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THE BETHANY BANNER

October, 2007


Bethany Celebrates Its 120th Anniversary on October 28



Bethany United Methodist Church is celebrating its 120th anniversary as a congregation on Sunday, October 28. Special events that Sunday include a morning worship service at 11 o'clock, a covered dish luncheon following the service, and a program of music that will follow the meal. (There will be no 8:30 service or Sunday School on that day.) Approximately 500 invitations have been mailed to active and inactive members, members who have moved away, loyal friends of the church, and former pastors. We hope to have a church full of children, youth, and adults on that Sunday. If you have not yet received an invitation, please consider this your invitation to come and join us!



Although the earliest history of Bethany Church is somewhat sketchy, it is established that the roots of our church date to the year of 1887 when the good people of Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church in Bena had the wisdom to plant a one-room church site at Gloucester Point, in a small building just across the road from our current church site. For the growing number of Methodist families who lived at Gloucester Point or at Hayes Store, traveling four or five miles to church on horseback or in horse and buggy to Bena each Sabbath day was becoming an increasing hardship, especially during wintry and stormy weather and over muddy, rutted, and potholed roads. God blessed that little mission Sunday School in spirit and in numbers, and in just a few years that chapel became a place for preaching as well. In 1894 the fledgling congregation was organized as Gloucester Point Chapel, and three years later the first church building was constructed on our current site. The church's name was changed to Bethany M.E. Church in 1904.



At the 11 o'clock service Rev. Jim Ward, pastor of Bethany UMC from 1980 until 1984, will be with us to bring the message. Jim and his wife Donna reside in their retirement in Williamsburg. Dr. Rudy Shackelford has composed three short chorale preludes that will receive their inaugural performance during the service. The Chancel Choir will also sing a special anthem. Children's church and a nursery will be provided. During the service we will honor those who have been members of Bethany for at least 50 years. Updated copies of our church history will be available for distribution.

Our covered dish luncheon will be held immediately following the service in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall, with additional seating, as needed, in adjacent classrooms. Following the meal, we will return to the sanctuary for a musical program, featuring popular vocal and instrumental music sung and played by familiar faces from the present and past of our congregation's life.

Sermon Topics for September

- October 7** *Ego Leveling*
based upon Luke 17:7-10
- October 14** Missionary to Cambodia,
Clara Biswas, preaching
- October 21** *Truth Be Told*
based upon 2 Timothy 3:14-4:4
- October 28** Homecoming: Rev. Jim Ward preaching

BOOK CORNER

Get Out of That Pit: Straight Talk about God's Deliverance by [Beth Moore](#)

Beth Moore wants readers to know if God could lift her out of the pit, He can get ANYONE out! Deliverance is for everyone, she proclaims-no matter how you got stuck, no matter how long you've been down, whether you think you deserve it or not. And in her straight-talking but loving style, she reminds readers that deliverance can begin for them this very day.

90 Minutes in Heaven: A True Story of Death & Life by [Don Piper](#)

As he is driving home from a minister's conference, Baptist minister Don Piper collides with a semi-truck that crosses into his lane. He is pronounced dead at the scene. For the next 90 minutes, Piper experiences heaven where he is greeted by those who had influenced him spiritually.

Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, & Priorities of a Winning Life (Hardcover) by [Tony Dungy](#)

In this inspiring and reflective memoir, Coach Dungy tells the story of a life lived for God and family--and challenges us all to redefine our ideas of what it means to succeed.

Movies for the family!



Facing the Giants

An action-packed drama about a Christian high school football coach who uses his undying faith to battle the giants of fear and failure. He dares to challenge his players to believe God for the impossible on and off the field. Facing the Giants is a powerful experience for the whole family inspiring viewers to live with faith, hope, and love!

The Ultimate Gift

The Ultimate Gift is a tale of one man's tumultuous journey toward personal growth and fulfillment. After the death of his wealthy grandfather, Jason expected a windfall inheritance. Instead, his grandfather had devised a plan for Jason to experience a crash course on life! This powerful film is funny, heartbreaking, and thought provoking.

Women's Bible Study meets on Monday evenings from 7pm – 8:30pm in the Faith Classroom. We are a group of women seeking to know God's plans for our lives and grow in our relationship with Him. For more information please call Dolores Hart at 642-0933.

Men's Bible Study meets on Monday evenings from 7pm-8:30pm in the Journey Classroom. We are currently studying Job: Wrestling with God. We have more seats available if you'd like to join us in this study. For more information please call David Chapin @ 642-6822.

