

BETHESDA BUGLE

Blow up the trumpet in the new moon!

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Pastor's Message

July 4th is the birthday of our nation and a time to reflect on the wonderful freedoms we have. We love the rousing music and the loud fireworks. We set aside our differences and come together in one common bond – we are Americans, and we are celebrating our freedom. We stand side by side, as we remember and celebrate. Some people appreciate those freedoms and some do not. Regardless, many have sacrificed their lives, their time, their health, and their wealth so we can have the freedoms we enjoy in America today. The cost of freedom is high!

Even more costly is God's gift of freedom. It comes to us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. God set the standard and the requirements for our salvation, and God met the requirements. Our spiritual freedom cost Jesus everything; and He willingly paid that cost. God has done

the work, and we only have to believe on that mighty work of God and receive it. With that one decision, we are justified by faith alone and have God's spiritual freedom by believing on Jesus. Christ's sacrifice paid the price for the spiritual freedom of all believers and gave access to God the Father.

Whether we receive God's gift or not, God knows the gift is worth the price that was paid. God's grace is extended to us – grace we do not deserve and could not earn. We are loved, forgiven, and free in Christ. The Father sees us and receives us through the covering of Jesus, and He blesses us with His abiding peace. Therefore, let us remember and celebrate.

In each instance, there is no payment we can offer for the freedoms we enjoy; but there is a way we can be responsible Americans and Christians. We can be

diligent in prayer, for our nation and for our church. The most used call to prayer by universal church leadership is from II Chronicles 7:14. God has said, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." That means God's people, those called Christians, must be humble before God, pray to seek God's will, and turn from all sin against God and people. Once attitude and actions come in line with God's will, then God will hear us, and forgive us, and heal our land.

God bless America, and God bless Bethesda United Methodist Church.

Rev. Joan C. Wolff



Summer Church commences on **June 27.** During this time service will begin one hour earlier than usual, at 10 a.m.

From the History Commission

Last month's Dinner at Six is one of the happiest events I have had the pleasure of attending at Bethesda. Not only did we have a table full of artifacts representing church history, but also we discovered that the church is full of gifted raconteurs. What was best about the event was that some stories led to other stories, and often presentations gave way to discussions, questions, and often a lot of laughter. I can't think of a better way to celebrate and record our Bethesda community. Sincere thanks to all who contributed.

We'll be skipping June in deference to everybody's hectic summer schedules, but listen out for news of the next Dinner at Six in the near future. If there is a part of your Methodist heritage you would like to explore at

a future event, please let us know!

Remember also that our 225th Anniversary Celebration is October 17 -- almost right around the corner. Plans will be forthcoming on that event soon, but make sure you note the date on your calendars! We have confirmed as our special guest for the service Bishop Peggy Johnson, in her first visit to Bethesda!

Finally: CRHS is hosting a big Homecoming Celebration the following week, on Saturday, October 23. As part of that event, there will be a parade in Federalsburg. The History Commission would like Bethesda to sponsor a float. Would anybody be willing to helm that project? Drop me a line and let me know.

Eric Cheezum

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Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on June 8, 2010 to discuss our financial status. As we reported in March, our income and expenses reflected that an average weekly income of \$1,200 is needed to sustain the church. Each week the tithes and offerings are listed in the bulletin. While we recognize the generosity and commitment of many of our members, we are not meeting the goal of the needed amount of \$1,200 weekly /See Inset -- Ed./

Service Date	Attendance	Tithes and Offering
January 3	36	\$416.00
January 10	47	\$469.00
January 17	34	\$527.00
January 24	?	\$833.00
January 31	<i>blizzard - no service</i>	<i>n/a</i>
February 7	<i>blizzard - no service</i>	<i>n/a</i>
February 14	38	\$1,245.00
February 21	63	\$926.00
February 28	53	\$764.00
March 7	55	\$730.00
March 14	?	\$2,641.00
March 21	45	\$591.00
March 28	?	\$868.00
April 4	100	\$1,424.00
April 11	45	\$522.00
April 18	44	\$637.00
April 25	?	\$593.00
May 2	37	\$905.00
May 9	51	\$665.25
May 16	43	\$772.00
May 23	41	\$2,597.00
May 30	37	\$707.00
June 6	42	\$505.00
June 13	52	\$658.00
June 20	65	\$975.00

One of the joys at Bethesda is that every time there has been a serious need folks have rallied to help meet that need. In these hard economic times many churches are facing similar difficulties. The success and future of our church depends on all of us. Let us pray and seek God's guidance, responding to His direction in meeting the ministry needs of Bethesda.

