



Bethany Banner

February 2024

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



“Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart.”

Joel 2:12, NIV

Pastor: Rev. Moonsup “Paul” Song

Director of Music: Sandra Fox

Organist: Dr. Rudy Shackelford

Director of Children & Youth Ministries: Brad Thomas

Church Office Administrator: Dee Dee Wike

Slow down, Stop, Silence, and Solitude

The liturgical season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14 when we offer worship service at 7:00PM, with ashes, a symbol of human mortality, repentance. This season comes to us as an opportunity to renew our faith in God through Jesus Christ.

When I was driving through my neighborhood, I noticed an inflatable, arm-waving figure known as a “tube man” or tube dancer which businesses use for advertising. It was at a restaurant which was newly opened, and whenever I drove by it, the tube man was always dancing, 24/7, as the fan blew air into it. It was a good idea, I think, to draw the attention of people, to advertise the restaurant.

At the same time, however, the tube man reminded me of our human condition, which is often a bit frenzied, dancing hard with no slowing down, driven by internal or external demands, or by the desire to achieve success. And we may lack meaningful rest deep down in our body, soul, and spirit, losing sight of our true self, who we are, and our purpose, why we are here, in the sight of God.

We are ushered into Lenten practices with worship, Scripture reading and meditation, acts of repentance, self-denial for the sake of others, following Jesus Christ who suffered and died for our sake. It is an opportunity to grow deep in faith as we slow down, stop, embracing silence and solitude for us to know God by experience.

“He says, be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalm 46:10).

Blessings,

Pastor Paul

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Call for Congregational Weekly Prayer Meeting.

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

BAZAAR WORKSHOPS – THURSDAYS FROM 9AM TIL NOON, WBFH

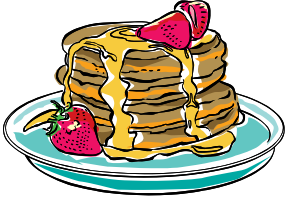
Gals (and Guys, too!),

Come on out and have fun making items for this year's Bazaar! You don't need any specific skills - just follow simple directions! We have coffee, snacks and lots of fellowship. Join the Bazaar Bunch on Thursday mornings from 9:00-12:00 (or any fraction of that time). Remember, this is a church-wide effort to raise money for Missions. We need you!

Don't forget to save antique items for the Vintage room. Anything you think will become someone else's treasure - save it for us!

JOY CIRCLE will meet **Tuesday, February 6 at 7 p.m.** in the WBFH.

Shrove Tuesday



Please mark your calendars to join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner as we kick off the Lent season! We will meet to feast on **Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m.** in the WBFH.

PRIME TIMERS KICK-OFF LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 12:15 p.m.

A kick-off meeting for Bethany's new

PRIME TIMERS ministry is planned for Sunday, February 25, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.



Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall and we will discuss activity ideas and ways we can best serve one another. If you are widowed, divorced, or simply unmarried, in search of fun activities and meaningful fellowship, this is the group for you! For more information, contact Dawn Cluts at 804-684-5340 or 757-690-3874.

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. **This year we are hosting a Ladies Night on Tuesday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall, 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

****LADIES NIGHT FEATURES A CATERED MEAL (DETAILS PENDING) AND OUTSTANDING ENTERTAINMENT. WATCH YOUR BULLETINS AND EMAIL FOR MORE INFO.**

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the families of:
Sarah Jacobs, mother of Kevin Jacobs, who died on December 27.
Gerlinde Stevens, wife of James Stevens, who died on January 1.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



**FEBRUARY 11
FOLLOWING THE 11AM SERVICE**

Join Us for the Souper Bowl of Caring!

We are excited to announce an upcoming event that combines the joy of fellowship, delicious homemade soup, and the spirit of giving back - the Souper Bowl of Caring! **Mark your calendars for February 11th after the 11AM worship service**, as we gather in the fellowship hall for a warm and cozy lunch served by our dedicated youth and children's ministry.

