

The Newsette



Bethany Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

5400 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23225

"A Family of Faith, Growing in Christ, Growing through Service."

<http://www.bethanyccdoc.com>

Reverend Ben Moore
Senior Minister

Anne Crumley
Church Secretary

Duane Toole
Director of Music

Jane Reeves
Organist

William Lynch
Custodian

To submit information to the
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233-1066 or 233-9515

THE PASTOR'S DESK —

In the most unscientific of surveys, my own experience and observations of Lenten sacrifice, chocolate and sweets seem to be the two most common sacrifices during the season of Lent. This unscientific survey goes even further to note that many of us who have given up these delicious treats or other desires (my personal favorite is cheese), when asked why we chose the particular delight to give up typically say, "Because I like it so much." I have given up cheese at least three different times during Lent, and was once forced to have significantly less of it when my sister gave it up. But why do we give things up for Lent?

I could give background and history about the practice of sacrifice and other spiritual exercises in Lent or go into how Lent has developed as a season throughout the history of the church. But that is not the answer we need as we go through this season. Somehow our sacrifices seem to have become disconnected from why we sacrifice. We need to be reminded, or learn for the first time, what Lenten sacrifice is all about and how it affects us as followers of the crucified Christ.

During the season of Lent we follow Christ on His journey to the Cross. On this journey Christ must grow closer and closer to God, removing all barriers between them in order to have the strength to go through the crucifixion. We see this struggle most clearly in Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prays for God to take the cup from him. If there had been anything more important to Jesus than His Father's will in His life, or anything he relied on more than His Father, then he would not have been able to go through with it.

As followers of Christ Lent is supposed to be about the same things. We are not supposed to give something up because we like it – God wants us to have abundant and joyful lives – we are supposed to give things up because we recognize that they stand between us and God. We are supposed to give them up because they pose a threat to God's ultimate authority in our lives. When we give these things up it is more than just a symbolic gesture that we are willing to give up a little delight. We are attempting to grow closer to God, to rely more fully on God, and to place God as the highest priority in our lives. This is a journey though, and we are not going to be perfect at it. We are learning and growing. The most important thing is that we be intentional about our journey with God, that we know why we are doing what we are doing, and that we try to rely more fully on God. That is the focus of Lent, and of the life of a disciple of Christ.

Pastor Ben

SERMON TITLES AND SCRIPTURES FOR MARCH

March 7 - *"Vanity"* Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

March 14 - *"Contentment"* Joshua 5:9-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

March 21 - *"Fear"* Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Luke 13:31-35

March 28 - *"Adversity"* Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 22:39-44

Dates to Remember

March 13

8:00 - 11:00 A.M.

Pancake Breakfast

9:00-12:00 or 11:00-1:00

Work Day

March 18

10:30 A.M.

"Young At Heart" Seniors

March 20

2:00 P.M.

Ladies' Tea

March 21

12:00 Noon

"Over 55" Luncheon

March 28 - Palm Sunday

9:45 A.M.

Easter Egg Hunt

April 1

7:30 P.M. Maundy Thursday

April 2-3

6:00 A.M. Prayer Vigil Begins

10:00-4:00 "Journey With Jesus"

March Servants

ELDERS

7 - Elsie Reamy-Mary P. Hawthorne
14 - John Grubb-Barbara Ozlin
21 - Sonny Browder-Linwood Hasty
28 - Ross Dorneman-Linda Grubb

Communion to Shut-ins - March 7

Bob & June Sears
Carol Kimmel & Donna Wicker

DEACONS

Jim Evans, Captain
Frances Pully, Sara Parnell.
Ollie Peebles
Subs: John Savage & Christie Rolston

USHERS - Team #1

James Rountree
Ray Crawford
Jim Davis
Stuart Adams, Jr.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

7 - Carol & Sonny Browder
14 - Carol & Sonny Browder
21 - Linda & Johnny Grubb
28 - JoAnne & Ross Dorneman

CHURCH HOUR NURSERY

7 - JoAnne Dorneman
14 - Danielle Gangloff or Tom Fore
21 - Shirley Stevens
28 - Becky Murrell

If you cannot serve on your designated date, please find a substitute to be there for you.

Scheduled Meetings and Services

Sunday School

9:45 A.M.

Sunday Worship

11:00 A.M.

Children's Choir

9:45 A.M.

3rd Sunday of each month.

Youth, Chi Rho, C.C.O.D.A.

