

The Bethel Bugle

Newsletter

February/March

2009

Bethel United Methodist Church
Pastor: Marty Martin

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Upcoming Special Events And Programs

United Methodist Women - Saturday , February 7

Catherine Bowers is coming to speak to us about her plans for Sparrow's Rest, a special foster care program. All women are invited to attend. Please join us - refreshments and fellowship at 10:00 a.m., followed by the program at 10:30!!

Epiphany Ministry February 14-16

Earl and Geneice Kemper will be participating in an Epiphany Ministry at the Culpeper Juvenile Correction Center the week-end of February 14-16. The mission of this special program is to show Christ's love to incarcerated juveniles - on this week-end it will be young men, many of whom have never known God's love. Earl and Geneice are asking for our help and our prayers!! On Page 3 of this newsletter there is an article that describes the program in more detail and outlines how you can help by being a Buddy. Please take time to read the article and find out how you might participate.

Valentine Dinner and Dance February 14

Dinner 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Dancing 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Come celebrate Valentine's Day dining and dancing at Bethel!!!

The United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women are again "teaming-up" to sponsor a special Valentine event for all. This time the men will be cooking dinner and the women will be providing a dessert buffet! There will be door prizes, a photo to take home, and a fun-filled evening of fellowship. Tickets are on sale now from UMM and UMW members and between and after worship services. \$25 per couple; \$12.50 for singles. Bring your friends and neighbors!!

Lent Begins on February 25.

We will begin our Lenten worship on Ash Wednesday, February 25th with a service that will include Holy Communion and the institution of ashes.

Holy Week Services and Events. Palm Sunday, April 5th, is the beginning of Holy Week. A Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion will be held on April 9th at 7:30 p.m. This moving service will end with the traditional "stripping" of the church of all adornments. On Good Friday at 7:30 p.m. we will continue our observance of Holy Week with a service of Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows"), where a series of lighted candles are extinguished one by one, representing the falling away of the disciples. Following the service, the Worship Committee hopes to have a Prayer Vigil in the Upper Room lasting from Friday night until sunrise on Easter Morning. You will be hearing more about this in the next few weeks.

A Message from Pastor Marty

We have passed through the celebration of God coming to be with us during the Christmas season. We have passed through the celebration of God coming for all people during the celebration of Epiphany. And now we are in the "So What" season of the church year. This is the time that we ask ourselves what it means to us that God has come into the world and into our lives.

God cared enough to love us even when we have been unlovely and all God asks is that we love God and one another. So, what does it mean to us that God loves us? How does it translate into the way we live? We struggle to even like others especially when they do things that we do not like. It seems that the story of Adam and Eve is repeated over and over in the history of mankind even unto today. We want to know it all and have it our way. I wonder what life would be like if we were not selfish. What would life be like if God were the real center of our universe instead of self?

At the same time that this is the "So what" time of our church life, life in our country is all about transition right now. And that transition has captured the minds and hearts of many in our country. As I have watched and listened to the transition of power, I have been struck by two things. People seem to want change and they are placing hope in this new leadership.

The problem as I see it is that "the change" that people want is not really defined. And my guess is the change hoped for is different depending on who you are and what you perceive to be in your best interest. I am not so sure that the people are going to be willing to sacrifice to get the change they hope for. All of this reminds me of God's people wandering in the wilderness and lamenting the good ol' life of bondage in Egypt.

What if we decided to put our trust and faith and hope in God instead of our political system? What if we lived as though we really had faith in God? What if "in God we trust" was real in our lives, rather than just something printed on our money? It seems to me that this would be a really good time to turn to God instead of our own selfish desires and to place our full trust in God instead of just another earthly leader.

Bethel Memories from Millie

One of my favorite functions of the church is Vacation Bible School. In my younger days I always volunteered, whether it be a helper, teacher, or even serving snacks to the students. In those days Bethel Church was on the Warrenton Charge and events like Vacation Bible School were a combined effort.

