



# The Bethlehem Star

*Guiding us to God's presence in our lives*

## Ministry Opportunities All Around

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Vacation Bible School is on the horizon; Find out how you can help.
- Updates on our Stained Glass Windows
- Our Youth and Children are hard at work
- Opportunities for deepening your spiritual walk with Christ

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Women's Fellowship News	2
Lenten Offerings	2
Children's & Youth Ministries	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	4
Easter Lily Sale	4
Church News	5
Thank You Notes	7

Location, Location, Location is the real estate jargon that underscores the potential success behind businesses. Of course the businesses also need exceptional customer service and need to offer what their consumers want. For Bethlehem Christian, our physical church sits in a prime location in Suffolk. Our church building and signs are seen by thousands of motorists daily as they go to and fro on Holland Road. You may not know that the church is also approached by many neighbors who have a variety of needs. Some of the needs are financial, some are emotional-spiritual, and some are physical. We do our best to vet the requests to determine how best we can use our resources to help each request. This benevolence ministry compliments our food pantry ministry as we continue to make an imprint in the lives of the underprivileged families around us. Let us be thankful for what the Lord has blessed us with and continue to ask how else we can be used to bless others.

You may have heard reports around town about the Overnight Stay Program organized and started by the Churches Against Poverty in Suffolk (CAPS). The Suffolk News-Herald has run a couple articles on the Overnight Stay Program, but if you haven't heard of it or read about it, let me share with you a little bit about the program. First, our winter nights are brutally cold. We've all been outside in the weather and remarked how freezing it is. But, all of us have homes to go to at night—homes that are warm and comfortable. Second, not all of our neighbors are blessed with homes and places to go. We have homeless men and women in Suffolk with no place to turn when the weather is unbearable. The CAPS churches are responding by opening the doors of the church to allow our neighbors a warm place to lay their heads at night. Third, I see our sister churches responding to real needs and then I walk through Bethlehem Christian Church. I see a wonderful building God has blessed us with—a church with showers, two kitchens, two fellowship halls, and plenty of space and warm hearts to help meet a need in our neighbors' lives.

I think we need to get involved and open our doors next season. It will take a total team effort as we will have to prepare meals, have overnight volunteers, and compassionate hearts to listen and care. Will you join me and prayerfully consider ways that Bethlehem can help? God has blessed us with His church building; what would He want us to do with it?

~ Pastor Matt

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Women's Fellowship stays busy with the projects we support on a monthly basis. March will be a busy month for us, as well as other groups in the church.

We held our Quarterly Meeting February 4<sup>th</sup> and packed 118 goodie bags for the residents of Autumn Care. They were delivered just in time for Valentine's Day. This is a project the ladies do each year. We also donated our quarterly love offering to Vacation Bible School.

We are continually blessed by individuals and businesses contributing food to our Food Pantry Ministry. By the way, did you note the new name for our Food Pantry? "Food Pantry Ministry" has such a good ring to it and it is a big ministry in our church.



Our Women's Sunday Morning Worship Service was held on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and if you were not able to attend church, you missed a nice service and a treat. Jessica Winters spoke on "Relationship with God" and did a fantastic job. Denise Jones sang a beautiful song that was most touching. We have wonderful talent in our church. A big THANK YOU goes out to all the ladies that took part in the service.

**Our Love Offering taken up at the close of the service netted \$377.00 for the Food Pantry Ministry. We thank everyone for their donation!**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for our Family Life Luncheon. This is a wonderful time for us to bring a dish or two and enjoy each other's company after our Worship Service. We do hope you will plan to attend and if you forget to bring a dish, come on and join us. We always have enough food to feed a small army.

Our Food Pantry Ministry continues to serve many folks during the month. Once the numbers are tallied for February, we will let you know. Continue to pray for our ministry.

