



# The Bethel Bell

*Newsletter of Bethel United Methodist Church  
Prince William, Virginia  
January 2012*

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## From the Senior Pastor



Dear Friends,

As you see in the “Dream Team” article, much emphasis is being placed on equipping our congregation for effective ministry. There are many ways to do this, not least of which is becoming familiar with our rich Wesleyan history and manner of doing ministry. It is my hope in coming months to offer a class in Methodism that will focus on where we have come from and where we are going. We will study our history and the

factors that made us one of the greatest religious movements on the American frontier, to say nothing of the impact Methodism made in the British Isles in the time of John and Charles Wesley. We will see how our emphases on health and education brought into being many of the greatest universities and hospitals in our land, and how the effort to “unite these two so long disjoined – knowledge and vital piety” – has contributed to making a church that “feels right” to millions who want to do their own thinking and serve faithfully.

Another venue for growth is the Bi-District Training event, taking place in January. There is a modest cost involved, but this expenditure is well worth it for our church leaders to become properly informed in the ministries to which they are called. The event is not just for our designated leaders either: it is for anyone who wants to grow in their understanding of the leadership principles and practices in vogue today.

If you have not found your particular ministry in which you can become involved for the cause of Christ, I invite you to sit down with one of the pastors or other leaders in the church to explore where God may be calling you. It is my belief that we are all gifted by God in one way or another to do God’s will. The Gospels urge us not to waste our gifts, but to invest them for the sake of the Kingdom. Please take seriously the opportunity to make a difference in the life of our church and community by stepping up to serve. It can be anything from teaching, to working with a ministry area, to shoveling snow in the winter: the important thing is to become part of the whole by doing your part for Jesus Christ. Don’t leave it to the faithful twenty percent who traditionally do eighty percent of the work. Let’s all become equipped for ministry and make Bethel Church a power house of love and service to the Lord!

Grace and Peace,

Jack Martin

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** The Rev. Kenneth Jackson, Alexandria District Superintendent, will be preaching both services on January 22, 2012. He will be here to provide support and important insights to the transitions in ministry we are seeking to make.

## Happy New Year!



Soon, the season of Lent will be here; a forty day period where we are called to prepare ourselves for Easter Sunday.

This year, I invite you to join me for a five-week journey where we will ask one of life's oldest questions---“*Why God?*” Why do the innocent suffer? Why do my prayers go unanswered? Why can't I see Your will for my life? Have you ever asked, “*Why God?*”

In *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*, Reverend Adam Hamilton brings new insights to one of life's oldest questions---“*Why God?*” Rejecting simplistic answers, Reverend Hamilton addresses how we can comprehend God's plan for the world and ourselves.

**As we begin this New Year, I invite you to join us as we discuss “*Why God*” during the season of Lent. We have three dates for you to choose from to start this five-week Lenten Journey:**

- 1. Wednesday, February 29, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.**
- 2. Friday, March 2, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.**
- 3. Sunday, March 4, 2012 @ 1:30 p.m.**

**See me to register for one of the classes.**

Roger Olson, author of *Questions to All Your Answers* writes, “Unlike many Christian writers these days, Adam Hamilton does actually make sense of God's will. This is a profoundly satisfying treatment of common misconceptions about God. Everyone who asks ‘Why?’ when confronted with evil, innocent suffering, unanswered prayers, and failure to perceive God's will should read this book.”

Grace & Peace!  
Lemuel Pearsall, Jr.  
Associate Pastor

## New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, 2012  
Covenant Renewal Service  
10:00 am- Main Sanctuary

No Sunday School on New Year's Day

## Bethel Week at Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center, January 8-14

Bethel will serve at the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center from Sunday, January 8 – Saturday, January 14, 2012. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex (between the double doors ) for volunteers, with a list of food items needed for evening meals, as well as food and supplies for lunch and breakfast each day. Coordinator Audrey Lewis would prefer you sign up to volunteer, but asks that you contact her at (571) 228-6658 (cell) or (703) 670-7020 to coordinate foods and quantities needed, as well as to discuss arrival time at the shelter

## Christmas Tree Sale Deemed a Success!

The Bethel United Methodist Men sold over 200 trees and raised over \$3500 in 2011. This is the men's group's only fundraiser for the year.

