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Bethany Banner
December 2015

The Church with Open Hearts, Minds, and Doors

O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Then Jesus began to say to them, Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars, and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. — Mark 13:5-8

This scripture precedes the beginning of the Advent season. Why would there be such a lesson at such a time?

As we begin a new liturgical church year, which begins with the Advent season, we prepare ourselves for the birth of the Christ child into our hearts and into the world. We begin again, in a sense, making promises to follow this child more diligently this year by being better disciples, sharing our faith with others, and inviting them along the journey where lives might be transformed. Saying goodbye to the old and looking to the new involves change, and change can be much like painful birth pangs.

Our world is in such a state that "nations rise against nations" and we live in fear of terrorists who seemingly have no regard for human lives different from theirs. But is this the way God would have us live? Isn't the child in the manger our Prince of Peace? Where have we gone wrong and how can we make it better?

God would not have us live in fear and we don't have to if we place our trust in him, knowing that he is all we need. And if we truly believe this, our fears are gone and we walk with a God who loves us and walks us through these troubled times. We cannot control anyone but ourselves and if we give our control over to God, we will experience a peace that others yearn for.

The Prince of Peace will be born again this Christmas; that will never change, year to year. What will change is you and me as we allow the child in the manger to live within us, bringing us the peace which passes all understanding, and living with us in these troubled times.

This is the Good News that needs to be shared with a troubled world in these troubled times, one person at a time, through one child.

Worth pondering, *Debbie*

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Join us each **Thursday from 10:00-11:00 a.m.** as we gather in the sanctuary to pray for our friends and loved ones, our community, our nation, and those in need.

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE IN PRAYER

Bethany Family: Paul Reynolds, Jean Heywood, Lavalle Wilson, Jennie Lipscomb, Carroll Lipscomb, Judy Burner, Jack & Mary Poland, Gene Harrell, Abigail Woodhouse Walker, Pat Hogge (and Wayne Hogge, caregiver), Sandra Hollins, Bessie Conner, Mike Andersen, Duane Cecil, Ted & Peggy Peterman, Kris Kiley, Bev Kearney, Bob Nardozzi, Ray and Alice Doggett, Jack Kaylor, Esther Marie Jordan, Billy Davis, Pauline Harris, Archie Leigh, Tom & Dawne Sawyer, Jim Hollins, Charlotte Cecil, Joni Neal & daughter Kari, Sebastian Brock

Bethany Friends: Virginia Rose Vandermark, Chucky Baughman, Bill Parks, Wayne Walthall, Gary Duncan, Joan Martin, Bob Bartley, Ann McCray, Gibbie Harney, Lizz Epperson, Jacob Iddings, Ryan Niethamer, Lynn Burnett, Jeanette French, Linda Johnston, Margaret Barker, Bud Purnell, Rebecca Kinkead, Sandra Hoover, James Marshall, June & JoAnn Smith, Georgene Ginn, Bessie Watson, Shirley Lewis, Judy Poland

Gloucester House:	Esther Marie Jordan, Room 509
	Agnes Williams, Room 113
	Ray Doggett, Room 300
Heron Cove:	Maxine Churchin, Room 28
	Jack Kaylor, Room 16
Sanders Assisted Living:	Mary Fields
Stonebridge N.C.:	Gloria Wallace
York Convalescent Ctr:	Jean Heywood, Room C-6

BUMC'S Military: Michael Brown, Todd Bontrager, Kyle Nichols, Peter Demetriades, Meagan Demetreiades, Chad Dickson, Lamont Johnson, Bernard Johnson, Kevin Jacobs, all members of the military, and their families.

CHRISTIAN LOVE & SYMPATHY are extended to the families of: ***Otes Ray***, brother of Loreen Paiva ♥ ***Earl Hudkins*** uncle of Norma Sage ♥ ***Carol Roark,*** sister-in-law of Bev Kearney ♥ ***Rick Bollinger***, son of Jeannie Harrell ♥ ***Yeardley Blackwell***, wife of Robert Blackwell. Please remember these families in prayer upon the death of their loved ones.

PRAYER LIST AND DIRECTORY ARE NOW ONLINE.

To view the most current list and directory available, go to the Members Only page on our website and enter the password.
If you need the password, please call or email the church office.

WITH THANKFUL HEARTS

Dear Bethany United Church members,

Please accept our deepest thanks for putting our daughter, Lynn Sylvia, on your prayer list. We do not know who added her name to your list of prayer concerns but it is prayers, caring friends like you, and God's love that is getting our family through the traumatic event of Lynn's accident.

