



The Flame

Bethesda UMC

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From The Pastor's Pen



In a book by Bishop Robert Schnase, titled "Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation", he states that people are searching for a church shaped and sustained by the five practices of Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. He proclaims that "The presence and strength of these five practices demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." He defines the five practices as follows:

Radical Hospitality

Out of genuine love, the church's laity and Pastor take the initiative to invite, welcome, include and support newcomers and help them grow in faith as they become part of the body of Christ.

Passionate Worship

Vibrant, fruitful, growing churches offer passionate

worship that connects people to God and to one another. Through singing, prayer, Scripture, preaching, and Holy Communion the congregation allows God's spirit to shape their lives.

Intentional Faith

Development

Churches that practice intentional faith development offer high quality learning experiences that help people understand Scripture, faith and life in the supportive nurture of caring relationships. Sunday school classes, Bible studies, short-term topical studies, and support groups that apply faith to particular life challenges are only a few of the countless ways by which churches help people probe God's will for their lives.

Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Healthy churches provide risk-taking mission and service that includes the projects, the efforts, and work people do to make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purpose of Christ,

whether or not they will ever be part of the community of faith.

Extravagant Generosity

Fruitful congregations practice extravagant generosity by preaching, teaching, and practicing proportional giving with the goal towards tithing. They encourage their members to grow in the grace of giving as an essential practice of Christian discipleship.

How do you think Bethesda is doing in all of these areas? I believe that we are doing a pretty good job with most of the practices, but we need to be open to improving all of them in order for Bethesda to fulfill its mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus for the Transformation of the World." Christ is counting on us!

Peace,

Pastor Don

Welcome!

We welcome Alfonso Arevalo as our new musician. Alfonso comes to us with a great deal of education in music theory and history, along with experience in the United Methodist styles of worship. Hopefully you will greet him warmly and welcome him to the Bethesda worship team.

Electronic Giving is Now Available at BUMC!

Direct debit from your checking or savings account is now possible, and is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to BUMC. Please contact the office at 378-2313 to learn how you can participate.

Friendly's Family Fun Night: Tuesday, 3/16 from 5-9pm. BUMC receives 10% of the evenings total profits, which will be used to purchase new curtains for the hall!

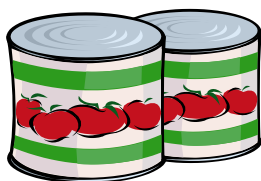
The winter months bring with them the threat of inclement weather. If the

weather outside is frightful, please call the church office at



378-2313 to make sure the church is open. Closing info will also be posted on our website at: BethesdaUMCde.org

Bethesda's Helping Hands Committee accepts non perishable food donations on the first Sunday of every month. John Fontaine delivers the donations to the Neighborhood House, and they in turn distribute it to local families. Help us keep their shelves stocked by bringing your donations to BUMC, and placing them in the plastic tub in the hallway below the sanctuary.



And Now...A Note From Our Associate Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is an honor and a privilege to travel with you along the Lenten road that leads to the cross, then to an empty tomb and ultimately to our risen Savior. During this time of sacrifice and self reflection, I am seriously moved by the sacrifices I see being made in our community.

Confirmants continue to put in long hours of study. At the beginning of March they will travel to Barrett's Chapel to meet with Bishop Johnson. On Easter Sunday they will stand before you and declare for themselves that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior. Committing one's life to Christ is a big deal, and as the community God has sent into their lives to love, nurture, and grow along with them, we also need to celebrate together. Join us after the worship service for a reception to congratulate these young disciples. We encourage you to

share something with these young people that will assist them on their lifelong faith journey. Perhaps there is a prayer, poem, psalm, book, song, or scripture verse that has been significant to you over the years.

Recently we added several new members to our Sunday School teaching teams. Thank you to those willing to sacrifice time for preparation and to then take time out of your own worship experience to educate God's children. You are making an eternal difference.

Young people and adults recently fasted for thirty hours to raise funds to fight hunger in Haiti. Heifer banks are being filled while children count carrots and pillows becoming present to everyday blessings. These coins will come together to change the life of an individual, family, and even entire communities. Right here in our local community we are prepar-

ing to share God's love through annual resurrection baskets. We are making progress toward our goal of \$3,000 to the American Cancer Society through the Middletown Relay for Life, and many of you are planning to make financial sacrifices to enable a child or youth to attend Camp Pecometh this summer.

