

# BETHESDA BUGLE

Bethesda United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 147 \* Preston, MD \* 410-673-7538 \* bethesdanewsletter@verizon.net \* Volume 1, Issue 1 March 2010

## Pastor's Message

During this holy season of Lent, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. Lent is a period of forty days, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending the Saturday before Easter. Sundays are not counted, as they always celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death. Lent's last seven days are Holy Week.

In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism on Easter Eve. Besides being taught the Gospel message, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles Creed, they prayed and fasted.

Today, Lent is a time of reflection and self-examination for all Christians. In remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for us, many folks decide to give up

something for Lent. It is a time of renewal, worship, and study. The color purple, a royal color, is used in the church, signifying penitence and preparation and

May the strength of God pilot us,  
May the wisdom of God instruct us,  
May the hand of God protect us,  
May the word of God direct us—  
May thy Salvation,  
O Lord,  
Be always ours  
this day  
and for evermore.  
Amen.



Written by St. Patrick

A.D. 373

reminding us of Jesus, our Lord and King.

On Easter Sunday, Christians worship God with great rejoicing and fanfare. We celebrate the Resurrection Day of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Symbols of the resurrection are white lilies, the Paschal or Christ candle, and the empty Cross. The colors white and gold are used for the Lordship of Jesus.

As Easter comes to our hearts, let us say, "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" All who believe have new life in our Lord Jesus who said, "I am with you always."  
~Matthew 28:20 ~ (*The United Methodist Book of Worship*)

Rev. Joan C. Wolff

## Historian's Report

The History Commission met twice last week to begin planning Bethesda's 225th Anniversary celebrations. Pending approval by the Administrative Board, the festivities will take place on Sunday, October 17, and will be paired up with Homecoming. We are still in the planning stages for the type and duration of the program, so watch this space!

In the meantime, the church will be sponsoring a series of events designed to lead up to the main event. The centerpiece of these efforts will be our special series, "Dinner at Six," a Thursday evening, 6-8pm supper-and-gathering during which we will reflect in various ways on our Methodist heritage, and on life at Bethesda. All are welcome to what we hope will be a fun, tasty, and enlightening

experience. To launch this series, our first **Dinner at Six**, on April 8, will be a **Hymn Sing**. In the next couple weeks, we will be sending around a sign-up sheet at church for you to list your favorites, and we will choose from that pool, with a few other goodies thrown in, for the program. If you can't make regular service, but still want to submit a title for the Hymn Sing, send an email to the *Bugle*, and we'll make sure it gets in! If you are shy about singing, don't be! Remember John Wesley's rule: "Sing lustily, and with a good courage."

Finally, let me say a word about the purpose of the *Bugle*. First, a strong church requires a channel for news to be distributed to members. We wish to fill that role. Please make use of us as a resource for your spiritual and informational needs. Second:

Bethesda is the oldest continually operating Methodist congregation in Caroline County. We have lots of history. In the lead-up to our anniversary, I think, as your church historian, that we need a medium by which that history can be transmitted to members. To that end, the *Bugle* will record the doings of Bethesda in the here and now so that future members will know what we were all about. But it will also serve as a forum for Bethesda memories. I will be reprinting bits and pieces from years past in each issue, and I want you to send me your own remembrances, whether they be from last year, or from fifty years ago. Let us **record** and **remember** as we go forward to our most historic Homecoming ever!

Eric A. Cheezum

## Finance Committee

As we shared with the congregation on March 7, the Finance Committee met on February 22, 2010. The following is our financial status as of that meeting; figures are based on the 2009 Profit & Loss Monthly Statements, over a 12-month period.

Last year, we received tithes and donations totaling \$39,365. Total expenses were \$58,501. These figures

indicate that an average weekly income of \$1,200 is needed to run the church.

In the past years we have been blessed to have extra contributions given to the General Fund to meet these expenses. However, we do not have sufficient funds remaining to carry us through this year. We appreciate our faithful members, and thank you for all we have accomplished together. While we know

these are hard economic times, we ask you to consider prayerfully how God would have all of us respond to supporting the ministry needs of Bethesda, for our members and for our community.

May God Bless You and Bethesda.

Sincerely,

Isabel Brannock, Chair

## Bethesda Memories

In the course of research I recently discovered a series of Trustee Meeting minutes from the 1870s that cover the time period in which the Bethesda congregation was in the process of building the structure that - with many, often radical, revisions - it now currently inhabits. The few lines below record a turning point for our congregation: the appointment of a

committee to raise money for a new church building to replace the original structure, called "Frazier's Chapel," which dated to 1785.

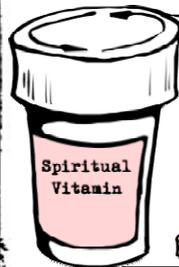
This is the first available set of minutes from this series. To my knowledge, they are the oldest existing Trustee records held by the church or its affiliates.

~EAC

## News Briefs

- The deadline for ordering Easter Lilies is Thursday, 3/25. Lilies will be in the Sanctuary starting Palm Sunday (3/28). To make an order, call Shirley Bennett (673-7276), or Helen Fletcher (673-7713).

- The Annual Bethesda Easter Egg Hunt is on Palm Sunday, immediately after service. Helen Fletcher will be hosting at her farm just outside town. For further information, call the church or email the newsletter.



**God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him.**

**I John 4:16**

Min. of Board of Trustees  
Committee Appointees

April 4<sup>th</sup> 1874

Committee

Mr. O'Neil Chairman of Committee

Messrs Dr. Willis

E. T. Moore

J.W. Harris

J.B. Fletcher

Instructions to Committee -

The Committee are instructed to work on the subscribers, to ascertain if they are willing to meet their subscriptions. Also to solicit new subscriptions.

Moved & seconded that the Board of Trustees will proceed at once so soon as the amt of \$1500 is subscribed to erect a new church.

(Union Temperance Society Ledger, P#DSC06066)

## Church Calendar

Wednesday March 17.... 7:00 p.m.

Thursday March 25

Sunday March 28 ..... 11:00 a.m.

..... After church

Friday April 2..... 9:00 a.m. - noon

Sunday April 4..... 7:00 a.m.

..... 11:00 a.m.

Thurssday April 8..... 6:00 p.m.

Choir Practice

Easter Lily orders are due

Palm Sunday Service

Easter Egg Hunt, at The Fletcher Farm

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Early Easter Service, at the Preston Park

Regular Easter Service, at Bethesda

Dinner at Six (see History for more details)

## My Testimony

*Commitment* by Isabel Brannock

Stop and think for a moment what Jesus did for us. He died for our sins to save us and gave us the gift of eternal life for those who believe in him and accept him as their savior.

I have committed to give my weekly offering when I miss a Sunday. Even when I go away I always make up my offerings for the Sundays I miss. I like to give before I leave, that way I have put God and my church first.

Prayer: Dear God - Thank you for the gift of Jesus and the promise of eternal life. We pray for your guidance as we give of ourselves to promote your work. We give you all the Praise, Honor, and Glory. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN

## Missions/Outreach

The Missions/Outreach Committee recently donated \$500.00 to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) for Haitian relief, and also bought heating oil for a needy family in Federalsburg. Also, a member of our church family was burned out and lost everything. The committee provided money to buy household needs and food. The Missions/Outreach committee endeavors to reach out to the church, community and the world to help those in need. We also supply Baptismal Bibles, cards, and gifts to shut-ins, and other needs that are brought to our attention.

Debbie Weems

