GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN.
AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE WHOM HE FAVORS.

to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.

BY THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD THE DAWN FROM ON HIGH WILL BREAK UPON US
All in the family

Paul loved the church in Corinth. They were a vibrant, lively community that, perhaps more than any church in its day, was embracing their call to welcome everyone. The church in Corinth had wealthy people and poor people. It had men and women serving in all kinds of roles. It had Jewish and Greek people, young and old. It was a wonderfully diverse community. But Paul was frustrated, and it doesn’t take too close a reading of 1 Corinthians to feel that from him.

You see, these faithful people had decided that their identity with a particular group within the church was more important than their identity as the church. They were behaving as if they believed that being aligned with a certain group or faction was more important than being the Body of Christ. Much of 1 Corinthians is speaking to this particular challenge for the community.

Paul uses the human body as a metaphor for the community of faith. Eugene Peterson’s wonderful paraphrase called The Message puts it this way:

“As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it. But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn’t be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own...If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. You are Christ’s body—that’s who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your “part” mean anything. (1 Cor. 12:18-20,26)

I don’t think Paul means to say that we will not have a particular affinity with some members more than others. And certainly we find strength, encouragement, and community within the groups and ministries of which we are a part.

On the other hand, one of the great joys of Sunday morning is to experience those differences and divisions fading in significance, if only for a moment. The great and joyful mystery of the Eucharist is precisely that we witness our true identity as the Body of Christ, all united one with another in the grace and love of Jesus.

The Rev. James R. Harlan, Rector

Cover: Birth of Christ from The Saint John’s Bible

When the Society of the Four Arts had the St. John’s Bible exhibit last year, the exhibitors invited our staff to have a special, private showing of the work. Jim Triggs, Executive Director of the Saint John’s Bible Heritage Program at Saint John’s University, brought over to the church several volumes, as well as a slide presentation to show and explain the process by which this magnificent work came to be. We then all regrouped at the exhibit itself for more insight along with close-up views of the original pages. Mr. Triggs said, “It was an honor sharing The Saint John’s Bible with the staff at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Your enthusiasm for Holy Scripture, your warm hospitality, and the stunning beauty of your parish made visiting Bethesda-by-the-Sea a wonderful experience.”

Birth of Christ, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John’s Bible, Saint John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Transitions

DEATHS
Barbara Beebe Hindman—9/27/14

BAPTISMS
Victoria Myla Jordan—9/14/14
YSabel Rya Jordan—9/14/14
Bethesda receives frequent inquiries about options to make contributions online and to use a credit card to make a gift on Sunday mornings. We were thrilled to finally announce in September a simple new option to support our parish’s mission. Our website, bbts.org, provides a page on which anyone may make a one-time or recurring contribution to the church. Some people feel it is important to put a gift in the plate on Sunday mornings. So you will also see in the pews a new card that you can fill out and put into the offering plate to indicate that you have made a gift online that week if you wish. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Fred Staley.

Bethesda is blessed to have over 900 families as part of our congregation that come together to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ’s teachings through collective worship, learning, and service. We live our Christian lives through our shared values including the practice of stewardship. You may notice some changes this year as we seek to speak individually with as many people a possible, rather than relying mainly on letters and request cards. This provides you the opportunity to provide your thoughts on Bethesda as a whole, its future direction, and how you may contribute towards Bethesda achieving its aims and so share the experience of the clear and strong presence of God.
When Ejola Cook was a child, Christmas began for her at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Each year, the anticipation would build as she would arrive at Bethesda and she and her friends would get ready for the Christmas Pageant. The music, the tradition, and most importantly the message were the meaning of Christmas for little Ejola. As a child she participated each year, and was given the honor of playing Mary when she was 16 years old. When she graduated from High School and left for college, she drifted away from Bethesda. However, her memories of her church during Christmas time always lingered.

