

Bethany United Methodist Church  
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May 2018 Newsletter

### ***Looking Ahead ...***

**Bible Study** – Monday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m. and Monday, May 14 at 10:00a.m.

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**UMM Yard Sale & UMW Bake Sale** – Saturday, May 5, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



**Church Covered-Dish Dinner-** Wednesday, May 9, 6:00 p.m.

**Mother's Day** – Sunday, May 13

**UMW Kits for Conference** –Wednesday, May 30 & Thursday, May 31, 10:00 a.m.

## From the Pastor's Pen



Have you noticed? Something goes wrong in a family, a group of friends, sports team, workplace, or church – almost anywhere – and the first inclination is to ask “Who did it?” “Who caused the problem?”

I remember watching as one of my children did something wrong and then turned and blamed it on their brother or sister – even though I caught them in the act! What’s going on here?! Searching for blame or distancing oneself from blame may be a natural response to feeling the pressure of being singled out, but it is not productive.

Remember Cain? He’s the man who murdered his brother, Abel (Genesis 4). God preferred Abel’s offering over Cain’s; Cain was “very angry,” and God called his hand on it: “Why are you angry, ... If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.” (vs. 6-7)

Cain’s anger was over God’s acceptance and praise of Abel’s offering. Rather than ask God what he could do to make an acceptable offering, Cain blamed Abel instead and premeditated and carried out Abel’s murder. When God asks Cain where his brother is, Cain smart-mouths God saying, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” (v. 9)

Thousands of years later, we are tempted to sit back and smugly blame Cain. But in our own lives, I wonder if we are not more like Cain than Abel. Assigning blame to others takes the focus off ourselves, and somehow makes us feel better – at least temporarily. (I imagine that Cain thought he had taken care of the problem immediately after he buried his brother – but God knew and soon exposed Cain’s heart and actions.) Cain’s poor thinking and actions cost him dearly for the rest of his life – and it ended life’s possibilities for his brother.

What if, whenever we find ourselves “caught” in a situation of our own making, the first impulse would be to ask how we ourselves are responsible, instead of searching for a way to blame others? Would accepting responsibility for what went wrong lead to our undoing or would it help us grow and mature – both in the eyes of others and in God’s sight?

How hard is it for you to say, “I’m sorry ... I shouldn’t have said (or done) that”? Or, “If I had not done this, such-and-such would not have happened.” Or, “I was wrong in my judgment,” or “I should not have done that.”

I know from experience it can be very hard to “face the music” when I’ve made a poor decision or said something that hurt another person – it’s downright embarrassing! Yet, I also know the peace that comes from confessing my faults both to God and to those I have wronged. When I examine my own actions and search my own heart before the Lord, I am always humbled, but through being humbled, I find forgiveness, mercy, and strength to get up and move forward in this journey called Life.

I am touched by these words of Thomas à Kempis:

“A person who cares nothing for praise or blame knows great inward peace.... Praise does not make you holier than you are, nor blame more wicked. You are exactly what you are, and cannot ever be any better or worse than that, in the eyes of God. Attend to what is really within you, then, and you will not care what others say of you. People look at externals, but God looks at the heart. They weigh actions; God knows your intent.... To feel no need of human support and assurance is a mark of inward confidence – of those who truly walk with God in their hearts.” Source: [The Imitation of Christ](#).

Taking responsibility for how we manage ourselves in our families, church, occupation, or the world at large is still important. April 22 marked the 48th anniversary of Earth Day. (I remember walking several miles to school on

April 22, 1970, instead of taking the bus—my small acknowledgment of how the overuse of natural resources can negatively impact our environment.)

Cartoonist Walt Kelly (1913-1973) nailed the importance of personal responsibility in his Pogo strip published on the second Earth Day in 1971, when he wrote, "... we have met the enemy and he is us." His comment was about the growing awareness that human actions were causing pollution and affecting both humans and wildlife.

Through the Scriptures and other sources, we can find endless examples of the need to step up and take responsibility for our own actions, rather than passing the blame on someone else. The end result is amazing growth in our spiritual journey ...

