

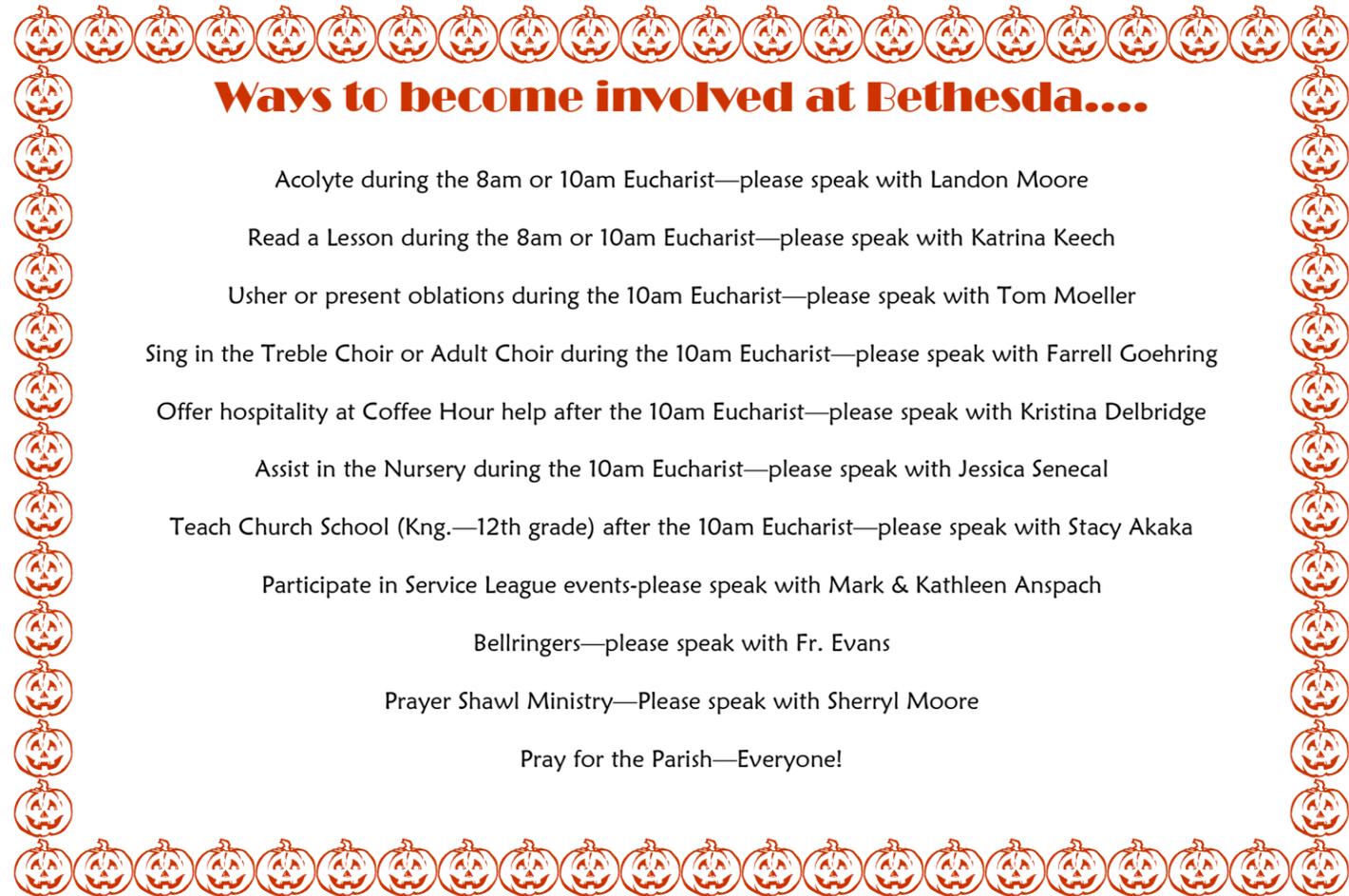
Eleison

Bethesda Episcopal Church
41 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

October

Return Service Requested

Dated Material



Ways to become involved at Bethesda....

Acolyte during the 8am or 10am Eucharist—please speak with Landon Moore

Read a Lesson during the 8am or 10am Eucharist—please speak with Katrina Keech

Usher or present oblations during the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Tom Moeller

Sing in the Treble Choir or Adult Choir during the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Farrell Goehring

Offer hospitality at Coffee Hour help after the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Kristina Delbridge

Assist in the Nursery during the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Jessica Senecal

Teach Church School (Kng.—12th grade) after the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Stacy Akaka

Participate in Service League events—please speak with Mark & Kathleen Anspach

Bellringers—please speak with Fr. Evans

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Please speak with Sherryl Moore

Pray for the Parish—Everyone!



