

The Belmont Christian

A witness to the past, a tool for the present and a window on the future of Belmont Christian Church!

Volume 56 Issue 98

January 6, 2010



*The Symbol of the
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)*

Upcoming Calendar

- Sunday, January 10, Friendship Time following Worship, BP checks with Deborah Stanley
- Wednesday, January 13, Wonderful Wed., 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study & Youth Group, 7:00 pm Board Meeting,
- Thursday, January 14, 10:30 am Knitting, 7:00 pm Choir

This Needs Your Attention Now

Attention Elders, Saturday, January 9th at 8:30 am is the Elders' Breakfast. Hope to see all Elders there.

Don't forget to pick up your offering envelopes and your year end giving statements in the Narthex of the Church. Any you can deliver to those who may not be here would be very helpful! See article on page 3.

Ladies, please see article on page 3 concerning the Annual CWU Meeting on Friday, January 22nd.

By Request, Address for Ethan Walton: He is being deployed to the Persian Gulf.

BM Ethan Walton
USS Russell (DDG 59)
FPO AP 96677-1277

Pastor's Pen

Take the Special K Challenge

As the end of each year draws to a close there appears to begin a strange move among the thought patterns of people. There is a visible transfer of desire from all of the chocolates, cakes, pies, turkey, stuffing, and all the other things that we all love to eat during the holiday season and a new need to begin the process of losing weight. Kellogg's cereal company has made the coming of January 1, 2010 as almost a "health holiday" asking people to start up their diets again.

This, of course, is one of

the many New Year resolutions that people make for themselves at the beginning of each year. The start of the year brings with it a deep seated need within each of us to change something about ourselves that



we don't agree with. Billions and billions of dollars are spent each year by men and women undergoing surgical procedures to add or remove a portion of them in an attempt to find some augmentation for improvement. We seem to

be a people who have a constant want to make ourselves different than we are now.

One of the things that were pointed out to me during my studies at Seminary was the concept within the book of Genesis that God after creating the world and all within it declared it "Good". This would lead the Christian to easily come to the conclusion that all that God has made, even us, was made to be seen as good. Therefore, the question for us is just what it is that we have so much trouble with seeing as good. If God views each one of us as a good creation, why is this not enough for us?

(Cont'd on page 2)

A Note of Thanks From The Presbyterian Community Center

It's AMAZING... the support that the Presbyterian Community Center receives throughout the year to fulfill the PCC mission. From volunteer commitment, to the financial contributions, to the donation of food for our food pantry, we are blessed with a generous spirit from area churches, partnership organizations and countless individuals. We thank you, Belmont Christian Church, for being one of our blessings.



In 2009 we have seen many lives changed for the better because of our programs.

Your November and December food donations totaled \$791.04. Awesome!!! With the help of donations from supporters such as you, the Presbyterian Community Center continues to make a difference in the lives of so many of our needy neighbors. Thanks again for your generous support. We can always count on you!

News From Around the Church

Sincere Thanks

I want to thank my Church Family for the Gift Card you gave me for Christmas.

Also thanks to Claude and Glenna Lee for bringing it to me. I really enjoyed your visit.

Happy New Year!

Love & Blessings,
 Sylvia Tinsley



Thank You!

Thank you to all who sent cards, gifts, and home-made goodies. David and I have never tasted such wonderful treats in all our lives! Belmont is blessed with some really good cooks!

I will treasure each and every gift and card!

Thanks again from the heart!

Lovingly,
 Pat

Our Stewardship for the Past 2 Weeks

Attendance Figures: December 27, 2009

Sunday School Attendance: None today
 Worship Attendance: 102

Offerings and Income:

Current and Mission: \$16,310.95
 Building Fund: \$60.00
 Memorials: \$165.00
 Grand Total: \$16,535.95
 Memorials for: Pat Early, from Letha & Giles Holland, Sonia Hayes & Eric Early. Hannon Radford, from BCC, Charles & Doris Marks, Jettie Ferris & Jan Rakes & Brenda Allen. Mike David, from Charles & Doris Marks.

Pastor's Pen (cont'd from page 1)

Maybe the question is not on the outside of each one of us, but that which lies within us. There is nowhere in the Bible where the reader is instructed to view only the outside of those who live in the world that God created. We are to look beyond the limited surface of each other and peer deeper into the soul. We learn to forgive the limits of the outside and become open to the expanses that each one contains.

If this is the only true goal of the Christian, then how is it that we are to learn how to be able to see the world of God as God would like us to see it? How do we begin to look beyond the surface and find the love for each other? Those are the questions that are the ones that have real concern for us in this upcoming year and the ones that will follow.

Maybe the Kellogg Company has within it's idea a partial view. It is not the diet that only effects the outside of the person that may really be the source of change that we

would want in the coming year, but a change that would push its way deeper into us, a source of change that would transform us to our very core, and cause us to really change from deep within.

So why not take the real "Special K" challenge? Why not make this the year that you begin the transformation that God really wants of us? Take the challenge to daily change the person inside and begin to look within God's word. Take the challenge to read God's word more each day. Take the challenge of letting God's word move deeper into you and you into it.

This could be the very year that we start to take the real challenge that God sets out for us to take. This could be the year that we read the Bible more and let it move with us. This year, take the Special Challenge that God has for you.

Praying for you as I hope that you are praying for me

Craig



Prayer Cues for Belmonters

As you go to God in prayer this week, consider including the following prayer cue in your devotions.

So often I have walked alone instead of in your spirit. Guide my footsteps this day I pray.

