

Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Kent

Children are dismissed to go to children's church (11:00)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scripture is read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Pew Bible, OT, pages 655,652

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Pew Bible, NT, page 178

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WITNESS TO THE WORD

Warren Deal,
Mid-Tidewater Gideon Camp

Response to the Word

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH, No. 221

During the singing of this hymn, you are welcome to come forward and kneel at the Communion rail to pray, to make a new commitment to Christ, or to otherwise respond to Gods Word.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH, no. 895

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy, from "The Nutcracker"

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (arr. Frederick Hohman)

*Doxology

O come, let us adore him!

O come, let us adore him!

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UMH. No. 224

*BENEDICTION

*DISMISSAL CHORUS

Christ was born to save!

Christ was born to save!

POSTLUDE

"Sing We Now of Christmas": Variations on a Noël – Finale

Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

**Congregation to Stand*

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are delighted to have you in our congregation today. We invite you to participate as fully in our worship service as you feel comfortable. Bethany Church offers a full range of study and fellowship opportunities for children, youth, young adults, and older adults. Sunday School, in session from 9:45-10:45 a.m. each Sunday morning, features nine different classes for adults, one class for youth, three classes for children, and a nursery. We invite you to come back to Bethany and get to know us better!

Our Nursery

For the convenience of parents of small children a nursery is provided during both worship services and also during the Sunday School hour. The maximum suggested age for the nursery is four years old. Please ask an usher or greeter for directions to the nursery.

We Welcome our Gideon Speaker

We welcome to the pulpit this morning Mr. Warren Deal. Warren comes this morning representing the Gideons International, as a member of the mid-Tidewater Camp. A member of First Presbyterian Church n Gloucester, Mr. Deal is a civil engineer with Dominion Virginia Power. Offering plates will be available at both exits this morning so that you may contribute to the Gideons' fine work of Bible distribution. Welcome!

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Steve and Susan are on vacation through New Year's Day. In the event of pastoral need you are invited to telephone Rev. Bob Justis at 757-880-0015 or Chaplain Carol Johnson at 757-273-1482. If you desire to reach Pastor Steve, please contact our associate Lay Leader, Roy Bauschatz at 642-6340.

Bring in the New Year with Prayer

You are invited to join your Bethany friends for prayer around the altar as the New Year begins. Our Watch Night service will begin this Wednesday evening at 11:30 p.m. in our church sanctuary. Marsha Miller, one of our Lay Speakers, will lead us. All are welcome!

Needed to make Budget - \$13,784

Your prayers and contributions are greatly appreciated!

Bishop:	Reverend Charlene Payne Kammerer
District Superintendent:	Reverend Joseph D. Carson
Minister:	Reverend Stephen E. Young
Pastor in Residence:	Chaplain L. Lawson Byrd
Pastor in Residence:	Reverend Bob Justis
Pastor in Residence:	Chaplain Carol Johnson
Lay Leader:	Archie Leigh
Associate Lay Leader:	Roy Bauschatz
Youth Leader:	Sondra Colbert
Children's Ministry:	Kris Kent
Director of Music:	Sandra Fox
Organist:	Rudy Shackelford
Soloist:	8:30 Janet Chapin
Acolytes:	8:30 Hannah Kidd 11:00 Trip Vaughan
Altar Guild for December:	Charlotte Cecil and Diana Simmons
Altar Guild for January:	Pat Hasty, Peggy Burton, Nancy Cooper
Greeters:	11:00 Bethany Youth

Stewardship for December 21, 2008

Attendance:

Worship: 231

Nursery: 2

This Week at Bethany

Today	8:25 & 10:55	Prayer time - Mary Lotsey Classroom
	9:45	Sunday School for all ages
	5:00-6:00	Middle School/High School Bible Study
	6:00-7:30	Supper/MYF
Monday	5:00	Weight Watchers
	7:00	Men's/Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	11:30	Watch Night Service
Thursday		New Year's Day - office closed
Friday	7:00-8:30	Youth Play Rehearsal
Next Sunday	8:25 & 10:55	Prayer time - Mary Lotsey Classroom
	9:45	Sunday School for all ages

5:00-6:00 Middle School/High School Bible Study

6:00-7:30 Supper/MYF

6:00-7:30 Bible Buddies

Counting Teams Schedule

December 28 Sid Dixon, Katherine Jordan, Kathleen Mattox

January 4 Jean Heywood, Carlton Heywood, Norman Poland

Please remember in Prayer

Continued Prayer:

Carlyle Brown, Sally Nardozi, Virginia Schuler, Reathia Williams, Pat Kearney, Laura Poland, Dean Beach, Sam Steele, Charles Biggs, Kris Kiley, Marshall Lewis, Dorothy Critzer, Lorraine Johnson, George Woodhouse

