Greetings,

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea. You will find wonderful information here about our parish. Bethesda is a vibrant and joyful community of people from all walks of life who come together to learn and to be inspired by 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. So come and join us on a Sunday morning soon.

Peace,

The Rev. James Harlan
Rector

Who We Are

Bethesda’s Mission is to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ’s teachings through collective worship, learning, and service.

Central to our identity as a community of faith is our collective sacramental worship.

We live out our mission by:
- Loving God
- Loving our Neighbor
- Nurturing Family
- Thinking Critically
- Practicing Fellowship
- Practicing Stewardship
- Serving Community
- Supporting Personal Ministry

Worship with Us

Every Sunday is where the life begins at Bethesda. We celebrate the Holy Eucharist with glorious liturgy and music. We also celebrate Holy Eucharist during the week and offer a healing service on Wednesdays.

All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the Holy Eucharist when visiting Bethesda-by-the-Sea. It is not necessary to be a member of the Episcopal Church in order to receive Holy Communion. Persons who have not been baptized are welcome to come to the altar rail and kneel to receive a blessing. Cross your arms on your chest as a sign that you will not receive Communion. Below is our schedule for our season—September through May.

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

Questions?

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

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter!
What to Expect
Our worship is formal, intimate, transcendent, reflective, fun, and inspiring. As we celebrate our life together, we focus on God's love for each and every person and encourage one another to seek that loving presence of God. We have communion as an integral part of every service where we share together in a simple meal of bread and wine. While our worship may not be entirely familiar, we encourage everyone to join in as they are comfortable.

Worship at Bethesda is formal but need not be stiff. While many people prefer to wear their “Sunday finest” for church, others prefer to dress more casually. As God loves all, Bethesda welcomes all.

Serve
Bethesda’s intention to be a thriving and exemplary church means that we build community around and within an essential commitment to serve. We serve within the community of faith through a variety of worship, fellowship, and care ministries. We also serve in the world around us, moving beyond charity to building relationships with people who would not necessarily be in church. These relationships enable us to encounter Christ and share in God’s compassion particularly for those who are poor and suffering. Bethesda has a myriad of opportunities to build our lives of faith and our community of faith by working toward a just and compassionate world. Visit our “Serve” page on our website for more information.

Give
Christian values are a way of life. It expresses our faith in God’s abundance. It is rooted in gratitude for all the gifts God gives us—our lives, our health, our time, our talents, and our treasure. It acknowledges our responsibility to accept these gifts of grace, to cultivate and expand them, and to return a portion to our spiritual community. It is generosity that puts God at the center. Through financial support for the mission of our church, contributors create the kind of world that God is calling us to lead. Visit our “Give” page on our website for information about ways to support Bethesda’s mission.

Music
Concerts and choral services throughout the year include our first-Sunday of the month Evensong (October through May, each preceded by a half-hour Recital), A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, the annual Christmas Concert and Community Carol Sing, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, the annual Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival, and special Good Friday music (usually a Requiem with orchestra accompaniment). Visit the “Music” page on our website for information about upcoming concerts and choral services.

Learn
Bethesda offers rich learning opportunities for Children, Youth, and Adults that speak to all aspects of our life of faith. Visit our “Learn” page on our website for information about our education programs. All are welcome to participate and join in a life of learning and growth in faith.

Art & Architecture
Bethesda has a free Art & Architecture Guide available near the entrance of the church in a tract rack and in the Receptionist’s Office. We encourage you to attend our Church Lecture Tour on the second and fourth Sundays of the month following our 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. service.