

# The Belmont Christian

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

Volume 58 Issue 15

April 14, 2010



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

## Upcoming Calendar

- Friendship Time following Worship
- Tuesday, April 20, 6-8:00 pm RVHC in the Parlor
- Wednesday, April 21, 5:15 pm Wonderful Wed., 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study & Youth Group
- Thursday, April 22, 10:30 am Knitting, 7:00 pm Choir

### This Needs Your Attention Now

We still need volunteers and donations for Relay For Life. See article this page.

Don't forget our fund raiser for Camp, the Spaghetti Dinner. See article on page 3 and make plans to attend.

Can you help with Vacation Bible School coming up June 12-16? When approached by Allison Clarkson or Marsha Burton, please say YES.

Be sure and read your newsletter front to back. Important information included and requests to be filled.

Remember our sick & shut-ins with prayer and cards.

## Pastor's Pen The Church is on Fire!!!

Over the last few months down in eastern parts of the State of Texas, there have been numerous churches that have been burned to the ground. It became quite quickly understood that all of these fires were being set intentionally. Someone in the community was targeting churches in the area for attack. They would find a church that was setting there with no one in the building. After breaking into the building, the attacker would set a fire inside of the church. By the time the fire departments would arrive, the building would be fully involved in the fire and most would be completely destroyed.

During the height of the

attacks, many churches hired security firms or had members of the church watch over the premises of the churches within the areas of the attacks. At Carrie's parents own



church, First Christian Church Tyler Texas, the men of the church took turns spending all night sitting in cars out in the parking lot watching over the church building. Each man and woman tried to make sure that the church would still be

standing when the sun arose the next morning.

After many days of searching and a lot of work by police departments around the area, a couple of young men were found in the act of starting a fire inside another church. As of this letter, I have not heard of the motives behind the attacks. There could have been a great amount of hatred, or hurt and pain behind the attack, but there could have been just boredom behind it too.

In the book of Acts we read about the time shortly after Jesus' return to heaven when the disciples were in a room waiting for something to happen. We're not sure how long they had been there. It may have been some time. It might have been for days

(Cont'd on page 2)

## Relay For Life Event

The annual Relay For Life event takes place April 16-17 at William Byrd High School in Vinton Va. Our team name is "Christians for a Cure." It will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday.

Last year Belmont collected almost \$1,300 for the American Cancer Society for research and to find a cure for cancer. So far we have only collected \$1,100 this year. We have 48 walkers and room for more. Our hope is to top last year and we

feel we can do it but we need your help!! If you can't walk, that's ok. There are other ways you can help. For \$10.00 you will get a free t-shirt and be ready to walk Friday evening. You can purchase a Luminaire bag for \$10.00 in memory or in honor of someone. There will also be cakes for sale at the event.



**Donations are still needed.** Contact Barbara Blair. Come on out and help us top last year's goal. Let's make this years walk the best ever!!

# News From Around the Church

## Roanoke Valley Healthcare Connection

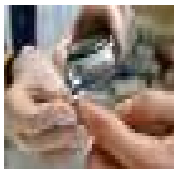
April 20, 2010 (6:00-7:30 pm)

Everyone is invited to Roanoke Valley Healthcare Connection's monthly event which will be held in the Parlor of Belmont Christian Church. This month's event focuses on Diabetes-Risk, Prevention and Control. A representative from Virginia Cooperative Extension will be available to provide information about the following:

- Could you be at risk for getting diabetes?
- Would you like to prevent getting diabetes?
- Do you have diabetes and want to learn how to get it under control?

Also available:

- **Free** blood pressure screenings
- **Free** blood sugar screenings



There will be 4 drawings for 2 glucose monitors and test strips and 2 gift certificates in the amount of \$20.00 to purchase glucose test strips.

Remember- - RVHC also has resource material for healthcare services provided throughout the Roanoke Valley which can help you, a family member, or a friend find a service they need. There are NO eligibility requirements and EVERYONE is welcome.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events or providing assistance in other ways, please contact Brenda Allen at 312-6302.



