



**Bethany Banner**

**September 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](http://www.bethanyumc-gp.org)

**SERVANT**  
QUILTING SINGING  
TRANSPORTATION **ALTAR GUILD**  
**THANK YOU** **YES** **TEAMWORK**  
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER **ACOLYTE** **GIVE**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**YOU** USHERING **MENTORING**  
GREETING  
**WORKING TOGETHER** BEING AVAILABLE  
**THE HEART OF EVERY CHURCH EVERY WHERE**  
**ANSWERING THE CALL**  
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS  
**STEPPING UP**  
ASSEMBLING SCHOOL KITS  
**DISCIPLESHIP**  
**FOOD PANTRY**  
THANK YOU FOR  
**SAYING**  
**YES**

**Pastor: Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song**

Director of Music: Sandra Fox

Organist: Dr. Rudy Shackelford

Church Office Administrator: Dee Dee Wike

## A Blessed Church

We want our church to be blessed, don't we? What is a blessed church like?

*Becoming a Blessed Church*, written by N. Graham Standish, was one of the books that our church's Joshua Spiritual Formation Group has studied. Fourteen people faithfully met monthly for ten months, and they finished their journey successfully in August.

The author claims that a blessed church is a church formed by spiritual purpose, presence and power, is growing in spiritual awareness, awakening, and spiritual adventure so as to encounter God in the life of the church. Spiritual dimension and practice are the guiding principles for all mission and ministry programs and activities of the church.

He describes five marks of a blessed church:

- A blessed church sees itself as the body of Christ. The church is a body, not a business; an organism, not an organization.
- A blessed church has a vibrant sense of faith, hope, and love.
- A blessed church is filled with God's purpose, presence, and power.
- A blessed church embraces the sacred.
- A blessed church is not afraid to serve God in its own way, responding to God's call and God's call alone. Each church has its own calling, ministry, and mission. Blessed churches resist the idea that they should do what others outside their situation demand, even if the hearts of the demanders are in the right place.

I really felt blessed reading this book with our Joshua Spiritual Formation Group members, thinking of our blessedness at Bethany church, and how we can become a more blessed church from now on.

"To be attentive to God, to what God is doing in and through Bethany church and respond to God faithfully" has been the focus of my pastoral ministry. Will you continue to pray and work alongside me for our church to become more blessed, as we continue to discern God's will, praying, "God, what are you calling us to be and to do?"

Blessings,

*Pastor Paul*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**S/PPRC INVITATION** – Please join us in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall during our fellowship time between services at **9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 3**, to recognize Carter Roane for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors. Carter resigned from his position as Director of Children and Youth Ministries effective August 6.

**JOY CIRCLE** will meet on **Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m.** in the WBFH. All ladies are welcome!

**JOSHUA SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP** — Joshua Spiritual Formation Group is our small group ministry, meeting monthly for ten months, and we invite you to journey with a new group. An informational meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 24 at 4 p.m.** in the Mary Lotsey classroom for any who might be interested. See insert for details and make sure to read the testimonials included in this month's newsletter.

**HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES** —Join us on **Monday, September 25 at 9:30 a.m.** to prepare meals for our shut-ins. We need folks to deliver too!

---

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Back to School - Back to Sunday School!!!

Sorry to say - summer is over! (but the hot weather is not!)

It's time to get back on a good routine, and that includes Worship and Sunday School! Come try the Informal Worship service at 8:30, followed by Fellowship every Sunday. **We will have a special "Welcome Back" Breakfast on September 10**, so please plan to be there!

---

### THURSDAY NIGHTS AT BETHANY

**6:30 p.m. — House of Prayer**

The sanctuary is open weekly for prayer. All are encouraged to stop by and pray for our church and community, nation and world, your personal needs, and for our denomination as we approach General Conference in 2024.

**7:00 p.m. – Bethany Bible Study (BBS)**

All adults are invited to join us for our ongoing study of the Bible. BBS is held in the Lacey Martin classroom. We are currently studying 1 Corinthians. It's never too late to join us. Come when you can!

## JOSHUAL SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP (TESTIMONIALS)

“10 Months, 10 Books, 10 Joshua Spiritual Group Meetings”

Was it worth it? Yes indeed! One takeaway is I am more AWARE.

AWARE of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit at work in my life and all around. AWARE that I need to slow down, be quiet and listen!

*Debbie Robins*

---

Wow! What a ten month journey the Joshua Spiritual Formation Study Group has been on! I personally struggled with accepting Pastor Paul's invitation to join this group. I didn't know if I'd have the energy or the will to make the commitment that was going to be needed to read a book a month, study regularly, and pray with focus and intention. So, I did what I always do. I turned to God. I prayed long and thought a lot about this challenge. As many of you have heard me say in the past, some of my best conversations with God happen at 3am and discussing this topic was no exception! God woke me up several nights in a row, until I finally contacted Pastor Paul and said yes to the Joshua Group!

