

Dear Homebound Ministry “Team,”

Thank all of you for thinking of me and Fred. The soup, cornbread, coleslaw, and brownies were just delicious! The cooks and deliverers...such a team!!

Our intentions were to come help deliver that Monday but God had a different plan – a delivery to us!! WOW!! Hopefully soon I will be back on both feet and running.

Love and Hugs, *Jane Niethamer*

Many thanks to the HUGS Ministry for the beautiful lap robe I received, and to all our Bethany family for the prayers, calls, and expressions of love shown me during my recent surgery and recovery. Thank you for your continued prayers as I begin radiation treatments soon. – *Nancy Orth*

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR LENT

Our Lenten Meditation this morning may have been the last music ever composed by Johann Sebastian Bach, whose 338th birthday we shall celebrate on Tuesday, March 21st. From his deathbed the blind musician dictated to his son-in-law, Johann Christoph Altnikol, an organ prelude based upon the chorale (or hymn) *When in the Hour of Utmost Need*. But significantly, Bach changed the words to read as follows:

“Before Thy throne, my God, I stand,
Myself, my all, are in Thy hand.
O show me Thine approving face,
Nor from Thy son withhold Thy grace.”

Moreover, Bach made subtle alterations in the hymn tune so that the first line would contain precisely 14 notes and the melody as a whole, 41 notes. Using the symbolism of numbers, the composer “autographed” his creation, since *B* is the second letter of the alphabet, *A* the first, *C* the third, and *H* the eighth – the sum of which is 14. When reversed, the number 14 becomes 41, which stands for J. S. Bach: 9+18+14=41.

Today’s Offertory, *Fugue in G Minor*, BWV 542, is often called “the Great” to distinguish it from a shorter fugue in the same key. The fugue subject is based on a Dutch folk tune on which Bach famously improvised during a job interview in 1720 at St. Catherine’s Church in Hamburg. Johann Adam Reinken, the church organist then 97 years young, paid Bach the following compliment: “I thought that this art was dead, but I see that in you it still lives!” Another applicant, who made an impressive donation to the church, got the job.
— Rudy Shackelford

HELPING THE HOMELESS MINISTRIES is in urgent need of volunteers to help in the Thrift Store, located at 7028 George Washington Memorial Hwy in Gloucester. Volunteers will be trained to work the register, as well as process and price donations. If you can help, or if you have any questions, please call Helping the Homeless Ministries Thrift Store at 804-792-3599, or email Pastor Wendy Roundy using the Contact Form at helpingthehomelessministries.org. Please consider becoming a volunteer, pray for the ministry, and share this with anyone you know who might be able to help.

NURSERY is available for infants to 3-year-olds during the Sunday school hour and 11:00 service.

The nursery is located in the main hallway between the office and fellowship hall.

Nursery volunteers are needed. WILL YOU HELP? Sign-up sheet is outside the nursery.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
TODAY	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal, 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Fellowship & Celebrations (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday school for all ages Confirmation Class 2023
Tuesday, March 21	7:00 p.m.	Administrative Council (WBFH)
Wednesday, March 22	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	AARP Tax-Aide (appt. only, Education Wing)
	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir & Cantata Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, March 23	9:30 a.m.	Homebound Ministries (WBFH)
	10:00 a.m.	Music Camp Meeting (WBFH)
	6:30 p.m.	House of Prayer (Sanctuary)
	7:00 p.m.	Bethany Bible Study (BBS) (Lacey Martin)
Friday, March 24	Time TBD	Youth Movie Night (York River Cinema)

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 as we celebrate this week’s birthdays/anniversaries!