Emmaus Walk

Have you been on a Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis Flight or Cursillo? Join us on Thursday evenings @ 6:30 for our Bethany Reunion Group. We are brothers and sisters in Christ who meet weekly to talk about our week and see how our spiritual journey is going.



Congratulations to Duane and Julie Bayly on the birth of a baby girl on August 20, 2007. Summer Council weighed in at 8lb 13 oz.

Very excited and proud grandparents are Maxine and Joe Bayly.

Are you interested in Scrapbooking?

Bethany Scrapbookers will meet on Friday, October (date to be determined) from 7-10 pm **in the WBFH.**

Bring your scrapbooking supplies for a time of sharing and fellowship. All are welcome experienced or novice scrapbookers alike!

Snacks will be provided.

For more details please contact Susie Buck @ 642-2624.

Journey Class

The Journey Class invites you to join us as we continue to study the Gospel of Luke. We are located in the WBFH, the last classroom on the right. We are a group of adults studying God's word and looking at how it applies to our lives today.

JOY Circle

United Methodist Women's (UMW) JOY Circle is up and running! We will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. We are a covenant community of women who nurture and encourage one another in our spiritual growth. We will be planning our Thanksgiving basket for our shut-ins at our next meeting on October 2nd. Also in October our covenant missionary Clara Biswas will be visiting with us and we want to show her our support. Won't you prayerfully consider joining with us in October?

Six New Acolytes Trained

Recently six new young people were trained to serve as acolytes at Bethany. They are: Austin White, Emily White, Courtney Freiermuth, Kaiten Cooper, William Schultz, and Will Neikirk. They will be commissioned during one of the worship services in October. Our acolyte coordinator is Patricia Kidd, who does the Sunday morning scheduling.



Trumpet-Organ Duo in Concert on November 4th

On Sunday, November 4, at 4 P.M. (standard time), the George Nelson Concert Series will present "Rudy Shackelford: A Creative Profile." The program features original compositions Rudy has written during his ten-year tenure as Bethany's organist, most recently the *Charles Welsey Organbook* celebrating our 120th anniversary in 2007.

Guest trumpet soloist Joe Hamil will join Rudy to perform *Powhatan's Daughter*. Commissioned to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Gloucester County in 2001, this "Concert Fantasy" is based on a march John Philip Sousa composed for the 300th anniversary of Jamestown in 1907.

The program ends with a rousing set of variations on *The Star-spangled Banner* by Dudley Buck. A reception will be held in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall immediately following the concert.

Mark your calendars – and set your clock back – so as not to miss this special tribute to Bethany and America!

Two Bethany Members on Emmaus Walk

The Peninsula Rainbow Emmaus Community is sponsoring their fall Men's Walk October 11-14 at Holy Family Retreat Center in Hampton. Two members of Bethany UMC will be participating in this 72-hour retreat: Martin Breen, as a Team member, and Wayne Breeden, as a pilgrim. Please keep these men in your prayers. If you would like to participate in a future Emmaus walk, contact Doe Hart (642-0933)

"Blessing of the Animals" Service

On Thursday, October 4, at 5:30 p.m., Bethany will sponsor a "Blessing of the Animals" service. October 4 is the feast day for St. Francis of Assisi, who, according to



Blessing of Pets

tradition, had a special relationship to animals. The service will be held on the grassy field at the north side of the sanctuary (weather permitting). Please park in one of the paved parking areas or near the cemetery. Pets and their owners will assemble in a large circle with the pastor in the center. The service will follow the liturgy from our UM Book of Worship. The culmination of the service will be a personal blessing given to each animal. Please direct your questions to the pastor (832-0979)

Our Mission

To know the love of God personally through Jesus Christ,

To share the love of God through fellowship as a congregation,

To spread the love of God throughout our community and the world.

Bethany Welcomes a New Member

On September 23 Martin Breen was received into the membership of Bethany UMC. Martin transferred his membership from First UMC Fox Hill in Hampton. Martin works as a custom cabinet maker with Crowders Custom Cabinets, Inc. He has two children, Ben (15) and Kayla (12). Martin is active in the Journey Sunday School class. His address is 7481 Matoaka Ave. in Gloucester Point (642-0933). Welcome!

Church and Society

On Sept 5, 2007, Mike Andersen and I attended a meeting of the Gloucester Resources Council. The council is made up representatives of organizations, businesses, and agencies with community service functions. The group meets monthly to identify and solve local problems with existing resources.

