

The Bethel Bugle

Newsletter

August/September 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

Bethel's 175th Anniversary Celebration Week-end!!

Saturday, August 29 and Sunday, August 30

Don't Miss IT!!!

Saturday, August 29

5:30 p.m. Festivities begin!!

Camp sites will be ready on the grounds for anyone wishing to camp overnight in true old-time Camp Meeting fashion. There will be lawn games for the youngsters while camp is being set up. *Yes, you are invited to bring your tents and spend the night!!* Years ago Methodists were famous for holding Camp Meetings - where folks actually went to a church (or a church camp) and camped out for several days. There was preaching, singing, praying and of course - always good food. And none was more famous in its day than Bethel Church because of its site in the country, surrounded by fields, and under the beautiful trees and open skies.

6:30 p.m. Dinner and Preaching, Praying, Singing and Storytelling.

A fried chicken and biscuits dinner, along with good old-fashioned trimmings and dessert will be provided, and following dinner will be lots of singing, storytelling, preaching, and praying.

Sunday, August 30

8:00 a.m. United Methodist Men Pancake breakfast

Following the breaking of camp, the day will begin with a pancake breakfast at 8:00 a.m. for the overnight folks (and for anyone *who can't wait to get to church*).

9:30 a.m.- 10:15 a.m. One Room Sunday School for all ages.

Everyone will all meet as one BIG Sunday School class in the social hall. The Big Class will include a special Bible story time, music and other fun. You won't want to miss out on this! Remember - the One Room Sunday School is for Everyone, All Ages.

10:30 a.m. Homecoming Worship Service

This service will highlight Bethel's past and you will have an opportunity to learn more about the people who followed God as they built and sustained Bethel Church so that we are still worshipping here still today.

Following worship there will be

A Special Presentation of new leaves for the Endowment Tree

And a

Homecoming Covered Dish Luncheon

Something else Bethel is famous for - it's fantastic covered-dish luncheons. Invite your family and your friends, and anyone you know that may have had a connection to Bethel in the past. Then bring your best covered dish or dessert and let's welcome everyone *home* to Bethel!!

Note: Please see bottom of Page 7 for a special request for information.

A Message from Pastor Marty

As I sit here watching and waiting for the computer technician to fix my computer so that I can again go on the internet and send email, I am reminded of how we can get disconnected from God in much the same way. In the computer, a virus gets in and suddenly nothing seems to work right and I can't communicate the way I want to. In life, "stinkin thinkin" creeps in and the next thing I know I find myself disconnected from God and can't communicate with God or with others the way I want to.

The world we live in fosters that "thinkin" to the point that we begin to think that it is right thinkin and we accept it as normal and even good. And the more we hear from the world, it seems so good because it is focused on us and what we want while God calls us to focus on others and to get ourselves out of the center of our lives.

So when "stinkin thinkin" creeps in, we need a spiritual tune-up. And that begs the question: how do we get one? Well, first we need to understand we need one. And the process of getting that understanding is painful because it usually involves someone calling us to an accountability that we do not want to hear. But without understanding that we need a change, we are going to be content with all the world calls us to. So after we recognize the need for change, then we must open ourselves to God and heavenly understandings that seem to make no earthly sense.

The good news is unlike the computer technician, the "stinkin thinkin" technician (God) does not have an hourly charge and he offers an eternal warranty. If you want to get in touch with this technician, you do not need a phone number, just stop to pray, begin to study again, and come to worship. Bible studies are forming for the fall now and worship still happens every Sunday.

Pastor Marty

Soles for Souls

Thank you to all who have already donated shoes. There are so many people around the world in need of them!! The box is still out in case you have more!!

Memories from Millie

It's Homecoming time again at Bethel and my thoughts drift back to a day (usually in September) when we gathered together with friends and relations.

This was always an exciting time for us for we knew it would bring people we hadn't seen for maybe a year or so.

We nearly always invited a former minister for the Homecoming sermon and we were never disappointed.

After the service we would gather on the church lawn for the most sumptuous meal. There would be tables laden with fried chicken, ham and all the fixings. Ice-cream freezers would be whirring. I would always survey the dessert table first which would contain Mrs. Ruth Lee's chocolate covers muffins with raisins, Helen Wine's selections of pies, and who could ever forget Mrs. Dora Kirby's fresh coconut cake.

As we grow older we may tend to embellish a little bit but that's OK because that's how we want to remember it. What if things were not as grand as they seemed to be? The important thing is that we remember.

