



Bethany Banner

April, 2011

Holy Week Activities

Monday, April 18 6:00-7:30 p.m. Easter Caroling

Wednesday April 20 7:00-8:30 p.m. Movie: "In Remembrance"

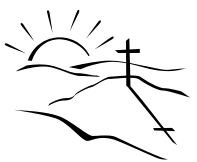
Thursday, April 21 7:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Service—presentation of the Cantata "Whispers of the Passion" by Joseph Martin

Prayer Vigil will begin following the service and continue until **Good Friday, April 22, 12 noon.**

Saturday 10:30am-12:30pmEaster Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 24, 6:20 Sunrise Service at VIMS

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.



Easter Sunrise Service

Plan to join the community of faith on Sunday, April 24, at 6:20 a.m. at the VIMS site for the Sunrise Service. Pastor Art will be delivering the message. With breakfast at Gloucester Point Baptist Church. We will continue the celebration to the resurrection at Bethany UMC at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Let the stone be rolled away; **Christ is alive! Hallelujah!**

Easter People



Easter is a very important Christian day as the followers of Jesus Christ celebrate the power and gift of the Resurrection. Each year we can experience another life-renewing event especially if we open our minds and hearts to the power of the Resurrection.

Around 400 A.D. the early church began the forty day period of Lent from Ash Wednesday until Easter morning (not counting Sundays). Lent means spring and is associated with the lengthening of daylight. For Christians, Lent is a time of spiritual disciplines which prepare us for the gift of Easter. The Cross reminds us of what Jesus did for all of humanity. This wooden fixture also reminds us of the suffering Jesus endured for all people. Through the Resurrection of Jesus we are promised Eternal Life.

During this self-examination time, some people give up something for Lent. I like to think of this time as an opportunity to strengthen our faith and develop a deeper understanding of Christ's love to us. Each day we can find occasions to praise other people, help others wherever we go, and give thanks to the Lord. We can respond to His love as we study His Word and do unto others.

The 40 days of Lent remind us of the 40 hours that Jesus was in the tomb between Good Friday and Easter morning. We also remember that it was 40 days when Jesus spent time fasting in the wilderness during His temptation.

Other references in the Bible to the number forty include the 40 days Moses fasted before he received the Ten Commandments and the 40 years that the people of Israel wandered in the desert before entering the Promised Land. Noah was in the ark for 40 days as well. Another important time was the 40 days that the Risen Christ walked with His disciples between Easter and Ascension.

As we continue to observe these 40 days of Lent, let us take time to pray to God and listen to what He may be saying to you. May the Spirit of Jesus greet each of us on Easter morning. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them..." (Matthew 28:19-20)

W e a r e t h e E a s t e r P e o p l e ! !

Live Alive,
Pastor Art

What Prayer Has Meant to Me

For those of you who may have missed the reading of Wiley Cross' thoughts on prayer stewardship and for those who wish to persue them again at your leisure, we reprint the article here.

As he raced down the mountain trail a root tripped him and immediately the grizzly was over him with his bared yellow teeth and sharp claws almost two inches long. The man yelled out; OH MY GOD! Immediately time stood still, the grizzly's paw stopped in mid swing, and a light shown through the trees as a voice from Heaven asked: "You have been an atheist for your whole life, denying my very existence, and teaching that creation was a cosmic product of random accidents and not my work. Now you want to be a Christian?" the atheist replies; "I would be a hypocrite to ask that you make me a Christian, but could you please make the bear a Christian?" The light disappeared, birds sang in the trees, and the bear stopped his fatal swing and placed his clawed paws together and said; "For this Lord we are thankful.

"To many of us prayer is the course of last resort and like the atheist is only practiced when the chips are suddenly down and then we pray.

My first exposure to prayer was "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, if I should die before I wake, I pray thee Lord my soul to take". I had little conception of what the words meant but I was introduced to the idea that there was a higher being that I had never met but knew existed because my Mama knew Him and told me about Him. So, my first prayer was a prayer of recognition of God and his power over me.

