

Bethany United Methodist Church
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The Rev. Arthur L. Wolz, Pastor

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The Bethany Banner

December/January
2010/2011

“What Do You Want For Christmas?”



WOW is what Vicki and I experienced these past months and especially during the Christmas Bazaar. Everyone worked together well and we have never experienced this type of unity and love. Well done, good and faithful servants!

By the time you receive this newsletter, you will be in high gear getting ready for the Christmas season. Where has the year gone? Thanksgiving came and behold, we experienced Advent the very next Sunday. In all the rushing around there is a word that comes from God during this season.

The message is one of preparation. The word advent comes from the Latin words: ad venire, which means “to come to.” Originally known as “Winter Lent,” Advent is a time of repentance, prayer, and reflection. I hope each of us will use this time to ponder what God is saying to us during this Holy season.

In addition, another translation might read “be long suffering.” Patience is synonymous for long suffering. From the epistle of James we hear these words, “Be patient until the coming of the Lord.” (James 5:7). Brothers and sisters, this is not always so easy especially in these times in which we are living. We all have experienced pain and suffering. It would be wonderful if all our military could be home and war was no more.

So what do I want for Christmas? I would like to see God’s will be done and the best for God’s people at Bethany. In our world we long for peace and the absence of war. As the hymn says, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.” I claim this gift from God and I remember the words of the prophet Isaiah, “Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19). Keep searching for the new light from Christ and get ready for the new thing from God.

As we light the Advent candles each Sunday and worship together, may our prayer be, “Come Lord Jesus be born in all of us.” **On Christmas Eve, there will be two services - a Holy Communion family service at 7:00 p.m. and a Candlelight Communion service at 11:00 p.m.**

Thank you for all your prayers, beautiful Christmas cards and presence in worship each week. What a blessing to be with you in ministry. Vicki and I appreciate all you do for God’s church. **WOW – watch out world – Bethany is alive and well!!**

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Art

Open House at Parsonage

Vicki and I look forward to having you to our parsonage on **December 5, from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.** Drop in anytime to visit and see your church home. Plan to be with us in fellowship as we prepare for the celebration of the Birthday of Jesus Christ.





Holiday Calendar

December 5 from 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Pastor Art and Vicki Wolz will host an open house at the parsonage.

December 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Bethany United Methodist Women will host a gift wrapping party for the residents of Walter Reed Convalescent Center.

December 12, 11:00 a.m. the children of Bethany, under the direction of Sandy Fox, Music Director, and Kris Kent, Children's Ministry Director, will present their Christmas play "It All Happened in The Country" by Dennis and Mary Allen. "A Happy Birthday Jesus" party will follow in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall.

Only one service today.

Friday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. Bethany's annual Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood. We will carpool to nearby neighborhoods to some of the shut-ins. Come back to WBFH for refreshments.

December 19, 10:00 a.m. Bethany United Methodist Men prepare and serve breakfast prior to the presentation of the Cantata. Under the direction of Sandy Fox, Director of Music, and assisted by Rudy Shackelford, Organist/Pianist at Bethany UMC, the Chancel Choir will present "Festival of Lessons and Carols" by Hal Hopson. **Only one service today.**

December 24, Christmas Eve Services at Bethany UMC: 7:00 p.m. a Family Candlelight Communion Service and at 11:00 p.m. a Candlelight Communion Service

December 26 – Only one service today at 11:00 a.m.

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Bethany's Prayer Service

Our Christmas Prayer Service will follow the Open House on Sunday, **December 5, at 7:00 p.m.**, so plan to be with us as we celebrate the Advent Season in prayer.



Bethany's Prayer Service

Remember to join us for a time of praise and prayers as we come together on January 2, 2011 at 7:00 PM. Begin the New Year with God in service and prayer. The youth provide the music and the Spirit of God does the rest. Make time to be in prayer.

Homebound Ministries

A spaghetti meal (28) was delivered to our shut-ins or those recently having surgery. Bethany's children made cards to each family and the JOY Circe made pumpkin bread to be delivered also. Thanks to Jeannie Harrell, Joni and George Neal, Donna and Mike Andersen, Linda Hall, Charlotte Cecil, Jane Niethamer, and Judy and Al Burner. Our next meal will be prepared on **Thursday, December 9th.** We need cookers, deliverers, and people to clean up. If you can help in any way, come out on December 9 at 9:30 a.m. We have lots of fun and fellowship while doing this worthwhile ministry.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to our Bethany family for all the cards, calls, visits and prayers during Fred's illness and recovery. You are the best! - Fred and Jane Niethamer

Greeters

Have you ever been a "Greeter" at Bethany? Well, the saying goes "You only have one chance to make a first impression!" It is important for our Church to have greeters posted at the main entrance and the side entrance to our Sanctuary to greet, hug, pass out bulletins and even SMILE prior to our 11:00 a.m. service. The Youth of Bethany do this on a regular basis on the fourth Sunday of each month. Join us in being a "Church Greeter". A calendar is posted in the hallway heading toward the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall for signup, or contact Jane Sterling (804-642-2078) or Jane Niethamer (757-273-1613).