Watch out for the age 89 folks. Nostalgia sets in and the memories take over.

Happy Memories

Millie

Editor's note: Mrs. Ruth Lee was the grandmother of Lewis Lee and Mrs. Dora Kirby was Haldeen Wilson's mom. Both ladies were very active at Bethel and along with Lena Gray, Edythe Burton's mom, were (from the 1930's to the 1970's) the very heart and soul of the Bethel Women's Christian Missionary Society – today known as United Methodist Women (UMW).

Stop Hunger Now!!!

Read more about it at stophungernow.org

Would you like to spend an enjoyable 3 hours while helping to feed the hungry? No need to travel beyond Bethel for this event.

Who is needed? 50 to 60 volunteers to package food for the Stop Hunger Now program. All Bethel volunteers are asked to register by August 14. You'll find the sign-up sheet on the table under the information board. We already have at least 10 people but we need many, many more! Invite your friends and neighbors to join you in this important opportunity.

What is this all about? Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program is a volunteer-based effort through which the participants package high protein, dehydrated meals for use in crisis situations and which provides a highly nutritious meal to support school feeding programs in schools and orphanages around the world. In three hours we will package at least 15,000 meals.

When is this opportunity? Saturday, September 12
9:30am-12:30pm (set up, packaging, clean-up)

Where will it be? Bethel United Methodist Church - in the social hall.

Why are we doing this? Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief organization that coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aid around the world. The organization is driven by a vision to end world hunger in our lifetime and a mission to provide food and life-saving aid to the world's most destitute and hungry in the most sustainable, efficient and effective manner.

For Other information, questions or to donate - Please contact John and Martha Jo Payne at 703-743-1605. This packaging program will be opened up to the local community and service groups as well. If you have ideas on a group that may be interested in helping please talk to the Paynes. Also, The program costs \$5000 to bring the ingredients and packaging items to Bethel. John and Martha Jo Payne have been raising the needed money through several innovative ideas but more donations are needed to reach the \$5000 goal.

VBS Camp E.D.G.E. - A huge success!!

Bethel Church was "rockin" the week of July 20 - 24 as nearly 80 VBS "campers" learned to live on the E.D.G.E. - Experiencing and Discovering God Everywhere!! They learned many lessons in sharing and caring as each night they heard about people in our area and around the world who go without the things that our campers take for granted. Over the course of the week they shared and sacrificed as they brought in 22 cell phones to be rehabbed for the needy; 11 backpacks to be filled for area children; 400 school supply items; over 200 books; 379 canned food items; 455 pairs of gently worn shoes; 223 pairs of gently worn socks and 110 new pairs of socks. All items will be distributed in our area or where they are most needed.

A very special thank you to the nearly 50 adults who gave many hours of time and talent, before and all during the week, making this special program available for the children!! It truly would not have happened without you!!

Kairos Prison Ministry Weekends.

Thanks to all of you who supported Kairos #18 at Fluvanna Women's Correctional Center and Kairos #1 at Brunswick Men's Correctional Center through prayer, cookies, posters, cards and finances. During these weekends, Jesus was lifted up, God given glory and lives changed for eternity. This could not have happened without your participation.

Fluvanna - Cindy Rainger and Mary Anne Templeton were on the team of 23 women who served during Kairos #18. The women participating were touched by the 12 foot prayer scroll with names of people - many from Bethel- who were praying in half-hour increments from Thursday evening until Sunday afternoon. The prayer chain, containing names of most of the Bethel congregation, encircled the room and one resident said, "Every time I look at that, I feel hugged with love." The posters and cards drawn by the Bethel children brought tears of joy to many of the women.

Brunswick - Earl Kemper and Jim Templeton served were on the team of the first ever Kairos weekend at Brunswick. Twenty-six men arrived on Thursday evening for the program and all 26 men completed the program on Sunday afternoon. They, too, were astonished by the many people praying for them as listed on the prayer scroll. Several of them said the came for the cookies, but got so much more. One man commented that he'd never in his life had anyone make home-made cookies for him before.

At Both Weekends During the weekend, team members gave talks on subjects such as Choices, Friendship with God, Giving and Accepting Forgiveness, and Christian Action and afterwards table families discussed the talks. For many, this is the first time they have felt anyone listened to them or cared about them.

Participants Comments: At the end of the Kairos program, participants are asked to give their comments on the weekend. Here are some we heard:

- On Thursday we came empty, lost, suffering alone, and hungry for God.
- We found love, support, new beginnings, hope, friendship, Christ as my Savior, brothers and sisters in Christ, and cookies made with love.
- We will take away thirst for more, better life with God, change, hope, new found knowledge of God, willingness to help other.