Birthdays:

3/19 Sarah Hillard; Frank Farmer; Tina Silberhorn; Lisa Krukovsky
3/20 Warren Douglas
3/21 Peggy Peterman; Sammi Jacobs
3/22 Jennifer Orth-Veillon; Darlene Bauschatz
3/23 Don Schultz
3/25 Stephanie Wood

Anniversaries:

3/19 Drs. Tim & Cathy Leigh (35)
3/25 Cheryl & Pitt Roane (53)

**DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER
FLOWERS IS TODAY.
See order form in bulletin.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY IS UMCOR SUNDAY — Today is special Sunday for UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief. Please get UMCOR cards at both entrances of the Sanctuary to get more information and to give for relief work of the church. Write “UMCOR” on memo line when you give through Bethany church.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES will be cooking for our shut-ins on **Thursday, March 23 at 9:30 a.m.** Come and enjoy the fellowship and share your love with others.

JOSHUA SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP is scheduled to meet next **Sunday, March 26 at 2:30 p.m.** in the Mary Lotsey classroom.

EASTER BREAKFAST HELP NEEDED — This year Bethany will be hosting the community breakfast after the Sunrise Service. We would appreciate if you could help by providing some of the needed items for the breakfast. **Please take one of the cards on the table near the office and return the item by Sunday, April 2.** Thank you so much! — *Hospitality Committee*

THURSDAYS AT BETHANY – COME JOIN US!

House of Prayer— 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary

The sanctuary is open on Thursday nights for all to come to pray.

When you come, center yourself to God by having a moment of silence, reading scripture and meditating. Pray for God’s will be done, for the peace of God on earth, for churches in the world, for the United Methodist Church and its General Conference next year, for Bethany Church, for the sick and the troubled, and pray for your own prayers.

Bethany Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. in the Lacey Martin classroom.

Currently we are studying the book of Romans.

House of Prayer and Bethany Bible Study will not meet on Maundy Thursday, April 6 due to Cantata and Prayer Vigil.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the families of:

Grady Toler, beloved former Bethany choir member, who passed early Wednesday morning.

Marilyn Joyce Smith Dean, sister of Sandy Fox, who passed earlier this month in South Carolina.

Please keep these families in your prayers. *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Activity is ramping up for Bethany’s children and youth and we invite you to join in the fun! Highlights this month include Youth Movie Night on Friday, March 24 at York River Cinemas (time TBD) and Youth Participation Sunday on March 26 at 11:00 a.m. We need youth ushers and greeters for Youth Participation Sunday on the 4th Sunday of every month.

Our Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 will be open to the community, so please bring your friends and join us! Volunteers, egg stuffers, and donations of candy are needed for the event.

- 3/24 Youth Movie Night at York River Cinema (time TBD)
- 3/26 Youth Participation Sunday
- 4/1 Children & Youth Bowling Night at York Lanes, 6:30 to 8:00pm
- 4/8 Easter Egg Hunt, 12:00-2:00pm (Pre-K through 5th grade)
- 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23 and 4/30 at 9:45am, Youth and Children Sunday School
- 4/23 Youth Participation Sunday

For more information or to volunteer, call or text Carter Roane at (804) 815-5722.

Thanks for your support! – *Carter Roane*, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

LENT & EASTER AT BETHANY

Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. — Chancel Choir Cantata.

The Lenten Sketches by Joseph Martin will be performed by our Chancel Choir. This incredible work is a series of tableaux illustrating the pivotal final days of Christ’s earthly ministry: the triumphal entry, the Last Supper, the garden of Gethsemane, and the crucifixion. You will be truly blessed to see and hear this moving and inspiring cantata.

Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil – Begins after the Maundy Thursday service and continues through noon on Good Friday. More information to come.

Good Friday, April 7 – Church Office Closed

Saturday, April 8 – Easter Egg Hunt, 12:00 p.m. (Pre-K through 5th Grade)

Easter Sunday, April 9

Community Easter Sunrise Service – 6:30 a.m., VIMS

Community Breakfast hosted by Bethany UMC – 7:30 a.m., WBFH

Easter Worship at Bethany – 8:30 informal and 11:00 traditional (Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.)