This one particular year I was assigned as a helper to Virginia Martin, wife of our then pastor, Rev. P. D. Martin. To this class Virginia was teaching on the Garden at Gethsemane and events prior to the Crucifixion. At the end of the class Virginia asked the question, "Why did Jesus go into the garden?" and immediately a little hand shot up and he said, "To get the taters." Virginia and I looked at each other and I said, "I guess we aren't doing a great job" and at the same time we were trying to keep our composure.

I can't remember who that little fellow was but I would hope that he's now teaching his grandchildren that there is more in the garden than just taters.

I hope that you will volunteer to be a helper -- you will find that it a most rewarding gesture. The satisfaction you get in volunteering is worth every moment it takes to do these things for the church.

Have a Happy New Year!
Love, Millie

Banner Making

Remember how wonderful the banners in the Sanctuary were during Christmas? The Worship Committee would like to have a special banner made for Easter morning. If you like to sew or can wield a pair of scissors and a glue gun, come share your ideas and talents and be a part of this wonderful ministry. Please contact Geneice Kemper for more information!

Council Corner

Warm wintry greetings to you from your council! Brrrr! Your officers for 2009 have just attended their first council meeting of the year, and we are actively seeking ideas for events for the coming year. Our events calendar was wonderfully full in 2008 -- Bethel was the "happenin'" place in Warrenton, with both church and community - oriented events well-attended on a regular basis - and we hope to have even more such affairs this year. In addition to the monthly UMW breakfasts and UMM dinners which have already kicked off the new year in fine form, we now have our annual Valentines Day dinner-dance to look forward to in February. There's lots more coming up, and if you have any ideas for more events, please feel free to share them and help organize them! Just contact any of the council committee members (named elsewhere in this issue) to get the ball rolling. And as usual, you are all invited to attend the monthly church council meetings, which convene in the Upper Room of the social hall following the 10:30 worship service on the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is February 8th. Hope to see you there!

Cathy Bergman, Council Chair

What is Epiphany Ministry?

The mission statement of Epiphany Ministry Inc. is: "TO SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE TO INCARCERATED JUVENILES." Epiphany Ministry, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation. The ministry is lay led; however, the active participation of clergy is both essential and encouraged.

Epiphany is an ecumenical ministry that seeks the participation of Christian denominations and ethnic groups. Laity and clergy actually go into the incarceration facilities to share a weekend of God's love with these young people. Often this is the first time a young person has heard about or experienced the love of Christ for them. The upcoming weekend is February 14-16 at the Culpeper Juvenile Correction Center.

How can You help? You can become a Buddy to a Star for a Weekend. A Star is the name given to one of the incarcerated youth. Buddies can buy them a lunch, a dinner, or pay for their whole weekend. Here's a breakdown of the financial gifts you can share - \$5.00 - Lunch Buddy; \$10.00 - Dinner Buddy; or a gift of \$50 sponsors a youth for the entire weekend including all their meals, a Bible, and an Epiphany T-shirt. If you give a gift, from 5 cents to \$50 dollars, you will receive a "Star" with your name on it and it will be placed on the "Star Helper" bulletin board in the Social Hall. There is also a container for you to put your money in anonymously if you wish.

Being part of a prayer team is another way of helping. There is a prayer vigil list on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. The time slots are for only 1/2 hour. Please consider giving 30 minutes of your time to pray for these young men. There will also be some colored strips of paper next to the bulletin board. Feel free to write a very short message and sign with your **first name only**. The strips will be made into a chain that will surround the room that the boys are in, to show them that many people they don't even know are praying for them.

Who Can You Talk to about Helping?: Earl and Geneice Kemper will be working at the Center on the weekend of February 14-16. They would love to hear from you or your group or Sunday School class about sponsoring a few Stars. What better way to show your love for others over Valentine's Day! They will be available after the worship services on Feb. 1 to answer any questions you may have. You may make donations up to February 12. You can also learn more at: <http://www.epiphanyministry.com>

News from the Worship Committee

By Pat Martin, Worship Chair

Goals: The Worship Committee has met and agreed on its goals for 2009. As Bethel Church strives to become a Five Talent Church, we will work together with Pastor Marty to continue to provide opportunities for you to engage and participate in meaningful worship experiences. Our goals are:

- Provide new and different Worship experiences – at least quarterly in 2009
- Include multi-generational people in worship
- Educate the congregation in the “elements” of the worship service.
- Work with Committees to include and incorporate worship into their work areas.
- Provide a musical offering at the first worship service at least once per month.