What is the Souper Bowl of Caring? The Souper Bowl of Caring is not your average luncheon; it's a celebration of community, compassion, and culinary talent. We invite all congregants to participate by contributing a crock of their favorite soup for the lunch. The more varieties, the merrier our feast will be! As you enjoy the array of soups, you'll also have the chance to vote for your favorites. Each soup station will have a designated basket, allowing you to show your appreciation by making a donation. Let's turn this friendly competition into an opportunity to support our local community. All funds raised and canned food collected during the Souper Bowl of Caring will be donated to our local food bank. Your generosity will make a meaningful impact on those in need, spreading warmth and nourishment far beyond the walls of our church.

How You Can Participate:

- Donate a crock of your favorite soup.
- Enjoy the soup tasting and cast your votes.
- Make a donation in the designated baskets to support the cause.

Let's come together as a church family, share a meal, and make a difference in the lives of others. Your involvement in the Souper Bowl of Caring will not only fill your stomach but also warm your heart.

We look forward to seeing you there!



BETHANY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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™**

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.

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY

(updated info)

1. Select an available date on the Altar Flower calendar in the main hallway.
2. Write your name on the corresponding line.
3. BUMC has an arrangement with Gloucester Florist to provide two altar arrangements (florist's choice) at a cost of \$60. The following steps are required if you have something special in mind:
 - a. If you'd like to select your own flowers, call the florist (804-642-4555) by TUESDAY of the week you've selected.
 - b. You'll be responsible to pay BUMC your full amount. Please do not make payment to the florist. Please be sure the florist knows the specific date of your custom order altar arrangements.
4. Place your \$60 payment (or the amount for any custom order) in the offering plate. Please write ALTAR FLOWERS and date in the memo line of the check or on the envelope, if paying by cash.
5. Contact Church Office Administrator (804-642-2110 or admin@bethanyumc-gp.org) by noon on Wednesday with the tribute you wish printed in the Sunday bulletin.
6. Please return your plastic vase inserts to the church, once they are no longer needed, to ensure we have an adequate supply on hand at the florist. Questions? Call the church office at 804-642-2110. Thank you for your support of our Altar Flowers Ministry!

THANK YOU NOTES

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)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the 537 pounds of boxed food that you gave to the Food Ministry of Union Baptist Church. The Food Ministry touches the lives of many families in our area who are less fortunate. We can never know how many lives are touched or changed by a helping hand, a smile, or a kind word. – A. B. Fulcher, Jr., Director, Food Ministry

On behalf of the campers who attend Camp Rainbow Connection and their caregivers, we sincerely appreciate your gift of \$250! The mission of CRC is one of healing and acceptance towards all of God's people. Camp Rainbow is a continuation of Christ's ministry where campers and staff of all races and religions experience Christian love. Throughout the week, campers find their treasure of love and acceptance at the end of the rainbow. – Camp Rainbow Connection

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR (\$400.00 supporting UMCOR-Where Most Needed) may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – Thank you! May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and peace – Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

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.

End of year contributions statements have been distributed by email and mail. If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Roane at 804-815-8311.

FROM MISSION RIVERS DISTRICT

Hello Pastors,

The Bishop will be on our district from February 11 - 12. There are two Laity Sessions on Sunday and one Clergy Session on Monday.

We are sending info out on the newsletter email list. Please promote it among your churches. We don't need RSVPs for the Laity events.

We are finalizing the Bishop's plans for Monday and don't have a time yet for the Clergy Session. It will be in the daytime. Please save the date. We'll send the exact time as soon as we can and will get Clergy RSVP's then.

Preaching: Sunday, Feb. 11 at 10:00am

Peace UMC

801 Maple Grove Drive, Fredericksburg

Laity Session: Sunday, Feb. 11 from 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Tappahannock Memorial UMC

345 Earl Street, Tappahannock, VA 22560

Laity Session: Sunday, Feb. 11 from 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Crooks Memorial UMC

204 Cook Road, Yorktown, VA 23690

A Mission Activity to help stock a local food pantry will be held 30 minutes before each Laity Session.

