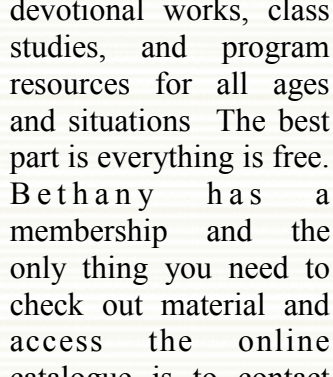


Souper Bowl
On Sunday, February 5, we will have a Souper Bowl Benefit Luncheon for the piano fund immediately after the morning service. Please bring your favorite soup and a generous contribution. We are also looking for groups willing to sponsor one of these 1st Sunday of the month events. Let's get behind this project and get it done.



The Conference Fishin' Hole, directed by Sonja Clough, is a place you can fish for Bible Study material, personal devotional works, class studies, and program resources for all ages and situations. The best part is everything is free. Bethany has a membership and the only thing you need to check out material and access the online catalogue is to contact Sonja at the Conference Office (704.535.2260). She will be glad to help you!



Sweetheart Dinner
THE UMYF annually sponsored Sweetheart Dinner is Friday, February 17. Please support our youth as this is their largest fundraiser of the year. Dinner is by donation only. Make reservations for a romantic dinner with your sweetheart by calling the church office or completing the insert in your worship bulletin and placing it in the offering plate.

Rick's Journal

It seems like we just got over the Christmas season, but we are about to enter a time of potential spiritual growth and personal devotion. Lent is that time of year when we focus on the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. We remember his slow, often meandering journey to Jerusalem and Calvary. We think about it, but it makes us uncomfortable. We think about all Jesus did for us and what he taught those who followed him. We think about what he endured and how he endured it. What have we learned? How have our lives been affected by reading what happened and what he said? What has been our response? What changes should we make? Are we doing all we should be doing?

Historically Lent has been a time in the church for looking at ourselves as honestly and as sincerely as we possibly can and making whatever adjustments we need to make. That's not always easy. Where are we lacking in our spiritual life? What devotional disciplines might we try to help us focus more on Jesus and less on ourselves? How might we alter our priorities to make us more committed and faithful to what Jesus told the Disciples in the Upper Room: "Remember Me".

We will be having many opportunities to help us take the inventory we need to take during Lent. Some will be of a deeply spiritual nature, while others will be more reflective. But it is hoped that we can use the time to look inside and see where we are and decide what it will take for us to be where we need to be.

We will also have times for fellowship for that has also historically been how the church has drawn strength and support as we focus our efforts to being the disciples and the church God wants us to be.

I hope you will participate as much as you can. Invite a friend to come with you. It's a great way for someone who is seeking to find out something of what we are all about. Keep up with the newsletter, the website and the weekly bulletin. You will need to use all three to stay in touch.

God is working in our midst. Let us rejoice and join him with excitement, joy and hope.

Rick

Bethany UMC...
growing in faith through worship and study; called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and to make disciples of all people through servant ministry.

Mission Opportunities

- Food Pantry**—continues to be a blessing for those who are in need. Personal items are needed such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet tissue, etc.
- Community Table**—Bethany UMC has committed to serve the Community Table twice per year. If any group or Sunday School class would like to serve please let Lynette Foster know as soon as possible.
- Pregnancy Resource Center Needs**—Bethany UMC works closely with the Pregnancy Resource Center of Stanly County. These are items that are always needed at the center. The following items should be new: Playtex bottles and liners, 4 oz. bottles, diapers (size 4 and 5), new or gently used baby outfits (size 0 to 4T), baby shampoo, baby wash and lotion, baby oil, anti-bacterial gel, diaper rash ointment, wipes, crib sheets. These items may be used but in good shape: Baby beds, swings, bassinets, high chairs, changing tables, strollers, infant car seats, monitors.
- Loving Stitches Prayer Shawl Ministry**—will meet at 7 pm on Wednesday, February 8, at the home of Lucille Cranford. We extend an invitation to anyone who would like to be involved in our ministry. Knowing how to knit or crochet is not necessary.
- Divorce Care**—Bethany's Divorce Care Ministry will begin on February 6 at 7 pm in the Parish House. If you know of a person who is divorced or separated that would benefit from this ministry, please tell them to call the church office or the facilitator, Tim Lowder, at 704.791.2890.
- Evangelism Team**—meets quarterly. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 27, at 11:30 am in the Parish House.
- Healing Hearts**—blood pressure checks will be held on April 29, July 29, September 30, and December 30 in the fellowship hall, immediately following the worship service.
- United Methodist Women**—meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, February 14, in the Parish House. Susan Calloway will lead the program "Call to Prayer and Self Denial". Davie Lee Circle will host. The Davie Lee Circle will meet at 1 pm on Tuesday, February 28, at the Log Cabin Restaurant. The Mildred Hall Lowder Circle will meet at 6:30 pm. on Tuesday, February 28. The Betty Drye Circle has rescheduled this month's meeting until 7 pm on Wednesday, February 29 due to our Ash Wednesday Service. Cathy Smith is hostess.
- United Methodist Men**—will meet at 7 pm on Thursday, February 23, in the Parish House.

