

JOB OPENING — Bethany United Methodist Church (Gloucester Point, VA) is seeking a part-time Church Office Administrator to assist the Pastor, support staff, and church ministry leadership. Responsibilities of this position include but are not limited to receptionist and clerical duties, preparing the weekly worship bulletins, maintaining and updating the Church calendar and website, tracking member and attendee information, maintaining church governance documents and files, responding to inquiries and requests from various channels, ensuring church building facilities and services are being provided, and other duties as required. Applicant must demonstrate strong interpersonal and organizational skills, be team-oriented, and have a record of professional excellence. Applicant must demonstrate the ability to work independently and under the supervision of the Pastor. The applicant must have strong written and verbal communication skills, demonstrate competency in the use of office equipment, and be proficient in the use of computers and office technology. Experience with Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Publisher) and the ability to maintain a WordPress website are preferred. The position is for thirty (30) hours per week, and the salary is based on previous administrative experience. Applicant should send inquiries, cover letter, and resume to Pastor Moonsup “Paul” Song, Bethany UMC, P.O. Box 527, Gloucester Point, VA 23062 or email to admin@bethanyumc-gp.org.

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR PALM SUNDAY

In our Meditation this morning, we travel back to the late Renaissance era in the company of Dutch composer Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621). As organist of Amsterdam’s Oude Kerk (Old Church) for over forty years, he attracted students — and tourists! — from every corner of Europe. While most prolific as a composer of vocal music, including the complete Genevan Psalter, Sweelinck is remembered today for his organ and harpsichord music, especially the haunting variations on a German song, *Mein junges Leben hat ein End* (“My Young Life Now is Ended”).

In his *Sweelinck Variations*, Rudy Shackelford borrowed motifs from this famous piece to construct six new variations on the *Passion Chorale* (“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”), originally a secular love song by Hans Leo Hassler, Sweelinck’s German contemporary. The work is a fragment from the *Wound Dresser*, a Civil War oratorio on texts by Walt Whitman which the University of Hartford (Connecticut) commissioned from Shackelford in 1976 to celebrate the USA Bicentennial. *Sweelinck Variations* is published by Belwin Mills in Melville, New York.

As a young organist looking to impress the world with his phenomenal talent, Johann Sebastian Bach composed virtuoso showpieces titled *toccata* (meaning “to touch” in Italian), including two in the key of D minor. Our Offertory today, while less famous than the Halloween favorite *Toccata in D Minor*, BWV 565, even more powerfully evokes imagery of Gothic horror: the relentless galloping motion suggests a musical depiction of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse from the *Revelation of St. John*. Perhaps this interpretation is speculative, but this *Toccata* seems to invite conjecture. It was nicknamed “Dorian” by someone who mistook the lack of B-flat in the key signature as an indication that the music conforms to the ancient Green Dorian mode!

Our dear, departed friend and choir member Bob Reid especially enjoyed listening to Bach’s “Dorian” *Toccata*, so we dedicate this performance to his memory. May the adventure continue...!

—Rudy Shackelford

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, March 24, 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 and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. Thank you!

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		
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)
Tuesday, March 26	5:00 p.m.	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	6:30 p.m.	United Methodist Men (Nick’s, Gloucester Point)
Wednesday, March 27	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	AARP Tax-Aide (by appointment only)
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir / Cantata Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thursday, March 28	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service & Cantata
	8:00 p.m.	Holy Week Prayer Vigil <i>(through noon on Good Friday)</i>
Good Friday, March 29		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31	6:45 a.m.	Community Sunrise Service at VIMS <i>(followed by breakfast at Bethlehem UMC, 2101 Mark Pine Rd., Hayes)</i>
	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

“Thank you, Bethany family for your gracious response following Nancy’s heart attack. We have so much to be thankful for – the list is endless! We truly appreciate your kind acts of love, including food, transportation, phone calls, visits, prayers, and cards. We thank God for all that you have done for us!” –Paul and Nancy Kendall

“I would like to thank all of the Bethany UMC HUGS. I miss the church family and watch on Sundays and follow on Facebook. The Lap Robe is Beautiful.” – Lewis Marion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

UNITED METHODIST MEN will meet on **Tuesday, March 26** at Nick's Spaghetti and Steak House. Meeting begins at **6:30 p.m.** and Bethany men are invited. This month in lieu of a guest speaker we will have a program consisting of inspirational and nostalgic videos presented by well-known persons. You will find them very entertaining. Any questions, contact Alan Harvey at 804-684-2790 or Milton Hudgins at 804-832-6289. We look forward to seeing you there.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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

MUSIC CAMP BAKE SALE TODAY!!!