Christmas Caroling

The Family Ministries Committee is sponsoring Bethany's Annual Christmas Caroling event. This will take place on Friday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. We will meet in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall and carpool to the nearby neighborhoods to some of the shut-in's to wish them a VERY, MERRY CHRISTMAS with some beautiful Christmas carols. If you have not done this before, you are missing out! Please come out and enjoy the evening. It is truly a blessing to those we visit and you will be touched by the spirit of the Christmas season!!

We really need the support, so please join us. After caroling, come back to the WBFH for refreshments. For additional information, please contact Steve and Dawn McDade at 693-7920. Christmas carols.



Previews for January and February

Meet: Wednesday January 19, at 11:30 a.m.

Eat: Lunch is Covered Dish

Greet: Speakers, Georgette Hurley, Assistant County Administrator
Diane Rebertus, Director of Library Services
"Whither Goeth Gloucester? (Libraries)"

Meet: Wednesday, February 16 at 11:30 a.m.

Eat: Lunch, which is provided

Greet: Speakers, Beth Dixon and Peggy Sue Hunter,
Healing Touch, (Alternative Therapy)

Angel Tree

Yes Bethany we will have an Angel Tree. This should be in place by November 27th. Check the tree and choose an angel from it if you wish to help provide Christmas for a needy child or teen. Gifts should be returned, unwrapped, by December 10th



***Your Pastor Will be Locked Up?
Fundraiser - Sunday, December 12
Following the 11:00 Worship Service***



Would you please help Pastor Art so that he won't have to stay locked up in a youth-made cell during Christmas???? He needs YOUR help! On Sunday, December 12th, following the Children's Musical program at 11:00 a. m., Pastor Art will be locked up in a jail cell which the youth will construct. There will be an opportunity after church for

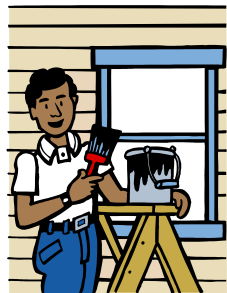
you to see him in this "jail" at church and he hopes you will help get him released!!! Ms. Vicki really doesn't want him to spend all this time before Christmas without food or water in the Bethany cell, and hopes you share her "concern!" You can help by donating bail money to set him free! The goal if you want to see him released is to raise \$1,000 for our youth missions. However, if you wish to see him stay in jail, the bail money goal is \$2,500! Which will be your contribution? Come and participate! If you are unable to be at church on December 12th, your contributions may be made to BUMC earmarked "Bail Fund." Thank you in advance for your continued support of Bethany's youth and its ministry!

MYF INFO

- Dec. 5** – Middle & High School MYF
- Dec. 12** – No MYF due to "Happy Birthday Jesus" party
- Dec. 19** – No MYF due to Christmas Party
- Dec. 26** – NO MYF

- Jan. 2** Middle and High School MYF
- Jan. 9** Youth Council meets following the 11:00 a.m. service
- Jan. 16** Virginia Wesleyan Concert and youth dinner with performers following the concert.
- Jan. 23** High School MYF
- Jan. 30** Middle and High School MYF

Help a Teen



We have eight youth who want to attend the Rappahannock District Youth Choir this summer. The youth will be doing mission work in New Orleans this year. This group will sponsor "Rent a Teen" to raise money for their trip. They are willing to do yard work, house work, or babysitting for a donation toward their trip. Each teen has to raise a total of \$900 each. Please contact Dawn or Sondra, if you are interested in sponsoring a teen. Thank you for your continuous love and support. Blessings, Sondra

**Christmas Caroling - Friday,
December 17, 6:00 p.m.**

Join your friends and family for a night of wonderful singing, fellowship, and refreshments! You will not only bless others, but you will be truly blessed. Please contact Sondra or Dawn for further details! Hope to see you there!

Christmas Party – Sunday December 19

5:00 p.m. - ??? at the home of Vicki and Art Wolz
All Middle and High School youth are invited to join us for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship!! Please bring a covered dish to share. You are guaranteed a Merry Good Time!!!!

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who donated and purchased cookies during the November Cookie Walk! Thanks for your love and generosity \$314.00 was raised for Bethany's Youth Ministry!



"It All Happened in the Country"
Children's Christmas Performance
Sunday, December 12, 2010
11:00 a.m.

"Happy Birthday, Jesus" party to follow

"To us a child is born, a Son is given....joy to the world"

And so it begins the annual Children's Christmas program at Bethany UMC! Under the direction of Sandy Fox with assistance by Miss Polly and Miss Gloria, over a dozen children have been working since September to bring you this cheery, heart-felt story of Christmas. Plan on joining us on Sunday, December 12th, and then stay for the celebration of the arrival of our Savior in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall. And please, bring a canned or boxed food item for our food drive!