On the journey together,  
*Suzanne*



*José Inchausti and Sarah Gray helped "plant" this year's crop of pinwheels.*

### ***Have you noticed??***

Pinwheels have been turning merrily in the flowerbed around our church sign during the month of April, which is **Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Pinwheel gardens are a symbol adopted to call attention to the problem that exists worldwide. Since 2008, the pinwheel has become "the national symbol for the great childhoods all children deserve because our children are our future." This year, Healthy Families Partnership, Inc. of Hampton teamed up with various agencies to provide the funding of pinwheel gardens around the city. The small garden at Bethany was installed by three members of The Exchange Club of Wythe (José Inchausti, Sarah Gray and Doug Gray).

We thank the Exchange Club for donating this year's pinwheels to Bethany, helping us honor our own children and expressing our prayerful hopes for all children!

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

**FRANCES DOLORES GUTHRIE HARRIS** was born



on May 8 to Agnes and Thomas Guthrie in Roanoke, VA, where she lived and attended First Grade. Her family moved to Hampton by the time she began Second Grade. They lived in Copeland Park, where she grew up. Her mother worked the night shift at Century Ribbon Co. and her father ran a service station and later ran Guthrie's Luncheonette on Jefferson Avenue. Dolores says they were famous for their chicken and dumplin's. Since she was the oldest of her two siblings, Joyce and Tommy, she took care of them while her parents worked. The family later moved into a home on Aberdeen Road after she graduated from Hampton High School in 1954.

Dolores went to Lynchburg College for one year where she majored in Business, and then began working at Fort Monroe. She was a charter member of Copeland Park Methodist Church and met her husband, Gene Harris, there. He was attending the Apprentice School at Newport News Shipyard at the time. They were married on October 27, 1957, at her church, which became Tyler Memorial Methodist. Gene was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Fort Riley, Kansas for basic training. After that, they moved to Germany

where he was stationed. Dolores remembers well, traveling over there on her first flight alone. She said in those times, that was called "living on the economy." They lived there for nine months and, after returning to the States, she continued working at Fort Monroe. Dolores and Gene's first child, Lisa, was born in 1963. Although, she was a stay-at-home mom, Dolores began a class at Thomas Nelson Community College studying Pre-Teaching and received an Associate's Degree in Science. Their second child, Chris, was born in 1973. She began working for NASA in 1988. While employed there, she studied Criminology at St. Leo University and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Highest Honors in 2000. Also, during her time at NASA, she was privileged to travel to other space centers. She continued there until she retired in 2007. Gene worked at the Newport News Shipyard until he retired in 1987.

Gene and Dolores enjoyed traveling together to the National Parks, Hawaii, Colorado, Lancaster, PA, as well as Alaska, where they celebrated their 50th Anniversary. They joined Bethany in 1990 after the merger of Tyler and Bethany. They were both an asset to us as they shared their talents and leadership skills with us. Gene sang in the Chancel Choir, and they were part of the Wesley Fellowship Class. Dolores has served on the Committee for Nominations & Leadership Development, Trustees, Secretary for the Administrative Board, Finance Secretary, and is active in the U.M. Women, and often helps with flower arrangements as part of the Altar Guild. In addition, she does volunteer work for AARP. Sadly, Gene passed away on April 22, 2013. They were married 57 years.

Dolores is the proud grandmother of Tyler Smith and Brandon and Hudson Harris, both Honor Roll Students, and a beautiful great-

granddaughter, Everly Smith. All of her family resides in Newport News and York County. She has always loved and cultivated flowers and enjoyed traveling and participating in the 2009 Rose Parade at Pasadena, California. When the children were small, she enjoyed sewing and alterations, and even making wedding gowns, including her own daughter's! We are grateful for having her as an active member here at Bethany.

Submitted by: Pat Smith, Membership Care Committee

\*Please note: If you would like to be featured in the Senior Spotlight in our newsletter, or would like to suggest someone else's name, please let Pat Smith know.

(826-1717 [lp59smith@verizon.net](mailto:lp59smith@verizon.net))

## Craft News

Hi everyone! Here is our meeting dates, so mark your calendars!