A few years ago I heard a request that we prayerfully consider what we are being called to give and to give generously and sacrificially. Those words led me into a time of deep reflection as I began to seek God for understanding. I can now say I have seen this type of giving. It is present in our church community. God is certainly smiling, and so am I.

Peace,

Pastor Carm

Art Night and Open House at BCDC



To sign up for one of our Fall 2010 programs, please visit our website at www.bethesdaumcde.org and download the registration forms. Have your child complete the coloring page on the site, and bring it with you to our Open House to enter a drawing for a week of free tuition!

BCDC is gearing up for an Art Gallery and Open House which will be held on March 25th from 6:30-8. The teachers will be showcasing work from all BCDC programs. The preschool and Before and After school students are busy getting to know famous artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Georgia O Keefe, and Paul Cezanne. The children are then recreating famous

art works in different mediums. Please join us on this evening; it is sure to be spectacular. BCDC is now accepting applications for all programs for the 2010-2011 academic year. Please spread the word about all of the great things that happen at BCDC!

Christine
Poehlmann

Did You Know...
That Christian Care can arrange transportation to our Sunday morning worship service at Bethesda for those in need? If you, or someone you know, needs help with transportation in order to attend church, please call the church office at 378-2313, or send an e-mail to: **Mikab@bethesdaumcde.org**

Wilmington District Lay Speakers Academy

Academy

Spring Courses for 2010 begin in April.

April 12 at Christ UMC

April 15 at Elkton UMC

April 17 at Union UMC

Basic and Advanced Courses will be offered at each location.

For more information on these trainings, or to register, please see Greg Zweiacher.

Updates From the Trustees

The trustees have been busy tending to the property and assets of the church. Led by Chairperson Ken Knapp, the group has been busy developing short term goals as well as laying out plans for the future.

One of the initial projects for 2010 was to satisfy the requirements of our Safe Sanctuaries policy by replacing the panels of the office and classroom doors with Plexi-

glass. These same doors will be fitted with lever style handles to become hand-capped accessible.

Other projects on the Trustees schedule include:

- Replacement of thermostats with programmable units
- String construction lights in the basement for better lighting
- Contract for lawn

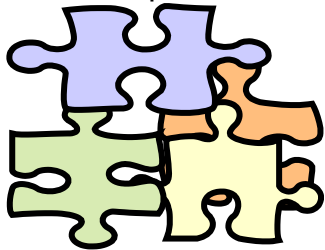
care

- Install unit in bathroom to provide hot water
- Address drainage problem caused by runoff from roof

The members of the Trustees provide a valuable service to the church by maintaining and improving our beautiful physical facility. Thanks for their diligence and willingness to serve in this capacity.



A special thanks goes to Marty Schuler for all of her effort in recreating the "Shepherd Room". Hours were spent in removing wall paper, painting and arranging the furniture to provide a lovely, functional room. It will serve as a comfortable place to hold meetings of all sorts. Please show your appreciation to Marty for seeing this project through to its completion.



BUMC Sunday School Schedule

Toddler/Preschool Class:

March

7: Sharon Mucha/John Bladwin

14: Debbie Deliman/ Mika Blackburn

21: Janae Baldwin/ Debbie Norman-Petty

28: Megan Reynolds/ Ingrid McAllister

April

4: Sharon/John

11: Debbie D/ Ingrid

18: Janae/Mika

25: Megan/ **Assistant Needed**

May:

2: Sharon/Mika

9: Debbie/Debbie

16: Janae/Ingrid

23: Megan/John

30: Janae/Kara

Elementary Class

March 7-28:

Suzie Forsman

April 4-25:

Kara Taylor/Debbie Norman-Petty

May 2-30

Tina Finch

Youth Class:

March 7-28:

Linda Baker

April 4:

Teacher Needed

April 11-25

Pastor Carm

May 2-30

Teryl Price

- If you have a conflict and need to switch dates, please call the teachers on your team first. Contact information is posted in the Sunday School Supply area. Upon confirming a replacement, please notify Mika in the church office (378-2313, or mikab@bethesdaumcde.org) and Linda Baker (Irbak@aol.com) as soon as possible so the schedule can be updated. If you are unable to find someone to cover for you, please contact Linda Baker.

