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Permit No. 1  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Return Service Requested

Mailed on June 27, 2008

# THE BETHANY BANNER

July/August, 2008



“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” John 20:29

Dear Bethany Family,

Did you know it's the most wonderful time of year? No, it is not Christmas yet...but it might as well be! For oh what a special gift we are about to receive! From **July 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**, the halls of our beloved Bethany UMC will go from white to tropical multi-colors, the kitchen from clean and organized to a sunny place filled with chatty assembly line snack makers, Miss Frances' office from quiet to chaotic, the sanctuary from a pristine place where you can hear a pin drop to a delightful beach-scene decorated room filled with people of all ages that have one common goal: “Let's rock this House and spread GOD'S LOVE!!”

Ahhh yes, for this VBS Director—it is truly my favorite time of year. What an awesome feeling it is to know that I have been so blessed to be able to be a part of this experience for a third year! I liken it to that of planning a wedding and reception. You fall in love with the theme, you go through an engagement period, you pray, you order the supplies, you gather all the help you can, you send out the invitations, you pray, you plan the wardrobe, you decorate, you tidy up and put everyone and everything in their place, you count down and then, after praying again and taking a great big deep breath, you open the doors and share the word of God with everyone that comes in to our magnificent church. The really special thing is that for all of us taking part in this year's Vacation Bible School, we get to do that every morning for five days! To top that, at 11:30 every morning we get to open those doors again and see adorable, smiling faces leave us with a happy, loved heart and a new “Beach Be-Attitude!” Children will have been able to ride the wave of God's love and go home with a new understanding of what it means to be obedient, be kind, be forgiving, be bold, and believe.

Of course, my hope is that we will fill every pew to maximum capacity. Yet what a fulfilling feeling it would be to know that maybe just one child experiences something they will never forget. That maybe that one child has opened a Bible for the first time, said a prayer in public for the first time, shared a hug with a “stranger” for the first time, or maybe, just maybe, they've decided to give their life to Christ. And I'll let you in on a little secret: all of the VBS Helpers, the “Jr. and Sr. Lifeguards”, we will be sharing some pretty amazing, unforgettable experiences, too! So c'mon, let's go! Won't you get to Bethany Beach and come ride the wave with us? We promise-it won't be a wipe out!!

Gratefully,

Kris Kent  
VBS and Children's Ministries Director

## Introducing MethodX

<http://www.upperroom.org/methodx/default.asp>



Encourage  
one another  
and build up  
each other....

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

MethodX (the way of Christ) is an online Christian community where young adults (college to 30s) can identify and explore their relationships with God and with others.

We hope that MethodX will help you experience God in ways that will change your life. We have tried to create a hospitable place where you can gather and talk about things that matter. We invite you to listen, to laugh, to learn, and to share your experiences with us and with others.

MethodX is sponsored by Upper Room Ministries®, an interdenominational, global Christian ministry. The Upper Room is dedicated to supporting all who want to know and experience God more fully, helping them move to a deeper level of faith and service.

## The Book Corner

### Now and Always by Lori Copeland

Kate Addison loves a challenge and helping others is her passion. She's opened a home for abused women, rehabs injured horses, helps mend Warren's broken heart, but her least favorite part of her life is to manage her finances.

### The Edge of Recall by Kristen Heitzmann

Tessa Young, an up-and-coming landscape architect who specializes in the design and creation of labyrinths, has immersed herself in the mythological, spiritual, and healing aspects of the elaborate structures. She also is searching for God and hoping to make sense of the nightmares that have plagued her since childhood.

### In High Places by Tom Morrissey

For Patrick Nolan, every climb tells a story. And now maybe it's his own. He is right at the rim, staring over the cliffs knife edge and wondering how things went wrong so quickly.

### Turn Four by Tom Morrissey

Chance Reynolds drives---and thrives---in the high-octane world of NASCAR racing. When an accident impairs his vision, his therapy includes reading the Scriptures---and he eventually becomes the Winston Cup chaplain.