Some of the individual comments:

- Cookies were the bait, but then God's love got me.
- Never saw so many cookies - all made with love.
- Came for a change and that's exactly what I got
- I found help dealing with behavior so I won't come back to prison
- Spiritual awakening
- Love was evident - knows now what real love feels like
- The phrase, once lost, now found is not a myth but a reality
- Never believed until now that tears cleansed the soul
- Found I have something to share and a gift to listen
- Learned to forgive, after 22 years, I'll try to have a relationship with my Dad
- I am going to change because I don't want my children to end up here.

If you are interested in learning more about Kairos or volunteering in the future please speak to Jim or Mary Ann Templeton, Earl or Geneice Kemper or Cindy Rainger. They would love to share their experiences and tell you how you might help!!

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Council Corner

The dog days have finally arrived! As you kick back and enjoy the summer, please consider that the work of our church is still going on. Much is taking place behind the scenes to make the things you love about Bethel happen: the breakfasts, dinners, yard sales, study opportunities, worship services, and our many, many special events. As I write this, we are looking ahead to our next year, and there are a number of vacancies up coming on our planning committees and on the church council itself. We need people like **you** to work on those committees, and to lead those committees, in order to continue all our activities. We need your energy and your ideas! So please Live your Faith and Share God's Love, and answer our very real need for your involvement.

Our weekly church bulletins have lately included a green insert which highlights our need for volunteers to help with Evangelism, Nurture, Pastor/Parish Relations, Trustees, Endowment, Nominations, and Youth. We also need a young person to represent the youth of the church, and who will be able to attend our monthly council meetings and have a real voice in how Bethel responds to the concerns of his/her generation. Now is the time to give real thought to how you can contribute to keeping Bethel the strong and loving church that we all need so much. Think. . . think hard. . . and volunteer. We really, really need you.

Cathy Bergman, Your Council Chair

A Thank You from the Tri-Cities Work Camp participants!!

Ken and I would love to thank everyone for their prayers while we were at TCWC. We all enjoyed getting the cards mailed to us. It was like Christmas every time we got something in the mail. The connection we have with Bethel is wonderful - what a great church to have sponsoring us!! Bethel and the family that makes it a church are a blessing; more than you will ever know. To the people who helped sponsor us - you have given four young people an experience that they will never forget. And we already have an amazing response for next year's Work Camp. We counted up and we have 14 people who have expressed interest in participating.

Thank you and God Bless to Bethel.

Ken and Martha Trexler and the TCWC campers.

Sunday School News

*Classes for all ages
Every Sunday 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.*

Are you making those last minute preparations for the new school? Buying supplies and getting back into 'the school routine?' Don't forget to mark Sunday School Time - 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. - as a core part of your weekly routine. Oh, if your child doesn't have his or her own bible, you may want to add that to your supply list.

Sunday, August 30th
One Room Sunday School Class
For All ages!
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Here's something new - or maybe not so new! As a part of the Bethel 175th Anniversary Celebration Week-end we will be having a unique Sunday School program. We will all meet as one BIG Sunday School class in the social hall. The Big Class will include a special Bible story time, music and other fun. You won't want to miss out on this! Remember - the One Room Sunday School is for Everyone, All Ages.

Sunday, September 13th
Promotion Sunday
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

All classes will gather in the social hall for our back-to-school "Sunday School Celebration." We will be celebrating the new school year, along with promoting many children to new classes. Please Join Us!!

**Please keep the following in
your prayers.**

Church Family

Rob Ambrogi (surgery recovery)
Rosemary Cox (health concerns)
Alice and Leo Federline (health concerns)
Sharon Gray (health concerns)
Ralph Head
Dale Keil
Nell Lewis
Elsie Mayo (surgery rehab)
Phyllis McBee
Shelley Murrah
Martha Jo Payne
Joann Ros (surgery recovery)
Diane Shofkom (surgery recovery)
Robbie Smith
Lois Thwaite
Helen and Irving Thorpe
Mildred Wilkes
David Yarnell (job search)
Those experiencing financial hardship or job loss

Serving in Uniform

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)
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

Thank you to my Bethel family,

Words cannot express my gratitude to you all for showing me so much love and appreciation, as you have always done in my sixteen years here. The presentation during Sunday's worship service was very touching and heart-felt. I was simply amazed at the number of cards I received. I thank each and every member of Bethel for their kind notes and generous gifts, as well as for the signatures in my new hymnal. Already, it has been a treat to sit down at the piano, open to a hymn, and find a short note on the page. Playing in church has always been a pleasure for me, as well as a learning experience. Especially since accompanying the choir, I have grown tremendously as a musician and as a person through the confidence that has been instilled in me from the congregation. The people of Bethel have better prepared me for college and for the rest of my life. It is a great comfort knowing that there are people as kind and as loving like the people of Bethel church. Thank you all so much.