2nd & 4th Sunday

12:15 P.M.

NOTE TIME CHANGE

Light lunch served

Wednesday Rehearsals

Handbells - 6:30 P.M.
Chancel Choir - 7:30 P.M.

C.W.F. # 1

March 16th

9:40 A.M. at church

C.W.F. #4

March 25th

7:00 P.M. at church

LENTEN LUNCHEONS

This year's Hills and Heights Lenten Luncheon Series is focused on becoming better disciples. This is a great opportunity to get together and learn with and from folks we don't often come into contact with. The luncheon schedule is:

March 3rd at Westover Hills United Methodist

March 10th at Bethany

March 17th at Good Shepherd Episcopal

March 24th at Westover Hills Baptist.

The luncheons run from 12 Noon to 1 P.M. Bring a sack lunch, beverages are provided.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST - March 13

The District VII Men's Ministry will hold the annual Pancake Breakfast at Bethany on Saturday, March 13th, from 8 to 11 A.M. Cost: \$4 per person; \$10 per family. Proceeds go for work at Craig Springs' Oak Lodge. See Rod Grundy, Geoff Gangloff or Harold Reynolds for tickets.

WORK DAY AT BETHANY - March 13

Both men and women are invited to come out on March 13th to help spruce up the church for Easter. You can choose your times: 9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon; or 11:00 to 1:00.

"YOUNG AT HEART" SENIORS - March 18th

The "Young At Heart" Seniors will meet Thursday, March 18th at 10:30 A.M. at church. This is the day after St. Patrick's Day and in keeping with that theme, Dr. Rick Harrison will have a program on Irish humor. Come on out and welcome Dr. Harrison to our meeting. A light luncheon will follow the program.

LADIES TEA - March 20th

Attention All Ladies - The C.W.F. is inviting all Ladies of the church to the Spring Tea to be held on March 20th at 2:00 P.M. Please bring your favorite cup and saucer and enjoy the tea and goodies that will be provided. Also, since it is the first day of spring, you may want to wear your favorite bonnet. An interesting program is being planned as well as fun and fellowship. We expect to see you there!!!

"OVER 55" LUNCHEON - March 21st

The "Over 55" Luncheon will be held immediately following Worship on March 21st. We will have prime-rib. All members 55 and over are invited. Please sign up in your Sunday School Class or in the Narthex.

THE GENERAL BOARD will meet on Sunday, March 21st at 5 P.M. All Board Members are expected to attend.

EASTER EGG HUNT - March 28th

The annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children will be held Palm Sunday, March 28th, during the Sunday School Hour. We will be placing a box for individually wrapped candy donations in the hallway. Please think about your childhood memories and share generously with the children. Weather permitting, we will hold the event outside. If the weather does not cooperate we will hold the event inside. See Becky Murrell or Donna Wicker if you would like to volunteer to help with this fun event.

PALM SUNDAY - March 28th

The Children, Choir, Elders and Deacons will open Worship on Palm Sunday with the traditional waving and placing of palm branches around the Communion Table. This marks the beginning of Holy Week as we spend these last few days contemplating the Ministry of Jesus, His impending death, and the glorious Resurrection. Come, join the celebration.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 1st

Every year we gather together on this night to commemorate the night that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper and to remember all that He went through in the twenty or so hours that followed. This is one of the most special and meaningful worship services of the year because it reminds us of what had to happen before we reached Easter Sunday. The hope of Easter is empty without the suffering and death that Jesus went through on Good Friday. This is why we celebrate communion each week, to proclaim to all what Jesus went through in order to free us from the shackles of sin and death. Come out and join us as we remember what sacrifice was needed so that we can proclaim Victory on Easter Sunday.

24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL - April 2nd - 3rd

The 24-Hour Prayer Vigil will begin on **Good Friday**, April 2nd, at 6:00 A.M. and end at 6:00 A.M. on Saturday, April 3rd. Please sign up for one or more 30 minute slots on the chart posted in the hallway outside the Chapel. There is also a need for security during the Vigil, so you may also sign up to help with that. **Twenty-four hours of continuous prayer is a powerful aid in our world, so let us fill all the times needed.**

"JOURNEY WITH JESUS" - Friday, April 2nd

"Journey with Jesus" a walk-thru diorama, sponsored by the C.W.F., will be held on Friday, April 2nd from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. Include this with your Prayer Time or come separately - all ages are invited, age appropriate study materials will be available to make this a special addition to your Easter devotions.

