One Body, Many Parts

Service

Learning

Worship

Stewardship

Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea

Love and serve
In so many ways, the Kingdom of God, of which we are citizens through baptism, stands in stark contrast to our prevailing culture. Our culture is far too inclined to see life through a “zero-sum” lens—you know, the thinking that frames everything in a win-loss, either-or structure. We see it more and more in politics and certainly in our economic thinking where a dollar more for someone else must mean a dollar less for me. I just don’t think zero-sum thinking is bringing us any peace nor making the world more civil. Wins might bring some fleeting sense of satisfaction, but they do not necessarily bring any deeper meaning or bring us closer to our creator.

And, because Jesus has already won for us the ultimate victory over sin and death, we need not be so occupied with winning and losing. For God calls us to turn that zero-sum thinking upside down in our personal and common lives. As I look around, the most peaceful people, the people who seem closest to God are not the ones who are most successful, nor the most prosperous, nor the most beautiful. They are the ones who share most generously, the ones who refuse to believe that someone else’s gain must be their own loss.

In the Kingdom of God, we order our life and organize our ministry supported by the conviction that we are each better off when we are all better off. This means we have basic core values of Practicing Stewardship and Serving Community that shape us to focus outwardly on the well-being of our parish and the good of the most vulnerable and needy in our society.

Indeed stewardship and outreach both rise from the upside-down framework of the Kingdom of God where the last are first, and the poor receive good news. I really believe that these two core values hold the key both to our spiritual growth as individuals and our thriving as a community of faith. The more we hold on tightly and privilege our own needs and wants, the further we will find ourselves from the heart of God. If we can turn that thinking upside down and privilege the parish’s well-being as individuals and the well-being of those in need as a parish, we will begin to see the Kingdom of God take deeper root in our lives and in our ministry.

Our season of stewardship is upon us. I pray that we can, by God’s grace, choose more and more to live upside-down. I pray that we can, both as individuals practicing stewardship and as a parish serving the community, trust that what brings about the very best for us is our seeking the best for others—both in the parish and in the community—turning our thinking and decision-making upside down.

The Rev. James R. Harlan, Rector
Leadership

Rector and Associates
Harold E. Pysher
Associate for Music & Liturgy

Honorary Assisting Clergy & Staff
The Rev. Susan R. Beebe
Assisting Priest

Fred E. Staley
Associate for Administration

The Rev. Kimberly L. Still
Associate for Ministry Development

The Rev. Clayton B. Waddell
Deacon for Port Ministry

Deacon for Spiritual Direction & Pastoral Care (Nov–May)

Wardens, Officers, and Vestry
Susan Keenan, Senior Warden
Wendy Victor, Junior Warden

Gail Knisely, Clerk

Donald McKenna

Fellowship & Hospitality
Men of Bethesda

People have spontaneous moments in their lives—times when a sudden revelation surprises them with insight. The MOB, Men of Bethesda, have this kind of experience in their spiritual lives. They share these everyday examples and trademark testimonies at their monthly meetings. Occasionally, they draw on scripture, but they mostly share their awakenings in the true spiritual condition and address their needs with honesty. This leads to action—praying and obeying God’s direction and following the example of Jesus Christ. Just as in the transformation of the prodigal son, the result can be a life-changing, destiny-altering realization—a spontaneous moment that leads many people to God.

With 60 active Bethesda MOB members, usually 25–40 will gather at 7:30 a.m. for fellowship over coffee, muffins, and sometimes eggs and fruit. Then, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. they pray, using an abbreviated Morning Prayer service and incorporating praise and personal sharing! They meet in Bethesda’s Parish Hall the first Monday of each month (unless it conflicts with Holidays). Any man of Bethesda is invited to join our meetings and share in all the spontaneous moments as we establish unique bonds of friendship. If you would like more information, please call your fellow servant in Christ, Bob Moore, at (561) 251-5606.

