

Bethany Banner February 2023

The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors Sunday Worship – 8:30 a.m. Informal; 11 a.m. Traditional

Sunday School for all ages – 9:45 a.m.

Office Hours: Tues.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Church Office: 804-642-2110; www.bethanyumc-gp.org

For God so loved the world, that he gave his oelievetr in him should no ut have everlasting life John 3:16

Pastor: Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song

Director of Music: Sandra Fox Organist: Dr. Rudy Shackelford

Director of Children & Youth Ministries: Carter Roane
Church Office Administrator: Dee Dee Wike

Bethany Town Hall Meetings.

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church is the top administrative and legislative body of our denomination. It meets every four years, updating the *Book of the Discipline* which contains our Constitution, Doctrine, General Rules, and Social Principles. Since its meeting in 2016, the General Conference has been postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and finally its meeting is scheduled for April, 2024. While we are waiting for the next General Conference to discuss human sexuality, marriage, and ordination, we are called to pray for God's will and to be faithfully attentive to the work of God through these issues and processes.

At Bethany church, we have called town hall meetings. The first meeting was in October of last year. Its purpose was to listen to each other's voices attentively and respectfully regarding these issues. We set a ground rule during the meeting that each person speaks his/her own opinion for three to five minutes while the rest of the people listen with no reaction, correction, or judgment. Then all people remain silent for a minute to digest the speaker's opinion and point before the next person speaks. Listening, speaking, and understanding was a group dynamic we practiced without making any decision, petition, or resolution regarding the issue.

On December 12, 2022, I met with some key leaders of Bethany church sharing recent denominational information which has been posted on the UMC's website as well as on the Virginia Annual Conference website, pertaining to the beginning of the Global Methodist Church, proposition 2553, which is the process of disaffiliation from the UMC. I shared with the key leaders, listening to their opinions on this information as it relates to Bethany church. It was only an informational meeting for our discernment.

On January 15, 2023, the second Bethany town hall meeting was called. Our purpose for the second meeting was to read Scripture passages referring to human sexuality and to study chapter seven, "Homosexuality," in the book, *Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspective On Tough Issues*, written by Rev. Adam Hamilton. We read the Scripture, watched his presentation with different views, both traditional and progressive, on this issue, and discerned what we are called to practice during this confronting time. Our goal for the second town hall meeting was to help each individual find his/her own faith conscience on this issue, and Christian virtue to practice.

As we are waiting for General Conference next year, we may be anxious about what it will mean for the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church, both personally and communally. We will continue our Bethany town hall meetings as needed, to stay informed regarding these issues as pertains to the mission and ministry and to the future of Bethany church, and we will continue to pray that we may discern the will of God and be attentive to God's work in and through us.

The primary call during this time, I believe, is to stand firm in the faith and trust in God, Jesus Christ our Lord. To a church struggling with controversy, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. **Do everything in love**." (1 Corinthians 16: 13-14)

In Christ, Pastor Paul

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOY CIRCLE will meet **Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 pm** in the Mary Lotsey classroom. All ladies are invited!

GNMCS COMMITTEE will meet on **Wednesday, February 15 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Mary Lotsey classroom.

CELEBRATION OF GIVING — Sunday, February 19, 11:00 a.m.

Mark your calendar and join us for our "Celebration of Giving" during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will disperse the Bethany Bazaar 2022 funds to local and other deserving missions! We hope to have representatives from these organizations here with us to accept the donations. The special service will be followed by a church-wide covered-dish luncheon in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall to honor the recipients. Hope to see you there! Our heartfelt thanks go out to all members and friends of Bethany who made this "Celebration of Giving" possible! (See inside back cover for recipients.)

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES will be cooking for our shut-ins on **Monday**, **February 27 at 9:30 a.m**. Come and enjoy the fellowship and share your love with others.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER – Tuesday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. Watch your bulletin and email blasts for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

If you have not joined a Sunday School Class, now is the time! We have two classes for adults and one each for youth and children. Classes meet each Sunday from 9:45 until 10:45 a.m., so follow a friend after the 8:30 service or come early for the 11:00 service! We have a Second Sunday Breakfast most months and will have breakfast this month on **February 12 at 9:30**, so plan to be there! Sunday School is an opportunity to get to know other believers and to study God's word.

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT BETHANY

HOUSE OF PRAYER – Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., beginning February 23 Starting February 23, you are invited to join us in the sanctuary on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. for a weekly time of prayer for our church. Prayer is foundational to everything we do at Bethany, and we believe God will bless our obedience as we continue to devote ourselves to the teaching of God's Word, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42).