"God is great, God is good and we thank You for this food and all our many blessings" was the second prayer that I was taught. This is the prayer we all say in unison today when the adult children and grandchildren gather for a family meal. So my second prayer was a prayer of thanksgiving. It recognized that not only the food on our table but so many other spiritual and material things are the gift of God's Grace and not of our own doing or entitlement.

I have never attended an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting but understand if I were a member, I would stand up and say, "My name is Wiley and I am an alcoholic." One of my statements in my prayers is; "I am a sinner and ask forgiveness for my known sin and my unknown sin." This is in my mind the most powerful prayer that we can make.



November of 1998, after well wishes by Ellen and some of the family, I lay on a stretcher in the semi-darkness of the pre-op staging area of Chippenham Johnston Willis Hospital awaiting surgery to repair an abdominal aorta aneurism. I said a prayer that God would guide the surgeon's hand and if it was my time to go that I was ready. I was without sedation at that time, but my pulse rate decreased and I was at peace. Awakening a while later, I opened my eyes to see Braxton Allport and knew I had made it. This prayer was not a lot unlike my first one, was is?

My appreciation of the power of prayer has been enhanced by the faith of the congregation of Bethany and the many prayer groups and prayer chains. Before becoming a member of Bethany I would on occasion say my prayers but many times I either neglected or forgot to go to God in Prayer. The association Of fellow Christians and group worship makes prayer a vital part of my life. Ellen says her nightly prayers and in the morning after reading "Our Daily Bread", she has a morning prayer before breakfast.

When Tom asked be to write about how prayer affected me I didn't realize it would occupy my thoughts for most of the week. However, I have received much more of a blessing as I considered this powerful tool that God has placed in our hands. I am certain that I will receive what I ask or what I should have asked.

I have often quoted two sayings. The first, an old Russian saying; "Pray to God and row for shore." The second is early American; "Pray to God and keep your powder dry." I believe God wishes us to show in our lives what we say in our prayers.

As a closing statement, may I suggest that each of you do what I have been doing and will continue to do for some time. That is to sit down at the word processor or with pen in hand, and write down your own thoughts about what prayer has meant to you and what Bethany has contributed to your prayer experience.

Martin Luther said, "The fewer words the better prayer." And so should be these remarks. I thank you for this oppportunity and I ask God's blessing on you.

The Women's Bible Study meets every Monday in the Faith Classroom from 7-8:30 p.m. **The Men's Bible Study** meets every Monday in the Journey Classroom from 7-8:30 p. m We invite you to join us in our study of God's Word.

Angels at the Empty Tomb—

God's envoy's the angels were often present during the major episodes of Christ's life, death and resurrection. At the dawn of the day after His crucifixion, the Three Mary's (believed to be Mary Magdalene, Mary of Cleophas and Mary of Salome) visited the tomb of Jesus. They come to pray and perform ritual, bringing with them accoutrements for this purpose. Astonished, they found an angel atop an empty tomb, the cover cast aside. As they drew back from the Holy Sepulcher, the angel informed them of the risen Christ, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not **here** for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

(Matthew 28:5-6)

As we celebrate this season of Lent, please join with the United Methodist Women for a presentation on Angels by Vicki Wolz. Some of you may have heard her speak in February at the UMM dinner. She will be giving us a closer look and sharing her study of Angels with us. Light refreshments will be served. Come out at 7p.m. on April 7.

**Angels! Angels!**

Thursday, April 7:00p.m.

Come to the Fellowship Hall and join Vicki Wolz as she expands on

the subject of angels. Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a Seraphim and an Archangel? What are the nine different classes of angels? Can you imagine Jesus being ministered to by angels? What traits do angels have? Do we have any of those same traits?? This event is sponsored by the U.M. Women and everyone is invited.

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April XYZ

Trip to Waterman's Museum in Yorktown Wednesday, April 20 at *10:45 a.m.

Lunch at Riverwalk

*Leaving Church

HAPPY WANDERERS

Are going again! Friday, April 29 we will travel to the Hampton Coliseum to see Joyce Meyer, Christian author and inspirational speaker. We will leave the front parking lot of the church at 8:30 a.m. Admission is free. Seating is on a first come, first serve basis. For lunch we will go to the Hampton Town Center to eat at Frank Beamer's restaurant. We will have a special reserved room. After lunch we can shop for a while at Hampton Town Center. Hope you can join this fun group. On our first trip to Smithfield we had 23 go. Our second trip to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens 31 attended. I'll need a head count by April 15. E-mail or call Judy Burner

Second Tuesday Morning Visitation

Join us on Tuesday, April 12 at 10 a.m. to visit shut-ins, prospective members or those in need of our care. I think if you went with us one time you would be back the next month. It is a rewarding feeling. We go out in groups of two and are finished before lunch.

