

JOINING US IN WELCOMING THESE JOINING BETHANY OR REAFFIRMING MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Ed Conner, 5346 Glebe Hall Rd., Gloucester, 23061, 804-832-3811, connered@gmail.com

Barbara Holtry, 1389 Laurens Rd., Gloucester Point, 23062, 804-642-9871, barbaraholtry@yahoo.com

Sue Leed, 1785 Sawgrass Pointe Dr., Hayes, 23072, 757-869-1456, suehouston510@gmail.com

Julie Rogers, 6904 Colemans Crossing Ave., Hayes, 23072, 757-350-1932, juliebob57@verizon.net

Larry & Susan Whitfield, 1906 Katie Ln., Hayes, 23072, 804-642-5209

CHRISTMAS CANTATA SINGERS NEEDED —The choir will be doing the Christmas cantata, "I Hear the Prophet Callin'" by Pepper Choplin for the Christmas season. We will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. The rehearsals will run about 45-60 minutes. We will perform this on December 17 at the 11:00 service. We need singers of all voices! Please come out and help us make this an exceptional Christmas performance to our Lord and Savior. Contact Sandy Fox for more info.

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

Today we are very excited to resume our complete performance of the epic "*Goldberg Variations*" by Johann Sebastian Bach launched on Sunday, July 9th. Consisting of an *Aria* (song) with 30 variations and lasting about 75 minutes, this monumental work is truly a "Mount Everest" accomplishment for any keyboard player, whether it is performed as originally intended on the harpsichord, the organ, or the modern piano. We reached the halfway milestone with Variation 15 on August 15th and took a brief hiatus to celebrate the birthday of French composer Claude Debussy.

Now we begin Part 2 of Bach's "*Goldberg Variations*", comprising variations 16 through 30 and a reprise of the opening *Aria*. As in Part 1, each variation has a distinctive character imparted by its keyboard texture and technical focus. Every third variation is a canon (round). The stunningly dramatic *Overture* (No. 16) is Bach's clever parody of the kind of music that 17th-century court composers like Jean-Baptiste Lully wrote to introduce operas and ballets glorifying the "Sun King," Louis XIV. Majestic and a bit starchy at first, the piece ends with a brisk, sarcastic flourish.

If Bach was here sporting a French *coiffure*, in Variations 17, 20, and 23 he doffs it for an Italian wig in homage to Domenico Scarlatti, whose 500+ sonatas for harpsichord feature dexterity, speed, lightness of touch, and dazzling independent finger work. Moments of repose are found in Variation 19, a demure minuet pre-echoing Haydn and Mozart; the introspective meditation of Variation 21 (canon at the 7th); and the pastorale of Var. 24, another Italian vignette full of rustic charm, evoking the shepherds serenading the Christ child with bagpipes and drums.

Our complete traversal of Bach's "*Goldberg Variations*" will continue through October 15th. Stay tuned for the abundant blessings God's chief musician has in store!

—Rudy Shackelford

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, September 10, 2023

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 by Barbara Holtry in memory of her parents, Gregg and Barbara McLeod, on their anniversary today and her mother's birthday on 9/11.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
TODAY	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal, 11:00 Traditional) Reception of New Members (11:00 service)
	9:30 a.m.	Second Sunday Potluck Breakfast (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School and Confirmation Class
Monday, September 11	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal (Mary Lotsey)
Tuesday, September 12	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee (WBFH)
Wednesday, September 13	9:00 a.m.	Trustees (WBFH)
	10:00 a.m.	Nominations Committee (WBFH)
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00 p.m.	Program Development Team (WBFH)
Thursday, September 14	10:00 a.m.	York River Garden Club (WBFH)
	2:30 p.m.	UWF Board (Mary Lotsey)
	6:30 p.m.	House of Prayer (Sanctuary)
	7:00 p.m.	Bethany Bible Study (BBS) (Lacey Martin)
Friday, September 15	ALL DAY	OCTOBER BANNER SUBMISSIONS DUE
	8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Homeschool Music Academy of Gloucester
Saturday, September 16	8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	River Country Quilters Annual Retreat (WBFH)
Sunday, September 17	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal, 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	Celebrations & Fellowship (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School and Confirmation Class
	4:00 p.m.	Rappahannock Crossing Bluegrass Band (George Nelson Memorial Concert Series)

JOSHUA SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP ORIENTATION—Sunday, September 24 at 4:00 p.m.,
Mary Lotsey classroom. **See insert for details and pray about joining us!** Questions?
Contact Pastor Paul at 804-642-2110 / 703-625-8025.

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 Tohlson (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.

GNMCS COMMITTEE will meet **Wednesday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m.** in Mary Lotsey classroom.

UMCOR MISSION TO MAUI

UMCOR has begun its rescue mission to help the recovery of Maui wildfires, and you can help by donating. Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>
 - By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
 - By check made out to **Global Ministries/UMCOR** with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and mailed to:
Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068
 - By check made out to **Global Ministries/UMCOR** with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.
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CHURCH OFFICE NEWS — Volunteers (Bernard Robins and Wendy Hogge) will be staffing the office on Tuesday, September 12. Dee Dee will be working from home on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 13-14, while she cares for Steve, following his knee surgery on Tuesday. **You may call Dee Dee on her cell (901-831-8534) during office hours (8am-4pm) on Wed./Thurs.** If you need access to the church on Wed./Thurs., please call Pastor Paul in the church office or call/text his mobile, 703-625-8025.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

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

Birthdays:

9/11 Kelly Fox, Donna Dixon
9/13 Lonnie Byrd
9/16 Shirley Tinker

Anniversaries

None this week

FREE BED FRAME AVAILABLE – Queen-size metal bed frame for anyone who wants it. Contact Kirk Bell at 804-824-4160 if you are interested.

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 today's bulletin.

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

—Jack Whitmore, Finance Chairman