Fast forward many years later to Ejola’s daughter, who was in preschool and attending Bethesda’s Sunday School, was asked to participate in the Christmas Pageant. Ejola was amazed to watch her own daughter experience the story of the birth of Jesus just the way she had growing up. Ejola’s little angel (literally that first year) gazed in adoration at Mary and Jesus as she sang Away in a Manger. Now every year, Ejola’s children participate in the Christmas Pageant. She loves to see them eagerly await 3:00 p.m. on Christmas eve and race up the staircase at Bethesda to prepare for the Pageant with their church friends. Ejola said, “In this day and age of Santa Claus and mass marketing, it is so special to find a place and a service to remind our children and ourselves, of the true meaning of Christmas.”

So, we extend an invitation to all children to become a part of this tradition by joining us on Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. for another great performance of Bethesda’s Christmas Pageant.

In preparation, we will be fitting all of our Christmas Pageant participants for costumes on Sunday, December 14, following the 9:00 a.m. service upstairs in the Sunday School Hall. All children that are planning to be in the Christmas Pageant must get fitted for their costumes.

There will be two rehearsals for the Christmas Pageant. The first rehearsal on Sunday, December 21, is just for the main cast (e.g. Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, etc.) and will take place following the 9:00 a.m. service upstairs in the Sunday School Hall. All other participants do NOT need to attend. The rehearsal for the full cast is Monday, December 22, at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the church. Please be on time so that we can run through the play at least twice that morning.

For More Information
Greg Knight, Director of Children and Youth Ministries | (561) 655-4555 x114 | knight@bbts.org
Deborah Hale-Hagy, Co-Chair | education@bbts.org
Retail

The Church Mouse is bustling with another exciting season because of the generous donors supplying our resale shop with a wonderful selection of merchandise, and the coming and going of enthusiastic clientele. Each day we are abundantly blessed with many local visitors from all over the nation and world. However, we would not be able to accomplish this important ministry without the assistance and expertise of our amazing volunteers.

By volunteering and donating your time at the Church Mouse and/or The Shoppe at Bethesda, you are helping those in need in your community. Volunteers find this ministry very rewarding. It is such a great experience to help others and to enact change. Socializing and making life-long friends is another great perk of volunteering at the Mouse or the Shoppe. Many of the volunteers socialize, share, and are introduced to new experiences through their time spent volunteering. Every season during Christmas, all of our volunteers are honored with a luncheon at The Beach Club in Palm Beach. It is always a great and festive time to get together and celebrate the wonderful things that this ministry does for the community.

If you become a part of this team of fun volunteers, you will receive a special 10% discount on all the of hidden treasures of both The Church Mouse and The Shoppe. Volunteer shifts are three hours long with great flexibility. We encourage you to call or e-mail us and join our volunteer family.

For More Information
Coy Riestra, Manager of The Church Mouse and The Shoppe | (561) 659-2154 | coy@bbts.org
Pat Reichenbacher, Chair | churchmouse@bbts.org
The Flower Guild is a ministry carried out by parishioners, in fellowship, to enhance the worship experience of the parish. They arrange all of Bethesda's flowers for Sunday worship services, weddings, funerals, Christmas, Easter, and Palm Sunday. Each week the Flower Guild makes boutonnières for Bethesda's ushers, and small arrangements for the hospitalized or homebound parishioners.

The Flower Guild started in the fall of 2011. Membership has quickly grown over the last three years to include nearly 95 members—both men and women. And more volunteers are still needed! The Flower Guild has approximately 80 assignments for members to fill each month, so they would be delighted to have you join this wonderful ministry. They work on the flowers as a team, so that the flower arrangements are not an individual’s work, but rather a collaborative effort. More experienced members work teaching the newcomers; the goal being for every member to learn how to do every part of this ministry.

This November will be an exciting time to join the Flower Guild...as they will be creating a limited number of beautiful fresh boxwood Advent wreaths. Each wreath measures 12 inches in diameter with five candles along with ribbons and a special card celebrating the 125th anniversary of Advent at Bethesda. Wreaths cost $45 and are available by pre-sale only. There will be a sales table in the Cloister each Sunday in November. Check the Happenings and bbts.org for more information.