Walk To Emmaus

Have you been on a Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis Flight or Cursillo? Join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for our Bethany Reunion Group. We meet on the first three Thursdays of the month. We are brothers and

Children's Library

Parents don't forget that our children have their own library! We have some nice books about Easter waiting to go home with your children. We ask that you limit each child to 2 books per visit. Don't forget to return the books when you are finished reading them.

**The Road to the Empty Tomb
April 10th, 4:00 p.m.**

Do you know David Bailey, Mechelle Beauchamp, Linda Goodman or Roy Bauschatz? We are a group of storytellers with a combined total of nearly 75 years experience. Our group is called "The Road to the Empty Tomb". You'll hear from characters in the Bible

who witnessed Jesus' life and crucifixion first hand. Take a look at this part of the Easter Season from a slightly different perspective. Join us at Bethany United Methodist Church on April 10 at 4 p.m. for an hour of Christian stories at no charge.





Did You Know? *Stewardship is more than giving money and includes our prayers, presence, gifts and service!*

How the Offering Counting Teams Serve Bethany

What happens to your gift after you put it in the offering plate? Six teams of three persons each do the following: The chair of each team picks up the early service offering and keeps it in a safe place between services. After the late service the offering from both services is placed in a lockable bag and deposited in the night deposit box at the church's bank. The next day the bag is picked up after signing a bank form of who is taking the bag and brought to the church where the three person team counts the offering.

They open the envelopes, record and/or verify the amounts and write "check" or "cash" on the envelope. They make certain checks are made out to BUMC, signed

and they inspect the memo line to see if part of the gift is a designated offering such as Pastor's Discretionary Fund, altar flowers, etc. A record of loose checks/split checks is compiled by purpose (budget/designated fund), amount and name of giver; this form and a copy of the loose/split checks are given only to the Financial Secretary (currently our paid accountant).

Calculator tapes are run for checks, cash, envelopes-check and envelopes-cash to make sure totals for envelopes and actual cash/checks agree.

A Record of Receipts (no names of donors) for budget and designated funds is made and copies given to the Church Secretary (to put in the bulletin), the Church Accountant, treasurer and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. A team

member than makes out a deposit slip and deposits the funds with the church's bank. A copy of the deposit slip and the bank receipt are given to the church accountant for her records.

These Counting Team Procedures, developed by the Bethany Financial Secretary, are extensively documented in a four page packet (with required forms attached) that is made available to every member of the counting teams. This document is excellent and has been used by other Methodist churches and could be a template for use by the Virginia Annual Conference.

The Finance Chairman selects persons for the counting teams. If you would like to be a team member, and it is a good experience, contact George Neal to be put on the waiting list.

Bethany's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

We're inviting all preschoolers through fifth graders to bring your baskets, wear your Easter cap or bonnet and hop on over to Bethany's **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 23rd from 10:30-12:30. Please meet in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall and plan to stay after the egg hunt for a Hot Dog Luncheon!



Hope to see you then, Kris Kent

Please call 642-6438 for more information!



Bible Buddies will meet on April 3rd and 17th at 5:30 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, a mission project and the wrap-up of our Lenten Lesson. We hope you all can make it!

~Miss Kris and Miss Jane

IT'S NO JOKE, WE NEED EGG STUFFERS!!



Come to the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 14th at 10 a.m. to stuff over 1,000 Easter eggs in

preparation for the **ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** to be held on the 23rd of April. Breakfast goodies will be served. Fun will be had by all. **C'mon, hop in!!**

This is Stress Free Stuffing!

Save the Date:

September 11, 2011

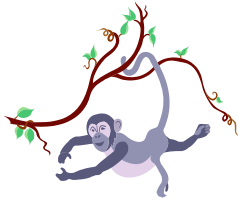
Celebration of Frances

Brown's 25 years of service to our church as Church secretary. A covered dish lunch will immediately following the 11 o'clock Worship Service!



