

# Bethany United Methodist Church

## Children's Library

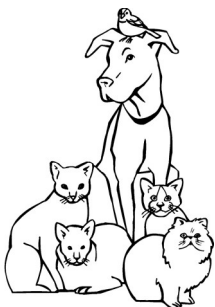
It is exciting to see that the Children's library is being used on a very regular basis! If you have checked out books please remember to bring them back in a timely manner so that others may enjoy them. If you haven't yet visited please come by and see what wonderful books we have for you children.

## Women's Bible Study

We are a group of women seeking to know God's word for our lives. Come and join us as we grow in our knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ. We will begin a new study on September 12th. We meet in the Faith Classroom on Monday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m.

## Men's Bible Study

We will begin our fall study, "Meeting God," on Monday September 12th. Come and join us as we grow in relationship with Jesus Christ. We always have room for more men. We meet on Monday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Journey Classroom



## Blessing of the Animals Planned

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 9 at 3:00 p.m.** for a "Blessing of the Animals" afternoon. Bring your pet to be blessed by Pastor Art. Come

out for animal contests. Prizes will be awarded. Watch for more information; you definitely will want to reserve October 9th to be at our church for this special occasion! Please have cats in cages and dogs on leashes. Be creative—bring your turtle, hamster, hermit crab.

## From the Pastor



I want to thank all of you for a wonderful summer. Your attendance at the Soul Café, worship services, Bible School, the Helping Hands mission camp, and our adult Sunday School class was outstanding! Vicki and I appreciate all your support, prayers, and presence.

In addition, we have maintained our stewardship program throughout the summer, but it is important to remember your church needs your financial offerings to maintain the quality of our ministries. As we settle in for fall, we need to be present at our Consecration Sunday on September 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the time to help your church determine her financial outlook for the future by bringing in your estimate of giving cards.

I look forward to our Charge Conference on October 25, 7:00 p.m. at Bellamy UMC. This will be a time to celebrate our past accomplishments and look forward to the future. We have adopted a new mission statement, and I want everyone to know this – **"The Church with open doors, minds, and hearts."** As we welcome new people to our church and offer assistance to the community, we are fulfilling this commission. Our programs and ministries for 2012 shall reflect this attitude.

Witnessing with open hearts and minds takes place everyday as we go into our community and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. For example, as you wait in the grocery store line, you can offer positive words to the person next to you and even the cashier benefits from your kind conversation. Many of our ladies invite others to church even when they are exercising together at Curves. Our Tuesday morning breakfast gatherings, visitations, and preparing meals for our homebound demonstrates our involvement with the community.

In closing, I share this scripture: "Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matt. 7: 7). Keep the mission alive at Bethany and continue to knock on the doors of new ministries. Let your love for God and people be your compelling force. May you always know how vital you are to God. May the Force be with you.

Live In Love,

Pastor Art

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP AND BETHANY'S OUTREACH

### Walk to Emmaus

Have you been on a Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis Flight or Cursillo? Join us on the first three Thursday evenings of the month at 6:30 p.m. 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.

If you are interested in attending a Walk to Emmaus weekend please let Pastor Art know. Fall weekend dates are: Men's retreat weekend September 29-October 2. The Women's retreat weekend is October 13-16. Application deadlines are quickly approaching.



### XYZ—September 21st

XYZ begins its 24th year when we meet on Wednesday, September 21st. We will be taking a "short trip" (other end of Hayes Rd) for a visit and tour of the Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue, followed by lunch at Rivers Inn.

Leave Church at 10:30 a.m.

Program and tour: 11:00-12:00 noon

Lunch: 12:30

Calling Committee will be contacting you a week before. Hope you can join us. -The Program Committee



We all know that stewardship at Bethany is a commitment to prayer, participation, funding and service. Bethany has a long history of combining these virtues into helping others and there is little question that it

will be continued next year and through the foreseeable future. All of us "give" to our church through one or more of these means. Although we might like to, we cannot give to every need or work on every service project. As a result, we often find ourselves regretting we cannot do more. If this paragraph resonates with you, read on.

One solution to the above conundrum is to take a fresh look at the outreach programs that Bethany already supports through its annual budget. You may not be aware that Bethany provides monetary support to a diverse group of local, regional and world wide service organizations and agencies. Here are a few of those, some of which you may not be aware:

Church World Service

African University

Society of St. Andrew

Gloucester Housing Partnership

Missionary Support, Cambodia

Bay Aging, Meals on Wheels

The Laurel Shelter

Boys and Girls Club of Gloucester

World Hunger

United Methodist Committee on Relief

The Samaritan Group

Healing Eagle Clinic

Gloucester/Mathews Free Clinic

Helping Hands

Habitat for Humanity

So now you know that by increasing your giving to Bethany, no matter the amount, you can significantly broaden the reach of your charitable giving. Hope you will consider this as we approach Consecration Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**GRAVE SITES FOR SALE**

The Cemetery Trustees have the following grave sites for sale in the Gloucester Point Cemetery located behind Bethany UMC. Each site costs \$500.00. There are small signs locating the sections.