All are welcome and encouraged to come to the next Flower Guild meeting on Thursday, November 20, at 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. For more information about this wonderful ministry, e-mail the Flower Guild at flowerguild@bbts.org.

My Time at Bethesda

Last May, when I first met with Father James to discuss my duties at Bethesda, he said, “You’re here to show us another way of doing it.” For me, that translates into preserving our wonderful Anglican tradition and expanding our horizons by the addition of new service music and hymns for the congregation. The focus of any church musician is to present music of recognized musical excellence, which includes all musical styles, and embrace musical integrity. There were three important things that drew me to come serve at Bethesda: the music program, clergy, and congregation. The choir is one of the most flexibly musical ensembles I know of, so my mission is to challenge them by introducing new choral repertoire as a stepping-stone to their musical growth. The Bethesda organ is one of the finest organs anywhere! To have an instrument with such color and diversity, for not only service music but for organ repertoire, is a great thing, indeed. To have a dedicated clergy and a committed congregation, which understand and support what the parish musician is presenting, is a blessing. Bethesda has a most rich liturgical and musical tradition and it is I who have been blessed by coming to be among you and carry on this fine tradition.

Sincerely,
Daniel Beckwith, Acting Organist and Choirmaster

For More Information
Daniel Beckwith, Acting Organist & Choirmaster | (561) 655-4555 x103 | beckwith@bbts.org
Lloyd Terry, Chair | worship@bbts.org
**Advent & Christmas Services 2014-2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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| **Sunday, November 30 — First Sunday of Advent**  
PP Parking Permitted from 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.— |  
*8:00 a.m.* Holy Eucharist & Homily  
*9:00 a.m.* Holy Eucharist & Homily  
9:05 a.m. Children's Worship, Guild Room  
10:10 a.m. Christian Education for all ages  
10:10 a.m. Adult Forum, Parish Hall  
*11:00 a.m.* Holy Eucharist & Homily  
**Tuesday, December 2**  
7:15 a.m. Bible Study, Guild Room  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
PP 6:00 p.m. Adult Confirmation with Bishop Frade |  
**PP** |  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Homily  
9:05 a.m. Children's Worship, Guild Room  
10:10 a.m. Christian Education for all ages  
10:10 a.m. Adult Forum, Parish Hall  
*11:00 a.m.* Holy Eucharist & Homily  
**PP** |  
7:15 a.m. Bible Study, Guild Room  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
PP 6:00 p.m. Celebrating 125 Years of Courage and Vision  
Finale Celebration, Garth and Parish Hall |  
**Wednesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve**  
PP** |  
*4:00 p.m.* Christmas Pageant, Homily, & Holy Eucharist  
† 10:30 p.m. Festal Eucharist & Homily with music for Choir, Congregation, and brass ensemble |  
**Thursday, December 25 — Christmas Day, Office Closed**  
PP |  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Homily  
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Homily with music by the Bethesda Choir |  
**Sunday, December 28 — First Sunday after Christmas**  
PP Parking Permitted from 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.— |  
*8:00 a.m.* Holy Eucharist & Homily  
*9:00 a.m.* Congregational Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist  
*10:00 a.m.* Wassail, Parish Hall  
*11:00 a.m.* A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols |  
**Tuesday, December 30**  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
PP 12:05 p.m. Homebound Service with Holy Eucharist  
PP 12:45 p.m. Homebound Luncheon, Parish Hall |  
**Sunday, January 4 — Second Sunday after Christmas**  
PP Parking Permitted from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.— |  
*8:00 a.m.* Holy Eucharist & Homily  
*9:00 a.m.* Holy Eucharist & Homily  
*11:00 a.m.* Holy Eucharist & Homily  
PP 2:00 p.m. Boar's Head Festival  
PP 4:30 p.m. Boar's Head Festival |  
P  
Parking: Persons attending Sunday services and/or events at Bethesda will be allowed to park on Barton Avenue—from the ocean to Central Avenue—and on South County Road without receiving a ticket. See below.  
PP Parking permitted on 200 block of Barton Avenue and Barton Avenue is one-way.  
P  
Parking permitted on 200 block of Barton Avenue.  