To meet these goals we are planning a “different” worship experience (on an evening) on a quarterly basis. Our first experience will be a Taize’ style worship service during Lent. This is a meditative, prayerful setting with lots of quiet time built into the service. We are also planning a Praise and Worship service some time after Easter and again in the fall. We will continue to use folks of all ages in our worship services as lectors, greeters, ushers, acolytes, etc. And we have asked the choir or other small group to provide a musical offering at the early worship service on a monthly basis.

Lent and Easter Observance. We will begin our Lenten worship on Ash Wednesday, February 25th with a service that will include Holy Communion and the institution of ashes. As we approach Easter, the Worship Committee would like to have a special banner (or series of banners), similar to the manger scene banner that graces the sanctuary at Christmas. If you have special skills of sewing, cutting, designing, gluing, etc. please contact Geneice Kemper (gkemper@infionline.net). Work will need to begin shortly in order to complete it for display on Easter morning.

Holy Week Services and Events. A Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion will be held on April 9th at 7:30 p.m.. This moving service will end with the traditional “stripping” of the church of all adornments. On Good Friday at 7:30 p.m. we will continue our observance of Holy Week with a service of Tenebrae (Latin for “shadows”), where a series of lighted candles are extinguished one by one, representing the falling away of the disciples. Following the service, the Worship Committee hopes to have a Prayer Vigil in the Upper Room lasting from Friday night until sunrise on Easter Morning. When you will hear more details about that event, we hope you will participate.

We are planning to have a floral cross on Easter morning as well. The large cross in the church yard will be draped with chicken wire late during Holy Week. When you come for worship on Easter morning, you will be asked to bring a bouquet of greens or cut flowers to turn the cross into a beautiful symbol of the resurrection. Easter is April 12th. Worship Services will be at 6:30 and 10:30 a.m.

If you have fresh ideas or comments about the worship services here at Bethel Church, please forward them to me at patandmarty@comcast.net.

Sunday School

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

A message from Rebecca Krauss, Sunday School Superintendent

If you haven't heard, the place you want to be on Sunday morning is in one of our vibrant Sunday School classes. We have lots to offer. There are children's classes for all ages: Preschool through High School. And there are several adult classes from which to choose: a Married with Children class, a book study "Why Faith Matters", and a class that follows each week's lectionary reading. There is something for all ages and all interests!

The Sunday School department thanks Cindy Ranger for her many years of faithful service. Bless you Cindy for laying the strong foundation for Bethel's Christian Education department!

Managing the Church Budget

Information from Your Finance Committee

I am sure that everyone is aware that managing the budget for our church was a struggle in 2008. Giving was down and energy costs were much higher than anyone could predict. The Finance Committee, in an attempt to keep a lid on spending in 2009, approved a total budget with just a little over 1% increase over 2008. We did however increase our energy account by approximately 50%. The net effect was that our "local church" budget (the funding for missions, Sunday School, evangelism, administration, etc.) had to be decreased to make up the balance. The Finance Committee is bringing this to your attention so that you are aware of how deficits in our giving affect the operation of the church.

If our income is lower than our expectations in the 1st quarter of 2009, the finance committee will have no choice but to go back to the leaders of the local church work areas and ask them to trim their budgets even further.

Bethel United Methodist Church has always been a vibrant part of our community, offering help and financial assistance in many areas. The Finance Committee certainly does not want that to change and we are sure that each of you feels the same way and will answer the call to support Bethel's ministries by continuing to give.

Please Help Our Offering "Counters"

Who are the counters? These are the folks who are responsible for counting the money in the offering envelopes and making sure the checks and cash are recorded in the proper funds. We can help them out by making the proper designations on our checks or on the front of our envelopes.