Isabel Brammoch

Personnel News

❖ Debbie Weems and Rodman Wolff successfully completed their classes at Spring Lay Academy, St. Mark's UMC in Easton. Both Debbie and Rod serve Bethesda UMC as Certified Lay Speakers. This position is renewable every three years, and they must fulfill several requirements as presented in The Discipline of the United Methodist Church. Congratulations!

❖ On Monday, June 14, the Administrative Council approved two personnel changes. The Council approved Mrs. Dorothy Lane as Co-Chair of the Finance Committee, and Mrs. Mary Cheezum as our new Treasurer. Our Bethesda church family looks forward to working with Mary, who brings many years of bookkeeping skills to her new position in the church, and extends a heartfelt thanks to outgoing Treasurer, Mrs. Barbara Buckley, for her faithfulness and hard work.

Wanted

Greeting cards - "Get Well," etc. - for missions work. For more information see Jean Wright.

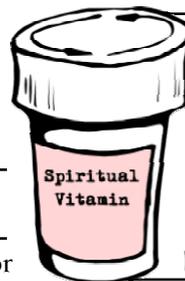
My Testimony

Giving

I wanted to give an encouragement about giving gifts to the Lord. Gifts include not only money, by way of tithing, but also time and service. It is important in one's spiritual growth to give to the Lord. It allows for us to develop a greater faith. God has given so much for us, that we should be more than willing to give back to Him in whatever way He shows us. It is understandable that in today's economy, it may seem difficult to give time and money to God, but if we are faithful, He will be faithful.

In the 22 years that Chris and I have been married there have been many occasions that we have not had the necessary funds to pay bills, sometimes not even sure of having groceries for the week. Even in these circumstances, God has provided for our needs. Many times when it has looked bleakest through the years, God has provided money, food, gifts, etc., through people around us who are willing to be used by God. So my encouragement here is to give God our first-fruits....of money, of time, of service. Let us all pray and ask God His desire for our gifts.

Kari Farnell



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
~ I Thessalonians 5:16-18 ~

News Briefs

PEACH FESTIVAL



The annual Peach Festival will be on August 14, from 9-2. Lunch is catered, and will include chicken, potato salad, and a dessert. Lunch tickets are \$8. The Activities Committee could use help with set-up, and requests that church members bake "peachy" things and bring them out to sell. If you would like to help out, buy a ticket, or rent one of the vendor's tables, call Shirley Bennett

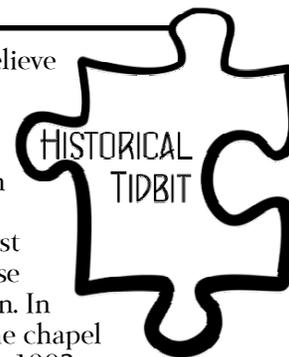
or Helen Fletcher, or drop us a line at the Bugle. See you there!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



The Christmas Bazaar will be held Saturday, November 20, 2010, from 9 to 2 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your crafts, knitted goods, etc., for sale. There will also be food and a bake table.

Many people believe that Bethesda's chapel is the original structure known as "Frazier's Chapel" - the first building to house our congregation. In fact, however, the chapel was added on in 1903 as a Sunday schoolroom. It was remodeled into its current look and use in the 1960s and dedicated on November 2, 1969.



Bethesda History Notes

The following trustee meeting minutes are among the most important in Bethesda's history. They are also some of the most frustrating, due to the often-indecipherable handwriting of the secretary, J. W. Bradley. As usual, I have noted points of particular difficulty, along with my reasoning when I have chosen a particular transcription.

Even with many gaps, however, the momentousness of the events recorded below should be evident. Bethesda's

trustees were coming to grips with a dilemma: should they remodel the original "Frazier's Chapel," or construct a new building entirely? At this stage the answer seems clear: the trustees fully intended to renovate their existing structure, albeit with some significant additions!

Of particular interest here is the very frank discussion the trustees had with regard to funding their construction. In 1874 the United States was in the

throes of the worst economic depression up to that point. If renovations were to take place, they had to be financed in advance in order to ensure the church remained solvent. That Bethesda not only weathered such difficult times, but *thrived* during them, is probably one of its most inspiring qualities. There would be more crises in the future, but members never relented in their commitment to the church.