Since many in our church are interested in the same issues this council deals with, I will, in the coming months, give a brief overview of the organizations that are represented.

The theme for this year is "Transforming Poverty in Gloucester." The Council heard a presentation on Full Service School, given by Evelyn Perhac, principal of Petsworth Elementary School, and Cindy Thomas, Community Education Coordinator at Petsworth.

Petsworth began the idea of creating a Full Service School in 1994. It is a prevention-based program designed to address the problems of at-risk children and their families. The goal is to connect families with community resources in order to enhance children's success in school and in the community. The school provides counseling, financial assistance, parenting classes, legal assistance, health issues, summer offerings, early morning assistance and mentoring.

The program could use more volunteers as mentors and lunch partners for the children. Both mentors and lunch partners meet with children once a week to help them enhance self-esteem and excitement for learning.

Cindy Thomas and Evelyn Perhac are eager to spread the word about what their program is doing. They would like to come speak to a group at Bethany if there is interest. They can be reached by calling Petsworth at 693-6161 or 693-4555.

Vicki Williams,

Bethany's Contact for Church and Society Board

Welcome Home!



The Hampton VA Medical will host a welcome home event, Saturday, November 3, 2007, between 1100-1500, for returning Iraqi veterans from all

services in the Tidewater/Hampton Roads area. They are looking for volunteers to help welcome the veterans back and support the event being held at the Hampton Medical Center. T-shirts and lunch will be provided. If you are interested, please call Carmen Alves at 722-9961, ext. 2936 to sign up.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S PAGE

New Youth Bible Study



Calling all 6th - 12th Graders! Would you like the opportunity to have fun while learning God's Word? Then bring your friends and join me for the Great Race! Grades 9th- 12th will meet Sundays from 5:00 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. beginning

October 14th. Grades 6th-8th will meet Mondays from 6:30pm to 7:30pm beginning October 15th. For further information please contact Sondra at 642-0467.

Volunteers Needed

Adult volunteers are desperately needed to coordinate Sunday night youth dinners! Volunteers are also needed as second adults for youth activities and events! Please contact Sondra at 642-0467

Big Thank You!

Thanks to the Enroughty and Niethamer Families for hosting the spectacular youth pool party and cookout! Your generosity and kindness was greatly appreciated!

To Merle Luther for the many hours of dedication, patience and hard work running sound for Bethany's youth activities! You are a true blessing to our youth!

Thank you to all the ladies that prepared all the delicious meals for the family of one of my youth during a family member's illness! Your kindness and hard work was greatly appreciated!

To Susie Buck for your many hours of hard work, love and dedication to the youth at Bethany! You are truly God sent!

District Youth Rally Sunday October 7th



From 3:00-6:00 p.m. at Bellamy United Methodist Church.

Join the fellowship, music, worship and fun. Discover all the exciting youth events and activities happening in the Rappahannock District this year!

Bring a covered dish & drink to share! The Bethany Van will leave church at 2:30 p.m. for the Youth Rally. Please contact Sondra to reserve a seat,

MYF will not meet on October 7th or October 28th due to other youth events.

BIBLE BUDDIES meets October 7th & 21st

Plans are officially underway for the "50/50" Fundraising TALENT SHOW this winter! Worried that you missed last month's meeting? That's OK!! We want all third, fourth and fifth graders to be a part of the fun!! Come at 6:00 PM for dinner and stay until 7:30 for team sports, music and worship, bible study and fellowship! Miss Jane and I will see you then! ~Kris Kent 642-6438



Announcing the Bethany Fall Festival

Saturday, October 20, 2007
4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

In the
Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall
****Preschoolers through
Young Adults****

Be a part of the face painting, dance contest, pumpkin decorating, team scarecrow construction, and wacky games!

There will be plenty of cider, donuts and FUN!!

Bring a friend! Dinner will be provided.
Want to know more? Want to help Out?
Adult assistance is needed!!



Contact Sondra Colbert at 642-0467
or Kris Kent at 642-6438



We know that show stopping talent abounds at Bethany but as for your Children's Ministry and Youth Directors, well let's just say that God blessed us with other talents!! That's why we are seeking a high energy volunteer entertainer to perform juggling acts, magic tricks or the like for **The Fall Festival on October 20, from 4:30 to 6:30**. Please let us know if you are available to come add some spark to the afternoon's festivities!! Contact Sondra at 642-0467 or Kris at 642-6438. Thank you!!