Our 1<sup>st</sup> book, *Abba's Child* by Brennan Manning, was spiritually heart-wrenching for me. God knew this was exactly the book I needed to read at that moment in my life! From that first book to our last book, we have moved from renewing, refreshing, and refocusing on our personal spiritual formation journeys to taking a hard look at our corporate (community) spiritual formation journey here at our beloved Bethany Church.

Ten months of studying together have bound us together in Christ in a way that makes it comfortable to speak truthfully about what's on our hearts and minds. Answering the hard questions out loud...How is your soul today? Where do you hear God calling you to serve Him? How are we feeding people's souls here at Bethany Church?

If you are blessed to receive an invitation to join this or any other spiritual formation study group, I'd highly recommend you prayerfully consider it! I can guarantee that the commitment and time you put into it will change your life!

Blessings,

*Dolores Breen*

## FAITH PROMISE

The Finance Committee has started planning the 2024 budget. The process began on the 1st of August when the committee sent budget requests to committee chairs and staff members responsible for selected budget categories. Now we need the help of our Bethany family. How? By completing the Faith Promise form in this month's newsletter. (Click [HERE](#) to access form electronically.)

Faith Promise giving is a vital part of the budget process because it's one of the tools used to predict income for the coming budget year. Faith Promises are allocated to the General Fund and used for routine operational expenses (water, electricity, general maintenance, insurance, pastor and staff salaries, advertising, supplies, etc.) needed to provide effective ministry to our church and community. Bethany's income and expenses have been impacted in these challenging times, yet the need for ministry and outreach is more important than ever.

Please take a few minutes and prayerfully consider your general fund Faith Promise for 2024, and return your completed form by Sunday, September 10th. (Instructions are on the back of the form.) This will give us time to complete and submit the budget for approval by the Finance Committee and the Administrative Council prior to our Charge Conference.

*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
—2 Corinthians 9:7*

Thank you,

Jack Whitmore, Finance Chairman

**GEORGE NELSON MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES – September 17, 4 PM**  
**Rappahannock Crossing Bluegrass Band** will be performing at Bethany on **Sunday, September 17 at 4 PM.** Rappahannock Crossing was formed in the Fall of 2011 by five seasoned bluegrass musicians and friends from Virginia's Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula who got together for just a "little jam." From that time forward, the band has evolved into one of Virginia's premier bluegrass bands and has performed all over the Eastern region. Rappahannock Crossing's band members include Randy Crittenden (Dobro), Isaac Hyde (Mandolin), Mike Nicely (Guitar), Mitch Tohson (Bass), and Curtis Brizendine (Banjo). The Band not only performs many bluegrass standards and classics but also original compositions written by the band's members. This performance is free and open to the public.



**Kathleen Greene** has moved to Gloucester House, Room 207, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester, VA, 23061. Her cell phone number is 757-902-0770. Please keep Kathleen in your prayers.

---

Dear Bethany Church members,

We wanted you all to know how much Phil & Alice enjoyed this church. They always went where they loved the people. Ones that had a good heart & enjoyed life. We appreciate you all being that.

We also wish to thank all those helping hands that prepared and delivered the delicious meals year and year! We All enjoyed them!

We wish to thank Donna, Ann, Judy, Milton, Dawne, Dave, Nancy W., Mary, Pat, Nancy K., Diana, Jeannie, Loreen, Dawn, Charlotte, Betty, Bev, David & Janet, Ann, Vicki, and Donna, Sylvia, Kevin & Kris, and all the men and women not mentioned in the lengthy list we were given of the great people that put on a wonderful meal following the service to honor Alice McGee. It was greatly appreciated and delicious!

Sincerely, *The McGee family*

# Joshua Spiritual Formation Group

## 2023-2024



“Do you want to know your true self before God?”

“Are you thirsty for God?”

“Are you seeking a way to grow deeper in your faith in God through Jesus Christ?”

“Are you interested in living with inner peace from God?”

“Do want to learn how to practice spiritual disciplines so that they become a part of you?”

**Then pray, and consider attending the informational gathering on Sunday, Sept. 24, 4:00PM in Mary Lotsey Classroom. (Please bring your Bible with you.)**

“Spiritual Formation for the Christians basically refers to the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self in such a way that it becomes like the inner being of Christ Himself.”

— Dallas Willard —

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” — John 7:37-38 —

---

*Joshua Spiritual Formation Group is our small group ministry, meeting monthly for ten months, and we invite you to journey with a new group.*

## **FOR THE MINISTRIES OF BETHANY UMC**

In response to God's love and many blessings and as a tangible expression of my faith and commitment to Christ and His church I make this Faith Promise for 2024 to the General Fund.

