

## Special Events . . . Coming Soon at Bethany

May	4	7:00 pm	Men's Ministry Meeting
May	14	7:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
May	16	7:00 am	Relay For Life Yard Sale @ Bob's Car Wash
May	17	12:15 pm	Young-At-Heart Luncheon
May	19	7:00 pm	WMU Meeting
May	22	6:00 pm	Relay For Life Event on Church Grounds
May	26	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
Children In Action (CIA)	6:45 pm (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays)
Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm

## Bethany Highlights

May 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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 Thornburg, VA  
 Permit No. 8

## Bethany Highlights

### STEWARDSHIP: GIVING FREELY AND JOYFULLY

In the April 2009 Bethany Highlights, an overview of the church's budget and budgeting process was presented. As noted in that article, each church family member has the privilege of developing and supporting the budget. The term we use to describe our support of God's work in the world through the budget is "Christian stewardship." This month's article begins to explore the principles that God has provided in regards to Christian stewardship.

Christian stewardship is an activity, an ongoing activity of both the individual Christian and the collective Christian family (the church). This activity consists of appropriately managing all of the resources that we have for God's glory and purpose, such management to be done *freely* and *joyfully*. The Christian steward must recognize that all the resources of life are created and provided by God, and that He has merely entrusted them to us (as managers).

The first stewardship principle is thus: *We Are Managers, Not Owners*. God's Word clearly defines this principle. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Genesis 2:15; "The earth is the LORD'S and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1; "But whom am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." (1 Chronicles 29:14); "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to

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### Ben's Pen

New life is bursting out all around us with the foliage and flowers. Gardens are going in or have already been planted. Lawns have greened up and need regular maintenance.

Everywhere one looks we can see the "things" that will grow and bring color, flavor, and beauty to our world. Easter was just a couple of weeks ago. New life was planted. Now it is time for us to bring joy and beauty to our world.

Just as gardens and lawns require work, our spiritual growth requires work. We must be willing to spend time in Bible study and prayer. We need to garner support from fellow Christians and our church members. We need to make sure the growth potential is maximized, for ourselves and for our brothers and sisters. May this spring bring great growth in your life.

"Celebrating Our Past with Gratitude - Looking to the Future with Purpose"

### Stewardship (continued)

put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

Recognizing the truth of this principle, that we do not really own anything but are merely entrusted by God to manage those things which we “have”, should encourage each of us to view our possessions (including income) as gifts from God. We should further be encouraged to receive such gifts with thanksgiving, and to use and share them with joy.

How should we share what God has entrusted us with? When should we share? What is the proportion we should give back to God to support His work through Bethany Baptist Church? We will address these and other questions in future articles as we look at some of the other principles of Christian stewardship.

### VBS Is Coming Soon

If you haven’t already, please mark your calendars for July 13-17, when we’ll encounter many bayou creatures on our Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School adventure. A burning bush...an assault of plagues...Jesus’ resurrection. The Bible tells us God performed big stuff – miracles – to make Himself known. But He’s acting in our everyday lives and all around us too! At Crocodile Dock, kids will keep an eye out for “God in action” in their everyday lives – and they’ll discover how they can be a “God

Sighting” by showing Christ’s love. They’ll even notice the daily demonstrations of His love that are often overlooked. Anyone who loves to see children grow in these ways is invited to help in our Vacation Bible School this year. Just contact Susan Thomas, our hard-working VBS director. Teachers, guides, decorators, and others are needed. You will be rewarded beyond measure. Our VBS will kick off with an ice cream social on Sunday afternoon, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

### WMU Update

The Bethany Baptist Church Women’s Missionary Union (WMU) has been very, very busy so far this spring. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the Sunday School, an Easter Egg hunt was held on the church grounds. Many children colored and hunted eggs, and a number of adults helped facilitate the event. A great time was had by all. On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the WMU helped feed about 65 or 70 students of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at the University of Mary Washington, while our own Reverend Ben Thomas provided the dinner devotional. The Bethany church family provided enough snacks for the WMU to prepare 42 snack bags for the students at Mary Washington. This is a traditional ministry outreach for our WMU during spring exam time. Stay tuned for more updates as other mission and ministry projects will be coming up this summer.

### Men’s Ministry Update

The Bethany Baptist Church Men’s Ministry continues to find ways of helping around the church and community. Now meeting on the first Monday night of each month, the Men’s Ministry is involved in activities that share Christ’s love in a fun way. The latest such activity was the 3rd Annual Car, Truck, and

Tractor show that was held at the church on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Once again, this year’s show was a great success, with close to 50 vehicles participating and many, many visitors stopping by. Check out Bethany’s website for some pictures from the show. Visit us at [www.bethanybaptistwoodford.org](http://www.bethanybaptistwoodford.org). Kudos to the BBC Men’s Ministry!

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

Pastor Thomas is leading a study of the book of Acts on Wednesday nights. A number of folks have already joined in this study, but more are welcome and encouraged. We meet at 6:45 PM each Wednesday night at the church.

### A Sermon About Lying

A minister told his congregation, “Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17.” The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, “Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying.”

Cassette tapes of each worship service are available at no cost. If needed, cassette tape players are also available. Also, a state-of-the-art hearing amplification system is available for use during worship for those who have hearing difficulties. Just see Mark Irving prior to the service, and he will take care of your needs.

### Summary Report of Gifts/Offerings:

April ’09 Weekly Average Income: \$1,869.18  
Weekly Needed To Meet Budget: \$2,317.79

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

### May Birthdays

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 - Amber Maddox        | 23 - Trevor Allen     |
| 5 - Valli Davis         | 25 - Virginia Durrett |
| 10 - Michelle Corthon   | 25 - Douglas Keys     |
| 10 - Caroline Laibstain | 26 - Ella Carroll     |
| 12 - Todd Corr          | 26 - Viola Marshall   |
| 17 - Joanne Blanton     | 26 - Ruth Ann Acors   |
| 17 - Jeter Winkler      | 26 - Fred Cox         |
| 18 - Charlie Grimm      | 27 - Nelson Reid      |
| 21 - Sammy Harlow       | 29 - John Michael     |
| 22 - Kathleen Howard    | Gatewood              |

### May Anniversaries

- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| 18 - Mike & Vivian Heflin     |
| 22 - Ray & Trina Tate         |
| 25 - Matt & Lora Faulconer    |
| 29 - Tom & Karen Perry        |
| 30 - Jimmy & Michelle Corthon |

### Healthcare Center Prayer List:

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

### 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: May**  
Matt Faulconer 540-582-6820