EASTER SUNDAY - April 4th

Easter Sunday is a wonderful day of celebration at Bethany. We will begin with a Pancake Breakfast from 8:30 to 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy breakfast together. (Donations greatly appreciated.) We will have Sunday School at 9:45. Our 11 A.M. Worship will include a Baptismal Service and Flowering of the Cross. Come join us and bring your family and friends.

EASTER OFFERING "Do You Believe in Me?" - March 28th and April 4th

The Easter Special Offering for Disciple Mission Finance supports the worldwide mission of the church. "Do You Believe in Me?" is the theme this year. In John 11:25-26, Jesus says to Martha, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* Each day the Christian Church (DOC) answers this question through their witness to God's good news. Your support of the 2010 Easter Offering witnesses to our belief that we can do all things through Jesus who believes in us. Your support of these ministries extends our church's witness from your doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Our offerings will be received March 28th and April 4th. Envelopes are in the Narthex and in the pews. Please give generously.

NEW CHURCH BLOG

For those of you who do not know what a blog is, it is a web page where people can share their thoughts, pictures and many other things. It is set up with entries, similar to a journal, but its primary purpose is to share your thoughts. Bethany now has its own blog, where we can share our thoughts on being a church. You are invited to share your thoughts on the blog if you would like to. Please contact Ben if you are interested. There will be regular updates on the blog, so, if you have internet, you should check it out at withthetableatthecenter.wordpress.com.

NEW TASK FORCES

We have three new task forces that are working towards making Bethany even more of the church that God has called us to be. The Visionary Task Force will be discerning the where, what, when and how of our calling from God. The Restructure Task Force will be working on cleaning up the operational side of Bethany, right-sizing much of the structure here and making sure that we will be able to answer our call as a church on the business side. The Student Intern Task Force will be the search team looking for a Student Intern to help with our ministries with children, youth, and young adults. Please be in prayer for all three of these groups as they begin their work for our church.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

If you need something from the secretary she is in the office Monday-Thursday from 8:30-1:30 and Friday from 8:30-12:00. If you need something from Ben, he is in the office Monday-Thursday from 9:00-1:00 and is always available on his cell phone in case of emergencies, 677-7436. He is also available to be in the office by appointment at other times.

THE BIGGEST LOSER

Our Biggest Loser program continues to be successful as we have lost over forty pounds as a group. Please sponsor one or more of our participants. A list of participants will be on a posterboard in the hallway on Sunday, along with their goals for loss. The current list is: Brian Gradwell, Penny Gradwell, Tom Fore, Shirley Stevens, Kelly Waldrop, Kimberly Wellington, Bobbie Carsaro, Linda Spencer, Elsie Reamy, Sara Mallory, Mark Kimmel, Duane Toole, Elizabeth Little, Kim Gangloff, Betty Stargardt, Jimmy Wicker, and Ben Moore. It is still not too late to sign up. Meetings this month are: Sunday March 24th at 12:15, and Wednesday March 31st at 5:30.

CHESS CLUB

Plans are underway to create a Chess Club of sorts pending the interest of members of the congregation. Those interested so far are Tom Fore, Bill Heider, Duane Toole and Ben Moore. If enough people are interested, we will possibly meet at 1 P.M. on Wednesdays. If you would like more details, please contact Tom Fore 385-4449.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED

We received a total of \$2,235.00 for Week of Compassion/ Haiti; \$4,108.00 for Week of Compassion; \$126.00 for "Souper Bowl."

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The 2010 Church Directories are available in the Narthex. We are asking for a donation of at least \$1.00 per directory. Please return your binders from last year so they can be used again next year.

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

"I want to thank everyone who helped put the new directory together. It was a fun time, and I always enjoy working with each of you. It was also nice to have a couple of the men helping. Thank you again." Dolores McCann, Chairperson

♫ TOOLE BOX ♫

This month, we have a "Hymn of the Month." It is "Many and Great, O God," a Native American tune of the Dakota tribe, written down by French missionaries. The text was written by Dakotan Joseph Renville, in his native language, later paraphrased by Philip Frazier. The arrangement in our hymnal was done by Richard Proulx, a Catholic hymnologist who has made tremendous contribution to American hymnody. (He died last month.) You have already heard this hymn during the Prelude on February 28. You will hear it again during Communion in the coming weeks. We will plan to sing it as a congregation at the end of the month.