BETHANY BIBLE STUDY, 2023

BBS will kick off a study of the book of *Romans* on **Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Lacey Martin classroom. Bring your Bible and a friend and join us on **Thursday nights** as we grow together in God's Word!



MAUNDY THURSDAY CANTATA – SINGERS NEEDED

On **Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m.,** the Chancel Choir will perform the cantata, *The Lenten Sketches,* by Joseph Martin. This incredible work is a series of tableaus illustrating the pivotal final days of Christ's earthly ministry: the triumphal entry, the Last Supper, the garden of Gethsemane, and the crucifixion. These events have inspired artists through the ages, and their wonderful creations in turn are the inspiration for this Lenten cantata. Included in this presentation are artwork, PowerPoint visuals, and a Bible study. You will be truly blessed to see and hear this moving and inspiring cantata. —Sandy Fox, Director of Music

We need singers for all voice parts and invite you to join us for rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. No audition is required.

MUSIC CAMP 2023—July 17-21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hey all you Rootatootin', Ratatatin', Strummin', Stringin', Foot Tappin' Music Lovin' young folks out there... have we got a deal for you!!!



Bethany UMC is excited to announce that we will be hosting our **2nd Annual Youth Music Camp** this summer from **July 17–21**, so mark your calendar! All youngsters in 6th through 8th grades will be welcome. Attendance will be limited to 50 students on a first-come, first-served basis. More information will be available soon!

FINANCIAL UPDATE—The Finance Committee is pleased to report that 2022 ended well due to the generosity and understanding of the congregation. Even though the year was financially challenging, Bethany met the challenges. With the contributions to the General Fund being less than we had projected, the Church committees, at the request of the Finance Committee, reduced spending for the last couple of months and we were able to meet all of our obligations. The congregation met 98% of their faith promise pledges and, in addition, met and exceeded the goal for the media campaign. The Finance Committee would like to thank you for your continued generous support of the Lord's work at Bethany.

Jack Whitmore Chairman, Finance Committee



CONFIRMATION CLASS, 2023

Confirmation class will be held on **Sunday** mornings at 9:45 a.m. beginning February 12 in the Sunday school classroom between the nursery and Carter Roane's office. If you have any questions, please contact Carter at 804-815-5722 or email youth@bethanyumc-gp.org. See you there!

MISSION AND MINISTRIES OF BETHANY 2023

The Program Development Team met on January 19 to discuss existing and potential mission and ministry opportunities at Bethany. God is doing exciting things, as evidenced by the overview below, and we anticipate many more great things to come! Please be in prayer about these opportunities and ask God where He would have you serve in 2023. We are so thankful for those of you who serve and encourage those who are "thinking about it" to jump in with both feet! You will be blessed!

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please contact a member of the Program Development Team. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome! **Program Development Team**: Judy Burner (Chairpeson), Nancy Wilburn (Adult SS), Carter Roane (Children/Youth), Nancy Orth (Church & Society), Kevin Kiley (Missions), Laura Glaze (Worship), Dawn Cluts (Prayer), Janet Chapin (HUGS)

1. Worship/ Music.

- Two Sunday worship services 8:30 a.m. Informal & 11:00 a.m.
 Traditional
- Livestreaming for both services
- Community Easter Sunrise service April 9, 2023
- Worship Committee meetings Jan. 24, May 23, Oct. 1
- George Nelson Memorial Concert Series
- House of Prayer Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, begins February 23
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 21, 6:00 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday service
 – February 22, 7:00 p.m.
- World Day of Prayer March 3 in the sanctuary.
- Chancel Choir provides music for 11:00 a.m. and seasonal cantatas

2. Christian education by age/ Small group/ Leadership.

- Confirmation Class 2023— Each Sunday during Sunday school hour, beginning February 12
- BBS, Bethany Bible Study Each Thursday, 7:00 p.m. in Lacey Martin, hybrid class (in-person and ZOOM). Class begins February 23.
- Joshua Spiritual Formation Group monthly gathering until July
- Tech training Doe Breen will teach how to use social networking and other tech tools.
- Vacation Bible School

Mission and Ministries 2023 (continued)

