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THE BETHANY BANNER

November, 2007

Bethany Mission Team Travels to Mississippi

On Saturday morning, Nov. 3, at about 8 a.m., two vehicles will pull out of the Bethany parking lot on a nine-day mission adventure to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, where eight volunteers will put in five days of hard, but rewarding, labor to renovate a house severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Led by Mike Andersen, chairperson of our Missions Committee, the team will include Bethany members Kevin Kiley, Patrick Kiley, Joni Diamond-Silvers, and Connie Reinke, and three persons from other churches: Sherry Hodges, Blair Hodges, and Jodi Williams.

The team will stay overnight Saturday near Atlanta and continue on to Gulfport, Mississippi, on Sunday. Gulfport, a city of about 70,000 people and situated right on the Gulf of Mexico, was hit by the strong side of Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005 and was devastated by the storm surge. The team will be housed at Trinity UMC in Gulfport, which will provide air mattresses, meals, and showers for the team.

As of the date of this newsletter the precise assignment of the team had not yet been determined, however some of the possible projects include siding, window installation, door and trim installation, sheet-rocking, painting, and insulation work. A site coordinator from UMCOR will be available, but the actual work will be led by Mike Andersen, with technical assistance from Patrick Kiley.

Each day begins with breakfast at the church at 6:30 a.m. and then a brief drive to the worksite in the vicinity of the church. Lunch will be back at the church at noon, followed by devotions led by Joni Diamond-Silvers, before returning to the worksite. Dinner is served back at the church at 5:45, and the evening is free for socializing and rest.

The team has raised approximately \$2000 for the trip, which will cover travel, meal expenses, and incidentals. Supplies are furnished by UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) from the donations of United Methodists everywhere. Mike expresses heartfelt thanks for the wonderful response of the Bethany church family, especially in their generous support for two fund-raising Potato Bars.

The team is due to return about 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11. May God give the team safe travel, good health, safety on the job, and many enriching experiences, as they serve the needy in the name of Jesus Christ.



Servant Leadership Class Offered



Academy of Servant Leadership will be held at Blacksburg at two different sessions. February 29th – March 2nd and March 2nd – March 4th. This program is sponsored by the Virginia Conference Board of Laity. A Servant Leader is someone who patterns his or her own life after Jesus' own teachings during his life on earth. A Servant Leader serves first, and then leads. Servant Leadership is learning and living *The Beatitudes ... The Gospel in Miniature*. Space is limited to 50 people per session and the cost is \$182.00. For more information go to www.vaumc.org or call Dolores Hart at 642-0922.

RADA Knives

Do you need a Christmas gift or a last minute hostess gift? The JOY Circle will be accepting orders for Rada Knives. Please contact Janet Chapin at 642-6822 to look at a brochure. Order deadline is November 27, 2007

Are You Interested in Scrapbooking?

Bethany Scrapbookers will meet on Friday, November (date to be determined) from 7:00-10:00 pm in the WBFH. Bring your scrapbooking supplies for a time of sharing and fellowship. All are welcome ... experienced or novice scrapbookers alike! Snacks will be provided. For more details please contact Susie Buck at 642-2624.

Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis, Cursillo?

Have you been on a Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis Flight or Cursillo? Join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 for our Bethany a Reunion Group. WE are brothers and sisters in Christ who meet weekly to talk about our week and see how our spiritual journey is going.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Faith Classroom. We are beginning a new book "Beautiful in God's Eyes": a study of Proverbs 31. We are a group of women seeking to know God's plans for our lives and grow in our relationship with Him.

Men's Bible Study Off and Running

As many as eight men are participating in a Men's Bible Study that meets on Monday evenings from 7 until 8:30 p.m. in the Journey classroom. David Chapin is the facilitator, and they are currently focusing on the book of Job, using a special study guide. Come study, discuss, and grow in your knowledge of God's Word!

Congratulations

Luke Mitchell was born on October 15, 2007 to Al and Rachel Burner, and little sister Gracie. He weighed 8lb 10 oz. and was 21" long. Grandparents are Al and Judy Burner.



Sermon Topics for November

Nov. 4: "Surprising Saints" based on Luke 19:1-10

Nov. 11: "The Best Is Yet to Come"
based on Haggai 2:1-9

Nov. 18: "God's Big Plans" based on Isaiah 65:17-25

Nov. 25: "It's All about Jesus"
based on Colossians 1:11-20

The Book Corner

Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light

During her lifelong service to the poorest of the poor, Mother Teresa became an icon of compassion to people of all religions. This collection of her writing and reflections, most all of which have never been made public before, sheds light on Mother Teresa's interior life in a way that reveals the depth and intensity of her holiness for the first time.