Around the Church....

- UMYF**
UMYF meets each Sunday at 6 pm. All youth Middle School through High School are invited and encouraged to attend. Preparations are being made for the February 17th Sweetheart Dinner. If anyone can donate a dessert, please notify Mike Crump.
- BYC**
BYC will meet twice this month on Sunday, February 12 and 26. Any child in grades Kindergarten through 5th are invited to attend. We would love to have new members join us! Please see Sarah Morton if your child is interested or you have any questions. Hope to see you there!!!
- Bible Study**
The Wednesday 10 am Bible Study group has been studying the Book of Genesis with Dr. Mickey Efrid. There are six more chapters in the study and we hope to finish up by February 22 which is Ash Wednesday. If we are not finished by then we will suspend the study during Lent so that we can fully participate in the weekly Lenten Luncheons. Anyone is still welcome to join our Bible Study group.

Music Notes

New Piano and Renovations
Goal: \$25,000
Currently: \$13,421

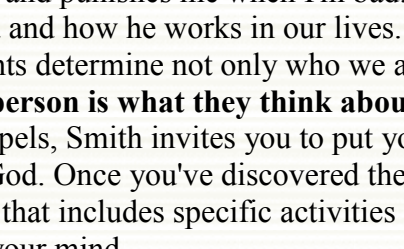
Donation cards are located in the narthex should you wish to give to the piano fund in honor or memory of a loved one.

Gifts
No memorials or honorariums in January. Contribution cards are available in the Narthex. To make a contribution, please complete the card, include your check or cash, place in the envelope, and then into the offering place. An acknowledgement will be sent promptly to those individuals you have requested. In addition, you will receive a receipt from the church office for your tax deductible gift.



Schedule of Services for Lent and Easter

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**
The Crusaders Sunday School Class will hold their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21 from 5 until 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will go to the Wesley Luncher Scholarship Fund.
- Services of Ashes**
A Services of Ashes will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, February 22, in the sanctuary.
- Service of Tenebrae**
The "service of darkness", or Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") will be held on Good Friday, April 6, at 8 pm. This service, through music and the Word, focuses on the final hours of Jesus' life and crucifixion and is a reminder of the magnitude of God's love; a love so great that it continues through all time and eternity. May we live in the shadow of eternity's cross. And may we be reminded during our Tenebrae Service that the cross ultimately leads to the "Father of lights".
- Lenten Lunches**
Lenten lunches will be each Wednesday at noon during the Lent season. Please come out for a light meal during your lunch hour. You will be back to work by 1 pm. Meal responsibilities are as follows:
February 29Christian Homemakers
March 7Christian Homemakers
March 14Crusaders
March 21Christian Homemakers
March 28 Wesley Seniors



The Good and Beautiful God

The Good and Beautiful God is a book by James Bryan Smith, student of Richard Foster and fellow professor of Dallas Willard, both experts in the field of spiritual growth. "God wants me to try harder." "God blesses me when I'm good and punishes me when I'm bad." "God is angry with me." We all have ideas that we tell ourselves about God and how he works in our lives. Some are true—but many are false. James Bryan Smith believes those thoughts determine not only who we are, but how we live. **In fact, Smith declares, the most important thing about a person is what they think about God. The path to spiritual transformation begins here.** Turning to the Gospels, Smith invites you to put your ideas to the test to see if they match up with what Jesus himself reveals about God. Once you've discovered the truth in Scripture, Smith leads you through a process of spiritual formation that includes specific activities aimed at making these new narratives real in your body and soul as well as your mind. You are invited to join Sonja Clough in a small group of not more than twelve, to explore this book, and the ideas that could lead to a new understanding of God, and personal transformation. Contact Sonja by email: scclough@wncumc.org, or by phone: 704-463-5522.

Albemarle District Lay Speakers Training Event—2012

Monroe: Central UMC
Sunday, March 4, 11, & 18
2:00-5:00 pm

- * Refreshments in the sanctuary
- * Refreshments will be served during a break each session.
- * One absence is allowed, but the student is required to complete all the assignments.
- * The last hour of the last session is graduation time and guests are welcome.
- * Please allow plenty of time for travel as we need to arrive on time!

- Basic Course: Lay Speaking Ministry**
This is the beginning lay speaking course. The course focuses on the three primary aspects of lay speaking ministry: leading, caring, and communicating.
- Advancing Course I: Lay Speakers Preach**
This is the advanced preaching course where lay speakers will learn how to construct a sermon and how to deliver a sermon more effectively.
- Advanced Course II: Lay Speakers Lead Worship**
This course is designed to help lay speakers lead worship more effectively, develop practical skills, and learn how to plan a worship service.
- Advanced Course III: Lay Speakers Lead Small Groups**
This course is designed to help lay speakers identify the roles they play as leaders of small groups and helps them understand the power their leadership can have in transforming Christian lives.