The Very Rev'd Marshall J. Vang, *Interim Rector*
The Rev'd Paul Evans, *Priest Associate*

DEAN'S DOINGS

My Dear People and Friends of Bethesda:

Autumn has arrived. In ecclesiastical parlance we herald this Season with the designation *Michaelmas*, originating from the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels [September 29]. The heavenly host accompanies us as we praise the Triune God, together with the unique ministration of an angelic company beyond comprehension and number. Being a messenger is an angel's lot. Surely, they announce. Look at Our Lord's Mother, Mary, and what happened to her. I often refer to these celestial beings as *flappers*. The wisp of their wings keeps us alert, makes us focus, air conditions an often stifling experience.

So here, at Bethesda, there is much flapping: heightened activity and rekindled interest in our Church School offerings, new persons appearing for parish ministry in our cadre of altar guild, acolytes, and Service League, adults studying Holy Scripture and writing prayers for the Eucharist. A re-invigorated Stewardship endeavor now debuts. The revelation of parish life enjoys wider exposure. Greater interest in Bethesda is emerging, and with it, how we might better serve our Saratoga community.

This iconography, I must caution you, is by no means conclusive that heaven's angles are having their ease. Caution, please. Refer to a condensed form of Vestry Minutes contained herein. Notice the details, minus smoke and mirrors, which they contain. Reality is significant and, without doubt, that is exactly what these divine messengers, these flappers, reveal to us. In other words, we have a long way to go.

There is delight to know that this summer's Mass attendance on Sundays exceeded that of the previous year. Accompanying it were consistent and increased weekly offerings. Bethesda's inability to meet current expenses, however, remains an area of serious concern. Moreover, an even larger challenge now rears its contorted head: the physical condition of both the Rectory and Parish Hall, long ignored in scheduled regular maintenance, and their need for timely attention. Issues relative to parish property are now under intense evaluation. With professional assistance now engaged, the Vestry will be better equipped to address these matters, determine a course of action, and keep all of us current with necessary information.

Eleison

The Newsletter of Bethesda Episcopal Church
41 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
584-5980
www.bethesdachurch.org
October 2012

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

9:45-12 Noon Nursery care provided in
Parish House

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 9 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at Home
of the Good Shepherd Wilton

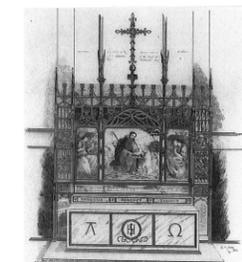
Wednesday 12:10 p.m.—Holy Eucharist with
Healing

Thursday 9 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at Home of
the Good Shepherd Saratoga Springs

Bethesda's future course rests upon our trust in God, the intensity of our prayers, our willingness to serve, and our love for this place. May He, Who makes all things new, consecrate our endeavors in the months and years to come.

