

Bethany United Methodist Church  
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# *The Bethany Banner*

February, 2011

## **Bethany United Methodist Church Pastor's Report to Charge Conference 2010**



The theme of the 2009 Elder's Retreat held at the Virginia United Methodist Center was "Remember, Strengthen, and Respond." Bishops William Willimon and Charlene Kammerer encouraged the Elders who are clergy to remember who we are and know we are here because God has placed us where we are serving.

We are called to be ministers to one another and possess the ability to reach and make disciples of Jesus, but in the doing we need to remember that we get our strength and direction from the Holy Spirit. "These things I have spoken to you while I am with you. But the Holy Spirit will come and teach you all things and bring to remembrance all that I have said to you" (Matt. 14:25-26). So people of Bethany, we are called to remember yet we have a responsibility to be doers of the Word and not hearers only as St. James exclaims. In most churches there is this tension of finding out what it is God desires for the people and community. As Bishop Willimon said, "We do not have any discretion who God brings into the door of our churches." Our responsibility is to welcome them and offer people some hope for a new beginning with the Risen Savior. So what if everyone doesn't speak or look like us? Sisters and brothers of Christ, when the Living God calls you to ministry, forget your plan and get ready for the new agenda. We understand that God loves the world so much God can make anything happen!

Never forget where we came from and the sacrifices other people made that we cherish today. Our task is to welcome people into this community of faith. Younger people are looking for places of worship where they feel they can develop a relationship with God and other people. While attracting this new generation, we have to keep in mind this group desires a real faith and asks how this faith can apply to our everyday life. So now preacher, what are we to do? We need to stay focused in prayer and remember what God has done and can do. Focus on what is really important and not get bogged down in the doing of ministry.

What is important to our church is people. I sense your love for God and see you engaged in ministry, mission and fellowship. This congregation understands how to be a church, and I am thankful for your ministry.

I consider it a privilege to work for the Savior and to be appointed at Bethany United Methodist Church. Thank you for your continued prayers, and confirmation. Vicki and I look ahead to a magnificent year in ministry together. Keep the faith and live for God.

Peace and Grace,  
Pastor Art

## February



**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)*

### Bethany's Prayer Service

Remember to join us for a time of praise and prayers as we come together on February 6, 2011 at 7:00 PM. The youth provide the music and the Spirit of God does the rest. Make time to be in prayer.

### Lay Servants Academy at VUMAC

Did you know that Lay Speakers do not just teach Bible studies or visit the shut-ins? We are also storytellers. We share our love of Christ as a Clown or we are a Parish Nurse. We pray with and for others and we serve in the church wherever we are needed. Lay speakers are Servant Leaders. Is God calling you to serve as a Lay speaker at Bethany?

Bethany currently has four Certified Lay Speakers. We serve God and Bethany Church in many different ways. You are invited to explore how God is calling you to serve through attending the Lay Servants Academy.

"Every chairperson, committee member, teacher, or congregational leader is encouraged to take the introductory course and over view of United Methodism. The information and skills you will be introduced to will serve you well within your local congregations." (From the promotional brochure)"

Lay Servants Academy (formerly known as Lay Speaking Training) will be held at VUMAC, Blackstone on February 25-27, 2011. The cost is \$170.00. The registration form is located at [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org) Registration deadline is February 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like more information please contact Pastor Art or Dolores Breen.

### New Group Started

Thursday, February 24 – Want to have some fun and fellowship with Christian women? A new group is being formed that will meet monthly and do a variety of activities such as: visit the Peninsula Fine Arts Museum, walk the Noland Trail, go to a cooking class, go to Anderson's Greenhouse and plan your spring planting, go to Norfolk Botanical Gardens and see the azaleas, roses, or eagles, go antique shopping, go on the Rappahannock River Cruise or the schooner Alliance. The possibilities are endless. We'd like to have our first outing on Thursday, February 24, meeting at the church (front parking lot) at 10 a.m. Invite your neighbors and friends. Our first outing will be announced soon. Call Judy Burner, 642-6016, if you have any suggestions for outings or a name for the new group.



