

INTRODUCING BACH'S "GOLDBERG" VARIATIONS
(Second Installment)

Last Sunday we launched a multi-week music series presenting one of the most monumental compositions for solo keyboard, *Aria with Divers Variations for the Harpsichord* by Johann Sebastian Bach. Consisting of an Aria (here a song without words) and 30 variations, a complete performance such as we gave during the 2003 and 2017 George Nelson Memorial Concert Series lasts about 75 minutes. However, Bach was commissioned to write a collection of short pieces "of a soft and somewhat lively character" to help alleviate the insomnia of his patron, the Russian ambassador to Dresden, and so a piecemeal rendition would have been historically more likely. The work's more familiar title, "*Goldberg*" Variations, pays homage to Johann Gottlieb Goldberg, the pupil of Bach who first performed it.

It is truly said that song and dance are the wellspring of all music. While the "*Goldberg*" *Aria*, with its wistful, ornate melody, seems to embody song in its purest essence, the gentle rhythm is that of a 16th-century dance called the *sarabande*. Throughout his 30 variations, Bach skillfully balances the forces of song and dance, melody and rhythm, to create the maximum variety. Five variations are modelled on dances that were popular in the 17th and 18th centuries: *passapied* (No. 4), French *gigue* (no. 7), Italian *giga* (No. 11), *minuet* (No. 19, foreshadowing Haydn and Mozart), and *siciliana* (No. 24), the lilting rhythm of the Christmas pastorate.

The overarching structure of the "*Goldberg*" Variations is, as usual with Bach, highly symmetrical. The variations are arranged in ten groups of three, with the third of each group except the last being a canon (or round). The interval between the leading voice and the follower increases with each successive canon, starting from unison and progressing through the ninth. Variations Nos. 12 and 15 are "mirror" canons, in which the following voice is inverted, producing an aural reflection of the leader.

Each variation consists of two sections, both of which may be repeated, and the entire series of 30 falls into two larger parts:

PART I: *Aria* + Variations 1-15;

PART II: Variations 16-30 + *Aria* reprise.

Our presentation of Bach's "*Goldberg*" Variations continues throughout the summer and well into the autumn. Don't miss a single exciting installment of this immortal masterpiece!

— 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 in memory of
Joseph Carlyle Brown, Jr., by Frances Woods.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
TODAY	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)
Monday, July 17	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Music Camp
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal (May Lotsey)
Tuesday, July 18	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Music Camp
	7:00 p.m.	Administrative Council (WBFH)
Wednesday, July 19	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Music Camp
Thursday, July 20	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Music Camp
	6:30 p.m.	House of Prayer (Sanctuary)
Friday, July 21	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Music Camp
NEXT SUNDAY, July 23	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)
	4:00 p.m.	Joshua Spiritual Formation Group (Mary Lotsey)

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to answer phones and greet guests while Dee Dee takes a much-needed vacation the first week in August. No computer skills required. **Help is needed from 8am-noon and from 1pm-4pm, Tuesday, August 1-Friday, August 4.** The morning shift can be divided as needed. To request a shift, please contact Dee Dee at 804-642-2110 or admin@bethanyumc-gp.org. Thanks for your support!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST BANNER DEADLINE – Submissions for the August newsletter were due July 15. Please submit your information in writing no later than this Wednesday, 12 p.m. to ensure timely production. Thank you!

FEEL THE NOISE! MUSIC CAMP kicks off Monday morning and will run from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., July 17-21. Please be in prayer for our camp leaders, volunteers, and the young people who will be participating this year. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and support!

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 7:00 p.m. 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!

HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES will meet on **Thursday, July 27 at 9:30 a.m.** to cook and deliver meals for our shut-ins. Even if you can't boil water, we need you and guarantee you'll enjoy the fellowship and be blessed as you serve our sweet senior adults! Questions? Contact Judy Burner at 804-642-6016.

BETHANY BIBLE STUDY (BBS) -- Our weekly bible study group, BBS, Bethany Bible Study, will resume August 3 (Thursday), 7:00 p.m. at Lacey Martin classroom, studying 1 Corinthians. It is open to all adults.

MID-YEAR FINANCE UPDATE

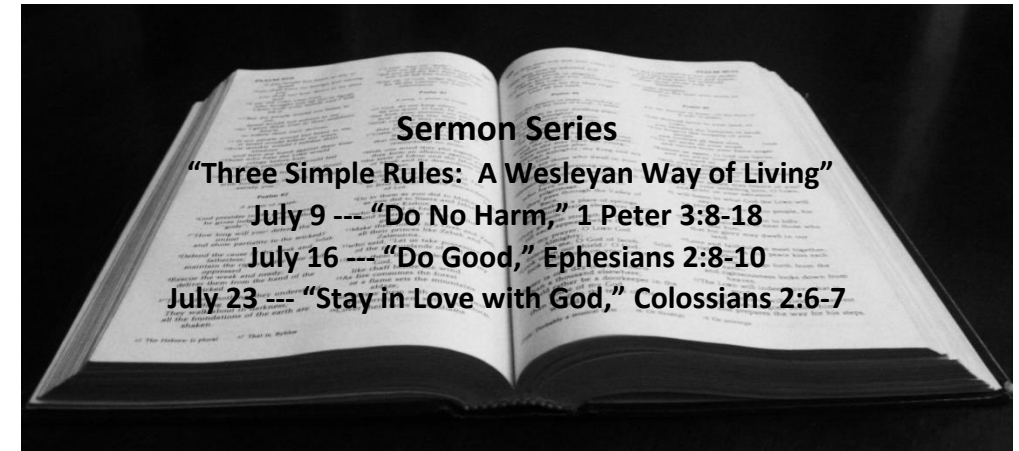
The Finance Committee thanks everyone for their continuing support during the first half of this year. At midyear (June 30th), the budget income is 51% of the 2023 budget total of \$299,305. Some of the early offerings were the result of the required individual IRA distributions sent directly to Bethany as a one-time yearly offering. We can't expect this dollar amount in the second half of the year. To meet the budget at year end, the average Sunday's Stewardship offering to the General Fund needs to be \$5,500. Note: the previous Sunday's offering is listed in the bulletin. The Finance Committee will continue to monitor the budget vs actual contributions and give updates to the membership.

Other news from the committee:

Cheryl Roane, Financial Secretary, and Cathy Raines, Treasurer, are working to update our Financial Procedures and the procedures manual.

The 2024 budget process will start in August and Bethany Committee Chairs will be receiving budget request forms. Our district, Mission Rivers, has requested that all churches use the narrative budget format. The narrative format communicates how financial stewardship connects with mission and ministry. It offers a comprehensive explanation of how our financial investments are bearing fruit and changing lives.

Jack Whitmore, Finance Committee Chairman



CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

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

Birthdays:

7/16 Sally Kendall Gulley, Wade Lewis,
Michael Barber
7/18 Ann Dunston, Ashley Reynolds
7/20 Jamie Tilley, Richard Boyette, Sophia Marie Perkins
7/22 Bud Carteret, Kenneth Hogge

Anniversaries:

7/18 Blair & Lisa Hasty (37)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Gregory Boyd Brown**, son of Elizabeth Brown, who died on July 5th. A graveside service was held on July 10.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY at the Day Shelter and Resource Center for G.U.E.S.T. (Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team) — The G.U.E.S.T. 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).

