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February 2018 Newsletter

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

**Scout Sunday & Souper Bowl Sunday – February 4** – Welcome our scouts in worship and join our children in mission to the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank (they will receive monetary contributions at the close of worship).

**Valentine Banquet** – Saturday, **February 10**, 6:00 p.m. Catered meal at \$20/person. Entertainment by The Retired Men’s Band. R.S.V.P. by February 5. (See UMM article for details.)

**Ash Wednesday – February 14** – Ash Wednesday service at **6:00 p.m.** Please join us for this meaningful evening with our Lord as we begin our Lenten journey together.

**Bible Study** – We continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark, Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

## Does the Bible Really Say That?



You have no doubt heard it, and perhaps you have even said it:

- Everything happens for a reason.
- God helps those who help themselves.
- God won't give you more than you can handle.
- God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- Love the sinner, hate the sin.

Sound familiar? As pastor and author Adam Hamilton puts it, "Most of us as Christians have things we believe, and tell others, and even count on, that we've not carefully examined. Some of the things we accept and repeat to others sound so true, and we've believed them for so long, that they become ... "sacred cows"—things above question or criticism."<sup>1</sup> When questioned about their accuracy, we get irritated or even defensive.

Over four decades of ministry, I have noted a declining interest in Bible study, especially on the personal level. Perhaps we have succumbed to cultural influences without realizing it: it is easier to let a religious personality on television, or a Sunday school teacher or a preacher tell us what God expects or what the Bible says, than it is for us to spend time studying on our own. As a result, we have trouble telling someone else why we believe what we believe.

We might start with, "Because the Bible says so..." without knowing where the scripture is or the context in which it was written. Both are important; however, quoting scriptures without understanding the entire passage or knowing who originally was being addressed and what their cultural setting was, leads to misinterpreting the message.

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<sup>1</sup> *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016), Introduction.

With this in mind, during the season of Lent, I plan to share a series of sermons addressing the sayings listed at the top of this article. You might be thinking about how you have heard and used such sayings, and consider what is true – and not true – about them.

Lent is a season for serious reflection and self-examination. It is a time for asking God to put us "under the microscope" and help us see who we are and where we need to change and grow. Examination of these and other half truths may challenge our faith but will lead us to the greater truths taught by Jesus Christ.

I look forward to our time together!

On the journey together,

*Suzanne*

### Lent – Our Journey toward the Cross – and Resurrection!

Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday Service, **6:00 p.m.**

Feb. 18, 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18 – "Half Truths"  
*Sermon Series*

March 25 – Palm/Passion Sunday

March 30 – Good Friday Service, **7:00 p.m.**

April 1 – Easter Brunch and Easter Worship

## Do You Need to Be Baptized or Become a Member of Bethany?



If you have not followed the Lord in baptism or joined Bethany UMC, we want to give you an opportunity. Please contact Pastor Suzanne about these important steps in your life's journey with God.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



### **Daphne & Urell Tennant**

**Daphne Jane Green** was born on November 22, 1934 to Oscar and

Gladys Green at St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, West Indies. She grew up in St. Elizabeth and went to St. Albans School in Malvern. Her favorite childhood memories are that she loved school, loved to sing at Sunday School, and loved to go to church. She had five brothers and seven sisters. Two of her sisters reside in Richmond, one sister in England, and four sisters and two brothers in New York.

**Urell Everard Tennant** was born on March 20, 1935 to Rose Anderson in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies. He was an only child and grew up in St. James Montego Bay with his grandfather. He loved to go to Sunday School, and also loved to play games, go to the beach, and run races. He later worked for Kingston Jamaica Cable & Wireless. During that time, he met Daphne at her workplace, Caribbean Housing Finance Corp. They were married in Kingston, Jamaica on December 17, 1966.

Daphne and Urell migrated to the United States in 1970. She worked with New England Telephone in Massachusetts for 28 years. He worked with Mirak Chevrolet for 29 years. Daphne says it was too cold up north for them, and they decided to move to Hampton, VA where she knew a friend. They have lived on this peninsula for 12 years.

