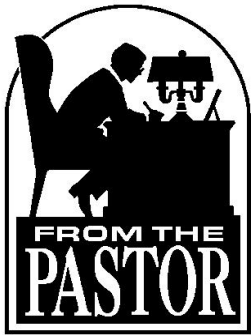


Bethany Road

Volume 10, Issue 3

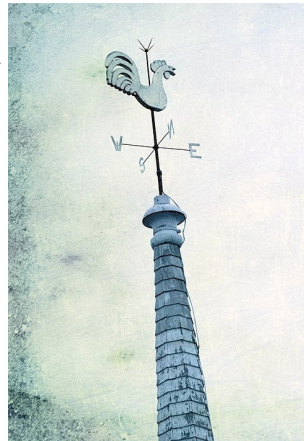
BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
100 W. Venango Street, Mercer, PA 16137

March 2013



‘Watch the Rooster not the Bunny ’

Congregations, about a thousand years ago, were instructed to mount a rooster on top of every church steeple. The reason for the rooster on top of the steeple was to remind everyone to guard against denying their faith. Part of the story of Holy Week has Peter saying to Jesus: “*Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.*” Jesus told Peter, “*I tell you Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny that you know me three times.*” Luke 22:23 &24



Over time steeple mounted roosters just became weather vanes that told of the winds’ direction. But if you apply this ‘rooster forecasting’ to other characters in the Easter story and what do you have - - Judas, sensing the wind was against Jesus, betrayed. Peter, facing the prevailing winds, denied. The religious leaders, with the wind blowing in their direction, moved swiftly to condemn. Pilate, at first reluctant to sail against the wind, finally delivered Jesus to be crucified. And the crowd, as often as the wind shifted, changed directions. *Cock-a-doodle-do!*

There is a verse in the Bible that has always intrigued me. Luke 9:51 “*Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem*” There was a time when I thought it meant he gritted his teeth, lowered his head and charged like an angry bull into the wind and the bitter end on the cross. But another verse set me straight - Hebrews 12:2 “*who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.*” Could it be he set his face into the wind, toward Jerusalem with a smile of anticipation and with a sense of joy that could see the transformed lives down the centuries that would result from the cross, because the wind of the spirit blew away the grip of evil on Easter.

Maybe we would be more in keeping with the spirit of Christ, if this Easter season, we not only tried a little self-control, but kept our eye on the rooster, instead of the bunny.

So are you looking for something a little more substantial? Just because you’ve outgrown Easter eggs, doesn’t mean you’ve outgrown Easter. Join in sharing the story of Christ’s resurrection and you’ll discover a miracle even greater than the Easter bunny.

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

See you in church, *Pastor Rick*

Committee Meetings

- **Property** March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Outreach** March 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Deacons** March 6 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Christian Ed.** March 6 at 7:30 p.m.
- **Finance** March 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Member Involvement** March 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Worship & Memorials** March 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- **SESSION** March 21 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Maundy Thursday Service** March 28 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Easter Brunch** March 31 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Easter Service** March 31 at 10:15 a.m.

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Palm Sunday and Easter Worship

Music is a big part of Palm Sunday and Easter worship, and we need YOU to help the choir make those services of worship special this year. You are welcome to join the choir for just the month of March as we prepare our music and sing for worship. You don't have to be able to hold your breath a long time or sing a solo. The beauty of singing in a choir is that there are other voices to cover each individual's little difficulties. Please give choir a try – even if it is just for Holy Week. Our March rehearsals are March 13, 20 and 27; we will sing on March 24 (Palm Sunday), March 28 (Maundy Thursday Tenebrae and Communion service); and Easter Sunday, March 31. Patty Vogeley (Temporary Director of Adult Choir)

