

July, 2009

July 19 - Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic, 10:30 AM
{at Hess-Hathaway Park on Williams Lake Rd.}

July 24 - Tiger Game, 7:05 PM

July 25 - All Team Gathering in Fellowship Hall, 7 PM

LINC

**Life
in
Christ**

Our mission is to create the opportunity for all to make discipleship a way of life.

A Message from Pastor James...

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Bethany:

Did you know that Paul (who is the author of part of the New Testament) was taken to the capital of the Roman Empire as a prisoner? Rome was the largest city in the world at the time and the crossroads for many cultures. While he was there Paul was sort of under house arrest, i.e. he had to stay in someone's home with an armed Roman soldier with him.

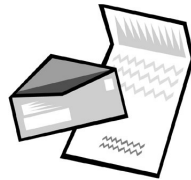
Paul wrote the letter called Romans in our New Testament to the church that met in Rome (Paul did not start this church). They did not know him. They only knew of him. The church got his letter (they had to meet in underground cemeteries you know - for being a Christian was illegal and dangerous) and thought it was so important that they had it copied and sent to all the churches in the empire.

In the letter we call Romans; Paul mentions all their mutual friends and tells them, in a very interesting way, things about God and about us. Our children will be introduced to five of those things at VBS this year. And we, well we are going prepare our hearts for a spiritual adventure for ourselves and our children.

Oh! Oh! Vacation Bible School is going to be so **cool** this year that it will knock your socks off. August 3-7 we will be turning our church and front yard into ancient Rome. Yes! Our program is called **ROME: PAUL and the UNDERGROUND CHURCH**.

In fact, it is so cool and the lessons are so good we are going to spend the whole month of July and the first Sunday in August exploring the lessons for VBS in our Worship Services.

Every Sunday we will see one of the five dramas that will be enacted at VBS for our children (they are quite good & we have lots of actors in our church). We'll get familiar with some of the songs they will be singing (because these are quite good too). My message each week will be based on the five lessons that our children will learn at VBS, all from Paul's letter to the church in Rome.



So, we decided to call JULY the SEASON OF VBS. Just like we prepare for Christmas during the season of Advent and just like we prepare for Easter with the season of Lent, we are going to prepare for this week of VBS by anticipating what our children will be experiencing and preparing our hearts in prayer for the Holy Spirit to move among us and our children during this spiritual adventure of VBS.

By the way, there is a rumor going about that we may actually get to meet Paul. You never know what will happen next at Bethany!

Scripture and Sermon Titles for July

JULY IS THE "SEASON OF VBS"

(anticipating & preparing for August 3-7)

ROME: Paul & the Underground Church

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 07/05 | INDEPENDENCE SUNDAY; COMMUNION
Scripture: Romans 6:23
Sermon: "God's Love is a Gift" |
| 07/12 | NO FELLOWSHIP DINNER
Scripture: Romans 12:2
Sermon: "God's Love Changes Us" |
| 07/19 | CHURCH SERVICE & PICNIC
@ Hess-Hathaway Park
Scripture: Romans 8:38
Sermon: "God's Love is Always With Us" |
| 07/26 | SALVATION SUNDAY
Scripture: Romans 5:8
Sermon: "God's Love Saves Us" |
| 08/02 | COMMUNION SUNDAY
Scripture: Romans 1:16
Sermon: "God's Love is Worth Sharing" |

**Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic,
July 19**

Have you ever worshiped at a park? Well, on **July 19**, we will hold our worship service at Hess-Hathaway Park (on Williams Lake Road) followed by our church picnic. We will gather at 10:30 AM at the big pavilion. Bring lawn chairs, drinks, and a dish to share. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided - or grill your own meat. Games! Fun! A Bounce House! Snow Cones! More!