Doris Johnson, President  
Women's Fellowship

## L E N T E N   O F F E R I N G S

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter. The forty days of Lent represent Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days of meditation. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays). The six Sundays represent a "mini-Easter" and celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death. During this season, Christians are called to a time of reflection, self-denial, and of giving of ourselves to others with the purpose of worship and service to our Lord. This year, our Lenten offering will be directed to the Food Pantry to assist those in need in our community. You may contribute to this year's project any time during the season of Lent (March 5th-April 19th), by using the pew envelope, marking it Lenten Offering, and dropping it into the offering plate. Thank you so much for your continued sacrifice and dedication to the church's food pantry ministry.

## VBS UPDATE



Dates: June 22-26 (Sun.- Thurs.)

Time: 5:00—8:30 PM

Volunteers are still needed to be Faith Greeters, Faith Leaders, and Faith Teen Leaders. We definitely need your continued prayers and help as the dates draw closer. Pray for God to bring the children, volunteers, and supplies together so that His glory will shine through us! Please contact Ellie Holland to volunteer at [Ellie.Holland@unilever.com](mailto:Ellie.Holland@unilever.com) or call the church office. It takes all of us to make VBS a success.

### Upcoming Events

Our children's ministries team is hard at work organizing and leading our children's ministries and activities. Below is a schedule of upcoming events. Feel free to invite the kids you see!

#### Sunday March 2, 12:15 PM—Craft Day

Our children will be making resurrection eggs as we prepare for the Easter celebrations. Lunch will be provided.

#### Sunday April 6, 12:15 PM—Picnic in the Park

After the church service, we will head to the park behind Farm Fresh. We will have sandwiches and fellowship at the park. Feel free to ride the church bus. In case of inclement weather, we will stay at the church and play games with the kids.

#### Sunday, April 13, 2:00 PM—Easter Egg Hunt

We will gather at the Daniel's home across the street from the church for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. In case of rain, we will have our Easter Egg Hunt in Graham Hall.

#### Next Children's Choir Performance: Palm Sunday, April 13

Our children's choir practices the first Sunday of each month during Children's Church. Also look for performances on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

The BCC Game Night was a huge success! Saturday night, February 8, the students hosted a large group for its chili and baked potato fundraiser. The men squared off against the ladies in BCC's version of Bible Jeopardy! Just as the audience expected the ladies to deal a crushing defeat, the men eked out a win on the last question. Then, five stellar couples competed in the *Not So Newlywed Game*. Everyone was truly entertained and amazed at how well—or not so well—they knew one another. In the end, Jonathan and Jill Mizelle won the match. It was a wonderful evening of good food, fun, and fellowship. Our youth shined as emcees, scorekeepers, a/v techs, sound effect makers, and cheerleaders. The students also prepared the meal, helped serve, and pitched in wherever they were needed. We are blessed to have so many good children, youth, and parents. They raised over \$500 for summer camp.



### Upcoming Youth Group Meetings

**Sunday March 2, 12:30 PM**

**Sunday March 16, 12:30 PM**

Continuing in the bible study series: *Authentic Relationships*

## Easter Lily Sale

The church will be taking orders for Easter Lilies. The cost is \$12.00 per lily. Please make the checks payable to Bethlehem Christian Church. Orders will be taken until Sunday, April 13. Please fill out the form and put in the box in the back hall with a check or cash for your order.

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Cash/Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Please take your Easter Lily home after the 11:00 AM Worship on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Thank you!

### Suffolk Meals on Wheels Presents: "The Rocky Hock Opry"

Date/Time: Friday, March 14 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: King Fork Middle School in Suffolk

Tickets: \$15 donation \$20 at the door  
Tickets available at the Meals on Wheels office  
Phone: 934-4911

Musical and comedy entertainment from Edenton, NC, features Golden Oldies, Classic Country, and Gospel.