For More Information
The Rev. Kimberly Still, Associate for Ministry Development | (561) 655-4555 x104 | still@bbts.org
Carol Stewart, Chair | fellowship@bbts.org

MOB members (Left to right): Bob Moore, Jim Goodner, and Jack Veasy.
Palm Beach Unites | Sunday, February 8, 2015 | 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Palm Beach Day Academy

As part of the Feeding in February initiative, Bethesda is spearheading a community wide hunger project, Palm Beach Unites, with the Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County, Feeding Children Everywhere, the Fellowship of Christians and Jews, Palm Beach Atlantic University, and Palm Beach Day Academy, to pack 100,000 healthy meals. These meals will be distributed to families in need with children in Palm Beach County. The meal, provided by Feeding Children Everywhere, contains a combination of lentils, rice, a blend of dehydrated vegetables, and pink Himalayan salt to which only the addition of hot water is needed. More than 225,000 families are unsure where their next meal is coming from but together we can make a difference.

We need your help in volunteering for one hour shifts between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Families, friends, or groups of all ages are encouraged to participate and experience this powerful afternoon. With your help, we can feed the hungry with dignity. One hour of your time provides 165 meals to touch the lives and hearts of the hungry in our community. Look for our sign-up tables in the Cloister following the Sunday services in January, or contact us at PBunites@bbts.org to register.

Palm Beach Empty Bowls | Friday, February 13, 2015 | 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Bethesda-by-the-Sea

Bethesda and the Palm Beach County Food Bank are teaming up once again with artists, bakers, chefs, and you, for the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual PBC Empty Bowls Event. We are going to have over 30 delicious soups thanks to the fabulous work of our Vice-Chairs, Irene and Sid Ritman. The Lighthouse Art Center, our new artistic partner, will be providing unique customized bowls from artists in our community. Remember to arrive early on February 13 to choose from the biggest selection of bowls. Bethesda’s Outreach Fund is again underwriting the event through the proceeds from The Church Mouse. 100% of the funds raised go directly to the Palm Beach County Food Bank which distributes free food to over 100 food pantries in our county. Sponsorships and underwriting are available. Please contact us at EmptyBowlsPB@bbts.org if you are interested.

Can’t make it? No worries, you can order take-out! Look for the “Take Out” order forms at bbts.org and PBC Food Bank websites. Copies will also be available in The Shoppe at Bethesda, the Church Mouse, and various locations on the island. If you live or work within the delivery zone of our partner, Palm Beach Free Ride, and can order a minimum of 8, they will cheerfully deliver your package to you. Need to pick-up instead? We’ll have teams of volunteers waiting for you at the circle on via Bethesda to load up your car.

If you’d like to volunteer, please contact us at EmptyBowlsPB@bbts.org to register. Come out and help the Outreach Committee continue to make a difference in the community!

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 125th Anniversary year of the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea ended, characteristically, with a two-tiered event. The first was a worship service in the nave, evocating Bethesda’s first Christmas. A light-hearted gathering in the Garth (or Cragin Cloister) followed. The evening was a time to remember and also to look forward. Founding priest Joseph Newton Mulford had earned the right to retire after a life of distinguished service in Troy, New York, but late in 1888 he and his English-born wife, an intelligent and cultured woman from a family of means, set out to build a church, construct a congregation, and nurture the social network required to see it through. Although lacking progeny of their own, they accomplished their goal of creating something enduring in Florida and realized it with unmitigated joy. Joseph and Mary celebrated their first tropical Christmas in their new church and new rectory on Wednesday, December 25, 1889.

How do we know this? Our predecessors were well-lettered people and they kept records. These and more are a part of the Bethesda Archives. Earlier this year, parishioner Sandra F. Stern, CEO of Stern Estate, offered to help underwrite the digital preservation of all these documents, photos, art, books, and other material onto a collections management system designed for special collections, museums, and libraries. This database includes complex cataloguing and searching, customized specifically for Bethesda’s history, including letters, journals, financial records, scrapbooks, programs, artwork, photographs, and clippings, in addition to a treasury of vestry minutes—from its beginning to the present time.

If you have some free time and want a “gloves on” experience, the archival staff is always ready to have some voluntary assistance. Please call the church office at (561) 655-4554 to sign up.

For More Information
Renee Boger-Cheifet, Communications Coordinator | (561) 655-4555 x111 | boger@bbts.org
What do you think of Bethesda? This is your opportunity to share your views of any and all aspects of Bethesda. You may do this as part of a group discussion or individually, whichever you prefer. There are no forms to fill out. No computer based questionnaires, just real old fashioned face to face conversations in which you are invited to share your thoughts and ideas.

