



# AGAPE Grapevine

# 2023

## MAY



*The congregation of Bethesda United Methodist Church  
cordially invites you to attend the  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
of our Church Building on North Division Street  
Sunday, June 4, 2023  
10:30 am service*

*After a centennial walk from Broad Street,  
our worship service will include beautiful music, stories about  
Bethesda's history and recognition of our new  
50+ and 70+ year members*

*A luncheon will follow the service in the Memorial Room  
An RSVIP by 5/22/23 for the luncheon is requested  
due to limited seating*

*Please contact Brenda Sawyer at  
410-742-8855 or Bethesda-umc@outlook.com*

**Remember to make your reservation for lunch  
and for the walk by 5/22/23.  
If you have memories you would like to share  
please email them to [rowes02@comcast.net](mailto:rowes02@comcast.net) or  
[Bethesda-umc@outlook.com](mailto:Bethesda-umc@outlook.com).**

As we enter the month of May, we are reminded of the special occasion of Mother's Day. This day is a time to honor and appreciate the important role that mothers and motherly figures play in our lives. It's a day to recognize the sacrifices, love, and care that they have shown us throughout our lives.

As we think about this special day, it's important to remember that not all mothers are the same. Some are biological mothers, while others are adoptive or foster mothers. Some are grandmothers, aunts, or other women who have stepped up to fill the role of a mother in our lives. Regardless of how they came into our lives, all of these women have made a significant impact on who we are today.

On Mother's Day, we have the opportunity to show our appreciation for these amazing women. This can be done through a variety of ways, including sending cards, flowers, or simply spending time with them. It's important to take the time to express our gratitude and to let them know how much they mean to us.

But Mother's Day is not just a day to celebrate our own mothers. It's also a time to think about and pray for mothers around the world who are facing difficult circumstances. Many mothers are struggling to provide for their children, facing illness or other challenges, or living in difficult circumstances. We can use this day as an opportunity to pray for these mothers and to support organizations that work to help them.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, it's important to remember that this day can be difficult for some. There are those who have lost their mothers or who have strained relationships with them. Others may be struggling with infertility or have experienced the loss of a child. It's important to be sensitive to these individuals and to offer support and encouragement during this time. In the Bible, we see many examples of mothers who played significant roles in the lives of their children. One such example is Hannah, the mother of Samuel. Hannah was barren and longed for a child, but through her faith and prayers, she was blessed with a son who would become a great prophet. Another example is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary was chosen by God to give birth to the Savior of the world, and she exhibited tremendous faith and strength throughout her life.

As we think about these biblical examples, we can see that motherhood is a sacred and important role. Mothers have the opportunity to shape and influence the lives of their children in powerful ways. We are grateful for the mothers in our lives and for the impact that they have had on us.

So, as we approach Mother's Day, let us take the time to honor and appreciate the mothers in our lives. Let us also remember and pray for those who may be struggling during this time. May we all be encouraged and uplifted by the love and care that we receive from the mothers in our lives.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Zac Wheeler



**From: The Office Staff, Music Staff,  
and Ministerial Staff of Bethesda  
United Methodist Church**

## Agape



Agape Grapevine is published monthly by

**Bethesda United Methodist Church**  
406 N. Division Street  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
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Web Address: [www.umcbethesda.org](http://www.umcbethesda.org)

**Editor: Brenda Sawyer**

### Sunday Schedule

**9:00 AM**—Contemporary Worship  
—Memorial Room  
**10:30 AM**—Traditional Worship  
—Sanctuary

[Facebook.com/bethesdasalisbury](https://www.facebook.com/bethesdasalisbury)

**LIVE Worship Services—Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**



Senior Singles Thursday, May 11th

Meet at Bethesda to carpool  
Carpool will leave Church at 3:30 pm

Barbeley's Family Restaurant - Newark, MD  
All singles over 60 are welcome!  
Bring a friend with you—enjoy the fellowship AND the food!!! New folks are welcomed. God Bless!