**Worship Survey**

Bethesda has been taking strides to become an exemplary church and to that end has been conducting a worship survey to get a better sense of how our worship impacts individuals. We are making great efforts to implement these suggestions into our worship at Bethesda by the start of Advent (Sunday, November 30). We are blessed by the clear and strong presence of God, so we are very thankful for the involvement of the participants in this process who are helping us to continue to provide a loving, supportive, and uplifting worship experience for all members and visitors of Bethesda-by-the-Sea.
All women who attend Bethesda are members of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). ECW is an organization of and for women through which they are called and empowered to serve our Lord through prayer, action, study, and fellowship.

ECW does a lot at Bethesda. Anytime you see a woman participating at Bethesda, you are seeing an ECW member at work. In large churches such as Bethesda, many groups are formed—Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Prayer groups, Outreach Committee, etc.—and as they operate separately, we forget to think of them as part of the work of the women of Bethesda. Bethesda isn’t the only concern. Our women support projects sharing God’s love with the community, diocese, nation, and world.

125 years ago, a few days after the first worship service at Bethesda, the women held their first meeting. In the past, the ECW has coordinated fundraisers, dinner auctions, fairs, cocktail socials, etc. to raise money for projects selected by the vestry. The ECW helped the church with updating the kitchen, library, playground, maintenance workshop, and the new roof. They also helped establish St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, Opportunity, Inc., and the Church Mouse (started by St. Mary’s Guild and developed by the hard work of many women). Mission trips to Our Little Roses in Honduras were also initiated by the ECW.

Today, the ECW is a part of the Fellowship & Hospitality Committee. They organize the Summertime Luncheons, Lenten Luncheons, and, most recently, the Wine and Fellowship Under the Stars. ECW members represent Bethesda at the ECW North Palm Beach Deanery Meetings and Annual ECW Diocesan Meetings. The United Thank Offering (UTO) is also coordinated by the ECW. This November, the ECW and Outreach Committee will be working together running a food drive and the Christmas gift bags for Deacon Clay’s Port Ministry Project.

The ECW bylaws require two special meetings a year. The next meeting on Tuesday, November 18, will be a “Thank & Praise and Welcome to Mother Kimberly” Tea. All women are invited to attend. E-mail ecw@bbts.org for more information or to learn how to get involved.

For More Information
The Rev. Kimberly Still, Associate for Ministry Development | (561) 655-4555 x104 | still@bbts.org
Carol Stewart, Chair | fellowship@bbts.org
The new forged Stephen Ministry at Bethesda trains our members to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Our clergy will always be on the front lines of care—especially during times of crisis. However, there are many more needs for ongoing, one-to-one care than the clergy can effectively meet by themselves. Stephen Ministry provides a biblical solution—equipping God's people for ministry. Members of the congregation with specific gifts for care giving are carefully selected to serve in this role. They then receive 50 hours of training as well as continued education in providing confidential, emotional, and spiritual care.

Many of us here at Bethesda experience challenges in life, times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulties such as:

- Loneliness or discouragement
- Loss of a loved one
- Unemployment or a job crisis
- A chronic illness
- And many more

Stephen Ministry is our ministry. There are those of us who can benefit from accepting care in a time of need. Remember that God doesn't expect us to bear our burdens alone. There are also those of us who are good listeners and compassionate people who can prayerfully consider becoming Stephen Ministers. And, we all can pray for God to bring hope and healing to hurting people through our Stephen Ministry. Please e-mail care@bbts.org if you are in need or would like information on becoming a Stephen Minister.

