

The Bethel Bugle

Newsletter

April/May 2009

Bethel United Methodist Church 6903 Blantyre Road, Warrenton, VA, 20187
Celebrating 175 years of Service to the Lord
Pastor: Marty Martin Church (540)347-4874 Parsonage (540)347-7288
Online at www.bethelumc.com

Special Holy Week Opportunities for you and your family.

Taizé Worship Service. *Saturday, April 4th at 8:00 p.m.* The Worship Committee is planning a special worship opportunity for you the night before Palm and Passion Sunday. This quiet, meditative worship experience, in the Taizé tradition, will be led by Jeff Krauss and Pat Martin, along with others. This style of worship is characterized by the repetitive singing of songs, candlelight, praying prayers, listening to scripture and allowing periods of silence for the Holy Spirit to speak to us. There is no sermon and we will enter and leave the sanctuary in silence. The name Taizé is the name of a little village in the south of Burgundy, France. In this village, over 60 years ago, Brother Roger founded a community which regularly practiced meditative worship which included periods of silence with the repetitive singing of songs. Since that time, this style of worship and reflection has grown exponentially. This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare your heart for the events of Holy Week and consider the gift and victory of the cross for you. This service is not recommended for children.

Children's CrossWalk. *Good Friday, April 10th from 9:15 - 11:45 am.* The Worship Committee is planning a program especially designed for children to learn about the events of Holy Week in ways they can experience and understand. This event is for children - pre-K through middle school. The children will meet Peter, Mary Magdalene and others who witnessed that day. They will make craft items and participate in several "hands on" activities to bring the events of Holy Week alive for them.

Please sign your child up on the table in the narthex area. Invite your neighbors and friends as well. We are hoping for 60 children to come and participate. If you would like to volunteer to help, please let Pat Martin know by e mail at patandmarty@comcast.net or call at 540-347-7288. This event is FREE, but we would like to know who is coming in order to properly prepare - however drop-ins are most welcome!

Prayer Vigil. We will have a prayer vigil from 8:30 pm on Good Friday through 6:30 am on Easter Sunday in the Upper Room. You are invited and encouraged to come and participate for one or more hours of time. For 34 hours, people will be in prayer for our church and for the world. Come individually, or come as a family or as a group to pray. Please sign up on the table in the narthex area or contact Geneice Kemper at gkemper@infionline.com or at 540-937-5980.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday, April 5 Palm & Passion Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 9 Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 10 Good Friday Worship at 7:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 12 Easter SonRise Worship at 6:30 a.m.
Easter Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(A pancake breakfast will be served by the United Methodist Men between the Easter Worship Services) There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter.

A Message from Pastor Marty

The dark, early evenings of winter have passed. The flowers have broken ground and their buds are springing forward. The rains are intermittent, but refreshing. And we are reminded of the cycle of life that God put into place in the world around us. After being cooped up in our homes during the dark winter months we long to be outside and a part of the revitalized world. Whether we are cleaning and preparing our yards for the days ahead or walking briskly in the morning air, or enjoying time together with our children and families in the outdoors, we relish in the newness of spring.

But the sad fact is: people greet newness in life in many ways in our world and church. Some people stubbornly hang on to life as it was. They are hoping to recreate the past. Some people are hanging on to the stagecoach of life for dear life, in fear of where it is taking them. They just do not want to change. Some people are so scared and feeling so alone that they are trying to drag others into their insecurities. Some people are exhilarated by the fast moving stagecoach of life. They are eagerly anticipating the next opportunity around the corner. We all experience and react to newness of life in different ways.

So, what if the newness of spring might come into our hearts this year without the fear and anxiety that change often brings? What if we carried a Lenten discipline forward in our lives to change us forever? What if we set aside, even reconciled, the pain of broken relationships and anger that has frozen our hearts? What if we opened our hearts the way the buds of the daffodils are opening now to receive God's love and share it in new ways with others? What if we began to think of Emmanuel (God with us) now and always, and not just at Christmas time? What if we were to cherish Christ's death on the cross like we cherish other things in life? What if we valued eternal life beginning today as much as we hope for heaven and our own resurrection?

If some or all of those thoughts might become real in our lives like the dawning of spring, what would our lives look like? Or what would our church look like? What if church was a verb instead of a noun? What if we did church six days a week instead of just coming

to church on Sunday? Now that would be living our faith!

No matter how you greet change in your lives, what if you greeted it with the understanding that God wants change and actually stimulates change and growth, not just in the world around us, but in us too and in our church? Yes, God does indeed love you and he loves you enough not to leave you where you are. Think about it and let God into your heart and life this spring.

Pastor Marty

Help Celebrate Easter by bringing Flowers for a Beautiful Floral Cross

We are planning to celebrate Easter with a huge floral cross and we need your help to decorate it.

