

Bethany United Methodist Church  
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April 2018 Newsletter

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

**Bible Study** – We continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark, Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. – **April 9, 23 and 30** (no meeting on April 2 or 16)

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**UMW Sunday – April 8** – Mrs. Betty Whitehurst will be our guest speaker in Worship (Details on pages 5-6.)

**Bishop's Convocation on Prayer** – Saturday, **April 14**, at Trinity UMC in Richmond. (More information will be in the bulletin.)

**BUMM's Spring Community Yard Sale and UMW Bake Sale – Saturday, May 5.** Registration will begin on Monday, April 16 in the church office between 4-6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Church-wide Family Dinner (covered dish) – May 9**, 6 p.m. In celebration of Family Week, sponsored by the UMW. The Bethany Bells will provide our entertainment.

## From the Pastor's Pen



I hope you enjoyed the Lenten sermon series based on Adam Hamilton's book, *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*.<sup>1</sup> I was glad to have retired pastor, Ed Merry, join me in this venture as we covered five half-truths:

1. Everything Happens for a Reason
2. God Helps Those Who Help Themselves
3. God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle
4. God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It, and
5. Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin.

Any one of those half-truths could have taken up several sermons, but if you were there those five Sundays, you got the idea.

Why do you suppose these "half-truths" are so common? I want to suggest that translation and interpretation are the main reasons, coupled with a lack of Bible study and knowledge about how the Bible came to be.

Think about it: the Bible as we know it did not fall from heaven as a completed volume with 66 books in an old and new testament. Over many centuries, multiple authors that lived in various places and under differing circumstances, contributed to the wonderful account of humankind's relationship with the one true God. Originally written in Hebrew and Greek, the Scriptures are more than a collection of stories, history, poetry, prophecies and parables: they expose our continual failure to follow God's will consistently and to live faithfully. At the same time, the Scriptures leave us in awe of God's power, mercy, grace, forgiveness and love – ultimately through the gift of Jesus Christ, who demonstrated God's love through his earthly life, ministry, death and Resurrection.

None of the original manuscripts exist today. What we have are copies that have survived and been translated into hundreds of languages, including English. Each version differs as translators struggle to determine the best meaning of the text. Each translator's own religious beliefs and culture also affect the translation, so it should not surprise us that the New International Version reads somewhat differently than the New Revised Standard Version or the Common English Bible, for example.

Some people say they don't interpret scripture: they just read it and accept it for what it says. In other words, they don't study the Scriptures, and they tend to read the entire Bible literally. God calls us to do better than that. Studying the Bible requires learning what we can about *who* wrote the text, *when* a particular book was written, *why* and *to whom* the book/letter was written, what was the culture of that day, and *what* was going on in the world of the writer or the recipients of the text.

Blindly reading the Bible will lead to all kinds of personal interpretations, because all of us read through the lens of our own experiences and beliefs – that is normal. Study helps us read and think about the Scriptures with a broader lens. Study, along with prayer, invites the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts and shape our lives more deeply.

Every Christian should have at least one study Bible, a Bible commentary, and a Bible dictionary. Reading books by others about the Scriptures – such as Adam Hamilton's book cited here – are also helpful – even when we don't totally agree with their views. But it is essential that we become aware of and try to understand differing views; otherwise, how can we have a knowledgeable and civil conversation about them? How can we know and explain to others what we believe as followers of Christ?



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<sup>1</sup> Published by Abingdon Press in Nashville, 2016.

In 2 Timothy 2, Paul instructs his son in the faith to grow in Christ. Read at least the entire chapter to get the context of verse 15: *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.* The King James Version reads the first part of this verse, *“Study to show yourself approved...”*

Think about how you are presenting yourself to God as a “worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining [that is, handling, understanding] the word of truth [as found in the Scriptures]. And remember that the only Scriptures Paul and the other New Testament writers knew, was the Old Testament (the Hebrew Scriptures). Paul and others had no clue they were writing letters that would later be called “scriptures.” Their task was to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people everywhere, helping them to receive God’s love in their own lives and live faithfully, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

Come to think of it, those are our marching orders, too!

