

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are happy to have you join us in worship today.

Please sign the Welcome Card found in the pew pocket

and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher. Thank you!

NURSERY is available for infants to 3-year-olds during the Sunday School hour and 11:00 service.



BETHANY NEWS – September 6, 2026

Pastor's Sunday School - Sundays at 9:45 am, Mary Lotsey Classroom, Sep. 20th - Dec. 20th (12 weeks).

This is a new class for those who are not members of an existing class. Participants will share how their faith life has been on a weekly basis in a supportive and prayerful environment. In addition, there will be a brief recap of a recent sermon and discussion. Class is limited to eight persons. To sign up or learn more, please contact Pastor John at [804-384-3521](tel:804-384-3521) or johnchoi@vaumc.org

Happy Wanderers Friday, September 18th – Our September trip will be a tour Rosewell, one of the most remarkable examples of a building ruin in the United States. The massive mansion was built in 1725 and a fire in 1916 destroyed its interior but much of its brickwork still stands. We will see the craftsmanship that remains and explore the visitor center. We will have lunch in the Courthouse. We will meet at the front parking lot of church at 10:00 am. Please contact Judy Burner if you're interested in going and if you will be able to drive.

JOY Circle, New Times and Dates — In order to accommodate more members' schedules and hopefully to increase our membership, we have changed our meetings to the first Monday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Friendship Class. Our next meeting will be at Monday, September 14th (change because of Labor Day). We have monthly programs and monthly mission-focused service projects so hopefully you will consider being a part of this group. Our September program will feature notable Women of Gloucester. Any questions, please contact any member of the JOY Circle.

The program for the **JOY Circle** on Monday, September 14th at 2:00 pm will be Linda Grow speaking on "Glimpses into the Past of the Ladies at Little England." All ladies are welcome!

Second Tuesday Morning Visitation – This Tuesday, September 8th, 10:00 am. Meet in Mary Lotsey Classroom. We will go visit our shut-ins in groups of two. Please join us!

Youth Group next gathering on September 23rd from 5:30–6:30 pm! Youth Group will meet on the first and fourth Wednesdays of each month, with a different schedule in November and December. Come grow in faith and friendship through Bible study, games, dinner, and an occasional movie. Bring a friend and join the fun!

Back to School/Church event on September 12th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm! Children and youth are invited to reconnect with friends, celebrate the new school year and enjoy games, crafts, snacks, and music. Bring a friend and come ready for faith, fun and fellowship.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY	8:30 am	Informal Worship (Communion)
	9:30 am	Celebration & Fellowship
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship (Communion)
Tuesday, September 8	10:00 am	Shut-In Visitation
	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
Wednesday, September 9	9:00 am	Trustees
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 10	9:00 am	Bazaar Workshop
	9:00 am	York River Garden Club
Saturday, September 12	10:00 am	Back to School/Church Event
Sunday, September 13	8:30 am	Informal Worship
	9:30 am	2 nd Sunday Breakfast
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Traditional Worship

Birthdays

9/6 Mary Linda Brooks, Will Neikirk
9/7 Dean Tillage, Robert Leigh
9/8 Mike Thayer, Kristin Morris
Greg Barnes
9/9 Jane Niethamer, Marie Reynolds
9/11 Kelly Fox, Donna Dixon

Anniversaries

9/7 Richard & Susan Boyette, 51

2027 Faith Promise Campaign

The Finance Committee has begun developing **Bethany United Methodist Church’s 2027 budget**. An important part of this process is our **Faith Promise Campaign**, which helps the Finance Committee estimate the financial resources that will be available to support the ministries and operations of our church in the coming year.

Faith Promises are allocated to the **General Fund** and help support the routine operating expenses necessary to provide effective ministry to our congregation and community. These expenses include utilities such as water and electricity, general maintenance, insurance, pastor and staff salaries, advertising, supplies, and other essential operating costs. As we prepare for 2027, we ask each member and family to prayerfully consider their **General Fund Faith Promise for 2027**. Your commitment provides the Finance Committee with valuable information as we develop a responsible budget and plan for Bethany’s ministries in the year ahead.

The **2027 Faith Promise Campaign will begin on the first Sunday in September and conclude at the end of October**.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to the ministries of Bethany United Methodist Church.