The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate

by Gary Chapman

While working as a marriage counselor for more than 30 years, Gary Chapman identified five love languages: Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service, and Physical Touch. He illustrated each love language with real-life examples from his counseling practice.

Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended

Tragedy by Donald Craybill

When a gunman killed five Amish children and injured five others last fall in a Nickel Mines, PA schoolhouse, media attention rapidly turned from the tragic events to the extraordinary forgiveness demonstrated by the Amish community.

Gift Wrapping at WRCC

Gift-wrapping for the residents of WRCC will be held on Dec. 3, beginning at 1:30 p.m. If you have any small gift articles such as, socks, perfume, jewelry, scarfs, etc., would you consider donating them to be used by the residents. A box is located near the church office for your items. And thanks for helping make the day a little brighter for the residents.



Red poinsettias are available to order and place in the sanctuary for Christmas services. The cost is \$12.00 for each six-inch plant. This is a fundraiser for the MYF. Order deadline is December 13, 2007.

NAME _____

Phone No. _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Amount attached \$ _____

Payment **MUST** accompany order. Make checks payable to Bethany UMC with notation for poinsettias.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S PAGE



Teen Fall Fest

Join in on the fun on November 2 from 6:30 -10:00 p.m. in the WBFH. This is for all youth in grade 6-12. There will be a costume contest (church appropriate), games, fellowship, food and lots of fun! Bring a friend and enjoy a great evening. Please bring a finger food to share! Hope to see you there!

Rappahannock District Sr. High Retreat

WHERE: Camp Piankatank at Hartfield, VA
WHEN: November 30-December 2nd.
TIME: Leave Bethany Church at 5:00 pm (Friday) and return on Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

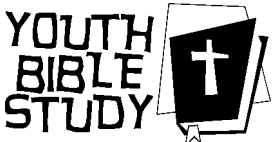
The camp is open to all 9th-12th graders!
Please contact Sondra at 642-0467 for further information. Deadline for application is November 7th.

Reminder: MYF and Bible Study groups will not meet on Dec.2 due to the retreat!

Attention Youth Parents

I am in desperate need of a volunteer to coordinate Sunday evening youth dinners. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Sondra at 642-0467 for further information.

Change of Time For Bible Study



On November 4th both the Middle School and High School "Amazing Race" Bible Study groups will meet directly following the 11 o'clock service until 2:00 p.m.. A light lunch will be provided. Bible Study will return to normal schedule at 4:00 and 5:00 on November 11th.

Another Reminder: No MYF meeting on November 4th due to Rudy Shackelford's Concert

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Bible Buddies

Bible Buddies is open to all third, fourth and fifth graders!!!

Come at 6:00 p.m. for a light dinner and stay until 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 4th and 18th. Enjoy team sports, cool discussion topics, music, Christian fellowship and fun!

Miss Kris and Miss Jane hope to see you then!

Shhhh....November's CCF is a real sleeper!

PAJAMA PARTY

on Saturday, November 24th from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall. All children preschool through fifth grade are invited.

Wear your jammies, bring your favorite stuffed "friend" and a real one, too! A light dinner, games, music, stories, popcorn and a movie! This is a great opportunity for parents to enjoy a night out, so adult volunteers are needed.



Contact Kris Kent at 642-6438/kentcrew@cox.net if you are available to help out and have fun!! See you then!

Bethany Children's Christmas Program Schedule

"Meet Me in the Manger~Wise Men Still Follow Him today"
Written By Celeste Clydesdale,
Directed by Sandy Fox



Performance Date:
December 23 during the 11:00 am Worship Service

Each Sunday, Sandy will be holding rehearsals at 9:45 am and for a short time during Children's Church. She will also rehearse at the beginning of each Bible Buddies meeting.

- Additional Rehearsal Dates:**
- November 11 Noon**-lunch and rehearsal in the WB Fellowship Hall
 - November 17 10:00 am to 11:00 am prior to CCF (which is 11:00 am to 12:30 pm)
 - November 25 Noon**-lunch and rehearsal
 - December 2 Noon**-lunch and rehearsal
 - December 9 Noon**-lunch and rehearsal
 - December 19 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm mid-week rehearsal
 - December 22 9:00 am to 11:00 am Dress Rehearsal (snack provided)
 - December 23 9:30 am Church-wide Breakfast, Performance at 11:00, "Happy Birthday Jesus" Celebration in the WBFH immediately following service.

