

JOB OPENING — The following ad is being run in the *Gazette-Journal* with an expanded version listed on our website and on the VAUMC job board. Please share this information with any qualified candidates you may know and be in prayer for the S/PPRC as they work to fill the position.

Bethany UMC (Gloucester Point, VA) is seeking a part-time (30 hours per week) Church Office Administrator. This individual is the first point of contact when someone calls or visits the church office and coordinates all aspects of community, database management, communication, and administrative support. Strong interpersonal, communication, and computer skills are preferred. To apply, please submit a resume and cover letter to Pastor Moonsup “Paul” Song, P.O. Box 527, Gloucester Point, VA 23062 or email to admin@bethanyumc-gp.org.

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR LENT

“A musical Bible, unrivaled and inimitable” is how Samuel Wesley described the work of Johann Sebastian Bach. In 1808, when these words were penned by the son of Methodist hymn writer Charles Wesley, Bach’s compositions were performed and appreciated by only a small circle of connoisseurs. With his revival in 1829 of the *Saint Matthew Passion*, the greatest musical setting of the Crucifixion narrative, one century after its première, Felix Mendelssohn began to reveal the towering stature of Bach to a wider audience.

Today, anticipating the 339th anniversary of his birth on March 21st, we stand amazed in the presence of this mortal who created an entire musical universe dedicated *S.D.G. – soli Deo gloria* (“to the glory of God alone”) – as Bach initialed thousands of manuscripts. Is it mere coincidence that the birthday of God’s chief musician occurs at the beginning of Spring, this season of rebirth and renewal?

Our Lenten Meditation this morning is one of Bach’s most profoundly spiritual compositions, his magisterial setting of the *Agnus Dei*. Derived from *John* 1: 29 and added to the Catholic Mass in the 7th century for the rite of Holy Communion, the text consists of three acclamations:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

(Lamb of God, who takes away the world’s sins, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the world’s sins, grant us peace.)

Bach’s setting of the *Agnus Dei* is based on the melody of the Protestant chorale (or hymn) *O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig* (“O Lamb of God, Pure, Spotless,” 1542). Bach composed three variations corresponding to three stanzas of the hymn. The third variation features some powerfully graphic tone painting: for example, to portray the verse “Our sins Thou did bear for us,” Bach makes the printed notes outline the three crosses on Golgotha.



This type of symbolism, which cannot really be *heard*, is sometimes called “eye music”! Quite evident to the ear, however, is the dissonant harmony Bach employs to create a mood of intense anguish at the penultimate line, “Thy peace give to us, O Jesus!” But this painful impression is quickly dissolved by a burst of musical sunlight at the last line, “Thy peace grant to us, O Jesus!” Here, as Dr. Albert Schweitzer remarks, “*O Lamm Gottes* concludes with an ascending cadence as if the heavenly messengers — after bringing the prayed for peace — were returning to their own kingdom.” — Rudy Shackelford

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, March 17, 2024

****WELCOME, VISITORS! We are happy to have you join us in worship today.****
Please be sure to sign the Welcome card found in the pew pocket. Thank you!

NURSERY is available for infants to 3-year-olds during the worship 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		
TODAY ST. PATRICK’S DAY One Service/No Sunday School	10:00 a.m.	Combined Worship Service
	11:00 a.m.	Family Covered-Dish Lunch & Activities (WBFH)
Tuesday, March 19	5:00 p.m.	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	5:30 p.m.	York River Villas (Friendship)
	7:00 p.m.	Administrative Council (WBFH)
Wednesday, March 20	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	AARP Tax-Aide (by appointment only)
	5:30 p.m.	Praise Team (Mary Lotsey)
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thursday, March 21	9:00 a.m.-noon	Bazaar Workshop (WBFH)
	10:30 a.m.	Naomi Circle (Mary Lotsey)
	5:00 p.m.	Media Upgrade Team (Mary Lotsey)
	6:30 p.m.	House of Prayer / Special Congregational Prayer Meeting thru 5/2 (Sanctuary)
	7:00 p.m.	Bethany Bible Study (Friendship)
	Friday, March 22	8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 23	9:00 a.m.-noon	Cantata Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	5:00 p.m.	HMAG Spring Concert (Sanctuary/WBFH)
Sunday, March 24 PALM SUNDAY Music Camp Bake Sale	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	Celebrations & Fellowship
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday school for all ages
	4:00 p.m.	Joshua Spiritual Formation Group Reunion (Mary Lotsey)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten sermon series, "The Message of Jesus' Passion."

