

# *The Bethel Bugle*

Newsletter

March/April 2011

Bethel United Methodist Church

6903 Blantyre Road, Warrenton, VA, 20187

Celebrating 175 years of Service to the Lord

Pastor: Marty Martin

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## **Come! Come! Everybody Worship!**

Worship services and activities are opportunities for us to experience God in a real way. It is our set-apart time to say to God, "I love you and worship you because of who you are. I am grateful for your presence in my life. Thank you for loving me unconditionally". Secondly it is a time to be in fellowship and communion with our brothers and sisters of the faith. Upcoming worship experiences during the Lenten season, in addition to our two Sunday morning services at 8:30 and 10:30, will include.

### ***Alive Now!***

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month contemporary praise worship time. It is a casual setting in the social hall; with our praise band, *Acts 29*, lots of singing, an evening message and Holy Communion. If you have not tried it, please come on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Invite a friend, bring your kids. You will be blessed!

### **Ash Wednesday Worship**

Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. This marks the beginning of Lent. Join us as we experience the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

***Our theme this Lent will be "Be Still and Know that I am God"***

The Worship committee will have a display in the social hall for you to experience during the Lenten season. Be sure to look for it.

## **Holy Week Begins April 17**

### **Palm Sunday**

***Palm and Passion services*** at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

***Taize' Worship*** at 6:00 p.m. This candlelight service is a meditative, contemplative service with singing and prayers. There is no sermon or offering, this is simply a time to "be" in the presence of God.

### **Maundy Thursday**

***Service of Holy Communion*** at 7:15 p.m. This service concludes with the moving, silent stripping of the church.

### **Good Friday**

***CrossWalk*** is an event for children and youth from 9 - noon. An opportunity for children to more fully understand what happened between the Hosannas of Palm Sunday and the Hallelujahs of Easter morning.

***Evening Worship*** at 7:15 p.m. Quiet, contemplative service.

***Prayer Vigil*** in the Upper Room begins following the service and extends through the Easter Sunrise service.

### **Easter**

**Sunrise service at 6:00 a.m.** We move from the darkness into the break of the day. This service is held in the social hall

**Traditional Worship at 10:30 a.m.** following Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

## ***A Message from Pastor Marty***

Grace and peace to you as we begin the Lenten season.

As we come to another season of Lent, I pray that each of you will make this a holy time of personal reflection, repentance, and renewal of a personal relationship with Christ and commitment to discipleship.

We are just beginning the journey that God has for us in 2011. There are some firsts - an administrative assistant, new uses of technology, Wonderful Wednesdays, and the enlarged living-dining room in the parsonage. Our youth group and Sunday school programs are growing and flourishing. We continue to meet and welcome new visitors each week. But I believe we have only scratched the surface of what God has in store for us in 2011 as we have hopes of creating new space, paving our parking lot, expanding our mission and outreach, and making our praise worship service a weekly event.

So as we enter the Lenten season I offer you an old challenge with a new twist. Practice self denial by giving up something for the period of Lent, but with the money you save or the time you save, invest in your relationship or service to God. Wonderful Wednesdays will have three adult studies (Jim Nida's study of a Christian response to Islam, Jeff Krauss's study of The Way of Prayer, and my study on Forgiveness) make a commitment to come and join one of those studies. And instead of just welcoming visitors, think of four people (a friend, relative, associate, and a neighbor) who are not churched. Pray for them every day. And invite them to join us for worship during Holy Week and on Easter.

And as you contemplate Easter this year, plan to attend all of the Holy Week services because you can't get to Easter without going through the cross and Good Friday. I look forward to the possibilities and opportunities that God will lay before us in the coming months.

Living our faith, sharing god's love -

*Pastor Marty*

## ***Lenten Devotional***

The Worship Committee and Mission Committee are offering you an opportunity for Lenten meditation and giving to benefit the Society of St. Andrew during Lent. The Society of St. Andrew is committed to ending hunger in the world, through your financial gifts, and through our work in the gleaned fields.

Each family will be given a paper sack - decorated by one of our children. Inside the sack will be a Lenten Devotion booklet with meditations written by United Methodists from the Virginia Conference, a couple other devotional materials, as well as some information about the Society of St. Andrew.

We are asking families to put money (either daily or weekly as a family) into that paper sack during Lent as a sacrificial gift. The bags will be collected on the Sunday following Easter - May 1<sup>st</sup> and the money counted and sent onto the Society of St. Andrew. This could be a very meaningful devotion and teaching opportunity for your whole family.