After almost a month in the hospital Lynn is now recovering at home. She is making amazing progress. We ask your continued prayers for healing and patience as she is facing months of wheelchair confinement.

Again, we are so very grateful for your love and prayers.

— *Buddy and Melva Burnett*

There are no words to describe the love and comfort that Gene, Lizz, Dawn, family members, and I have felt from our church family, friends, Rick's school buddies, and people he worked for and with. Rick was a good man, and God saw fit to call him home. Thanks to everyone for the phone calls, food, cards, visits, and prayers that have sustained and carried us through this difficult time. Gene and I are blessed to be a part of Bethany's family. Blessings to you all.

— *Jeannie Harrell*

The Hospitality Committee wishes to thank our congregation for your help with the reception following Rick Bollinger's memorial service. Your demonstration of God's love and grace, by providing food and serving those who attended, is greatly appreciated.

— *Judy Hudgins,* Hospitality Committee Chair

This is a note to let you know that we received your donation of $300. Our organization runs on donations and self-generated funds. A special thank you to all 3 classes – Youth, TBD, and adult class – for your contribution. It is most graciously appreciated. It take special people to help others. God bless you all.

— *Mary White*, Director, McClure River Valley Community Development Center, Inc.

United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

JOY CIRCLE - The JOY CIRCLE will be meeting on **Tuesday, December 1** at **6 p.m.** to go eat at the Olive Garden in Williamsburg. Please meet at the front parking lot of the church to carpool at 6 p.m.

HOME BOUND MINISTRIES - We will be cooking a Christmas meal for the shut-ins on **Thursday, December 3** at **9:30 a.m**. Please join us as we cook, prepare and deliver these meals as they are very much appreciated by those receiving them.

SECOND TUESDAY MORNING VISITATION - On **December 8** at **10 a.m**. we will meet at church to go visit our shut-ins and spread some Christmas cheer to them. We will go out in groups of two. This will definitely put you in the Christmas spirit.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE - Many, many thanks for all who baked, bought and worked at the Bake Sale. It was a huge success!! We made approximately $1,000 to help purchase supplies for the Bazaar.

BETHANY BAZAAR – It's almost here! It is almost time to start working on next year's Bazaar! We've been collecting all kinds of goodies (thanks to your help) and are ready to create! If you can use a pair of scissors or a hot glue gun, you are hired! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday mornings from 9:00 til noon, beginning January 7. Remember, this is a church-wide effort to raise money to support some of our outreach projects. We need you! See you January 7!

— *The Bazaar Bunch*

ALTAR FLOWERS

DATE	GIVEN BY
12/6	Mary Kaylor
12/13	Marsha Germek
12/20	Poinsettias
12/27	Poinsettias

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Our recent Potato Bar Fundraiser went very smoothly and raised $444.00, as well as $220.00 in donations in support of the fundraiser, for a total of $664.00. There were also donations to the Endowment Fund this fall unrelated to the fundraiser totaling $511.00, bringing the total amount deposited in the Fund up to $1175.00.

We had made arrangements in July for Bryan Carper, the United Methodist Foundation Vice-President for Stewardship Ministries, to make a presentation about wills, trusts, and other topics related to planned giving as he had done at our previous fundraiser. The Foundation President, Stephen Clark contacted us August 17th to let us know that he would make the presentation as Bryan Carper had unexpectedly resigned. Bryan's position has not yet been filled and Stephen Clark let us know October 19th that he was sending Brett Sheffield to represent the Foundation. Brett is the Operations Manager of the Virginia United Methodist Developing Company, LLC, but his area of expertise involves arranging loans and mortgages for the Methodist Churches within the Conference, not planned giving. He was there to answer any questions about the Foundation or give the name and number of the person at the Foundation to contact for an answer.

Stephen Clark told me he would be able to come to Bethany and present a seminar on planned giving if we had a few members who were interested. The Foundation will also meet with individuals who would like to set up a trust, remainder trust, will, or bequest and will set up a phone conference to answer questions on those topics.

At the Foundation website, vaumf.giftlegacy.com , you can sign up to receive the Foundation ENewsletter or choose to read it on line. It has many articles on setting up wills and trusts and links for specific information.

You can reach Foundation President Stephen Clark by phone at (804) 521-1120 or by e-mail at StephenClark@vaumc.org .

— *Judy Vaughan*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Brothers and Sisters,

Our devotional at our November Finance Committee meeting came from Luke 12:22-34. In this scripture Jesus is telling his disciples not to worry about what they will eat or what they will wear. God will provide for all their needs, as He does for all of His creation. Verse 34 says 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' I firmly believe that when we are obedient to God and what He is calling us to do in and with our lives He will take care of us and bless us. We need only to look around us to find the treasure that God has given to each of us. It is in sharing those treasures that we are blessed! There are so many of you that encourage me on my walk with the Lord! You may not realize that you are setting an example for others with your servant hearts, but you are! I thank God for each of you.

