

The Bethany Light  
Bethany United Methodist Church March 2009

A Letter from your Pastor

We are in the Lent season which commemorates the forty days of our Lord's fasting and prayer time. The gospel of Matthew Ch. 4 and verses 1 & 2 read "Then Jesus was lead by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry."

Fasting is an important spiritual discipline that the Word of God suggests to all believers. In Matthew 6:16, Jesus says "When you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward." Please note that Jesus does not say "If you fast.....". We all can participate in some form of fasting or another. A partial fast of skipping one meal or not eating meat or giving up a favorite desert etc. are all acceptable types of fasting. However, the important thing to keep in mind is that we pray during this time. We read the word of God, meditate on it and use it in our prayer.

Fasting is for our good. It brings into focus what we are praying for. It brings clarity and intensity of purpose to our prayer life. It is not a method by which we try to twist the arm of God, but it purifies our thoughts and motives.

One word of caution though. Please make sure that your health is good enough to go on any kind of fast. If you have doubts or are on any medication, please consult your doctor. However, all of us can pray at all times.

In Christian love,

Arthur

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Our March meeting will be a Brunch on the 11th in Tyler Hall at 9:30AM. All ladies are cordially invited to attend.

### **HAPPY HEARTS**

Happy Hearts again had a nice meeting with a growing amount of Happy Hearts to enjoy good fellowship. We had a speaker from Riverside Regional Medical Center to speak to us. As always, we had delicious food in our covered dish luncheon. Always such a variety of excellent food. Bethany still is known for its wonderful cooks. March 4th is our month to have "Soup and Salad" for the church. Our good chefs are already working on having a delicious soup for the occasion. We would like to see you there. March 5th is our meeting day and we will be going to the Chesapeake for lunch. We will be joined by our beloved member of a long time, Helen Bryant who is a resident there. The van is reserved but since it is so close it may be possible to car pool. Sue and Bob Doehring are host and hostess for this event. Need more information? Just give them a call. A reminder, reservations for TATOO need to be in by the first week in April. For those who do not know, we will be going with Jeannines' Tours. The good part is that the bus will pick us up right here at church after the morning service, time to be announced. We plan a good time, and the show is said to be wonderful to see. Are you Patriotic? You don't want to miss this one. Everyone is welcome to all of the above and we look forward to seeing you.

## **BETHANY UNITED METHODIST MEN**

What a busy first 2 months of 2009. We have already hosted 5 events in less than 7 weeks. I'm so excited to be able to watch & feel God moving Bethany in a direction of Growth. But now isn't the time to sit back and marvel at our accomplishments. We still have a Baptismal Pool to finish and USE. We still have 6 more fundraisers, 5 more Business Breakfast meetings (of which the next two are work days) & 10 more Prayer Breakfasts to host. Our goal is to reach 50 brothers & sisters all praying together to lift up those in need to our heavenly Father. In Feb., we had 45, so please continue to come share the word of this great fellowship. The next Prayer Breakfast will be on March 15th at 8AM in Tyler Hall. Our next meeting will be on March 14th for a Business / Breakfast / Work Day. We will have a short Business meeting as we enjoy breakfast biscuits & coffee. Then we will move outside to clean up & prepare the parking lot for line painting. We will also be using a front-end loader / backhoe to dig out the ditch behind our parking lot. There will be work for all and we need a lot of help (especially young men) to accomplish our task that day. Some of the tools we will need are: shovels, rakes, leaf blowers and grass trimmers. We plan on pushing back the grass overgrowing the edge of the asphalt, so use your imagination.

Once again we, the Bethany United Methodist Men are very pleased to honor another one of our beautiful sisters for the year. This year we have asked Mrs. Charlotte Inman to be our Men's Sweetheart for 2009. Charlotte has worn many hats here and has been a strong defender of those less fortunate. She always makes you feel welcome. Not only does she offer countless hours of loving service here at Bethany, she keeps on giving through the HELP organization. Please give her a hug the next time you see her for being such a blessing to all of us here at Bethany. Please accept my personal thanks to all you men and women that help to make our men's program such a success.