**May 2, 16 and 30**

**June 13 and 27**

**July 11 and 25**

**August 1, 15 and 29**

Thanks,  
Rita Honeycutt



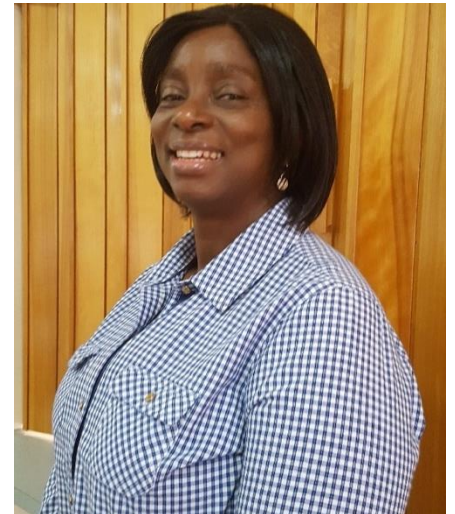
## Happy Hearts

Bethany's Happy Hearts will be meeting on **Thursday, May 24th** for lunch at **Smithfield Station in Smithfield** at our usual time, 11:30 am. Please sign up in Tyler Hall if you plan to attend as the restaurant requests me to let them know the number expected so they can prepare for us. Hope you can attend as we always have a good get-together and good food as well as atmosphere there on the water. Come and bring a friend.

Mary Faulk, 757-874-3949

## Welcome Our New Pastor

**Esther Naana Agbosu** was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa, where she graduated from Kwadaso Agricultural College in Ghana in 1982. She was



admitted into Wesley Theological Seminary in 2007 and graduated in 2010 with M.Div. degree.

Before moving to USA, she trained as a Family Life and Marriage Counselor, served as a leadership training team member with International Leadership Institute, and trained Church leaders in Ghana and other parts of Africa. She was also an instructor of Lay Preachers in the Ghana Methodist Church. From 2007 to 2013, she served a Ghanaian Methodist Church in Alexandria, as a Caretaker Pastor. She was appointed to Henderson United Methodist Church in Callao as a Licensed Local Pastor in 2013 and commissioned as a Provisional Elder in 2015.

Esther will be ordained as an Elder in full connection at the 2018 Annual Conference and will begin serving Bethany United Methodist Church effective July 1. She's looking forward to serving and growing with the congregation as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Esther is married to William with three adult children: a son, Seyram, and two daughters Kafui and Selassie, and three adorable young grandsons. Esther enjoys singing and visiting historic sites. We look forward to having Pastor Esther working alongside all of us at Bethany!

## Youth Group



A recent Tuesday evening youth group meeting... Thank you, Amy Ryan, and thank you parents and young people, for coming out and growing together in Christ!

Bethany's Youth now meet every week on Tuesday, at 6 p.m. in Tyler Hall. Dinner is served during Youth! If anyone would like to donate a meal we would be so grateful! There's a sign-up sheet in Tyler Hall.

The youth are also working to serve the community at least once a month. This month we are hoping to visit some of our homebound members. We spent time making homemade cards for these members and are hoping to visit them in their homes very soon. If there are projects your group is working on that could use a few extra hands, please let Amy Ryan know so we can be involved.

We are so grateful to Elaine Brimer for providing a meal for the youth last week and for the support of the church community, especially the United Methodist Women! We hope this group will continue to grow and do good in this church and throughout the community!

-Amy Ryan

## CNU Scholarship Luncheon



Pastor Suzanne and the three CNU keyboard majors who benefit from the Emmett Dyer Scholarship Fund.

## High School & College Graduates



Please turn into the church office the names of any 2018 graduates that you know of as soon as possible. We will also need a picture of the graduate (no larger than 5 x 7) and information regarding where he or she is graduating from, which school or college, and any other info you would like to share with our church family. We need this information no later than **May 15**. We will honor the graduates on the second Sunday of June during our worship service and at the Church picnic following the service.