- 3. Mission/Outreach.
 - Local Mission –Youth and Adult
 - Congregational care
 - o Lock-In
 - o Jeremiah Project
 - GUEST Shelter
 - Music Camp 2023 –July 17-21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. for 6th to 8th grade children.
 - Class instruction in drum, recorder, guitar (acoustic) or ukulele, keyboard, violin
 - Connectional Ministry of the Virginia Annual Conference funded by \$2,500 grant
 - Celebration of Giving Sunday, February 19, 11:00 a.m.
 Bazaar funds will be distributed to invited representatives of community organizations during worship service. Following the service, recipients will be honored at a church-wide covered-dish luncheon in the fellowship hall.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the families of:

Jack Wallace, husband of Ruth Wallace, who passed on December 30. **Fred Townsend,** husband of Dean Townsend, who passed on January 13.

Please remember these families in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Rob** and **Samantha Hornsby** on the birth of their son, **Matthew Riggs Hornsby**, on January 12 at 6:08 p.m. Matthew is the baby brother of James and Lucas. He was 8 pounds, 20.6 inches long, and is absolutely perfect. Both mommy and baby are doing well.

THANK YOU NOTES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

THANK YOU for the 771 pounds of boxed food that you gave to the Food Ministry of Union Baptist Church. The Food Ministry touches the lives of many families in our area who are less fortunate. We can never know how many lives are touched or changed by a helping hand, a smile, or a kind word.

A. B. Fulcher, Jr.
Director, Union Baptist Church Food Ministry

Thank you for your donation of \$784.00 made on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. We deeply appreciate your support of the children and families at UMFS.

From our founding in 1900 as the Virginia Conference Orphanage, UMFS has partnered with local churches and members like you to live out our mission. Today we serve children in foster care and children struggling with mental health and behavioral challenges through foster and adoption programs, specialized education schools, and residential treatment programs.

We are honored to partner with faithful people like you who serve as unwavering champions for high-risk children and families in Virginia. Your gift will help vulnerable children get the support they need to overcome challenging circumstances and achieve their full potential.

With gratitude, Jill Gaynor–Annual Giving Officer, UMFS

Dear Pastor Paul Song and friends,

Over the years I have been blessed to attend a number of concerts performed at Bethany United Methodist Church by Dr. Rudy Shackelford. I always find the experience inspiring. The Bicentennial Birthday Concert celebrating Cesar Franck lived up to and exceeded expectations! I confess to being a bit jealous of your congregation's weekly musical celebration with Rudy.

Today we received a check for \$524 which was collected at the concert in support of the life-saving mission of Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society. On behalf of the GMSH family, we thank you and shall endeavor to continue being worthy of your trust.

May you have a happy and blessed New Year! Richard Crowder, MD – President, GMHS Board of Directors Dear Bethany United Methodist Church:

Thank you for taking part in the life changing movement of Habitat for Humanity of Gloucester-Mathews, through your prayers and your recent donation of \$200 received on 10/25/22.

We are able to continue to transform the lives of Habitat families. I am deeply grateful for your faithful partnership in the work that God has called us to undertake. Rest assured that we take the stewardship of your donation very seriously and remain vigilant and committed to maximizing it to benefit as many families as possible.

It is a joy for me to lead Gloucester-Mathews Habitat on its mission to help families along their pathway to permanent, affordable and safe housing. We find strength on the hardest of days and are blessed on the best day knowing that we have you as a partner and supporter.

Sincerely, Teresa L. Dalton – Executive Director

CHURCH DIRECTORY CHANGES

Jeannie Meisner has moved. Her new address and phone number are:

5899 Fiddlers Green Rd. Apt. 215 Gloucester, VA 23061 804-699-3036

If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers or email addresses, or find any errors in the information we have on file for you or your family, please contact the church office at 804-642-2110 or email admin@bethanyumc-gp.org.

Did you know that you can view or download a copy of the church directory from our website? You'll find it on the Members Only page at www.bethanyumc-gp.org. If you don't already have the password, contact the church office and Dee Dee will assist you.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much, Joy Circle, for throwing us such a sweet baby shower to celebrate and help us prepare for our third baby boy's arrival. Thank you for the delicious food, amazing gifts, and even better company. Ever since I started attending Bethany, everyone has always been so welcoming and kind. We are so blessed to be part of the Bethany family.