Most faithfully and cordially,

The Very Rev'd Marshall J. Vang
Interim Rector



THE VESTRY REPORTS

At its meeting on Wednesday, 19 September 2012, the Vestry of Bethesda Church

- commenced with Devotions, led by James Walsh;
- approved the Minutes from August, as amended;
- welcomed the Interim Rector's Report, highlighting [1] a registration of eleven parishioners in the Tuesday evening Adult Class offering and eight worshipers at the newly introduced 6:30 pm Eucharist preceding it; [2] ten teenage Confirmands in preparation for Bishop Love's visitation on the Feast of the Dedication; [3] the introduction of the Blessing of Pets on Saint Francis Day, 4 October, at 5 pm; [4] an All Souls' Day or Eastertide visitation to Greenridge Cemetery to honor former Bethesda Rectors and parish leaders; and [5] the creation of an Annual Parish Report booklet for the Annual Meeting on 4 December;
- learned from Churchwardens Douglas Huston and Mark Claverie that [1] the Vestry Retreat is confirmed at Saint Mary's Convent in Greenwich for 3 November; [2] insufficient funds make the payment of outstanding bills, including those for medical insurance of our staff, difficult; and [3] the Executive Committee will conduct an Annual View of the Interim Rector in advance of the November meeting;
- noted seriously Gordon Boyd's presentation that [1] no primary documents exist to confirm the incorporation of the parish in 1814; [2] 1830 will be designated as the official incorporation date; [3] Bethesda's 185th Anniversary will be observed in 2015; the Parish History being overseen by Jane Agee, together with a revised logo and current endeavors for a capital campaign, will be identified *Bethesda: Toward a Third Century*;
- reacted to Hillary Tucker's Christian Education report, noting that [1] 73 are enrolled in Church School and Youth programs, although the number is inflated by those already pre-registered; [2] the first Church School Chapel Mass will be celebrated by Father Vang on 30 September with other liturgies dispersed throughout the year; [3] offering envelopes were presented to all children, much to their excitement; and [4] an All Saints' program will be presented at Coffee Hour on 28 October;
- listened carefully to Darren Miller, Treasurer, in his review of current parish finances and other concerns: [1] a presentation of the 2011 Audit has been delayed one month; [2] a recommendation to engage a bookkeeper was approved unanimously by the Vestry; [3] pledge and plate income for 2012 represents a vast improvement over the previous year; and [4] Bethesda's budget review indicated that we are operating in the red and still unable to engage a full-time Rector;
- expressed concern over recent developments with the Town of Malta's suit against the Home of the Good Shepherd's tax-exempt status;
- received a sample Annual Review form from Leisa Brockett regarding paid staff evaluations, which will begin this autumn; and
- acknowledged the Stewardship Commission's plans for an October-November campaign, commencing with the Feast of the Dedication, 7 October, and concluding with an In-gathering on Stewardship Sunday, 11 November.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Griffin, Clerk

October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7 FEAST OF DEDICATION WITH HOLY CONFIRMATION 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Solemn Eucharist 2:30pm-Organ Recital 3pm Choral Evansong</p>	<p>1 Remigius, Bishop of Rheims</p>	<p>2 The Holy Guardian Angels</p>	<p>3 Therese of Lisieux 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing</p>	<p>4 Francis of Assisi 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs 5pm-Blessing of the Pets</p>	<p>5 Feria 11am-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>6 William Tyndale, Priest</p>
<p>14 THE TWENTIETH-SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 23 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist</p>	<p>8 Feria 8pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>9 Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln 12pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 6:30pm - Holy Eucharist High Altar 7:30pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>10 Paulinus, First Archbishop of York 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing</p>	<p>11 Motherhood of the BVM 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs 1pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>12 Wilfred, Archbishop of York 11am-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>13 Edward the Confessor</p>
<p>14 THE TWENTIETH-SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 23 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist</p>	<p>15 Teresa of Avila, Nun 8pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>16 Latimer, Ridley, & Cramer 12pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 6:30pm - Holy Eucharist High Altar 7:30pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>17 Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, and Martyr 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing 7:00pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>18 ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs</p>	<p>19 Henry Martyr, Priest, & Missionary to India & Persia 11am-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>20 BVM on Saturday</p>
<p>21 THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 24 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist</p>	<p>22 Feria 8pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>23 SAINT JAMES OF JERUSALEM 12pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 6:30pm - Holy Eucharist High Altar 7:30pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>24 St. Raphael the Archangel 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing</p>	<p>25 Feria 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs</p>	<p>26 Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons 11am-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>27 BVM on Saturday</p>
<p>28 FEAST OF SS SIMON & JUDE 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Solemn Eucharist</p>	<p>29 SAINT SIMON & SAINT JUDE, APOSTLES 8pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>30 Feria 12pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 6:30pm - Holy Eucharist High Altar 7:30pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall</p>	<p>31 Feria 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing</p>			



BETHESDA COOKS:

Whole-Wheat Banana Nut Bread

A slice or two of this dark, rich, and sweet bread is good for breakfast, toasted and spread with softened cream cheese. This recipe makes two loaves; make the entire recipe and freeze one of the loaves to enjoy later.

Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Grease two 8¹/₂-by-4¹/₂-inch (21.5-by-11.5-cm) loaf pans and dust with flour.

In a bowl, stir together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Set aside. In another bowl, beat together the butter and sugar until blended; a hand-held mixer is useful for this step. Beat in the banana, then beat in the eggs until completely mixed; don't worry if the mixture looks lumpy and curdled. Stir in the nuts. Add the combined dry ingredients and stir just until blended.

Pour and scrape the batter into the 2 prepared pans and spread evenly. Bake until a thin wooden skewer inserted into the center of the loaves comes out clean, about 1 hour. Allow to cool in the pans for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Makes 2 medium loaves

2¹/₂ cups (12¹/₂ oz/390 g) whole-wheat (wholemeal) flour, plus extra for dusting
2 teaspoons baking soda (bicarbonate of soda)
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup (8 oz/250 g) unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus extra for greasing
2 cups (1 lb/500 g) sugar
2 cups (1 lb/500 g) mashed ripe banana (4 large bananas)
4 eggs
1 cup (4 oz/125 g) chopped walnuts or pecans

Submitted by Jane Agee

BUILDING FUND PARTY

The annual Building Fund Party, held July 30th at the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club was a great accomplishment thanks to the Bethesda parishioners and friends.