Bethany UMC Finance Committee



Bethany UMC Prayer List	
BETHANY FAMILY	
CANCER/CHEMO: Darlene Bauschatz, Krista Chase, Carol Johnson, Sue Leed, Larry Whitfield GRIEVING: Families of Mike Andersen, Gary Loveland, Fred Niethamer, Sandy Riffin, Lee Wood HEALTH ISSUES: Linda Booth, David Cecil, Dawn Cluts, Billy Davis, Sandy Fox, Estelle Harris, Pat Hasty, Milton Hudgins, Kathy Jacobs, Paul Kendall, Bonnie Lewis, Dennis Mitchell, Peggy Peterman, Ruth Wallace, Yvonne White, Art Wolz, Gretchen Wood RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Nile Cecil, Cathy Raines, Cheryl Roane, Bernard Robins	
BETHANY FRIENDS	
HEALTH ISSUES: Opal Brown, Joshua Childers, Jimmy Diggs, Shirley Hudgins, Jordan Hunter, Shirley Lewis, David Morris, Pam Mullins, Rick Nichols, Terrie Oliver, Wendy Roundy, Rupert Thomas, Ricky West, Gerri Wilson	
ACTIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES	
Kevin Jacobs, Will Neikirk, Jim Minor, Jennifer Arnold Blackburn, All members of the military.	
OTHER PRAYERS	
United States of America; Ukraine; Israel and the Middle East; United Methodist Church	
ASSISTED LIVING	
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Sarah Hillard, Rm 113
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Sharon Cheek, Rm 107
Gloucester House, 7657 Meredith Dr., Gloucester 23061	Patsy Morales, Rm 118
Heron Cove, 7409 Heron Cove Way, Gloucester 23061	Bonnie Lewis, Rm 13
Riverside Mathews, 603 Main St., Mathews, VA 23109	David Cecil, Rm 33B
Sanders Assisted Living, 7407 Walker Ave., Gloucester 23061	Carolyn Scott, Rm 208
Sunrise Senior Living, 2105 Cranbeck Rd., Richmond, VA 23235	Pauline Harris
Walter Reed Convalescent Ctr, PO Box 887, Gloucester 23061	Lavalle Wilson, Rm Botetourt 6

Dr. Albert Schweitzer and the “Fifth Evangelist”



On the 58th anniversary of his death, 4 September 1965, let us remember and celebrate Dr. Albert Schweitzer - theologian, physician, organist, and Bach scholar. Schweitzer was born on 14 January 1875 at Kaysersberg, Alsace, into a family of Lutheran pastors, organists, and teachers. As a theologian he gained international recognition with *The Quest for the Historical Jesus* (1910), presenting the eschatological view that Christ's ministry was dominated by His knowledge of being the Messiah and of the imminent end of the world. Yet even before this book was published, Schweitzer had decided to leave his positions as pastor and professor at the University of Strasbourg and became a humble medical student. From 1913 onward he served as a pioneering missionary doctor in the hospital he himself built at Lambarene, Gabon, in French Equatorial Africa. Concurrent with these superhuman achievements was Albert Schweitzer's lifelong pursuit of music, both as performer and scholar. In Paris he studied with renowned organist and composer Charles-Marie Widor, who introduced him to the works of Johann Sebastian Bach. "For me," said Widor, "Bach is the greatest of preachers" - the Fifth Evangelist! At Widor's instigation Schweitzer wrote *J. S. Bach: le Musicien-Poete*, a groundbreaking analysis of Bach's musical word-painting and symbolism. The book portrayed Bach as a deeply religious mystic whose music was impersonal and unselfconscious, as cosmic as the forces of nature. It described the composer as a musician-poet, the supreme pictorial artist in sound, and gave detailed and copiously illustrated instructions for the performance of his works. As an organist Schweitzer was indefatigable in spreading the gospel of Bach, and the proceeds from his concerts and recordings were always plowed back into humanitarian causes. He won the Nobel Prize for peace in 1952. Above all Albert Schweitzer can be regarded as an artist who strove with humility to become as nearly perfect as possible in his Christian discipleship and in all the facets of his many-sided genius. -Rudy Shackelford

