



Bethany United Methodist Church

The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors
 1860 Hayes Road • PO Box 527 • Gloucester Point VA 23062
 Office Hours: M-F, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Phone: 804.642.2110
 Email: bethanyumc3@verizon.net
 Website: www.bethanyumc-gp.org

STEWARDSHIP	7/21
General Fund Total	4698.00
Capital Improvement Fund	80.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund (Altar)	20.00
Endowment Fund (J. Wike, J. French, B. Tucker, \$25 each)	75.00
Altar Flowers	45.00
Homebound Ministries	35.00
Youth Ministry	300.00
Helping Hands	75.00
COUNTING TEAMS	July
6-Hampton, Morecock, Thomas	28

SUNDAY WORSHIP	7/21
8:30 Sanctuary	33
11:00 Sanctuary	72
11:00 Nursery	0
11:00 Children's Church (included in Total Worship)	1
TOTAL in Worship	105
SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Adults	27
Youth	2
Children	7
TOTAL in SS	36

The *Salvation Army* has an ongoing need for the following items: **Household cleaners, paper products, over the counter medicines, and personal hygiene items.** Please place donations in the baskets beside the church office and in the narthex. Thanks!

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS		
Interested in serving as a Nursery Volunteer? <u>We need two individuals each hour.</u> Please sign up outside the nursery or contact Kris Kent (804-815-4246).		
Date	Sunday School Hour	10:45 a.m.
July 28		Shannon Minor, Laura Glaze
August 4	Shannon Minor	Sandra Harvey, Shannon Roane
August 11		Shannon Minor, Rob Raines
August 18		

Pastor: Mike Derflinger

Church Office Administrator: Dee Dee Wike **Chaplain in Residence:** Carol Johnson
Director of Children & Youth Ministries: Kris Kent **Lay Leader:** Judy Burner
Director of Music: Sandra Fox **Organist:** Dr. Rudy Shackelford
Acolytes: 8:30 Cooper White 11:00 Kate Neikirk
Sound Room: 8:30 Chip Neikirk 11:00 Jeremy Nardozzi
July Altar Guild: Ann Byrd, Betty Durette, Sylvia Ransone, Paul Kendall
Trustee Contact for this Week: Tom Barnard

July 28, 2019

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME, GUESTS! We are delighted to worship with you today and invite you to participate as fully as you feel comfortable.

AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE: Please ask an usher for assistance if you require a large print hymnal, large print bulletin, or hearing aid.

CELL PHONES: Please remember to silence your cell phone before the service begins. Thank you.
 Please greet one another before our worship begins. — ***Please stand as you are able. And it's okay to sit.**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR	Hymn: "St. Anne"	UMH 117
WELCOME		Pastor Mike
VOLUNTARY	<i>Fugue in E-flat Major, "St. Anne"</i> Celebrating the Feast of St. Anne, July 26th	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 28 July 1750)
CHORAL INTROIT (11:00)	<i>This Is the Day the Lord Has Made</i>	Hal Hopson
*OPENING HYMNS	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i> , vv. 1,2 <i>Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven</i>	UMH 64 UMH 66
*UNISON READING	<i>Christ Loves the Church</i> (UMH 590)	Nadine Tatum
SHARING OF OUR PRAYER CONCERNS		Pastor Mike
MORNING PRAYER, ASSURANCE OF PARDON, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		UMH 895
CHORAL RESPONSE (11:00)	<i>Amen</i>	UMH 898
CHILDREN'S STORY		Kris Kent



AN ORDER OF SERVICE WITH A COLLEAGUE RETIRING
Kris Kent, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries, 2005-2019

Leader: Kris Kent, today we praise God and honor you as we celebrate your fourteen years of ministry with the children and youth of Bethany United Methodist Church.

All: We give thanks to God for the work you have done among us and with us. We rejoice in your service to Christ, and celebrate your life and ministry among us!

The Anthem	(8:30)	<i>Seek Ye First</i>	Karen Lafferty
		Doe Breen, soloist	
	(11:00)	<i>Make Me a Channel of Your Peace</i>	Sebastian Temple
		Chancel Choir	

Scripture Matthew 5:13-16 Pastor Mike

Presentation of Appreciation Basket

Celebrating Kris’s Contributions

Release from Unfinished Tasks and Entrustment to God

Leader: Whose work is ever done? Who can say, “My desk is clear; all the projects are finished?”