“SOUPER” LENTEN LUNCH MENU



MARCH 03, 2013: Scott Hinkson's famous Wedding Soup and Pizza

MARCH 10, 2013: Gail Burns' homemade Cream of Tomato Soup and Ham BBQ Sandwiches

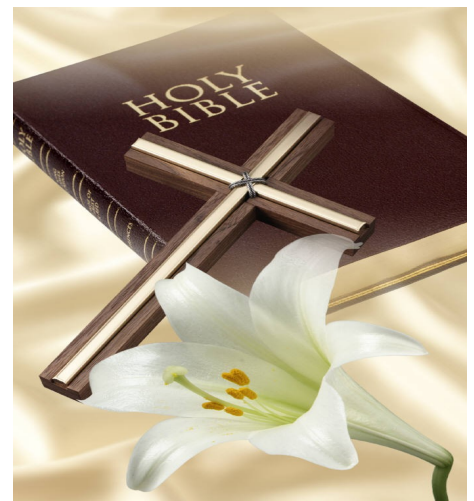
MARCH 17, 2013: Nancy Heckathorn's delicious Potato Soup and Pizza burgers

MARCH 24, 2013: Laurie Ruhlman & Bethany Youth Group's fabulous Chicken Rice Soup and Chicken Patty Sandwiches

See you in the Social Hall following the worship service!

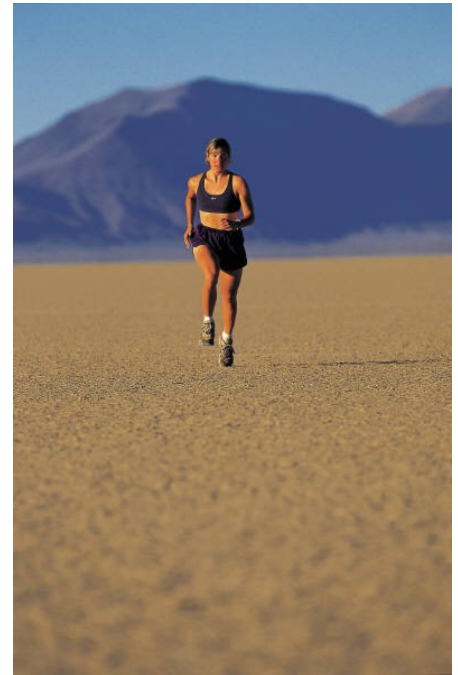
Easter Brunch: March 31, 2013

Celebrate Easter with a time of fellowship with your Bethany family! Come to the Easter Brunch during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, March 31, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. in the Social Hall. Please bring your favorite breakfast/brunch item to share. The Bethany Deacons will provide beverages and table settings. Hope to see you there!



Run For God Bible Study Starting March 6th

Want to get into shape and do it while enjoying the fellowship and accountability of other Christian friends? Back, by popular demand, "Run For God" will be starting on Wednesday, March 6th. Each week we will study scripture, discuss a running/walking topic, and head out for some exercise (weather depending). We will meet for 12 weeks to train for running or walking the Freedom 5K at the Memorial Day celebration in Mercer on May 27th. This will be for all levels of athletes from couch potatoes to seasoned veterans. Running and walking plans are available. Last time, we had six runners/walkers complete the program. Not sure if this is for you? Join us on Sunday, March 3rd immediately after church in Carson Chapel to get more information before you decide if you want to join us. Don't worry, you'll still be able to make it to the Lenten lunch! Contact Chris and Melissa Evans (724) 662-1742 if you have any questions.



Wedding Coordinator Needed

The Worship Committee is seeking a person(s) with good "people skills" to assist couples getting married at Bethany Church. Responsibilities will include:

- Coordinating the wedding plans within the framework of the standards established by Session that are included in the Wedding Booklet.

- Assist with the planning of the ceremony after the couple has counseled with the pastor.

- Assist with the rehearsal and ceremony to oversee the florist, photography, decorations and processional.

Session has approved a set fee for the Wedding Coordinator's time that will be paid by the bridal couple. If interested and/or for further information, please contact the Chair of the Worship Committee, Gary Wiggins.

Mercer Music Club....Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

SING OUT and continue the joy of the Easter season by attending the 3rd Annual Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Monday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. Mercer Music Club invites you to join with others in Mercer to raise our voices in praise and joy singing hymns old and new accompanied by Jim Sankey. There will be special music by Greg Vanderveen and Marla Moretti. Rejoice and sing with us on this special evening. Save the date of April 8.

