

The Monthly Newsletter from your Family of Faith at Bethany

September, 2009

Sept 13 - Rally Back to Sunday School, 9:30 AM
Sept 13 - FAMILY SUNDAY; FELLOWSHIP DINNER
Sept 17 - Senior Picnic at Crites', 12:00 PM
Sept 19 - Camp Lael Run/Walk, 11 AM - 3 PM
Sept 26 - Comedy Night at Bethany, 7 PM
(with comedian Jay Cooper)

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:

For those of you who have not otherwise heard, someone set fire to the back of our garage here at Bethany. (Yes, we really do have a garage. It's just hidden behind the main building.) Fortunately, people were here that day for VBS when the smoke and flame reached the roof of the building. Thanks to the quick and brave action of several people, the fire was put out before the fire department arrived. The back exterior of the garage was badly damaged and the inside of the building was filled with smoke as thick as pea soup.



You'll be happy to know that we have insurance that will cover most of what's needed to repair the exterior of the garage and clean the interior and the contents of the garage.

Some learnings have come to my awareness because of this experience.

1. Always know in advance where the fire extinguishers are! In your home, at the schools, and at your church! Make it your business to know where the fire extinguishers are. Think of it as a duty.
2. This experience also sobered me to the realization that it is just as important to know where the first aid kits are. Do you have one in your home? If not, get one. We have several here at the church. One is in the kitchen in a drawer clearly marked "first aid." We also have two in the office, a big one and a little one. They are out in the open. When you are here, make it your business to locate them so you always know where they are.
3. Thank God for 9-1-1. It really works. What a great idea!
4. Pray for our firefighters. They are quick, well-trained, and professional. They endanger their own lives to save lives and property. We should always honor them. (I took the local firefighters a box of donuts recently. They really appreciate things like that because they often feel unappreciated).

5. It is important that we pray for the arsonist(s) who have been at work in Waterford. God expects us to care enough about them to pray for them. In particular, I pray that God will convict their hearts of wrongdoing and bother their consciences. They need to take responsibility for what they have done and seek out the help that they need to overcome whatever has prompted them to do such things.
6. I am grateful to God that no one was hurt in this fire incident. God blessed us. The arsonist didn't know that people were coming to the church and the fire would be discovered. But God did. Thanks be to God for watching over our sacred place. May we continue to make use of our sacred place for the glory of God in all we do to worship, disciple, and serve as a congregation who love God by loving others.

Scripture and Sermon Titles for September

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 09/06 | COMMUNION
Scripture: Matthew 11:28
Sermon: "YOU are Not Alone" |
| 09/13 | FAMILY SUNDAY
INTER-GENERATIONAL SERVICE
RALLY DAY (Fellowship Dinner after worship) |
| 09/20 | Scripture: John 4:1-42
Sermon: "Tell ME a Story" |
| 09/27 | Scripture: Hebrews 10:25; Acts 4:31
Sermon: "Why YOU need Community" |

COMING IN OCTOBER

- Oct. 4 - 6 Week Series on *The Game of Life* begins
Oct. 10 - G & G *Bad Hair Day* Breakfast, 10 AM
Oct. 11 - Fellowship Dinner
Oct. 16 - 17 - ABC/MI Gathering at Covenant Church



Rally Back to Sunday School September 13

Beginning **September 13**, we will have a time for Christian Discipleship from **9:30 AM - 10:20 AM** every Sunday. We will have Sunday School classes for all ages including an exciting adult class.

New Adult Sunday School Class

We will introduce a new adult Sunday School class on **September 13 at 9:30 AM**. Meet in the sanctuary for a three week series on the C. S. Lewis' book The Four Loves. You don't have to read the book to join in on the discussions, but copies will be available at Grand Central (\$4 a copy) if you would like to read the book for yourself. Susan Barlow and Nelson Haynes will be the facilitators of insights and discussions. No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to attend since one of the subjects covered will be erotic or sexual love.

September 17 - Senior Potluck



On Thursday, September 17, at 12:00 PM, you are invited to the Annual Senior Potluck at R.G. and Mary Ann Crites' home (3268 Angelus, Waterford). If you are wondering whether you qualify as a Senior, then you do qualify. No age limit. Come enjoy the fellowship. Bring a dish of food to share. (248-673-0211)

Book Club

You are invited to join those reading the book Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen **September 18 at 9:15 AM**. We will be meeting at Andy Pepper's place - Sunrise, 5700 Water Tower Place in Clarkston (off Dixie just past White Lake Road). 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. Join us.