— Rob and Samantha Hornsby

BETHANY BAZAAR—The 2022 Bazaar raised \$14,000 which will be distributed to the following 24 organizations at the Celebration of Giving on Sunday, February 19: Abingdon Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Alzheimer's Association, Back Pack Program for Abingdon Elementary School, Bay Aging (Agency on Aging, Day Break, Meals on Wheels), Boys & Girls Club of Gloucester, Bread for Life, Camp Rainbow Connection, Gloucester Housing Partnership, Gloucester-Mathews Care Clinic, G.U.E.S.T. (Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team), Habitat for Humanity, Heart Havens, Helping the Homeless, Henderson Settlement, Henry Fork Community Center, Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society, Literacy Volunteers of Gloucester, Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Red Bird Mission, Salvation Army, Samaritan Group, Union Baptist Church Food Pantry, Wesley Community Center.

AARP TAX-AIDE RETURNS TO BETHANY ON WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 1-APR. 12

AARP Tax-Aide will be preparing individual tax returns at Bethany on Wednesdays, beginning on February 1 and continuing weekly through April 12. Appointments must be made in-person with Tax-Aide volunteers on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Please do not contact the church office to schedule appointments. Questions? Call the AARP Tax-Aide information line at 804-654-1407 and leave a message.

CANCER/CHEMO: Darlene Bauschatz, Krista Chase, Carol Johnson, Linwood Rowe, Bob Wharen

GRIEVING: Families of Diane McFarland, Fred Townsend, Jack Wallace

HEALTH ISSUES: Chuck Ashe, Cliff Beach, Charlotte Cecil, David Cecil, Billy Davis, Jimmy Greene, Sandra Hollins, David Hoover, Kathy Jacobs, Jon Kent, Bonnie Lewis, Patsy Morales, Sue Morecock, Kim Paiva, Richard Parkes, Peggy Peterman (NC), Rosemarie Tong, Judy Vaughan, Sandie Wharen

HOMEBOUND: Linda Booth, Sid Dixon, Ruth Wallace

HOSPICE: Alice McGee

PARKINSON'S: Mike Andersen, David Chapin, Doris Courtney, Kathleen Greene, Fred

Townsend, Yvonne White

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Mike Andersen, Nan Leigh, Joy Long, Paul McFarland

UPCOMING SURGERY: Dylan Chapin (March)

BETHANY FRIENDS

CANCER/CHEMO: Clint Alexander, Fran Bonniville, Kendell Walthall Caton, Jack Cawthorn, Kyle Cooper, Barbara Crim, Wanda Dowell, Dallas "Butch" Folk (ME), Nell Goldstein, Traci Greene, Zachary Hoover, Jeff Leiffer, Sissi Mise, Randy Riffe, Laine Seely, Chauntea Shield, Jill Ward, Gwen Wesson, Susan Williams

GRIEVING: Families of Frederick Ekdahl, Patricia Ezzel, Jackie Gibbs, Angie Williams **HEALTH/OTHER ISSUES:** Charles & Mary Black, Connie Bowler, Sandy Brinker (PA), Cathie Brown, Esther Dawson, Dewayne Haywood, Matt Iddings (PA) Norah Ivesson, Adie Kurth, Scott Leiffer, Donna Messersmith, Pastor Floyd Myers (PA), Glen Null, Vaughan Snyder (PA), Tim Sullivan, Evie Sutton, Mildred Townsend, Sabrina Wikle, Tim Williford (TN), Terry Wilson

HOSPICE: William Ervi, Selma **PARKINSON'S**: Janet Burch (KY)

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Jim Flansberg, Mary Hellison, Donna Hogge, Norman

Spaleny, Becky Wadsworth-Knowles (FL)

UPCOMING SURGERY: Silvia Howerton (UT)

OTHER PRAYERS: Kwame & Juliet Annorbah-Sarpei, Kasie Hall, Alli Razzaghi, Ukraine, Randy

Wilson

BUMC'S ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES (italics—Bethany friends)

Michael Brown, Peter Demetriades, Meagan Demetriades, Kevin Jacobs, Cory Long (Okinawa), Will Neikirk, Bowdy Schrader, Jim Minor, all members of the military.

ASSISTED LIVING (italics-Bethany friends) Lorraine Brown, Rm 107 Doris Courtney, Rm 305 Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061 Jean Heywood, Rm 110 Bessie Conner, Rm 102 Bonnie Lewis, Rm 13 Heron Cove, 7409 Heron Cove Way, Gloucester 23061 Judy Hudgins, Bldg 2, Rm 29 Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester Carolyn Scott, Rm 206A 23061 Sunrise Senior Living, 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond Pauline Harris, Apt. 130 23235 Riverside Rehab, 672 Gloucester Rd., Saluda, VA, 23149 Jennie Lipscomb The Hamilton Assisted Living, 113 Battle Rd., Yorktown, Sue Morecock, Rm 214 VA 23692

Please contact the church office with any updates, additions, or deletions. Thanks.