A Bit of History

"The Way of Good Men"
(compiled by Marlene Huneycutt)

During the Worship Service on May 23, 1971, Reverend J.C. Swain chose to honor the youth graduating from high school and the students advancing from eighth grade to a new zone in the education system.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Miss Trudy Dunham
Miss Ann Griffin
Mr. Eddie Huneycutt
Miss Cathy Morgan
Miss Malinda Stoker
Mr. Ronald Stokes

FROM THE EIGHTH GRADE

Miss Jeannie Morton
Bran Cranford
Butch Oakley
Rodney Huneycutt

The morning anthems were: "Oh How I Love the Savior" by the Adult Choir, Don Huneycutt, Director; "The Man of Galilee", by the Junior Choir, Jean Hill, Director; Mrs. Jeffie Sikes, Organist; Horace Elzey, Lay Leader. The Responsive Reading was "The Way of Good Men". The Sermon was entitled, "A Good Man's Hell". I must admit, I do not remember that sermon, but I do remember the man. One of his great joys was helping others. In 1973, when he learned we were building a new house, he volunteered to help with the roofing. We are retirement age—a nice way of saying I thought he was too old to be on the roof—I held my breath as he climbed to the house top. In 1971 when Joe and Glenna were building a new home, "the preacher" showed up ready for work as did Glenna's dad, Mr. Henry Thompson. Joe managed to keep them both busy at ground level. Both of these good men would have preferred a more productive position. "The Lord is a buckler to them who walk uprightly." (Words from the responsive reading.)

A Mission Moment

One of the blessings that we have in the Pioneering Pastors Program is providing scholarships for Bible College students that have a shared vision with us, a vision to open a church in an unreached sub-district of Thailand. The Thailand Methodist Mission (TMM) supports two students at Phayao Bible College. One student some of you know well. His name is Peter (his Thai nickname is Kack, which means Asian Indian, since he looks like he is from that nation). Peter and Nue have been very close friends of ours since we came to Thailand back in 2006. They are our Thai language teachers and partners in ministry, and they are both dear to our hearts. Peter was the first Thai disciple to receive the call to ministry under our service as missionaries. We are privileged to help him complete his studies at Phayao Bible College so he can begin the next step in him ministry, to pioneer a new church in an unreached sub-district in Thailand.

Mike and Sherri Morrissey, Chonburi, Thailand



Peighton Wilkerson	February 1	Amanda Cole	February 13
Linda Gobrish	February 3	Megan Winchell	February 13
Hayley Rogers	February 8	Noah Carter	February 14
Emma Honeycutt	February 9	Amber Blalock	February 18
Cara Mason	February 9	Bonnie Albee	February 19
Kristin Hatley	February 10	Holly Bader	February 21
Julie Vaughan	February 10	Frances Brown	February 21
Ava Amick	February 11	Michael Carriekhoff	February 21
Kristen Boing	February 11	Averie Brummitt	February 23
Suzanne Carter	February 11	Debbie Hinson	February 23
Clint Lowder	February 11	Kayce Cranford	February 25
Stacy Ragsdale	February 11	Randy Gibson	February 25
Donna Russell	February 11	Christy Cline	February 26
Britt Jernigan	February 12	Aaron Loflin	February 28
Johnnie Rummage	February 12		



No known anniversaries this month.

February Calendar of Events

February 1	10 am, Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
February 2	7 pm, UMM, Parish House
February 5	11 am, "Souper" Bowl Benefit Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
February 6	7 pm, Divorce Care begins, Parish House
February 8	10 am, Bible Study, Parish House
February 8	7 pm, Prayer Shawl Ministry, home of Lucille Cranford
February 8	7 pm, Finance Committee, Parish House
February 12	5 pm, BYC
February 12	6 pm, Chancel Choir Practice
February 12	6 pm, UMYF
February 13	7 pm, Divorce Care, Parish House
February 14	7 pm, UMM, Parish House
February 15	10 am, Bible Study, Parish House
February 17	Sweetheart Dinner, Fellowship Hall
February 19	6 pm, Chancel Choir Practice
February 19	6 pm, UMYF
February 20	7 pm, Divorce Care
February 21	11:30 am, JOY Club, Fellowship Hall
February 21	5—7 pm, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
February 22	10 am, Bible Study, Parish House
February 22	7 pm, Ash Wednesday Service, sanctuary
February 23	7 pm, UMM, Parish House
February 26	5 pm, BYC
February 26	6 pm, Chancel Choir Practice
February 26	6 pm, UMYF
February 27	7 pm, Divorce Care
February 28	1 pm, Davie Lee Circle, Log Cabin Restaurant
February 28	6:30 pm, Mildred Hall Lowder Circle
February 29	noon, Lenten Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, Christian Homemakers sponsor
February 29	7 pm, Betty Drye Circle, Cathy Smith hostess