So much has been achieved over the last few years, yet alone the last 125 years. The new Verger Guild and Flower Guild are outstanding examples within worship. Christian Education and learning has seen the children’s and youth ministry reenergized and expanding. Our wide range of service ministries has seen Outreach focused on education and feeding, new ministries created for the Bethesda Anchors (young professionals), and the Stephen Ministry plus a new Bethesda logo and an enhanced website. Stewardship has confirmed that Bethesda is now home to over 980 households. The Restoration and Preservation Campaign has seen tremendous support; funding all work to date on the restoration of our buildings and a major commitment for a new Garden Chapel. All of these achievements included some element of change and we ask you to share your thoughts and ideas.

What direction should Bethesda travel in the future? A team of over 30 members plus the clergy and staff will provide a variety of opportunities for you to share your input. We have created several fact sheets that we would like to share with you to inform us of your thoughts, suggestions, and conclusions. Bethesda is at its best when each of us has the opportunity to shape our mission and programs, and shares a commitment to our common faith.

Mike Victor
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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.
2015 Household Commitment to Bethesda

Stewardship

Will you join us in committing to being a communicant in good standing at Bethesda in 2015?

We commit to:
- Be faithful in corporate worship.
- Be faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

We have created a letter that each of us may complete to demonstrate our commitment to: corporate worship (attending services regularly), working (volunteering our time and talent as leaders and/or members of the 60 plus ministries and committees within Bethesda), praying for God’s guidance and strength and for our personal capacity to serve God and the parish, and giving financially of our treasure in 2015 and beyond.

To realize Bethesda’s potential fully, we are seeking to increase the annual commitment from $1.9m to $2.5m and to strengthen the restoration and preservation fund by an additional $2m in 2015 and by the same amount in 2016 and 2017.

We are also seeking to update Bethesda’s records to improve all forms of communications—this is also part of the commitment letter. You may request additional information on a range of opportunities for giving financially; by making a capital commitment for the restoration and preservation of the buildings and grounds, and/or by making a memorial or special gift, and/or by making provision in estate planning (through a will, for example). Anyone of any means can leave our parish a meaningful and important gift in estate planning.

Doug Daft, chairman of the Stewardship Committee, expressed it perfectly when he said: “Bethesda is a wonderful building, but it is more than that, the clear and strong presence of God is real and alive for members and visitors to experience and share.” Let us all commit to Bethesda’s tomorrow.

For More Information

Fred Staley, Associate for Administration | (561) 655-4555 x102 | staley@bbts.org
Doug Daft, Chair | commit@bbts.org
Bethesda Cares is a shared ministry of clergy and laity working together in fulfillment of God’s command to love one another. The emerging Shepherd Ministry is one component under the umbrella of Bethesda Cares. Shepherds are a group of selected, dedicated, trained, and faithful parishioners who work to provide a caring presence through phone calls, visits, and connections. Their role is to intentionally connect with and care for every person in our community.

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” – 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Shepherds do not and cannot take the role of the clergy, but we are all conduits of God’s grace. We are God’s hands and feet in this world. Members of the congregation with the gifts of active listening and gentle caring serve as Shepherds. We all depend on one another. We need people with whom we can share life’s ups and downs. We need our church family in times of transition. Shepherds provide a watchful eye for the diverse pastoral needs of our parish. Together with the clergy and other Bethesda Cares ministries they seek to fulfill the new commandment.

For More Information

The Rev. Kimberly Still, Associate for Ministry Development | (561) 655-4555 x104 | still@bbts.org
Bobbie Leek, Chair | care@bbts.org
The Bethesda high school class is planning a pilgrimage to walk the last 100 kilometers of the Way of St. James in June 2015. Our youth chose this destination after much research and discussion about what it means to be a pilgrim and what they would like to reap from this spiritual journey. The route through northwestern Spain leads to the shrine of the apostle St. James the Great—the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela (pictured left)—where tradition has it that the remains of the saint are buried. Our Bethesda Pilgrims will be walking an average of 12 miles a day and bunking in Albergues (hostels) at night.