Sincerely, Eric Florence

New Baby

Congratulations to Ben and Kelly Cauthorn on the birth of their new son Grant Jeremiah. Grant arrived on June 27 and joins big sister Claire and big brother Caleb in the Cauthorn household.

Welcome to Bethel

New members were received into the congregation on Sunday, July 26. Please welcome

Greg and Cynthia Salamone
And

Christine and Douglas Bogars

Bethel Anniversary Celebration

If you have any photos of people or events at Bethel (any years) or other memorabilia please contact Ava Lee at leisurelee@erols.com or (540) 347-7805. We would like to create a display to have on view that week-end. If you'd like more information about the events being planned or would like to help with any of the activities please contact Gayle Wilson at gaylewilson@comcast.net or (540) 347-7456.

A Letter To The Congregation From Lewis Lee, Finance Committee Chair

Recently in church I expressed a concern and a joy concerning our church budget.

First my Concern: I asked everyone to look at the last page of the bulletin and take note that the church has a deficit of more than \$10,000 for the first half of 2009. We also finished 2008 with a deficit. So far we've managed to meet our budget needs by cutting expenses and by using some of our cash reserves, but we cannot continue to do that. I pointed out that this problem belongs to all of us collectively. This is not just my church or Marty's church. It's OUR church. I asked everyone, "What are we going to do to correct this course?"

I shared with the congregation a stewardship lesson that was written by Jim Branscome, a former treasurer of the Virginia Conference. It is taken from a Virginia Advocate article entitled "*Top Ten Lessons of Stewardship*". This is lesson #8 *Giving Should be Sacrificial*.

Mr. Branscome says:

"As I read about sacrificial giving in the Old Testament - especially the killing of the fatted calf - my thoughts returned to my childhood memories. Although ours was primarily a dairy farm we also had beef and sheep. The selling of the fatted calf or lamb was an important contribution to our living. To have sacrificed one of these on a regular basis would have had a significant impact on our income. I think that we take too lightly the economic commitment that was a part of the Old Testament sacrifice to God." He ends by saying "In today's world - if our giving does not require some sacrifice on our part we are probably not giving enough."

Our financial dilemma was a main topic of discussion at Bethel's last Church Council meeting. One proposed idea centered around sacrifice. Someone suggested that if each of us who give regularly at Bethel were to sacrifice each week one Starbuck's coffee, or one Big Mac, or a pack of cigarettes (or something that costs around \$5) - and instead - put that money in the offering plate along with our regular offering, by the end of the year 2009 we would not be talking about a deficit but probably instead would have a small surplus. Now that's something to think about that!!

You remember I also said I had a joy? My joy is that this dilemma is in our hands - it is something we can correct together. Remember, this is OUR church! And small regular sacrifices really add up!! Will you join me today and step up to the plate and demonstrate that?

Lewis

School Kits

Remember when we were gathering items this spring to fill school kits? And while we didn't reach our goal of 175 we did send 123 kits to the Virginia Conference for distribution to Sagar Brown, the relief supply depot operated by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). These kits will go to the most vulnerable people during times of crisis. They sustain everyday life by providing basic necessities to people who lack ready access to essential supplies.

Well, UMW and the Bethel Mission team decided to turn this into a year-round collection hoping to have many more kits to send next June. Following are the items needed for the kits and *right now, while sales are on, we are concentrating on paper, scissors, and pencil sharpeners.* A box to put them in will be available in the social hall. Later we will focus on the other items.

School Kit Contents

- 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2" x 11" ruled paper
- 1 30-centimeter ruler
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 eraser, 2 1/2"
- 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)

(Check out the UMCOR website at Contents <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/> for more information on the work of UMCOR.)

Our Church Officers

Co-Lay Leaders	Ava Lee & Joe McCooy
Church Council Chair	Cathy Bergman
Vice Chair	Tom Davis
Secretary	Joice Fredenburgh
Trustees Chair	Peggy Goff
Church Treasurer	Donna Broadbent
Financial Secretary	June Rinker
Staff-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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