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter to learn more about the BUMM organization.

## Way to go, Cary!

When our very own Cary McCown nominated her hubby, Jim, as a "Coastie" who had "gone above and beyond the call of duty," her beautiful story was chosen to appear on the *Coast Guard Compass* weblog on November 21. Check it out here:

<http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2011/11/giving-thanks-lcdr-james-mccown/>

## Haiti Team Report

From January 3-12, our Haiti Team, led by Dr. Martin, will be working in Haiti, helping to construct a Methodist school in the seaside town of Anse-à-Galets on the island of La Gonave, located in the bay, just off the coast from the capital city of Port-au-Prince. This will be the first of three teams from Virginia, who will travel in succession to install the concrete roof of the school, a project that will eventually become the floor for a second story. Much effort has gone into fund-raising over the past year and with the provision of matching grants from UMCOR, \$28,000 has been contributed for construction materials and to pay the salaries of Haitian masons, who will work alongside our team, leading in the construction. In addition to the work of construction, the team will provide Bible school for the many children of the school, utilizing donated materials from previous years that we have used in our churches. Three persons from Bethel Church will be on the team – Diane Nothnagel, Marianne and Jack Martin; five from Grace Church in Manassas; and three from Morehead UMC in Summerville, NC. Each missionary is responsible for his or her expenses.

At the close of the work period, the team will travel to Port-au-Prince, where they will tour earthquake damaged areas, see the way life is lived in this teeming city of 2 million, and then travel into the rural mountains to see agricultural development projects.

The team asks for your prayers as they seek to be ambassadors for Christ among persons in great economic need, yet humble exemplars of deep spiritual faith in so many ways.

We offer thanks to Karen Johnston for helping gather clothing and shoes that the team will carry for 17 Haitian orphans, living in difficult, crowded conditions. Food is an ongoing need for these particular children. If anyone is interested in participating in contributing to this need on a one-time or monthly basis, please contact Dr. Martin.



## Un-Trim-A-Tree Project Brought Smiles to Many

The Society of St. Steven would like to thank Bethel members and Cloverdale School for their generous contributions to the Un-Trim-A-Tree project we sponsored on behalf of Volunteer Prince William. We were able to give each of 129 children two Christmas gifts, as well as a bag of groceries for his/her Christmas dinner, plus gift cards to Bloom. The many stories we heard about these families definitely showed their genuine need. They were so surprised and appreciative to know how much our church cared for them.

Many thanks to:

- Boy Scout Troop 1369, for their generous donations of canned goods from their November food drive, and for 10 - \$10 gift cards.
- Girl Scout Troop 2011, for making and providing filled Christmas stockings for all the children.  
(Both troops are based at Bethel.)
- Those who helped pick up and put away groceries and gifts as they came in.
- Lemuel, for abiding an invasion of his office by tons of large gifts, and for his unfailing policing of the gifts as they were being dropped off.
- The choirs for tolerating a choir room stuffed with toys and groceries.
- Karen Johnston, Debbie Kimberlin, Tara, Kirstie, and Katie Clary, Debbie and Roger Todd – the extra hands that joined us for the sorting and repacking for the families.
- Our unfailing, patient husbands who had late, quick dinners and kept us company on Friday night as we gave out the gifts to the families.

Thank you all for making this a great Christmas for some of the children of Prince William County!

Katie Taylor and Susan Turner  
Co-Chairs, Society of St. Steven

## Did you know...

*that Scout Troop 1369 donated some of the food it collected in November's Scouting for Food to the Bethel food pantry, as well as to the Un-Trim-A-Tree project?*

## Bethel Stephen Ministry

What is Stephen Ministry? Stephen Ministry is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. God works through Stephen Ministers to lend a shoulder or an ear in the hope for healing of a person whose life seems barren and forlorn because of some crisis or tragedy. It doesn't matter if it is a large crisis or tragedy, or a small one, because to each person that needs help, the situation is tremendous.