Preston – May 4th 1874

Trustees of Bethesda met. Members present: Rev Wm O'Neill, Chairman; Dr H.F. Willis; Jos W Noble, Wm Billips, J.W. Bradley, D.R. Wright¹

The meeting was opened with prayer By Bro. O'Neill. On motion J.W. Bradley was elected Secty.² The Proceedings of the last meeting was [sic] read and adopted. The call was then made for the report of [the] committee, which was submitted.

Mr. L G. Fluharty³ submitted a Plan for remodeling the old House⁴ on motion by Dr. H.F. Willis, that: we remodel⁵ the old House in modest⁶ style, with Belfry and [illegible],⁷ with recess Pulpit, which was unanimously adopted.

A motion was then made that there be a Building committee appointed, which was adopted. And the following gentlemen were elected, viz., Messers⁸ – Bro. Billips, D.R. Wright. A motion was then made, and adopted, that the resolution for a Building Committee be laid over till Sat week the 16th inst[ant]; a motion was then made that the committee to solicit subscriptions be authorized to act at once and try to secure two thirds of the probable⁹ amt to be raised, and report at the next meeting the 16th inst[ant]. A motion was then made & adopted that the old subscriptions list be taken in and new ones placed in the benches.¹⁰ On motion the meeting adjourned to meet on the 16th inst[ant].

J.W. Bradley, Secty.

(Union Temperance Society Ledger, Barratt's Chapel [Frederica, DE] P#DSC06068)

1 - That is: Rev. William O'Neill, Dr. Henry Fisher Willis, Joseph W. Noble, William Billips, John Wesley Bradley, and Daniel R. Wright. All of these men, save Billips, are profiled in "Bethesda Memories," in the April 2010 *Bugle*. Billips (or "Billups," as the name was often spelled), was born around 1815 and was a prominent landowner from Dorchester County. In 1856 Billips purchased a tract of 227 acres on the southeastern side of Preston (then Snow Hill) that included the area where the town of Choptank later developed; that land was later parceled out to others. Billips was married three times, and his last wife, whom he married in 1867, was Lydia Bradlie. Bradlie had earlier married a Wrightson, and was the great-grandmother of Edgar "Kirby" Wrightson, who lived on the farm between Preston Trucking and the town until his death in the 1990s. Billips lived near Linchester until his last few years, whereupon he bought an acre of land in Choptank (part of what he had once owned) and built a house. Billips died in May 16, 1889 from

pneumonia. (*PH* 205, 210; *Denton Journal*, January 21, 1888, 2; May 18, 1889, 3.)

2 - Secretary.

3 - This is almost certainly incorrect, but I have no idea what the correct name should be. "Fluharty" seems to be correct, but there is no reference to an "L.G. Fluharty" in Bethesda records, Dora Mitchell's work, or in contemporary newspaper articles. The closest related name is Thomas Fluharty, who was received as a full member of Bethesda in July of 1874; little else is known of him.

4 - The "house," or "meetinghouse," was a typical nickname Bethesda's members used to refer to their church building. In this they were carrying on a long tradition within Methodism, which used such terms interchangeably with "church."

5 - "Remodel" seems to be correct here, but the handwriting makes it uncertain. The word may, in fact, be "remodellize" – possibly a nineteenth-century colloquial variant of our modern "remodel."

6 - This word is open to at least two radically different interpretations. It is possible that it reads "modern," but I have gone with "modest" instead, on the assumption that Bradley spelled it incorrectly. Of course, it may be something else entirely.

7 - Sadly, the handwriting makes this word completely unintelligible – a great loss since it would probably provide insight into the way Frazier's Chapel would have looked; that is, by knowing what the trustees wanted, we might learn what they lacked. If anyone wants to have a go at deciphering the word in question, let me know!

8 - "Messers" appears to be correct here, although it seems redundant and the punctuation is confusing.

9 - This word is garbled in the minutes, but "probable" is almost certainly correct.

10 - "Benches" seems correct here, but the word is illegible.

Church Calendar

July 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Dinner at Six (tentative)	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Peach Festival, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
15 Church Picnic (tentative)	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 First Day of School	26	27	28
29	30	31				