### When Answers Aren't Enough: Experiencing God as Good When Life Isn't by Matt Rogers

On April 16, 2007, the campus of Virginia Tech experienced a collective nightmare when thirty-three students were killed in the worst massacre in modern U.S. history. In this beautifully written reflection, Rogers illumines the path for experiencing God as truly good when life isn't.

### To Live Is Christ by Beth Moore

Beth Moore travels on a spiritual odyssey through the life of one of Christianity's most fervent journeymen, the apostle Paul, tracing his story from childhood to martyrdom.

### Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations by Alex Harris

A growing movement of young people is rebelling against the low expectations of today's culture by choosing to "do hard things" for the glory of God. This book gives readers a tangible glimpse of what is possible for teens who actively resist cultural lies that limit their potential.

## U M MEN Spiritual Retreat

November 7-9, 2008

United Methodist Assembly Center, Blackstone, VA

World-renowned evangelist, the **Rev. Dr. Maxie D. Dunnam** will address the 31ST Annual Spiritual Retreat being hosted by the VA Conference UMMen. More than 400 men are expected to attend this Spiritual Retreat! Register early to ensure that you get a room!

For more information please go to [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) link into Ministries and then UMM.

The Women's Monday evening Bible study meets from 7:00-8:30pm in the Faith Classroom. We are currently studying the many name of God. We would love to have you come and join us!

**Women's Bible Study will not meet on Monday July 7<sup>th</sup>**

**The men's Monday evening Bible Study will resume on Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>**

## Notes of Appreciation

Words cannot express my sincere gratitude for the outpouring of support and prayers we received during my surgery and recovery. Your many acts of kindness were so uplifting and certainly helped us manage this difficult time. Thank you! With love and blessings to our Bethany family, Laura Glaze

Robert and I want to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone for their support since Robert's accident in April. We have been blessed with meals, cards, visits and calls. Thanks to Pastor Steve and Susan for their visits and continued prayers. We want to thank Ray and Alice Doggett for the use of their van and Mike Andersen for his Tuesday trash pickup. The power of the Holy Spirit is moving in the faithful servants at Bethany, to be covered by your prayers is to feel the Hand of God holding us with His love through you! Blessings to all. Robert and Marsha Miller.

I would like to thank Loreen Paiva and Sue Morecock for the delicious youth dinners that blessed many hearts and stomachs. I would also like to thank everyone that participated, baked, organized, and attended to make Bethany's Talent show successful! A very special thanks to Sandy Fox, Bain and Carol Schultz, Diana Simmons, Kris Kent, Dawn Cluts, and Bethany's youth group for all of your hard work and time to make this wonderful event possible. Lots of Hugs, Sondra

## What is Emmaus?



EMMAUS CATHOLICISM

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

The Walk to Emmaus is grounded theologically and institutionally in The Upper Room ministry unit of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church. The Walk to Emmaus gets its name from the story in Luke 24:13-35, which provides the central image for the three-day experience and follow-up.

The Bethany Emmaus Reunion/Accountability Group meets on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30. If you have walked to Emmaus, Flew with Chrysalis or been on a Cursillo join us as we share with one another about our daily walk with Christ. (For more information please call Dolores Breen @ 642-0933.)



**July 3** – Water Country with Russian youth - time to be determined

**July 7** Busch Gardens with Russian youth – time to be determined

**July 14-18<sup>th</sup>** Youth assist in VBS!

**July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 1** “Helping Hands Ministry”. Join your friends for a week of missions, worship, and fellowship.

Please RSVP to Sondra for this exciting event by July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>** - Youth Bake Sale

Fundraiser. Bethany's Youth Group will sponsor a cookie sale after the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Adult and youth volunteers needed to bake and help with sale. We will accept baked goods on Saturday from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

**August 17<sup>th</sup>** Yorktown Beach trip/picnic. The van will leave Church by 12:30 p.m. and return by 4:30 p.m. Please see signup sheet by youth room. Adult volunteers needed! No Bible Study or MYF evening activities.