Spring Brunch. .April 6th. .Welcome Spring

Bethany Women's Semi-Annual Spring Brunch, with a theme of "Welcome Spring," will be held in the Social Hall of the Church on Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Our almost two hours together will feature some fun activities, our basket give a ways, an opportunity to chat and share a fellowship time and lunch!

This Brunch will feature the following: homemade Italian Wedding soup, hot sandwiches and a variety of cup cakes. We do need to know if you are

coming since we want to have lots of food for every one. Please call the Church Office by Monday, April 1 (no fooling) and let us know how many will be attending. Why not invite a member of your family, neighbor or coworker?

How much does it cost to attend? It is absolutely free. Please look for the items to be collected in the upcoming Bethany Roads and bulletin announcements.

If you would be willing to provide a basket (any size. .any theme) please

let Lois know in the office or call Nancy Ollinger-Thless at 724 662-3986.



My Ladies Bible Study....An Easter Theme

We will be taking a four lesson break in order to do a study on the traditions and songs of Easter. This will be the way we can celebrate the Lenten season in a more meaningful way.

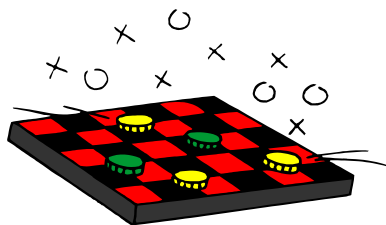
On Tuesday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the rear of Carson Chapel we will study the history of Lent and on March 19, also at 10:00 a.m. we learn

about the tradition of the Easter Sunrise Service. Included in both of these lessons will be the stories behind many of our favorite Easter songs.

As always we will conclude by 11:15 a.m. All widows are cordially invited to join us.



Fun & FellowshipHop Into Spring



If you are looking for an opportunity to sit back and meet a few new people, why don't you join us for the next Fun and Fellowship meeting to be held on Monday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Room. This meeting will be the chance to play a few games from your youth or, if you prefer, just sit back and relax. Refreshments will be provided by Rita Thompson.



Bethany Road

April Deadline

Please have all items for the April Bethany Road in the Church Office by Friday, March 21 at noon. Thank You

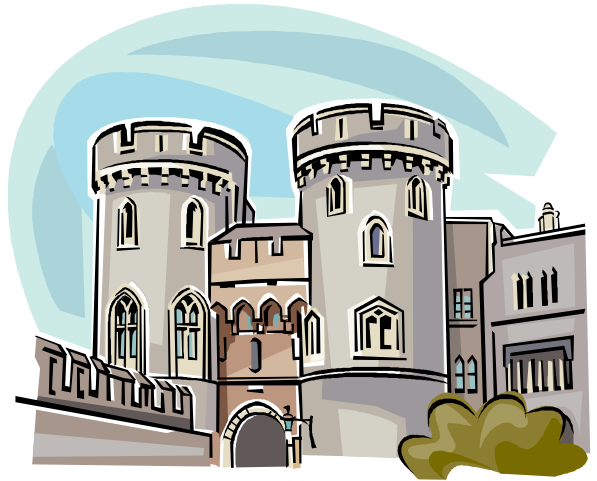


2013 Family Retreat at the Castle

It is that time of year; Time for the Family Retreat at River Ridge Castle in Franklin, March 15th – 17th!

This is a great time to get to know one another in a less formal setting and enjoy a time of Christian fellowship. The retreat is open to the entire Bethany family, so don't be left out! The cost for this year's retreat is \$50 per person or a \$148 family maximum for two (2) nights, OR \$40 per person or \$120 family maximum for one (1) night. *We are still looking for families to help organize and lead the weekend.*

There will be lots of fellowship, daily devotionals and plenty of snacks. So pack your favorite comfy clothes, a snack to share and invite a friend. Sign up at the Welcome Center. For more information contact Chris Evans at 724-662-1742 or at evanscram@yahoo.com.



Children's Ministry Happenings at Bethany

Children's Ministry Happenings in March

Director—Mrs. Nancy Thompson

Totally, Terrific, Tuesdays start on Tuesday, March 12th for grades 3-6. If you have not signed up yet please see Mrs. Thompson right away!!!!!! It is not too late!

March Memory Work:

Our theme for the month of March is **Hope**.

Our memory verse is Isaiah 40:31.