As of November 8th we have received 86 Faith Promise cards for 2016 totaling $258,344. This represents a decrease of approximately $20,000 compared to this time last year. You still have until the end of December to catch up with your 2015 Faith Promises and to turn in your 2016 Faith Promise cards! The good news is that all of our apportionments and financial commitments are paid up to date! Praise be to God for blessings!

Thank you for your continuing faithfulness and generosity to the ministries and missions of Bethany Church. I believe that together God will use us to further HIS Kingdom! May we always be obedient to His call in our lives and that everything that we do will be pleasing to Him.

Merry Christmas!
Dolores Breen

THANK YOU for your donation of $100 to Laurel Shelter, Inc. Our mission is to empower victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by providing direct victim services and to prevent violence by increasing awareness of the impact these victimizations have on all members of the community. Only through generous donations such as yours and our volunteers are we able to continue to meet the increasing needs while at the same time exceed all minimum standards for accreditation. We sincerely appreciate your generosity which will enable us to serve victims as they work towards their freedom from violence.

— *Cherie F. Stone*, Executive Director, Laurel Shelter, Inc.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – It's the Christmas Season! Time to join a Sunday School class and study God's Word! Please join us for breakfast on **December 13** and stay for Sunday School! Thanks to the Faith and Journey classes for a delicious breakfast in November! Hope to see you there.

Topics for December by class:
Mary Lotsey – Sacred Gifts and Holy Gatherings
Lacey Martin – Sacred Gifts and Holy Gatherings
TBD – The Earth's Changing Climate
GAP – TBD
Journey – Proverbs, TBD
Friendship – Heaven
Faith – Sacred Gifts and Holy Gatherings
Christian Family Living – Purpose-Driven Life or Raising Emotionally and Socially Healthy Kids

GIFT WRAP AT WALTER REED – Residents of Riverside Walter Reed Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center receive gifts throughout the year. At Christmas they like to give their families a wrapped package. Would you be kind and generous to give a gift for a son, daughter or grandchild? (No bottles, please.) A collection box has been placed outside the church office where you may drop your items through **December 6.**

Our UMW (United Methodist Women) ladies wrap their chosen gifts and label the name on each. The activity department leaders tell us this is a much anticipated event! Wheelchairs are lined up in the hall waiting for doors to open! Thanks for making Christmas special for each resident. – *Bethany UMW*

SAVE THE DATE! – Join us for a fun, relaxing, and creative time as we join together for an **all Bethany Ladies Art & Fellowship Time**. It will be held on **January 24, 2016** at **2:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. Cost is $30 per person. Contact *Krista Chase* @ 832-7315 or *Denise Campbell* @ 804-654-0288 for any questions.

Church and Society Committee
Environmental Tip #55

From the "Green" perspective we have been very fortunate this fall. We have had enough rain to replenish ground water levels, we got through a strong nor'easter with the usual flooding but without sustaining major damage, and the strong hurricane that was heading toward us during the nor'easter, which could have brought catastrophic damage, moved well out to sea and passed us by. Except for a few cold days, the temperatures have been above normal and are expected to remain mild through Thanksgiving. But as the weather turns colder and you start using your heating system and auxiliary heating sources regularly, it is time to consider efficiency and safety.

Replacing duct filters and cleaning air vents will save energy. If you are using a regular fireplace chimney or stove pipe make sure it is clean and free of creosote build-up. Avoid using pine or unseasoned wood to limit the chance of chimney fires. Grate heaters and radiators that are used to increase the amount of heat your fireplace puts out cause a great deal more heat to build up in the fireplace and pose a fire and injury danger if not carefully monitored. A huge amount of heat is lost up the chimney of a standard fireplace and fireplace doors are not very efficient at preventing that. Wood and gas stove inserts are far more efficient. If you are considering buying a wood or gas stove insert or a free standing gas stove, those that have a built in catalytic converter will re-burn the smoke before it goes up the chimney. This increases the amount of heat produced, saves energy, and reduces pollution in the smoke going into the atmosphere. The free standing gas stoves with the built-in catalytic converters burn so efficiently that they do not require a chimney but they should not be used without a carbon monoxide detector nearby in case the stove parts get carbon build-up and it starts to work less efficiently. If you use kerosene heaters, or wood or gas fireplace inserts, a carbon monoxide detector may well be the most critical investment you ever make. You can smell smoke or a gas leak in your home but all these heat sources give off carbon monoxide which is colorless, odorless, sinks to the lowest part of the room and is deadly; you can lose consciousness without ever realizing that you are inhaling it. Gas and oil fueled furnaces and hot water heaters can also emit carbon monoxide, as well as portable generators and charcoal grills (which should never be used in the house even with all doors and windows open!). All smoke and carbon monoxide

detectors, available at Lowes starting at $19.97, should be battery operated or have a battery backup in case of a power loss, and check the batteries in all of them regularly. We change the batteries in all of ours each fall.