Now begins the task of fundraising for the youth. The students already completed one fundraiser at the Blessing of the Animals in October. They took pictures of members and their pet and also sold homemade treats for pets and people! The group says that’s just the beginning—more fun events are on the way. Immediately following Christmas, the Pilgrims will begin selling stock for their walk. Parishioners will be able to purchase shares that will go directly to the bottom line of $2500 cost per pilgrim. Shareholders will receive dividends based on their commitment level that range from beautiful stock certificates, to Pilgrim Shells (carried by all Camino Pilgrims) to an invitation-only post Pilgrimage dinner and slide show. The pilgrims are extremely excited to take this journey, but they need your help to get them there. For more information on upcoming fundraisers, or simply to make a donation to directly fund this trip, contact Greg.

Bethesda Pilgrims Progress Stock Sale
Share Levels: 1 Share = $1.00

Platinum Shareholders
Purchase of over 101 Shares
Receive: Beautiful Stock Certificate, Pilgrims Shell, Invitation Only Post Pilgrimage Dinner—meet the Pilgrims and hear first hand tales of their spiritual adventure, Photo Opportunity with Bethesda Pilgrims, and Recognition in Dinner Program as “Honorary Bethesda Pilgrim 2015”

Gold Shareholders
Purchase 51-100 Shares
Receive: Beautiful Stock Certificate, Pilgrims Shell, Invitation Only Post Pilgrimage Dinner—meet the Pilgrims and hear first hand tales of their spiritual adventure, and Photo Opportunity with Bethesda Pilgrims

Silver Shareholders
Purchase 26-50 Shares
Receive: Beautiful Stock Certificate and Pilgrims Shell

Bronze Shareholders
Purchase 0-25 Shares
Receive: Beautiful Stock Certificate

For More Information
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Deborah Hale-Hagy, Co-Chair | education@bbts.org
Have you wondered who the ladies and men in blue are? They are Bethesda members of the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild is a wonderful ministry at Bethesda—the second oldest ministry in our history. Originally it was just the ladies who took part in “setting the Lord’s table” for each service, but today men are more than welcome to participate. The Altar Guild is a part of every service at Bethesda. Being a member of this guild is a vocation; it is not a social guild. Invitations to become a member are extended only by Father James. Members take great pride in training and devoting many hours to serving Bethesda in this special ministry. They take such pride in caring for the silver chalices, patens, offering plates, and other silver pieces—many which have been donated by parishioners over the years. Each week they do “housekeeping” to prepare for Sunday and other services by cleaning all the candles and checking the fair linens on each altar. The Altar Guild also prepares all the “kits” for our Eucharistic Ministers to take to the homebound each week. It is a true honor and privilege to serve on the Altar Guild at Bethesda-by-the-Sea.

A prayer for the Altar Guild
We pray you to accept and bless the work that this Altar Guild undertakes in the care of your sanctuary. Grant us a spirit of reverence for your house and worship, your Word and Sacraments, and preserve in purity and holiness our own souls and bodies as living temples of Your Presence. Amen

For More Information
Harold Pysher, Associate for Music and Liturgy | (561) 655-4555 x103 | pysher@bbts.org
Two summers ago a generous person was overwhelmed by the need to donate the contents of her Palm Beach property. She wanted to give away her beautiful high-end furniture and designer clothing to a worthy cause. Her friend and neighbor of many years suggested The Church Mouse. Her friend has been a regular contributor and customer of the Mouse for many years. As a result of this generous person, the sale of the contents resulted in the Mouse’s highest grossing day in the history of The Church Mouse.

This summer, The Church Mouse received another call from the generous person who was once again selling a property and wanted to ensure any items she donated went to the organization best equipped to raise the most money from the unique treasures she was giving away. The Church Mouse staff was happy to help her. We contacted a charity similar to The Church Mouse and the donor was able to give the larger items in that area of the country. The Church Mouse scheduled a pick-up for the smaller items. We received designer furs, jewelry, handbags, and shoes. One of the jewelry pieces (pictured above) was particularly special. The donor was thrilled to give it to The Church Mouse. It is an 18k gold bone cuff. We have appraised the piece and the retail value is approximately $10k–15k. Hopefully, the sale of this piece will raise additional funds to support our outreach efforts this season. Our focus this year will be towards education programs. We are eternally grateful to all of our donors, friends, and volunteers who continue to support and promote the mission of The church Mouse.

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
125th Anniversary Celebration

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