

Bethany United Methodist Church  
1509 Todds Lane  
Hampton, VA 23666  
(757) 826-2493  
E-mail: [BethanyUMC.bethany@gmail.com](mailto:BethanyUMC.bethany@gmail.com)

December 2017/January 2018 Newsletter

*Merry*   
*Christmas* 

*Your Pastor and Staff who support the ministries of  
Bethany UMC wish you a joyous Christmas  
and a New Year filled with Christ's peace!*

*Pastor Suzanne, Beverly, Trena, Christian,  
Myra & Kelly*



## *From the Pastor's Pen*



Every year I am required to give a report of my pastoral ministry to the charge (Bethany) and annual conference. Following is what I shared with the charge conference on November 19, 2017:

This year I have begun to engage Bethany in a visioning process. In February, the Church Council and other interested members met for a day-long retreat at the Chesapeake Retirement Center to begin a visioning process. We looked at who we are, who our community is, and what God is leading us to do and be. We continue to work toward a vision statement that truly reflects how God is leading us as a congregation, acknowledging that it is a slow process. Our statement should reflect God's will for our present leg of the journey and will inform all the work of the congregation going forward.

Of course, I continue to spend a great deal of focus on Bethany's worship life, visitation and member care, prayer and Bible study. Loss of [eleven] members to death is deeply felt by this community of faith and me as a pastor, and many others are struggling with serious health issues.

I have made a point of reaching out to our children and youth, but we need an individual who can focus on their needs and spiritual formation. The S/PPRC has begun planning for a youth [director] for the coming year, including placing additional funds in the 2018 budget.

Our music program is struggling at the moment, but we hope to get back up to speed by early in the New Year. We hired a new organist the first of October and then lost our music director at the end of October. We need an individual who can help direct our bell choir as well as the Chancel Choir and engage our children in the musical program, too.

As in the past, many in the congregation step up to visit, send cards, and stay connected to our homebound members. In particular, the Membership Care team assists me greatly in this area.

Prayer has been a focus since I arrived at Bethany, but it is a difficult one to sustain inside the church building. The Wednesday night prayer meetings were faithfully attended by a handful, and we have moved the time for prayer to Monday mornings, just in front of our weekly Bible study of Mark's Gospel, trusting that some of the Bible study attendees will arrive earlier for prayer.

A couple of persons have recently indicated an interest in pursuing some kind of credentialing in the United Methodist Church but have not begun the formal process yet. What a joy for me to learn that the Holy Spirit is nudging people within the congregation! I look forward to seeing what develops in 2018! (We have needed lay servants for Bethany for a couple of years now, and I believe God is working to help us in this area.)

Bethany's financial situation is stable, but the loss of long-time members to death keeps us mindful of the need to promote good stewardship practices in the congregation. Not all the 2018 stewardship pledges have been returned to the office, so it is not clear whether 2018 will be a stronger year than 2017, but I am hopeful. The pledges are for financial support, spiritual participation (including daily prayer and attendance in worship and small groups), and service in the local congregation and beyond. I continue to make connection between what we give and the ministry accomplished to the glory of God. We are up-to-date on our Apportionments. When Bethany learns of a particular need, they are generous in their response. When we needed to deal with long-time mold issues in the church earlier this year, we received a grant from the District Board of Missions

that matched what the congregation contributed – we are all thankful for this support and now enjoy a mold-free building in which to worship, learn and serve.

Bethany is involved in many areas of mission, and I seek to support them all with my presence and financial and/or material contributions. Almost of the Sunday school classes, UMM, UMW, and other small groups engage in projects throughout the year to raise money or do something for groups in the community (e.g., Kraft Elementary School, Davis Middle School), projects of the Virginia Conference (e.g., Kits for Conference, Heart Havens, Henry Fork Service Center, Red Bird Mission), and others. Our annual Pumpkin Patch not only blesses the Hampton community but part of the proceeds go to the Native Americans who grew the pumpkins.

Bethany did not host “A Night’s Welcome” this year but is gearing up to host Hampton’s homeless community for a week in January 2018. I am thankful for new leadership for this

ministry following the sad loss of Jim Sample, who was dedicated to leading this effort in past years.

Bethany is a kind and generous congregation, always willing to help someone in need. I am grateful for my appointment to this faith community.

On the journey together,

*Suzanne*



### *Thank you so much!*

Thank you so much for the unique way you honored me as your pastor on October 29!