The Church SEASON of VBS

During the Sundays in July and the first Sunday of August, we will observe a new SEASON of the church! You've heard of the church seasons of Advent and Lent, okay, now we will observe the SEASON OF VBS. It will be a season of prayer for God's blessings upon the many children who will be experiencing Vacation Bible School, August 3-7. In our worship experiences we will focus on the five themes that will be part of the five days of VBS i.e. Rome and the Underground Church. Each Sunday, we will see a worship drama that will be presented to the children during VBS. We will also learn some VBS songs so that our hearts will be in tune with the children. Pastor James will bless us with messages that will inspire us for living in difficult times. Don't miss a single Sunday during the SEASON OF VBS.

Sunday, July 12

There will be NO Fellowship Dinner in July. We will have Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic on July 19 instead. However, you are asked to bring canned goods or dry goods for OPEN DOOR on Sunday, July 12. Many are in need. Please bring something. Containers are in the foyer.

Bethany Cyclists

Bob Hunt is inviting all teens and adults with bicycles to join him for the second ride of the season, after our Fellowship Dinner on **Sunday, July 12**.

From Your Mission Committee

By Lottie Jespersen

Julie Run & OGHS

We have had an active two months. We put two mission offering/events before you—The Open Door Julie Run and One Great Hour of Sharing. But in spite of the economical conditions, Bethany has once again stepped to the plate and hit another grand slam.

With **OGHS**, we asked you to show us where your treasure was and you did! We set a goal of \$1,500 and as of the last Sunday in June, we reached \$1,416. Still to be counted is the loose change from the young people. Way to go Bethany!

It was a little more difficult to track the giving for the Open Door event because we had several walkers/runners collecting. We know that the amount is over \$500. We had good representation and wish to thank the following for their participation, involvement and/or support: Andrea VonBehren, honorary chair; walkers/runners, Louise Abersold, and Ida McCutcheon; course marshals Dave, Brittany and Brianna VonBehren; Josh

Nelson; chair, Al Jespersen; course worker, Gene Lewis; Pastor James; and Amy Nelson, my support as Door Prize chairman and all who sponsored a walker/runner or gave to the cause.

To date the event has netted \$22,000 dollars which will help many clients and their families in the coming year.

Bethany's Bounty



Do you have a garden that produces more than you can use? Bring it to the "Bethany's Bounty" Market beginning Sunday, July 19. Members of the congregation are invited to shop at the table, select fresh produce and place a market value donation in the basket. This is a win, win, win situation:

- Those with too much produce can share it with others
- Those buying will be assured of getting home-grown fresh vegetables
- The donated proceeds will fund mission giving

We hope to run "Bethany's Bounty" Market through the end of August. Let's see what happens.

Food Donations

The need for additional food during the summer months is even greater. Why you ask? During the school year, children of food pantry clients are receiving meals through the school food programs. Now, they are eating all their meals at home. Pastor James challenged us to develop the habit of picking up a few items for others every time we shop for ourselves. Will you join us in accepting that challenge? – Your Mission Team: Lottie Jespersen., Bob Hunt, Ida McCutcheon, Josh Nelson



Book Club

You are invited to join those reading the book The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows - on Friday, **July 10 at 9:15 AM**. We will be meeting at Panera's on M-59 near Kroger. You'll need to pick up a copy of the book at the library or a bookstore. Louise Abersold will be leading us in a spirited discussion.

COMING IN AUGUST

- August 3-7 - Vacation Bible School, 6 PM
- August 6-7 - Leadership Summit
(at Kensington Church in Troy)
- August 8 - Women's Potluck at Nona Bos', 12 PM
- August 16 - Men's Group Breakfast
& Study at Maxfield's, 8:30 AM

JULY 25 EVENT

It is very important that all team members and other interested people be present for our All Team Gathering at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, **July 25**. We will be discussing the Team responsibilities as they have been revised by the Policy and Procedures Committee. Staff relationships with Teams will also be discussed. It is very important that you be presents as Michelle and Pastor James better explain what it is they do and how it relates to the Teams. Put in on your calendar now. So we can be sure to start exactly on time. If you have any questions, call Pastor James at 248-722-4516

Help!

We depend on our income from Scrip. Sales have fallen and have affected our income. We know that everyone still buys gas and groceries. If our congregation would just buy Scrip for gas and groceries we would have a big source of income to meet our budgetary needs. Please buy your gas Scrip from the church. Place your order on Sunday at Grand Central and you will have your Scrip the next Sunday. Sometimes Speedway cards are available on demand.