** Immediately following the 11:00 AM Worship Service. A light, 20 minute lunch will be provided.

Thank you for your part in making this another memorable experience for the children of Bethany UMC!

Contact Sandy Fox (642-5091) or Kris Kent (642-6438) with questions, comments or concerns

Shackelford's Music Featured in Concert



At Bethany it is as an excellent organist and pianist that we know Rudy Shackelford. But in the larger national and international musical community it is as a distinguished composer that Dr. Shackelford has won his reputation. (Rudy has his own page in the standard musical encyclopedia: *The New Grove Dictionary of American Music*.) At a special concert on Nov. 4 at 4 p.m., Dr. Shackelford will perform a representative selection of his own compositions and arrangements for organ and piano, including three chorale-preludes composed this year in honor of Bethany's 120th anniversary. The concert will end with a rousing rendition of Dudley Buck's "The Star-Spangled Banner," comprising several variations of our national anthem composed for solo organ.

Membership Class Offered in November

Every few months Pastor Steve offers a series of classes for those who are contemplating membership at Bethany Church. The class is designed to provide a foundation of basic knowledge on the essence of the Christian faith, the distinctives of United Methodism, and the privileges and responsibilities of a member of Bethany. In November the classes will be held on Nov. 4, 11, and 18 from 9:45 until 10:45 a.m. (during the Sunday School hour). Classes will be held in the first partitioned classroom in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Give Thanks with Mother and Daughter on Nov. 21



Thanksgiving is a traditional time to worship and give thanks with other community churches. This Thanksgiving Eve we will worship with Bethlehem, the church that helped to give us birth in 1887, and Susanna Wesley, the church which we helped to give birth in 1988. The service this year will be held at Bethlehem UMC, on Mark Pine Road in Bena (a short distance from the Volunteer Fire Department). The pastor of Susanna Wesley will bring the message, and the chancel choir of Bethany will sing. The service will begin at 7:30 p.m., and all Bethany members are encouraged to attend.

Understanding the Samaritan Group

Last month I began an overview of organizations in Gloucester County that are represented on the Gloucester Resource Council. This group meets monthly to identify and solve local problems with existing services.

The Samaritan Group is one of those organizations.

The Samaritan Group was incorporated as a non-profit tax exempt organization in 1991 with the purpose of helping Gloucester residents having temporary financial problems such as paying rent or utility bills, auto repair, etc.

The Samaritan Group currently disburses funds annually to five groups:

1) *The JD Briggs Fund* was created to help public school children with financial needs such as school supplies, field trips, eyeglasses.

2) *Three Rivers Healthy Families (TRHF)* serves the Middle Peninsula and the Northern Neck. This program is a home-based prevention program designed to promote healthy child development and enhance family functioning. Some families in our community face risk factors of poverty, health impairments from conditions such as pre-mature birth, low birth weight, late prenatal care and a general lack of resources such as housing, education, and medical providers. The Samaritan Group funding for this program covers the cost of a family support worker to provide intensive home visiting services to one family for one year. The goal of the program is that the child will be healthy and ready for school at age five.

3) *The Family Room* is a cooperative made up of families with pre-school age children held in the facilities of Ware Episcopal Church. The program provides a social environment for pre-school age children and their parents or caregivers. It also provides a support system of peers for both children and adults that will reduce family stress and the feeling of isolation that occurs in rural areas, especially for those recently moved into the community. There is a wide range of family incomes of the participants. The better-off families are exposed to the many unique problems of low-income families and the low-income families learn that being better off financially does not preclude situations of family stress.

4) *Habitat for Humanity* builds houses in cooperation with partner families who are unable to afford safe housing. The Samaritan Group donates time and money to assist in that effort. Habitat is greatly in need of affordable building lots in Gloucester. Over 100 families are waiting. Habitat buys land and accepts donated land.

5) *Gloucester Housing Partnership*, originally part of the Samaritan Group, assists with home repairs for people who can't afford to do that alone. Wiley Cross is current chairman. GHP needs volunteers. Call 693-2252 for more information.