They joined Bethany in 2006. Some of you may remember the first Sunday they attended here – a plea was made for choir members, and they came forward and have been singing with the choir ever since!

They have served on the Membership Care and Staff/Pastor Parish Relations committees as well as Trustees. The Tennant's are a blessing to our church, and we appreciate their participation.

### **Welcome Trena Burden, Our New Music Director**

Trena was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. She has also lived in Germany, Washington DC, and Hawaii. She moved to Virginia to be near her daughter, Katie, and son-in-law, Jeremy, along with grandson, Riley, age 4, and granddaughter, Natalie, age 1. Their home is in Williamsburg. Trena has a Bachelor of Science Degree, History/Government teaching certificate and 24 graduate hours in American Studies.



She started taking piano lessons at the young age of four and has been playing for singing groups in church and school since she was twelve! Trena has spent the last 25 years or so teaching piano and being the accompanist and/or music director in five different churches. She is a strong believer in Christ and feels called to the music ministry to glorify God through music. She has written a few Christian songs and one of them made it onto a CD back in 1996. She enjoys both traditional and contemporary music, with each style glorifying God in its own way.

In her younger years, Trena took skating lessons and earned three National Championships. She also played softball and was on several bowling leagues.

These days Trena spends time with her two Bichon Frises, Bleu and Purple, and enjoys reading and arranging/editing music. But most important, she now gets to play with her

grandbabies whenever she wants... not just three times a year!

We are pleased and thankful to have Trena serving as our Music Director and look forward to praising God in song as she leads us each week in worship service.

~ Pat Smith, Membership Care



### United Methodist Women

As is our custom, we'll again be filling Valentine goodie bags for the residents of the Hilton Home and need your help in providing the goodies. Any contribution of candies, snacks, etc. will be welcome and are due at the church no later than Sunday, February 11. **The treats need to be individually wrapped.** The bags will be filled during our February UMW meeting on Wednesday, February 14, at 10 a.m. We will also deliver the bags to the residents that day. Our regular monthly business meeting will be held, so all members are encouraged to attend.

### Wesley Class News

The Wesley Class continues to meet weekly in Wesley Hall and welcomes everyone. We are a Bible Studying Class and extend ourselves to others as well as enjoying fellowship with each other. Please join us at 9:15 each Sunday.

Prior to A Night's Welcome, individuals contributed \$123 (all-day bus tickets and McDonald's gift cards) as prizes for the BINGO that Pat Frederick led twice during the week our Night's Welcome guests were with us.

Under Roy and Anne Tucker's leadership, we served a home (church) cooked spaghetti dinner to our night's welcome guests. Always a favorite and always delicious.

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### Christmas Tree in The Commons

The Samples always provided the Christmas tree and decorations every year in The Commons area. Doug Sample purchased a beautiful, new Christmas tree this year in memory of his parents, Jim & Joyce Sample. Thank you, Doug!

### Happy Hearts

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 22, at 11:30 a.m. in Tyler Hall; we will end with a Baked Potato luncheon. This will be a planning meeting, so please be thinking of a program you are interested in having for our group. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Potatoes will be provided; please bring your favorite topping or a dessert to share. Come and bring a friend. Sign up in Tyler Hall. See you there!

Happy Hearts normally meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise notified. We do not meet in the summer months of July and August. Please save the Thursday dates on your calendars for this year. We hope the Happy Hearts will enjoy the fellowship and continue to support each other in this new year. Blessings to all.