### JOY and Naomi Circle



On Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> the JOY and Naomi Circles will host Janet Gomez, Volunteer Coordinator for the Gloucester-Mathews Free Clinic. The meeting will start at 7pm and is open to anyone interested in learning more about opportunities to volunteer at the Free Clinic and also what services are available for clients.

Any questions call Marsha Miller at 804-815-3639.

### Great Helpers

Thanks to all who helped with the 29 meals delivered to our shut-ins or those recovering from surgery. Donna Andersen, Linda Hall, Donna Lane, Mary Knox, Jeannie Harrell, Jane Niethamer, John and Pat Hasty and Judy and Al Burner. Our next Homebound Ministry delivery will be Thursday, February 17 at 9:30 a.m. come and join in the fun.

### Children's Library

Parents don't forget that our children have their own library! It is filled with good Christian stories waiting to go home with your children. We ask that you limit each child to two books per visit. Don't forget to return the books when you are finished reading them!

### Second Tuesday Morning Visitation

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month to visit shut-ins, those recovering from surgery, or newcomers to Bethany. I know we intend to visit sometimes, but maybe don't want to go alone. Having someone from a group to pair off with and a scheduled time each month may be helpful to all of us. We'll meet at church at 10 a.m. and go in groups of two to visit for about an hour. Let's make this a priority and start the new year off right.

Those visiting, as well as those visited, will be greatly blessed. Our first visitation will be Tuesday, February 8 at 10 a.m. meeting at the church before going out. Please mark the second Tuesday of each month on your 2011 calendar for visitation. Contact Judy Burner, 642-6016 if you have any questions.



### United Methodist Women Events

UMW March 12<sup>th</sup> District Lenten Prayer Breakfast  
(location TBD)

March 8<sup>th</sup> JOY and Naomi circles will have a joint meeting. Our focus will be on a Call to Prayer and Self-Denial – the A Gift of Love. Visitors are welcome to join us at 7:00 p.m. any questions call Marsha Miller or Estelle Harris

## AARP Tax-Aid



AARP Tax-Aide Foundation sponsors a program that provides **FREE Tax Counseling, preparation, and electronic filing** for all taxpayers with middle and low

income, with special attention to those age 60 and older. **No AARP membership or age requirements.** Volunteers are trained and tested each year to provide basic tax preparation services for 1040 federal forms plus some schedules and Virginia 760 forms from February 1-April 15. Tax services are available in the following locations:

**Gloucester Point:** Bethany United Methodist Church, Wednesdays, Feb. 2-April 13 Walk-in from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Gloucester Courthouse:** Library by appointment, call 693-2998 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 7, 14, 28; March 7,14,21,28 April 4,11; Tuesday Feb. 22; Saturdays Feb. 19, March 5,19, April 2 from 10:00-2:00

**Mathews Courthouse:** Mathews Memorial Library, Fridays, Feb 4-April 15 Walk-in 10:00-3:00.

## Notes from Sondra

Dear Parents, The Youth Council met on Sunday afternoon January 9. We discussed lunches for the MYF meetings on Sundays after the 11:00 o'clock service and came up with an alternative to the current method of providing lunches. Starting in February the first (middle school) and the second (high school) Sundays each youth will be responsible for bringing their own bag lunch. Then on the third (middle school) and the fourth (high school) Sundays the youth will provide me with suggestions for lunches and a sign-up sheet will be passed around for individuals to volunteer to bring certain items for those lunches. May, July, and October are the only months with five Sundays in which both the middle and high school meet together. For those three months when both groups are together we will have sign-up sheets for individuals to volunteer to bring certain items for each of these meals.

## District All Night Bowling, Friday Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>



Bethany van will leave by 11:15 p.m. and return to the church by 6:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Parents are asked to drop off and pick up youth at church. Youth are also asked to pay \$5.00 toward the cost of bowling and shoes. Extra money for snack bar is optional.

Permission slips and money are due Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. For further information please contact Sondra or Dawn.