Clergy Session: Sunday, Feb. 11

Time to be Announced

Williamsburg UMC

500 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Bethany UMC Prayer List	BETHANY FAMILY	1.28.24
<p>Cancer/Chemo: Darlene Bauschatz, Krista Chase, Carol Johnson, Sue Leed, Fred Niethamer, Linwood Rowe, Gwen Wesson, Larry Whitfield GRIEVING: Families of Lonnie Byrd, Sid Dixon, Kira Fox, Gerlinde Stevens HEALTH ISSUES: Chuck Ashe, Cliff Beach, David Cecil, Billy Davis, Jim Durette, Debra Farrow, Estelle Harris, David Hoover, Milton Hudgins, Kathy Jacobs, Bonnie Lewis, Joy Long, Dennis Mitchell, Patsy Morales, Alice Northam, Richard Parkes, Peggy Peterman (NC), Rosemarie Tong, Judy Vaughan HOMEBOUND: Linda Booth, Ruth Wallace, Lavelle Wilson PARKINSON’S: Mike Andersen, David Chapin, Kathleen Greene, Yvonne White RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Dylan Chapin, Billy Davis, Paul Kendall</p>		
BETHANY FRIENDS		
<p>CANCER/CHEMO: Clint Alexander, Peyton Arthur, Fran Bonnaville, Kendall Walthall Caton, Jack Cawthorn, Robin Coker, Kyle Cooper, Barbara Crim, Wanda Dowell, Dallas “Butch” Folk (ME), Traci Greene, Dale Handley, Zachary Hoover, Connie Hutchinson (MI), Sissi Mise, Chauntea Shield, Mason Staley, Kent Stevens, Jeff Suntken, Shalini Upadhyaya, Jill Ward, Bob Wharen, Tim Williford (TN) GRIEVING: Families of Denise Dick, Pastor John Dooley, Sarah Jacobs, Capt. Christopher W. P. Naquin, Josh Wilson HEALTH/OTHER ISSUES: Connie Bowler, Kathryn Bjers, Dewayne Haywood, Laura Hodges, Val Hopkins, Adie Kurth, Lewis Marion, Sylvia Motley, Alicia Lynn Williams Naples, Ken Pierkowski, Phillip Presson, Mary Ann Shackelford, Dixie Sharp, Mary Jo Smith, Tim Sullivan, Mildred Townsend, Sandie Wharen, Sabrina Wikle, Marian Williford (TN), Randy Wilson, Juanita HOSPICE: Selma HOSPITAL/REHAB: PARKINSON’S: Janet Burch (KY) Recovering from Surgery: Luke Burner, Terry Corbin, Jaunita Goins, Pat Hall, Silvia Howerton, Natalie Long, Howard Moore UPCOMING SURGERY: Eric Bunch OTHER PRAYERS: War-torn areas around the world, victims of natural disasters</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, Jim Minor, all members of the military.</i></p>		
ASSISTED LIVING (<i>italics—Bethany friends</i>)		
<p>Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061</p>	<p>Lorraine Brown, Rm 107 Kathleen Greene, Rm 106 Jean Heywood, Rm 110</p>	
<p>Heron Cove, 7409 Heron Cove Way, Gloucester 23061 (Marion Dixon’s mailing address: PO Box 36, Gloucester Point, VA 23062)</p>	<p>Marion Dixon, Bldg 2, Rm 33 Judy Hudgins, Bldg 2, Rm 29 Bonnie Lewis, Rm 13</p>	
<p>Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061</p>	<p>Carolyn Scott, Rm 206A</p>	
<p>Sunrise Senior Living, 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond 23235</p>	<p>Pauline Harris, Apt. 130</p>	
<p>Riverside Rehab, 672 Gloucester Rd., Saluda, VA, 23149</p>	<p>Jennie Lipscomb</p>	



FEBRUARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS	
2/1	Jeannie Meisner
2/2	Diane Pruitt
2/3	Debbie Tilley; James Leigh; Lois Bodziak
2/4	Kevin Jacobs; Carson Hasty
2/6	Jackie Emerson; Wesley Buchanan
2/7	Alan Harvey
2/8	Jeff Lane
2/11	Peggy Burton; Shannon Minor
2/12	Sandra Byrd, Cristie Thomas
2/13	Rev. Paul Song
2/14	Estelle Harris; Patsy Morales
2/15	Evan Lane; Alyssa Hall
2/17	Lori Rhodes Phillips; William Schultz
2/18	Yvonne White
2/21	Mike Simmons
2/23	Nancy Orth; Joel Kidd
2/24	June Matthews; Kirk Bell; Lisa Breaud; Jennie Lipscomb
2/25	Ed Conner; David Cecil; Amy Miller; Gwen Wesson
2/26	Dawn McDade; Sylvia Ransone
2/29	Patrick Kiley; Kay Jackson

	ANNIVERSARIES	# yrs
2/1	Mark & Carla Goetz	21
2/2	James & Betty Durette	61
2/5	Kevin & Kris Kiley	51
2/11	Rev. Paul & Kim Song	34
2/11	Paul & Barbara Blais	24
2/14	Ed & Susan Conner	64
2/15	Randy & Pamela Campbell	22
2/21	Steve & Dee Dee Wike	37
2/24	Art & Vicki Wolz	51

TRUSTEE CONTACTS	
January 28-February 03:	Diana Simmons
February 4-10:	Don Thomas
February 11-17:	Milton Hudgins
February 18-24:	Donna Lane
February 25-March 2:	Tom Barnard

COUNTING TEAMS	
2/4	Team 3: Al Burner, Judy Burner, Donna Andersen
2/11	Team 4: Bernard Robins, Debbie Robins, Doris Luther
2/18	Team 5: Jackie Hampton, Don Thomas, Donna Lane
2/25	Team 6: Dawn Cluts, Betty Durette, Clair Hillard

ALTAR GUILD	
Ann Byrd, Betty Durette, Sylvia Ransone	

LITURGISTS	
2/4	Clair Hillard
2/11	Betty Neikirk
2/18	Lynne Barnes
2/25	Steve Wike

ALTAR FLOWERS	
2/4	AVAILABLE
2/11	Barb Holtry
2/18	No Flowers-Lent
2/25	No Flowers-Lent

February 2024

February 2024							March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2	3					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
				9:00am 12:00pm Bazaar Workshop 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS)	8:30am 3:00pm Homeschool Music Academy	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion Sunday 8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Celebrations & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 6:00pm UMYF (Youth Group, 6th-12th grades)		5:00pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm JOY Circle	9:00am AARP Tax Aide (10am-3pm weekly) 5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00pm S/PPRC 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9:00am 12:00pm Bazaar Workshop 10:00am York River Garden Club 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS)	8:30am 3:00pm Homeschool Music Academy	12:00pm 5:00pm WBFH Reserved for Birthday Party (2pm)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Celebrations & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 12:15pm Souper Bowl of Caring		5:00pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 7:00pm Finance Committee	ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00am AARP Tax Aide (10am-3pm weekly) 5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	BANNER DEADLINE 9:00am 12:00pm Bazaar Workshop 10:30am Naomi Circle 5:00pm Media Upgrade Team 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS)	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Presidents' Day) 8:30am 3:00pm Homeschool Music Academy	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Celebrations & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 6:00pm UMYF (Youth Group, 6th-12th grades)		5:00pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm York River Villas 7:00pm Administrative Council	9:00am AARP Tax Aide (10am-3pm weekly) 10:00am 12:00pm Senior Advocate Panel Forum on Aging 5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9:00am 12:00pm Bazaar Workshop 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS)	8:30am 3:00pm Homeschool Music Academy	
25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
8:30am Informal Worship 9:30am Celebrations & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship 12:15pm Prime Timers Kick-Off Luncheon		5:00pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm UMM Ladies Night	9:00am AARP Tax Aide (10am-3pm weekly) 5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9:00am 12:00pm Bazaar Workshop 6:30pm House of Prayer 7:00pm Bethany Bible Study (BBS)		