Beginning in November, Bethesda Cares will be introducing the “Bethesda Cares Bears.” The idea is that the bears will sit in the pews during worship, and then they will be given out to members of the congregation who need them. A special prayer that you can read below, will be laminated and tied around the neck of each bear before they are sent out.

*This bear has lived in the midst of the congregation at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. It has heard the Word read, prayers voiced, praises sung, and sermons preached. It has sat in the pew and been held in arms. It has been loved by this community and soaked up God's peace. Now it comes to you with our blessings of worship, companionship, and love.*

So, when you see the Bethesda Care Bears in the pews say a special prayer and know that it will bring someone great joy in their time of need. Thanksgiving and Christmas blessings to you and your loved ones!

For More Information
The Rev. Kimberly Still, Associate for Ministry Development | (561) 655-4555 x104 | still@bbts.org
Bobbie Leek, Chair | care@bbts.org
Like most churches, Bethesda has a fund helping the very neediest, yet sustainable of our neighbors. In July, with the guidance of Mother Kate, the T.R.U.E. (Towards the Relief of Urgent Emergencies) Fund was put into action to save a young, studious lady on the cusp of a new life. Having lost her only family, an elderly Grandmother, and the apartment they shared, she was living on the street while completing the final days of her education as a Nursing Assistant and Home Health Aide. With her meager possessions packed in a small suitcase, she guardedly slept at night in the lighted bus stop near Clematis Street and Quadrille Avenue. The evening before, a man came downtown and gave out 40 boxed dinners and bibles to the homeless, she said.

Unable to hide her tears any longer, she told her instructor. Nineteen years old, alone, scared, and saddened by her loss of the only family she had, would she live unscathed to see Graduation Day standing in front of her classmates as Valedictorian? The school called the homeless shelter and the shelter called Bethesda.

Mother Kate said part of a priest’s duties was to help all of us achieve our potential through Christ and his teachings. Assisting this young woman was the right thing to do. By using your donations and purchases at The Church Mouse which fund Bethesda’s T.R.U.E. Fund, and with the help of The Center for Family Services, we took this aspiring young woman off the street, put her into a motel, and gave her a bus pass to arrive at graduation—whole, alive, and full of potential. The teacher said, “Lamara is an intelligent, quiet, and thoughtful person wise beyond her years. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for caring and reaching out to save her.” Lamara is now working full time and says she is living a blessed life because the church cared about her.

For More Information
The Rev. Kimberly Still, Associate for Ministry Development | (561) 655-4555 x104 | still@bbts.org
Pat Reichenbacher, Chair | outreach@bbts.org
The church I grew up in was a place where we all “gathered” to pray, to learn the scriptures, to sing, to share, to grieve, to laugh, to play, to serve, and to work. Each of us believed it was our special place.

My great-great-grandmother was one of six women in the foothills of North Carolina who asked a traveling preacher to meet with them in her home for scripture readings and prayer. Their husbands were serving in the Civil War and some were already widowed. From that Sunday in her three-room home with six children, the dream of building a church for their community became a goal. They asked the preacher to come again and help them form a meeting place, which in a few years became Mill Creek Church of the Brethren.

At the end of the war, on the adjoining hill, the men built a church with sanctuary and five small rooms for Sunday school classes. The church was founded on living out the scriptures through fellowship and service. My family has been attending this church for eight generations. The membership of the church has grown through the founding families and hundreds of others who have joined because we all “need a place.”

Bethesda is a place we can call our own; where the door is always open, where we can sit with God’s peace and appreciate all who have come before us to create this powerful place.

Bethesda is our special place for all of the same reasons as my church in North Carolina was: a place to pray, to learn the scriptures, to sing, to share, to grieve, to laugh, to play, to serve, and to work. Claim Bethesda as your own. Make it a part of your journey as you practice Christ’s teachings... make it a part of your history...I have.

With love,
Sandra Stern

For More Information

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Sandra Stern, Chair | communications@bbts.org