Section 2, Plot C, sites 10, 11, 12 – They are on the York River side of the main road in the cemetery located near the grave markers for Bodie M and Susan Ann Phillips.

Section 7, Plot 69, sites 6, 8, 9, 10 - They are on the York River side of the main road in the cemetery located near the grave markers for Mary Ellen Dunston (#6) and John A. Brown (#8, 9, 10).

Section 7, Plot 71, sites 3, 4 – They are on the York River side of the main road in the cemetery located near the grave markers for Constance and Jim Bell.

Section 10, Plot 90, sites 1 and 9, 10 - They are on the Courthouse side of the main road in the cemetery located near the grave markers

for Henry T. Barker (#1) and Doris West (#9, 10).

Section 15, plot 181, site 1.

Section 18, Plot 319, site 1, 2 - They are on the Courthouse side of the main road in the cemetery located near the grave marker for Douglas Oliver.

Arrangements can be made for interest-free multi-month payment plans. If you have questions call Sid Dixon at 804-642-5158.



**Confirmation Classes** begin Sunday, Oct. 30th for youth in 6th-12th grades!

Classes will be taught by Pastor Art each Sunday for six weeks from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Please contact Sondra Colbert or Dawn Cluts to sign up!



**Young Adult Sunday School Class Coming!**

There is a need for a new Sunday School class to be

formed for college age students & adults (single and married) to join together each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. This class will begin meeting on **Sunday, September 11** in the fellowship hall. Pastor Art and Vicki will be leading this class each Sunday. The name of the class will be the GAP class (God's Awesome Power). If you have not been attending, please consider joining the GAP class. There are Sunday School classes for all ages of children, so come and bring your family to Sunday School.



**MYSTERY DINNER**

Saturday, September 17th - Calling ALL Junior and Senior High Youth - Join us for Bethany's first ever **MYSTERY DINNER** from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Please **RSVP** by September 9th to one of the following: Dawn Cluts 684-5340, Vicki Wolz 684-5779 or Sondra 642-0467. Spaces are limited!!!

**20 Adult Volunteers are needed** to assist with the Mystery Dinner Please contact Dawn or Vicki if you are able to assist.

**MYF MEETINGS:** Sunday, Sept. 4th - Jr. & Sr. MYF - 12:30-2:00 Please bring your lunch, a change of clothes, and tennis shoes and join your friends for some outdoor fun!



Sept. 18 MYF will not meet due to the Mystery Dinner event held on Saturday

Sunday, Sept 11 – MYF will not meet due to Church wide celebration for our wonderful Ms. Frances!

Sunday, September 25 Make a difference day! Details TBA

**Happy Wanderers—Saturday,  
October 15**

*We'll be attending a dinner and show at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Newport News. The Public Times Chorus will present "The Love Boat, Harmony on the High Seas."*

*We'll leave the front of the church at 12 noon for the matinee. The cost of the dinner and show will be \$22 and I'll collect \$2.00 for gas expenses. Final reservations and monies will be accepted until September 25. I thought by planning an event on Saturday we might get some of the ladies that haven't been able to attend before. For further information on any of the Happy Wanderers events, please e-mail me at [aburner@cox.net](mailto:aburner@cox.net) or give me a call at 642-6016.*



**SEPTEMBER 11  
Remembrance**

On Sunday, September 11, at both services there will be a worship service emphasizing the ten-year anniversary of the attacks on America. This will be a different service that you will remember. If you have any suggestions or would like to take part in the service, please contact any of our staff as we are preparing this worship day



**LACY PROGRAM**

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**A** ngels  
**C** hildren and  
**Y** outh

This program is designed to bring adults, children and youth together to give the opportunity for a strong bond to be formed between these groups in prayer for the children and youth. Each adult (1 per family) is asked to take a name from a basket on **Sunday, October 9 (Children's Sabbath)** and contact that child/youth to let the individual know you have selected their name. If you are unable to attend worship on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, come by the church and you can select a name. Take the initiative to find out who they are if you don't already know them. Be their prayer partner throughout the year. If it is a child, talk to their parents to find out any specific need they may have, etc. If you have an older child or youth, get in touch with them and let them know you care about them and want to pray for them and be there as a special friend. Remember their birthday. Send them cards occasionally. Keep in touch throughout the year, and you'll be amazed at the blessings God will have in store for you and your new friend. If you have anything you like to share or have any questions, please talk to Pastor Art.