**Ice Cream Social**

You are cordially invited to attend an old-fashioned

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

following the 11:00 AM Worship Service on Sunday, July 20, 2008.

We will be hosting all of the VBS attendees and their families within our church and the community. You'll be able to see what the children accomplished during the

### BETHANY BEACH PARTY VBS!

After such an important week in the life of our church, we'd love to have everyone come share some fun, smiles, and even let out a few more COWABUNGA DUDES!!

Hosted by the Children's Ministries Committee  
Kris Kent  
642-6438/kentcrew@cox.net

The Beach Party starts July 14th!

Check out the VBS Bulletin Board on your way to the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall for Surfer registration forms, supply donation cards, sign-up sheets, volunteer news and more!!



Be a part of the fun in the sun in whatever way you can!

Contact Sr. Lifeguard Kris Kent for more information at [kentcrew@cox.net](mailto:kentcrew@cox.net) or 642-6438.

**GOD IS GOOD!!  
COWABUNGA!!**

## Stewardship Nuggett

### *Materialism Is Deceptive*

Perhaps our currency should be printed with a label that reads: 'Warning, money may be hazardous to your spiritual health . . . .' Love of money and not money itself is the problem. Certainly wealth can be used for good purposes. When this is the case, it becomes beneficial to one's spiritual health. "In Jesus' day, the Jews considered wealth a reward from God. They had great difficulty recognizing the subtle danger of materialism because they had come to identify it as a sign of God's favor. Coming out of that background, a rich young man approached Jesus with an important question... 'Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' (Luke 18:18).

"Although he asked a sincere question, when he heard the answer he was distressed. Jesus pointed out the main obstacle between him and eternal life—his money.... 'When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth' (Luke 18:23) . . . . He was deceived by believing that because he had great wealth he was blessed by God. In reality, his money separated him from God." [Partners With God, Bobby L. Edlund and Terry Austin]

At first glance, this Scripture seems to say we should give away all our money. The meaning is deeper than that. Jesus is saying that idolatry to money can disconnect us from the riches of God's Spirit. That is one of several reasons why systematically giving money to God's causes is part of every church's teaching about personal spiritual growth. Giving money to God does not mean that God will insulate us from all of life's troubles. But not giving money to God guarantees that we are not likely to escape the small box of self-concern and connect with God's life-changing Spirit.

The Journey Sunday School Class will begin a new study on the Gospel of John beginning July 6<sup>th</sup>. We are a small group that journey with God through bible study and discussion. Come and join us Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

## Helping Hands Ministry Blesses Gloucester County

For the third consecutive summer, Bethany youth will be participating in Helping Hands, a weeklong mission camp that ministers to the needy of Gloucester County. A brainchild of Terry Stacey, a member of Susanna Wesley UMC, Helping Hands provides a wonderful opportunity for young people to be involved in caring ministry to the needy, Christian fellowship with teens from other churches, and vital praise and worship experiences. Projects completed in past years include building wheelchair ramps, removing trash, reinforcing handrails, and assembling a shed. This year the Helping Hands week runs from Sunday, July 27, through Friday, August 1, 2008.

Young people sleep each night at Susanna Wesley Church, have breakfast at the church, and then break into groups to go to their respective worksites. Each worksite is supervised by two adults, and young people work on projects according to their abilities. Evenings begin with a contemporary worship service with a praise band and a brief message led by several different adult leaders. A fun social event completes the evening. Bethany anticipates approximately 20 of our youth participating. For more information about this wonderful program, please contact Terry Stacey at 757-868-1106.

## Report to the Church from

### Annual Conference



## ANNUAL REPORT

Once again I have been privileged to represent Bethany U.M.C. at Annual Conference. This was a much calmer conference than the one in 2007, due to the fact there was no endless balloting for members to General Conference and there were only three Resolutions to be considered.

The three Resolutions all passed, and I voted in favor of all three.