Men's Group

On **September 19**, 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 prayer and a special study called "Winners are Not Those Who Never Fail, But Those Who Never Quit." Men are asked to bring an "Andy Story" i.e. a story about someone you have helped.

Age is something that doesn't matter,
unless you are a cheese. – Billie Burke

Camp Lael Run/Walk

Several people from our church will participate in the Camp Lael Run/Walk on **Saturday, September 19 from 11 AM - 3 PM**. It is for all ages. If you would like to run/walk, contact Michelle McGregor @ 248-802-2892. For everyone else, please support our camp by pledging a walker or runner.



Comedy Night with Comedian Jay Cooper

On Saturday, **September 26 at 7 PM**, bring the whole family to Comedy Night at Bethany! The evening will feature Jay Cooper (as seen on Comedy Central). His 100% clean show will begin after hearing from the amateurs willing to share a joke (we've got time for 10 people to tell their best "clean" joke; three of these spots are already spoken for). Talk with Pastor James if you want to be a jokester. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$40 per family. Childcare will be available.

THE GAME OF LIFE

For six weeks, beginning **October 4**, our worship services will focus on the six themes of our Small Group series called: *When the Game is Over - It All Goes Back in the Box*. We will have worship dramas and sermons based on the six themes of the Small Group series:

1. When the Game is Over - It All Goes Back in the Box
2. Keeping Score Where It Really Counts
3. Resign as Master of the Board
4. Calling or Comfort? Choose Your Moves Wisely
5. Playing the Game with Greatness and Grace
6. The King Has One More Move

Small Group Opportunity

If you would like to lead a small group in your home during our six week Small Group series beginning the week of Oct. 4 - contact Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393) or James Bolin (248-722-4516). The weekly small group get-together involves watching a video with the group and leading a discussion from a study guide. Pray about this opportunity. If God is nudging your heart, call today.

Thank You

To our dear friends at Bethany Church:

We want to thank you for all your kindness expressed to us during Betty's illness. We especially wish to thank you for the beautiful cards and the loving prayers.

Yours in Christ – Betty and Les Frisch

Gather and Grow Dates

By Nancy Maxfield

The G&G Steering Committee is very excited about our fall plans. We hope you will be too and plan to participate.

Starting Wednesday, September 9 at 1:00 PM we will start a new study "The Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs. This is part of the series we started earlier in the year and will be held at Nancy Maxfield's home. The cost of the book will be \$5.50 - thanks to Michelle McGregor for ordering these gently used books. There are only ten available at this price - so, first come (and pay), first served.

On Saturday, September 12 at 6:00 PM we will be hosting a Progressive Dinner. This is open to any adult at Bethany. Think about opening your home - or what dish you would like to share. Contact Sandy Lewis and let her know. This promises to be a very fun evening!

Our "Bad Hair Day" breakfast will be on Saturday, October 10 at 10:00 AM at Bethany. Nona Bos and her committee will have lots of exciting plans for us. Watch for further announcements.



Friday, November 8 will be our Pasty Dinner, a fundraiser. You will be able to either enjoy a pasty dinner right there at Bethany - or order ahead of time and take home (or take some deer hunting). More info will be coming.

We will be hosting another Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 5 at 2:00 PM. We have been making plans for this special afternoon, so watch for more details.

More exciting plans will be happening in January!

"God's Purls" continues to meet the second Friday evening of the month. This group has a goal of a hundred knit hats for chemo patients this year. They already have fifty. Come and join their fun. If you have questions, call Cathy Haynes.

Keep your eyes open for the new G&G trifold brochure. This has been designed by Louise Aebersold and will be used in our visitors' bags and at Grand Central.

" A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away."

- Arabian Proverb

Reverend Wayne Fink

By Rodger Zeller

Reverend Wayne Fink served as pastor at Bethany from 1971-1974. His wife, Beverly, has been an active member of the American Baptist Board for many years. Both Wayne and Beverly have been volunteering to represent Ottawa College, an American Baptist college in Kansas for some years.

In June, I attended the American Baptist Biennial in Pasadena, California. Beverly Fink was there and I had the chance to have a long visit with her and got an update on them. Last winter Wayne developed a blood leak on the brain that acted much like a stroke. For a while, his situation was touch and go. However, he gradually improved and went into rehabilitation. Beverly reported that Wayne had become their "star pupil", and the prognosis is that he will make a full recovery.

Please keep Wayne and Beverly in your prayers as he continues to recover and Beverly continues to cope.

"THINK BIG" - My Philosophy by Ben Carson – author of Gifted Hands

The Bethany Book Club recently read the book "Gifted Hands" by Dr. Ben Carson. They wanted to share his philosophy with Bethany's congregation:

- T Talent & Time** – learn to accept and develop your God-given talents and waste not the time you are given
- H Hope & Honesty** – Anticipate good things & speak the truth
- I Insight** – Listen and learn from others' experiences & read good books that open up worlds of understanding (the best example being the Bible)
- N Nice** – Be nice to all people (Being kind, friendly, and helpful takes less energy and relieves much of the pressure.)
- K Knowledge** – This is the key to independent living, your dreams, hopes and aspirations. Knowledge makes you invaluable and you can write your own ticket.
- B Books** – Reading makes your mind work better because minds develop by reading, thinking and figuring out things for ourselves.
- I In-Depth Learning** – Acquired knowledge over time becomes part of you and helps one understand oneself and the world
- G God** – Never get too big for God. Never drop God out of your life.

CALIFORNIA COMMENTS

by Rodger Zeller

Did you know that we are part of a family of churches known as American Baptists? Representatives from churches all over the U.S. get together every two years for inspiration and for discussing the work we do together as a denomination. I was able to represent Bethany at our American Baptist Biennial held in Pasadena, California from June 26-28.

One of the reasons I was looking forward to attending the Biennial this year was because I lived in Pasadena for four years (1962-1966). I was a student at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. My major was Christian Education. The Fuller campus was only about four blocks from the Convention Center. So, I was able to attend an alumni breakfast on campus on Saturday morning. After the breakfast we got to tour the new David Allen Hubbard Library. Hubbard was president of Fuller for 30 years. This library houses an amazing collection of Christian literature.

Since I was a delegate representing Bethany, I want to report on a significant vote that took place. As many of you know, the mainline Protestant denominations have struggled with the issue of homosexuality. There are a group of American Baptist churches, representing less than 5% of the total ABC churches, who call themselves Welcoming and Affirming ABC Churches. They are scattered across the country. Like many ABC churches, they welcome homosexuals into fellowship. But what many ABC churches and regions are concerned about is that they also affirm homosexual lifestyles. This association of homosexual lifestyles with American Baptist Churches USA is the heart of the problem. Several of the American Baptist Regions have withdrawn from the national body over this issue. National and regional leaders, in an attempt to address this difficulty, presented a proposal to restructure the denomination by de-constructing the representational system now in place for the national denomination and putting into place a group of leaders, mainly from regions, to guide the work of the denomination. Further changes in the proposal would move a great deal of national authority to the regions. This means that regions could decide matters independently of the denomination, especially the matter of determining whether to allow Welcoming and Affirming Churches as part of the region fellowship. This way, for example, ABC of Michigan could say "no W & A churches" and ABC of Wisconsin could say, "yes to including W & A churches." It was thought that this solution could give churches within particular regions opportunity to distance themselves from W & A churches if they chose to do so. This proposal was put forward to try to prevent further break up of the denomination.

But objections emerged from the delegates as a whole. The details of how this would all work were fuzzy and the delegates felt that they were entitled to the details. In addition to this, some delegates felt they did not have enough time to pray and deliberate over such sweeping changes, since they first learned about the proposal at the Biennial itself. Also, many delegates felt that de-constructing the representational system on the national level would remove the voice of the local congregation and put too much power in the hands of regional leaders. Some delegates just plain didn't understand what they were voting on. So, the proposal was defeated; it failed to get the necessary 2/3 majority.

In addition to the business part, the Biennial had many excellent Bible studies, large group worship gatherings, and a large hall full of displays by various American Baptist ministries.

One of the most inspirational sessions was by Nick Vujicic. He is an Australian man born with no legs or arms. Yet he was able to talk about how his relationship with Christ strengthened his life and given him a message of hope. He gave an inspiring message about loving Christ and living a life pleasing to God.

I also attended a luncheon sponsored by the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (this is our national pension group for church workers). The speaker, Rev. Dr. George Tooze, Jr., gave a wonderful speech concerning personal letters he'd discovered between Adoniram Judson, the first American Baptist missionary, and his second wife regarding their courtship and their seven years of ministering to the people in Burma on behalf of American Baptists.

I had a wonderful time out in California and was pleased to represent Bethany at this event. If you have any questions, be sure to contact me at 248-789-5809.

Poetry Corner

(forms of Haiku, by Ellen Whitehead)

The shadows of September
cast waves of sadness
across the purple asters

☞

Gentle blue breezes
kiss my forehead as they pass
Goodbye sweet summer!

☞

I can smell God's breath
as the jasmine's soft petals
float in autumn's air



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 October LINC deadline is Sunday, September 27. 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!**