Contact for more information: Debbie Mroczek or Pat Martin

## ***Confirmation Classes***

Confirmation classes will be held on Sunday afternoons through Lent. Pastor Marty would like to meet with both parents and interested youth Sunday, March 6, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. At that time the members of the class and their parents will be discussing with Pastor Marty what is going to happen and what the students will be learning.

## ***Prayer Opportunities***

**Prayer Groups:** At Bethel UMC we have a very active prayer ministry. We have two prayer groups that gather to pray for our church and its' people. The groups gather on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the library; and Thursday mornings at 7:00 in the sanctuary. You are welcome to come pray with us. Each prayer time is about 25 minutes.

**Prayer Room:** We have a Prayer room in the back of the sanctuary. Someone is in that room during our worship services praying for those participating in the services and praying for YOU. Praying that your heart will be open to whatever God wants you to hear. If you would like to serve on that prayer team, please contact Cindy Rainger.

In the prayer room there are many resources on prayer for you to borrow if you like. And most importantly, the Prayer Room is available to you for a time of silent prayer at any during the week. Feel free to make use of it. And certainly take a look in there after worship on Sunday.

**Upper Room Prayer Line.** Future dates for the Upper Room Prayer Line are May 27 - May 28; September 23-September 24 and November 18-19. Please contact June or Ed Wagner, Cindy Rainger, or Greg Salamone for more information about this wonderful opportunity to be in prayer with and for others.

**Holy Weekend Prayer Vigil:** From the end of the Good Friday evening service until the start of the Easter Sunrise service we will have a prayer vigil in the Upper Room. There will be prayer resources for you to help in your meditation. This is a powerful time of praying for our church and our world, contemplating the events of Holy Week, looking toward the resurrection. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table under the Tree of Life starting in mid- March.

### ***Easter Morning Floral Cross***

On Easter morning we invite you to bring a bouquet of flowers to place on the cross in the church yard. The cross will be wrapped with wire and you can slip your flowers and greens in it. They can be brought to the church after dark on Saturday evening, prior to the Sunrise service, or prior to the 10:30 worship service. Bring flowers from your garden or some that you purchase. Once filled with flowers, it becomes a beautiful symbol of Easter. And it is a beautiful backdrop for your Easter photo - so bring your camera and snap away!

### ***Holy Communion***

**Gluten-free Communion elements** are now available. If you need gluten-free bread and juice, please let Pastor Marty or Pat Martin know prior to Sunday morning worship. We will be happy to have the elements prepared for you.

***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper***  
**Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 8 p.m.**

All-U-Can-Eat pancakes, eggs, bacon and apples. Adults - \$8.00; children 12-6 years of age -\$4.00; children 5 and under - free!!  
What is Shrove Tuesday and why do we eat pancakes? Come join us and find out!  
Sponsored by BUMY (Bethel United Methodist Youth).

***Important Information from your  
Bethel Finance Committee***

Why use an offering envelope? Your offering envelope tells the Finance Committee exactly where to credit your offering dollars. For example, (see the envelope pictured below) you may have written a check for \$75, but you want it to be credited to several areas. You want \$25 to go to the offering; \$25 to go to the building fund and \$25 to other ministries such as missions or music. Without your breakdown on the envelope, the entire \$75 will go to the general offering.

If you use your offerings as a tax deduction (and most folks do) this is the best and most accurate test for IRS compliance. Your envelope, paired with the annual statement that you receive each year, will be honored by the IRS. If you are audited and you have not used the envelope, your cancelled check may not be accepted.

For your protection, your envelopes are retained at the church for the number of years prescribed by the IRS. If you are audited these envelopes will be made available for your proof of giving. Please do your part to insure accurate reporting of your annual giving. Please take time to fill out your offering envelopes each week.

***Wonderful Wednesdays***

Wow, we haven't been at it long, but Wonderful Wednesdays have been a blessing. We began with the idea to start a children's program (K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) modeled after the youth group which meets on Wednesday nights. To that, Pastor Marty added an adult study program in hopes of attracting the parents of the children and youth, as well as all others wishing to join the midweek fellowship. Although weather has caused some cancellations and sporadic attendance, our spirits are high, and many continue to come and enjoy an intergenerational meal before we separate for the evenings activities.