The first one requests the Governor and State Legislature to restore full voting rights to all individuals who have served their time in prison and fulfilled all other requirements of their sentence. The second Resolution requests the Governor and Legislative Body to be more accountable and transparent as to the funds spent on and the kind of medical care it provides for the prison population. The third one calls upon the Conference's Common Table for Church Vitality to assist local churches in developing special ministries to the families of injured veterans. If anyone has questions about any of these, I will do my best to answer them for you.

The first service Sandra and I attended was the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion on Sunday night. The Reverend Amanda Garber, who is currently the Campus Minister at James Madison University, gave the main address. She, recalling memories of running track at UVA invited us to don our running shoes and press on, to run the kind of race that Paul described in his letter to the Philippians.

She also suggested that our personal saints help us run our race. A cloud of witnesses shouting to us to "Press On." Beautiful music was provided by the Rappahannock District Youth Choir.

Also in the service, Bishop Charlene Kammerer celebrated Holy Communion, and Conference Secretary Bob Blinn read the list of names of clergy and clergy spouses that have died since last year's conference.

On Monday, surrounded by baskets of apples representing growth and becoming fruitful, the Conference approved the 250 Task Force's "All Things New" plan. This plants the seeds for 250 new faith communities in the next thirty years and the revitalization of existing congregations.

During the afternoon worship, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of the Mississippi Conference urged Virginia Conference members to allow the "Overshadowing Power" of God to overlay our lives. She told several stories that illustrated this power in the lives of others.

Her first realization of God's grace overshadowing all came on a mission trip to Bolivia to vaccinate against Yellow Fever. She recalled that upon reaching the last village at the end of a long road, they realized there was only enough vaccine left to treat a very few of the people there. Because of the lack of vaccine the team left a number of Bibles. That village later became the site of rapid church growth and the first public health initiative. She said, "That made me realize that this was a God I wanted to serve."

The scripture behind her message told how Mary, the mother of Jesus, was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. Bishop Ward said we should go home and "Look at the edges of our community" where God is at work. With the poor and the marginal, and like Mary, when we are overshadowed by the power of God, we also should sing a song.

Later in the afternoon we heard from "Deech" Kirk, executive director of the Center for Youth Ministry Training in Nashville, TN. He said a lot of teenagers' faith is defined as "Ultimate Whateverism", and they see God as a combination of Divine Butler and Cosmic Therapist.

He said part of the reason for this is that we adults have not allowed our faith to influence these youngsters, and that is why they have trouble articulating their belief. He also said, "It's time for the church to reclaim testimony. Young people want to hear (This is how God changed my life), or (I experienced God this week in -----.)" We need to take seriously the vows we make at their baptism, when we promise to nurture and raise them up in the faith.

Several times during the conference, former VA Bishop Joe Pennel held Bible Studies, and they were always great.

A Service of Celebrating the Ministry of Young People was held on Tuesday evening. The Keith Elgin Band rocked the house, and in his sermon, Rev. Chris Bennett spoke about chaos in our lives; that God does not leave people alone in chaos and neither should we.

Rev. Tom Lee led the dedication of Conference Kits and said that monetary gifts of \$74,920.61 were collected as well as 16,895 Health Kits, 15,257 School Kits, 3,676 Sewing Kits, 2388 Layette, 33 Flood Buckets and 42 Bedding. The total monetary value placed on the kits and donations was \$598,820.61.

The conference ended with a sermon by former Bishop Joe Pennel and remarks and prayers by Bishop Kammerer. - Yours in Christ, Alan Harvey

### Sermons for July and August

**July 6:** "Misusing the Divine Name" based on Exodus 20:7

**July 13:** "The Lord's Day" based on Exodus 20:8-11

**July 20:** "Honor Your Father and Mother" based on Exodus 20:12

**July 27:** "You Shall Not Commit Murder" based on Exodus 20:13

**Aug. 3:** "Be Faithful in Your Marriage" based on Exodus 20:14

**Aug. 10:** "You Shall Not Steal" based on Exodus 20:15

**Aug. 17:** United Methodist Men's Sunday

**Aug. 24:** "Tell No Lies" based on Exodus 20:16

**Aug. 31:** "Content with What We Have" based on Exodus 20:17



### Bethany Hosts Six Russian Youth

For three weeks this summer Bethany Church is hosting six Russian youth and their interpreter. They arrived at Dulles Airport on Saturday, June 21, and they will be flying back to Russia on July 12.

