

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 27

July 7, 2010



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

Upcoming Calendar

- Sunday, July 11, Friendship time, BP checks with Faye Askew, 10:00 am 6th "Church Reaching Out Class in the Parlor with Pastor Craig
- Monday, July 12 is the start of Vacation Bible School and goes through Friday, July 16th. The time is 5:30—8:00 pm for ages 3 to adults.
- Wed., July 14, NO Board Meeting
- Thursday, July 15, 10:30 am Knitting, NO Choir
- Friday, July 16, last evening of Vacation Bible School.

This Needs Your Attention Now

*Tuesday, July 20, 6th Study of Esther with Pastor Elaine at 7:00 pm here at the Church

*Tuesday July 20, 6-8 pm RVHC here at Belmont Christian Church with Brenda Allen (Still needs donations such as hygiene items, walkers, canes etc.

*Youth, NO meeting July 14th due to Vacation Bible School

*See page 4, Important

Pastor's Pen Is This Our Last Chance?

There have been many different groups over the years that have done studies on the demographics of the church. They have studied varying aspects of the complicated makeup of the Christian church and those that make it up. Most of these groups are trying to find some "magic bullet" that they can then report back to the church as the one thing that it can do to help in its outreach to those outside the walls of the church. Unfortunately, they have not come upon that one item. What they have so far concluded is that there are many things that affect one's decision to become a Christian.

One of the more troubling

outcomes of all of this study is that of time. Much of the research done by these groups has begun to suggest that there exists some limited amount of time that the church has to reach some of those. There seems to be an age at which the church has no more effect on them. That age seems to be around that of 18.

This research does not show that if someone who reaches the age of 18 is lost forever, but it does show that these persons do fall away from the church for a great deal of time. For most this time span usually covers their 20's, 30's and 40's. It may also extend itself well into the 60's. The idea that the church may need to take away from all of this research is that we only have a limited amount of time and therefore a limited

amount of contact with those who are in the process of making a decision that will affect them for most, if not all of, their lives. So, if this is then correct, we must be acting with more focus in our outreach to bring more of those into the fold of the church.

One of our greatest outreaches of the church of the future and therefore the long-term history of our congregation is our annual Vacation Bible School. This week-long event allows the church to reach out not only to those youth that grace us each Sunday morning with their presence, but it also allows us the opportunity to reach beyond to those youth that may live around the church building. The youth that we attract are within the perfect range of

(Cont'd on page 2)

Vacation Bible School - Take a Trip to India With Us

It's finally here! Vacation Bible School starts Monday, July 12 and goes through Friday, July 16th. The time is 5:30 pm- 8:00 pm here at Belmont Christian Church.

There is something for everyone ages 3 to adults. If you have not registered yet, see Pastor Elaine, Allison Clarkson, Marsha Burton or call the church office @ 343-



7502. Everyone is welcome to come and join in on the excitement and fun. Invite a friend, the more the merrier!

We will be learning about India's customs and some of the wonderful mission work that our denomination does there.

Allison & Marsha have worked very hard, but we need you to make this a success!!

News From Around the Church



From Carrie's Kitchen

“Chocolate Layer Dessert”

Crust: 1 stick of oleo (room temp)
1 1/4 cup flour
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Mix together and press crust in 9X13 pan that is sprayed with Pam. Bake for 15 minutes @ 375 degrees. Let cool.

1-8 oz. package of cream cheese
2-small pkgs. chocolate instant pudding
3 cups of milk
1 cup of powdered sugar
Large carton of cool whip

Take cream cheese, powdered sugar, 1/2 carton cool whip, mix together and put on crust mixture. Mix chocolate pudding with milk and 1 tsp vanilla, spread over cream cheese mixture and put rest of cool whip on top with either grated chocolate or chopped pecans. Chill.
(Other variations: instead of chocolate, butterscotch or lemon pudding can be used.)

Congratulations



The Belmont Softball team finished second in tournament play. Way to Go Team. We are proud of you!!



“You know, Brother Nate, when I was little my daddy always advised me to tackle my problems, but as I've matured, I've found that a good ol' headlock works just fine!”