If you have a fireplace and do not plan to use it make sure the damper is closed to avoid heat loss. Dampers eventually warp causing heat loss even when closed. This problem can be solved by putting a cap on your chimney. A less expensive alternative is to use an inflatable plug that is put in and inflated just below the damper. "Mother Earth News" recommends The Fireplace Draftstopper, available at www.batticdoor.com . Be sure to check the weather stripping on your doors and the caulk around window panes for cold air leaks. Homemade or purchased sand-filled strips can be placed at the base of doors or on window sills to reduce some of the leakage.

Have a safe and cozy winter!

— Judy Vaughan

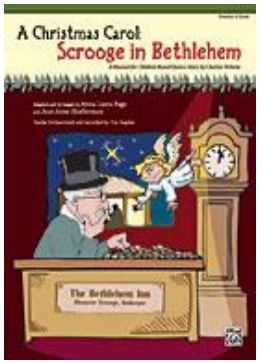
THANK YOU so very much for your generous contribution to our rebuild efforts in helping disaster survivors return to their homes. Without your generosity and our wonderful volunteers it couldn't be done! God bless.

— NC Conference UMC Disaster Response Ministries Teams

GHS LADY DUKES WIN STATE! Please join us in congratulation Bethany's own **Molly Vaughan** and the entire Lady Dukes field hockey team on their stellar win in the Group 5A field hockey state final! Molly is the daughter of Doug and Laura Beach Vaughan. For the **Daily Press** article, visit:
http://www.dailypress.com/sports/highschool/dp-spt-gloucester-hockey-1115-20151114-story.html

BANNER SUBMISSION DEADLINE —
Announcements for the January issue of **Bethany Banner** are due by **Tuesday, December 15.**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



Please join us on **Sunday, December 13** for a very special 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. The play, "A Scrooge in Bethlehem," will be presented. The children and youth participants have been working diligently since September to bring you a touching twist to the story of The Holy Family. Immediately following, we will hold our annual "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" party. We hope you will join us for this annual celebration!

— Kris Kent, Susannah Hogge & Sandy Byrd

Rehearsal schedule:
Thursday, December 3 from 6:30-7:45 p.m., lines only
Sunday, December 6 from 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Monday, December 7 from 6:30-8 p.m., all children
Tuesday, December 8 from 6:30-8 p.m., all children
Thursday, December 10 from 6:30-8 p.m., all children
Saturday, December 12 from 9-11 a.m., dress rehearsal
Sunday, December 13 – 11 a.m. service PERFORMANCE!!!

JINGLE ALL THE WAY! – Our annual church-wide Christmas caroling will be held on **Sunday, December 6** at **3:00 p.m.** Please join us in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall. We will go out and spread our Christmas cheer and then return to the fellowship hall for cookies and cocoa. We hope to see you then!

— Family Ministries Committee

BIBLE BUDDIES— All Third, Fourth and Fifth graders are invited to don their Christmas casuals and come to the annual Bible Buddies Christmas Party on Saturday, December 5th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall. Please bring a wrapped ornament for our gift exchange and a small dessert to share! 'Tis the season for fun and fellowship...we look forward to seeing you then! — *Ms. Kris* and *Ms. Cat*