This year our host families are Alan and Sandra Harvey, Bernard and Debbie Robins, Jeff and Donna Lane, and Marcia Hargis. The young people are Ilya (16), Aida (16), Maxim (16), Artem (15), Nikolay (15), and Svetlana (15). Their interpreter is Natalia, who was also with us two summers ago leading the last group of Russian youth to visit us. The four boys hail from the city of Voronezh, a large city on the Don River in southwestern Russia; the two girls live in Kazan, a large city on the Volga River east of Moscow.

July events planned for the Russian youth include visiting the Virginia Living Museum, bowling, Water County, watching fireworks, Busch Gardens, a tour of Gloucester High School, and visiting the Virginia Air and Space Museum. A special church-wide luncheon will be held in their honor on Sunday, July 6, at 12:15 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to stay and have lunch with us that day. Special thanks go to Mike Andersen, our chairperson of missions, who has done the lion's share of the planning and organizing for the success of this outreach activity.

## Bethany Welcomes Thirteen New

### Members in June

Bethany UMC celebrates the goodness and grace of God in sending us thirteen new members, each of whom was received into the church family during the month of June.



On Sunday, June 8, six adults were received as members. **Bob and Carol Harder**, and son, **Wesley Buchanan**, live at 8402 Oyster Cove Rd. in Little England (642-6067). Bob joined Bethany by reaffirmation of faith; Carol transferred from Gwynn's Island Baptist Church; and Wesley transferred from First Presbyterian Church in Gloucester. Bob is owner of H & H Associates, a manufacturer of medical supplies, and Carol is a retired purchaser for Gloucester County. Wesley does work at the Lewis B. Puller Center in Gloucester. **Wendell Fletcher**, new husband of Linda Ambrose Fletcher, transferred his membership from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Gloucester. The Fletchers live at 1827 Chiskiake Street in Gloucester Point (642-4906). Wendell, a recent transplant from Florida, is seeking employment here in Virginia. **Nerine Hickman** transferred her membership to Bethany from Crooks Memorial UMC in Yorktown. She and her husband Jerry live at 6645 Muggins Creek Rd., off Zaroni Rd., in Gloucester (694-0496). Nerine is a retired public school guidance counselor. **Norma Taylor** transferred her membership from North Parkersburg Baptist Church in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Norma is the mother of Bethany member Dawn McDade and the grandmother of Bethany members Mike and Matt Sage. Norma and her husband Denver live at 6925 Main Street in Gloucester (824-9467). She is a retired bakery and deli manager from Food Lion.

On Sunday, June 15, **Thomas Poherence** joined Bethany church. Thomas transferred his membership from St. Therese Roman Catholic Church in Gloucester. He lives at 2011 Hayes Road, Apt. 2 (642-5109). Thomas helps out in the law office of Thomas L. Hunter.

On Sunday, June 22, six young people were received into the Bethany Church family. Each of them completed nine weeks of confirmation training led by the pastor. Two received the sacrament of baptism and the other four received the rite of confirmation. Receiving baptism were **Hunter Tipton**, son of David and Lynda Tipton, and **Elizabeth Brock**, daughter of Jason Beach and Norma Brock. Receiving confirmation were **Kennedy and Hannah Wilburn**, twin daughters of David and Ginny Wilburn, **Hannah Kidd**, daughter of Rick and Patricia Kidd, and **Ashley Reynolds**, daughter of Wayne and Stephanie Reynolds. All of these young people are rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders at Page Middle School.

### New Arrival



Congratulations to Steven and Dawn McDade on the birth of a son, Cole Micah on June 10<sup>th</sup>. He weighed 7lb, 13 Oz and was 20" long. Grandparents are Norma and Denver Sage Taylor

### New Hearing Devices for Worship

Thanks to the generosity of Ray Doggett, Bethany Church has four new hearing devices for worshipers in our sanctuary. Two are equipped with neck loops that can be used in conjunction with hearing aids, and two are equipped with ear pads that can fit directly on the ear. Please let an usher know if you would like to use one of our hearing devices during the service.