Amen



Attendance Figures: January 3, 2010

Post Christmas Brunch
 Attendance: 100

Offerings and Income:

Current and Mission: \$4,428.76
 Building Fund: \$130.00
 Memorials: \$25.00
 Grand Total: \$4,583.76
 Memorials for: In memory of Hannon Radford, from H. Gertrude Radford

Thanks to those in the kitchen who made this delicious Brunch possible!

Church Women United Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting will be held January 22, 2010 at Cave Spring United Methodist Church.

Registration will begin at 9:30 am. If you have any questions, please contact Faye Askew at 774-4132.

Hope to see all of you ladies there!

Wonderful Wednesday Menu for Jan. 13th

(Call Church Office for Reservations)

Country Style BBQ Ribs

Buttered Potatoes

Ford Hook Limas

Hot Rolls

Banana Pudding

(5:15 pm, 6:00 pm ABS & YG)

Year End Giving Statements

The 2009 Giving Statements for the year are available in the Church Narthex on the bench. Please pick these up and deliver any you can to someone who may not attend on a regular basis. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated, as the mailing cost really adds up.

Also, the offering envelopes are in the Narthex to be picked up. If you haven't done so yet, please remember to do so.

Again, any of those you could deliver would be very helpful!

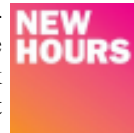
Thanks so much!.

Your Church
Secretary



Please Note The New Office Hours For Belmont Christian Church

Beginning Monday, January 4, 2010, the Church office will be open 32 hours a week instead of 30 hours as in past years.



The hours on Monday—Thursday will be from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Friday hours will remain the same, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

On occasion, an event may arise that the time would be adjusted due to a circumstance that can't be helped. Be assured this is not likely to happen very often but is a possibility, as we all have emergencies from time to time.

You may call, fax, or email Pat at the church office. This information is found on page 4 of the newsletter.

The Belmont Kids Connection

Souper Bowl of Caring



It is that time of year again. It is time to fill the brown bags and line the second floor hallway for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. Our youth are hoping to maintain their trophy for a second year in a row, but they need your help. So when you are at the grocery store, please pick up a few extra non-perishable food items and bring them to church. January 31st will be the deadline to donate. And remember, you are not just helping the youth, but you are helping the neighborhood. All donations will be taken to the Presbyterian Community Center. Thank you for your support.

New Youth Group Schedule

Beginning with this new year, 2010, our schedule for the younger youth groups will change. For the month of January, our JYF (ages 4-third grade) and our ChiRho (grades 4-6) will meet on January 13th and 20th. Beginning in the month of February, these groups will meet twice a month, the first and third Wednesdays. We have only a few volunteers who can work with these groups, so we are trying to help them out. Our CYF (grades nine-twelve) will continue to meet weekly.

REMEMBER that ALL groups will kick back off for the year on Wednesday, January 13th, with dinner at 5:15 p.m. and groups from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Come have fun with us! See you there!

Office Hours For Elaine

I have been told that I need to post my regular office hours so that church members will know. As much as possible, I am in my office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. On Fridays I am in the office from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Tuesdays are my day off. There are of course meetings, and "Mom needs" that may keep me from this schedule occasionally. But always know that I am available by email (austinrva@cox.net) and/or phone (772-0250) most all of the time. Ministry is my life, not just my job.



The Belmont Christian
A publication of:

Belmont Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Service Times:

Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM
Wednesday Family Night: 6:00 PM

Rev. Craig Rutherford, Sr. Minister
Rev. Elaine Austin, Director of Youth and Family Life

Phone: 540.343.7502
Fax: 540.344.4706
Email: belmontchristianchurch@yahoo.com



Belmont Christian Church
1101 Jamison Avenue
Roanoke, VA 24013

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Roanoke, VA
Permit No. 25

Belmont Christian Church



Still the friendly church on the corner!

See YOU this Sunday!

Visit us on the web at: www.belmontchristianchurch.net

For Your Information

News You Can Use

Prayer List:

Our Church Family: Joseph & Jennifer Bailey & family, Jean David & family in the death of her son Mike, Gilee & Sal Corral, Clark Davis, Ruth M. Davis, Robert Early, Cindy Higgins & family in the death of her Father,

Hazel Moody, Michelle Obenshain, Family of Hannon Radford, Donald Stanley Sr., Robin Mills Walker & family, Ethan Walton, Pat Wirt



Our Extended Church Family: Sandy Brooks, Family of Ronnie Camden, Mary Helen Cliser, Martin & Janet Cliser, Mike Doss, Family of Dr. England, Eddie & Deb Hannabass, Marion Hicks, Jan Hutsell, Christi Hylton, Eleanor Jones, Stacy Meadow, Martha Moore, Family of Gloria Munsey, Sue Mustard, Katherine Poole, Dawn Richardson, Bob Schuermann,

Diane Shields, Debbie St. Clair, Josh Stokes, Jean Tuck, James Welch, Tom Wells, Peggy Wilson, Elaine's Mother)

(If you know of any updates to this list, please let the Church office know.)

Dear Church Members,
Thank you so very much for all of the cards and gifts this Christmas Season. As always, I feel very blessed to be a part of such a caring congregation. I pray God's blessings on each of you this new year.

Love,
Pastor Elaine & family



"Start With Prayer"

*Help us dear Father....
To start the New Year with prayer....
Knowing we will be answered....
With your loving care.
You took care of us in past years....
And this year you will again....
You are always with us....
Our ever loving God and Friend!
You know what is best for us....
And we have faith and trust in you....
Everything is going to be alright....
As we start this year anew!
Yes, the times are tough right now....
We are a little weary and scared....
But you are our source and strength....
As we abide daily in your care!
We thank you dear Father....
For all our needs you supply....
Keep us in your word dear God....
As on you we do rely!*



*By: Pat Lumsden
1/4/10*