The Church office staff provided notes, records, and guidance; volunteers practiced excellent penmanship addressing and stamping over six hundred invitations; and the hostesses and hosts, at the registration table, provided what they do best—welcome guests.

The DeVall brothers and guitarist performed their unmistakable style of Broadway show and popular music. We certainly have talent and generosity among us. A community business, Hidden Gardens, donated the fresh flower arrangement in the dining room. We are also grateful to those who could not attend but sent a check supporting Bethesda.

Exciting anticipation was evident as we all waited for MaryLou and John, our honorary chair people, to arrive and then the unveiling of the new Bethesda Logo by Father Vang.

One more little surprise that evening as one couple was leaving, they stated an additional check would be in the mail the following day. \$54,515.00 was realized.

THE FEAST OF THE DEDICATION Sunday, 7 October 2012

8:00 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST

10:00 a.m. SOLEMN EUCHARIST with HOLY CONFIRMATION

The Right Reverend William H. Love, Bishop of Albany

celebrating and preaching

2:30 p.m. ORGAN RECITAL

3:00 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG

“Blessed to Be a Blessing” theme for our 2012 Annual Campaign

From the start of the creation story of Genesis through the Gospels' story of Jesus, we are reminded that God has blessed us. His initiative is always to bless, and that blessing is never earned by us, but freely given by God. Let us take time, then, to count the blessings in our lives, and offer praise and thanksgiving for so many wonderful gifts.

From baptism, we know that our bond with God is permanent, we are “marked as Christ's own forever.” Our lives, then, are dedicated to share that blessing, to worship God, not only with our lips but in our lives. That is how we are “Blessed to Be a Blessing,” the theme of this year's annual stewardship campaign.

Our Annual Campaign, from October 7 to November 11, is an opportunity to pass on the blessing we have received with offerings from the labor of our lives. Through our commitment to proportional giving, we offer a pledge of thanksgiving for all we have received and for all we can become as we grow into the image of Christ.

Each Sunday from October 7 to November 11, our Sunday bulletins will include brief but thoughtful messages authored by Episcopal Church bishops, priests and lay writers, exploring stewardship as a response to who we are and all we have received.

Please give prayerful consideration to your commitment, and complete a pledge card. You may return it by mail, or bring it to church Sunday November 11, when we will have a liturgical ingathering of pledges as part of the regular services that morning. Your clergy and vestry this year have worked tirelessly to make improvements in the parish's stewardship of our assets—money, property, budgets, accountability. Your pledge of financial resources to Bethesda will be treated with the utmost appreciation, care and respect. Thank you for the blessing of your commitment to Bethesda.

From: Gordon Boyd, *Stewardship chair*.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. Everyone is invited. Thursday, October 25th at 6:00 p.m., the **Service League** will host a **Parish Potluck Supper and Silent Auction**. Dinner will be served at 6:30, but prior to the supper you will have the opportunity to bid on items in a silent auction. Our goal is to raise money for a community charity to enhance Bethesda's visibility and outreach in the city, and to grow our church.

Please consider donating items for this important outreach effort. Here are a few suggestions: **Gift Certificates** for restaurants, car wash, oil change, dry cleaning, manicure, spa treatment. **Admission Tickets** to museums, theater, movie, opera. **Baskets** with themes such as chocolate, coffee, cooking, reading, music, garden, pet, spa, cocktail hour, tea time, snack time. To liven up the auction, and to get to know each other better, why not consider a donation of a **Talent or Service**. Can you custom knit a scarf, create handmade jewelry, or prepare fixings for a take out dinner? Will you rake, iron, bake, run errands, wash a car, weed a garden, plant bulbs, drive someone to the airport, provide a musical performance in someone's home? Your donations will be sincerely appreciated.

For **fun, fellowship, and fundraising with an outreach purpose**, please consider a donation and attendance at this October 25th Service League kick-off event. If you have questions, please contact Kathleen or Mark Anspach at 583-3549. See you on the 25th!



The deadline for the **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER** will be **OCTOBER 15TH**.