Musical Treat for Gloucester!



Residents of Gloucester have the unique privilege of hearing two world-class musicians in a free concert in the sanctuary of Bethany UMC on Sunday afternoon, October 7, at 4:00 p.m. In 1999 two artists from the Manhattan School of Music, Shmuel Katz, violist, and

Dmitri Shteinberg, pianist, came together to form the Katz/Shteinberg Duo. Since then the duo has performed throughout the world to critical acclaim and produced one CD. Reviewers have said of the duo: "It is hard to praise too highly the technical facility of such young artists" and "These two musicians make a perfect duo both technically and stylistically." At Bethany they will perform three sonatas by Bach, Mozart, and Brahms, arranged for viola and piano, and three movements of a suite by Prokofiev. The concert is one of two the duo will present in Virginia and is sponsored by the George Nelson Memorial Concert Series.

A Brighter Day

Thanks to the action of our Board of Trustees, two hitherto dim classrooms have received new fluorescent lighting. The Lacy Martin classroom and the Youth classroom, the two largest and dimmest rooms on our long corridor, had been illuminated by four small recessed fixtures that provided inadequate lighting for night meetings. The smaller fixtures have now been replaced by four new fixtures each containing four fluorescent bulbs. We appreciate the hard work of our trustees!

Church Conference at Bethany

Bethany's annual Church Conference will be held on Thursday, October 25, at 7:00 p.m., in the church sanctuary under the leadership of Rev. Joseph D. Carson, Rappahannock District Superintendent. Convening the meeting as a Church Conference (as opposed to a Charge Conference) tenders voting rights to every member of Bethany UMC in attendance. Rev. Carson will be asking for oral reports on how we do evangelism at Bethany and how our disaster response plan at Bethany is structured. At the meeting we will elect church officers for the 2008 year, approve our 2008 budget, adopt goals for the new year, and recommend our lay speakers. This year a plan for administrative structural change will be presented by the pastor. All members are encouraged to reserve this Thursday evening on their calendar and be present for the meeting.

XYZ to Visit Mosque

The XYZ Club of Bethany will visit the Mosque and Islamic Center of Hampton on Wednesday, October 17, where they will have open conversation with the Imam, Dr. Ahmed Noor, from 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Lunch will follow at the Red Maple Inn. The cost is \$10 per person. Reservations must be made and money paid to Marion Dixon no later than Oct. 10. All those of age 55 and up are invited to this informative day trip.

Mission Trip to Mississippi Approaches

Mike Andersen, Bethany's chairperson of Missions, will be leading a Volunteers-in-Mission team from Bethany to Gulfport, Mississippi, to help repair hurricane-ravaged homes there. The team will leave by van on Saturday, Nov. 3 and bed down at Trinity UMC in Gulfport from Nov. 5 – 9, while needed repairs are done. The team will return to Gloucester on Nov. 11. Just a few spaces are left for the trip. Please let Mike Andersen know **by October 1** if you would like to be included in this life-changing experience.

To raise money for the trip, a Potato Bar will be sponsored in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall following the 11 o'clock service on October 21. You are encouraged to have lunch with the team and help provide them with some needed financial support!

Clara Biswas to Speak on Oct. 14



Visiting
Speaker

Clara Biswas, our missionary to Cambodia, will bring the message at both worship services at Bethany on Sunday, October 14. Clara is currently on six weeks of itineration among the churches in the Virginia

Conference that provide her salary support. A native of Bangladesh, Clara speaks fluently in five languages. She has a bachelors degree in Social Science from the Asian Rural Institute in Tochigi-Ken, Japan. Clara works among the poorest of the poor in Phnom Penh and has been compared in her work to Mother Teresa.

On that Sunday we will be taking a special offering for the Community Development Project with which Clara works at Tonle Basak and Bording. This is at Clara's request. Money will go to help construct a school for 300 children and to provide education, health care, and nutrition for orphans. A covered dish dinner in her honor will be held in our fellowship hall directly following the second service.

Clara has communicated by e-mail as follows: "Thank you so much for your email...I had a very wonderful time and memory with Bethany church members and you and your wife....Please say hello to everybody. I am looking forward to meet you all. Thank you so much for your prayer and support."