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

age where we have a chance to affect them for the rest of their lives!

The most important aspect of our Vacation Bible School is that it provides a time of contact between our youth and some members of the congregation that the youth may not have



during the normal course of the church year. This means that those of you who may not usually think about volunteers for this yearly event may wish to rethink this decision. If you think that you may not know the members of our youth as well as you would like, this will provide you with a wonderful chance to rectify that situation. Any interaction between the youth of the church and those more mature members is nothing but a good thing for both parties.

Another important part of the Vacation Bible School will be that this year's event will include a classroom for the adults of the church. Sunday School and Vacation Bible School have traditionally been a great source of learning the teachings of the church. It has always been understood that in order to provide a good message of God's love and the way of salvation, the person bringing the message must be able to give it with understanding and the ability to answer any question that may arise. The best place to learn this is within the structure of the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

So, two things must be in place so that we can properly bring God's mes-

sage of hope and love to those who need to receive it. First, we must be given the chance for them to hear. Vacation Bible School provides us with one great chance at this. Also it is in the correct time span where they may not have made that decision yet. Second, we must be trained appropriately as to make available a concise and appropriate message. Vacation Bible School and Sunday morning classes allow each one of us the opportunity to learn and be able to deliver such a message.

I hope that you will take up the opportunities offered and participate in this year's Vacation Bible School. Either by volunteering to work in some way with our youth, or by joining in the class that is provided. We have only a limited amount of time that God has given to us and we need to take advantage of it.



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

Craig

Prayer Cues for Belmonters

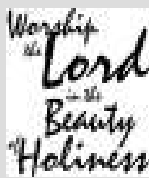
As you go to God in prayer this week, consider including the following prayer cue in your devotions.

We sometimes think our problems out-weigh our blessings. Forgive us Father, God and help us to realize how wonderfully blessed we are!

Amen



Attendance Figures:



Sunday School: 49
Worship Attendance: 109
Memorials for: Nancy Lucado & Donald Stanley Sr.

Woman to Woman Worldwide

Ladies, don't forget to mark your calendar for Sunday, July 25 at 4:15 pm at Fort Lewis Christian Church in Salem, Va.

There will be a presentation by Jennie Sue Murdock about her recent Journey to Colombia and Venezuela. It should be most enjoyable.

Please join us. See Faye Askew for more details.



Next CWU Meeting will be September 24th.. Mark your calendar and watch the newsletter for more information.

Church Night Out At the Salem Red Sox Game



We are looking forward to our Church Family getting together for a night of fun on Tuesday, August 10th.

Please let Pastor Elaine know if you plan to go no later than Aug. 1st. Nancy Fernatt and WDBJ are kind enough to furnish us with tickets, but we need to get a count.



Save The Date

The 7th Annual car show & Bake Sale will be here before you know it. So mark your calendar now: Saturday, September 25 from 9:00 am-2:00 pm The rain date will be October 2nd.

Stay tuned to the Newsletter for more details to come.

Back to School Blast



On Sunday, August 15, there will be a Back to School Blast to provide school supplies, hair cuts, shoes and much more for low income families in our community. Over 2,000 children are anticipated to participate.

The event will take place from 2-4 pm, Carilion Clinic Riverside Center Parking Garage. Parent must be present. The event is sponsored by: PCC, Rescue Mission, Carilion Clinic, Parkway Wesleyan Church, Manna Ministries, Coca Cola, K92 and Samaritan's Feet.

Volunteers and donations are needed. For more information contact Leslie Littlefield at (540) 777-7651. You may also contact Cheryl Poe at PCC.

PCC still needs Peanut Butter & Jelly & Thank You

The Belmont Kids Connection

The Support of Others

Think back to your childhood. Was there one adult you really enjoyed talking with? Maybe it was a grandparent, a club leader, a Sunday School teacher, youth group leader, an aunt, or a coach. This person helped you sort through growing-up issues. Even if you can't recall any specific conversations, you will remember the warm feelings brought by talking with that person.