Stephen Ministers will listen, explore feelings, pray with you and for you, share Christ's love, maintain confidentiality, attend to the caregiving process and leave the results to God.

Stephen Ministers care for people who are grieving, in a crisis, in need of long-term care, dying, hospitalized, divorcing, experiencing losses as they age, going through a crisis of childbirth, or are the family and friends of people in crisis.

If you need someone to listen, contact Diane Nothnagel at 703-791-2097 or Wanda Smith at 703-590-1267 so they can get someone to help you.

Also, if you are interested in training to become a Stephen Minister, contact Diane or Wanda through the church.



## Bethel Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry meets on January 11 (the second Wednesday of every month), weather permitting, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 3. Needed: red, white and blue yarn (or any suitable color) to do projects for veterans; pink yarn for cancer patients.

*Always* needed: people to help! We will teach you to knit or crochet.

Please join us.

## 30 Hour Famine - Youth Participants, Adult Drivers and Chaperones Needed

On February 25-26, Bethel Youth will participate in the 30 Hour Famine at First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of world hunger and to provide opportunities for service projects at the local level. Participants (ages 12 and above) will fast from noon, February 25 until 6:00 p.m., February 26. Lots of Gatorade, Powerade and water will be provided during the fast.

Bethel Youth will join the youth of FUPCDC, Covenant Presbyterian, Potomac Crest Baptist, and St Paul UMC for this special event. Participants will attend workshops focused on world hunger and faith-based issues on Friday night. There will also be games and praise music throughout the evening. On Saturday, the young people will go on a scavenger hunt to collect food for ACTS and will pick another service project to do in the afternoon. The fast will be broken with communion at 6:00 p.m.

The cost is \$15 for each participant, which includes a t-shirt and a wristband.

For more information or to volunteer to attend or assist with chaperoning or driving, please contact Debbie ([daw2007@verizon.net](mailto:daw2007@verizon.net)) or Elizabeth Wells ([natsfan247@verizon.net](mailto:natsfan247@verizon.net)), 703-730-8042.

## Bi-District Training Day 2012

Bi-District Training Day is described as “An opportunity for *all* United Methodists to come together to learn, grow as disciples, and develop more effective churches.” Come to bi-district training, learn from the experts the pointers you need for more effective leadership in your job at Bethel, and make new friends, too.

Saturday, January 7, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Floris UMC

13600 Frying Pan Road

Herndon, Virginia

Lunch Provided

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Jorge Acevedo

The cost is \$60 at the door.

Go to [www.novaumc.org/bdtd.html](http://www.novaumc.org/bdtd.html) and register, or check the church office for a mail-in registration form.

## District Youth Confirmation Retreat January 13-14, 2012

There will be a confirmation retreat for students 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up Friday, January 13, 7:00 p.m. – Saturday, January 14, 4:30 p.m. at Camp Highroad, Middleburg, VA.

The retreat program will be based on UMC Credo material – *Way of Salvation* and *Wesley Quadrilateral*. Retreat participants will also view the *Wesley* movie.

The cost is \$50 per person (includes lodging and 2 meals). Financial assistance is available.

Each church group is asked to bring a bag of new socks, scarves, or gloves – all sizes – for guys/girls/men/women.

Groups must register by January 7, 2012 at [www.novaumc.org/youth.html](http://www.novaumc.org/youth.html) For more information, contact Herb Brynildsen, alexandriapc@novaumc.org or call (703) 820-7200.

## **Dream Team Report**

The Bethel UMC “Dream Team” has met regularly for several months and is now taking a Christmas break until January 31st. This team, representing the congregation from different perspectives, is working on assessment of where the church is presently in its self-understanding and ministry, and will eventually seek to cast a vision for mission and ministry that will help us usher in the future. That new future will include strengthened understandings of the ways Bethel Church will position itself for fruitfulness in making Disciples for Jesus Christ. This work will depend on developing lay ministries through empowerment and deployment.

We want to discover as much of the ministry potential we can find within the present congregation and develop a welcoming atmosphere that will draw new people into the live of the church. Discovering individual gifts and graces for ministry and creating channels wherein these gifts can be put to work is an important key to this enterprise.