## Acolyte Schedule

**July 6** 8:30 Hunter Tipton/Trip Vaughan  
11:00 Williams Schultz/Will Neikirk  
**July 13** 8:30 Emily Coleman 11:00 Kennedy Wilburn  
**July 20** 8:30 Ashley Reynolds 11:00 Kaiten Cooper  
**July 27** 8:30 Mark Nichols 11:00 Chelsea Leigh

**Aug. 3** 8:30 Joel and Hannah Kidd  
11:00 Colleen LeMay and Kaiten Cooper  
**Aug. 10** 8:30 Emily Coleman 11:00 Elizabeth Brock  
**Aug. 17** 8:30 Kennedy Wilburn 11:00 Williams Schultz  
**Aug. 24** 8:30 Hunter Tipton 11:00 Austin White  
**Aug. 31** 8:30 Hannah Wilburn 11:00 Will Neikirk

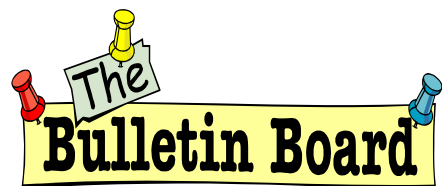
## Counting Teams Schedule

**July 6** Bernard Robins, Sandra Harvey, Vicki Williams  
**July 13** Sid Dixon, Katherine Jordan, Kathleen Mattox  
**July 20** Carlton Heywood, Jean Heywood,  
Norman Poland  
**July 27** Mike Andersen, Doris Luther, Merle Luther

**Aug. 3** Jackie Hampton, Charlotte Cecil, Jane Niethamer  
**Aug. 10** Peggy Burton, Clyde Burton, Mary Kaylor  
**Aug 24** Bernard Robins, Sandra Harvey, Vicki Williams  
**Aug 31** Jean Heywood, Carlton Heywood,  
Norman Poland

## United Methodist Men to Lead Worship

On Sunday, August 24, the United Methodist Men of Bethany UMC will lead both worship services. Our men will take responsibility for leading the worship, providing the music, and bringing the message. Officers of the UMM for 2008 are: Alan Harvey, President; Milton Hudgins, Vice President; Secretary, Tom Barnard; and Treasurer, David Chapin. The UMM meet for a meal and program on the last Tuesday of every month, with the exception of June, July, August, and December. All men of the church are invited to participate.



## Updated Membership Directories Available

A directory of Bethany members, updated as of July 1, will be available during the month of July on the tables outside both sanctuary entrances. The directories will contain the names and addresses of new members and updated addresses and phone numbers for current members. The church office provides an updated directory twice a year. Each family is encouraged to take one to keep near their telephone.

## Sondra Colbert Receives County Award

Congratulations to Bethany's Youth Director, Sondra Colbert, on receiving an Outstanding Youth Advocate Award for 2008, presented by the Gloucester County Youth Commission. Sondra received the award on June 11 at T.C. Walker Elementary School, with many of her youth in attendance. She was honored for her outstanding job in building up our church's youth group.

## A Refreshing Mid-Summer Musical Treat



Some people say that the most soul-refreshing of all music is that played on the harp. Bethany is privileged to have one of the great practitioners of the Celtic harp with us on Sunday afternoon, August 10, at 4 p.m., as the first concert of the George Nelson Concert Series for the 2008-09

year. Mrs. Ardie Boggs, a resident of Williamsburg and a featured performer at Colonial Williamsburg, studied with National Scottish Harp champion, Sue Richards, in the 1980's. A composer as well as a performer, Boggs' music is featured on six CD's. She especially enjoys playing original and traditional Celtic music from the British Isles. The Celtic harp differs from the concert harp in that it does not have pedals; it is lighter, more portable, and uses levers to change the string length. You will not want to miss this very special performance. There is no charge for the concert, but donations are encouraged.