## Items Needed for Youth Pantry

We are looking for donations of the following to help with youth lunches. Your help would be greatly appreciated: Chips, soda, cookies, lemonade, peanut butter, jelly

## Coming Up!

Blackstone District Youth Retreat March 11-13 for grades 6-12. Youth will leave the church by 5:30 p.m. on Friday and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. Cost per youth is \$25.00 and the church will pay the remaining amount. Please bring money for lunch on our return trip. Please bring water and snacks to share. All money and permission slip is due no later than February 20<sup>th</sup>. Transportation is limited. First come basis!

(Con't.)

Adult chaperones are needed with a van to chaperone and transport our youth to Blackstone. Please contact Sondra or Dawn if you are able to help.

A huge thank you to the Polk family for providing such a wonderful dinner for the youth and Virginia Wesleyan choir. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## 2010 Bethany Bazaar Distributes \$16,000.00



A bazaar fund disbursement committee consisting of Alan Harvey, Marsha Miller, Charlotte Cecil, Art Wolz, Jeannie Harrell, and Janet Chapin met on December 14, 2010. The following organizations will receive monetary support from the bazaar:

- Pastor's Discretionary Fund - \$2,000
- Day Break Center (Agency on Aging) - \$500.00
- Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic - \$500.00
- Mattaponi Healing Spirit -\$1,000
- Red Bird Mission - \$200.00
- Henderson Settlement – 200.00
- Henry Fork Community Center -\$200.00
- Portsmouth Wesley Center - \$200.00
- Boy's and Girl's Club of Gloucester - \$500.00
- Salvation Army - \$2,000
- Gloucester Housing Partnership - \$1,000
- Camp Rainbow Connection - \$500.00
- Gloucester-Mathews Free Clinic - \$1,000
- Heart Haven - \$500.00
- Abingdon Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad - \$1,000.00
- Rappahannock District Youth Choir (RDYC) - \$500.00
- Agency on Aging (Gloucester Meals on Wheels) - \$500.00
- Laurel Shelter -\$500.00
- Three Rivers Healthy Families - \$500.00
- Helping Hands Ministry -\$500.00
- United Methodist Volunteers in Mission -\$200.00
- Samaritan Group - \$1000
- Alzheimer's Association - \$500.00
- Walter Reed Make a Difference Fund (for J. Doswell Dutton Family Care Center) - \$500.00

This year's bazaar was truly blessed by the Holy Spirit. The outpouring of time, talents and prayers throughout this year has made the 2010 bazaar a wonderful success. Our church-wide efforts will be a blessing to many others through all the organizations we support. Thank you for being a loving congregation who are serving as Christ's hands and feet.

Bazaar Co-chairmen Jeannie Harrell and Janet Chapin

## Valentines Cookie Walk – February 13



Cookies can be purchased following the 8:30 service, Sunday School, and 11:00 service. All donations will benefit our youth going on the Rappahannock District, New Orleans Mission Trip.

Cookie donations would be greatly appreciated. Youth will accept donations on Saturday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00- 8:00 p.m., and Sunday beginning at 8:00 a.m.

## Environmental Tip #15



The place where each of us can have the greatest impact on our environment and exercise the greatest control over our environment is in our own home. We make choices daily about thermostat settings, insulation, weather stripping, replacing old light bulbs with new energy efficient bulbs; we try to save money and conserve energy by using gas, pellet, or wood stoves or by installing more efficient heating and cooling systems; we reuse and recycle and do lots of "green" things. However we often overlook another whole area of concern over which we have even greater control, those toxins present in our homes that we ingest, inhale, or absorb through our skin.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other government agencies test and approve food products, drugs, and pesticides and require specific warnings on some labels. The FDA does not test and approve cosmetics or household cleaning products. The FDA does investigate if enough complaints are received on a particular product. Cleaning products do list ingredients and warnings, but some of these are according to industry guidelines rather than government requirements. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention detected 212 different potentially hazardous chemicals found in everyday products in the blood and urine of 2500 volunteers, according to [consumerreports.org/health](http://consumerreports.org/health). Since so many people now suffer from allergies, asthma, and other conditions from the effects of these chemicals, a few will be covered here each month in the Banner.