See y'all there, Cuzins! Kris Kent 642-6438

Bible Buddies For All Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders

Bible Buddies will meet on December 5th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

And again...



on December 19th for the Annual Bible Buddies Christmas Dinner Party hosted by Miss Kris and Miss Jane. Wear your spiffy red and green, and please bring a dessert to share, and a wrapped ornament to exchange. We'll be jingling all the way!

**Children's Ministries Planning Luncheon
Sunday**

On January 30th at 12:30 p.m. Parents and Grandparents are invited to attend to plan, the 2011 activities and Christian programs for children preschool through fifth grade. Please see Kris Kent (642-6438) for more information.

Long-Overdue Thank You!



Have you visited our new Children's Library yet? If not, I encourage you to step inside to see it! It's the room located directly across from the nursery. It is a wonderful bright welcoming room for children and their parents and teachers to use.

I want to thank Pastor Steve for his vision for this room. Thank you also to all of you folks that supported the idea and provided the funding. I also want to thank Martin Breen for building the beautiful cabinets that are in there. He turned my idea of what we needed into reality. This room truly turned into a labor of love for our Bethany Children. Thanks to Pastor Art for blessing this room and asking God to be with our children as they learn and grow on their spiritual Journey. Thank you to the children, parents, and teachers that use the library/media center every chance they get. There is no greater assurance that God indeed blessed this project than to look in there and see all those beautiful children reading and lounging - or seeing the teachers using our new TV to show the children wholesome Christian movies.

As Sondra and Kris always say, "it's wonderful to be part of a church family that loves our children so much that they want only the best for them.

God Bless each of you as you continue to be HIS hands and feet.

Dolores Breen,
Chair of the Children's Library/Media Center

Book Corner

The Brightest Star of All

by Carrie Papa

Christmas stories from around the world, along with craft suggestions and family activities.



The Total Money Makeover by Dave Ramsey
"A proven plan for financial fitness"

The Money Answer Book by Dave Ramsey
"Quick answers for your everyday financial questions."
Dave Ramsey says, "personal finance is 80% behavior and only 20% head knowledge"

Sun Stand Still by Steve Furtick
All things are possible for God. What are your dreams? God wants the impossible to be possible for you.

Bond of Brothers: connecting with other men beyond work, weather and sports, by Wes Yoder
"Friendship - Spiritual friendship - is the life-giving core of all healthy relationships among men" says Mr. Yoder.

Celebrating the Gift of Marriage by James W. Moore
This little book is filled with practical and scriptural encouragement for married couples as well as soon-to-be married couples. Strengthen your marriage by improving your communication, cherishing one another and most importantly keeping Jesus Christ at the center of your marriage.

Bible Studies

Monday evening Bible Study for men and women: the women meet in the Faith Classroom, and the men meet in the Journey Classroom from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Monday evening. We always welcome new faces to these studies. Come and join us!

The Wesleyan Singers *January 16, 2011--4PM*

The Wesleyan Singers, like most non-professional choristers, come from many walks of life. As liberal arts students with diverse majors, only a few will actually pursue music careers. They simply relish the joy of singing in harmony with others, refining their vocal and choral technique, and being challenged by choral masterpieces for chamber vocal ensembles. As the principal performance troupe of the college, annual tours have taken them up and down the east coast, from Key West to Maine, with concerts in such disparate venues as Walt Disney World and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

Conductor David Clayton comes from Tennessee and holds a doctorate from Florida State University. His career has focused on developing vocal and choral skills in amateurs while balancing performance with music education. George Stone, pianist, is from Portsmouth, VA with degrees from East Carolina University. In addition to his work at Virginia Wesleyan College, George is staff accompanist at Western Branch High School and director of music at Centenary Methodist Church in Portsmouth.



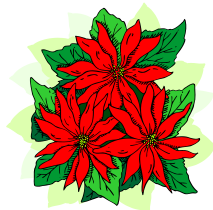
Lay Servants Academy

February 25-27, 2011 - Lay Servants Academy

All laity are invited to the first Lay Servants Academy - and the 33rd Annual Lay Speakers Training to be held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone. The Rev. Marc Brown, Directory of Connectional Ministries for the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, will be the keynote speaker. Go to www.vaumc.org/page.aspx?pid=748 for more information or you may contact Dolores Breen at 642-9393.

Poinsettia's Orders

Poinsettia orders are now being taken. You may purchase a poinsettia for \$12.00 each in memory/honor of a loved one. This is a fundraiser for the youth.



Your check must accompany your order.

Deadline for orders is Dec. 13th A list will be published in the Sunday bulletin on Dec. 19th.

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

AMOUNT OF CHECK _____