

# BETHESDA BUGLE

*Blow up the trumpet in the new moon!*



Bethesda United Methodist Church • P.O. Box 147 \* Preston, MD • 410-673-7538 • Volume 1, Issue 3 • May 2010

## Pastor's Message

This is the time of year that we are planting our gardens – flowers and vegetables, and planting crops in the fields. From Spring to Fall, we work diligently caring for the plants and crops. We enjoy the beautiful blooms and the fragrance of the flowers, the delicious vegetables prepared for meals and shared with friends and family, and we enjoy tending our fields. Gardening and farming, for many folks, are part of a spiritual adventure. As we partner with God in caring for His creation, we are filled with a sense of wonder and deep satisfaction. People even declare that they feel closer to God in a garden or in the field.

Perhaps that is why the Book of Psalms has become a favorite book of the Bible for so many people. David, the shepherd boy who became the greatest king over Israel, played his harp and sang on the hillsides while tending the

sheep. He respected and admired God's creation and knew the two could not be separated. In the Psalms, he also gave us direction in our walk with the Lord. In each chapter, David lays out his joys and difficulties; but each chapter ends with praise to God. The psalmist praised God for His faithfulness, protection, direction, and goodness. David knew that he was blessed by God (1:1), could trust in God as his help (121:1), his refuge and strength (46:1), and he believed in God's word that gave him direction (119:105). The shepherd boy was quick to pray and was confident God would respond (120:1). He looked to God as his deliverer (43:1), his light and salvation (27:1). Throughout the Psalms, God's love and blessings are recorded.

Just as we see the good results of God's blessings in this season of planting and growth in all of creation, we can also see

the good results of God's blessings in our own lives as we read His Word. Let us tend our gardens and fields with joy during this season, and may we experience a season of spiritual growth with God blessing and prospering us. With every reading, may we be uplifted and encouraged by the beauty and promise of the Psalms.

*Rev. Joan C. Wolff*

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless His Holy name.  
~ Psalm 103:1 ~**

## From the History Commission

This month's Dinner at Six will take place on Thursday, May 27. The program following this month's meal will be "Show and Tell." We invite you to bring along an item of significance to life here at Bethesda. The item doesn't have to be "historical," and its significance can be entirely personal – we want you to share elements from your time at Bethesda that symbolize the church in some way. No need to prepare remarks, but we look forward to hearing about each item, and why it is meaningful to you. Please join us at 6pm for another great covered dish supper, and at 7pm (approximately) for the program.

In other news: put Sunday, October 17, 2010 on your calendars! That is the date of our special 225th Anni-

versary Celebrations. Although we are still planning, we are hoping to have a slightly extended service, followed by a celebratory meal and fellowship. Watch this space and listen out during service for more information!

Finally: I am currently compiling information about the pipe organ used in the sanctuary from 1917 to 1952. If anyone has memories of it, I'd like very much to hear them. I am especially interested in what it sounded like, opinions of it within the congregation (or even the community), and the circumstances behind its installation and ultimate removal. Any and all memories would be helpful!

*Eric Cheezum*

## Missions/Outreach

The Missions/Outreach committee met Monday, May 10, and decided to pay \$250.00 towards the Mendes family's funeral expenses for their seventeen year-old son who recently passed away. We also are going to give \$75.00 to the Preston Volunteer Fire Company Ambulance Fund. At this meeting we discussed a future project as well. If there is a need in the community please bring it to our attention and we will see what we can do to help.

Your sister in Christ,

*Debbie Weems*

## In this Issue

Pastor's Message.....	1
History Commission.....	1
Missions/Outreach.....	1
News Briefs.....	2
Education Commission.....	2
Women of Bethesda.....	2
Church Calendar.....	2

## Commission on Education

The purpose of this group is to ensure quality Christian teaching to our students on Sunday mornings, during Sunday School, and also during our annual Vacation Bible School.

Bethesda United Methodist Church has had an active group of students for many years. I can recall participating in many activities in the church as a child myself, including Vacation Bible School, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt. This Hunt was held for many, many years at the farm of Rudolph "Tink" and Mildred Coulbourne. This tradition

continued until both of them passed a few years ago. We have started a new tradition now, with the annual Hunt taking place at the farm of Helen Fletcher.

This year we will be hosting Vacation Bible School on three Sunday mornings (June 6, 13, and 20) from 9:30 - 12:00. We will have a culminating program during the worship service on June 20 (Father's Day). We have enjoyed having this service on Father's day for the past several years as it gives the kids an opportunity to honor their fathers.

Kari Farnell

Bethesda hosted the Union

Temperance

Society from 1860

to 1870. Its nearly

300 hundred members

signed "the pledge" to

abstain from alcohol

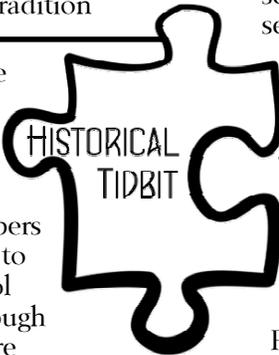
consumption. Although

many members were

Methodists from Preston, the

society's meetings drew from all over the

countryside.



## News Briefs

- The annual Peach Festival will be held again this year at the Preston Fire House on Saturday, August 14. Please volunteer where ever you are needed and please bake something "peachy" for the bake table. More info will follow in another newsletter.

## Women of Bethesda

We got a bit of a slow start this year with the SNOW! In February we did the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. This year, instead of charging a flat rate for the dinners, we asked for donations and actually made almost as much as last year. We will probably repeat this format in the future.

Judy Noel

*(Editor's Note: Judy provided me with this article for last month's issue, but I forgot about it when it came time to publish. Here it is a little late: I don't think its news value has diminished too much. EAC)*



It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.

Ps. 118:8

*This verse marks the middle of the Bible.*

## Church Calendar

June 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6 VBS 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 VBS 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon	14	15	16	17 Dinner at Six	18	19
20 <b>Father's Day</b> VBS 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			