

The Bethel Bugle

Newsletter

December 2009 January 2010

Bethel United Methodist Church
Pastor: Marty Martin

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Upcoming Advent and Christmas Events Read more about them inside!

United Methodist Women Annual Christmas program and party

Saturday, December 5 10:00 a.m.

ALL women of the church are invited to attend. Read more on page 5.

Consecration Sunday, December 6

"How will YOU respond to God's Extravagant Generosity?"

Choir Cantata and Handbell Concert

Sunday, December 6 4:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Play

Sunday, December 20 9:45 a.m.

United Methodist Men Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

Saturday, December 12 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Food Collection for the Fauquier Food Coalition

Sunday morning December 13

"Longest Night" Worship Service

Monday, December 21 7:15 p.m.

Worship service in the Taize' tradition.

Christmas Eve -Wednesday, December 24

7:30 p.m. Family Service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

New Year's Eve - Wednesday, December 31

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with communion

An Advent Message from Pastor Marty

For me, this time of year is one of great contrast. The world is clamoring for us to listen to all the commercials about all the things we need and then get busy and go out and buy more than we can afford just so people will know that we love them. At the same time, God's still small voice is also trying to get our attention, trying to get us to listen. But God's message comes in a whisper that is often drowned out. And in that whisper, God is saying be still and know that I am your God and want to be Lord of your life. God calls us to wait, anticipate and savor what it is to be loved by God. These really are two attempts to find and demonstrate love. The world says it comes is spending more to get more. And God says I am all you need, but God I just desire to be all that you want.

Ah yes, the world appeals to our wants. The world appeals to the selfish side of our lives. And that appeal is no more evident than the call of Black Friday to get up at an ungodly hour, endure massive crowds of rude and often greedy people just so that we can spend massive amounts of money. And all presumably to show someone we love them.

Can we really be serious as we think we can convince someone how much we love them and how much we care about them by how much we buy and how expensive and one of a kind the gifts we buy are? What ever happened to giving things people need? Why does that not seem to be enough today? Well, I am afraid that just giving to needs and just spending time together often have been lost in the clamor of the world.

It dawns on me that the concepts that are the foundation of the commercial Christmas have so invaded our lives that we have begun to live them in all things. Instead of loving people by spending time with them, we try to buy their understanding through an honorable concept like gift giving. But our gift giving crosses a line when it becomes dominated by extravagance.

What if our gift giving came in a whisper? The whisper of three simple words: "I love you". And what if that I love you was accompanied by the gift of presence instead of the gift of presents. What if our actions spoke more of our love than the stuff we give? What if we valued the gift of a baby in a feeding trough over untold numbers of gifts under a tree? Yes, what if?

God has always loved us and gave us a gift that changed the world. What if that gift meant more to us than our money, our stuff, or even our favorite sports team? Yes, what if Jesus meant the world to us? My guess is that would be a wonderful world to live in. So how about it? Why don't you and I start now to accept that love, embrace it, and share it? Let's listen for the whisper and let it change us so that we might change the world. Have a wonderful Advent season, Christmas, and New Year!

Pastor Marty

*We will have many opportunities to worship and experience
Christ born in us anew during Advent and Christmas.
Come! Worship, experience and share.*

Choir Cantata and Handbell Concert
“The Holly and the Ivy”

Sunday, December 6 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 6th at 4:00 p.m., the music ministry will share Christ anew with a cantata, “The Holly and the Ivy”; and the handbell and chime choirs will share Christ anew with seasonal music. Over 40 people will be sharing their gifts with you. Come! Worship, experience and share.

Children’s Christmas Play

Sunday, December 20 9:45 a.m.

On Sunday, December 20th at 9:45 a.m., the children will bring Christ alive with a pageant, “Where Love Is, There is God”. We have chosen the time period between worship services hoping more folks would be able to attend. Come! Worship, experience and share.

Longest Night Worship Service

Monday, December 2 17:15 p.m.

Monday evening December 21 we will have a “Longest Night” worship service in the Taize’ tradition. This will be a quiet worship service featuring prayers and meditative songs and carols. The Christmas season can be especially difficult for those who have experienced loss; loss of loved ones, jobs, finances, relationships, etc. It is also a season when we get so caught up in the “stuff and trappings” of tradition, that we don’t take time to breathe. Come! Catch your breath. Worship, experience and share.
(Because this is a service where silence is observed for brief periods, this service is not recommended for young children. A nursery will be provided.)

Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve worship services will include a family candlelight service at 7:30 p.m. followed with a quiet candlelight service with holy communion at 11:00 p.m. Come! Worship, experience and share.

New Year’s Eve Service

New Year’s Eve Watch Night worship will be a service of candlelight and holy communion at 7:00 p.m. Come! Worship, experience and share.