## Road Entrance to Be Improved

Thanks to the efforts of our Trustees chairperson, John Hasty, the Virginia Department of Transportation has authorized the repaving of the entrance to Bethany Church Road, the road flanking our church property that provides access to our rear parking lot. Annoying potholes have plagued the road for several months, and the church will repave the portion of the road up to the driveway entrance for our rear parking lot.

## Drapers Move to Higher Ground

Rev. Jim and Barbara Draper, part of the Bethany family since 2001, are moving to Mechanicsville, Virginia, as of July 1. They will be moving into a new home provided by the Retired Clergy Housing Corporation of the Virginia Conference. Rev. Draper retired from the active ministry in 2000, but in retirement has served appointments at Shackelfords Chapel and Middlesex Charge, in the Rappahannock District, as well as assisting in worship at Bethany when asked. We anticipate that another retired clergy couple will move into the Drapers' current residence on Severn Wharf Rd. in Achilles.



## Judith Williams Earns Ph.D.

Congratulations to Judith Williams, daughter of Harvey and Mary Dale Williams, who successfully completed all requirements for her Ph.D. degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia. Judith assists with our church youth group and is a member of the TBD Sunday School class.

## Bethany Members Wed

During the month of June three Bethany members were married in the sanctuary of Bethany United Methodist Church. **Meagan Stevens** and Justin Maples were united in marriage on Saturday, June 7. **Tom Beaudoin** and **Sarah Boyle** were married on Saturday, June 21. Congratulations to both our newlywed couples!

## Pastor Reappointed for a Fourth Year

At the recently concluded session of the Virginia Annual Conference Rev. Steve Young was reappointed by the bishop to serve a fourth year as pastor of Bethany UMC. Under the United Methodist itinerant system, pastors are appointed one year at a time by the bishop, as the concluding act of annual conference each year. There is no maximum or minimum length of a pastor's tenure at any given church. An evaluation is made annually of the

pastor's effectiveness in the local church, and feedback is provided by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee of each local church each year to the District Superintendent. This information assists the bishop and her cabinet in making appointment decisions.

The only ministerial changes in Gloucester County were the appointment of Rev. Stephanie Wilson to New Hope Church, replacing Amy Pannell, and Rev. Steven Vacca to Singleton Church, replacing Les Goode.

## Join Us for Prayer

On Sundays at 8:25 a.m. and again at 10:55 a.m. those who wish are invited to gather in the Mary Lotsey Classroom for a brief moment of prayer. We will pray for the pastor, the other worship leaders, and for God's blessing upon the congregation in the upcoming service. You are invited to join us.

## Church Picnic Scheduled for Beaverdam Park



The Family Ministries Committee of Bethany has announced the location of its annual summer picnic. It will be held at Beaverdam Park on Saturday, July 26, from 2 until 7 p.m., at the Smith Picnic Shelter. The park is located at the north end of Roaring Springs Rd. (Going north on Main Street in Gloucester, turn right onto Roaring Springs Rd. just past Botetourt Elementary School.) This year's picnic location is especially attractive to the growing number of Bethany members who live in or near the courthouse.

The Smith Picnic Shelter is near the main entrance to the park. It has picnic tables and a charcoal grill and offers numerous amenities nearby: restroom facilities, a volleyball court, horseshoe pit, children's playground, nature trail, and exercise trail. From the pier, canoes, paddleboats and johnboats may be rented by the hour.

Dinner is scheduled for 5 p.m. The Family Ministries Committee is providing the meat, drinks, and desserts at no charge. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish to complement the meal. Please mark this church-wide event on your calendars! For further details, please contact Carol Schultz at 694-0250.



*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.*

## Pastor's Column: Can You See Why I'm Sad?

*A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more. (Matthew 2:18).*



I cried today.