The large cross in the churchyard will be wrapped with mesh wire on Holy Saturday. When you arrive for worship - either Sunrise or later in the morning, please bring a bouquet of greenery and/or flowers to put into the mesh - thus creating a lovely symbol of beauty and new life on Easter morning! Be sure to bring your camera so you can take a photo with your family in front of the cross after it is transformed!

Website Redesign

Please take a few minutes to check out the Bethel United Methodist Church website at www.bethellumc.com. It has been completely redesigned and contains lots more information in a very user-friendly format. You will need to redirect your site search if you had the former website bookmarked. Delete your original bookmark then begin with a fresh search of the web address. Once you have accessed it, be sure to bookmark for frequent searching! Our thanks go out to Tiffany Broadbent for the redesign and for taking on the responsibility of keeping all the information current. You can contact Tiffany at

tiffanybroadbent@yahoo.com.

Council Corner

Its springtime, everyone!! We made it through the winter, and there are signs of God's renewal all around. Our garden beds are starting to bloom and the trees are beginning to leaf out. The Trustees are seeking volunteers to keep our grounds looking fresh and clean, by tending and weeding the gardens and by mowing the lawn. Can you help? And there are some refreshing new happenings *inside* Bethel, too. Have you noticed the brand new piano in the Sanctuary? It's all paid for, thanks to your donations and to proceeds from the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Also new for Lent, and coming the evening of April 4th, is a Taizé worship service led by Jeff Krauss and Pat Martin. Taizé is a form of contemplative prayer, where the congregation will sing or chant simple musical mantras over and over until the Scriptures sink deep into our hearts and not just our minds. How perfect for the day before Palm Sunday, as we commemorate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem for Holy Week! Your Worship Committee is sponsoring this special service, as well as a contemporary prayer service as yet unscheduled. They are also sponsoring a Prayer Vigil in the Upper Room beginning on Good Friday and ending early Easter morning. Changes coming for spring: beginning in May, the popular Saturday morning UMW breakfasts will run from 8 am to 10 am instead of 11am. And already up and running, with many thanks to Tiffany Broadbent, is the crisp new Bethel UMC website. Check it out at www.bethelumc.com. There's lots more happening now and being planned. **Stay in touch by attending one of our church council meetings, which are held the second Sunday of each month in the Upper Room, following the 10:30 service; except for April, when our meeting will be held on April 19th. Happy Easter!**

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 this important part of our church life!

Greetings from the Garden

In the coming weeks the trustees need your talents and service to volunteer to help maintain the church grounds. All of us would like to see our church glowing for Easter. Depending on the weather, I have two dates set aside for a minor clean up of the grounds, which will include raking leaves from the flower beds, cleaning out the wishing well, picking up dead branches... these dates are March 28th and April 4th.

On April 25th and the following week we will prune back shrubs around the parsonage. This is a huge undertaking and we will need ladders, clippers... and even more servants of the Lord.

On a final note, the calendar for the lawn cutting is in the narthex. The first cutting will probably be the last week of April or first of May.

Caring for our church is every member's responsibility- either in a small way or a big way.

Thank you for your help,

Susan Armand

Questions? sudsarm@gmail.com or 540 349 8534

Thank You for the New Piano

Why a new piano?? This past fall, when it became apparent that the 15 year-old electronic piano in the sanctuary was beginning to fail, a discussion began about the need to purchase a replacement. Because the old instrument was growing more unreliable each week the worship committee sought proposals from several music stores for a new institutional piano. In January the Worship Committee selected a proposal from the Piano Company in Leesburg for a Kawai institutional upright piano with a built-in temperature control feature (damp chaser) for a cost of \$5,201.75. This piano has a life expectancy, properly cared for, of up to 75 years. The proposal was taken to the Church Council on February 8 and it was unanimously approved. A fundraising campaign began immediately and at the March 8 Council meeting it was announced that all the money had been raised to cover the cost. The piano has arrived and been installed in its new home!!

Thank you One and All for your contributions and all your support. Our music ministry at Bethel is very special and this new instrument will certainly enhance it.

Thank You for your Epiphany Week-end support!

Geneice and I would like to thank everyone for their support on our Epiphany Weekend. For the ones who don't know, Epiphany is a 3 day weekend for incarcerated youth in which a team of volunteers from different churches and denominations go into a facility and minister to a group of youth from that facility. We went to the Culpeper Correctional Facility in Culpeper. It's about 5-6 miles out of the town of Culpeper. This facility houses boys from ages 18-21. We were there from February 14th - 16th. We had 30 team members and had 30 inmates. We call the inmates "Stars", in reference to Philippians 2:14-15 *Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault shine like stars in the universe.*

The whole weekend is about showing them God's love and share with them the message of God's grace, love and forgiveness and to feel worthy to themselves and others. Most of these young men have no self worth and have been brought up in broken homes and really not understanding what love really is. Each of these young men are good people, they just didn't have the guidance to make the right choices in life. We like to show them that there is a different and better choice than what they have had so far.