RSVP Sandy Mills, 410-422-7305  
or Dr. Dan 443-735-3292



11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
*Salisbury Area*  
**Prayer Breakfast**  
Speaker:  
**Jim Ryun - Three Time Olympian**

Come Join us 7 a.m. at the  
Wicomico Youth and Civic Center



Tickets \$22 per person  
Table of 8 - \$176

Tickets available at The Country House  
To order tickets by mail, send check payable to:  
Salisbury Prayer Breakfast Committee  
PO Box 521, Salisbury, MD 21803

*"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" - JAMES 5:16B*

**We Need Your Help. SUM - Fun for the Kid's Cafe**

Our Kid's Cafe children are so excited! They will be attending the YMCA Day Camp this summer for 4 weeks in July. **We could use your help to get them ready for camp by donating the following items:**

- Bottled water (total needed 240)
- Individually wrapped snacks: i.e. Goldfish, cereal bars, Skinny popcorn, Mott's fruit snacks, crackers, pretzels, veggie straws (total needed 480 items =2 snacks per day)

**Please drop off items by May 30** to: Salisbury Urban Ministries 326 Barclay St, Salisbury, MD 21804 Questions: 410-749-1563. Thank you for your continued support of the children God has called us to serve.

**Last Soup Lunch for Spring 2023**

Thursday, May 18, 2023  
11 am - 12:30 pm (Take-Out/Pick-Up)  
Delivery Available for orders of \$100 or more

**Menu:**  
**Chicken Noodle Soup (new for May)**

- Vegetable Beef Soup
  - Chicken Salad
  - Baked Ham on Roll
  - Baking Powder Biscuits
  - Iced Fudge Brownies
  - Homemade Custard Bread Pudding
- Email: Bethesda-umc@outlook.com  
Call: 410-742-8855

**Santa's Angels Update – Fundraiser Scheduled**  
**Thank you to everyone who donated or purchased something for our online auction in April!**  
**SAVE THE DATE July 1<sup>st</sup>! Mark your calendar now!**  
We are scheduled to begin our online auction on July 1<sup>st</sup> on our Facebook page. Santa's Angels Facebook URL is fb.me/santasangelssalisbury and you will see this picture.

Please consider donating items for us to use in our auction. We have already started collecting! If you have something to donate, please contact Lora Adkins (410-726-2977) or Lois Moorhead (410-430-3086). Some of the items which have been donated: Full Detailing by Pohanka, Texas Roadhouse Gift card package, Smith Island Cakes made by Nancy Dennis, wine baskets, and lots more. Check these items and bid on them to help our children this Christmas!



**We look forward to your participation in our online auction. Please follow and share our Facebook Auction page. Please bid often on the items.**

**TEXAS ROADHOUSE GIFT CARDS for Sale!**  
**We are continuing to sell Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards (Denominations of \$25 or \$50). Additionally, we will offer you a free appetizer with each \$50 purchase while supplies last. This would be a fabulous gift for a loved one on birthday or anniversary! You may place an order by calling Lora Adkins 410-726-2977 or email me at [kadkins30@comcast.net](mailto:kadkins30@comcast.net) or call Lois Moorhead 410-430-3086. Thank you for your continued support of Santa's Angels.**

Ascension Sunday May 21, 2023



**THANK YOU!**

Thanks to all who sent birthday wishes to Vivian on her 104th birthday. What a milestone that was! We had a wonderful celebration with our family. Though Vivian is no longer able to come to church, it was wonderful to hear from so many of her friends who remember her. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!  
Nancy Rowe (Vivian Snader's daughter)

Thanks to everyone at Bethesda Church who sent cards to my dad, Maurice Davis, for his 100th birthday! We have enjoyed reading the many personal notes and well wishes that he received. We appreciate your generosity of spirit. Bethesda is special to us.  
Marilyn Kolar (Maurice Davis' daughter)



May 28, 2023

**It's Time!**  
**Mark Your Calendar for Shorebirds Baseball**

The UMM invites the entire Bethesda family and friends to join us for an evening of friendship, fellowship, good food, and baseball.