Hairsprays and mousse: commonly contain aerosol propellants, alcohol, polyvinylpyrrolidone plastic (PVP), formaldehyde, and chemically created fragrances. Users risk developing lung problems, some of which are reversible after discontinuing use according to the FDA. Much of the risk is removed if purchasing fragrance-free, natural fragrance and non-aerosol products.

Air Fresheners: many emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum distillates that can irritate the skin, eyes, and respiratory tract, the skin irritant d-limonene, and synthetic fragrances containing phthalate compounds, some of which have been linked to hormonal abnormalities, birth defects, and reproductive problems according to Consumer Reports Health. A healthier alternative is to put out baking soda, a dish of lemon or citrus peel, or use spices like cinnamon or clove broken or steeped in water.

## The Book Corner

Instead of recommending a few books to read this month. I invite you to check out our library. It is filled with wonderful books waiting for you to take home and read! The New Book Shelf is located on top of the desk and is clearly marked. There are many new additions to our library during 2010 with many more to come in 2011. Please borrow them. The library is open for you to enjoy! And...when you see her, let Kathleen Greene know how much you appreciate her cataloging and caring for our library. She is a blessing to all of us! If you have book suggestions please let me know. Dolores Breen 642-0933



## Kits for Conference

It's not too early to begin collecting kit items to be taken to Annual Conference in June. Below are items needed for each one. **During the month of February we will be collecting hand towels (15X25 up to 17X27)**

### Sewing Kits: Value \$18.00 per kit

3 yards of cotton or cotton-blend, solid color or print fabric (must be 3 yards of uncut fabric); 1 pair sewing scissors; 1 package of needles; 1 spool of thread; 5-8 matching buttons. Wrap sewing notions in the fabric and place in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

### Layette Kits: Value \$35.00 per kit

6 cloth diapers; 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits; 2 baby washcloths; 2 gowns or sleepers; 2 diaper pins; 1 sweater open in the front; 2 receiving blankets. Bundle the items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

### Health Kits: Value \$12.00 per kit

1 hand towel (15 X 25 up to 17 X 27), no kitchen towels); 1 washcloth; 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized; 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers); 1 bath-sized bar of soap (3 oz. and up); 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes); 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages; \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (Note: UCMOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

### School Kits: Value \$11.00 per kit

1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip); 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2 X 11 ruled paper (construction paper no longer included); 1 30-centimeter ruler; 1 hand-held pencil sharpener; 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers; 1 eraser, 2 1/2 " ; 1 box 24 crayons (only 24). Prepare a 14 X 16 bag with handles and an optional closure (Velcro, snap or button) and place items in the bag.

## Do You Have a Calling to Lead a Sunday School Class?

There are currently two classes that are in need of teachers. The Men's Class and the new GAP class are currently led by dynamic facilitators but both groups seek your assistance in completing their class with your enthusiastic direction. Materials are furnished. Please see Jonathan Kent or call 642-6438.

## Ladies Night

**What:** United Methodist Men's Annual Ladies Night

**When:** February 22, 2011

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Program:** TBD

## Bible Buddies

Bible Buddies will meet on February 6 and 20<sup>th</sup> to feel the love and share lessons about leading loving lives! Come have dinner with us at 5:30 and stay for fun and fellowship until 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you then! Miss Kris, Miss Jane, and Miss Pat

## Bethany Bowling Bash

Come be a "King Pin" at this awesome Children's Christian Fellowship Event!

It's the

### Bethany Bowling Bash

for bowlers that are in preschool through fifth grade. "Spare" some time so you can "strike" up a great time with your church family!

**Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Ride the Bethany bus at 3:30 pm or

we'll meet you at The Village Lanes at 4:00 p.m.

\*\*Snacks will be provided\*\* Contact Kris Kent