**Second Tuesday Morning  
Visitation**

**September 13 at 10:00 a.m.**  
*Meet at church to go visit our shut-ins, those recovering from surgery or those wishing to see a smiling face. We'll go out in groups of two for visitation.*



**Homebound Ministries**

*We'll be cooking for our shut-ins on Thursday, September 29. Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. to help prepare, cook or deliver meals. We usually prepare about 25 meals for distribution.*

**A pencil maker told the pencil 5 important lessons just before putting it in a box**

1. Everything you do will always leave a mark!
2. You can always correct the mistakes you make!
3. What is important is what is inside of you!
4. In life, you will undergo painful sharpenings, which will only make you better!
5. To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you!

### Single Again



Join us on Sept. 15, Thursday, at 5:30 p.m. in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall for a covered dish supper. Bring your favorite dish—anything you like—and join us for a delightful evening. If you have found yourself suddenly single and in need of some good fellowship with others like yourself, than this group is for you. Give us a try! Men & women are welcome.

### Endowment Fund Info

Since the articles announcing the beginning of the Bethany UMC Endowment Fund, one of the frequently asked questions is, why do we have a church Memorial Fund Program as well as an endowment program. This is a very good question.

During the discussion on the establishment of the Endowment Fund, the committee discussed the topic of continuing the Memorial Fund program at great length. At first glance, it appears as though the two programs are the same, but there are some differences that must be considered. The Memorial Fund program has been a tradition at Bethany for some time. Many of our folks have long standing Memorial Fund positions in their wills, so having to make changes at this point would not be fair. By

having both programs, those that have been in the church for some time and are familiar with the memorial program will not have to make a lot of changes to their plans. Our newer members of the church that are perhaps just now getting their affairs in order, have the option of using either the Memorial or Endowment Program.

A second question that is frequently asked is, "What are the differences between the two programs?" The major difference is in the manner in which the funds are handled. In the case of the Memorial Fund, the funds are given to the church as a memorial in the name of an individual. There is no requirement for a minimum amount for a memorial fund. The use of the funds can be specified or may be made available

for some specific project. How the funds are used generally is specified by the individual through the will or by the family when the funds are donated in the name of a person. The church memorial committee is then in charge of determining how and when the funds may be used.

On the other hand endowment programs in the local church are generally established as a two-track program. First there is the church-wide endowment fund, i.e. The Bethany Church Endowment Fund.

This is open to gifts from anyone at any time and in any amount

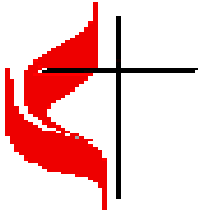
Gifts are often made in lieu of flowers at deaths or for anniversaries. At the end of the calendar year, church officials decide how to use the income from the fund gained from the previous year. The endowment income should not be used to meet regular operating expenses, but to enhance and strengthen or expand ministry.

The other "track" for an endowment program in the local church is for a Named Endowment Fund. These named funds offer a special opportunity for individuals or families to honor or memorialize another individual, or families to honor or memorialize another individual, or in fact, to honor themselves. The named endowment fund is usually for a specific purpose. Bethany

has established a minimum of \$10,000 as the minimum amount for a named Endowment Fund. At present, there is no "Named Endowment Fund"

For more specific information relative to establishing either one of the options outlined about. It is recommended that you seek advice from your legal counsel. For additional information of a general nature on either of the funds described above, members of the endowment committee are available to answer your questions.





**BETHANY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
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# *The Bethany Banner*

***September, 2011***

**CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF SERVICE BY FRANCES BROWN TO BETHANY CHURCH**

**Sunday, September 11**



Please join us on Sunday, September 11 for a day of celebration as we honor our church secretary, Frances Brown, for her twenty-five years of service to our church. Frances is a special person who has given so much of herself and time to keep our congregation and church on track.

She's an invaluable asset to every aspect of our church. We have been truly blessed by her service so I'm sure you'll make a special effort to be with us for the covered-dish luncheon following the 11 a.m. worship service. Bring your favorite dishes and join us in the celebration. No desserts. They will be provided. We'll have some special surprises for you, Frances and her family. Let's party!!



## **Trio Èlègance - September 25 at 4:00 P.M.**

The George Nelson Memorial Concert Series is excited and proud to introduce to you, and to our entire community, the debut of "Rhythm by the River", a musical series featuring four outstanding concerts for the 2011-2012 season. You will be delightfully entertained by both local and international artists including two internationally known pianist and organist, Rudy Shackel-overflowing with the elite quality of entertainment and open to the public so bring along your former friends with your presence and applause. You will not be disappointed! A love offering will be made for the continuation of the "Rhythm



by the River" event.

The première performance will be held on Sunday, September 25th at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at Bethany. "Trio Èlègance", an exceptionally talented group of musicians from Virginia Beach, will be performing three piano trios of Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms. Although new to the Hampton Roads area this trio is certainly not new to, but is well immersed in, the chamber literature. Trio Èlègance will surely delight the audience with its vibrant energy and interpretation of these dynamic masterworks! They are breaking barriers, performing in diverse settings as Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, daring to take these masterworks out of the traditional concert venue. Trio Èlègance brings a rebirth of passion to these mighty works.

