

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

In his full, formal title, *Aria with Divers Variations, for the Harpsichord with Two Manuals, Composed for Music Lovers to Refresh their Spirits*, Bach is quite specific about the instrument required to perform this gigantic opus. The harpsichord is a stringed instrument, played from one or two keyboards (or manuals), which flourished in the 17th and 18th centuries – the so-called Baroque period of music history. While shaped like a grand piano, which replaced it in the 19th-century Romantic era, the harpsichord has a completely different technology and sound. Instead of hammers striking the piano's strings with percussive effect, the harpsichord employs quill plectra to pluck its strings, producing a *timbre* (or tone quality) akin to that of the lute, mandolin, or harp.

In some respects the "Goldberg" Variations stand as a tribute to the Italian composer Domenico Scarlatti. Born like Bach and Handel in 1685, Scarlatti wrote more than 500 sonatas for harpsichord, many of them scintillating virtuoso études that feature rapid scales, arpeggios, and repeated notes, and especially the crossing of hands. The first 30 sonatas were published in 1739, two years before the "Goldbergs," and in ten of his variations Bach exploits the advanced keyboard techniques that Scarlatti introduced: Nos. 1, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, and 28.

Several variations are one of a kind, standing outside of the aforementioned categories of canon, dance and étude. In No. 10, for example, Bach appears to be poking fun at a pompous academic, for he subtitles it *Fughetta* – a slighting reference to that most learned musical form, the fugue. By all accounts, Bach had a rather dry sense of humor. When asked for the recipe of his success as an organist, he quipped: "One simply presses the right key at the right time and the organ does the rest!"

Since Bethany does not possess a harpsichord, we are performing Bach's "Goldberg" Variations on the organ. In fact our Allen digital "organ" can replicate generic harpsichord tone, which will be mixed with traditional organ stops to create a kaleidoscopic panoply of sound appropriate to the character of each variation.

— 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 today are given in memory of my husband Gene and in honor of the three ladies he loved who have birthdays in one week – Jeannie (July 23), her daughter Lizz Epperson (July 26) and granddaughter Dawn Boyer (July 30).
Praise God! -- Jeannie Harrell.

A yellow rose has been placed anonymously in honor of Jeannie Harrell on her birthday.

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)
	4:00 p.m.	Joshua Spiritual Formation Group (Mary Lotsey)
Monday, July 24	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal (Mary Lotsey)
Tuesday, July 25	1:00-7:00 p.m.	Annual Red Cross Blood Drive (WBFH)
	6:15 p.m.	Stewardship Committee (Confirmation Classroom)
Wednesday, July 26	6:00 p.m.	GNMCS Committee (Mary Lotsey)
	6:00 p.m.	The Points HOA (WBFH)
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thursday, July 27	9:30 a.m.	Homebound Ministries (WBFH)
	6:30 p.m.	House of Prayer (Sanctuary)
Saturday, July 29	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Streets of Gold Quartet Rehearsal
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)

JOSHUA SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP will meet TODAY AT 4PM in the Mary Lotsey classroom to discuss the book, *Becoming a Blessed Church*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHANCEL 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!

GNMCS COMMITTEE will meet on **Wednesday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Mary Lotsey classroom.

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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS resumes **August 6 at 9:45 a.m.** with the theme, "The Bible—Not Just a History Book."

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE wishes to thank all who served, cooked, helped with set up and clean up, and made monetary contributions toward the reception after Alice McGee's funeral on July 15. The family was blessed by your gracious hospitality, and the committee appreciates your efforts to make the family feel welcomed and well-fed.

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

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to answer phones and greet guests while Dee Dee takes much-needed vacation the first week in August. No computer skills required. **See openings below.** To request a shift, please contact Dee Dee at 804-642-2110 or admin@bethanyumc-gp.org. Thanks for your support!

Date	8:00-10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.-noon	1:00-4:00 p.m.
8/1 (Tues.)	<i>Dawne Sawyer</i>	<i>Dawne Sawyer</i>	Pauline Reimold
8/2 (Wed.)	Richard Parkes	Richard Parkes	Vicki Williams
8/3 (Thurs.)			Sandy Riggan
8/4 (Fri.)	Bernard Robins	Bernard Robins	Debbie Robins
Instructions will be provided; no computer skills required. Questions? Contact Dee Dee at 804-642-2110.			

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

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

Birthdays:

7/23 Candy Douglas, Jeannie Harrell,
Margie Morris
7/24 Kendra Robins Ervin, Breta Hoover,
Gerlinde Booth
7/25 Deborah Bunting
7/26 Megan Schrader, Brent White, Jenny
Farkas, Kimberly Lewis
7/27 Duane Cecil, Logan Chase
7/28 Afton Leigh Thayer
7/29 Tim Morris

Anniversaries:

7/24 Alex & Lauren Chapin 13
7/25 Nile & Bonnie Cecil 59
7/25 Clyde & Peggy Burton 71
7/26 Greg & Lynne Barnes 48
7/29 Harry & Judy Vaughan 56

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).

