

Special Events . . . Coming Soon at Bethany

August	3	7:00 pm	Men's Ministry Meeting
August	6	7:00 pm	Personnel Committee Meeting
August	7	6:30 pm	Kids' Movie Night
August	13	7:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
August	18	7:00 pm	WMU Meeting
August	25	7:00 pm	Business Meeting

Regular Service Schedule:

Sunday:		
Sunday School		10:00 am
Worship Service		11:00 am
Wednesday:		
Prayer Service		6:45 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal		7:30 pm

Bethany Highlights

August 2009

Bethany Baptist Church

Rev. Ben E. Thomas, Pastor
 Marye Road at Arcadia Road
 6519 Marye Road
 Woodford, VA 22580
 804-448-3508

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Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Thornburg, VA
 Permit No. 8

Bethany Highlights

BEN'S PEN

Summer is a strange time. My calendar, which is always a little odd, gets stretched in so many directions I wonder where I am going to get that extra month. The daylight hours are longer so I can get more accomplished, except that someone added eight more hours of projects to every day. I love the results of a garden, if I could just get one that is self weeding. Why does my mail multiply when I go on family vacation? Summer has so many great opportunities, but so few days.

Summer has some of those once a year events at church as well. Vacation Bible School always takes extra time and effort. It is well worth every bit of time and energy it takes. I try to attend the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship assembly every year. It exposes me to new ministry ideas; I hear some inspirational speakers and great music; I learn more about our mission efforts, and most importantly I catch up with some longtime ministry friends from around the country. Summer usually has multiple church fellowship events as well, most involving good food. One of the things that my stretched summer calendar usually entails is a hands-on missions/ministry event or two. Summer is a strange time, but it seems to be my most productive time.

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VBS RECAP

Although the bayou has left Bethany, the effects of *Crocodile Dock* will be lasting. There were 44 children on roll, with an average attendance of 37 children each night. Thank you to the 30 or more workers who helped make Bible School a fun, memorable, and meaningful time. The children made 60 comfort critters to send to others. This is only one way we at Bethany will continue the message presented at *Crocodile Dock* - that God cares for us and is with us all the time. Thank you for all the support in providing supplies, monetary gifts, and your prayers! Check out the church website for pictures of the week.

“Celebrating Our Past with Gratitude - Looking to the Future with Purpose”

BEN'S PEN (continued)

Maybe I should try to create some strange time for the other nine months. Does my comfortable schedule leave out the missions, the learning, the fellowship, the motivation and the Bible teaching to fit a comfortable routine? Maybe I have my calendar poorly scheduled most of the year. I grow more and expand my horizons more in the strange time. Maybe it should be strange year round. What does your calendar look like? Summer is not over!

STEWARDSHIP – PART 5

The principles we have been examining regarding Christian stewardship are wonderful building blocks for guiding us in implementing both our individual giving and our church's ministry. But how does the church come up with the budget to which our tithes and offerings are directed? This article will outline the basic steps involved at Bethany and other churches in creating the yearly budget.

The church budget should meet five essential goals: it should be *clear*; it should be *correct*; it should be *complete*; it should be *concise*; and it should be *compelling*. *Clear* enough that any church member can understand it; *correct* so that no one has any uncertainty or uneasiness over what it represents; *complete* so that it covers every aspect of the church's stewardship, from personnel to properties, missions to music, and education to evangelism; *concise* so that it is easy to analyze and present; and *compelling* to every church member in that it focuses on what the church intends to do. In addition, a church's budget should be undergirded with prayer by everyone

concerned with its preparation and revision, at each step along the way.

A budget or stewardship committee, representing a broad cross-section of the church membership, is charged with the task of developing the annual church budget. The budget is implicitly tied to the mission and vision and resources of the church, and should be attainable and realistic, yet challenging. The committee, which begins meeting months before the end of the current budget year, looks at the history of church income and church spending, and tries to envision potential growth (or decline) in income and look at upcoming challenges in church ministry. The overall church budget amount for the coming year is then tentatively set.