Walter Reed Convalescent Center: Lucille Letchworth, Horace Purcell,

Sanders Senior Living Community: Mary Field, Gladys Davis

York Convalescent Center: Jackson White, Louise Mosca

The Gloucester House: Doris Lewis

Bayside Rehabilitation: Herb Thornton

Morningside Assisted Living: Gwen Thornton, Margaret Martin

Remember our Military

Jason R. Harney, Anthony Quintero, Captain Christopher "Chris" Demetriades

Note of Thanks

Thank you all very much for letting David and I stay at the Esther Thompson cottage. Thanks to you all my family will have a place to have Christmas! - David, Beth and Girls

Glenn Winters - January 11, 2009

4:00 P.M.

Operation Opera



Glenn Winters received the Doctor of Music from Northwestern B.M. and M.M. in piano performance from Indiana University. His teaching college-level piano, arts administration at two where he directed the Community School of the Performing Arts extensive performing experience as pianist, operatic baritone, His two original operas for children, *History Alive!* and *Tales From the Brothers Grimm*, were commissioned by Virginia Opera's education department and have enjoyed successful state-wide tours. Mr. Winters joined Virginia Opera in 2004 as Community Outreach Musical Director.

University; he also holds the background includes universities (including VCU, from 1991-2002), and and published composer.

Reception to follow in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall.

2008 Bethany Bazaar Distributes \$14,862.22

A bazaar fund disbursement committee consisting of Alan Harvey, Doris Luther, Charlotte Cecil, Mike Andersen, Jeannie Harrell and Janet Chapin met on December 18, 2008. The following organizations and individuals will receive monetary support from the bazaar: Jennifer and John Dooley (mission trip to china), Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Day Break Center, Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic, Red Bird Mission, Henderson Settlement, Henry Fork Community Center, Portsmouth Wesley Center, Boy's and Girl's Club of Gloucester, Salvation Army, Gloucester Housing Partnership, Camp Rainbow

Connection, Gloucester-Mathews Free Clinic, Heart Haven, Abingdon Volunteer Fire Dept. and Rescue Squad, Rappahannock District Youth Choir, Meals on Wheels (in honor of our Bethany drivers), Laurel Shelter, Three Rivers Healthy Families, Helping Hands Ministry, anonymous family living in poverty, and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

This year's Bazaar was truly blessed by the Holy Spirit. The outpouring of time, talents and prayers throughout this year has made the 2008 Bazaar a success. Our combined efforts will be a blessing to many others. Thank-you for being a loving congregation who are serving as Christ's hands and feet.

Bazaar co-chairmen Jeannie Harrell and Janet Chapin



Come out the first Thursday in January and continue our journey on learning about the religions of the world.

Date: January 8

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Bethany United Methodist Church

Speaker: Jack Chase, who will tell us about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Watch Night Service December 31, 2008

Entrance of the Light –

Response:

Light and peace in Jesus Christ to all who gather here

God's light shines among us, thanks be to God

Lord you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, we come into your presence with thanksgiving and praise. We have come to give thanks for your abiding presence through the ages and to praise you in the powerful and holy name of Jesus. Be with us in this hour. Sanctify our thoughts and words that being made holy we would come to know more fully your will for us in this new year of faith Grant us your Holy Spirit as guide, cause us to see Christ more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly, day by day. AMEN

Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH - #577

Psalter	Psalm 8	UMH # 743
Scripture	Genesis 17:	Silent meditation
	Isaiah 43:1	Silent meditation
	Luke 2: 15-21	Silent meditation

Prayer:

Almighty and gracious God, grant that we your children may ever be open to the wonderful gifts of mercy and love that you have bestowed upon us. Grant that we may grow in your likeness each day, as your children, and that we may be for ever empowered to proclaim your word in a world fallen from grace. Grant that we remain ever faithful as we lift our voice as one. Our father...

Sermon

What's in Your Name?

Prayer of Intercession

O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promises that if we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. Be among us this night. Hear the confessions of our mouths and the yearnings of our hearts. Help us change the narrowness of our vision that we may be able to see your work. Make us new again with your holy grace. Grant us the maturity to accept your many gifts in humility and to use them with faithfulness. Grant to us your spirit, ever witnessing to your holy presence in our lives. Amen

Hymn: Precious Name UMH-# 536

Extinguishing of the light:

Take the name of Jesus with you.

We carry the name of Jesus in our hearts as blessing and hope.

Take the name of Jesus with you

We go in Jesus' name to a world in need of peace and healing.

Take the name of Jesus with you

We take the name of Jesus in our hearts to share with others the joy of his salvation.

Amen