By your support, we were able to show and share with them God's love. By your donations of money, we were able to buy them bibles, and bring in food for them from Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Quarter Pounders from McDonalds. A lot of these young men have not had food like this for 4 or 5 years. The posters you made really touched their hearts and the prayer chain that was put together from all the people praying for them was taped to the wall in the room we were using and went around the room 2 ½ times. They really felt your prayers and they also realized that they are not alone. The Christian family is a really big, loving family.

It was really amazing to see the transformation that took place in these young men - to see the Stars come in the first day looking like they had the weight of the world on their shoulders, and then leave 3 days later with such joy in their hearts. Now they have some hope for the future. They have a choice when they get out. They don't have to go back to the old way of life. They can live a life of love and live it abundantly. Thank be to God that we can reach these guys and hopefully make a change in their life before they end up spending the rest of their life behind bars.

We went there to minister to the young men at Culpeper to try and show God's love and to be a blessing to them. But they weren't the only ones who were blessed. The team that went in there was also blessed by them and what God did on that weekend.

If you are interested in teaming and helping out, we will be going back in October for another 3 day weekend. See Geneice or Earl for more information.

Thank you and God Bless! Earl and Geneice

New Church Library

Have you heard? A library is underway for Bethel Church. Where is it? Take the back stairs or the elevator up one level, walk straight to the end of the hall, turn right and go to the room at the end on the left. This former Sunday school room is being transformed into a library and quiet study space. Thanks to John Lepto and Ken Adams the room has been freshly painted and several fellows from a small group helped move the shelving down from the Upper Room. Gayle Wilson and Ava Lee relocated all the books and the collection is taking shape. It's still a work-in-progress as more volunteers will begin organizing all the material so it will be easy for you to check out your books of choice. There will be more news as the collection evolves - in the meantime, take a peak at the new space and stay tuned!!!

Bethel Church Celebrates 175 Years!!!

In September 1834 Bethel Church was dedicated in service to the Lord. Hallelujah!! This year, 2009, all of us who are attending Bethel are still being blessed because the faith of a few men brought them together to build a church. Literally hundreds of folks who followed them have felt God's presence within its walls. The history of Bethel is lively, stones and mortar filled with love and laughter, sorrow and tears, and always, always filled with the Holy Spirit.

Over the course of the next few months there will be history notes included in the weekly bulletins and on the website. Stay tuned for some special events that are being planned and *please, please* mark your calendar today for the week-end of Saturday, August 29 and Sunday, August 30 when we will be celebrating in true Bethel style with lots of old-fashioned meeting, preaching, playing and eating!!

Sunday School

Every Sunday 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Special Note: There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter.

*A message from Rebecca Krauss, Sunday School Superintendent
(541)341-0419
jmkrauss@cs.com*

Volunteers Wanted

Bethel's Sunday School department is looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School. We are specifically looking for people who might like to co-teach in our middle school class, as well as to serve as a substitute teacher during the summer months. Please let me (Rebecca) know if you would be interested in participating in this important ministry of nurturing our young disciples.

Sunday School Celebration

Have you heard about the up-coming Sunday School Celebration Surprise? Everyone welcome - Come and See, Sunday, April 26th during the Sunday School hour, in the social hall.

Is your Church Offering Going Where You Want It to??

As you write your check for the offering plate each week please clearly mark on the "Memo" line of your check exactly how your gift is to be distributed. For example, if you write a check to Bethel UMC for \$100 and you want \$75 to go to your weekly offering and \$25 to go to the Building fund, please note that on the memo line. And as you prepare your offering envelope please also write your choices on the front of the offering envelope. There are lines for Offering_____ ; Building Fund_____ ; and Other_____. This will assure that your wishes are carried out and that the church accounts are correctly funded. If you are making a contribution in cash the notations on the envelope are even more important. This information is also used to prepare the statements that you receive quarterly from the church and to validate to the IRS, your tax-deductible contributions.

The folks who serve as counters are responsible for counting the money in the offering envelopes and making sure the checks and cash are recorded in the proper funds. However, if the amounts are not designated on the checks and envelopes the counters have no way of knowing what your wishes are, and your entire offering will be placed in the general offering fund. We can help the counters out by making the proper designations on our checks and on the front of our envelopes.

Thank you so much for helping out!!