“Does Saint Peter count grades, too, or just sins?”

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

or weeks that they sat in that room waiting for something to happen. But while they sat there not knowing exactly what was going to happen, the Bible says that a “Great Wind” filled the room and fire descending from the ceiling and came to rest on the heads of the members present.

The Bible then describes how the attitudes of the disciples changed and a once timid group began at that moment to boldly preach the gospel of Jesus. God even provided gifts of the spirit upon them so that they could be understood by the many differing groups that were in and around the area. Many were surprised by this new outlook of the group. They had grown used to the silent group. They were used to the timid and quiet way that the group had once been.

The world is used to churches being timid and quiet. They are used to churches keeping silent about the gospel of Jesus. They see no spark of fire coming from the building and there is no worry for them about the church catching fire. But they are wrong! God always has the means of fanning the embers back to a roaring fire. Even if only one ember may be present, that is enough to spark a fire within the church. As with the church at Pentecost, God can still rain down upon those who wait on the Lord.

Within each one of us there exist those embers. Do we allow for the wind of God to blow upon our embers so that they will brighten, glow and then turn into a fire or do we wrap our hands around the small ember to protect it from the wind that we see as trying to blow it out? It is all in how you see the wind. We know there is danger with the wind. It could blow on our ember and whip it into a consuming fire. We might find that we are the ones that the fire consumes and this takes us in a different direction. The churches that were “consumed” by the fires have started to rebuild. The building will be different than they were before the fires. The congregation will also be changed by the fires. Fire can allow for new things to grow.

This Pentecost season, let each one of us wait with our embers and allow the wind of God to bring a glow and then a fire to build within us. Allow yourself to be consumed by the fire and see the newest of the works of the Lord.

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

Craig



### Attendance Figures:

Sunday School: Post Easter Brunch Today  
 Attendance: 101  
 Memorials for: None today

### Prayer Cues for Belmonters

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

Lord, teach me to comfort the afflicted any way I can.

Amen



### Bake Sale



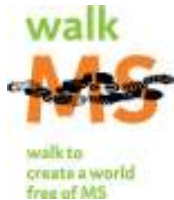
Bake Sale

An important part of the Yard Sale scheduled for the end of this month, is our Bake Sale. We would like to have as many tasty items to sell as possible. If you would like to contribute an item or two to the Bake Sale, please see Joyce Chewning. All contributions will be greatly appreciated.

### MS Walk

The MS Walk will be on Saturday, April 17. Elaine Michael will be walking for this event and could sure use some support.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Elaine Michael, and thank you!



### Yard Sale



Belmont's Annual Yard Sale is scheduled for April 30th and May 1st. If you have items to contribute, they can be taken by the church Monday—Thursday between 9:00 am to 3:30 pm and on Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Items can also be picked up if you are unable to bring them to the church. Call the church office @ 343-7502 to schedule a pick-up time. Furniture items are especially needed.

Proceeds from the Yard Sale will go to the Parish Life and Local Missions Outreach Departments. A portion of the profits (usually 10%) will be designated for a local charity such as Ram House, Women's Shelter, Presbyterian Center, etc.

Thank you for your contributions.

**CWU Friendship Day-May 7, 2010-** First United Methodist Church of Salem. This is a Luncheon Meeting. Watch your newsletter for details.

### Thank You

For those of you who attended this years Seder Meal, you saw our beautiful stoles. These were made by the generous handy work of Faye Askew.

Thanks again Faye for your time and expertise.

*Pastor Craig and Carrie*



### Sincere Thanks

Sincere thanks goes out to each of you for your prayers, calls, cards, time off and visits to the funeral home and to the funeral at Crystal Spring Baptist Church in the death of my Father, Curtis Leon Rowland.

It meant so much to me and to my family to have your love and support!