In case you missed the fun, our Lay Leader, Elaine Brimer, led the congregation in “pounding the pastor” (a reference to another era in which a pastor got paid in pounds of food items and necessities in lieu of a cash salary). A wicker basket was placed down front, and the children each contributed a piece of fresh fruit to it. Half of the congregation then came forward to add items to the basket, including gluten-free pastas, dried beans, over-sized googly eyes (God is watching over me), paper products, purple gloves (you know my hands are cold after service! 😊), and a gold box of “Non-Fat Mixed Nuts” (you can ask Ellie and Larry Worrell about this one!).

The children made lovely cards for me, and there was a cash gift as well. A good number of you joined me for lunch at Anderson’s following the service. Bless you all for your many kindnesses!

*Suzanne*

**Our UMW** will meet with Happy Hearts on Thursday, December 14, 11:30 a.m. at Pastor Suzanne's house. In January 2018, our meeting will be on Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and we will discuss our upcoming activities and programs. The February program will be presented by a rep. UMW of Bethany Smithfield. The Smithfield group does an annual trip to the Red Bird Mission location and supports that group in their work with the residents of the mountain communities. Our UMW made a \$50 donation to help the Smithfield UMW with their 2017 project. All ladies of the church are invited to join our group and enjoy the warmth and love we share with each other.



## Happy Hearts

Pastor Suzanne had invited our Happy Hearts group as well as UMW for a Christmas Covered dish lunch on Thursday, December 14 at 11:30 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet in Tyler Hall. Please sign up if you wish to attend as our hostess needs a firm head count. Everyone is invited and all are welcome. We are looking forward to this special occasion of celebrating the Christmas Season with our Bethany family and Pastor Suzanne. Please plan to come and bring a favorite dish to share and please sign up. Hope to see you there. Mary Faulk - [757-874-3949](tel:757-874-3949).

### 2017 Advent-Christmas Offering Goal

*The following has been suggested as the "special offering" goal for this Advent-Christmas season. Could you help us accomplish this goal by your additional special contributions? Many thanks for participating in these ministries of Bethany.*

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Christian Education Sunday .....                                  | \$150          |
| World Communion Sunday .....                                      | \$250          |
| United Methodist Student Day .....                                | \$400          |
| UM Family Services .....  | \$1,100        |
| H.E.L.P. ....   | \$400          |
| Teen Challenge .....  | \$150          |
| Society of St. Andrew (gleaning<br>ministry for the hungry) ..... | \$150          |
| Bethany Scholarships .....  | <u>\$400</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL GOAL:</b>  | <b>\$3,000</b> |



**Welcome,  
Trena Burden**

### Bethany's New Director of Music

We are thankful for new leadership in our music ministries! Trena will not only be directing our choir, but the hand bells, as well. Be sure to welcome her!





## Senior Spotlight: Pete and Alwayne Chilcott

**Lois Alwayne Gunter** was born on March 9, 1933 to Charlie & Lora T. Gunter in Swain County, North Carolina. She lived there until the age of ten when her family relocated to Hampton, VA in 1940. She entered elementary school and graduated from Hampton High School in 1951. She played clarinet in the Hampton High School band and marching band, and enjoyed the football games.

**Floyd Melburn Chilcott (Pete)** was born in Monticello, Indiana on March 15, 1931, and attended elementary and high school there until he turned sixteen when he quit school and went to work at the local RCA cabinet factory. He had an older brother and sister, and a younger brother and sister. He enlisted in the USAF in January 1948.

After her graduation, Alwayne went to work at the Shipyard in the keypunch and IBM machine operations department where she worked for 21 years, with several breaks as she moved around with Pete wherever the Air Force transferred him.

Pete and Alwayne met in 1950 at the Skateland Skating Rink in Newport News. He said he proposed that very first night. He said "Will you marry me?" and she said, "No." Their first date was at church and it took six or seven months before she finally said yes! They were married on December 27, 1952 in the Langley AFB chapel while Pete was on leave from Scott AFB. Their son, Floyd Michael, was born on March 31, 1956 at Landstuhl Army Hospital, in Germany. Their second son, Craig Alan, was born on November 2, 1960 at Maguire AFB

Hospital, New Jersey. Both are currently living locally.