On the journey together,

*Suzanne*



## Craft Meeting

Happy Easter everyone! Well, it’s been a little slow-going this year for everybody, with the weather conditions and illnesses that

have been going around. But I am happy to say that Spring *is* here, and the Crafters have been organizing and putting on our thinking caps for new projects to do this year.

Don’t forget if you are Spring-cleaning, before you toss out those used greeting cards, turn them over to the Crafters to be made into something creative. Come by and see some samples we have on our display board in the Sunday School Hall. We accept all kinds of greeting cards. Also, there is a calendar for upcoming meetings and events that we will be posting throughout the year, so don’t forget to check it out from time to time.

Our next meeting will be **April 18** at 10:00 a.m. in The Happy Hands room and, next month, on May 2, 16 and 30.

May the dreams you hold dearest be those which come true, And the kindness you spend keep returning to you. Blessings to all and Happy Crafting,

Rita Honeycutt ♡

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

**John & Carol Wilson**  
**John Frank Wilson** was born to Frank Jones and Lillian Virginia



Weeks Wilson in Harrisonburg, VA. He grew up in Monterey, VA in Highland County, a place that is known as the "Little Switzerland" of Virginia. He attended Monterey Elementary and High School and graduated in 1958. During his growing up years, John mowed lawns and worked on his cousin's farm. He also helped build the first snow-ski chair lift at the Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, VA. He was an only child and some of his favorite memories are riding his bicycle around the county with his cousins and spending many days in the woods hunting and exploring nature.

After high school graduation, he went to Virginia Tech where he studied Mechanical Engineering. He graduated from college in 1962 with a B.S. degree in Engineering. He went to work for J.P. Stevens Textile Industries in Rock Hill, SC. After six months there, he received an offer from NASA to work at Langley Research Center in Hampton. John accepted that offer and worked at NASA for over 41 years. His work there included working on many engineering projects, one of which was designing the first prototype cryogenic wind tunnel in the U.S. After that, the team designed and built the National Transonic Facility on which he served as Deputy Construction Manager. He spent three years as a shakedown and checkout manager for the facility. Following that job, John was transferred to the modifica-

tion of the Eight Foot High Temperature Structures Tunnel as Construction Manager.

**Mary Carol Sparks** was born to James Harvey and Dorothy Catlin Tucker Sparks in Norfolk, VA. Carol briefly lived in Jamestown, PA, but most of her younger years were in Richmond, VA. She attended Ginter Park Elementary and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. She went to Radford College where she studied elementary education and obtained her B.A. degree in Education in June 1964. During Carol's college years, she was on the Dean's List and was a member of Sigma Kappa National Sorority. She worked long hours both on and off campus and paid all of her college expenses. After attending Radford, she worked three years for Hampton School System, where she taught first grade at Tucker Capps and Francis Asbury Elementary Schools. At the end of three years, she decided to dedicate her time to raising her family.

Carol was the middle child of three, between her older sister, Dorothy, and younger sister, Judy. Some of her favorite memories are playing school and studying with her sisters. While in college, John and Carol were both active in the Wesley Foundation. While attending one of those functions in Richmond, John remembers seeing Carol, but she has no recollection of seeing him. The next weekend, while attending a Radford College dance, John met Mary Carol Sparks, a beautiful young lady. She soon became the love of his life and they married on June 29, 1963. In June of this year, they will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary.

Carol and John started their lives together on Kecoughtan Road in Hampton. They began their church life as members of Aldersgate UMC in Hampton. After a year, they built a home in Fox Hill, where they lived for three years. During that time, John took a short sabbatical, and they moved to Charlottesville where John did some

graduate work on his Master's Degree. Carol substituted in the school system. Upon coming back to NASA, he completed the required work to obtain his Professional Engineering License.