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*.

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 (We're doubling up on celebrations this week since we didn't celebrate last week.)

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
3/25 Stephanie Wood
3/27 Stacie Martin; Jennifer Barber; Bonnie Lewis; Sue Leed
3/28 Timothy Leigh
3/29 Joyce Mitchell; Michelle Ward; Douglas Doggett; Terri Mason
3/30 Amanda Gayle; Kamryn Cooper

Anniversaries

3/19 Drs. Tim & Cathy Leigh (36)
3/25 Cheryl & Pitt Roane (54)

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 & Doe Breen*

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

On March 19th, Bethany Administrative Board approved a recommendation by the Church and Society Committee to join a group called Jubilee of Churches. Jubilee is a group of 17 churches of all denominations in Gloucester County. The group is working cooperatively to help prevent homelessness.

Here's how it works: When a call for help comes into any of these churches, the person needing help will be directed to call GUEST. GUEST has a staff of four to vet callers. When the person is found eligible, the person's need will be delivered by email to all the churches involved. Each church will decide how much of the request they can supply. When the total is confirmed, a check is written by GUEST and given to the vendor (e.g., landlord/mortgage company, utilities provider, etc.). Each participating church puts aside an amount of money for these requests, such as the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Bethany members can add to the fund by making regular contributions, memorials, etc. to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Monies in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund will be used not only to help meet needs through Jubilee, but also give Bethany's pastor the flexibility to personally handle any needs of our church members, or handle more time-sensitive requests as needed.

Advantages of participating in Jubilee of Churches: 1) Removes the responsibility of benevolence screening and follow up correspondence from local church staff and places it with GUEST, which has knowledge of and access to a wider array of resources and services to provide help to those in need; 2) Helps ease frustration and stress for the applicants by reducing the number of calls they would typically make in order to receive the help they desperately need; and 3) Fosters a greater sense of community and cooperative ministry between the churches involved, providing greater opportunity for more effective ministry to those in need.