~ Mary Faulk, 874-3949



### Altar & Narthex Flowers for 2018

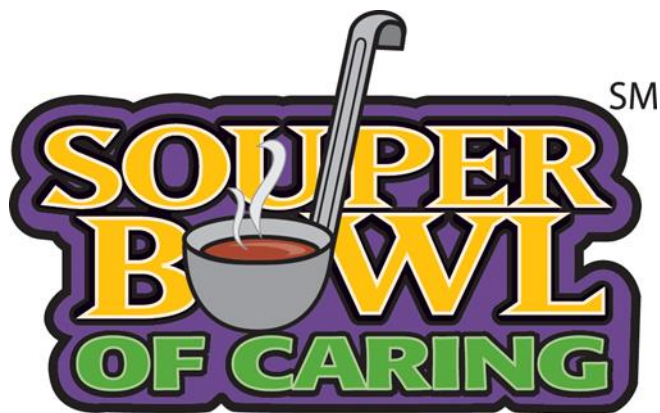
Reservations for Altar and Narthex flowers are still available for 2018. Please call the church office. Our florist is Jeff's Flowers and the cost is \$20.00 each. Please call the church office for more information and to reserve your request.

## Crafting for Christmas Items and More

Anyone that has an idea or craft that would work with a small group would be great – we don't all have to work on the same thing at the same time. A bigger variety of items for our customers to choose from would be wonderful.

Everyone who is interested, please put on your thinking caps and let's have fun by getting an earlier start this year. Give it some thought and if you have an idea or would just like to come please do! You will enjoy the fellowship and have fun doing something for others.

~ Rita Honeycutt



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

Our young people will be collecting monetary donations after service on Sunday, **February 4**, for the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. Thanks for helping our children learn about being in ministry to those who are in need.



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## We Believe That?

Date: Sunday, March 4, 2018

Time: 3:00PM - 5:30PM

Location: Crooks Memorial UMC  
(204 Cook Road, Yorktown)

Workshop Leader: Marc Brown  
Director of Connectional Ministries

About this workshop:

*What is unique about Wesleyan  
Theology?*

This workshop will focus on the beliefs structure that provides the foundation for mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

*See Pastor Suzanne re registration.*

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## Bethany UMMen

The BUMM's held their first fundraiser for 2018 on January 13 by cooking up a delicious pot of our Brunswick stew. Thank you for your support. Thanks to those

that helped and those that bought. If you enjoyed the stew we know you are going to love our BUMM's Own Homemade Chili on February 3. The cost is \$8.00 per quart and order sheets are in Tyler Hall, or you can call Jim & Cindy at (757) 224-3551 to order.

Let's not forget our scouts who do so much for Bethany. On Sunday, February 4, we will be cooking a **pancake breakfast** for Cub Pack 915 and BSA Troop 915. The breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m.; our scouts, their families, and the scout leaders are all invited. Any Bethany member that would like to join the scouts for breakfast are very welcome – just let the men know in advance that you will be there, please.

The Bethany **UMMen 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Valentine Banquet** will be on Saturday, **February 10**, in Tyler Hall, beginning at 6:00 pm. This will be another great evening at Bethany with a five-star meal and entertainment. Please have your reservations made by Monday, February 5. This event is open to all, so please invite friends and family to celebrate a great evening with you. Sign-up sheets are available in Tyler Hall and Good News area. You may reserve your tickets by calling Jim & Cindy or by email at [jimcindy93@gmail.com](mailto:jimcindy93@gmail.com).

One last event I want to remind all about is Bethany's next **Prayer Breakfast on February 18 at 8:30 a.m.** We averaged 36 in attendance last year, so come and be a part of this great fellowship as we pray for those in need.

God Bless All,  
Jim Chaffin



## Chili Is Coming! – February 3

The men will be serving up **Homemade Chili** by the quart just in time for Super Bowl. On Saturday, February 3, we will be in the kitchen cooking a pot of “good as it gets” homemade Chili. The price is \$8.00 per quart and again you may want to sign up early. Chili order sheets are throughout Bethany. You can also call Jim at 224-3551 or email him at [jimchaffinum@gmail.com](mailto:jimchaffinum@gmail.com).



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## Inclement Weather

If church services must be canceled due to inclement weather, the announcement will be through email or the PHONE TREE. If you have not been getting your calls through the phone tree or have questions about the tree, please contact Natalie Bell at 826-2539.