Once they returned to Hampton, they built a home in Powhatan Park where they raised their family and lived for 36 years. They also had a vacation home near the Chickahominy River where they spent many happy hours teaching their children and friends to water ski. They also loved to snow ski and enjoyed that in both the U.S. and abroad. As are most parents, John and Carol were very involved in the children's activities such as swim programs, soccer, and scouting. Carol became involved in Peninsula Patrons Tennis Association. They enjoyed playing tennis regularly on teams, etc. While she still plays, he enjoys playing golf. Carol has enjoyed teaching crocheting, cross-stitch, macramé, and more.

Once the children were grown and finished their education, they decided to build a waterfront home in Merrimac Shores. They continue to be active there as well...Peninsula Retired Men's Club, Ladies Sewing Group, Bridge Groups, and Garden Club are some of the interests they enjoy. Many of us have heard the musical quartet, PULSE, here at Bethany, that John participates in. Carol and John have also been blessed to travel a great deal, including most of the United States, Europe, Asia and Caribbean Islands.

They have two children: a son, Michael, and his wife, Heather, reside in Atlanta, GA with their daughter Brooke, and a daughter, Suzanne, and her husband, Chris, reside in Chesapeake, VA with their two daughters, Kayleigh (13) and Kyrsten (9). Both girls are also very active in school and swimming activities. The Wilsons try to stay involved as much as possible in their grandchildren's lives.

John and Carol joined Bethany in 1972 and have been active in the church ever since. They are

members of the Wesley Class. He serves as a Trustee and served as Council Chair several years. Carol serves on the kitchen crew, the Staff/Pastor Parish Committee, and also served as Secretary for the Church Council and Charge Conference. Together they were blessed to be able to represent Bethany on the Ethiopian Mission Trip, and also served as our most recent Church Directory team. We appreciate all of their service and dedication over these last 46 years here at Bethany.

~ Pat Smith, Membership Care

## **Introducing Bethany's Administrative Assistant – Rebekah Doggett**

Rebekah was raised in Beaufort, SC. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Charleston. Her first "real" job was in



Charleston, SC as an administrative assistant at the Lodge Alley Inn, a Bluegreen Resort. As she moved up in her position, she also moved with the company (several times!). She moved to Daytona Beach, FL; Orlando, FL; Atlanta, GA and Williamsburg, VA. She became the Administrative Manager and eventually the Director of Field Administration. When she moved to Williamsburg, she decided to become more involved with the community. She met her husband, Dale, while working with The Williamsburg Players, a local theatre group. They were married on October 9, 2009. In 2012, they welcomed their first son Trip and in 2014, they welcomed another son, Artie. Rebekah is excited to be in this new position and loves working with everyone here!



## United Methodist Women

UMW members (All ladies are warmly welcome to join us) please mark these dates on your calendar! We are sponsoring the April 8th church service with Betty Whitehurst as our UMW Sunday speaker. The title of her talk is "Women in Mission" and the scripture is Matthew 25: 31-40. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 11 at 10 a.m. We will plan our mission projects and upcoming events. We will be sponsoring Terrific Tuesday on April 17. These meals are always delicious and where else can you get a great home cooked meal, including salad, beverage and a homemade dessert for \$8??? NO TIP or TAX! Invite your friends and relatives. Be sure to sign up by Sunday, April 8.

May 5 is the UMM Yard Sale and we need homemade goodies for the Bake Sale we are sponsoring that day. All profits go to our mission projects.

On May 9, 6 p.m. (Tyler Hall) we are once again sponsoring a covered dish dinner to celebrate Family Week. Bethany Bells will provide our entertainment.

May 30 we will assemble Kits for Conference in Tyler Hall and continue into the 31st.

### Kit Materials

#### -1 Hand Towel

- \*15x52 inches to 17x27 inches
- \*Kitchen, cleaning & microfiber towels not acceptable

#### -1 Washcloth

#### -1 Toothbrush

- \*Adult size only

**Do not remove from original packaging**

#### -6 Adhesive bandages

- \*¾ inch to 1 inch
- \*Common household Band-Aids

#### -1 Bath size soap

- \*3 oz and larger sizes only
- \*No Ivory or Jergens soap

**Do not remove from original packaging**

#### - 1 Comb

- \*Comb needs to be sturdy & longer than 6 inches
- \*No pocket combs or picks
- \*Rattail combs & combs without handle are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth

#### -1 Metal nail file or clippers

- \*No emery boards, please

#### -1 Plastic bag

- \*one-gallon size sealable bag only

#### -\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

June 6th UMW Meeting day (NOTE - CHANGED FROM JUNE 13th BECAUSE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND UPCOMING MEALS) - this is our "go out to lunch" gathering.