BIRTHDAYS						
2/1	Jeannie Meisner					
2/2	Diane Pruitt					
2/3	Debbie Tilley; James Leigh					
2/4	Kevin Jacobs; Carson Hasty					
2/6	Jackie Emerson; Wesley Buchanan					
2/7	Alan Harvey					
2/8	Jeff Lane					
2/11	Peggy Burton; Shannon Minor					
2/12	Sandra Byrd					
2/13	Rev. Paul Song					
2/14	Estelle Harris; Patsy Morales					
2/15	Evan Lane; Alyssa Hall					
2/17	Lori Rhodes Phillips; William Schultz					
2/18	Yvonne White					
2/21	Mike Simmons					
2/23	Nancy Orth; Joel Kidd					
2/24	June Matthews; Kirk Bell; Lisa Breaud; Jennie Lipscomb					
2/25	Ed Conner; David Cecil; Amy Miller					
2/26	Karen Morris; Dawn McDade; Sylvia Ransone					
2/29	Patrick Kiley; Kay Jackson					

	ANNIVERSARIES	# yrs
2/1	Mark & Carla Goetz	20
2/2	James & Betty Durrette	60
2/5	Kevin & Kris Kiley	50
2/11	Rev. Paul & Kim Song	33
2/11	Paul & Barbara Blais	23
2/14	Ed & Susan Conner	63
2/15	Randy & Pamela Campbell	21
2/19	Jim & Sandra Hollins	51
2/21	Steve & Dee Dee Wike	36
2/24	Art & Vicki Wolz	50

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 5: Jackie Hampton, Don Thomas,

2/5 Donna Lane Team 6: Charlotte Cecil, Betty Durrette, Clair 2/12 Hillard 2/19 Team 1: Mary Kaylor, Ann Byrd, Pat Hasty

Team 2: Betty Neikirk, Chip Neikirk, Sandra 2/26

Harvey

TRUSTEE CONTACTS

1/29-2/4: Tom Barnard 2/5-2/11: Donna Andersen 2/12-2/18: M. E. Thomas 2/19-2/25: **Rob Raines** 2/26-3/4: Diana Simmons

LITURGISTS

2/5 Scott Glaze 2/12 Laura Glaze 2/19 Pauline Reimold 2/26 Clair Hillard

ACOLYTES ALTAR FLOWERS Aidan Dumbrocyo 2/5 Mary Kaylor Justus Minor 2/12 Ed & Susan Conner

2/19 Decatur Hogge 2/19 **AVAILABLE** 2/26 2/26 **LENT-NO FLOWERS**

2/5

2/12

ALTAR GUILD

Pauline Reimold, Paul Kendall, Lynne Barnes

February 2023

Office Hours 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday (closed 12-1 p.m.) Closed Mondays. Office will be closed Friday, February 17.

February 2023					March 2023								
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22	2 9 16 23	3 10 17 24	4 11 18 25	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29	2 9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24 31	4 11 18 25

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
lan 29	30	31	Feb 1 10:00am AARP Tax Aide 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30pm S/PPRC	3	4
Communion Sunday 8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Coffee & Donuts 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Confirmation Informational Meeting 11:00am Traditional Worship	6	7 7:00pm JOY Circle	8 10:00am AARP Tax Aide 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00am York River Garden Club	10	11
8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Second Sunday Breakfast 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship	13	14 7:00pm Finance Committee	15 BANNER DEADLINE 10:00am AARP Tax Aide 5:30pm GNMCS Committee 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 10:30am Naomi Circle 10:30am Music Camp 5:00pm Media Upgrade Team	17 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (President's Day)	18
8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Coffee & Donuts 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Celebration of Giving (Traditional Worship)	20 I PRESIDENTS' DAY	21 6:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:00pm Administrative Council	22 10:00am AARP Tax Aide 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	23 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bible Study (BBS)	24	25
Youth Participation Sunday 8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Coffee & Donuts 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 4:00pm GNMCS: USAF Woodwind Ensemble	9:30am Homebound Ministries	28 6:00pm The Points HOA 6:30pm UMM Meeting @ Nick's	Mar 1	2	3	4