My Commitment to Bethany UMC is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week, month or year.  
(circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Please place in an envelope and return by Sunday, September 10th.

You can return your Faith Promise Card by choosing one of the following options below:

- 1.) Drop it in the offering plate during the Worship service.
- 2.) Mail to: Bethany UMC, PO Box 527, Gloucester Point, VA 23062
- 3.) Drop it in the outdoor drop box in the rear parking lot of the church.
- 4.) Email it to the Church Office: [admin@bethanyumc-gp.org](mailto:admin@bethanyumc-gp.org).

Bethany UMC Prayer List	BETHANY FAMILY	8.27.23
<p><b>CANCER/CHEMO:</b> Darlene Bauschatz, Krista Chase, Carol Johnson, Linwood Rowe, Gwen Wesson, Bob Wharen</p> <p><b>GRIEVING:</b> Families of Gregory Boyd Brown, Joan Fecondo, Alice McGee</p> <p><b>HEALTH ISSUES:</b> Chuck Ashe, Cliff Beach, Charlotte Cecil, David Cecil, Billy Davis, Estelle Harris, Sandra Hollins, David Hoover, Kathy Jacobs, Jon Kent, Bonnie Lewis, Joy Long, Dennis Mitchell, Patsy Morales, Sue Morecock, Alice Northam Richard Parkes, Peggy Peterman (NC), Rosemarie Tong, Judy Vaughan, Sandie Wharen</p> <p><b>HOMEBOUND:</b> Linda Booth, Ruth Wallace</p> <p><b>PARKINSON’S:</b> Mike Andersen, David Chapin, Kathleen Greene, Yvonne White</p> <p><b>RECOVERING FROM SURGERY:</b> Billy Davis, Jane Niethamer</p> <p><b>UPCOMING SURGERY:</b> Steve Wike (9/12), Dylan Chapin (10/12)</p>		
BETHANY FRIENDS		
<p><b>CANCER/CHEMO:</b> Clint Alexander, Fran Bonnaville, Kendell Walthall Caton, Jack Cawthorn, Kyle Cooper, Barbara Crim, Wanda Dowell, Dallas “Butch” Folk (ME), Carol Gibbs, Traci Greene, Zachary Hoover, Erin Kate (Dooley) McGuire, Sissi Mise, John Sheppard, Chauntea Shield, Mason Staley, Jill Ward, Larry Whitfield, Susan Williams</p> <p><b>GRIEVING:</b> Families of Jeff Leiffer, Susan Townsend</p> <p><b>HEALTH/OTHER ISSUES:</b> Connie Bowler, Sandy Brinker (PA), Esther Dawson, Dewayne Haywood, Laura Hodges, Adie Kurth, Don Kurth, Donna Messersmith, Sylvia Motley, Dottie Myers (PA), Kelley Parkes, Phillip Presson, Kent Stevens (FL), Tim Sullivan, Mildred Townsend, Sabrina Wikle, Williford family (TN)</p> <p><b>HOSPICE:</b> Selma</p> <p><b>HOSPITAL/REHAB:</b> Jan Flansberg</p> <p><b>PARKINSON’S:</b> Janet Burch (KY)</p> <p><b>RECOVERING FROM SURGERY:</b> Terry Corbin, Charlene Diggs, Pat Hall, Silvia Howerton, Marcia Mickle, Howard Moore</p> <p><b>OTHER PRAYERS:</b> Ukraine, Randy Wilson</p>		
BUMC’S ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES ( <i>italics—Bethany friends</i> )		
<p><i>Michael Brown, Peter Demetriades, Meagan Demetriades, Kevin Jacobs, Cory Long (Okinawa), Will Neikirk, Bowdy Schrader, Jim Minor, all members of the military.</i></p>		
ASSISTED LIVING ( <i>italics-Bethany friends</i> )		
<p><b>Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061</b></p>	<p>Lorraine Brown, Rm 107 Kathleen Greene, Rm 207 Jean Heywood, Rm 110 Bessie Conner, Rm 102</p>	
<p><b>Heron Cove, 7409 Heron Cove Way, Gloucester 23061</b> (Sid &amp; Marion Dixon’s mailing address: PO Box 36, Gloucester Point, VA 23062)</p>	<p>Sid Dixon, Bldg 2, Rm 35 Marion Dixon, Bldg 2, Rm 33 Judy Hudgins, Bldg 2, Rm 29 Bonnie Lewis, Rm 13</p>	
<p><b>Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061</b></p>	<p>Carolyn Scott, Rm 206A</p>	
<p><b>Sunrise Senior Living, 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond 23235</b></p>	<p>Pauline Harris, Apt. 130</p>	
<p><b>Riverside Rehab, 672 Gloucester Rd., Saluda, VA, 23149</b></p>	<p>Jennie Lipscomb</p>	
<p><b>The Hamilton Assisted Living, 113 Battle Rd., Yorktown, VA 23692</b></p>	<p>Sue Morecock, Rm 214</p>	



