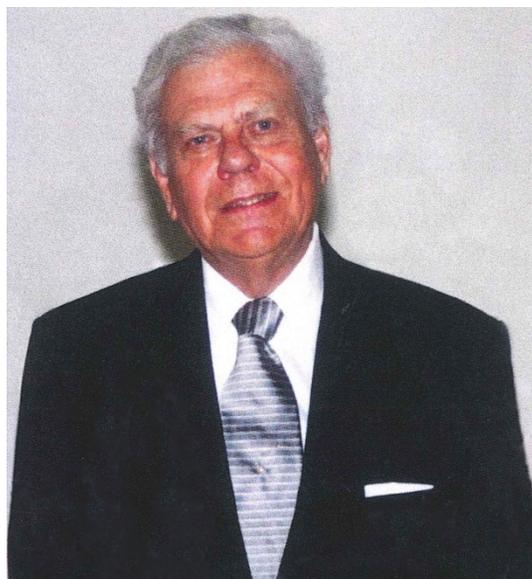


The George Nelson Memorial Concert Series, “Rhythm by the River,” was initiated and endowed in 2007 in memory of and in tribute to Mr. George Nelson, whose love of music resulted in a legacy to promote an outreach mission through Bethany UMC and to the Middle Peninsula community at large. It began with the procurement of a beautiful Steinway piano, and continues with regular presentations of talent in celebration. Mr. Nelson felt strongly that music is a vital part of the church to glorify our Lord and to recover the heart of worship. Mr. Nelson’s mission then, as it is ours now, is that churches will grow through their mission, ministry, and music.



**Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary of Bethany United Methodist Church
1860 Hayes Rd., Gloucester Point, VA 23062**

www.bethanyumc-gp.org

Donations Accepted

*The George Nelson Memorial
Concert Series Presents*

“Rhythm by the River”

2019-2020



October 27, 2019

Something Different Duo

November 24, 2019

Rudy Shackelford, Piano & Organ

March 22, 2020

Bagels & Fraylox Klezmer Band

April 19, 2020

Norfolk Street Choir



October 27, 2019 Something Different Duo

Something Different Duo is a father-daughter team from Gloucester, featuring Ashley Wenner on Vocals and “Dad Brad” on keyboards. They have performed regularly in the area for over six years. Their repertoire ranges from old jazz standards, through the music of the 70’s, to current artists. A vocal music graduate of Shenandoah College, Ashley is a stay-at-home mom and has performed with Good Shot Judy and the Courthouse Players. Her voice is often compared to Nora Jones. Brad, who has played with the popular band “Slapnation” for 15 years, credits his daughter for pushing him to practice and learn new music and YouTube for much of his current musical instruction. The duo takes pride in offering a low-volume, easy listening program rich in variety.

November 24, 2019

“From Rags to Riches” Music of Joplin & Gershwin Rudy Shackelford, Piano & Organ

Christened the “King of Ragtime Writers,” Scott Joplin dominated American popular music from 1899 to 1914. On this his 151st birthday, we celebrate the genius that like an oil well in his native Texas gushed an unstoppable stream of rags and waltzes, marches and tangos. Opening with his breakout hit *Maple Leaf Rag*, the first ragtime composition to sell a million copies, we’ll enjoy such syncopated masterworks as *The Easy Winners*, *Solace – A Mexican Serenade*, *Pine Apple Rag*, and the lyrical waltz *Bethena*, all arranged for organ solo or piano-organ duet by Rudy Shackelford. Capping our concert’s first half is *The Entertainer*, made famous by the 1974 movie *The Sting*, which sparked the modern revival of Joplin and ragtime music.

After intermission, with an offering to benefit the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society, we will focus on the legacy of Scott Joplin and the evolution from ragtime to jazz. *Golliwogg’s Cake Walk*, Claude Debussy’s 1908 parody of an American dance craze, presaged the influence of French impressionist music after World War I. This style is reflected in *Rialto Ripples*, an unjustly neglected rag coauthored by the teenaged George Gershwin, and in the enormously popular “novelty rag,” *Kitten on the Keys* by Zez Confrey. Both composers performed in the historic 1924 Paul Whiteman concert featuring *Rhapsody in Blue*, the work that made Gershwin a household name. Rounding out the concert will be Gershwin’s *Three Preludes* from 1927, his most sophisticated essay in the fusion of jazz and classical music, arranged for piano-organ duet by Rudy Shackelford.



March 22, 2020 Bagels & Fraylox Klezmer Band

Bagels & Fraylox is a Klezmer band from southeastern Virginia. Klezmer is a lively mixture of wedding and party music of 19th century Eastern Europe with strains of Yiddish theater and

American dance band music of the early 1900s. But it borrows freely from gypsy tunes, Middle Eastern music and other sources as diverse as American folk music and rock 'n roll. All of those influences come out in Bagels & Fraylox concerts. A traditional wedding march from one hundred years ago in Russia or a schmaltzy tune from Yiddish theater - even Broadway’s “Fiddler on the Roof” - may lead into a rock-flavored Middle Eastern rave-up that has audience members dancing in the aisles.

The Williamsburg-based band performs often at community cultural events and coffeehouses as well as weddings, bar mitzvahs and other parties. The ensemble features two clarinets, tenor saxophone, accordion, bass, drums and other percussion, as well as a vocalist.

April 19, 2020 The Norfolk Street Choir

The Norfolk Street Choir, established in 2016 as a program of Freemason Street Baptist Church, provides community and an opportunity for Norfolk’s impoverished population to participate in a universally uplifting, encouraging endeavor: group singing. The NSC meets once a week, with members actively participating in rehearsals that include vocal and musical instruction as well as ensemble rehearsals of songs. The Choir performs publicly from fall through spring at various events in the city. For those who, because of their present economic and social standing, are not frequently heard, the Norfolk Street Choir provides a forum where singers can “have a voice,” encouraging and inspiring one another and their listeners through music.