If you are able to help during one of the open dates, please contact Lind Baker at Irbak@aol.com.

Don't miss Pizza and Puzzles, Friday, March 12th at 6:30pm! Form teams to test your puzzle skills by completing your own team puzzle in record time. \$30= a 4 person team, \$15= a 2 person or parent/child team, \$8=Spectators, \$5= kids under 10. Price includes a donation to Relay for Life, pizza, beverage, snacks and open puzzles around the room. To register your team or request tickets, contact the church office at 378-2313, or e-mail mikab@bethesdaumcde.org.



Lend a Helping Hand during Lent! Our Helping Hands Team has partnered with Heifer International, and is putting banks and calendars in the hands of Bethesda's congregation, to raise \$\$ for impoverished families around the world. Contact the church office to get your own supplies, fill up your bank and return it to church on **Palm Sunday, 3/28.**

Lent and Holy Week at BUMC

Helping Hands and Bethesda's congregation are teaming up to provide 15 **Resurrection Bags** to local families in order to supplement their Easter dinners. Do your part and donate a nonperishable fruit, starch, desert, or vegetable for a bag by March 21st. On March 7th, our special Communion offering will be used to provide grocery store gift cards for the bags.

Relay Corner

Despite all of the lingering snow, June and Relay for Life are just around the corner! We're thinking BIG, and have set our goal at \$3,000. High— but not impossible! Our Relay committee— lead by fearless Team Captain Sharon Gudzelak, has devised a number of different opportunities that will help us race to our goal.

Palm Sunday is March 28th, and marks the beginning of Holy Week. The children of BUMC will play a special role in this service; please let Mika know if your kids are interested in helping!

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 1st, we will offer a service at 7pm.

On **Good Friday**, we will be offering a 7pm service.

Our **Easter morning** celebration service will be at 9:30 am. Please join us after the service as we congratulate our Confirmants at a reception in the fellowship hall.



If you've been in church over the past month, you've probably gotten a coin bottle to collect your spare change in. Fill those bottles to the top with your extra \$, then bring them in and we'll cash them in for donations! During Lent, the team is asking you to take your coin bottles to work with you and let your co-workers fill them. In March, join us

for a **pizza and puzzles** fundraiser on the 12th. On April 10th, get your **car washed** by Bethesda's Youth Group (4/16=raindate)

May 12th is our **Friendly's fundraiser**— help us keep the restaurant filled to capacity between 5-9, and our Relay Team will earn 10% of the total profits!

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday: Worship 9:30 am El Buen Spanish Service 3pm	1 Trustees 6:30	2. El Buen 7pm	3 Chapel 10 Spprc 6:30	4 Chancel Choir 7 pm	5.	6. Confirmation mtg w/ Bishop @ Barrat's Chapel El Buen 3 pm
7. Chancel Choir 8:30 Bible Study Kids Choir Bell Choir 11:30 Confirmation Youth 5	8	9. El Buen 7pm	10 Chapel 10	11 Chancel Choir 7pm	12. Pizza and Puzzles 6:30	13 El Buen 3pm
14 Bible Study Kids Choir Confirmation Bell Choir 11:30 Youth 5	15.	16. BCDC: St. Pat- tie's Parties Friendly's Fam- ily Fun Night 5- 9pm Helping Hands Mtg 6:30 El Buen 7pm	17. Chapel 10 BCDC: St. Pattie's Par- ties	18. Chancel Choir 7pm	19.	20. High School Youth at Friendly's 1-3 El Buen 7pm
21 Bible Study Confirmation Kids Choir Bell Choir 11:30 Youth 5pm	22.	23. El Buen 7pm	24. Chapel 10	25. BCDC Open House and "Art" Gallery, 6-8pm Chancel Choir 7pm	26.	27. El Buen 7pm
28.Palm Sun- day Kids Choir 9 Bible Study Confirmation Bells 11:30 Youth 5pm	Holy Week					