The Samaritans are governed by a Board of Directors and have no paid employees. They share a one-room office on Main Street with the Gloucester Housing Partnership. Marsha Miller runs that office. The current Samaritan Board members and officers are: Chairman, Linda Pennington; Vice Chairman, Vicki Williams; Recording Secretary, Regina Adams; Corresponding Secretary, Linda Phillips; Treasurer, Jack Pennington; Assistant Treasurer, Sid Dixon; Directors, Martha Borden, Wyatt Briggs, Michael Harris, Arliss Ketchum, Bobby Ray, Zealon Stilley, Deloris Stokes, Christine Wesson Caseworkers are: Marion Dixon and Arliss Ketchum. (Some of these directors are outgoing this month, but any of them can answer your questions.)

The Samaritans receive funds from membership, (\$10 per person, \$20 per couple, and \$25 per family) donations (individual, churches, and civic organizations), foundations, and fund raising.

Donations can be made to:

Samaritan Group, Inc.

PO Box 784

White Marsh, VA 23183-0784,

804-693-2252.

- Vicki Williams

Pastor's Column: Who Is Our Neighbor?

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)



"Love your neighbor as yourself" is the second part of what we often refer to as the Great Commandment.

Love of neighbor, along with the love of God, is the summit of the moral life according to Jesus (Luke 10:27-28). But how shall we define the word "neighbor"?

Jesus' questioner hoped that he would say something like: "Well, your neighbor is the person who is like you. Your neighbor shares the same ethnic background, the same political allegiance, and the same commitment to God as you." Instead, Jesus answered with a parable (the Parable of the Good Samaritan) that implied that a neighbor was someone who reached out to another in that person's time of need, regardless of whether that person was of the same religious background or social class or race. According to Jesus, the crucial issue wasn't identifying the type of person to whom we should reach out in love. Rather, the issue was whether a person was willing to act as a neighbor, reaching out in love, regardless of just whom it was they were helping.

Have you ever considered whom it might be that is our neighbor at Bethany? Is it the person who phones the church to complain that the carillon is too loud? Is it the teenagers who walk past the church and leave their candy bar wrappers on the lawn? Is it the person who rides their moped back and forth through the cemetery and the church parking lot? Is it the kids who hang out on the brick wall in front of our church? Is it the disheveled man who walks over to the church every few months and asks for money for gas?

Have you ever considered whom it might be that is our neighbor at Bethany? More importantly, have you considered what it might mean to act as a neighbor to them?

In the near future our church is going to have the opportunity to reach out and act as a neighbor to the people who live nearest to the church. We're going to be reaching out to the two trailer parks behind our church. We're going to be reaching out to the apartments near to our church. We're going to go in the spirit of love. We're going to reach out in the spirit of prayer. We're going to reach out in the spirit of openness. We're going to go to listen and to care.

And perhaps we may find someone of whom it is true (in Fanny Crosby's words) "crushed by the tempter, feelings lie buried that grace can restore."

Pastor Steve

Your Input for a New Hymnal

Every 25 years or so The United Methodist Church publishes a major new hymnal for use in our denomination. Our current hymnal was published in 1989, and the worship gurus of our denomination are already looking ahead to 2012-2014. They would like to have your input as to what hymns you like and what hymns you don't like in our current *The United Methodist Hymnal* and in *The Faith We Sing* (the black supplemental songbook in our pew racks). If you go to the following internet address: www.gbod.org/favoritehymns.html you will find an online survey which you can use to enter your ten favorite hymns and your ten least-favorite hymns. You are encouraged to take the opportunity to make your voice heard! Hurry, though. This opportunity for your input will end on November 6.

Bethany's History Updated

Thanks to the efforts of Bethany's historian, Don Thomas, the last five years of our church's history have been encapsulated and added to the booklet entitled *A History of Bethany United Methodist Church*, published in 1997 and updated in 2002. Thirty-two new pages have been added to tell the story of Bethany's last five years. The booklets were handed out at our 120th Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 28. For those of you who missed Homecoming, additional copies are available in the church office at no charge.



Remembering Our Deceased on Nov. 4

On Sunday, November 4, All Saints Sunday, Bethany will lift up the names of Bethany members who have died in the previous twelve months. In addition, a banner made of vertical ribbons will be placed at the front of the sanctuary to give each worshiper the opportunity to remember a deceased loved one by pinning a bell on one of the ribbons.