May God Bless You and Keep You Safe

Jim Chaffin

## **BETHANY YOUTH**

The youth of Bethany will be very busy for the next few months. On March 7, the youth will be preparing and delivering bag lunches. Please let Paula Presgraves know if you can help with this and to check on the times.

Terrific Tuesday will be prepared by the youth on April 14. Please support Bethany's youth as they raise money to attend District and Conference events. The menu will be Chicken Cordon Bleu, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Roll, Dessert, Drink.

We will be attending a District Retreat at Makemie Woods on April 17-19. Please let us know if you are planning on attending. We must let the district know how many to plan for.

Our 30 Hour Famine will be April 25&26. The youth will be participating in the worship service Sunday morning and breaking their fast with a church wide lunch after the service. Be prepared for youth to ask for donations or sponsors to support them for each hour they go without to feed another. If you have any question about these events please feel free to come by the youth room or to see one of the youth workers after service.

Paula Presgraves

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Please sign up to participate in this spiritual day of 24 hours of Prayer on Fri., March 6, 2009. Sign up sheets are available in Good News to reserve your 30-minute block of prayer. You may pray here in the sanctuary and/or chapel or you may pray at home.

### **BETHANY MOVIE NIGHT**

Mark your calendar!

Friday, March 27th 7PM

Church Van is available for those who need rides.

Family fun movie TBA

### **EASTER BRUNCH FELLOWSHIP**

Sunday, April 12

9AM during Sunday School Tyler Hall

Please bring your favorite breakfast dish to share

### **BETHANY SCHOLARSHIP**

Attention all upcoming graduates! Apply now for a Bethany Scholarship. Application forms are available in the church office. The deadline is May 15, 2009. If you have any questions, please call Susan Walton, Scholarship Chairman @ 595-5225.

### **RHYTHM 'N PEWS**

Warwick Memorial UMC

38 Hoopes Road, Newport News

Sat. April 18, 7PM

The Bethany Family is invited to a musical potpourri of gospel, pop, country and "a little bit of rock & roll". A love offering will be taken to benefit mission programs. Don't miss it! This will be the best one yet!

### **CD / DVD MINISTRY**

Bethany's CD and DVD ministry is an outreach to those in our membership, to those in our community and those unable to be at Sunday Worship. The discs are free to all that wants to hear the word of God. You may check out and return a recording from the church office or ask for a copy to have for you to share with family or friends. We ask that if you are able, please make a small donation to help defray the cost of materials. There will be order forms behind the pews if you wish to reserve a copy of any Sunday Service beginning with January 11th 2009 or you may call the church office during regular office hours.

## **PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Sunday, March 15, 2009

8:00 AM in Tyler Hall

Led by Rev. Arthur Chefs: BUMM

Scrambled Eggs Bacon & Sausage

Hashbrowns Grits

Pancakes Biscuits

Orange Juice Coffee

A free will offering to defray costs will be collected. The proceeds of this breakfast will be used to benefit the ongoing projects of the Methodist Men of Bethany. We thank you for your support. Please come join us every third Sunday at 8AM for this meaningful Prayer Breakfast.

## **TERRIFIC TUESDAY**

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

5:00-6:30pm in Tyler Hall

Country Style Steak

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Green Beans

Choice of: Homemade Cole Slaw or Applesauce Rolls & Butter

Homemade Dessert

Tea & Coffee

Cost:

\$7 per person (age 13+)

\$3 per child 6-12 / under 5-free

Please make your reservation today Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number in your party \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your reservation early! Join us for a great meal and fellowship. Reservations need to be reported to the church office no later than Sunday, March 8, 2009. You may call in your RSVP as well @ 826-2493.

Bethany United Methodist Church

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