Our biggest income from Scrip is from Kroger. Because you shop at Kroger, we have been receiving about \$300 a month! However, **Kroger changed their rules**. You now have to **re-register** for the church to benefit from your shopping at Kroger. Here's what you do:

1. Pick up a Kroger sheet at Grand Central with a bar code on it.
2. Go to Kroger Customer Service and have them scan the bar code with your personal Kroger Card.
3. That's it! After that, every time you scan your personal Kroger Card in the check out aisle the church will benefit. You'll know because it will say so on your receipt.
4. No more loading gift cards or anything like that. Just a one time visit to the Customer Service desk and you're done.

Please help us. Churches now have to seek other sources of income to continue their ministries. This Scrip program has the potential to benefit us greatly. Thank you.

Men's Group

No Men's Breakfast in June. Come and help at the Julie Run on June 20! Men's Breakfast back at Green Apple on July 18. On **Aug. 15**, all the men of the church are invited to Bill Maxfield's home (8164 Vanden Dr., White Lake) for breakfast at 8:30 AM.

It will be followed by study & prayer. Plans for a Men's Group in the fall will be discussed.

LINC Snail Mail

We are now sending the LINC to everyone via e-mail. If you do not have email, or if you are unlikely to read the LINC online, or if you don't actually check your e-mail, or even if you just plain prefer to get your LINC in the mail - we want to hear from you!!! ALSO, if we don't have your current e-mail address, we need it! SO, we have created a form to give the office some clarity about who prefers a Snail Mail LINC. The form is at Grand Central. Or, call us at 248-681-2130 to give your preference. You may also e-mail us at office@bethanywaterford.org.

Thank You's

- ☺ Thank you so much for the scholarship. It sure will come in handy at Hope College! I will miss you all so very much in the fall, but I'll come back and visit a lot! I love you all dearly. XOXO – Chelsea Grainer
- ☺ Thank you for letting us use your church for the Child ID Event. We had a very successful day—58 children and their families came and participated in the program. There were 6 volunteers from the Masons and 6 MOMS Club volunteers too. We could not have done it without all the help and support you gave us. Thank you – MOMS Club

Lighthouse Thanks Bethany

On behalf of the volunteers, Board of Directors, and most importantly those we serve, thanks so much to Bethany Baptist Church for your generous in-kind donation of food, valued at \$150. Your generous and thoughtful gifts will allow us to continue serving families and individuals in crisis. – Thomas Stowell, Exec. Dir.

Poetry Corner

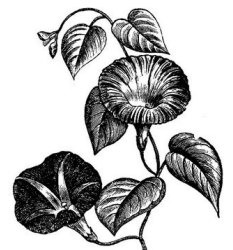
by Ellen Whitehead
Morning Glory

The lovely morning glory
begins each day anew
opening wide to greet the sun
with petals soft and blue

If only I could do the same
with face turned toward the sky
refresh my soul with each new dawn
and gaze toward God on high

Quietly, I'll close my eyes
and listen for His voice
calming fears, releasing peace
my whole being will rejoice

Yes, like the morning glory
I'll greet each day anew
enveloped in His arms of grace
with love forever true.



Senior Corner

Celebrating Bethany's 90th Year

By Jean Wilton

In 1941, Ben and I were a couple of newlyweds transplanted from Illinois to Pontiac. Ben had his first job working at GMC Truck & Bus.

We rented an apartment on Liberty Street from Earl and Lilah Eddy. On Sundays, we walked downtown to a large church. Instead of being met by warm Christians, no one greeted us or showed us any interest.

We were very happy when Earl Eddy said, "Why don't you come to church with us?" Bethany Baptist Church was on the corner of Mark and Huron streets at that time. As soon as we entered the building we were welcomed and made to feel at home.

Fred Tiffany was the pastor and I thought our Sunday School teacher, Elmer Rosenberg, was great. We felt a new spirit of dedication. We had found our church home!