March 17 --- Unjust Trial, Matthew 27:11-26

March 24 – Humiliated by Soldiers, Matthew 27:27-31

JOSHUA SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP REUNION will meet next **Sunday, March 24 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Mary Lotsey room. All Joshua Group members are invited to have fellowship together.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24 – Regular Worship and Sunday school schedule

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 7:00 P.M. – Communion Service and Cantata, *Tenebrae*

HOLY WEEK PRAYER VIGIL – Begins after the Maundy Thursday service and continues through noon on Good Friday. Sign-up sheets are located in the main hallway and narthex. All are encouraged to sign up for a time slot and pray in the comfort and safety of your home as the Lord leads you to pray.

GOOD FRIDAY – Church Office will be closed

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

6:45 a.m. – Community Easter Sunrise Service at VIMS

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. – Easter Worship at Bethany (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional)

9:30 a.m. Celebrations & Fellowship; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages

Easter Egg Hunt during Children's Church (see announcement below)

EASTER EGG HUNT

If you would like to help us prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt, we are asking for donations of candy or small prizes for the eggs. We appreciate any and all donations for this activity. Easter Egg Hunt Supplies can be placed in Brad's office.

MUSIC CAMP BAKE SALE

Palm Sunday, March 24



Come purchase baked goods and other goodies for your Easter feast. The sale will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the WBFH. Any unsold items, will be available for purchase following the 11:00 a.m. service with all proceeds going to fund the *Bethany Music Camp*.

Anyone wishing to participate by providing baked goods should deliver them to the church Saturday, March 23 between 10 a.m. and noon.

Cash donations are also accepted and encouraged.



CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

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

Birthdays

3/17 Kevin Kiley

3/19 Sarah Hillard; Frank Farmer;
Tina Silberhorn; Lisa Krukovsky; Scott Berry;
Levon Thomas

3/20 Warren Douglas

3/21 Peggy Peterman; Sammi Jacobs

3/22 Jennifer Orth-Veillon; Darlene Bauschatz

3/23 Don Schultz

Anniversaries

3/19 Drs. Tim & Cathy Leigh (36)

HUGS MINISTRY – Handmade prayer shawls are presented this morning to Betty Durette and Janice Drexler. Please join us in praying for these individuals.

Our **Adult Sunday Study Group** (currently meeting in Faith Class in WBFH) would like to offer Bethany's congregation the opportunity to partner with us in supplying the **GHS CARE CLOSET** with items from their most needed list. The CARE CLOSET is available to any student, no questions asked. If you would like to buy items from the list below, please mark them "CARE CLOSET" and leave them in the Faith classroom in the fellowship hall. Thank you for all that you do for our community! God bless you! — *Martin and Dolores Breen*

CARE CLOSET NEEDS: Canned spaghetti sauce | Canned vegetables | Canned tuna or chicken
Canned fruit | Pudding | Boxed macaroni & cheese | Breakfast bars/granola bars

PRIME TIMERS met last Sunday with seven present. We ate our sack lunches and got to learn more about each other. It has been decided we would meet on the second Sunday of each month after the 11:00 service. Bring a sack lunch. If you are single, come join us. Contact Dawn Cluts (757-690-3874) for more information.

UPDATED ROOM ASSIGNMENTS / BUILDING USE REQUESTS –The Lacey Martin and Friendship Sunday school classes have changed their meeting locations and the classroom door signs have been changed. *Friendship Class meets in the large room (formerly Lacey Martin) next to the Youth Room, and the Lacey Martin Fellowship Class meets in the former Children's Class adjacent to the Children's Library.* **Beginning today, calendar listings in the bulletin will reflect current room names. When scheduling a meeting in the future, please make sure to check the current room assignment on the Building Use Request form** (e.g., Hand Bell Choir meeting location would be marked *Friendship Class*, instead of Lacey Martin). NOTE: All meetings held should be confirmed by the church office to ensure they get added to the calendar and any conflicts are avoided.

A Celebration of Life for Gerlinde Marx Stevens will be held on **April 13, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.** at Abingdon Ruritan Club, 8784 Guinea Rd., Hayes. Please wear PINK! In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Rosewell Foundation or Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic.