

The Monthly Newsletter from your Family of Faith at Bethany

March, 2011

March 6 – Susan Bolin Speaking; Communion
March 9 – Ash Wednesday
6 PM Soup & Sandwiches; 7 PM Service
March 13 – 1st Sunday in Lent; Fellowship Dinner
March 19 – Bethany Café: Serving 5:30 & 7:00 PM
March 27 – Family Sunday

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

My dear friends and members of Bethany Church:

I have felt, seen, and heard the presence of Christ in the strangest places. For example, I once saw a little boy with a blanket walk up and give his blanket to a homeless man. That was the heart of Christ, present in the moment. One time two brothers who hadn't spoken to each other for 20 years found themselves in the same space at a funeral of a relative. One of the brothers had the courage to walk up to the other brother and offer to shake hands. The other brother stood there looking at his brother's hand for the longest time before slowly taking his hand and shaking it firmly. They looked into each other's eyes with unspoken forgiveness. Oh how I felt the presence of Christ when I witnessed that scene.



There are stories in the Old Testament where we see, hear, and feel the presence of Christ. Take 1 Kings 4:1-7. It is the story about the Prophet Elisha on a preaching mission. But he is interrupted by a widow in distress. Elisha stops, much as our Lord would have done, and ministers to her needs. Christ is not mentioned in the story. But you just feel this is something that our dear Lord would have done. And, something he would have challenged us to do likewise.

During Lent, we will be exploring some of these places in the Old Testament where we find the spirit and heart of Christ. Our Lenten series is entitled "**Christ in the Strangest Places.**" Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 9, we will look at a series of stories that will touch and heal our hearts. Don't miss a single service. I promise that your heart will be blessed. We worship every Sunday at 10:30 AM.

Also, go to Grand Central at Bethany to pick up a copy of [Springs of Living Water](#). It is a splendid daily devotional for you to use during Lent. You will want to begin on Ash Wednesday. Set aside 10 minutes every day to read the devotional and then pray.

Ash Wednesday includes a soup and salad dinner at 6 PM and a service at 7 PM. **The 1st Sunday of Lent is March 13.** It is also the day of our Fellowship Dinner. It is also the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day. If you are so inclined, I invite you to wear something **green** that day in honor of the great man who brought Christianity to Ireland.

Sermons & Scripture - March, 2011

March 6 – COMMUNION SUNDAY

Theme: God gives us a way out of perpetual victimhood.
Scripture: I John 5:4; Matthew 7:7-8; I Corinthians 15:57
Sermon: From Victim to Victory
Speaker: Susan Bolin

March 9 – ASH WEDNESDAY (6 PM – Soup/Sandwiches; 7 PM – Service)

Theme: Christ in the Strangest Places
Scripture: Exodus 20:17
Sermon: The Desire to Acquire
Skit: "Big—Bigger-- BIGGEST" (a skit on the silliness of getting more and more stuff – based on Luke 12:15-21)

March 13 – 1st SUNDAY IN LENT; FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Theme: Christ in the Strangest Places
Scripture: II Kings 4:1-7
Sermon: Elisha Provides for a Widow

March 20 – 2nd SUNDAY IN LENT

Theme: Christ in the Strangest Places
Scripture: Isaiah 44:5
Sermon: God Marks His People

March 27 – 3rd SUNDAY IN LENT; F A M I L Y S U N D A Y

Theme: Christ in the Strangest Places
Scripture: Judges 6:16
Sermon: The Call of Gideon

In like a lion—Out like a lamb!

VICTIM or VICTOR?

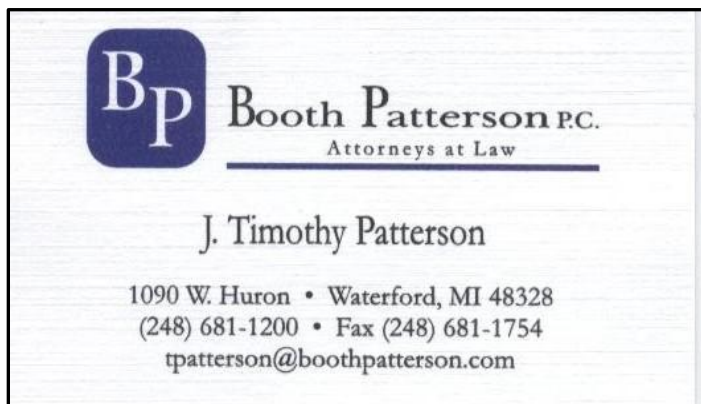
On Sunday, March 6, during Worship, you will hear a sermon by Susan Bolin called "From Victim to Victory." She will tell a personal and moving story about overcoming adversity and inner anguish to claim the "abundant life" promised by our dear Lord. Susan asserts that "in the aftermath of abuse, mistreatment, disrespect, pain, and bitter hurt, we are encouraged to be survivors. Indeed, we must become survivors. But the Christian message goes beyond all that! Our Lord teaches us that we can be "more than conquerors", i.e. more than survivors . . . we can be victors." The Worship Service begins at 10:30 AM and will include Communion.

Ash Wednesday, March 9

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, a time for spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter. This year, we will have a soup and sandwich dinner in the fellowship hall beginning at 6:00 PM. At 7:00 PM, there will be a service in the sanctuary. The service will include an original skit entitled "Big . . . BIGGER . . . B I G G E S T" based on Luke 12:15-21. Communion will be observed as well as a time for receiving ashes on one's forehead or hand. The service will be child friendly.

LENT: Christ in the Strangest Places

Our Lenten series this year is called "Christ in the Strangest Places". Each Sunday during Lent we will discover a strange place in the Bible where our hearts also encounter Christ. Beginning March 6, Lenten materials, to help you in your daily devotions during Lent, will be available near Grand Central.



Corrections?

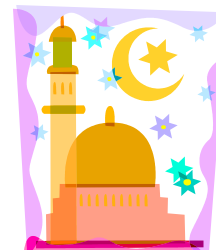
On the enclosed birthday and anniversary lists, should you notice a correction that needs to be made, please contact Dorothy Maman at 248-681-2130 or office@bethanywaterford.org.

Fellowship Dinner

On Sunday, **March 13**, we will have a Fellowship Dinner after our Worship Service. You are invited to bring a dish of food to share (no desserts please) and stay for a time of fellowship. The Teams responsible for set up and cleanup for March are: Shepherd & Small Groups Teams.

Adult Sunday School

During the Sundays of March and the first Sunday of April, Pastor James and Susan will be leading a 5-session series on "ISLAM". Beginning at **9:30 AM** each Sunday, we will explore the facts, the fiction, and the future of the world's fastest growing religion. Bring your questions, your fears, your feelings, and your fascination. Coffee will be ready and snacks are included.



Men's Breakfast

Come enjoy the fellowship at the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 19 at Green Apple on Cooley Lake Road. We will gather at **8:30 AM** for a hearty breakfast. There will be good conversation and a spiritual lesson from Bill Maxfield. All men are welcome.

VALET PARKING

We offer Valet Parking on Sundays beginning at **10 AM**. Just drive up under the portico and honk your horn. A church member will come out and park your car for you. If interested in joining our team of valets, call **Susan Barlow** at 248-534-3799 or **Jan Rowe** at 248-338-0786.

Mortgage News

The Mortgage Committee is pleased to announce the receipt of gifts totaling over **\$43,000**. Because of these gifts, our church mortgage has been reduced to **\$138,000**. Paying off our mortgage would mean a savings of \$14,000 a year for Bethany. So, if you are inspired by these acts of generosity, we would invite you to make a check out to **Bethany Church** to help us further reduce or retire our mortgage. Should you like to serve on the Mortgage Committee as we form further plans, call Pastor James at 248-722-4516 or Jon McGregor at 248-854-5445.

Deacons

Our Deacons offer spiritual counseling & prayer **each Sunday**, upon the conclusion of Worship. The Deacon of the Day will meet with anyone desiring personal prayer at the front of the sanctuary by the piano. Our Deacons are: **Nona Bos, Bob Hunt, & Rodger Zeller**.

DEACONS OFFER HEALING PRAYERS

On the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month, the Pastor and Deacons will be available in the sanctuary to offer healing prayers for anyone who desires prayer for any reason. An anointing with oil will be available if desired.
12:30 PM. In March: 14th & 28th.

Bucks Back to Bethany

\$73.06. That's how much Bethany received recently from LIBERTY TIRE AND AUTO CARE, 6485 Cooley Lake Road. It's part of a fund-raising program between Bethany and Liberty where 2% of your Liberty bill for tires or car repair goes to Bethany. All you have to do is mention that you want Bethany to get the 2% GBC "Giving Back to Our Community" donation. Here are some of the people in our church who use Liberty Tire and participate in the GBC program: James & Susan Bolin, Dave & Andrea von Behren, Jan Rowe, Sharon Woodward, Bernice Schettling and Donna Stadler. If you have car care needs, please consider our friends at Liberty. The owner, Todd Gulich, is a dedicated Christian and has been a friend to Bethany for many years. They are honest and will do a good job for you. They cultivate satisfied customers. Call them at 248-681-9710 for an appointment. You'll be glad you did.



COMING IN APRIL

April 17 – PALM SUNDAY
April 21 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
6 PM Soup & Sandwiches; 7 PM Service
April 23 – Easter Egg Hunt, 10 AM – 12 PM
April 24 – EASTER (no Sunday School)
{see Dave von Behren create a work of art
hear Erich von Behren play the organ}
April 29-30 – Youth: Acquire the Fire Event



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Princesses at Camp Lael

by Michelle McGregor

Once upon a time there was a magical place called Camp Lael. It was a special place because there any one could find peace, quiet and the still gentle voice of God. Thousands of young people traveled to this wondrous place each year and were never disappointed.

One such time, there was a servant girl named Michelle. She traveled far and wide to bring her nine princesses to Lael. They were excitedly ready to spend the weekend growing close to each and to God. Now, Camp Lael is mostly quiet, but this night, there was the sound of joyous voices as the princes and princesses in training played all sorts of amazing games. After the games, the king's musicians led them in singing praises to God; never did the servant hear such angelic sounds. Finally came the special-est part of all; the disciple Sarah brought them words of wisdom from their Lord. They left that place filled with peace and comfort.



After such an amazing night, the servant tucked all her little princesses in for much needed sleep. She closed her eyes, smiled and thanked God for such a wonderful beginning to the weekend.

Then in the middle of the deep dark night, her sleep was disturbed by a small sound, then a gentle nudge. Oh no. One princess Allison was sick.

Throughout the night, the servant lovingly soothed and cared for the young princess, hoping and praying her health would improve by morning. Unfortunately, it did not. Poor Princess Allison travelled back to her castle to be cared for by her own mother, the queen.

Although the number was now eight, those eight princesses, Princess Chloe, Princess Faith, Princess Abbilyn, Princess Madison, Princess Kenna, Princess Caitlyn, Princess Caressa and Princess Brianna, went on to have an amazing, magical, fun weekend at Camp Lael. And the servant, well, although she was exhausted and tired, had a pretty wonderful time as well. The End.

Phone 248-673-1213
Fax 248-673-1454

Donelson, Johns and Evans Funeral Home, Inc.

MICHAEL A. EVANS 5391 Highland Road
President Waterford, Michigan 48327-1921

Bethany Buddies Winter Pool Party

Lakeland Pool
Sunday, March 13
\$3 each

Schedule

11:45-12:30 Enjoy fellowship dinner
12:30 Devotion
12:45 Leave Bethany
5:00 Pick up at Pool

Need volunteers to make this a success! Please see Michelle if you can!

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Thank You!

Please know that I was overwhelmed by the many expressions of sympathy from the "Bethany family" at this time of mourning the passing of my birth mother. Your condolences have brought me comfort. It is sad to let her go. Yet, I rejoice that God brought us together. -- Jan Rowe



Bethany Café Western Barbecue

Saturday, March 19
Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Taking Reservations for 5:30 & 7:00 PM
at Grand Central or at missmcgregor@comcast.net

Bethany Book Club

By Louise Aebersold

Our March book was recommended by Nancy Maxfield. **Same Kind of Different as Me**, by Ron Hall and Denver Moore is a memoir. It is the story of the faith in God, hope for a better world and undying love of Deborah Hall that forever changed two men, her husband Ron Hall – a wealthy international art dealer and Denver Moore – a homeless man.

The unique two-author style and the open, candid way in which the authors write add up to an engaging, emotional and life-changing experience. Much in the book takes place in Fort Worth, Texas. After reading this book the mayor of Fort Worth, Mike Moncrief, stated that he gave the authors credit for raising his awareness and resolve to address homelessness.

You are invited to join us in reading this inspirational and emotionally gripping true story of faith, fortitude, and friendship.

Same Kind of Different as Me is available in paperback at local libraries and book stores. Please come to our discussion on March 18 at 9:15 AM at Ida McCutcheon's home. (8327 Fox Bay, White Lake 48386).

Images of God and Jesus through Musician's Eyes--Part 2

By Al Shulte

This class is a continuation of the class taught in the spring of 2010. The purpose of the class is twofold: (1) to expose class members to the wide variety of styles of music that contains ideas about God, Jesus, and related spiritual issues; (2) to allow class members to discuss their reactions to the musical selections and the issues they raise. The music will include many different genres, and will be selected to inspire people, to cause them to think, sometimes to amuse them, and hopefully to provide some situations where they say "I never thought about things that way." Each session will be self-contained, so persons with busy schedules don't need to feel they will lose continuity if they have to miss a session. A typical class will be about 2/3 listening to the selections and about 1/3 discussing them.

With a Twist

By LINC Editor Ellen Whitehead



Our small group that meets at the Pattersons and Jespersens has been studying a book called The Relationship Principles of Jesus by Tom Holladay. It is kinda like the 40 Days of Purpose series; but instead it's centered around 40 Days of Love.

To me, there is no more important message from Jesus than his "Greatest Commandment":

Matthew 22: ³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

Just think of it! If we loved our neighbors as we love ourselves, what kind of world would it be?

Part of our study has centered on the Love Chapter (1 Corinthians 13). This is my personal favorite book in the Bible. One simple sentence keeps floating around in my mind these past few weeks as I've been reading the book by Pastor. Holladay: "*Love is patient, love is kind. Love is patient, love is kind. Love is patient, love is kind.*"

Sometimes it's hard to put this into practice. But I'm finding that it helps to keep repeating this powerful sentence. I'm making it my everyday prayer:

- When a loved one speaks sharply to me—*Love is patient, love is kind.*
- When the line at the post office seems like a mile long—*Love is patient, love is kind.*
- When I'm asked to help someone in need and I'd rather be meditating silently with God—*Love is patient, love is kind.*
- When someone steals your parking spot at the mall—*Love is patient, love is kind.*
- When it seems like I'll never have a place to call my own—*Love is patient, love is kind.*

Try it! It sure has helped me to slow down and realize that it is our relationships with others (friends, family, fellow workers and even strangers) that really matter in God's eyes.

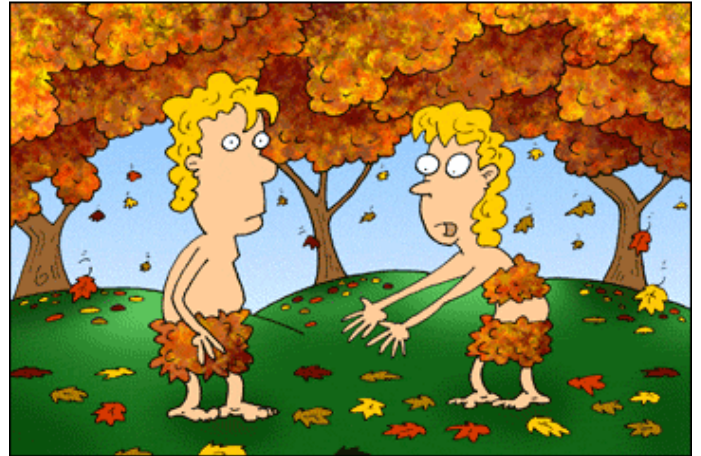


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10-06-2006

WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

Joke Time!

LIFE AFTER DEATH

"DO YOU BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DEATH?" THE BOSS ASKED ONE OF HIS EMPLOYEES. "YES, SIR," THE NEW EMPLOYEE REPLIED. "WELL, THEN, THAT MAKES EVERYTHING JUST FINE," THE BOSS WENT ON. "AFTER YOU LEFT EARLY YESTERDAY TO GO TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S FUNERAL, SHE STOPPED IN TO SEE YOU!"

PALM SUNDAY

IT WAS PALM SUNDAY AND, BECAUSE OF A SORE THROAT, FIVE-YEAR-OLD JOHNNY STAYED HOME FROM CHURCH WITH A SITTER. WHEN THE FAMILY RETURNED HOME, THEY WERE CARRYING SEVERAL PALM BRANCHES. THE BOY ASKED WHAT THEY WERE FOR. "PEOPLE HELD THEM OVER JESUS' HEAD AS HE WALKED BY." "WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT," THE BOY FUMED, "THE ONE SUNDAY I DON'T GO, HE SHOWS UP!"

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 our website)

*We welcome your contributions to the LINC. The April LINC deadline is **Sunday, March 20**. Email articles to Ellen Whitehead at twinklakede@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

Outreach Matchmakers

If you need special assistance (housekeeping, meals, emergency childcare, etc.), call:

- Susan Bolin – 248-534-3799
- Jan Rowe – 248-338-0786
- James Bolin – 248-722-4516

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)

Email: Office@bethanywaterford.org

Rev. James Bolin at home: 248-722-4516

Deacon Nona Bos: 248-886-8615

Deacon Bob Hunt: 248-481-2960

Deacon Rodger Zeller: 248-789-5809

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