Swing into the JUNGLE in JUNE!!

Bethany's Vacation Bible School is being held early this summer!



Please save the dates of June 20th through June 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to have a great time And learn more about God through the eyes of some fabulous kids!

Our first planning meeting is **April 28th at 7:00 p.m.** If you are a VIP Volunteer, please make every effort to attend. Contact Kris Kent for more information at 642-6438 or kentcrew@cox.net

THANK YOU

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HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

We'll be cooking for the shut-ins on Monday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m. Hope you can either help cook, clean-up or deliver meals.



A very special thank you to all of our Wonderful adult volunteers who made our Blackstone trip a huge success! Thanks to your love and dedication, our group of 36 had the opportunity to experience God during a weekend of praise and worship I love and appreciate each one of you. - Sondra Colbert

Thank you to all of our wonderful parents and volunteers who helped with the youth lunches! A very special thank you to Theresa Polk for her continuous love and dedication with coordinating the lunches.

MYF NEWS



April 3—Afternoon of Car-ing: Our youth and parents have a wonderful opportunity to bless a very deserving family following the 11:00 o'clock service! Please bring a change of clothes and a sack lunch. The van will depart Bethany at 12:45 p.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. Please contact Dawn (642-5340) or Sondra (642-0467) for further details.

April 10 Middle and High School will meet at 4:00 p.m. for Christian storytelling. You will have the awesome opportunity to hear from several famous characters of the Bible.

Please do not miss out on this wonderful opportunity to be blessed! (Please note that this will take place of our regular MYF meeting).

April 16 Volunteers of all ages are needed for the second annual Helping Hands Festival at Susanna Wesley UMC from 9:00-3:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to help raise money for this year's mission camp. Help is needed with children's games and other areas. Please contact Dawn or Sondra for further information.

April 17 Teen Gentlemen's Class graduation. Further information to be announced.

April 24th HAPPY EASTER



Please note that we will not have our regular MYF meetings in April due to many special events and activities.

May 14 9:00a.m. ???

Youth and Men's yard sale. Please remember us when you are spring cleaning and save any unwanted items for us .



UMW Rappahannock District meeting

April 9 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Urbana UMC. This will be the last meeting for this District. Ladies , please try to attend if at all possible.

Coming in May—Apha Omega Jubilee at St. Clare Walker School A catered meal will be provided and

Bishop Charlene Kammerer will be the speaker. Plan to attend on May 21 at 3:00p.m. More info coming!

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May 21 Mother/Daughter/Friend Tea Party 2:00 p.m. More info to follow.

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Office: 804-642-2110
Rev. Arthur L. Wolz, Jr., Pastor

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Hayes, VA 23072
Permit No. 11

Return Service Requested

Environmental Tip #17

If you are one of the millions of Americans who color their hair you may want to check the ingredients of your hair dye to see if you are exposing yourself to known toxins. The website <http://ezinearticles.com> identifies 4 hair dye ingredients considered to be toxic. Permanent dyes and deep or dark shades of dye are far more likely to contain these ingredients.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, based in France found that barbers and hairdressers handling dyes on a daily basis were at a higher risk of getting bladder cancer. Ingredients to watch for are:

1. Coal tar—used in dark shades

of dye. It is a skin irritant which is absorbed by the skin and has been shown to cause cancer in animals.

2. DMDM Hydantoin—used as a preservative in many hair dyes, shampoos, conditioners, and lotions. Japan has restricted its use because it can cause immune system related problems.

3. Formaldehyde—used as a preservative. Products containing this should not be used by pregnant women. It can be absorbed through the skin and enter the blood stream. It can cause problems with the healthy development of the fetus.

4. Phenyl methyl pyrazolone—an oxidizing agent and derivative of

coal tar. It can cause headache, cough, irritation, colds, and shortness of breath. A fetus exposed to this can have a higher risk of learning problems.

Consider using temporary color and natural ingredients like hennas, vegetable and herbal dyes. Find a salon that offers chemical free and health-friendly dyes.

