

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.

Beech Grove Baptist Church, Saturday, January 27, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Beech Grove’s clothes closet will be open to everyone for free clothes. They have a large selection of men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing, all sizes. Church is located at 4073 Cedar Bush Rd., Hayes. Please pass the word to those who may have a need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, January 21, 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given for the glory of God by Julie Rogers in memory of her husband Robert Rogers.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY	8:30 & 11:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional) Celebrations & Fellowship(WBFH) Sunday School for all ages UMYF (6th-12th grades, WBFH/Youth Room)
Monday, January 22	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee (WBFH)
Tuesday, January 23	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Hand Bell Choir (Lacey Martin) Worship & Arts Committee (WBFH)
Wednesday, January 24	9:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Homebound Ministries (WBFH) Praise Team (Mary Lotsey) Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
Thursday, January 25	9:00 a.m.-noon 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Bazaar Workshop (WBFH) Special Congregational Prayer (Sanctuary) Bethany Bible Study/BBS (Lacey Martin)
Friday, January 26	8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Homeschool Music Academy of Gloucester
Sunday, January 28 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY (11:00 service)	8:30 & 11:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional) Celebrations and Fellowship (WBFH) Sunday School for all ages Joshua Spiritual Formation Group (Mary Lotsey)



BIRDIE'S CLOSET

PLEASE HELP US FILL THE CLOSET WITH NEW OR LIKE NEW CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.



CHOOSE A "BIRDIE" (OR TWO) FROM THE TREE, PURCHASE THE ITEMS NOTED AND RETURN THEM UNWRAPPED TO THE BOX IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

BIRDIE'S CLOSET WILL BE A RESOURCE THAT CAN PROVIDE CLEAN, APPROPRIATE CLOTHING TO EACH CHILD IN NEED. CHILDREN ENTERING INTO FOSTER CARE ARRIVE INTO THE SYSTEM WITH VERY LITTLE.

WE WILL GATHER CLOTHING, PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS, TOYS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, AND OTHER ITEMS THAT CHILDREN & TEENS MIGHT OTHERWISE NOT HAVE. WE ALSO HOPE THAT WE CAN PROVIDE EACH CHILD A SUITCASE, DUFFEL BAG OR BACKPACK. NO CHILD SHOULD HAVE TO PACK UP ALL OF THEIR THINGS INTO A TRASH BAG.

"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 Congregational Weekly Prayer Meeting—January 4, to May 2, 2024, Thursdays at 6:30PM

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).

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

Come join us!

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.

UNITED METHODIST MEN will meet on **Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m.** at Nick's Spaghetti and Steakhouse. Guest speaker will be Carlos Britos, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones (Hayes office). All men are welcome. For more information, contact Milton Hudgins at 804-832-6289.



PANEL FORUM ON AGING Wednesday, February 21, 10AM – 12:00PM Bethany United Methodist Church 1860 Hayes Rd., Gloucester Point

Join us to learn about a variety of senior services. This Forum is open to older adults and healthcare professionals seeking Certificates of Attendance for Educational Credits. Boxed lunches will be handed out after the Forum. Cost: FREE.

Panel Topics:

“Avoiding Common Healthcare Scams” presented by Shawn Smith, State Director, Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol

“Aging in Place” presented by Gada Saunders, Owner, Upgrade Remodeling

“What Seniors Need to Know about Estate Planning?” presented by Angela Manz, Attorney and Owner, The Law Office of Angela Manz

“Senior Safety” presented by Captain Bill Adams, Crime Prevention Specialist, Project Lifesaver Coordinator, Gloucester County Sheriff's Office

“What You Need to Know about Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease” presented by Doug Panto, Community Programs Manager, Alzheimer's Association Southeastern Virginia Chapter

To register, RSVP to www.SeniorAdvocate.Live or call 757-724-7001.

Presented by: **SeniorAdvocate™**

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

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

Birthdays:

1/21 Pauline Harris; Richard Parkes, Vanessa Morris

1/25 Randy Tong

1/26 Nancy Wilburn

1/27 Eric Thomas; Brittan Goetz

Anniversaries

1/22 Randy & Rosemarie Tong (19)

2023 YEAR END FINANCIAL UPDATE — With the prayers and generosity of the Bethany congregation and friends, the church's 2023 General Fund budget was met. Bethany was fortunate to receive two \$5,000 grants from the Mission Rivers District to help support Capital Projects. The Trustees submitted a grant to recondition and paint the church steeple. The Media Committee recognized the need for a grant to replace the broken speaker, located above the altar and to complete the sanctuary media desk.

In August, the Finance Committee started the process of developing the 2024 budget. Staff and Committee Chairpersons were asked to submit a narrative budget of their needs to complete their planned missions. The submitted information was reviewed and approved by both the Financial Committee and the Administrative Council. The 2024 approved budget resulted in an approximate 3% increase from the 2023 budget which partially reflects the 3% Pastor and Staff pay increase. Note, the Pastor and Staff haven't received a pay increase in the last four budget cycles.

The 2024 Bethany Budget is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Jack Whitmore
Chairman, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee would like to thank Cathy Raines for her 5 years of dedication to the Bethany Treasurer position. Cathy, with her CPA experience, was a major contributor with financial information and internal controls. She is leaving the position to focus on her other programs that support the Bethany mission.

The Finance Committee welcomes Ruth Ann Freeman and Donna Lane to the Bethany Finance Team. Ruth Ann is the new church Treasurer and Donna will help as Financial Assistant.