Lovingly,  
*Your Church Secretary,*  
*Pat Lumsden*

## The Belmont Kids Connection

### Vacation Bible School



It is hard to think about summer, when spring has just begun, but you need to mark your calendars for July 12-16. These are the dates for our annual Vacation Bible School. We are very excited this year and we hope that you will be excited too. **Allison Clarkson and Marsha Burton** will be our directors as we go on a "Journey to India." So plan now to come. Invite your friends and get ready for a wonderful adventure!!!

### Youth Groups

There are still two more months left of our Wednesday night youth groups. It is a great place to be for fun and fellowship and to share in Bible study and learning. We offer three groups each week. Our JYF is for age four through third grade. They have a wonderful time learning about "Super Men of the Bible." Our middle group, the Chi Rho, is for grades four through six. They continue to work on their "Character Building Skills." Our senior group, the CYF is for grades seven through twelve. They are always busy planning on outreach missions and fund raisers to do some fun activities. They are working on plans now



to fix up their room on third floor. So, which group is for you? Come on Wednesday nights and join in the fun!!

### Please Join us April 25th



We hope that you are excited and ready to come to our annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, April 25th. The

Education Department is working hard and we hope that you will come and join us. The free dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship. There will also be some fun entertainment for the whole family. Our dinner is a fund raiser for our campers to Craig Springs. We are collecting registrations right now to send our young people to camp for a great week of fun, fellowship and worship with other young people from around the region. So please come and join us and give generously to this great cause!

Reservations for the dinner are requested. Please list on your attendance form or call the church office at 343-7502.



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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](mailto:belmontchristianchurch@yahoo.com)

Belmont Christian Church  
1101 Jamison Avenue  
Roanoke, VA 24013

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*Belmont Christian Church*



*Still the friendly church on the corner!*

**See YOU this Sunday!**

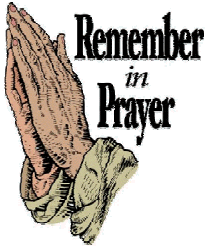
Visit us on the web at: [www.belmontchristianchurch.net](http://www.belmontchristianchurch.net)

## For Your Information

### News You Can Use

**Prayer List:**

**Our Church Family:** Tim Argenbright, Barbara Blair, Darlene Coon, Letha Holland, Maegan Puckett, Helen Saul (Mrs. H.E.), Frank & Bonny Sparks in the death of their son-in-law Bear D'Avanzo, Donnie Stanley, Donald Stanley Sr., Jane Taylor



**Our Extended Church Family:** Family of Annette Bear, Tim Chocklett, Helen Cook, Family of Dream D'Avanzo, Jerry Fernatt, Ricky Hartman, Delores Hypes, Angela Lewis & family, Alden Shelor, Lynwood Thurman, Jean Walters, Charlotte Woodbell

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

### Wonderful Wednesday Menu for April 21st



Come and join us! Dinner is at 5:15 pm. Adult Bible Study and Youth Group is at 6:00 pm. Adults-\$5.00, Children-\$2.50. Please list on your attendance forms on Sunday morning, or call the church office at 343-7502 if you plan to eat.

Ham, Scalloped Potatoes,  
Lima Beans, Rolls & Dessert

### Many Thanks



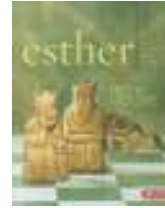
Thank you so much for your calls, cards and especially your prayers for me during my battle with shingles. It meant so much!

With Love, *Barbara Blair*

### Attention Women

Would you be interested in a six week Bible Study Book of Esther? Beth Moore has written a great study book. We would meet weekly on Tuesdays for six weeks.

Please let me know if you would be interested in this group. We would start the first part of May.



You can call me at 772 -0250 or email me at [austinrva@cox.net](mailto:austinrva@cox.net).

*Pastor Elaine*

### Stay Tuned

Watch your newsletter for updates on the **softball team schedule** as we receive them.



**Vacation Bible School** will be held July 12-16. Start making plans.