District Conference at Urbanna

The Rappahannock District Conference will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 21, at 3 p.m., at Urbanna United Methodist Church. Rev. Joe Carson will lead us as we elect district committees, district representatives to annual conference, hear a gospel message, and partake of Holy Communion together. The following from each local church are members of District Conference and are encouraged to attend: pastor, lay leader, chairperson of administrative board, Sunday School superintendent, UMW president, UMM president, lay member of annual conference, district steward, and members at large, including one youth.

Pastor's Column: Remembering the Children Whom Christ Loves



Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to

such as these that the

kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matt. 19:13-14)

One of the wonderful things about worship at Bethany is having as a visual backdrop for our worship that lovely stained glass window depicting Jesus blessing the children. Soaring above table and pulpit and organ and choir is this visual reminder that the Master whom we follow was a lover of children. That stained glass window is a reminder that Christ loves the children of our church--the ones whom we have presented to the Lord in baptism, the little ones we care for in our nursery, the bigger ones who come forward for the children's message and who go on to children's church, and the ones who are getting old enough to sit with their parents through the worship service. Jesus loves the children of our church!

But Christ's love for children does not stop with our own. As some of us learned when we were children:

"Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world."

Recently I saw another piece of artwork depicting Jesus blessing the children. It was entitled "Jesus and Children of All Nations." This picture showed our Lord surrounded by six very different children. There at Jesus' feet sat a dark-skinned African child; embraced by Jesus' left arm stood an oriental girl in her native costume; at Jesus' knee knelt a child of the Pacific Islands with a grass skirt and lei; at Jesus' right side a South American Indian girl tugged at Jesus' robe; nestled under Jesus' right arm was a fair-skinned girl with blond hair; and a little boy with olive skin rested securely upon Jesus' lap.

Jesus loves the children of our church, but Jesus doesn't love only our children. Jesus loves children of all nationalities, of all ethnic backgrounds, speaking all languages, born into families of all political philosophies, and born into families of all religious ideologies. Jesus does not make distinctions based on color of skin or cultural background. Jesus loves all the children of the world!

I was wondering. What if we were to try to view children the way that Christ views them? What if we were to make decisions involving the use of our resources not simply based upon what is best for our own children, but for other children, too, especially disadvantaged children?

And what if our political leaders were to make decisions not only on the basis of what is good for American children, but what would make a genuine, positive difference in the lives of children throughout the world whose lives are quite different than ours?

Pastor Steve

A Nostalgic Christmas Presentation

One of the joys of the Advent Season is the annual presentation of the Christmas Cantata by our Chancel Choir. It is a joy both for those who listen as well as for those who sing. This year our Music Director, Sandra Fox, has chosen **A 1940's Christmas Homecoming** for their presentation, with performance dates on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m., and on Monday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. This cantata reproduces the musical sounds of the early 1940's when our country was involved in another war. The choir would like to invite members of the congregation who love to sing to join them in their weekly rehearsals leading up to their performance. The chancel choir practices their Christmas cantata every Wednesday evening from 7 until 8 p.m. in the choir room.

Rudy Shackelford in the Advocate

There was a nice write-up about our organist, Rudy Shackelford, in the September edition of the **Virginia Advocate** under the "Local Church" pages. Notice was made of Rudy's new composition entitled "Charles Wesley Organbook" that he has composed to honor the 300th anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth. The fifteen minute composition will receive its first public performance during Bethany's 120th Anniversary Service on October 28 and will receive an encore performance the following Sunday, November 4, during Rudy's afternoon organ concert. The brief article from the **Advocate** has been posted on our church bulletin board.

From our Esther Thompson Cottage Resident

Praise God! Not a day goes by that my thoughts do not turn to the ones who have bestowed such blessings upon my family and me! I believe that there are reasons why God puts us in the midst of such wonderful people as you.

I was at my wits' end with two children to care for and no family to help me. I found myself in a position I never dreamed I would be in--homeless, jobless, and sick. I have always prided myself on being able to care for myself, my family--maybe I took my ability for granted and I needed to be humbled. Whatever the case may be and no matter what God has in store for us, I have learned a lot about faith. I turned this over to God and he sent me to you. I am forever grateful for the blessing you and Esther Thompson have brought to my tiny family. We thank God every day for her and her kind donation to the community, and we thank you all for taking the time to care enough about people and us--to have given us a home when we needed it the most. We hope to find a home for ourselves very shortly, and in the meantime we are enjoying the cottage very much. Thank you so very much for your kind benevolence!

Praise be to God!

Sincerely, Kimberly, Michaela, & Tarah Wojtach

