air,

It's been a challenging week, as they are sometimes, and my week was just turned around when I walked into our office and saw it overflowing with LOVE and GRACE in the form of shampoo, conditioner, soap & other supplies from the Christmas in July Angel Tree at Bon Air Presbyterian Church! Thank you beloved friends, your love will bring comfort, joy and love to our kids going through the toughest moments in their young lives. You also brought us healing and hope, reminding us that we are not alone! Thank you for walking with us on this path of hope and healing! We are so grateful for you!

We are grateful to walk this road of justice and love together with you.

with deepest gratitude,

Lauren
--
Rev. Lauren Ramseur
Co-Pastor, Voices of Jubilee
lauren@voicesofjubilee.org

New Sunday morning schedule for children and youth

On September 20th, we will kick off our new Sunday School year with some exciting changes for our children and youth! The major change is that Sunday School will no longer take place at 10:00 AM.

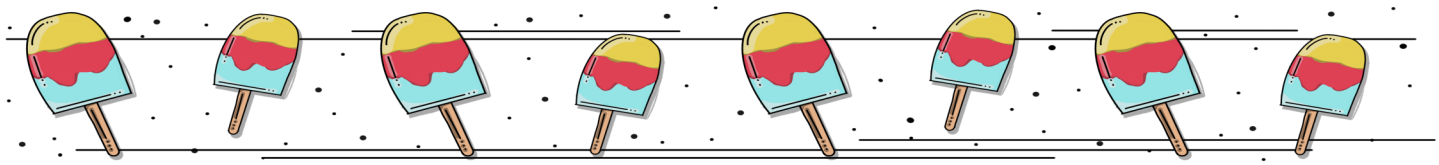
Instead, here is the new schedule:

◊ **10:00 AM**: Kids of all ages are invited to **Harmony Hall** in the Fellowship Hall for musical education and celebration, led by Music Director Meredith Himmelman. Please check the Harmony Hall section of this Outreach for more details.

◊ **11:00 AM**: All children and youth are invited to begin worship in the sanctuary. **Following the Time for Young Disciples, they will dismiss to their Sunday School classrooms**. This year, Becky Bullock will teach the preschool class, Barbara Gregory will teach the elementary school class, and Molly Vrbicek will teach the middle/high school class.

We hope families will be excited about this new schedule. Of course, children and youth who prefer to stay in the sanctuary for the full 11:00am service are always welcome to do so. We'll look forward to your feedback as we begin this new schedule starting September 20th!

Bon Air Presbyterian Church
9201 W. Huguenot Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-2307



OPEN TRUNK FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, September 5
9:30-10:30 in the parking lot.

The food will be taken to Chesterfield Food Bank this month.

If you are able, we hope that you will help us fill this need by contributing non-perishable food on September 5. 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.

BAPC SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10:30 Staff Meeting (L) 11:00 ATLAS Group (B) 1:30 SSSJ Committee (GR) 6:30 AA (FH/103) 7:00 Worship & Music (GR)	2 11:00 ATLAS Group (B) 5:00 Hospitality & Welcome (L) 5:00 Prayer Time (Z)	3 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 10:00 Chair Aerobics (101-103) 6:00 Yoga (GR) 6:30 Bible Study (B) 7:15 Pickleball (FH)	4 6:30 AA (FH/103)	5 9:30 Food Drive
6 M4M - Cornerstone Endowment Fund 9:00 Worship in the Woods 10:00 Worship (S/Z)	**7 Office Closed for Labor Day** 9:30 Yoga (101-103) 6:00 Cub Scouts (FH/ B/101/103/104) 7:00 Communications (Z)	8 10:00 Sister's Circle (GR) 10:30 Staff Meeting (L) 6:30 AA (FH/103) 7:30 CE-Youth/Children (Z) 7:00 Church & Society (B)	9 2:00 Congregational Care (GR) 5:00 Prayer Time (Z) 7:00 Stewardship (Z)	10 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 10:00 Chair Aerobics (101-103) 6:00 Yoga (GR) 6:30 Bible Study (B) 7:15 Pickleball (FH)	11 6:30 AA (FH/103)	12 4:00 Fellowship Flock at Providence Farms Cidery
13 Rally Day 8:30 Worship (S) 9:30 Breakfast (FH) 11:00 Worship (S/Z) 1:30 Girl Scouts (FH, B, 101, 103, 104)	14 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)	15 10:30 Staff Meeting (L) 6:30 AA (FH/103) 7:00 Property (GR)	16 5:00 Prayer Time (Z) 6:15 Dinner (FH) 6:45 Handbells (S) 7:00 Nominating Com. (GR) 7:30 Chancel Choir	17 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 10:00 Chair Aerobics (101-103) 6:00 Yoga (GR) 6:30 Bible Study (B) 7:15 Pickleball (FH)	18 6:30 AA (FH/103)	19 **9-2 Session Retreat at Camp Hanover**
20 **CE Starts** 8:30 Worship (S) 9:35 Adult Ed. (B/101) 10:00 Coffee/Conversation (P) 11:00 Worship (S/Z) 12:15 Mem. Garden Com (GR) 5:30 Youth Group (FH/B/Youth Rms)	21 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 9:30 Yoga (101-103) 6:00 Cub Scouts (FH/ B/101/103/104) 7:30 Preschool Board (L)	22 10:30 Staff Meeting (L) 6:30 AA (FH/103)	23 5:00 Prayer Time (Z) 6:15 Dinner (FH) 6:45 Handbells (S) 7:30 Chancel Choir	24 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 10:00 Chair Aerobics (101-103) 6:00 Yoga (GR) 6:30 Bible Study (B) 7:15 Pickleball (FH)	25 6:30 AA (FH/103)	26
27 8:30 Worship (S) 9:35 Adult Ed. (B/101) 10:00 Coffee/Conversation (P) 11:00 Worship (S/Z) 5:30 Youth Group (FH/B/Youth Rms)	28 8:30 Friendship Café (B) 9:30 Yoga (101-103) 6:00 Cub Scouts (FH/ B/101/103/104)	29 10:30 Staff Meeting (L) 6:30 AA (FH/103)	30 5:00 Prayer Time (Z) 6:15 Dinner (FH) 6:45 Handbells (S) 7:30 Chancel Choir **Cornerstone Endowment Fund deadline**			