**BIRTHDAYS**

9/1	Clare Hall, Alliyson Alligood, Troy Andersen, Dave Ayers
9/3	Nan Leigh, Chip Dize
9/4	Paul Martin, David Daniel
9/5	Marion Dixon, David Dixon, Nile Cecil
9/6	Mary Linda Brooks, Will Neikirk
9/7	Dean Tillage, Robert Leigh
9/8	Jean Heywood, Mike Thayer, Kristin Morris; Greg Barnes
9/9	Jane Niethamer, Marie Reynolds, Lynda Blubaugh
9/11	Kelly Fox, Donna Dixon
9/13	Lonnie Byrd
9/16	Shirley Tinker
9/17	M.E. Thomas, Sue McDaniel, Samantha Hornsby
9/18	Beth Dixon
9/20	Bryan Stillely, Sandy Wharen
9/21	Randy Campbell, Ed Schultz
9/22	Glen Kaylor, Frances B. Woods
9/23	Christian Martin
9/24	Gail Wallace, Ron Ervi
9/25	Lindsay Hodges, Robin Hasty
9/28	Tina Coleman, Jason Hogge, Alexandria Bontrager
9/29	Emily Coleman, Kira Fox, Judy Vaughan, Landon Poulin
9/30	Sam Uhler, Jennifer Quintero, Madden Stevens, Audrey Clare Phillips

**ANNIVERSARIES**

		# yrs
9/1	Al & Judy Burner	55
9/4	Alan & Sandra Harvey	29
9/5	Rob & Jen Naquin	25
9/7	Richard & Susan Boyette	48
9/18	Jason Waters & Traci Andersen	13
9/20	Bob & Lynda Blubaugh	53
9/24	Milton & Judy Hudgins	63
9/24	Tony & Susan Conry	35
9/26	Robert & Samantha Hornsby	8
9/29	Troy & Melissa Anderson	22
9/30	Scott & Ruth Stilianos	28

**COUNTING TEAMS**

- 9/3 Team 5: Jackie Hampton, Don Thomas, Donna Lane
- 9/10 Team 6: Charlotte Cecil, Betty Durette, Clair Hillard
- 9/17 Team 1: Mary Kaylor, Ann Byrd, Pat Hasty
- 9/24 Team 3: Al Burner, Judy Burner, Donn Anderson

**ALTAR GUILD**

Ann Byrd, Betty Durette, Sylvia Ransone

**TRUSTEE CONTACTS**

Aug. 27-Sep. 2: Milton Hudgins  
 Sep. 3-9: Donna Lane  
 Sep. 10-16: Tom Barnard  
 Sep. 17-23: Donna Andersen  
 Sep. 24-30: M. E. Thomas

**LITURGISTS**

- 9/3 Ann Byrd
- 9/10 Lynne Barnes
- 9/17 Pastor Paul Song
- 9/24 Regina Berry

**ACOLYTES**

- 9/3 TBD
- 9/10 TBD
- 9/17 TBD
- 9/24 TBD

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

- 9/3 AVAILABLE
- 9/10 Barbara Holtry
- 9/17 AVAILABLE
- 9/24 Martin & Doe Breen

# September 2023

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Labor Day)	2
3 Communion Sunday 8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Coffee & Donuts 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship	4	5 7:00pm JOY Circle	6 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS)	8 8:30am Homeschool Music Academy	9
10 Reception of New Members (11:00 service) 8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Second Sunday Potluck Breakfast 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship	11 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	12 7:00pm Finance Committee	13 9:00am Trustees 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Program Ministry Development Team	14 10:00am York River Garden Club 2:30pm UWF Board 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS)	15 BANNER DEADLINE 8:30am Homeschool Music Academy	16 8:00am RCQ Annual Retreat
17 8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Coffee & Donuts 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 4:00pm GNMCS Concert - Rappahannock Crossing Bluegrass	18 10:30am 5 Rivers Women's Club (Luncheon) 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	19 6:00pm York River Villas 7:00pm Administrative Council	20 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 10:30am Naomi Circle 5:00pm Media Upgrade Team 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS)	22 8:30am Homeschool Music Academy	23
24 8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Coffee & Donuts 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 4:00pm Joshua Spiritual Formation Group Orientation	25 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	26 6:30pm UMM Meeting @ Nick's	27 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS)	29 8:30am Homeschool Music Academy	30