## United Methodist Women

**May 5** is the UMM Yard Sale and we need homemade goodies for the Bake Sale we are sponsoring that day. All profits go to our mission projects.

It's **Kits for Conference** time again. Your UMW is asking for support from the congregation to complete lots of health kits, which will go wherever in the world they are needed. All items must be turned in to the church (there's a container in the Commons Area where you may deposit your contributions) no later than **Sunday, May 27**. Kits will be assembled by our ladies on May 30 and 31 and then packed for delivery to the Conference. If you don't want to shop for these items, we will be delighted to accept cash or checks (payable to the UMW), and we will shop for you. There can be no substitute for the following items which are needed:

### -1 Hand Towel

- \*15x25 inches to 17x27 inches
- \*Kitchen, cleaning & microfiber towels not acceptable

### -1 Washcloth

### -1 Toothbrush

- \*Adult size only
- Do not remove from original packaging**

### -6 Adhesive bandages

- \*¾ inch to 1 inch
- \*Common household Band-Aids

### -1 Bath size soap

- \*3 oz and larger sizes only
- \*No Ivory or Jergens soap
- Do not remove from original packaging**

### - 1 Comb

- \*Comb needs to be sturdy & longer than 6 inches
- \*No pocket combs or picks
- \*Rattail combs & combs without handle are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth

### -1 Metal nail file or clippers

- \*No emery boards, please

### -1 Plastic bag

- \*one-gallon size sealable bag only

### -\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

Should you misplace the list and bag you have been given, printed lists, (in zip lock bags) are in a basket adjacent to the kit donation container. We thank you in advance for your support!

To celebrate National Family Week, our UMW is sponsoring a **Family Dinner** in Tyler Hall on **May 9 at 6 p.m.** Everyone is invited to come (and please bring a large covered dish) and enjoy hearing our Bethany Bells play for our pleasure.

There will be no morning UMW meeting in May. Our June meeting will be on the 6th when we will complete plans for Conference meals and then treat ourselves to lunch at Embassy Suites.

## Altar & Narthex Flowers for 2018

Reservations for Altar flowers are still available for these dates:



- May 6 and 27
- October 7
- November 11 (Veterans Day)

Reservations for Narthex flowers are available for these dates:

- May 6 and 27
- June 3 and 24
- July 8 and 29
- August 5, 12, 19 and 26
- September 9 and 30
- October 7, 14 and 21
- November 4, 11 and 25
- December 2, 9, 16 and 30

Please call the church office. Our florist is Jeff's Flowers and the cost is **\$20.00 each**. Please call the church office for more information and to reserve your request.



## May Birthdays

- 1 Brian Cheatham
- 2 Jean Lucy, Teresa Capone
- 5 Norma Carmines
- 6 Audrey Woodard
- 8 Dolores Harris
- 15 Elaine Brimer
- 17 Donna Greenside, Doug Gray, Louis Diggs
- 18 John Honeycutt
- 25 John Garrett, Suzanne Gibson
- 27 Jerry Cannon
- 28 Rene Bartgis, Jewel Moon

(Note: If you have a May birthday and are not on this list, please let the church office know. Thanks!)

## May Anniversaries

(If you have a May anniversary and are not on the list, please let the church office know. Thanks!)



We extend our Christian love and prayers to the family of G.T. Ford.

We extend our Christian love and prayers to the family of Colleen Morse, granddaughter of Jim & Doris Morse.

## Thank-you!

Dear Friends,  
Because of your generous gift of \$200, you have turned hunger into hope for so many.



Children who would otherwise come home from school hungry will get nourishment so that they can learn. Families who just need some help when times are rough can get enough food to help them get back on their feet. For the majority of our clients, food insecurity is caused by a sudden and temporary crisis and recovery can be challenging without help from the community. Our clients have to make decisions between paying rent and buying groceries, between paying for heat and giving their children a healthy dinner, between buying vital prescription medications and having a nutritious diet. Whether they are experiencing a medical emergency, have been laid off from a job, or had their car break down, these families are able to get back on their feet more quickly with your generosity. Thank you for thinking of our clients. Together we are nourishing the community and empowering lives. Your generosity helps us continue to positively and significantly impact our neighbors in need throughout the greater Virginia Peninsula.