The congregation met in a large upper room that was a gymnasium. There was a log cabin in front of the church, which the Boy Scouts loved! When the new sanctuary was added in the late 1940s, the log cabin was moved and the gymnasium became the fellowship hall.

We joined the church at the same time Martha Pepper did, in 1946. We made many interesting friends at that time—Wilbur and Grace Crawford, Andy Pepper, Lottie Girdler and her niece Ruth Goff, Gerald and Mildred Maxfield, Jack and Ruth McCulloch, and Maynard and Marian Johnson. A little later, Rudy and Bernice Schettling, Jim and Deloris Fowler, Ray and Anna McGregor, R. G. and Mary Ann Crites, Jay and Joyce Hice, Rodger and Beverly Zeller, and Al and Jo Shulte joined our group of friends.

Through the years, we've had many fine pastors, and today James Bolin upholds that tradition. Our address has changed, but Bethany Church continues to serve God and the community. The same spirit of fellowship and dedication abounds, and we are still a caring and hospitable people. I pray that it will always be so.

To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent - that is to triumph over old age.
-- Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Gather & Grow Update

by Nancy Maxfield

FLICK CHICKS ARE BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! That's right. Gather and Grow will once again show Wednesday evening Chick Flicks at the Maxfields' at 7:00. (New movies this year). The schedule is as follows:

July 1 League of Their Own
July 8 My Big Fat Greek Wedding
July 15 Sleepless in Seattle
July 22 Akeelah and the Bee
July 29 Freaky Friday



Consider this your personal invite and plan to join us each week - or as often as your schedule will allow.

On Saturday, August 8 at 10:30 G&G will have its annual potluck at Nona Bos' home. This has always been an enjoyable time together and we hope this year you will plan to join us. Let Nona know if you can come.

Sandy Lewis and her committee of Nancy McPherson, Amy Nelson and Sue Pepper will be organizing a Progressive Dinner for Saturday evening, September 12. Circle your calendar now and watch for more info in the August *LINC*.

Several years ago, Gather and Grow sponsored a program we called Adopt a Grandchild/Grandparent. We have decided that we needed to reactivate the program and Jan Rowe has agreed to chair this. If you would like to volunteer to become a grandparent (aunt, big sister, etc.) to a Bethany child or if you would like to have your child participate in this program, talk with Jan. This is a program you can personalize - it would be up to you. We have a few successful relationships still going - Nona Bos/Anna McPherson, Michaelle Stidham/Michael and Chloe Croff or Julie Patterson/Kimmie Wooster. Pick their brains for ideas.

Hope to see you Wednesday evenings at the Chick Flicks!

Tiger Ticket Available!

Bob Hunt has one extra Detroit Tigers ticket available for our Bethany outing on Friday, July 24. The cost is \$26.00. If you are interested, let Bob know. We have a group of 38 going, so we should have a great time at Comerica Park with fireworks after the game.

GO TIGERS!!

Bethany

Encounter God's Love!!

**An American Baptist Family Of Faith In
The Heart Of
Oakland County**

1375 Hiller Road
Waterford, MI
48327



Website: www.bethanywaterford.org

(Copies of this newsletter are available on the website)

*We welcome your contributions to the **LINC**. The August LINC deadline is Sunday, July 26. Email articles to Ellen Whitehead at twinlakede@comcast.net or put them in the tray in the Church Office. Please get articles in by the deadline. Thanks!*

✝ Bethany Prayer Chain ✝

To activate the Bethany Prayer Chain, call one of the following individuals:

- ✓ Joyce Hice – (248) 335-9026
- ✓ Joann Shulte – (248) 682-1109 or
- ✓ Church Office – (248) 681-2130

♥ Tender People for Tough Times ♥

When you need Bethany's Pastoral Staff, for any reason at all, just call:

Church Office: 248-681-2130 (Fax is 248-681-9798)
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday)
Email: Office@bethanywaterford.org
Rev. James Bolin at home: 248-722-4516

Being a family of faith means
you don't have to go it alone – **CALL US!**