

INTRODUCING BACH'S "GOLDBERG" VARIATIONS

As we embark on what promises to be a transformative year in the history of Bethany United Methodist Church, the time is ripe to experience one of the greatest examples of transformation in the art of music. Over the course of the next several months, we will present a complete performance of the "Goldberg" Variations by Johann Sebastian Bach, the most exalted composer of music for the Protestant church.

Bach published this work in 1741 and titled it *Aria with Divers Variations, for the Harpsichord with Two Keyboards, Composed for Music Lovers to Refresh Their Spirits*. The music was commissioned by Count Hermann Carl von Keyserlingk, the Russian ambassador to Dresden, the capital of Saxony. The Count suffered from insomnia and asked Bach to write pieces "of such a soft and somewhat lively character that he might be a little cheered up by them in his sleepless nights." The harpsichord player would be the 14-year-old Johann Gottlieb Goldberg, Count von Keyserlingk's personal musician and a student of Bach's.

Here we find a remarkable parallel with the story of Saul and David in *I Samuel*, chapter 16: "And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took a harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him." In our case David becomes young Goldberg and King Saul, Count von Keyserlingk; the biblical harp is transformed into the Baroque harpsichord, and the "evil spirit" manifests itself as insomnia. Bach, an avid student of theology, would certainly have noticed this parallel, particularly since Johann Kuhnau, his predecessor as music director of the four main churches in Leipzig, had composed six *Biblical Sonatas* for harpsichord or organ. The second sonata depicts the melancholy of King Saul assuaged by David's harp. It is perhaps no coincidence that both the biblical narrative and the title page of the "Goldberg" Variations define music as a means to "refresh the spirit."

Stay tuned for a continuation of Bach's glorious music and its fascinating backstory!

— Rudy Shackelford

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Paul and Nancy Kendall in celebration of their 59th wedding anniversary on July 10th and in appreciation for the Liturgists who are so faithful, as well as the Altar Guild, especially those who helped with Communion Sunday on July 2.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
TODAY	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal, 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK BREAKFAST (WBFH)**
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School (No Confirmation Class)
Monday, July 10	6:00 p.m.	York River Villas (Lacey Martin)
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Tuesday, July 11	10:00 a.m.	Music Camp (WBFH)
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee (WBFH)
Wednesday, July 12	9:00 a.m.	Trustees (WBFH)
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thursday, July 13	6:30 p.m.	House of Prayer (Sanctuary)
Friday, July 14	6:30 p.m.	Children & Youth Ministries Game Night (WBFH)
	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Visitation for Alice McGee (Andrews Funeral Home)
Saturday, July 15	10:00 a.m.	Service of Death & Resurrection for Alice McGee (Bethany Sanctuary), followed by reception in fellowship hall
		AUGUST BANNER SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE
NEXT SUNDAY	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal, 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	Celebrations and Fellowship (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School (No Confirmation Class)

****Join us for breakfast and fellowship at 9:30, before you head off to Sunday school!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC CAMP TEAM will meet this **Tuesday, July 11 at 10:00 a.m.**

CHANCEL CHOIR will not rehearse on **July 19th (due to Music Camp)**. The choir will take their annual summer hiatus during the month of August, with their last rehearsal on August 2nd. Chancel Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 6th at 7PM. We hope you will pray for our choir during this time and consider joining us in the fall as we begin preparations for our Christmas cantata!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES GAME NIGHT, Friday, July 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

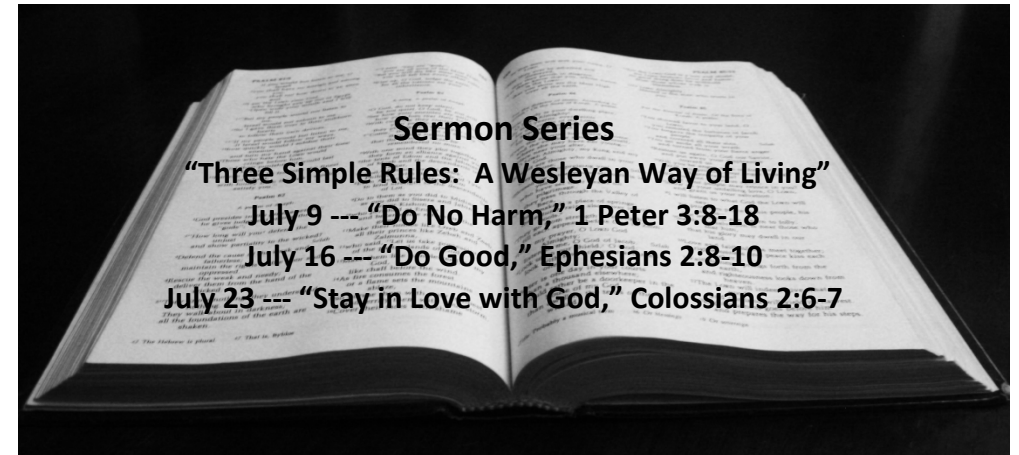
All youth and children are invited to join us in the fellowship hall on Friday night, July 14, for a great night of fun and games—with prizes! Parents and volunteers are welcome, too! To volunteer, or for more information, contact Carter Roane at 804-815-5722 or email youth@bethanyumc-gp.org.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the families of **Alice McGee** and **Joan Fecondo**, who went to be with the Lord on Sunday, July 2. Joan's service was held on Friday at Hogg Funeral Home. Please remember her husband Tony and their family in your prayers.

A Service of Death and Resurrection for Alice McGee will be held at Bethany on **Saturday, July 15 at 10:00 a.m.** with a finger food reception afterwards in the fellowship hall. Visitation will be at Andrews Funeral Home on Friday, July 14 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

NOTE: Finger foods are needed for Alice's reception and should be dropped off beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 15. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday, July 14 at 10:00 a.m., and to serve and clean up after the reception on Saturday. If you can help, or if you have questions, please contact Judy Burner at 804-642-6016/804-413-8888. Thank you for your support.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY at the Day Shelter and Resource Center for GUEST (Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team) — The GUEST Day Shelter and Resource Center is open three days a week for clients to come to take a shower, wash clothes, get food, and get resources to help them find housing and/or jobs. We have planned three work days for painting and repairs. We hope you will consider working one or more days Saturday, August 12, Monday August 14, and Wednesday August 16. We will begin work at 8:30 a.m. Most work will be done inside but we do have some work outside. Men and women of all skill levels are needed. For more information call Kevin Kiley (804-815-5164) or Al Burner (804-413-4444).



CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 each Sunday for fellowship and celebration!

Birthdays:

- 7/10 Traci Andersen Waters, Susan Conner
- 7/11 Roberta Bockrath, Alice Northam, Melissa Brooks
- 7/12 Shannon Roane, Stan Reams, Cyler Brooks, Tony Conry
- 7/13 Barbara Daniel
- 7/14 Hunter Martin, Gavin West
- 7/15 Doug Vaughan, Jr.

Anniversaries:

- 7/10 Paul & Nancy Kendall (59)
- 7/10 Mike & Donna Andersen (52)
- 7/14 Kirk & Patsy Bell (44)