C.W.F. NEWS

Save the date - May 10th at 6 P.M. - The Mother-Daughter Banquet.

Last Call! The Quadrennial Assembly for Disciple Women will be held June 23-27 at the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel/Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. Registration is \$375.00 before March 31st, \$400.00 after March 31st. There is money in a CWF Quadrennial Account to help defray some of the cost. Please let Linda Spencer know if you are interested in attending.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Barbara Ranson; Ernest Agin; Mary Agin; Paul Banks; Frances Waters; Sue Carol Bellflower; Gay Purcell; Iris Parkhurst; Tom Fore; Jean Fore; Linda Spencer; John Spencer; Russell Harris; Dick Koch; Betty Savage; Teresa Hasty Lynch; Ray Moore (Ben's Father); The Meisners; Daniel McDaniel's Mother; Penny Gradwell's Mother

SYMPATHY

We express our Christian love and sympathy to Hugh Hawthorne and family on the death of his brother, Charles Hawthorne, in Florida; and to Linda Spencer, Barb Koch and Carol Kimmel on the death of their Aunt, Violet Rader, in Ohio.

"BETHANY REACHES OUT"

Circle # 4 has assembled 12 baby kits to be given to Church World Service for distribution in Haiti or other areas of need. Also, remember the collection of eye-glasses is a continuing project. The collection box is in the kitchen.

YOUTH NEWS

The regular meetings for Chi Rho and C.C.O.D.A. are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, following the 11 A..M. Worship Service. A light lunch is served.

The Youth plan to have an all-night Lock-in soon. If you have any questions, please call Tom Fore (385-4449).

WORSHIP LEADERS

On Sunday, March 7th, we will have our new Worship Leaders begin. They will provide us with greetings and announcements, and lead us through the opening of our Worship. This is a great opportunity for us to renew our sense of worship, to pay closer attention to the words and meaning of what we say, and to get our hearts into a spirit of worship from the beginning of our service. We should also thank those who have volunteered for this role: Donna Wicker, Betty Stargardt, Kevin Scholl, Tom Fore, Ross Dorneman, Tammy Tripp, Charles Stevens, Dolores McCann and Barbara Ozlin. Our Pastor will also assist in this role occasionally.

THANK YOU NOTES

“I would like to thank everyone for all their prayers and the cards I received at the death of my sister, Homazelle Royer. Our church family is always near when we need them most.”
Jessie Reynolds

“Thanks to all my friends at Bethany that sent get well cards, called and stopped by to visit following my foot surgery.”
Linda Spencer

“The Family of Charles Lee acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expressions of sympathy. The kindness of your gift to the American Cancer Society has been received with heartfelt appreciation. Thanks also for the beautiful Peace-lily and your prayers and support during this difficult time. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.”
Carol and Ken Roland

“It has been a very hard year for our Mother and her declining health. But all of you have made such a difference in her life and ours. All of your prayers, beautiful caring cards, flowers and frequent visits meant so much to her. During the last weeks of her life, our Bethany friends offered much needed support and help. Thank you to Ben for the many visits. No matter where we were, you always came to see us. Thank you to Dot Welch, Linda Edwards and Dee Evans for the love and devotion for our family with their daily visits to the hospital when hospice began her care. A very special thank you to all of you who worked and prepared all of those delicious dishes and desserts for the lovely luncheon on the day of the service. You are such a loving and caring congregation. May God Bless each of you.”
Allie Marshall's Family

“Thanks to all of you for the cards, calls, and prayers during the past three months. They have sustained me and are greatly appreciated. With your continued encouragement and prayers, I am taking back control of my life as I continue to battle post-hepatic neuralgia. I'll win, with the help of the love of my life for sixty-two years, my wife who is an angel. Gob Bless you.”
Paul Banks

“Many thanks to Mr. Moore and the many friends who came to visit, call, and send cards to us while we were in the hospital being treated for heart problems. We believe we have recovered with the help of your prayers.”
Ernest and Mary Agin

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January-February 2010

Total Offerings Received	\$ 24,952.21
Total Expenses	\$ 29,062.55
Short for the Month	\$ 4,110.34

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

For March

<u>Date</u>		No. of yrs.
3	Pete & Gail Morris	48
10	Joe & Sandy Lewis	44
20	Bill & Hazel Heider	11
24	Jerry & Nan Pugh	59