BUMC EVENTS

December 2015

December 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 29 - Dec 5	**Nov 29**	**30**	**Dec 1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
			6:00pm JOY Circle (Offsite)	10:30am AWC Board 5:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am Piano Tuning (Sanctuary) 9:30am Homebound Ministries 10:00am House of Prayer 6:30pm 7:45pm Children's Choir (lines only)	6:00pm 9:00pm UMYF Christmas Party @ Conners'	10:00am 12:00pm SPPRC Training @ Providence UMC, Yorktown 5:30pm 7:00pm Bible Buddies Christmas Party
Dec 6 - 12	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
	12:15pm UMYF 12:30pm 1:45pm Children's Choir 3:00pm Church-wide Christmas Caroling	1:30pm WR Gift Wrap (UMW) 6:30pm 8:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Troop 75 7:00pm Adult Bible Study	10:00am Visitation 6:30pm 8:00pm Children's Choir 7:00pm AWC Group	6:30pm 8:00pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Child Protection 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am House of Prayer 10:00am York River Garden Club 6:30pm 8:00pm Children's Choir		9:00am 11:00am Children's Program Dress Rehearsal
Dec 13 - 19	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**
	9:30am Sunday School Breakfast 11:00am Children's Choir Christmas Program 12:15pm Happy Birthday, Jesus Party	6:30pm Troop 75 7:00pm Adult Bible Study	10:30am Sanders Communion 7:00pm Program Ministries	7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am House of Prayer 10:30am Naomi Circle		9:00am Cantata Dress Rehearsal
Dec 20 - 26	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
	9:00am Church-wide Breakfast 10:00am Christmas Cantata (one worship service) 12:15pm UMYF	6:30pm Troop 75 7:00pm Adult Bible Study	6:30pm UMM Meeting		Christmas Eve OFFICE CLOSES EARLY 10:00am House of Prayer 7:00pm Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00pm Candlelight Communion	Merry Christmas! OFFICE CLOSED	
Dec 27 - Jan 2	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	**Jan 1, 16**	**2**
	12:15pm Children's Choir	6:30pm Troop 75 7:00pm Adult Bible Study			10:00am House of Prayer		

December 2015

BIRTHDAYS	
12/1	Janice Day
12/4	Duane Bayly, Kelli Eastwood, Al Burner, Jr., Randy Campbell, Makena Bontrager, Dawn Bontrager
12/5	Dawn Cluts, Ricky White, Gerald Davis, Vernon McDaniel, III
12/6	Maxx Polk, Rosemarie Tong
12/7	Scott Farmer, Mae Eppard, Carol Justis, Judy Hudgins
12/9	Mary Kaylor, Irene Brown
12/11	Martin Breen, Gerald Hickman
12/12	Dylan Chapin
12/13	Harry Jordan, Kaye Vance
12/14	Russell Jeffries
12/18	Chrissy Fox Whitehall, Sharon Thayer, Aubrey Lynn Chase
12/19	Cathie Allport, Bev Kearney
12/20	David Byrd, Alan Ottarson
12/24	Jeffrey Leigh, Catherine Leigh, Dakota Buck, Tanner Bayly, Shelby Jacobs, Baum Hogge
12/26	Doug Wheat
12/27	Katie Burner, Lana Loring
12/28	Amanda Maples, Mary Dale Williams
12/29	Kaiten Cooper, Carter Roane

ANNIVERSARIES		
		# yrs.
12/3	Kevin & Crystal Thompson	8
12/4	Jim & Gerlinde Stevens	
12/4	Kenneth & June Matthews	66
12/8	Jack & Susan Rollins	26
12/16	Lorraine & Eugene Brown	55
12/21	Bernard & Debbie Robins	29
12/23	Bruce & Joy Long	
12/26	Clair & Sarah Hillard	48
12/27	Bobby & Nan Leigh	57
12/28	Warren & Candy Douglas	41
12/28	Philip & Sylvia Ransone	52
12/29	Jim & Jane Sterling	60

TRUSTEE CONTACTS	
WEEK OF	NAME
12/6-12/12	Marion Dixon
12/13-12/19	Donna Andersen
12/20-12/26	M. E. Thomas
12/27-1/2	Tom Barnard

LITURGISTS		
DATE	8:30	11:00
12/6	Jane Niethamer	Jane Niethamer
12/13	Doe Breen	Children's Program
12/20	Cantata	Cantata
12/27	Youth	Youth

DATE	COUNTING TEAMS
12/6	Luther
12/13	Hampton
12/20	Kaylor
12/27	Robins

TECH TEAM		
Date	8:30	11:00
12/6	Lewis Marion	Jeremy Nardozzi
12/13	Roy Bauschatz	Kirk Bell
12/20	10 a.m. only	Jeremy Nardozzi
12/27	Roy Bauschatz	Kirk Bell

ACOLYTES		
DATE	8:30	11:00
12/6*	Alec Daniel	Shelby Jacobs
12/13*	TBD	Children's Christmas Program-no acolyte
12/20*		10:00 a.m. service only Kate Neikirk
12/24	7p.m. Christmas Eve TBD	11 p.m. Christmas Eve TBD
12/27	Deanna Mitchell	TBD

*During Advent, Acolyte will not light the Advent candles but will extinguish them at the end of the service.

ALTAR GUILD: Patsy Bell, Jackie Hampton, Mary Steele