**Shorebirds Baseball Executive Club (a/c)**  
**Club seats outside**  
**Friday, August 18th, 6:00 p.m.**  
**\$39.00 per person**

All You Can Eat - Baseball menu:

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| BBQ Pulled Chicken      | Grilled Hamburgers      |
| Gilled Hot Dogs         | Pickles & Sliced Cheese |
| Baked Macaroni & Cheese | Potato Chips            |
| Watermelon              | Pop Corn                |
| Pepsi Soda Products     | Water, Tea, Lemonade    |

See Nevette Muir, Jack Layton or any UMM member to get your tickets. This event is always fun. Come out and enjoy the good food and fellowship.



Elvis makes an appearance at the UWif Spring Tea (left)



Kindred at Progressive Dinner April 2023 (middle)



Easter Egg Hung Oaks Lot (top right)



Lilies decorate our Sanctuary for Easter 2023 (right)





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																														
	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Circle Rush - Todd 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room 7:00 PM Centennial Comm. Mtg.	<b>2</b> 11:30 AM Circle Eve - Dayton's Restaurant	<b>3</b> 8:30 AM UMM - Davton's 10:30 AM Circle Martha Meds at Todd House 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House	<b>4</b> 7:00 AM National Day of Prayer Breakfast 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Step by Step AA	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House	<b>6</b>																																																																																																														
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 7:00 PM AAM Ig @ Todd House 5th Sunday of Easter Communion	<b>8</b> 1:00 PM Circle Rachael w/ Mary Lynn, Hostess 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting Memorial Room	<b>9</b> 2:00 PM Circle Mary - Todd House 7:00 PM Circle Esther - Todd House	<b>10</b> 8:30 AM UMM - Dayton's 1:00 PM Circle Sarah - Todd House 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House	<b>11</b> 8:30 AM Devotions/Rev 9:30 AM Dominionism 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Step by Step AA Senior Singles	<b>12</b> 6:30 PM Youth Group at Todd House	<b>13</b>																																																																																																														
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<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional 7:00 PM AA Mtg @ Todd House Pentecost	<b>29</b> 7:00 PM Combined Church Council Meeting - Memorial Day - Office Closed	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:30 AM UMM - Davton's 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM God's Word Bible Study @ Todd House	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Apr 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jun 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	Apr 2023							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							Jun 2023							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
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May 2023 -

Over the past 8 months, I have been dealing with an issue with the Veterans' Administration on my mother's behalf. Trying to contact a live person to talk with and having to wait 6-8 weeks for a response to any correspondence I upload has been incredibly frustrating for me. And I don't see a resolution to this problem anytime soon. **AARRGH!**

I know that in life we all will encounter people or situations that create so much frustration you ask God, "Please help me show them extra grace." Who are these people in your life? The slow driver in the fast lane? The coworker who refuses to apologize? The rude and obnoxious neighbor?

How we deal with frustration, fear, and worry (which are often interconnected) reflects our relationship with God. We want to be kind to others and to trust God with all our problems, but it is often difficult. However, if we let them, these very emotions can help us grow in our Christian walk.

How can we respond like Jesus? Consider the fact that God has put these people or situations in your life to be "heavenly sandpaper." Although you are irritated, God is using them to take off your rough edges. God is more interested in your character than your comfort.

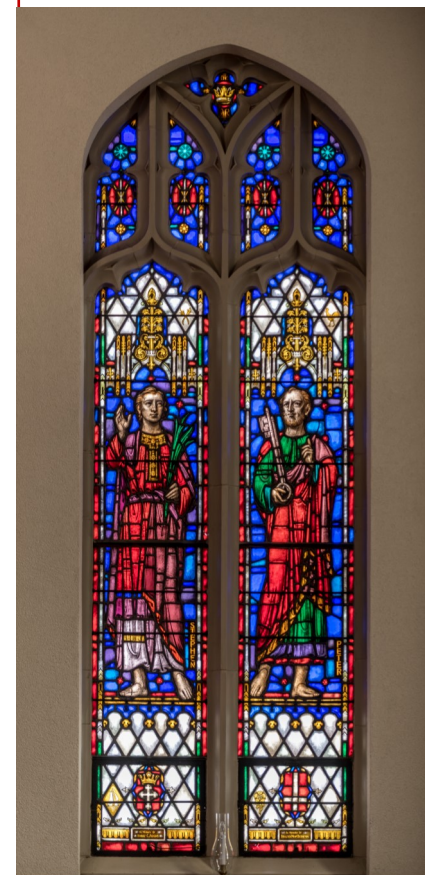
Instead of dismissing frustrating people from your life, look at them as a gift from God to help you become more like Christ. They may be shouldering a pressure you don't know about. Avoiding a trying situation only prolongs your worry and fear. Jesus tells us not to worry in Matthew 6:25-37.