Consecration Sunday a Success

Consecration Sunday, the culmination of our annual stewardship campaign, was a grand success this year. Sam Uhler, chairperson of Stewardship, reports that 94 individuals or families completed estimate-of-giving cards for the 2008 year, and 76 of that number upped their financial commitment over the previous year. The total amount from the 94 cards was \$226,006, an average of \$2,404 per giving unit, or an average of \$46.24 per Sunday. In addition to these 94 individuals or families, there are other families in the church who did not submit a card on Consecration Sunday but who nevertheless give faithfully to the church during the year. (A few submitted commitment cards after Consecration Sunday and are not included in this report.) The combined efforts of those who pledge and those who give faithfully without pledging will enable Bethany to reach its budget for 2008. Thanks to each and every member of Bethany for their faithfulness and generosity to Christ and his Church!



Bethany Welcomes Two New Families

Bethany UMC rejoiced to welcome two new families into our membership in the month of October. On Oct. 14, Ted and Peggy Peterman said their vows of church membership. The Petermans transferred their membership from The Presbyterian Church at New Providence, in New Providence, New Jersey. Ted was a tax auditor with the State of Washington, and Peggy was a school teacher and later a sales representative with her own business. They are both retired and reside at 7823 Sunset Drive (Dockside), Hayes (642-5652).

On Sunday, Oct. 21, the Jacobs family was received into the Bethany family. Kevin and Kathy transferred their membership from St. Luke's UMC in Yorktown. Kevin is an aircraft mechanic with the Air Force, while Kathy is a stay-at-home mom. They have two daughters, Shelby (2) and Sammi (19 mos.). The Jacobs live at 7345 Leigh Dr. in Hayes (642-3076). Welcome!

Two Bethany Members Take Their Walk

Two Bethany members have the privilege of taking their "Emmaus Walk" on November 1 - 4 at Holy Family Retreat Center in Hampton. Sharon Smith and Darlene Bauschatz will participate in the 72-hour retreat composed of singing, sharing, spiritual talks, and special worship events. Please keep them in prayer, as well as the three members of Bethany who will be serving on the leadership team: Marsha Miller, Dolores Hart, and Tina Loase. For further information, please contact Dolores Hart (642-0933).

Subscribe to a Great Publication

Bethany's annual subscription drive for the *Virginia Advocate* has begun. The *Advocate* has been recognized as one of the best conference periodicals in all of Methodism. The full-color monthly provides up-to-date information on current issues facing Virginia United Methodists and useful practical ideas for local churches. In the past year brief articles have appeared featuring both Bethany Church and our organist, Rudy Shackelford. Subscription forms have been running in the church bulletin on Sunday morning. The price is only \$15 per year, and payment must be received with your subscription form. For further information, please call the church office (642-2110).

On the Lighter Side

The garden was at its peak of production, and Mother was busily putting some of its fruits away for next season. As she opened the freezer to deposit a batch, she noticed a row of plastic freezer containers, each containing a fly that was frozen stiff. She was removing the containers and puzzling over them when her 8-year-old son bounded in. Seeing what Mother was doing, he said, "Oh, mama, don't take those out of the freezer! Those are TV dinners for my turtle!"

Altar Guild for November:

Pat Hasty, Peggy Burton, Nancy Cooper

Acolytes for November:

- Nov. 4 8:30 Joel and Hannah Kidd
11:00 Tristan Reynolds and William Schultz
- Nov. 11 8:30 Kennedy Wilburn
11:00 Kaiten Cooper
- Nov. 18 8:30 Kyle Nichols
11:00 Trip Vaughan
- Nov. 24 8:30 Hunter Tipton
11:00 Ashley Reynolds

Counting Teams Schedule

- Nov. 4 Mike Andersen, Doris Luther, Merle Luther
- Nov. 11 Peggy Burton, Clyde Burton, Mary Kaylor
- Nov. 18 Bernard Robins, Sandra Harvey, Vicki Williams
- Nov. 24 Sid Dixon, Katherine Jordan, Kathleen Mattox

WHEN an event shakes up your world, you can either let it hurt you or help you.

If you would like help in turning a life crisis into an opportunity of growth and faith, a **STEPHEN MINISTER** is ready to help you.

A STEPHEN MINISTER IS:

- ❖ A trained lay volunteer
- ❖ A good listener
- ❖ Trained in confidentiality
- ❖ Supervised for quality care
- ❖ Ready to offer God's love through a Christian caring relationship on a one-to-one basis.

To get help or for more information contact:

Alan or Sandra Harvey at 684-2790
or **Pastor Steve** 642-2110

Stephen Ministry is a free service open to all church and community members



STATEMENT
Our Mission
STATEMENT
STATEMENT
STATEMENT

To know the love of God personally through Jesus
Christ,
To share the love of God through fellowship as a
congregation,
To spread the love of
God throughout our community and the world.