As you prepare your envelope for offering each week please clearly mark on the "Memo" line of your check exactly how your check 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. You can 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 our accounts are correctly funded. Thanks 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

Rosemary Cox (health concerns)
Alice and Leo Federline
Nell Lewis
Phyllis McBee
Shelley Murrah
Mary Lou Rowland
Robbie Smith
Helen and Irving Thorpe
Mildred Wilkes (health concerns)
Those experiencing financial hardship or job loss
Our children and youth
Those facing medical procedures/tests/surgery

Flower Calendar

Space is filling up fast. Would you like to provide flowers for worship for a specific Sunday this coming year? There is a new calendar on the podium in the narthex for you to add your name. Flowers can commemorate a special occasion, honor someone, or be given in memory of someone special. There are lots of dates available. Please consider signing up to share the gift of flowers for worship. Questions? See Pat Martin.

Bible Studies

Open to all - *The Passion Narratives*, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Women's study groups, "*Jesus, the One and Only*", Mondays at 7:00 p.m. or Friday at 9:45 a.m. Come, you are welcome!!

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)
Joseph Bennett (US Army)
John Rhorbaugh (US Army)
Rick Crowther (US Army)
Jordan White (US Army)
Will Corbitt (US Marines)
Joshua Knefelkamp (US Marine)
Kyle Riley (US Marine)
Timothy Robinson (US Marine)
Jason Osborn (US Navy)
Brian Tollefson (US Navy)
Joe McCoy (US Navy)
Mary Lloyd
Al Lyon

Confirmation Class

Pastor Marty will lead a confirmation class during this Lenten season. The purpose of a confirmation class is to teach and reacquaint our young persons with and about God and church beyond what the parents have taught them and what they have learned in Sunday school and church so that they can make their own decision about profession of faith and joining the church.

The class is open to youth who are baptized (or not) but of age and maturity to understand what they are doing and make a choice for themselves. Often people say about 4th grade, but that all depends on the child - some may be younger but most will be older. Please note that confirmation class is voluntary and it should be a decision that parents and children enter into together.

The format of the class will be a weekly meeting, probably on Sunday afternoon. Pastor Marty will be the instructor and each child will be given an adult mentor to go through the class with them (parents are parents and the adult mentor may be a parent but not one of the parents in the class). This mentor relationship is another way that we confirm for the children the concept of church as extended family. As a part of the class we may have a field trip or two.

For those of you who are thinking that a season of Lent is not enough time for the children to learn all they should know before professing faith and confirming your charge at their baptism, please remember this is confirmation and not the whole course. The children have been in Church, Sunday school and under parental teaching for a while now and the class is just going to review and clarify ideas of God and faith and beliefs of the UMC.

To join the class, please contact Pastor Marty and let him know that you and your child are committed to doing this. Your commitment means that the confirmation class will be a priority and that unless sick, your child will be at every meeting and participate in all the activities. We will be meeting from Sunday March 1st until Sunday April 5th and the children will confirm their decisions on April 19, the Sunday after Easter. Deadline for entry in the class is February 15th. If you have questions or would like other information, please let Pastor Marty know.

United Methodist Men

Saturday night, January 10, the Social Hall was the site of the UMM's first Chili Cook-Off!! It was a great event with at least 16 different chili entries.

The dishes were judged by Pat Martin, Geneice Kemper, Kathi Reichel and Donna Broadbent and the winner was.....Pat Adams!! See her winning recipe below. 2nd place winner was Stephen Lee and 3rd place winner was Tom Hughes!! Their recipes will appear in the next issue of the newsletter! After the judging, over 75 people enjoyed sampling all the entries; along with salad and dessert. What a wonderful event - *thank you UMM* for organizing it. And if you missed it - keep an eye out for the next one!!

Pat's Vegetarian Chili

1 t. oil; 2 onions chopped; 2 each carrots & celery, diced; 1 28 oz. can tomatoes, chopped; 4 cloves garlic, minced; 1 green pepper, diced; 2 small zucchini, diced; ¼ c. parsley; 4 t. chili powder (or to taste); 1 t. oregano; ½ t. salt.

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onions, carrots, celery and cook for 6 minutes, stirring often. Stir in tomatoes, garlic, green pepper, parsley, chili powder, oregano and salt. Bring to simmer, cover and cook for 20 minutes stirring often. Add beans and cook 15 minutes, add zucchini and cook 15 minutes more, stirring occasionally. Preparation time ; about 45 minutes.

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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