To keep Christ in Christmas this year, we encourage you to take time to worship. Take time to experience Christ this season. Listen to carols of the season, not just the secular Christmas songs. Read your Advent devotional, the Upper Room, other Christian materials. Light an Advent candle prior to your mealtime prayers. Set aside time to read and compare the “Christmas” story found in the beginning of all the gospels. Take time to share Christ with someone else by inviting them to worship with you here at Bethel Church.

Council Corner

Bethel's very busy autumn is rapidly morphing into another event-filled Christmas season, and your church committees are hard at work trying to ensure that each event they plan helps us all focus on our relationships with both Christ and with each other. WE are the Church, after all. In the last newsletter, I mentioned that Bethel's 2009 - 2010 goal is to become a Five Talent Church, wherein we strive to engage the talents and passions of each of our members (that's YOU) and help each other grow in our discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ. Please think of all our upcoming holiday events as opportunities for you to volunteer your time and/or attend these events as a member in right relationship with this body of Christ. And the church committees are already planning the church calendar of events for next year. We want you to think of our fundraising events to also be funraisers and friendraisers -- it's all about relationship, after all, so plan to mark all of the church events on your 2010 calendars, and come to have fun and to make friends in the name of our Lord!

With weekends becoming just a little too hectic, the council has permanently switched its meeting time to the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Upper Room. As always, our meetings are open to everyone, so please come -- our next meeting is Dec 15th. Merry Christmas, everyone!!

Your Council Chair, Cathy Bergman

Stewardship for Children and Youth

This year we are inviting our children and teens to share in our Bethel Stewardship Program in a new and personal way. Through Sunday School, they will receive a "Sharing My Gifts" form where they can commit to using their time and talents in service - similar to the ones that adults will receive. We hope that families will complete these together and will bring all commitments on Consecration Sunday, December 6. (Forms will also be available on December 6.)

Then, in late December, we will distribute a box of giving envelopes to each child/teen who wishes to use them for their offerings. They may put their envelope in Sunday School, Children's Church, or the regular church offering. All offerings in children or youth envelopes will go toward Sunday School projects.

Our prayer is that parents and all of us will support this as we help our children focus on and establish good stewardship of their time, talents and money.

Troop Morale Kits

Due at Bethel by January 3

Here is a way you can help support our troops. Help fill a care kit -- choose from the items below and package in zip lock bags. The items will be sent to the MERCI Center in North Carolina for packaging in 10.5" x 7" x 6" boxes.

Questions?? -- Talk to John or Martha Jo Payne or call 703-743-1605.

Things to remember when purchasing:

Troops have little storage & must carry 50+ lbs. in gear. The smaller the items the better.

Think camping.

Purchase items that won't melt.

No aerosol products.

All items must be in their original packaging/easy to open.

Item Suggestions

Prepaid Calling Cards

AT&T prepaid international phone calling card.

(Ordering information -Go online to this address and follow the instructions to pick a branch of service and to order card:

www.usa.att.com/military/events/phone_card_donations.jsp or purchase at Target, Walmart or Sam's.

Snack Ideas

Hard Candy

Gum

Canned tuna, etc. with pop tops

Canned fruit with pop tops

Cereal in small boxes

Granola Bars

Trail mix

Microwavable popcorn

Powdered drink

Toiletries for Men or Women

Insect repellent

Eye Drops

Shampoo

Nose spray

Baby wipes

Individual packs of Kleenex

Hand sanitizers

Toilet paper (1" x 4")

Foot powder

Q-tips travel pack

Toothpaste

Tooth brushes

Soap

Deodorant

Disposable razors

Shaving cream (non-aerosol)

Additional Ideas

Athletic socks

Books (Paperback)

DVD's and CD's

Batteries

Stationery, envelopes, pens, stamps

Sunscreen, minimum SPF 15 - small size.

Playing cards.

Annual UMW Cookie Walk/ Bazaar and the UMM Brunswick Stew Dinner a Huge Success

What a wonderful and magical day November 14 turned out to be for the United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Men. The annual Cookie Walk and Bazaar has been going on for over 20 years and this year we made over \$6,000 to use for future church and community projects. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the cause - we had tons of cookies, beautiful bake goods, and fantastic handcrafted items!! And thanks to all of you who shopped! It was a great day!

In addition, a first this year, the Bazaar was combined with the United Methodist Men's monthly dinner. In November the men (assisted by one very able woman) prepared Brunswick Stew for their Men's Night dinner. What fun it was to watch them "stirring the pot" all day long!! It was delicious - and the group sold every drop of the 22 gallons that they made!! The word is that there will be more to come in the future!! Yummm - bring it on!!

The Best part of the whole day - - the fun, fun, fun and all the many people who gathered together to enjoy it!!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to everyone who took part!!!

