

### Bethany HUGS Update

What is HUGS? HUGS (Hands Unto God’s Service) is a unique ministry of prayer, comfort and caring manifested through prayer shawls, lap robes and baby afghans handmade by members of the Bethany congregation. Just as a physical hug conveys a sense of love, concern, support and security within embracing arms, the HUGS Ministry provides Christian love and comfort to those in physical, spiritual or emotional need.

Since the start of the HUGS Ministry in 2009, we have provided 676 recipients with a physical representation of the biblical principle “love thy neighbor.” This is a ministry with outreach beyond our local community. We have shared God’s love throughout our entire nation.

This ministry provides a means for us to be God’s hands and feet here on earth. Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.” We covet your support through your prayers and donations of knitted and crocheted shawls, lap robes and baby afghans. What is God asking you to do?

Lastly, is there someone you feel would benefit from receiving a HUG from our church? Contact Janet Chapin at 804-832-2576.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, January 14, 2024

**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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
<b>TODAY</b>	8:30 & 11:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional) SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK BREAKFAST (WBFH) Sunday School for all ages
<b>Monday, January 15</b>		BANNER SUBMISSIONS DUE (February issue)
<b>Tuesday, January 16</b>	5:00 p.m.	Hand Bell Choir (Lacey Martin)
<b>Wednesday, January 17</b>	5:30 p.m.	Praise Team (Choir Room)
	6:00 p.m.	GNMCS Committee (Mary Lotsey)
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
<b>Thursday, January 18</b>	9:00 a.m.-noon	Bazaar Workshop (Lacey Martin)
	10:30 a.m.	Naomi Circle (Mary Lotsey)
	5:00 p.m.	Media Upgrade Team
	6:30 p.m.	House of Prayer (Sanctuary) Eighteen weeks of special prayer 1/4– 5/2/24
	7:00 p.m.	Bethany Bible Study/BBS (Lacey Martin)
<b>Friday, January 19</b>	8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	Homeschool Music Academy of Gloucester
<b>Sunday, January 21</b>	8:30 & 11:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional) Celebrations and Fellowship (WBFH) Sunday School for all ages
	6:00 p.m.	UMYF (Youth Room, grades 6-12)

**“I BELIEVE”** is a new sermon series for three Sundays in January.  
 Jan 14— “I believe in God, creator of heaven and earth” Exodus 3:1-12  
 Jan 21— “I believe in Jesus Christ his Son” Matthew 16:13-20  
 Jan 28— “I believe in the Holy Spirit” John 20:19-23



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Special Call for Congregational Weekly Prayer Meeting.

January 4, to May 2, 2024, each Thursday at 6:30PM in the sanctuary.

You are encouraged to join us as we pray and seek God's will for General Conference (4/23-5/3/24) and lift up prayer requests for the life, mission and ministry of Bethany church, our community, our families, and our personal needs. *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need"* (Hebrews 4:16).

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**HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES** will cook for our shut-ins on **Wednesday, January 24 at 9:30 am.**

Come join us!

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Confirmation Sunday – January 28, 11:00 a.m.**

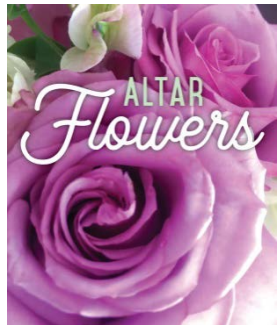
**Joshua Spiritual Formation Group, 2024, begins this month, with information/orientation meeting on Sunday, January 28, 4:00PM in the Mary Lotsey room.**

**Senior Advocate Panel Forum on Aging – Wednesday, February 21, 10:00 a.m.**

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**The Hospitality Committee would like to thank those who helped with Sid Dixon's reception by setting up and clean up afterwards.**

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given for the glory of God by Kevin and Kris Kiley in appreciation of the Friendship Sunday School class.

The 2024 Altar Flowers chart is posted in the main hallway. The following date before Lent is available: **2/4**. There are no flowers during Lent. To donate flowers, please sign your name on the chart in the hallway or contact the church office at 804-642-2110. Cost is \$50 for two arrangements. Thank you for participating in this worship ministry at Bethany!

## CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

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

### Birthdays:

1/15 Ryan Brooks; Laura Glaze; Tim Hart, Jr., Adel Trevino  
1/16 Nancy Cooper; Stacey Montefusco  
1/17 Rylie Patterson  
1/18 Lewis Marion; Barbara Dunston;  
1/19 Ann Byrd

### Anniversaries

Josh & Vanessa Morris (24)

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## A MESSAGE TO THE MEN OF BETHANY

The leadership of the United Methodist Men (UMM) for 2024 is as follows: President, Alan Harvey; Vice-President, Milton Hudgins; Secretary, Tom Barnard; Treasurer, Clair Hillard. You may contact any of us for questions or suggestions.

The UMM meets monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Nick's Spaghetti & Steak House, Gloucester Point, with the following exceptions: we do not meet in June, July, August, or December. We have been hosting a Ladies Night in February at church in place of the regular meeting.

I hope that if you have been active in the UMM in the past, you will strongly consider doing so in the future. If you have not been attending in the past, we hope you will consider joining. Milton always gets interesting speakers for our meetings. The meetings are fairly brief, following a nice meal. We do take up an offering so that we can maintain a balance in our account, which allows us to give an occasional gift to a guest speaker's cause or to a local charity. If your wife is interested in hearing the guest speaker, she is certainly welcome to attend with you. In the meantime, I pray God will continue to bless our organization and the church family.

In His Name,  
Alan Harvey

From the Director of Music:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We can't begin to say those words enough to the people of Bethany for all the heart-felt cards, food, money, support, time, and love that you gave us upon the death of our Kira. We are so devastated over her death but are very blessed to have family and friends such as you. We have been on the receiving end of this incredible agape love and are deeply moved by it. As Charlotte Cecil used to say, "there is only one church, Bethany", and we are proud to be a part of the family.

Thank you, again,  
The Foxes, Kelly, Hudson, Sandy; CeCe and Cait (Kira's friends)