~ Jean Lucy

### Betty C. Whitehurst

Betty Whitehurst is a former missionary to Cuba (1956-59) and Chile (1966-71). She is a retired Professor of Spanish, having taught in several colleges in Virginia since receiving her Ph.D. degree from the University of Virginia in 1978. She was Associate Director of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, Southeastern Jurisdiction, 1995-99, and a Consultant for Individual Volunteers with the Mission Volunteers unit of the General Board Global Ministries, 1999-2004.



Betty was President of the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women in 2005-06. She had previously served as Conference Coordinator for Christian Global Concerns (now known as Education and Interpretation) and has been a local and district officer.

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## Wesley Class

Since the class began in 1963, we have used the International Lesson Series for our Sunday School Class studies. Last fall, we tried out a DVD series which we found to be most effective and are now continuing with that format. Please come and join us as we are into a new series - THE RACE - which compares NASCAR and its flags with the race towards life - this series is cleverly interwoven with scripture and thought-provoking discussion. Come and join us 9:15 every Sunday in Wesley Hall.

## WOW (Women of Wesley)

On **April 21** at 11:30 a.m., we will gather for lunch at Rick & Libby's, located in the Warwick Shopping Center at 11006 Warwick Blvd. in Newport News. All Women of Bethany are welcome to join us for lunch. Please let Jean Lucy know if you plan to go. We will enjoy lunch in the private room of the restaurant.

## Flower Vases



If you have containers from altar flowers and have no need for them, kindly return them to the church as Jeff's Flowers can reuse them for us. He also appreciates

used vases that perhaps you longer have a need to keep. Thanks!

## Youth Group

Bring a friend and join Amy Ryan for Youth Group every Tuesday night at 6 p.m. Dinner will be provided at 6 followed by a game and a short lesson. Stay tuned for updates about group outings and service projects. To contact Amy, feel free to email her at [amy.ryan@cnu.edu](mailto:amy.ryan@cnu.edu).

## HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES



Please turn into the church office the names of any 2018 graduates that you know of as soon as possible. We will also need a picture of the graduate (no larger than 5 x 7) and information regarding where he or she is graduating from, which school or college, and any other info you would like to share with our church family. We need this information no later than **May 15**. We will honor the graduates on the second Sunday of June at our worship service.

## Happy Hearts

Join our Happy Hearts for lunch at BYRD'S RESTAURANT on Thursday, April 26th at 11:30 a.m. The restaurant is located in the Hidenwood Shopping Center in Newport News on Warwick Boulevard, across from Harris Teeter's grocery and near Christopher Newport University. The food there is delicious, and prices are reasonable and is recommended by Whitey, Barney and Mary. Guaranteed you will enjoy! Come and bring a friend!

~ Mary Faulk/874-3949

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## Autism Awareness Month

April is National Autism Awareness Month! Autism affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys. World Autism Awareness Day is April 2. On April 2, thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities light it up **blue** for those living with autism.





## Thank-you!

Dear Bethany Family,

I would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards, prayers, food and for taking my duties for several things.

I look forward to being back very soon and I miss you all very much. May God bless each one of you.

Thank you,  
Glenda Adamowski

Dear Bethany Family,

Thank you for the heart-felt reception for me on Sunday, February 4 after worship. I am blessed by your goodness and kindness. You all touched my heart deeply. I have been with you daily through the years and it has been quite an adjustment for me traveling on the path I am on right now. I have thought and reflected on all of you during this time and remember special memories as well as being able to serve you, the pastor(s), the congregation and mostly our Lord. I cherish and appreciate all the cards and gifts given to me at the reception. God bless you.

~Beverly Belvin

Dear Friends in Christ,

Your March gift is already helping our hungry brothers and sisters this winter! Thank you for your gift of health and hope. Bethany UMC is putting healthy, nourishing food on the tables of individuals and families who are struggling to get by. Partnering with Society of St. Andrew, you engage volunteer learners in hands-on mission and service; you help send large loads of fruits and vegetables to areas where they are most needed; you support local feeding agencies in every area of the country; and you reduce food waste- all as you follow Jesus' command to feed the hungry. Thank you for this

gift and for joining with Society of St. Andrew in our mission of working toward feeding physical and spiritual hunger.

~Betty Easter, Society of St. Andrew



We extend Christian love and prayers to Kathryn Burger and family for the loss of her husband and our beloved member, **Roy Burger**, who passed away on March 20, 2018.

## April Birthdays

- 2 John Wilson, Cindy Brown, Bob Barrow
- 10 Jackie Rosser
- 11 Artie Doggett
- 13 Doris Morse
- 14 Ryan Gilley
- 15 George Adamowski
- 16 Ruth Shoemaker
- 21 Barbara Dulaney
- 22 Raymond Archer, Robert James, Danny Taylor
- 23 Jamie Sample
- 24 Jean Hutchinson, Susan Walton
- 29 Jennifer Sheridan



(Note: If you have an April birthday and are not on this list, please let the church office know. Thanks!)

## April Anniversaries

(Note: If you have an April anniversary and are not on this list, please let the church office know. Thanks!)



## Congratulations and Blessings

go to Mike and Cortney Bowen, who were married here on March 23. We wish you and your family much happiness as you journey together!

## APRIL 2018 EVENT CALENDAR

- 1 **Easter Brunch**, 9:15 a.m. (Tyler Hall)  
**EASTER WORSHIP**, 10:30 a.m.
- 2 Church Office Closed (Easter Monday)  
**No** Prayer Time or Bible Study today
- 3 Youth– 6 p.m.  
 AA– 7 p.m.
- 4 Chair & Mat Yoga 4:30 - 6 p.m.
- 5 Handbells – 6:15 p.m.  
 Chancel Choir – 7 p.m.
- 8 **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – UMW Sunday**
- 9 Prayer Time – 9:30 a.m.  
 Bible Study – 10 a.m.
- 10 District Clergy – 9-12:30  
 Youth–6:00  
 AA –7:00
- 11 UMW–10 a.m.  
 Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group –  
 6-7:30 p.m.  
 Chair & Mat Yoga 4:30 - 6 p.m.
- 12 Handbells – 6:15 p.m.  
 Chancel Choir – 7 p.m.  
 Scouts – 7 p.m.
- 14 **Bishop’s Convocation on Prayer**  
 (Trinity UMC, Richmond)
- 15 **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**
- 16 Trustees Meeting –9:30
- 17 Terrific Tuesday 5-6:15  
 Finance Committee – 6 p.m.  
 Youth–6 p.m.  
 Church Council – 7p.m.  
 AA – 7 p.m.
- 18 Craft Meeting –10 a.m.  
 Chair & Mat Yoga 4:30 - 6 p.m.
- 19 Handbells – 6:15 p.m.  
 Chancel Choir – 7 p.m.  
 Scouts – 7 p.m.
- 21 WOW– 11:30 a.m. Lunch at Rick &  
 Libby’s on Warwick Blvd.

- 22 **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**
- 23 Prayer Time – 9:30 a.m.  
 Bible Study – 10 a.m.
- 24 Youth–6 p.m.  
 AA– 7 p.m.
- 25 Chair & Mat Yoga 4:30 - 6 p.m.
- 26 Happy Hearts meeting at Byrd’s  
 Restaurant–11:30 a.m.  
 Handbells – 6:15 p.m.  
 Chancel Choir – 7 p.m.  
 Scouts – 7 p.m.
- 29 **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**
- 30 Prayer Time – 9:30 a.m.  
 Bible Study – 10 a.m.
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