## ***Thank-you!***

Dear Bethany Congregation,  
I thank you for your kind monetary gift from the church last month, as well as the many cards and gifts I received for Christmas. Most of all, I am grateful for your loving prayers and support this past year, and I look forward to our ministry together in 2018! ~ Pastor Suzanne Gibson

Thank you Bethany Family,  
I deeply appreciate the beautiful cards and gifts you gave me for Christmas. Also, I want to share that I have been blessed in so many ways as I was serving as your Administrative Assistant since 2004. I love Bethany, the congregation, and the opportunity to have worked at a place I truly love. God bless you all for your support and kindness to me.

~ Beverly Belvin

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

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the cards, prayers, phone calls and food while I was recuperating from surgery. It's a wonderful feeling knowing that you have the support from members of such a loving and caring congregation.

~ Love and God Bless, Ms. Ellie

I would like to thank my Bethany family for their love, concern and prayers during my recent back surgery. The food was yummy and the cards were very uplifting as well. I also appreciate your continued love and support.

~ Thanks, Pat Frederick

February 2018

Dear Bethany Church,  
Thank you for thinking of me at this time of year and for sending me the money. I put it towards ordering a nice denim and fleece lined jacket. I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and enjoyed your time with your families.

~ Randy Sample

I prayed that all of you had a very Merry Christmas. I miss everyone at Bethany but I now live in a retirement home. The apartment complex has a lot of activities. My children take me to dialysis three times a week.

~Your Sister in Christ, Kate Burger



We extend Christian  
love and prayers to:

Helen Westerman and family for the loss of her husband and our beloved member, **Frank Westerman**, who passed away on December 31, 2017.

**Betty Archer** for the loss of her aunt, Myrtle Litchenberger, on December 18, 2017.

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## **February Birthdays**

- 3 Guy Bell
- 4 Karen Haigler, Kelona Thomas, Joan Hott
- 9 J.R. Gilley
- 10 Elizabeth Green
- 11 Hudson Harris
- 16 Amy Bartgis Ryan, Andy Chapman
- 17 Jim Morse
- 18 Paul Holsinger
- 20 Pat Frederick
- 24 Aaron Davis

## **February Anniversary**

- 24 Jim & Doris Morse

## FEBRUARY 2018 EVENT CALENDAR

- 3 Chili \$8.00 per quart Pick-up 12-2 p.m.  
5:00 p.m. – Blue & Gold Scout Banquet  
Scouts camping at Bethany
- 4 Scouts Pancake Breakfast 9:30 a.m. and  
**SCOUT SUNDAY**
- 5 Prayer Meeting 9:30 – 9:55 a.m.  
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 6 Lions 12:30 p.m.  
Handbells 6:15 a.m.  
Knitting & Crochet 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
AA 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Chair & Mat Yoga 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Chancel Choir 6:30 p.m.  
Scouts 7:00 p.m.
- 10 BUMM Valentine Banquet, 6:00 p.m.
- 11 Treats due for Valentine Bags
- 12 Trustees 9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting 9:30 – 9:55 a.m.  
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Handbells 6:15 a.m.  
AA 7:00 p.m.
- 14 UMW 10:00 a.m. (Valentine Bags  
for Hilton Home)  
  
Chair & Mat Yoga 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
  
**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**, 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Chancel Choir 6:30 p.m.  
Scouts 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Monthly Prayer Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- 19 Prayer Meeting 9:30 – 9:55 a.m.  
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Lions 12:30 p.m.  
Finance Committee, 6:00 p.m.  
Handbells 6:15 a.m.  
Knitting & Crochet 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Church Council, 7:00 p.m.  
AA 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Missions Commission 10:00 a.m.  
Chair & Mat Yoga 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- 22 Chancel Choir 6:30 p.m.  
Scouts 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Pinewood Derby set up  
Scouts Pack Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Pinewood Derby 9:00 a.m.
- 25 Easter Flower orders
- 26 Prayer Meeting 9:30 – 9:55 a.m.  
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- 27 Handbells 6:15 a.m.  
AA 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Chair & Mat Yoga 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
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