Pete and Alwayne made their homes in Illinois, Germany, Texas, Ohio, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Alaska, Nebraska, finally settling down again in Hampton, VA. He served in the Air Force for 26 years in the field of communications maintenance and installation. His duty assignments took him around the world and to many areas of the U.S. Several of his assignments sent him to Japan, Okinawa, Germany, Turkey, Alaska and Thailand. Their favorite tour was in Alaska where they enjoyed many outdoor activities with Michael and Craig.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1974, Pete worked with Wyle Contractor at NASA as an acoustical data instrumentation and acquisition technician for 15 years. He also used his love of flying to become a flight instructor at Langley Flying Club, and at Newport News airports where he enabled many students to achieve their certificates. He amassed more than 4,000 flight hours over a 16-year period. Alwayne returned to work at the Shipyard in the same department and the same supervisor she had when she first worked there. She retired in 1992. She greatly enjoyed cooking, baking and became an instructor/demonstrator of The Wilton Cake Decorating organization.

The Chilcotts have four grandchildren: Christopher, Denise, Donna, and Catie. They have three great-grandchildren: Jacob, Madison and Alecia. They became members of Bethany in 1992 and are members of the Wesley Class and Chancel Choir. They love their church family and participating in activities as they are able. He has served on the Staff/Pastor Parish Committee and Church Council. Alwayne has served on the Membership Care Committee. For recreation, they enjoy riding their three-wheel motorcycle.

~ Submitted by Pat Smith,  
Membership Care Committee



## Cookies and Crafts Walk – Dec. 9

The **Cookies and Crafts Walk** is coming real soon – **Saturday, December 9**, between 10:00 a.m. and

2:00 p.m. Once again, we are asking for Bethany’s support in helping with this wonderful program. We need helpers and bakers. There is a sign-up sheet in Tyler Hall.

Bakers can bake **6 dozen** of your favorite cookies, and we are having a table for those who love to bake breads, cakes, cupcakes or make candy, fudge or canned goods, like jams, jellies and pickles. **Craft items** will be available too, to help with your Christmas giving.

On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> we will be setting up for the big day. You can bring your cookies and baked goods between 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Remember: the BUMM’s homemade **Chili** will be available on the 9<sup>th</sup>, too!

~ Rita Honeycutt

## Join us for Prayer and Bible Study (Mark’s Gospel)

Monday Mornings

9:30-9:55 a.m. Prayer (Parlor)

10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Rick’s)

**Note:** These groups will **not** meet on December 25 or January 1



## Wesley Class News

The Wesley Class will lunch together at

**Rick and Libby's** on Warwick Blvd. at

11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 29.

If you can join us, please let Carol Wilson or Jean Lucy know, and we'll add your name to our reservation list.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you all!



## BUMM News

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month **Prayer Breakfast** will be on **December 17, at 8:30 a.m.** in

Tyler Hall. Join us for a delicious breakfast, great fellowship and much-needed prayer for those we love and care for.

The upcoming **BUMM’s Delicious Homemade Chili** is on **Saturday, December 9**, in conjunction

with Bethany’s Cookies & Crafts, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 a quart. Sign up in Tyler Hall!



## Invite your Family & Friends

### To join us for Advent & Christmas Worship!

Dec. 3 “A Journey of Hope” (10:30 a.m.)

Dec. 10 “A Journey of Love” (10:30 a.m.)

Dec. 17 **Christmas Prayer Breakfast** (8:30 a.m.)

“A Journey of Joy” (10:30 a.m.)

**Covered-Dish Lunch** after Worship

Dec. 24 “A Journey of Peace” (10:30 a.m.)

**Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service**

“A Journey to Christmas” (5:30 p.m.)



**Pick up invitation cards in the Narthex or Office to give out to your friends and family!**

## Appreciation Expressed

In the past, **The Sample family** has always provided the Christmas tree and decorations in our Commons area. This year, Doug Sample and family purchased a new Christmas tree in loving memory of their parents, Jim and Joyce Sample. Please go by and take a look. It is simply beautiful with all the lights and gold decorations. *Thank you, Sample Family!*

## A Special Thank you –

To my dear friends at Bethany,

The most precious gifts I have ever received came to me from members of Bethany during my recent illness. The prayers, cards, notes, visits and calls lifted me up and kept me in the presence of the greatest Physician of all.

God bless you and Bethany, Elizabeth Green

## Church Office Closing

The church office will be ***closed on Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1, for Christmas and New Year's Day.*** We will resume the normal hours of 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

The Church Staff wishes the Bethany Family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Nehemiah Fund to pay for roof leak

The trustees have voted to use the Nehemiah Fund to pay for the roof leak in the good news area. Tidewater roofing has given a quote of \$1,989.00.

Since Nehemiah was called to restore the walls of Jerusalem and the temple, we formed our Nehemiah Team to help cover the cost of repairs to our church.