Warm Regards,  
Karen L. Joyner, Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

To all my wonderful friends at Bethany,  
Thank you for all the kindnesses shown me during my illness. You don't know what it meant to me – the phone calls, visits, food, cards and prayers. I send thanks and love to my church family.

~ Mary Lou Simmons



## Pictures from Easter Sunday



Easter Flowers from Countryside Gardens



The children gather around to hear the Easter story.

## Pictures from UMW Sunday



Guest Speaker Betty Whitehurst



Rev. Walt & Betty Whitehurst



Trip, Artie and Carlia with pinwheels from the garden! (See story on page 3.)

## UMM Yard Sale & UMW Bake Sale!!

May 5, 2018 from 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Food Court hosted and operated by  
Boy Scout Troop 915!



Please help support Bethany by making some homemade goodies for our **Bake Sale on Saturday, May 5** – cookies, bread, cupcakes, brownies, candy, jams or whatever you want to bake! Sign-up sheet is in Tyler Hall. Thank you in advance for supporting our mission projects!

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### MAY 2018 EVENT CALENDAR

- 1 Yard Sale Registration – 4-6 p.m.  
Knitting & Crochet – 6:30 p.m.  
Youth – 6 p.m.  
AA – 7 p.m.
- 2 Craft Meeting –10 a.m.  
Yard Sale Registration – 4-6 p.m.  
Chair & Mat Yoga – 4:30 p.m.
- 3 Yard Sale Registration –4-6 p.m.  
Handbells – 6:15 p.m.  
Chancel Choir – 7 p.m.  
Scouts – 7 p.m.
- 4 Yard Sale Registration – 4-6 p.m.
- 5 **Yard Sale and Bake Sale 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**
- 6 **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**
- 7 Prayer Time–9:30 a.m.  
Bible Study–10 a.m.
- 8 Youth – 6 p.m.  
Knitting & Crochet – 6:30 p.m.  
AA – 7 p.m.
- 9 Chair & Mat Yoga – 4:30 p.m.  
Alz’s Caregivers Support – 6-7:30 p.m.  
**Church Covered-Dish Dinner -6 p.m.**
- 10 Handbells – 6:15 p.m.  
Chancel Choir – 7 p.m.  
Scouts – 7 p.m.
- 13 **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter; Mother’s Day**
- 14 Prayer Time – 9:30 a.m.  
Bible Study – 10 a.m.
- 15 Finance Committee – 6 p.m.  
Youth – 6 p.m.  
Knitting & Crochet – 6:30 p.m.  
Church Council – 7p.m.  
AA – 7 p.m.
- 16 Craft Meeting –10 a.m.  
Missions-10 a.m.  
Chair & Mat Yoga – 4:30 p.m.
- 17 Handbells – 6:15 p.m.  
Chancel Choir – 7 p.m.  
Scouts – 7 p.m.
- 20 **Pentecost Sunday**
- 21 UMM Business Meeting – 8 a.m.  
Prayer Time; Trustees – 9:30 a.m.
- 22 Youth – 6 p.m.  
Knitting & Crochet – 6:30 p.m.  
AA – 7 p.m.
- 23 Chair & Mat Yoga – 4:30 p.m.
- 24 Happy Hearts – 11:30 at Smithfield Station  
Handbells – 6:15 p.m.  
Chancel Choir – 7 p.m.  
Scouts – 7 p.m.
- 27 **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**
- 28 Memorial Day – church office closed
- 29 Youth – 6 p.m.  
Knitting & Crochet – 6:30 p.m.  
AA – 7 p.m.
- 30 UMW-Kits for Conference – 10 a.m.  
Craft Meeting–10 a.m.  
Chair & Mat Yoga – 4:30 p.m.
- 31 UMK-Kits for Conference –10 a.m.  
Handbells – 6:15 p.m.  
Chancel Choir – 7 p.m.  
Scouts – 7 p.m.