United Methodist Women

Bethel United Methodist Women meets the first Saturday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 6. We will be celebrating Christmas with a brunch beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed by a brief business meeting and then lots of holiday fun. *All women are invited to attend - you do not have to be a UMW member to come join the fun - in fact I encourage your attending - please come and take part in this wonderful opportunity for Christian fellowship with your Bethel sisters in Christ.* If you are interested in more information about UMW please contact President Ava Lee at 347-7805 or leisurelee@erols.com.

A Special Thank you from Bethel UMW for this season's successful Pumpkin Patch

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the pumpkin sales this year; from unloading the truck, to putting up signs, manning the sales table, buying pumpkins, and helping remove the leftovers. This event is great fun and is also a wonderful mission project as we help support the Navajo Nation by selling their pumpkins. This year we sold well over \$800 to send to the Navajo and made nearly \$400 for other Bethel church projects. A real "win-win"!! Thank you!

United Methodist Men's Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 13

Plan now to purchase a ticket and attend the December 13 UMM monthly dinner. This month the group will be serving spaghetti and meatballs, salad dessert and a beverage. Invite your friends and neighbors too - this is a wonderful fellowship event. \$10 per person. Children under age 10 eat free!!!

The United Methodist Men meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm for food and fellowship. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Membership is open to all men of the church. The UMM exists to serve God, the Church, and the community. If you know anyone who needs a helping hand, let us know.

Grace and Peace, Mike Jamison

As you read the following Bible passages from the lectionary throughout this Advent season and beyond, please also keep the following in your prayers:

Our Church Family

Our Friends and Family

Those serving in Uniform

Those in Need

Lectionary Readings for December/January

November 29 First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756)
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3: 1-6

December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

December 27 First Sunday After Christmas Day

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Col 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

January 1 New Year's Day

Ecclesiastics 3:1-13

Psalm 8
Revelations 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

January 3 Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 10 Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17,21-22

January 17 Second Sunday After the Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 24 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10
Psalm 19:
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 31 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Community Food Collection for the Fauquier Food Coalition

Thank you to everyone who has helped support the Fauquier Food Coalition by bringing donated food to Bethel on the second Sunday each month. December is a particularly hard month for so many local families - there are many people in Fauquier County without the means to provide a wonderful Christmas feast for their families like each of us will have!!

So please open your pantry and give generously of canned food and dry goods on Sunday, December 13 so it can be distributed on Saturday, December 19.

And continuing throughout the winter months do not forget these neighbors. Remember to continue donating canned food and dry goods the second Sunday of every month! Thank you!!!

Tri-Cities Youth Workcamp

JULY 4 - 10, 2010

THEME: Wadin' In The River!
SONG: Lay It Down by NEED TO BREATHE
"The Outsiders" CD

Bethel UMC will participate again this year in the Tri-Cities Workcamp, a program available to youth, ages 14, or entering 9th grade, and up. The camp is held in Petersburg, VA each year. Small crews work together each day, Monday through Friday on homes that have been assessed by Tri-Cities Workcamps, Inc. Work tasks include porch and step repair, hanging drywall, floor and wall replacement and painting.

Evening programs offer inspiration through music, worship, games and projects. Special activities are scheduled throughout the week. Daily seminars are held for adults and campers 19 years and older. Thursday night is a special night of learning drama, music, liturgical dance and other art that can be presented by the campers at their home churches.

Saturday morning's Re-entry Celebration is a culmination of the week through art, music, worship and pictures. This celebration is shared with residents, parents, clergy and church members. Visitors - anyone wants to come down and see what these youth are doing for the Peterburg community - are welcome!!

Pictures from last year's Workcamp:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/bethelumcwarrenton>

Link to Workcamp Facebook site:
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204506591>

The cost is approximately \$250 (there may be scholarships available) per youth which includes room, board and transportation. Again, Work Camp is available to youth, ages 14 or entering 9th grade and up. Bethel's adult sponsors are Ken and Martha Trexler. If your child is interested please speak to the Trexlers or Pastor Marty.

Bethel Relay for Life Team

The Bethel Relay for Life team is recruiting members now for the annual Relay for Life event scheduled for June 5 & 6 at Fauquier High School! Everyone is invited to join the team in its fund-raising efforts for the fight against cancer. Bethel UMC has been taking part in this event for many years and has raised several thousand dollars for this fight for a cure!!

A lot of planning and participation by many is needed to organize the team camp site and all the other activities. Gayle Wilson (347-7456) and Kirsten King (349-8268) will be happy to provide you with information about this fun and worthy event. We've all been touched by in some way by cancer - here's a way to fight back.

Let's continue this Bethel Church tradition. Won't you please join us today?

Thanks for your support. Gayle & Kirsten
P.S. Look for the team's fund-raising bake sales each month at the UMW breakfasts through May.

Our Church Officers 2009

Co-Lay Leaders	Ava Lee and 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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