Please bring your children, friends and neighbors and join us. We begin each Wednesday evening at 6:00 with prayer and a blessing of the meal. At 6:30, after eating and cleaning up our dinner dishes and tables, we break into our separate classes for the evening program. At 8:00, we rejoice at the close of a wonderful evening, praise the Lord and depart for home.

We hope many more of you will join in the fun. Pastor Marty is praying for 150 to engage! It is a perfect opportunity to witness to our children and youth about the priority of God in our lives. Moreover, it is a perfect bridge from Sunday to Sunday, a great opportunity to reinforce the idea of one family in the Body of Christ. Please come, come with an open heart and God will bless you, as He has blessed all of us who have gathered in His name on Wonderful Wednesdays.

Kirk James and Joe McCoy  
WW Coordinators

## Bethel United Methodist Youth

### *NEWS FROM THE BUMY CORNER OF THE WORLD*

The Youth have had an exciting year so far. Our numbers have grown since last year with as many as 25 attending on Wednesday night. Our group has gotten so large that we had to take the partial wall out between the living room and dining room in the parsonage! We meet on Wonderful Wednesdays from 6:00 – 8:00. We start out with a fellowship meal and then play some sort of game to get our “wiggles” out. Next we have a brief meeting to discuss upcoming events and work on various projects. In February we made Valentine cards for the two elderly ladies the Church sponsored on the Angel Tree, addressed envelopes for Valentines the Young Disciples Group made for Bethel’s shut-ins, people who are ill, and special members, made posters for Mr. Earl to take to prison during the Epiphany weekend – and started working on our Easter play. If you haven’t been to one of our meetings, we hope you’ll come join us. If you haven’t been in a while, we hope you’ll come back. WE HAVE A BLAST!!

A big huge THANK YOU to everyone who bought subs, made donations and supplied canned food during our “Souper Bowl Subday” fundraiser. We’ve heard a lot of great remarks about how delicious the subs were AND we netted a profit of \$278 AND collected two large bags of food for the Fauquier County Food Coalition! This will definitely be something we would like continue.

The next couple of months will be busy ones for us. The first event on our calendar is a Shrove Tuesday Dinner on March 8. We will serve pancakes and all the fixin’s. Come find out what Shrove Tuesday is all about and why a pancake dinner is the traditional meal. Watch for a youth selling tickets to this festive event before and after church services.

We are also working on an Easter production that we will present to the church during a Lunch Theater on Sunday, April 3 after the 10:30 service. You will enjoy a spaghetti dinner followed by a play entitled “Eyewitness: The Story of a Promise Kept”. We are working really hard during our youth group time to make this a wonderful event that you won’t want to miss.

Last year’s 30 Hour Famine event was such a huge success and so much fun, we will definitely be doing it again this year. “What is a 30 Hour Famine?” you ask. We will be able to experience what it is like for the many children all over the world that don’t have enough to eat. We will meet at the church on Friday afternoon and “lock ourselves in” for 30 hours. During those 30 hours the only “food” we will consume will be broth, water and juice. We will play games, watch movies and share with each other in a way that will bring us closer to this experience. We will end our 30 hours with the Saturday night praise service, communion and dinner! We will be asking our friends, family and Bethel Church members to sponsor us. All funds raised will go to a country where hunger is a national problem, such as Haiti. This event is scheduled for May 6 – 7. We need your financial support to make this a success.

Also, the youth are involved in a 40 week Bible Study that takes place during our Sunday School program. We have over 20 youth involved and it all is going great. They all seem to be thrilled to be studying God’s word. Earl and Geneice are very proud of all of them. It’s an exciting time for our youth ministry.

That’s all from the BUMY corner, and we want to thank you for your past, present and future support.

***The power of prayer is limitless!! Please join in a ministry of prayer each day for your friends, your loved ones, your neighbors, and your adversaries. Especially include the following people at this time!***

### ***Church Family***

Rosemary Cox (health concerns)  
Tom Davis  
Alice and Leo Federline  
Howard Goff  
Sharon Gray  
Ralph Head  
Rusty Kines  
Bill and Elsie Mayo  
Randy and Nancy Moore  
John and Martha Jo Payne  
June Rinker  
Robbie and Paul Smith  
Irving Thorpe  
Stan Walus  
Eva and CG Wennerstrom

### ***Deepest Sympathy***

Bethel member Nell Lewis, age 99, passed away in January. A Celebration of Life service and luncheon will held in her memory on Saturday, March 26 at 11:00 a.m. at Bethel. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all of Mrs. Lewis' family and friends.