All: We have labored in joy with you, overcome challenges, and seen faith, hope, and love planted in the lives of many children and youth. As you leave our staff, our feelings are mixed: gratitude and sadness mingle; expectancy and uncertainty mix. As this time of conclusion comes, we bless you, Kris, for your gifts, attitude and love. Know that the active ministries you helped build, and the yet-to-be events, we entrust to Christ and to one another. We pray the Holy Spirit’s richest blessings on you as you discern your way forward, and look forward to serving alongside you and your family.

Song Together We Serve TFWS 2175



RECEIVING GOD’S TITHES, GIFTS AND MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER Nadine Tatum

Most holy God, we give because we believe you, and we believe in you. You are infinite in wisdom, power, and love. Your mercy is over all your creation. Your will is always directed to mankind’s good. May our tithes and offerings reflect our prayer and our thankfulness. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY Prelude on “St. Anne”— Based upon UMH No. 117 Rudy Shackelford (composed 1965) In memory of Louise Shackelford, born 27 July 1911

*THE DOXOLOGY UMH 95 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 11:24-27 Nadine Tatum The Word of God for the people of God. Pew Bible NT, pg. 175 Thanks be to God.

THE MESSAGE Vision: A Precedent for Passion Pastor Mike

*CLOSING HYMN Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service UMH 581

*BENEDICTION Pastor Mike

*CLOSING CHORUS Shalom to You UMH 666 Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Bethany UMC Prayer List	BETHANY FAMILY
CANCER/CHEMO: Krista Chase, Gene Harrell, Carol Johnson, David Lewis, Ted Peterman (NC), Matt Shackelford	
GRIEVING: Family of Annette Adams, Bob Nardozi, Tong family	
HEALTH ISSUES: Woody Brown, Judy Burner, Dawn Cluts, Kathleen Greene, Jean Heywood, Archie Leigh, Jennie Lipscomb, Paige Mitchell, Peggy Peterman (NC), Nancy Smith	
HOMEBOUND: Linda Booth, Katherine Jordan, Alice McGee, Mary Dale Williams	
HOSPITALIZED:	
RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Irene Brown, David Chapin, Paul McFarland, Loreen Paiva, Marsha Poland, Rudy Shackelford, Gerlinde Stevens, Rosemarie Tong	
SURGERY/TESTS: Jeannie Harrell	
BETHANY FRIENDS	
CANCER/CHEMO: Cleveland Cameron, Pap Connell, Patrick Cooney, Jr., Dave Cooper, Alice Cruz, Ann Dickerson, Elizabeth Flowers (NC), Brenda France, Donna Franklin, Ben Lankford, Ellen McDade, Darla K. Robertson, Rustie Ruiz (GA), George Skinner	
CHILDREN & YOUTH: Braydyn Hysell, Makenna Jobs (FL), Ian Simmons, Jacob Staley, Judah Swenson, Brooke Taylor, Luke Wilcox, Sawyer, Willa	
EMPLOYMENT/TRAVEL: Lamont Johnson	
GRIEVING: Family of Corey Blubaugh, Dorothy Corbin, Joan French, Mary Linsenbigler, Sue Miller, Marsha Pohorence, Donnie Ridinger, Jack Ridinger, Mary Alice Tillotson, Betty Tucker, Pat Whitten (NC)	
HEALTH/OTHER ISSUES: Bob Baughman (PA), Lee Beach, Joe Blake, Molly Brawley, Jan Breen, Denzil Cook, Allen Derflinger, Jon Erik, Deborah Eriksen, Marsha Gillis & husband, Trudy Grimm, Allen Hines, Wally Iddings (PA), Diana Lee, Kevin Malone, Connie Mershon, Vance Miller, Jean Morris (FL), Linwood Rowe, Sylvia Rowe, Mary Jo Smith (NC), Vicky Whitney	
HOSPICE: Buck Walton	
HOSPITALIZED: Buddy Bland, Joan Martin (Riverside Regional CCU), Amelita Thomas	
PARKINSON’S: Duane Burnett	
RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Trudy Grimm (NJ), Tonia Kyker, Bishop Sharma Lewis, Lynn Martin, Thia Martin, Laurie Minor, Duane Smith, Ray Sparrer, Suzanne Trio	
SURGERY/TESTS: Mark Doyle, Mary Gallimore	
BUMC’S ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES (<i>italics—Bethany friends</i>)	
<i>Edward Bailey, Michael Brown, Peter Demetriades, Meagan Demetriades, Laine Fay, Thomas Howse, Kevin Jacobs (deployed), Jim Minor (deployed), all members of the military.</i>	
ASSISTED LIVING (<i>italics-Bethany friends</i>)	
Atlantic Shores Rehab	<i>Thom Ligon</i>
c/o Bonnie Ballenger , 11228 Church Grove Ct., Henrico, VA 23233	Dorothy “Dot” Critzer
Gloucester House , 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Lorraine Brown, Rm 107 Jean Heywood, Rm 110 Esther Marie Jordan, Rm 509
Heron Cove , 7385 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061	Norma Sage, Bldg. 1 Rm 7
ManorCare , 715 W. Central Rd., Room 253B, Arlington Heights, IL 60005	<i>Mary Margaret Kuivinen</i>
Sanders Assisted Living , 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061	<i>Ellis Hall</i> , Rm 106
Sunrise Senior Living , 2015 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond 23235	Pauline Harris, Apt. 130
York Convalescent & Rehab Center , 113 Battle Rd., Yorktown, VA 23692	Mary Poland, Rm 27A Alice Doggett, Rm 27B M.E. Thomas, Rm C5
OUR MISSIONARY – Clara Biswas, Cambodia.	