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

We will recite our verse to our memory work teachers on March 24th.

The Sunday School **children** and the Children's Worship **kids** will **sing and wave palms** on Palm Sunday, March 24th.

The children will be **discussing and learning** what "Lent is all about," and what we can do to make room for God during this special season of the year.

*******No Sunday School** on Easter, March 31st. There will be a brunch in the social room.



YOUTH GROUP (grades 7 – 12)

All teens meet at THE WAY CAFÉ Youth Center from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Sunday, March 3: Service Projects meet at The Way Café

Sunday, March 10: ** Policy Review for Summer Events & Praise and Worship

Sunday, March 17: NIKES Regular Lesson and Renovate Movie Part 1

Sunday, March 24: NIKES Regular Lesson and Renovate Movie Part 2

Sunday, March 31: EASTER SUNDAY – NO YOUTH GROUP – JESUS IS RISEN!



NIKES are 7th and 8th Grade

Renovate is 9th through 12th Grade

On March 24 at Bethany Church, the Youth Program will be cooking and serving the Lenten Lunch for the congregation. We need volunteers to arrive at 9:00 am ready to cook OR come at 11:00 am ready to help serve. All teens in 7th through 12th (and parents & families) are welcome to come share in the lunch of Chicken Rice Soup and Chicken Patty sandwiches! We will also have a bake sale to raise funds for Haiti.



EASTER EGG HUNT: for Mercer Area children will be held at Brandy Springs Park on Saturday, March 23 at Noon. The Chapel at Mercer is partnering with Mercer Methodist Church and Bethany Presbyterian Church to fill plastic eggs for the area kids. We could use some teens to help out on that day at the park, or you can send in small wrapped candy to be use to fill the eggs. Please contact David Robinson @ The Chapel at 724.662.2950 if you have any questions.

Summer Events Dates:

Vacation Bible School @ Bethany June 10 – 14 (Mon-Fri) 9 am to 12 noon

West Virginia Mission Trip – June 15 – 22 (9th through 12th graders)

NIKES Camp – June 30 – July 5 (7th and 8th graders) @ Camp Lambec on Lake Erie

Junior Camp – June 30 – July 5 (3rd through 6th as campers, 9th through 12th as counselors)

Senior Mission Trip – July 26 – August 4 (Graduating Seniors) “Capstone” Mission Trip to HAITI