Each member pledges to donate \$50.00 to a repair project authorized by the Trustees, up to once a quarter. Projects must be immediately necessary, leaving no time for another means of funding. Started in 2013, the team has only been called on 5 times.

If you are interested in joining us in this and future efforts, or you must withdraw, please contact Don Frederick at 757-234-3052.



## UMW News

On Saturday, **December 9, 2017**, at 9:30 a.m., the annual **York River United Methodist Women Advent Prayer Breakfast** will be held at First

Fox Hill UMC.

As you shop for the holiday, remember that we are still collecting EDUC coupons. These are sent to the Red Bird Mission, one of our national missions that serves the Appalachia mountain range involving states from PA to TN. This is primarily in the areas that have been touched by the coal mine closings. Also, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is still collecting cancelled stamps. Thanks for all your help, both past and future, including the candies donated for the Hilton Adult Home Halloween treat bags in October.

In God's name, Betty Archer

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ed Westerman, Tabitha Chaffin
- 2 JoAnne Robbins, Don Frederick
- 3 Betty Marshall
- 4 Carla Westerman
- 7 Brianna Parks
- 8 Larry Worrell
- 9 Judy Woodard, Jody Linthicum
- 10 Brenda Cannon
- 12 Carol Cheatham
- 13 Ellie Worrell
- 14 Gabriella Miller
- 20 Rosemary Magness
- 23 Ryan Honeycutt
- 24 Sonny Epps
- 28 Mary Faulk, Don Frederick
- 30 Tanya Ellingsworth

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 George & Glenda Adamowski
- 17 Daphne & Urell Tennant
- 23 Harlan & Joan Hott
- 24 John & Delores Garrison
- 27 Pete & Alwayne Chilcott

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 John Emond
- 7 Alvia Lewis
- 10 Elizabeth Linthicum
- 12 Mary Lou Simmons
- 17 Donnie Emond
- 21 JoAnn Wyatt
- 24 Donna Groves, Hugh Ellingsworth
- 26 Stanley Chappell
- 27 Jean Emond, Rachel Hall
- 28 Helena Chapman
- 29 Lon Bowen
- 31 Delores Lewis, Ruth Swindell,  
Frank Westerman, Jennifer Cannon

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Stephen & Beverly Belvin
- 20 Larry & Ellie Worrell

### 2018 Bethany Leadership List

A new list of our 2018 leadership is available. A copy is being emailed to all who have an email address, or mailed to our homebound and distant members. A 3-hole-punched version is included at the pick-up table with this newsletter and will remain available in the church office. Please insert this copy in your church directory 3-ring binder to help you stay up to date!

### Contact Updates

#### **Kathryn Burger**

1602 Buckingham, Apt. 324  
St. Joseph, MO 64506

#### **Jewel Moon** (new information)

Mennowood Retirement Community  
13030 Warwick Blvd., Unit 312  
Newport News, VA 23602

**Corrected** Number: (757) 269-4137

### Sincere Sympathy

*We extend Christian love  
and sympathy to:*



**Doug Sample** and **Myra Matthews** and all the family of our beloved **Joyce Sample** who passed away on November 18, 2017.

**Everett White** and family for the loss of our beloved **Mary White** who passed away on Friday, November 24, 2017.

Please keep these families in your prayers.



## Wesley Class

For decades, the Wesley Class has provided Christmas gifts for the approximately 80 Residents at the Hilton Adult Home and a smaller local similar home. Since our able membership has shrunk, we need help to ensure all these residents receive some gifts for Christmas. We invite the congregation to participate with us in this rewarding Christmas tradition.

In most cases the resident is given a Christmas gift bag containing several of the following: a garment (the homes provide names and sizes)



hygiene items, some sweet/salty item, something for fun (Word Search Book, deck of playing cards, etc.), small decorative item or whatever the giver decides is a suitable gift.

Carolyn Widener has names available for "adoption." If you'd like to participate and do not want to shop, please feel free to donate \$20 per name and shopping will be done for you. Funds may be given to Carolyn Widener, Kathryn Freeman or Jean Lucy. Thanks for your support.



## Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Groups

### Build a support system with people who understand.

Alzheimer's Association caregiver support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to:

- Develop a support system.
- Exchange practical information on care giving challenges and possible solutions.
- Talk through issues and ways of coping.
- Share feelings, needs and concerns.
- Learn about community resources.

**NO COST TO ATTEND**

See reverse side for dates, times and locations in your area

Right here at  
Bethany UMC,  
December 13  
6:00-7:30 p.m.  
(Smith Class)

800.272.3900 | [alz.org/seva](http://alz.org/seva)