NOTE ON MUSIC FOR SAINT ANNE



Saint Anne is the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and her feast day is celebrated on July 26th. St. Anne is also the patron saint of housewives, women in labor, cabinet makers, and *miners*. Her emblem is a door, and her name derives from the Hebrew Hannah, meaning “grace.” St. Anne has often been represented in art, and the lovely face depicted by Leonardo da Vinci comes first to mind.

Martin Luther’s father was a miner, but sent his son to university in Erfurt to study law. Returning there from a visit home in July 1505, the future Reformer was almost struck by lightning and cried out, “Help, St. Anne! I will become a monk.”

“Saint Anne” is also the name of the well-known English hymn tune to which *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* is usually sung. This melody is attributed to William Croft (1678-1727), who was Organist of Saint Anne’s Church in London at the time of its publication, circa 1708.

The custom of nicknaming J. S. Bach’s *Fugue in E-flat Major*, BWV 552, “Saint Anne” seems to have originated in England, perhaps because the fugue subject is identical to the first seven notes of Croft’s tune. Although this hymn tune appeared more than 30 years before the publication of Bach’s masterpiece, there is no reason to suppose that the relationship is anything more than coincidental.

As a devout Christian, Bach also encoded theological concepts in his music, all of which is dedicated *Soli Deo Gloria*: “To God alone the glory!” The “*St. Anne*” *Fugue* exploits the number 3, symbolizing the Trinity. The key signature of E-flat major has three flats, and the entire *Fugue* is divided into three distinct sections, each with its own subject personifying the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The Three Persons-in-One dance together as Bach’s sublime *Fugue* reaches its grand finale!

— Rudy Shackelford

WE HAVE LOST CONTACT WITH THESE MEMBERS. Information on these members in our pictorial directory is no longer accurate. Michael and Jennifer Barber, Dennisa Booth, Katie Boyette, Lisa Boyette (may still be Lisa Boyette Braswell), Carl Melvin “Chip” Dize, Jr., Karleen Frederick, Jennifer Coates Harbuck, Christopher Holder, Nikki (may go by Dominique) Holder, George and Sara Joyner, Lisa Marie Krukovsky, Jonathan Loase, Tricia Thomas Manning, Stephanie Wood McGowen, Brian Paulino, Dorothy Pillow, Ashley Reynolds, Tristan Reynolds, Jeri Stelson, Michael and Jennifer Stumph, Michelle Ann Ward, Glenn West, Gina White, Johnathan Wood, Stephanie Wood. Please contact Pastor Mike with any information. Thank you!

Our Sunday School meets from 9:45-10:45 each Sunday morning with several different classes for adults, one class for youth, three classes for children, and a nursery for infants & toddlers.

Our Nursery — For the convenience of parents with small children, a nursery is provided for infants through 3-year-olds during our 11:00 service, as well as during the Sunday school hour.

Our Children’s Church is during 11:00 worship only. Children ages 4 and older sit with parents until dismissed to Children’s Church following the Children’s Message.