Organizationally, we want to clarify our ministry goals and work areas, and create the conditions for these “working ministries” to go forward under their own impetus. In other words, the Council will change its function somewhat to allow ministry work areas to function within their budgets and do the work of ministry, reporting back to the Council their status reports and any needs that may need to be resourced. In the future our Council meetings will not need to serve as a planning event for each ministry: that will happen within particular ministry areas, whether they are worship, education, mission, discipleship, finance, or trustees, just as examples. The purpose of Council meetings will be to receive reports, provide resources and offer guidance.

One of the most significant needs we have is to strengthen our Christian education ministry, especially our Sunday school. It has been noted that worship and education have become a tradeoff in some respects with persons opting for one or the other, when both are exceedingly important. We are particularly concerned that children and youth attend worship services regularly, even as they need to have Sunday school education. Adults, as well, need the opportunity for study and small group interaction. We want to make some scheduling adjustments that will allow these important ministries to take place without detriment in either direction. Soon the Council will announce their plan for how we can improve our schedule to allow for these ministries to flourish.

Another important activity over the past weeks has been refurbishing of our building to give our church home a fresh, inviting look. This is good for all, but particularly important in drawing new people to our church. We want all areas of the church to be maintained with cleanliness and readiness to serve the needs of the many groups who meet at our facility.

In coming months many more of the “Dream Team’s” progress will be reported. Please feel free to join in the dialogue. Meetings are open and your ideas are welcome.

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The Dream Team Steering Committee will meet again on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

## **Have you noticed some changes lately?**

Bethel's being renovated!

Bathroom floors and toilets will be replaced in mid-January, and new baseboards will be installed in hallways and bathrooms. New carpeting will be installed in all offices. Painting is on-going and will be completed in January, thanks to Frank Turner and his associates. New kitchen cabinets will be installed in mid-February.

This work is made possible by contributions from the bazaar, thoughtful gifts of members of time and money, and a generous loan from a member at no interest and an affordable monthly payment. All work and payment arrangements have been approved by the Trustees and the Church Council.

## **What's happening in the Alexandria District ...**

... and the Virginia Conference? Click the links below to find out what other United Methodists around the state are doing.

### **Virginia Conference, The United Methodist Church**

Bishop Charlene Kammerer

<http://vaumc.org/>

### **Alexandria District, The United Methodist Church**

Rev. Ken Jackson, District Superintendent

<http://www.novaumc.org/alexandria.html>

Happy  
New Year!

**Deadline for February 2012 Newsletter:**

**Friday, January 20**

**Send your entries to [newsletter@bethelumc.org](mailto:newsletter@bethelumc.org)**

## **Bethel Calendar**

- Jan. 1 Covenant Renewal Service, Main Sanctuary, 10:00 a.m.  
Jan. 3 Boy Scout Troop 1369, Fellowship Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 7 Bi-District Training Day, Floris UMC, Herndon, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Jan. 8 – 14 Bethel Serving at Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center  
Jan. 9 Bethel Church Council meeting, Fellowship Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 10 Boy Scout Troop 1369, Fellowship Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 11 Shawl Ministry, Room 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 13-14 Youth Confirmation Retreat, Camp Highroad; Fri. 7:00 p.m. – Sat. 4:30 p.m.  
Jan. 14 United Methodist Men, Fellowship Hall, 8:00 a.m.  
Jan. 16 United Methodist Women, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.  
Jan. 17 Boy Scout Troop 1369, Fellowship Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 20 February Newsletter Deadline  
Jan. 22 The Rev. Kenneth Jackson, Alexandria District Superintendent, speaking at Bethel at 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 services  
Jan. 24 Boy Scout Troop 1369, Fellowship Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 31 Boy Scout Troop 1369, Fellowship Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
Dream Team, 7:00 p.m.  
Feb.25-26 30 Hour Famine, First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City; registration – Sat. 6:00 p.m.

## **The Bethel Bell**

**Bethel United Methodist Church**  
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*Happy New Year!*