Bethany UMC Prayer List	BETHANY FAMILY	3.24.24
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, Jim Durette, Kira Fox, Gerlinde Stevens HEALTH ISSUES: Chuck Ashe, Cliff Beach, David Cecil, Billy Davis, Debra Farrow, Estelle Harris, David Hoover, Milton Hudgins, Kathy Jacobs, Paul & Nancy Kendall, Bonnie Lewis, Joy Long, Dennis Mitchell, Patsy Morales, Alice Northam, Richard Parkes, Peggy Peterman (NC), Rosemarie Tong, Judy Vaughan HOMEBOUND: Linda Booth, Ruth Wallace, Lavalle Wilson HOSPITALIZED: PARKINSON'S: Mike Andersen, David Chapin, Kathleen Greene, Yvonne White RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Patsy Bell, Dylan Chapin UPCOMING SURGERY:		
BETHANY FRIENDS		
CANCER/CHEMO: Clint Alexander, Peyton Arthur, Fran Bonnaville, Kendall Walthall Caton, Jack Cawthorn, Kyle Cooper, Barbara Crim, Wanda Dowell, Traci Greene, Dale Handley, Zachary Hoover, Connie Hutchinson (MI), Sissi Mise, Chauntea Shield, Mason Staley, Kent Stevens, Jeff Suntken, Bobby Tucker (TX), Shalini Upadhyaya, Jill Ward, Bob Wharen, Tim Williford GRIEVING: Families of Robin Coker, Jacqueline Emerson, Dallas "Butch" Folk (ME), Sarah Jacobs, Gordon Scott, Josh Wilson HEALTH/OTHER ISSUES: Connie Bowler, Kathryn Bjers, Juanita Duncan, Dewayne Haywood, Laura Hodges, Val Hopkins, Adie Kurth, Jean Moon, Dylan Moore family, Sylvia Motley, Alicia Lynn Williams Naples, Ken Pierkowski, Phillip Presson, Mary Ann Shackelford, Dixie Sharp, Tim Sullivan, Mildred Townsend, Sandie Wharen, Sabrina Wikle, Marian Williford (TN), Robin Willman, Randy Wilson HOSPICE: Selma, Mary Smith HOSPITAL/REHAB: Siiri Jonasch PARKINSON'S: Janet Burch (KY) RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Luke Burner, Terry Corbin, Jaunita Goins, Pat Hall, Silvia Howerton, Natalie Long UPCOMING SURGERY: Eric Bunch OTHER PRAYERS: General Conference, Ukraine, Israel & Middle East		
BUMC'S ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES <i>(italics—Bethany friends)</i>		
<i>Michael Brown, Peter Demetriades, Meagan Demetriades, Kevin Jacobs, Cory Long (Okinawa), Will Neikirk, Jim Minor, all members of the military.</i>		
ASSISTED LIVING <i>(italics-Bethany friends)</i>		
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Lorraine Brown, Rm 107 Kathleen Greene, Rm 106 Jean Heywood, Rm 110	
Heron Cove, 7409 Heron Cove Way, Gloucester 23061 (Marion Dixon's mailing address: PO Box 36, Gloucester Point, VA 23062)	Marion Dixon, Bldg 2, Rm 33 Judy Hudgins, Bldg 2, Rm 29 Bonnie Lewis, Rm 13	
Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061	Carolyn Scott, Rm 206A	
Sunrise Senior Living, 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond 23235	Pauline Harris, Apt. 130	
Riverside Rehab, 672 Gloucester Rd., Saluda, VA, 23149	Jennie Lipscomb	

MEDIA DESK AND SURROUNDING PANELS INSTALLED — The media desk and surrounding panels have been installed at the rear of the sanctuary by Martin Breen with help from Doe Breen, Jeremy Nardozi, Rob Raines, Scott Berry, and Timothy Hart. Many thanks to Martin for offering his expertise in design and construction for this project and for all the support Martin received from his employer, Nicewood Enterprises located in Toano, both in the construction and painting phases as well as delivery. This effort, which is both utilitarian and aesthetically pleasing, was made possible by a grant from the Mission Rivers District.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AND CANTATA
MARCH 28, 7PM**

The Bethany Chancel Choir is performing their cantata this Easter season on Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7 PM. It is called "Tenebrae" by Heather Sorenson and is based on a tenebrae service. The word "tenebrae" is a Latin word meaning "shadow" or "darkness" and is the only service in the Christian calendar that is not celebratory.

This service acts as a discipline in acknowledging Christ's suffering, a prolonged meditation on His darkest hours. This is a service of grief. Thankfully, we do not grieve as those who have no hope, and so we eagerly await Easter Sunday morning! However, in this service, we honor Christ's request to stay with Him in His hour of suffering.

This Service of Shadows acquired its name organically. In the old cathedrals a millennium ago, of course, there was no electricity; therefore, they used candles for light, to overcome the darkness. However, as each candle was blown out successively, new shadows would emerge throughout the evening until the shadows would finally overtake the congregation, leaving them in complete darkness.

This is a liturgical service. The definition of "liturgy" literally means "of the people" or "participation by the people." And so there will be moments all throughout the service where you as the congregation will be participating. We will guide you through those times.

Tenebrae is a service filled with symbolism and tradition. It is important that we not assign more worth to the traditions than they deserve. Traditions do not make us holy. They don't cleanse our sins. They do not secure our position as a child of God. And yet there is something beautiful, and rich, and grounding when we join saints from the past 1,200 years who meet each year – on this night – to stay with Christ in His suffering. This night is deeply rooted in our Christian heritage. The whole point of the Lenten season is our willingness to give up even small comforts to remind ourselves of the greatest sacrifice made on our behalf.

Sometimes we are tempted to look away, to avert our gaze from ugly things. We cannot do that... we must look AT the ugly parts to understand the significance of our redemption.

Please come and join us in experiencing this poignant service.