For more information please visit www.bethanyumc-gp.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given for the glory of God by Loreen Paiva and Ron Ervi in celebration of her birthday on August 1.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.		
Sunday, July 28	4:00–7:00 p.m.	Summer Youth Pool Party
Monday, July 29	7:00 p.m.	Women’s Bible Study (Connected)
Wednesday, July 31	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	C.A.R.E. Ministry (Lacey Martin) Troop 75 (Education Wing)
Thursday, August 1	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Alzheimer’s Support Group (Mary Lotsey) House of Prayer (Sanctuary) Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee
Sunday, August 4	12:15 p.m.	Ladies Lunch Bunch (Olivia’s Restaurant)

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP sponsored by the **Alzheimer’s Association** will begin at Bethany on **Thursday, August 1 at 10 a.m. in the Mary Lotsey Classroom.** This support group will meet on the first Thursday of each month. These 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, and to learn about community resources. Do you know of someone who could benefit from this group? Please let them know of this opportunity.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – August 4, 12:15 p.m. at Olivia’s, Gloucester Courthouse.
Please sign up and join the fun! Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex and table at office entrance.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you Bethany for remembering our family and supporting us with prayers, cards and food during the sudden loss of our son. We do not know how people manage without a church family. We continue to covet your prayers. If anyone would like to do something for Corey, a donation can be made to the National Kidney Foundation at <https://team.kidney.org/campaign/Corey-Blubaugh>.

— Bob & Lynda Blubaugh

Please accept our sincere appreciation for all the cards and expressions of sympathy received following the recent home going of Steve's mom, Janet Wike. The love shown to us and prayers offered on behalf of Janet and our family carried us through a difficult time. We rejoice that she is with the Lord, whom she loved, and reunited with husband Dick and their son Tommy, who preceded her in death. We're so glad we're a part of the family of God at Bethany!

— Steve, Dee Dee, Chris, and Joy Wike

Thank you so much to our Bethany family for the kindness and support you have shown Patrick as he graduated from York High and prepares to soon leave for Virginia Tech. The Senior Recognition service was a hoot and quite heartfelt, and the reception that followed was lovely, complete with a Falcons/Dukes cake! Thank you to all of you for your cards, gifts, and ministry. We are so grateful for Bethany's love!

— Laura and Scott Glaze

CONGRATULATIONS to Sue Morecock on the birth of her grandson, **Michael Alexander Morecock**, on July 12 at 7 lb., 10 oz. and 21" long. Proud parents are Jason and Alex Morecock.

Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family of **Mary Linsenbigler**, niece of Bonnie Cecil, who passed away July 22 in Pennsylvania.

The partitions for class 4 (previously labeled 'Friendship Class') should be left in the folded position (space open) for now, even for Sunday School. That is the set of partitions nearest the front parking lot (partitions to the left if viewed from the kitchen). The Friendship class will move to the middle vacant classroom contained within the partitions nearest the playground. Leaving class 4 partitions in the folded position will reduce wear and tear of moving them for various events held in the WBFH (fellowship hall). Thank you.

—Al Burner, Trustees Chair

From the Director of Helping Hands Mission Camp, Linda Loase:

"Our 15th year of Helping Hands Mission Camp has come to a close. Please continue to pray over the camp. So many hearts, both young and old, have been changed.

Acts 1:8 -- "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This is the mission of Helping Hands, to go into the homes to be the hands and feet of Christ. This year we had the privilege to demonstrate the love of Christ at the homes of 28 Gloucester residents by building 2 handicapped ramps, painting, removing and hanging new sheet rock, adding new fencing, lawn work, cleaning homes; just to name a few. All of jobs were completed by 11 workgroups of students in grades 6-12, supervised by skilled site leaders. We also had our older mini campers out working, too. Many thanks to all the students and volunteers who worked hard to support the day to day activities!

We had over 150 registered campers and helpers, representing 15 churches from 3 states. In a couple of weeks our committees will begin the preparation for the 16th Annual Helping Hands Camp scheduled for July 19-25, 2020. If you haven't experienced what God is doing through His camp in Gloucester, our Jerusalem, we would like to invite you to join us next year."

In addition, thank you again to our seven youth and two adults that represented Bethany UMC this year! — Kris Kent

RISE AGAINST HUNGER – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 – 12:15 PM – COME HELP US END HUNGER!

"821 million people in the world don't get the food they need to live a healthy life."

-- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United States



SCHOOL KIT SUPPLIES NEEDED – Bethany's United Methodist Women are already collecting supplies for the School Kits that will be delivered to Annual Conference in 2020. Can you help? If so, leave items in basket marked "School Kit Supplies" in the Mary Lotsey classroom. Only the items listed below are needed. Thank you!

Needed for each kit are:

- One-subject (70-count) spiral notebooks
- 8 ½ x 11" wide-ruled paper

Director of Children's Ministries – Seeking energetic, creative Christian individual who loves Jesus and children to develop and implement ministries for ages 5-11 (K-5th grade). Must be a self-starter, recruit volunteers, and possess strong organizational and communication skills. This is a part-time position. Salary based on experience and proficiency. Send resume to MikeDerflinger@vaumc.org or mail to Bethany UMC, P.O. Box 527, Gloucester Point, VA 23062.

Director of Youth Ministries – Seeking energetic, creative Christian individual who has a passion for Jesus and for youth to develop and implement ministries for ages 12-18 (6th – 12th grade). Must be a self-starter, recruit volunteers, and possess strong organizational and communication skills. This is a part-time position. Salary based on experience and proficiency. Send resume to MikeDerflinger@vaumc.org or mail to Bethany UMC, P.O. Box 527, Gloucester Point, VA 23062.

Pastor Mike will receive all resumes. He is forming a Spirit Profile and a Skills Profile for each position with input from youth, parents, and the Bethany family. A Spirit Profile is a preferred picture of the values, beliefs, passion, and personal attributes we believe the ideal candidate will embody. The Skills Profile is a preferred picture of the demonstrated skills, experience, education, and capabilities we believe the ideal candidate will embody. Please speak with Mike or email your input to him. Thanks to Marion Dixon, Chairperson of Child Protection Committee, who will be handling all background checks, and to Lynda Blubaugh for the postings in the *Gazette-Journal*.

These two positions will be posted in the *Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal* (three weeks) and to the sixty-six United Methodist churches of the York River District which covers nine surrounding counties and the cities of Hampton, Williamsburg, Newport News, and Poquoson. We're posting at William and Mary and the Wesley Foundation, Christopher Newport and the United Campus Ministry, Rappahannock Community College, and various job posting web sites utilizing the free ones first. Continue to pray that God sends the person that Christ would have for Bethany, and for your Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee as we move forward. Please direct any questions you may have to me.

Prayerfully consider how you can help both during this time of transition and after these positions are filled. We're at our best when we lean on the Holy Spirit and help one another.

Thank you. – Pastor Mike Derflinger

(see reverse for additional information)

Q: What if we aren't able to hire someone?

The goal is for ministries with children and youth to continue without interruption. I'll guide our Sunday School Superintendent Nancy Wilburn, parents, and volunteers until a hire is made or another arrangement surfaces. I ask everyone to honor Kris's request to take a break from any scheduled responsibilities for a bit.

We have a Youth Council that needs retooling. Our Book of Discipline provides a structure for a Children's Council which, when organized, is led by the Director of Children's Ministries and will work closely with me and others to vision, plan, and advocate for children, particularly in the areas of faith development, safety, and discipleship.

Q: What about the Nursery and Sunday School classes?

The Nursery Coordinator will coordinate and schedule second person volunteers for all scheduled worship services, special services, and programs and recruit and train nursery volunteers. This person is no longer under the supervision of the Children's Director, and moves from being an hourly position to a salaried position with the new hire, and will begin upon approval of a background check.

Beginning Sunday, August 4, 2019, our Sunday School arrangement is as follows:

Nursery birth to age 4: all volunteers. Please see the back of the bulletin.

Preschool–5th grades: Nancy Wilburn and Dawn Cluts. They will teach a unit on Jesus as Teacher, Preacher, Healer, Friend, and Savior with appropriate age-level activities. There will be class on Labor Day Sunday. Questions? Call Nancy at (c) 804.854.6735 or (h) 804.642.5820.

6th–12th grades: Jeremy Nardozzi and Beth Cook. They will prepare a topic each Sunday. Questions? E-mail Jeremy at hotlyks@aol.com.

Beginning Sunday, September 8, 2019:

Nursery birth to age 4: The new hire Nursery Coordinator and second person volunteers.

Our intent is to have a Preschool, 1st, and 2nd grades class and a 3rd–5th grade class, with Nancy and Dawn leading one of those classes. Teachers, or a rotation, are needed.

Our intent is to have a Middle School Class (6th–8th grade) and a High School Class (9th–12th) that meets together then breaks into two groups or that meets separately. I hope to have a Confirmation Class beginning September 8th during Sunday School, and am coordinating with Jeremy Nardozzi, Beth Cook, and parents to find the best arrangement.