### **Connection Café**

*Would you be willing to help with Connection Café? The Café is a very popular stopping place on Sunday morning, especially between services. It is provided completely by volunteers and brought to all of us free of charge. We would love to have some more helpers. If you are interested please contact Haldeen Wilson, (540)347-2455 or leave a note for her in the kitchen. Thank you for considering contributing to this important part of our church life!*

*Our list is ever changing as some of those in uniform return home to civilian life and others just begin.....*

### ***Protecting Us***

The following are names of men and women who are serving in a critical role in protecting our nation. Please pray for their safety and the safety of all the young men and women who may be in harm's way as they work to keep us safe. Those in italics are new to our list. If you would like to add someone's name to our list please let me know. AKL

Bill Atwell (Fairfax County EMT)  
Heather Bevel (US Coast Guard)  
Grant Brooks (US Army Reserve)  
Will Corbitt (US Marines)  
Rick Crowther (US Army)  
Steven Del Mauro (US Army)  
Christopher Everett (US Army)  
Dan Janickey (Fairfax County Police)  
Joshua Knefelkamp (US Marine)  
Joe McCoy (US Navy)  
Ben McGee (US Capitol Police)  
Carey Robertson (US Coast Guard)  
Jason Reichel (Fairfax County Police)  
John Rhorbaugh (US Army)  
Shawyne Smith (US Army)  
James Sutton (US Air Force)  
Brian Tollefson (US Navy)  
Charles Wolfert (Fairfax County Police)

### ***New Member Class***

A new member class is scheduled for Sunday, March 6, thirty minutes following the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. service. Anyone wanting information about Bethel Church or wanting to join, please come!!

## Upcoming Meetings and Events in March

- Confirmation Class  
Sunday, March 6, following 10:30 worship
- New Member Class  
Sunday, March 6, 30 minutes after the  
10:30 worship service ends
- Endowment Committee Mtg.  
Sunday, March 6, 1:00 p.m.
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
Tuesday, March 8, 6 -8 p.m.
- UMW regular meeting  
Saturday, March 12, 9:30 a.m.
- UMM Monthly Dinner  
Saturday, March 12, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Church Council meeting  
Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m.
- UMW Monthly Breakfast  
Saturday, March 19, 8 - 10 a.m.
- Cub Pack #161 Blue/Gold Banquet  
Saturday, March 19, 3 p.m.
- UMM regular meeting  
Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.

See Front page for all Holy Week services

### Bethel United Methodist Women

For the March meeting only, UMW will meet on the second Saturday of the month, March 12. Refreshments and fellowship begin at 9:30, program at 10:00 a.m. Kurtis Braun will be speaking to the group about his opportunity to travel this summer with Voices of Youth.

All women are invited to attend. Please come join us!!

## **PandaMania!!** **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** **July 11 - 15 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Parents - are you ready for your kids to experience the adventure of a lifetime? If so, mark these dates on your calendar now for VBS.

This summer the kids will travel to PandaMania where they will discover that God is wild about them - a fact that will change them forever! PandaMania is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences: Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the PandaMania activities that help faith flow into real life. As they explore Psalm 139 the kids will discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life - something called God Sightings.

Would you like to help out with this wonderful adventure? Contact Amy Lunsford at [alunsford01@comcast.net](mailto:alunsford01@comcast.net) or 540-937-6407.

### United Methodist Men

The next meeting is scheduled for March 22 at 7:00 p.m. All men are invited to attend - come and bring a friend. You do not have to be a member of Bethel to join BUMM!! Bring your ideas for new mission opportunities and activities for the coming year. Monthly dinners are now being planned. The next dinner, is scheduled for Saturday, March 12. Contact Greg Salamone for more information!!

### Our Church Officers

Co-Lay Leaders	Ava Lee
Church Council Chair	Paul Goff
Vice Chair	Kirk James
Secretary	Mary Jane Shofkom
Trustees Chair	David Childers
Church Treasurer	Donna Broadbent
Financial Secretary	June Wagner
Staff-Parish Relations	Jim Templeton
Annual Conference Delegate	June Wagner

### Our Church Staff

Pastor	Marty Martin
Administrative Asst.	Christine Winter
Music Director	Gretchen Davis
Nursery Attendants	
	Karen Goula
	Tiffany Kines
	Raquel Kines
	Cathy Clemency

### Our Missionaries

Steve and Diantha Hodges

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