Certain line items of the church budget are relatively fixed and must be placed into the new budget accordingly. For example, if a pastor or other staff member is employed under an existing contract that specifies salary and/or benefits, the stewardship committee cannot arbitrarily change those figures. But most line items in the church budget are not rigidly fixed in such a manner. Each committee and organization of the church that requires a budget line item is given the opportunity to request funding for its ministry in the upcoming budget. Each such request is prayerfully evaluated with regard to the mission, vision, and goals of the church. Feedback with the requesting committee or organization is often required so that the stewardship committee can help decide upon the appropriate dollar amount to place into the line item. The stewardship committee also tries to eliminate redundancies that may

occur in overlapping ministries of different organizations of the church. The stewardship committee further makes sure that the sum amount of all requesting committees and organizations does not exceed the previously agreed upon overall church budget amount. There is much "back-and-forth" during this developmental process, until a final draft budget covering all line items is completed.

At Bethany, as at most Baptist churches, the draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year is then presented to the church body at a business meeting. Many churches allow for a "budget discussion and review" session sometime prior to the business meeting. Information which comes out of this session often leads to additional changes by the stewardship committee. Sometimes specific changes are requested and voted on during the business meeting itself. The result, if finally approved, represents the church budget for the next fiscal year. May the budget of each and every church glorify God and lead to the advance of His Kingdom!!

KIDS' MOVIE NIGHT

The Children's Ministry of Bethany Baptist Church is sponsoring a movie night for kids on Friday, August 7th, at 6:30 PM. We will be showing a Disney movie that kids will love – and probably the parents, too! There will be a lite dinner and snack to go along with the movie, so prepare to spend the evening with us at the church. Kids of all ages are invited and we encourage everyone to invite your friends along. If you have any specific questions, see Brenda Johnson or Janet Irving, or you may call or e-mail the church office.

Summary Report of Gifts/Offerings:

July '09 Weekly Average Income: \$1,648.39
Weekly Needed To Meet Budget: \$2,317.79

Your gifts in support of the missions and ministries of Bethany Baptist Church are sincerely appreciated.

August Birthdays:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 - Darlene Grimm | 17 - Elizabeth Thomas |
| 2 - Kathryn St. Amand | 17 - Tracey Prater |
| 4 - Andrew Wright, Jr. | 17 - Morgan Hutchinson |
| 6 - Linda Ambrose | 18 - Caroline Thomas |
| 6 - Dixie Bettis | 19 - Brittany Hutchinson |
| 7 - Taylor Trice | 21 - John Mann |
| 10 - Alice Allen | 24 - Nancy Jones |
| 11 - Debra Acors | 24 - Melissa Anderson |
| 11 - Rebecca Acors | 25 - Danny Lee |
| 13 - Gary Grimm | 26 - Chris Taylor |
| 15 - Mike Johnson | 27 - Catherine Mathis |
| 16 - Aaron Perry | 28 - James Bowles |

August Anniversaries

- 7 - Dixie & Dickie Bettis
- 19 - Hillary & George Parr
- 23 - Kathryn & Doran St. Amand
- 29 - Janet & Mark Irving

Healthcare Center Prayer List:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Scarlett Blanton | Nell Durrett |
| Ruby Bullock | Evelyn Gatewood |
| Brenda Cannon | Julia Gatewood |
| Bobby Carnahan | Pearl Haislop |
| Ella Carroll | Grayson Satterwhite |

Deacons:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Alice Allen | (804) 448-3292 |
| Al Baker | (804) 448-3345 |
| Dickie Bettis | (540) 898-0122 |
| Lora Faulconer | (540) 582-6820 |
| Matt Faulconer | (540) 582-6820 |
| Danny Lee | (540) 582-8213 |
| Bobby Orrock | (804) 448-3914 |
| Judy Reid | (540) 582-5952 |
| Nelson Reid (Chair) | (540) 582-5952 |

Deacon of the Month: August

Judy Reid 540-582-5952