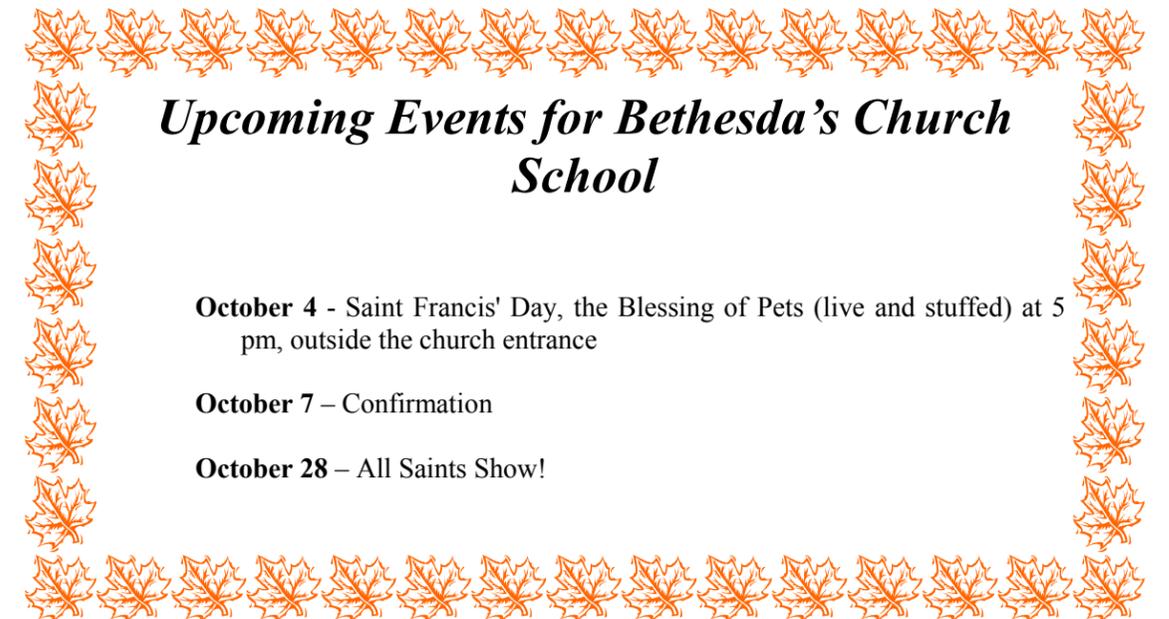
Please submit material to the office by this date. You can email it to bethesdabee@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your cooperation.



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHURCH SCHOOL

- Here we *grow!* We're off to an exciting year of growth and new opportunities for our kids of Bethesda! Below are key items for you to know as we start off the year.
- Registration: Current students will be automatically enrolled in this year's program. We have ongoing registration during the entire year so please encourage your kids to bring friends and relatives!
- Confirmation: Classes reconvened on September 16. Attendance is required for current confirmands in order to meet the requirements for this year's confirmation. Confirmation will be here at Bethesda with Bishop Love on October 7, the Feast of the Dedication of the Church.
- A new confirmation class will begin in early 2013 for new students and students who do not complete this year's requirements.
- Special Children's Service: Three times during the year, Father Vang will conduct a special service for children Pre-K through 3rd grade. The service will take place during regular church service in the Children's Chapel on the 3rd floor of the Parish House. The children will meet in the Chapel at 10 am. Check out our event listing for dates!
- Supplies: We are in need of new supplies for our classrooms. Therefore, we are asking that each child bring a pencil box or pouch filled with their favorite writing utensil – pencil, pen, marker, crayon, chalk, etc., along with a glue stick and pair of scissors.
- We also need each child to bring a box of tissues, hand cleaning wipes or hand sanitizer.
- Snack: We are asking that each family sign-up to bring snack for the kids to have following service. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish House to the left of the Pre-K room door. Please swap your day with another family if you are unable to bring snack on your scheduled day.
- Attendance: The Education Committee, Father Vang and I have outlined learning objectives for each level of the program from Pre-K through 12th grade. To help meet these objectives, we are encouraging children to attend every Sunday. Postcards will be sent to kids who we missed at Church School that week. We think this is a fun and helpful reminder to kids on the importance of their Christian education.
- Open House: This will be scheduled during class time on September 30. Parents and grandparents are invited to come, learn and ask questions about the upcoming year. The kids love to show what they're working on! We hope to see you all there!



Upcoming Events for Bethesda's Church School

October 4 - Saint Francis' Day, the Blessing of Pets (live and stuffed) at 5 pm, outside the church entrance

October 7 – Confirmation

October 28 – All Saints Show!