Young people need parents to talk to, but they also need other adults to bounce ideas off, to ask questions of, to laugh with, to help sort through sticky situations. Researchers have discovered that young people who have other caring adults to talk with are:

- less likely to do risky things such as use alcohol or other drugs.
 - more likely to grow up successfully.
- Even children in abusive, financially

stressed, chaotic, or otherwise difficult situations have better futures if they find at least one caring adult outside the home.

- likely to think they can make a difference and that they matter.
- better able to succeed in school.

The Church is a perfect place for young people to find an adult that can provide support and encouragement. So whether you are helping with Vacation Bible School, teaching one of our children/youth Sunday School classes, or leading one of our youth groups, you DO make a difference in the life of our children and youth. God works through many people; working with our kids can plant seeds for their future. If you say "Yes" to helping with the children and youth in our church, consider yourself doubly blessed.

(article taken from "Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth," by Search Institute, 2005.)

Off to Camp

On Sunday, July 18th, our first group of campers will head to Craig Springs for Cross Roads Camp. This is always a great opportunity for our young people to interact with other youth from across the region of Virginia. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, our youth could afford to go to camp. Our church raised over \$1600 for the cause.

Those going to Cross Roads Camp are: **Jesse Womack, Sam Austin, Joey Sparks, Mallory Austin, Erin Sparks, Will Gamble, and Cameron Saunders.** Please take a few moments to drop them a note in the mail. Getting mail at camp is always fun. The address at camp is: Craig Springs Conference Center, 30 Craig Springs Circle, New Castle, VA 24127. Just put the camper's name at



the top of the address, and remember that mail "over the mountain" is sort of slow. They will be at camp, July 18-23.

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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
Pastor Rutherford: 540.890-4454
Church Phone: 540.343.7502
Fax: 540.344.4706
Email: belmontchristianchurch@yahoo.com



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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

For Your Information

News You Can Use

Prayer List:

Our Church Family: Rev. John Atkins, Elaine Austin, & family, Shirley Cannaday, Clark Davis, Family of Irene Dillon, Reginald Garner, Letha Holland, Sally Hungate & family in the loss of her Mother, Roger Law, Janice Lefell & family, Family of Nancy Lucado, Christie Nimmo, Joan Sands, Mary Spradlin & sisters, Unspoken, Family of Lena Wells



Our Extended Church Family:

Brooke Adams, Melissa & Glorea Booker in the loss of their mother, Jim Brown, Pam & Kim Burnett in the loss of their Mother, Crystal Clinebell, Joseph Ferguson in the loss of his wife, Jerry Fernatt, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Goggin, Eddy & Deb Hannabass, Bernie & Freda McKee, Sonia Morris, Sue Mustard, Brian Puckett, Family of

Carol Purdham, Corey Rutherford, Kent & Sandy Shriver, Melanie Smith, Patricia Stanley, Family of Rev. John Wallace, Joan Walters, Mary Alice Walton, Dennis Willis

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

***2011 Budget Preparation Calendar**

Listed below are the critical dates for the 2011 budget preparation process. All committee Chairmen Please note the due date for your budget request. They must be in no later than the 9th in order to meet the schedule below.

Aug. 9 (Mon) Budget request due Stewardship and Finance

Aug. 25 (Wed) Review budget requests with Stewardship and Finance department

Sept. 1 (Wed) Review preliminary budget with Cabinet

Sept. 8 (Wed) Recommend to Board that preliminary budget be sent to Congregation

Sept 20 (Mon) Mail budget and budget letter to Congregation

Sept 26 (Sun) Financial Campaign To Oct. 17 (Sun)

Oct 20 (Wed) Stewardship and Finance meeting to finalize the budget for 2011

Nov. 3 (Wed) Cabinet meeting to review final budget

Nov. 10 (Wed) Motion to the Board they approve final budget and recommend it to the Congregation

Nov. 21 (Sun) Congregational Meeting to approve budget

Stewardship & Finance committee members please note the scheduled meetings on Aug 25 & Oct 20. Please put on calendar @ 7:00 pm for both