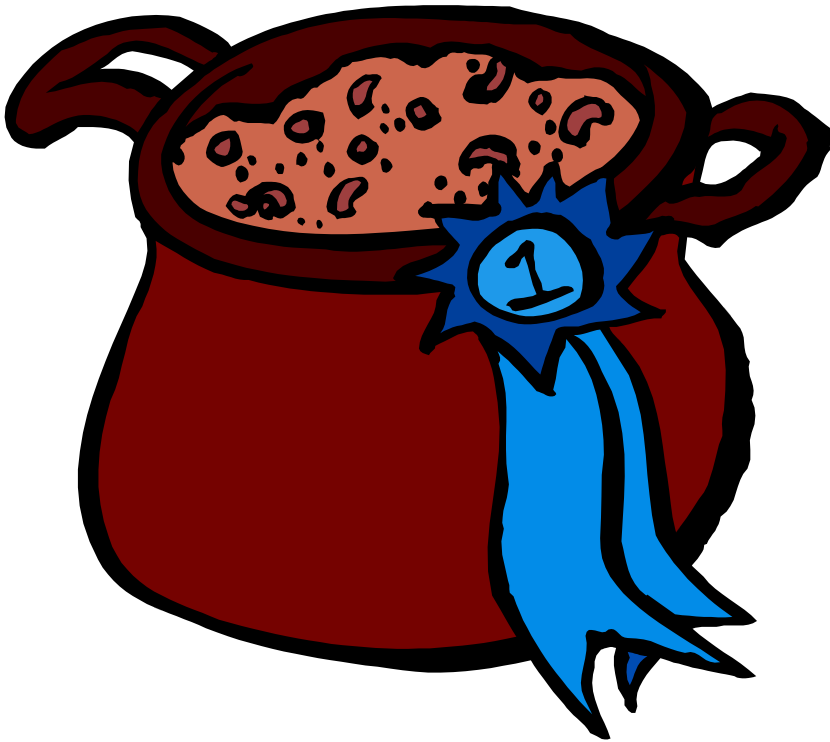


****March 10 will be an important meeting for the teens or anyone else interested in filling out the forms for the new PROTECTION & SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY that Bethany Church has put into place. We will explain the details and have time to fill out all of the proper paperwork for this new policy that protects all people involved in ANY of our ministries here at Bethany Church. If your teen plans on attending Junior Camp as a counselor or counselor in training (9th through 12th grade) or volunteers at any of our events such as VBS, Terrific Tuesdays Afterschool Program, or if your teen plans on coming on the West Virginia Mission Trip or the Senior Mission Trip to Haiti, we need these forms completed and returned. Reminder, you only need to fill out the required papers once to be eligible for all events.**

“HOPE FOR HAITI” is the slogan for our Senior Mission Trip 2013. Our 12th Grade Seniors have voted to go to Haiti for their Senior Mission Trip. We will be partnering with Seniors from Victory Christian Church in New Wilmington along with Heaven’s Family Organization. We have a few fund raisers going on to help with the cost of the trip as well as giving us funds for items to personally deliver to the local Haitian people. We plan on spreading the Word of God to this nation which is still recovering from the Earthquake of 2010. Haiti is also the poorest nation in the world. Our “hopes” for this trip are that we can share Christ and the love of God and help them with some basic needs. Please pray with us as we look forward to blessing the people we come in contact with in Haiti and help them to be successful and not dependent on America, but to know that we care about them and are willing to help them to thrive.

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00 Youth Groups	4 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Stretch Class	5 9:00 Preschool 9:30-11:30 & 7-9 Women's Bible Study 10:00 My Ladies 6:30 Property 7:00 Outreach	6 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool; Moms in Prayer 6:30 Deacons; Run for God Bible Study 7:30 Christian Ed.	7 9:00 Preschool 7:00 Finance; District Scouts	8 9:00 Preschool	9 Cub Scout Pine Wood Derby
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00 Youth Groups 7:00 Praise & Worship	11 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Stretch Class	12 9:00 Preschool 9:30-11:30 & 7-9 Women's Bible Study 3-6 TTT 7:00 Member Involvement; Worship & Memorials	13 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Run for God 7:00 Military Prayer 7:00 Choir	14 9:00 Preschool	15 9:00 Preschool 5:00 Family Retreat at the Castle starts	16 Family Retreat at the Castle
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch Return from Family Retreat 6:00 Youth Groups	18 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Cub Committee 7:00 Fun & Fellowship in the Social Room; Stretch Class	19 9:00 Preschool 9:30-11:30 & 7-9 Women's Bible Study 10:00 My Ladies 3-6 TTT	20 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool; Moms in Prayer 6:30 Run for God 7:00 Choir	21 9:00 Preschool 7:00 SESSION please note date change	22 9:00 Preschool 7:00 Set up Social Room for the Eagle Ceremony	23 4:00 Cory Woods Boy Scout Eagle Ceremony in the Sanctuary and Social Room
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00 Youth Groups	25 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Pack Meeting in the Social Room 7:00 Stretch Class	26 9:00 Preschool 9:30-11:30 & 7-9 Women's Bible Study 3-6 TTT	27 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Run for God 7:00 Choir	28 No Preschool 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Maundy Thursday	29 OFFICE CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY No Preschool	30
31 9:00 Easter Brunch 10:15 Worship						



CHILI COOK OFF!

It's back - The Chili Cook Off! So dust off your best chili recipe and pull out your chef's hat.

The 2013 Chili Cook Off will be held in the social room Sunday April 14, 2013 before the evening Praise and Worship service. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the Praise and Worship service!

Stay tuned for more details!



Easter Flowers

Tulips, lilies & hyacinths available for \$10.00 each.

Fill out the order form below, and return it to the Church office with your payment by Monday, March 18th.

Your Name: _____

_____ Lily _____ Hyacinth _____ Tulip

_____ In Honor of: _____

_____ In Memory of: _____

_____ In Celebration of the Risen Jesus