So, work to give whatever is causing your frustration to God by having a change of heart. "God, help me to be more patient." "God, help me to be better at apologizing." "God, help me to be more thankful."

Frustration also gives us the opportunity to show grace to others. God certainly has reason to be frustrated with his children. But He always gives us grace and mercy. One of the reasons God has forgiven us is so that we can reflect His forgiveness to others. And that can't happen if we don't get frustrated!

So, the next time I get frustrated, I will try to remember God's grace given to me daily and to pass it on. It's not easy, but results in a feeling of peace which is what I was looking for all along. Tammy Taylor UWIF President Based on [The Purpose of Frustration - Daily Hope with Rick Warren - August 7, 2019 - Daily Hope with Rick Warren \(oneplace.com\)](#).

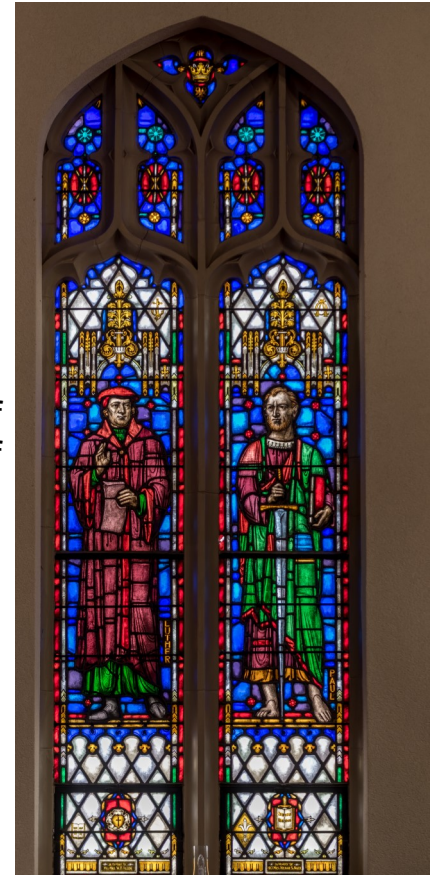
**"Seeing is Believing"  
Our Stained Glass Windows - continued**



Remember that Bethesda is built on the "cruciform principle". The floor of the church makes a perfect design of the cross. Starting at the pulpit "crossing of the Cross", then we have the vertical arms of the Cross.

As we continue our stained glass tour on the back wall, next we have Stephen, the first Christian martyr. He is holding an olive branch, the symbol of peace and victory! His symbol is that of a cross and a crown.

Then we have a striking image of the Apostle Paul, holding a large two-edged sword, symbolic of the Word of God. The small picture at the bottom contains the words: "Spiritus Gladius," Latin for the "Sword of the Spirit."





**Centennial Walk**

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching! The 100 year celebration of our church building will be begin with a “centennial walk” commemorating the move from the former Broad Street location of our church to the current building that we know as Bethesda United Methodist Church. Here are some details for your consideration.