LAY DELEGATE REPORT ON 2019 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's theme was "Moving Forward in God's Mission," based on the Great Commission given to us by Christ in Matthew 28:18-20.

We (Sandra and I) began with the Laity Session at 10 AM on Thursday, June 20 in the Berglund Center in Roanoke, VA. This was for the most part a "yawner;" the only notes I recorded were based on what one guest speaker, Chief Adams of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, said. "God was here in Virginia long before the first European came." He did, however, thank Methodists for introducing the Indians to Christ.

Our Bishop, Sharma Lewis, is on medical leave, recovering from surgery. In her place the presiding Bishop was Peter D. Weaver. He was born into a parsonage family in Pennsylvania.

Bishop Weaver, when introduced to an elderly member of the Virginia Conference as the "Interim Bishop," said the man's reply was, "So you're the in-between guy. I'll be praying for you, and for us." Bishop Weaver did a very good job leading us throughout the Conference.

On Thursday afternoon we began the process of electing Lay Delegates— eleven for General Conference 2020, eleven for Jurisdictional Conference 2020, and ten alternates. This effort was led by retired Bishop Ray Chamberlain. We were given a list of sixty-nine individuals, plus eight nominated from the floor, to choose from. Based on conversations with some other members of our district and several of the nominees, I compiled a list of about a dozen names that I felt were the most conservative. I voted in favor of these on every ballot. In the end, the thirty-two elected delegates included only two of those on my list.

Our Friday began at 8:30 AM with Bible Study led by Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson. He is a terrific Bible teacher and in this study he emphasized the power of God and how He acts on our behalf without any help from us humans. For instance, can you find any hint of how any human can take credit for the resurrection of Jesus?

We then moved to a report on the closing of existing churches and new church openings. Five churches closed their doors in the past year, including Aldersgate UMC in Hampton.

After a worship service at 11 AM, featuring a sermon by Bishop Tracy Malone, the Annual Conference offering was collected. The amount received will be in the next *Advocate*.

A report from the 2019 General Conference reiterated that the Traditional Plan was approved over the One Church Plan by a vote of 438-384. The Traditional Plan basically maintains the present language in our *Book of Discipline*.

At 2 PM a Service Recognizing Retired Clergy was held. A total of sixty retirees were honored.

At 4:10 PM we were blessed with a Memorial Service for members of the Virginia Conference, Lay & Clergy, active & retired, who have passed since the 2018 Conference. A total of sixty-three, including Rev. Hyung Moon, who had been the Pastor at Susanna Wesley, were recognized.

(continued on reverse side)

We returned at 7:30 PM for the Service of Ordination & Commissioning. Fifty-eight individuals were ordained or commissioned as Local Pastors, Provisional Members, Associate Members, Deacons, and Elders.

We reconvened Saturday morning at 8:15 for our final Bible Study with Dr. Kevin Watson. He quoted John Wesley as follows: "I am not worried that Methodism won't last, but that it will last, but lose its zeal to reach others for Christ."

The Council on Finance and Administration reported that our Annual Conference is on solid ground, however Virginia Conference giving per member ranks 45th out of the fifty-some conferences in the U.S.

The Conference U.M.W. President said this was the 150th birth year of the United Methodist Women, which was started in 1869 by a small group of ladies who wanted to help women in India. They started a fund by collecting two cents per week from members.

Three motions asking to delete the language in the *Book of Discipline* deemed offensive to the Gay Community were approved.

The Conference ended with a Worship Service featuring a sermon by Bishop Weaver and a Communion Service. Copies of the July *Advocate*, which contains this year's clergy appointments, were distributed to all in attendance.

Something I believe will be of interest to Bethany folks – we talked to Doe's daughter Christina. She assured us that she, Nathan, and their girls are fine.

Here's the good news from the 2019 Conference:

Kits

14,243 school kits valued at \$156,673; 39,296 hygiene kits valued at \$435,552

663 flood buckets valued at \$49,725; Total of 54,202 kits valued at \$641,950.

This year's kit collection required a third tractor trailer. The kits will make their way to the Mission Central warehouse in Mechanicsburg, PA for distribution anywhere in the United States they are needed as determined by the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Kids Soar received 1,324 books at Annual Conference and the 5K.

4 Cans 4 Conference -- Some 10,000 pounds of food were collected.

Conference Offering -- The business office reports \$90,000 has been collected.

Many thanks to my brothers and sisters at Bethany for your financial support and your prayers.

In His Name,

Alan Harvey

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference