Interesting Facts about Bethesda

- In 1889, this area (Palm Beach) was a tropical jungle with deer, bears, and alligators. Only 200 people lived on the island.
- This parish began in 1889 and there have been three Bethesda church buildings.
- The first small wooden church building held only 100 people.
- People traveled by boat to our second and larger church building in 1895.
- The first service in our third and present building was on November 27, 1927.
- The name “Bethesda” means “The House of Healing.”
- Today almost 1000 households claim Bethesda as their church home.

Worship with Us

Bethesda is a vibrant and joyful community of people from all walks of life who come together to learn and to be inspired through our fellowship to make God’s love a living reality in our lives every day. The very center of our church’s life is Sunday worship, and nothing substitutes for being here with us. Below is our schedule for our season—September through May.

SUNDAY | 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.*
TUESDAY | 8:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY | 12:05 p.m.
*In the Summer: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Learn more about Bethesda

We encourage you to attend our Church Lecture Tour on the second and fourth Sunday of the month following our 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. service. We also have a complete walking Tour Guide with much more in-depth information about our church and stained glass windows available for purchase in The Shoppe at Bethesda.

Check out our website, www.bbts.org, or contact the church (561) 655-4554 for more information.

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter!
Welcome to Bethesda-by-the-Sea! This guide will give you information about our church and garden. We encourage you to walk around and feel the peaceful presence of God in this beautiful place. Below are a few areas of interest that we suggest you visit.

1. The present Gothic structure is the third building for Bethesda. It was erected between 1925-1927, honoring Florida’s Spanish cultural origins and using stones cast right on the premises. The dates 1513-1925 are inscribed on the corner stone—1513 commemorating Ponce de Leon’s landing in Florida.

2. Above the two great doors at the front entrance is a sculpture of Christ holding a model of Bethesda, as the church belongs to Christ. His right hand is raised in a blessing to all who enter.

3. The ship suspended from the ceiling in the south transept represents the Scandinavian custom of placing a model ship in a window of a church or home and praying for a safe journey. It faces east towards open waters. Bethesda’s Port Ministry supports many seafarers from all over the world who come into the Port of Palm Beach.

4. In the hallway south of the High Altar are two Flemish silver-stained roundels located in the east window. This is the oldest glass in the church and dates back to the 1500s. The left roundel is of a monk kneeling in prayer and the right roundel represents God the Creator in the Garden of Eden.

5. Bethesda is the home of a magnificent organ which may be numbered among the largest and finest in the south. The instrument comprises 109 ranks, with over 6,000 pipes. It was built by Austin Organs, Inc. of Hartford, Connecticut, and they designated our instrument as their Opus 2777. Glorious music is an integral part of our worship.

WELCOME

WHILE VISITING...

Restrooms are located at the Red Markers ( ) on the map.

Please respect our church and wear proper attire in this sacred space.

Professional photography is permitted only with approval from the OFFICE.

Please don’t feed the Koi fish anything other than the FISH FOOD provided in the machine.