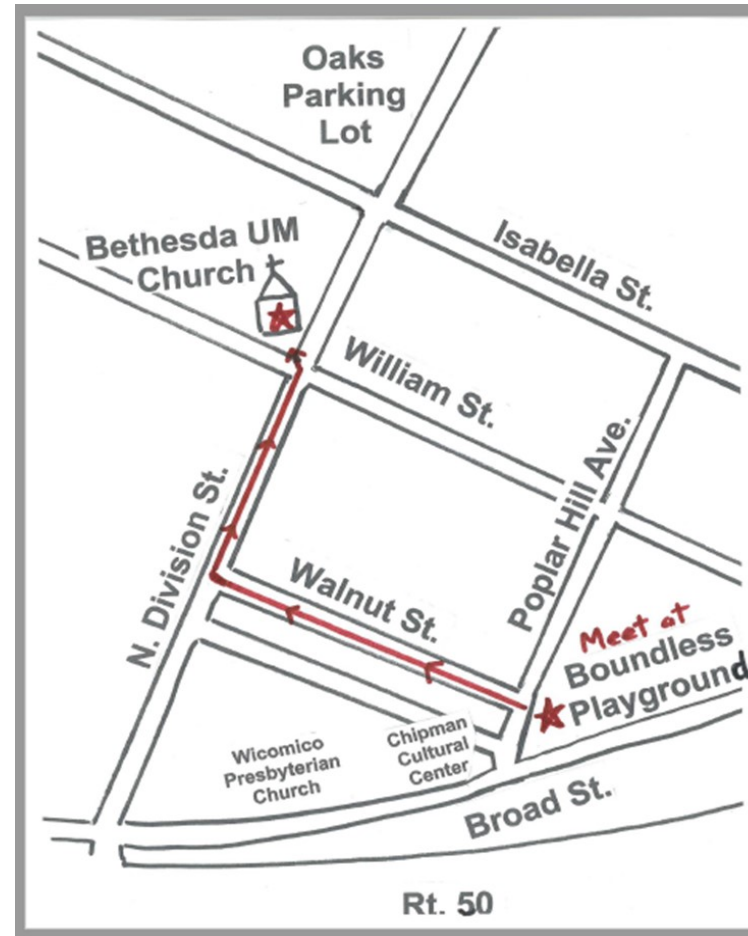
The walk is approximately 0.3 miles and should take less than 20 minutes for most to complete. Participants need to arrive at the Boundless Playground at Poplar Hill Ave. and Broad St. (next to the Chipman Center) **before 9:40 AM** and ready to begin the walk promptly at 9:45 am. Our walking route will take us west on Walnut St. from the playground then north on North Division St. to the church. We will have a police escort to ensure our safety.

As parking at the playground is very limited (and you don't want to leave your vehicle there during the worship service!), please consider parking at the “Oaks” parking lot and walking to the playground if at all possible. This option may actually save you some time! Otherwise, all passengers should be dropped off at the playground. Drivers can then proceed to the church parking lot by the ramp door where a limited “shuttle service” will be provided to return you to the playground site. Please be sure to allow ample time to get to the playground before 9:40 am.

In order for us to plan more effectively, please “rsvp” to the church office (410-742-8855) if you are planning to participate in the walk. Efforts are being made to accommodate those who ask that would like to participate but are in need of a wheelchair. If you are not able to actually walk, then consider gathering outside in front of the church building shortly before 10:00 am to watch the procession and greet the walkers as they arrive! It should be an inspiring sight!

More details will follow in the coming weeks. For more information, contact Stewart or Alison Soper ([smsoper@comcast.net](mailto:smsoper@comcast.net) or 443-880-1869) or the church office. We hope to see you there!!

See the map to the right for route of walk →



**Circle Meetings for May 2023**

- Circle Esther - Tuesday, May 9, 7:00 pm - Todd House
- Circle Eve - Tuesday, May 2, 11:30 am - Dayton's Restaurant
- Circle Martha - Wednesday, May 3, 10:30 am - Todd House
- Circle Mary - Tuesday, May 9, 2:00 pm - Todd House
- Circle Rachael - Tuesday, May 8, 1:00 pm - with Mary Lynn's, Lois M., hostess
- Circle Ruth - Monday, May 1, 10:00 am - Todd House
- Circle Sarah - Wednesday, May 10, 1:00 pm - Todd House



**Music News by Dr. Jeff Baer**

Bethesda and Disney???

Can you feel the excitement about our anniversary in June? I feel so fortunate to be part of such a monumental celebration!

The phrase “standing on the shoulders of giants,” attributed to Isaac Newton, comes to mind when reflecting on all of the work and ministry that has happened in and from this building in the past 100 years. We indeed

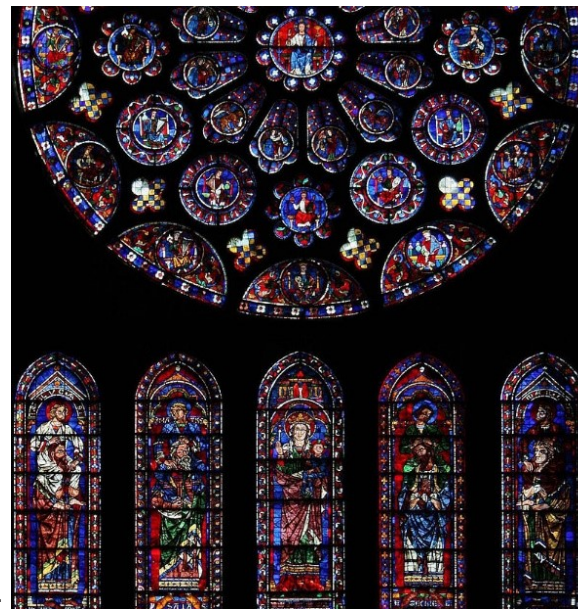
*Are Who We Are* because of those who have come before us and those who serve with us.

I hope that you will be uplifted by the music that we have planned for the service. Nancy Rowe shared the bulletin from the services (Yes! Services) from the original celebration June 3 to 10, 1923. I will be playing “Festival Prelude” by Dudley Buck, and the choir will be singing “The Heavens are Telling” by Haydn which were both presented to the congregation 100 years ago. Ray Brokamp will accompany the choir on the Haydn composition. Ray and I will play a piano and organ duet, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” as special music. We also plan to have other instrumentalists included in this great celebration of Bethesda's ministry.

I was curious about other monuments, buildings, or institutions that are celebrating 100 years this year. The first four that I came across were:

- The Disney Company
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- The Hollywood Sign in Los Angeles
- Time Magazine

South Rose Window in Chartres Cathedral in France (above picture) (notice the four Gospel writers standing on the shoulders of the prophets)



See you in church, Jeff

**Contemporary Music News**  
by Phil Perdue

Spring is here! Mother's Day is coming soon! Please bring your mother or her memory to church. God bless them all!



**Remember when.....???**

We are now one month away from our **June 4<sup>th</sup>** celebration of 100 years in Bethesda's church building. Whether you have belonged to Bethesda for over 80 years or just one year, we are sure that you have special memories!

Maybe your grandparents or parents belonged, and you have memories of Bethesda from when you were a child. Any stories shared with you by your parents? Were you baptized here, or did you attend Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Boy

Scouts or Girl Scouts or Youth Group here? Perhaps you were confirmed with a group of your junior high/middle school friends, came to dances in the Memorial Room as senior high school student, or were married here. As a volunteer, you may have worked in the kitchen to prepare meals or food for our soup luncheon, helped with the Mayfairs or Fall Festivals, volunteered at Drayton Manor or went on mission trips with other friends from Bethesda. You might have attended Bible Study, belonged to UMM, UMW, Koinonians, Kindred, Senior Singles, Altar Guild or one of the many other groups at Bethesda. You might have been part of our music ministries or served on one of the committees at Bethesda. Everyone has their own Bethesda stories.

Would you please take a few minutes to share some of your special memories with us? Please include your name, a phone number or email address, the approximate year you first started coming to Bethesda. We would love to read any special memories that you hold dear to your heart that you are willing to share with us. Doesn't matter if they are long or short. We will compile them in a special album for others to enjoy in years to come and we may share some of them on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

You may share them in an email, write them down and mail them, or bring them to the Church Office. Please do this before May 22<sup>nd</sup> to allow us time to prepare the album before June 4<sup>th</sup>.

You may email to Nancy Rowe at [rowes02@comcast.net](mailto:rowes02@comcast.net) or the church at [Bethesda-umc@outlook.com](mailto:Bethesda-umc@outlook.com). Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us!

Here is a special memory! This photo shows a 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class from the late 1980's. **Do you recognize the teacher?** Pictured (l to r) Brian Roberts, Kelly Renshaw, John Welch, Simeon Yurek, David Rowe, Michael Merritt, ?, Erin McGann, Carrie Lynch; teachers on the back row are Nevette Muir and Ann Alexander.