Now I'm not normally a crier. I usually keep my emotions in check. Occasionally a teary movie gets to me. But I wasn't watching a movie when I cried today. I was

looking at the attendance statistics from last Sunday. My eyes looked down the attendance column: worship at 8:30 and 11:00—worship attendance was good--and then my eyes went down to Sunday School attendance: adults present, children present, and youth present.

And I cried.

Because the record showed that there were "0" children in Sunday School last Sunday. I thought that there might have been some error, so I hurried to the drawer of the desk in the library where the record books are kept for each class. I picked up the nursery roll book and the pre-kindergarten book and the grades 1-4 book, and I located the column that corresponded to last Sunday's date. And I tallied the numbers. Sad to say, it was true. There were no children in Sunday School last Sunday--none in the nursery, none in the pre-kindergarten class, none in the elementary class.

And I cried.

And I thought of our faithful and hard-working teachers who had prepared the lesson. I thought of Teresa Sullivan and Jackie Hampton and Suzanne Sterling, all prepared to teach or to lead singing. Waiting with anticipation for a young heart to come bounding through the door for them to welcome, to love, and to tell about Jesus. But none came through the door that morning. The children's classrooms were silent--dead silent. No one came. And no child sang.

And when I thought of it, I cried.

Yes, I thought of sicknesses and vacation trips and sporting events. But it was hard to face the fact that all twenty families with children were out the same Sunday.

I remembered how one of my goals in coming to Bethany Church was to build up the children's Sunday School. It was small then, and I wanted to see more children in Sunday School. Not for the sake of numbers, but for the sake of learning, for the sake of learning about the Bible, for the sake of learning about Jesus. I remember the efforts that we put into finding new curriculum. I remember our positive promotions: "Come to Sunday School!" "Why not give Sunday School a try?" "We'd love to have you visit one of our classes!" I remember the prayers that we lifted up. And it seemed for a time that God was winning.

A servant of Christ  
*Pastor Steve*

## The American Boy

Author unknown

SON:

Father, look up, and see that flag!  
How gracefully it flies!  
Those pretty stripes, they seem to be  
A rainbow in the skies.

FATHER:

It is your country's flag, my boy,  
And proudly drinks the light,  
O'er ocean's wave, in foreign climes,  
A symbol of our might.

SON:

Father, what fearful noise is that,  
Now thundering in the clouds?  
Why do they, cheering, wave their hat,  
And rush along in crowds?

FATHER:

It is the voice of cannonry,  
The glad shouts of the free;  
This is a day of memory,  
'Tis FREEDOM'S JUBILEE!

SON:

I wish that I was now a man,  
I'd free my country too,  
And cheer as loudly as the rest;  
But, father, why don't you?

FATHER:

I'm getting old and weak; but still  
My heart is big with joy;  
I've witnessed many a day like this,  
Shout you aloud, my boy!

SON:

HURRAH, FOR FREEDOM'S JUBILEE,  
God bless our native land!  
And may I live to hold the boon  
Of freedom in my hand.

FATHER:

Well done, my boy, grow up, and love  
The land that gave you birth,—  
A land where Freedom loves to dwell,—  
A paradise on earth.



### Getting to Know the Doctrines of the Church

Pastor Steve will be leading a 30-week study of the great doctrines of the church using the acclaimed "Christian Believer" series, published by Cokesbury. The study will begin on September 8 and be offered on Monday evenings from 7 until 9 p.m., running concurrently with the men's

and women's Bible studies already in place.

Many United Methodists do not feel as well-grounded in the great doctrines of the church as they would like. Ask them about the incarnation, the atonement, justification, sanctification, the Trinity, sacraments, the afterlife, and such, and many do not know how to answer. "Christian Believer" is a great opportunity to gain some mastery of the traditional doctrines of the church that have been passed down since the time of Christ. The teaching materials include a weekly video presentation, a study manual, readings from the Bible, and a compendium of brief readings of the great theologians. Daily readings and a weekly meeting are an expected part of participation in the course. Pre-registration is a must, and sign-up forms will be available in the Sunday bulletin during the month of July. Or you may call the church office and indicate your interest. Please direct your questions to Pastor Steve (642-2110).