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

Church Family

Susan Armand (death of her grandmother)
Kelly Cauthorn (healthy pregnancy)
Rosemary Cox (health concerns)
Alice and Leo Federline
Sharon Gray
Ralph Head
Dale Keil
Valerie Kenney
John Lepto (recovering from knee surgery)
Nell Lewis
Phyllis McBee
Shelley Murrah
June Rinker
Robbie Smith
Lois Thwaite
Helen and Irving Thorpe
Eva and CG Wennerstrom
Mildred Wilkes (health concerns)
Those experiencing financial hardship or job loss

Deepest Sympathy

Bethel member Mary Lou Rowland, age 93, passed away on Thursday, February 12. Mrs. Rowland was the mother of Bethel members Martha Jo Payne, grandmother of Rebecca McNiff, and great-grandmother of Abby and Joey McNiff. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all of Mrs. Rowland's family.

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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

Jason Reichel (Fairfax County Police)
Dan Janickey (Fairfax County Police)
Charles Wolfert (Fairfax County Police)
Bill Atwell (Fairfax County EMT)
Ben McGee (US Capitol Police)
Matt Swain (FSU Police)
James Sutton (US Air Force)
John Rhorbaugh (US Army)
Rick Crowther (US Army)
Jordan White (US Army)
Robert Bugg (US Border Patrol)
Will Corbitt (US Marines)
Joshua Knefelkamp (US Marine)
Timothy Robinson (US Marine)
Jason Osborn (US Navy)
Brian Tollefson (US Navy)
Joe McCoy (US Navy)
Al Lyon
Lewis Shadle

New Kitchen Rules and Procedures

At a recent Board of Trustees meeting, it approved new rules and procedures regarding the use and care of the kitchen. In an effort to keep the kitchen as clean and sanitary as possible the Board is imposing these new regulations.

There is now a list of rules that must be adhered to and a check list for the clean-up of the kitchen after every event. Any group (with-in the church, or anyone renting the facility) that uses the kitchen will have to "check-off" each item as they are completed, sign the sheet and turn it in to the committee.

The Board asks for your cooperation - if you use the kitchen for any reason, please follow the guidelines and leave the place cleaner than you found it.

Thank you, Peggy Goff, Board Chair
Susan Armand
Earl Kemper
Bill Nelson
Rick Putnam
Irving Thorpe

Bethel United Methodist Women

All-You-Can-Eat-Breakfast New Time New Time New Time

Beginning the third Saturday in May - the 16th - the time will change for the All-You-Can-Eat-Breakfast. The breakfast will still begin at 8:00 a.m. but will end at 10:00 a.m. instead of 11:00 a.m. Please note this on your calendar and tell your friends.

The price remains the same:

\$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 6.

In lieu of the March meeting, 16 members of the UMW attended the Winchester District annual Prayer Breakfast. This extraordinary event is attended by nearly 500 people every year!

The next meeting of the Bethel United Methodist Women will be held Saturday morning, April 4 at 10:00 a.m. All women are invited to attend. Please come join us!!

United Methodist Men

Mark your calendar now for the next three 2nd Saturday dinners!! Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Adults \$10 per person, children 10 and under eat FREE!

April 11: Roast beef, baked potato, salad bar, dessert
Rolls, beverages

May 9: Chicken barbeque, potato salad, dessert
Rolls, beverages

June 13: Pork Barbeque, coleslaw, green beans, dessert
Rolls, beverages

Tom Hughes Family Chili

Tom says this is his late wife's recipe, with a little "tweak" from his son.

1 ½ lbs. good grade ground beef; ½ lb. sausage links (Hillshire). Remove skin and blend with beef. 1 pkg. of original chili seasoning mix (McCormick); 2-3 chicken bouillon cubes; ½ chopped onion; 1 small tomato paste (Hunts) 1 14 oz. can diced tomatoes (Hunts); 1 40 oz. can red kidney beans (Hanover); 2 tsp. ground cumin (or a palm full); garlic clove (optional).

Note: We superstitiously use the specific brand names.

Combine all of the above (except the kidney beans) into a stovetop pan and cook until meat is well done. Move the mixture, including the drippings, to a slow cooker. Add the kidney beans and liquid and additional chicken broth, if needed, to make your desired consistency. Cook on low for 6 hours or on high for 3 hours.

Tom was the 3rd place winner in the Chili Cook-off held in January!

Our Church Officers

Co-Lay Leaders	Ava Lee & Joe McCoy
Church Council Chair	Cathy Bergman
Vice Chair	Tom Davis
Secretary	Joice Fredenburgh
Trustees Chair	Peggy Goff
Church Treasurer	Donna Broadbent
Financial Secretary	June Rinker
Pastor-Parish Relations	Jim Templeton
Annual Conference Delegate	Mike Jamison

Our Church Staff

Pastor	Marty Martin
Music Director	Gretchen Davis
Nursery Attendants	
	Karen Goula
	Tiffany Kines

Our Covenant Missionaries

Steve and Diantha Hodges

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