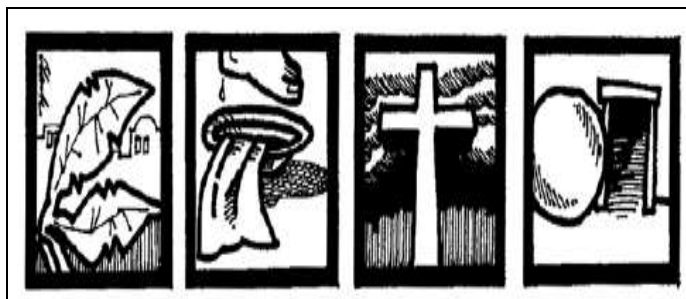
Proceeds help support the Suffolk Meals on Wheels program.



- 1—Bert Morris
- 2—Barbara Warren
- 3—Brenda Oliver
- 4—Jim Heffington
- 6—Linda Masters
- 7—Tracy Porter
- 8—Shirley Allsbrook, Jeremy Clinton,  
Ronnie Crumpler
- 9—Heather Holleman, Shirley Walker
- 12—Philip Barber
- 13—Matthew LaPoint, Angie Salerno  
Payton Nelson
- 15—Bert Jones, Randy Tew
- 18—Billy Nelson, Nicole Speight
- 19—Kenzie Jo Conner, Betty Faison
- 21—Maddox Nelson
- 22—Mike Barber, Kayla Culbertson
- 23—Nathan Neblett
- 24—Amy Yost
- 25—Kentley Porter
- 27—Jeremy Neblett
- 29—Brittany West, Caroline White
- 30—Paula Thornton
- 31—Edna Daniel



- 4—Russell & Debbie Chappell—42 years
- 6—Les & Katie Stallings—60 years
- 11—Wayne & Judy Gardner—52 years
- 13—Robert & Jean Brinkley—10 years
- 20—Ben & Joyce Bracey—55 years



### BCC Hosts A Community Lenten Service

The Churches of Suffolk are offering a Lenten opportunity to worship together. Following the thirty minute service, the host church will serve a soup and sandwich lunch. BCC is hosting a Lenten service on Wednesday April 9. We hope you will come and worship with us. All services are on Wednesdays and begin at 12:00 Noon.

### Community Lenten Service Schedule

(All services begin at 12:00 PM)

Wed., March 5—Tabernacle Christian Church  
Speaker:

Wed., March 12—Suffolk Christian Church  
Speaker:

Wed., March 19—Oak Grove Baptist Church  
Speaker:

Wed., March 26—West End Baptist Church  
Speaker:

Wed., April 2—Metropolitan Baptist Church  
Speaker:

**Wed., April 9—Bethlehem Christian Church hosts with the Reverend Dr. Steven Blunt delivering the message. Dr. Blunt is pastor at First Baptist Church Mahan. We will provide soup and drinks at the conclusion of the service, so if you can come help serve please consider attending.**

## BETHLEHEM CHURCH DIRECTORY

Our church has changed greatly since our most recent church directory from 2008. If your directory is like mine, you're tired of scratching out changes and writing new information. We need updated pictures, addresses, and contact information. I hope you'll be included in our new Bethlehem Christian Church directory. Our team is hard at work finalizing the details, but we want you to block off a time for your family portrait. Lifetouch studios will be at Bethlehem Christian during the last week of April. To book your sessions, contact the church directory team or call the church office. Session dates are Wednesday through Saturday, April 23-26. Be on the lookout for more information and come make a lasting memory with your family.

~Pastor Matt



### COFFEE Class Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser

**Saturday, March 29**

**5:00 PM in Graham Hall**

**\$8 Donation**

Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, & Dessert

Come out and enjoy a great evening of fellowship. See any member of the COFFEE Class for tickets.

### Church Family Life Luncheon

Sunday, March 16, 12:00 PM

Come join your church family for a wonder pot-luck meal. We will gather in Graham Hall after the worship service on Sunday, March 16. Come and meet some new families!



## STAINED GLASS WINDOW REPLACEMENT

Dear Fellow Members, Family and Friends of Bethlehem Christian Church,

Our church has unanimously agreed to undertake the project of restoring our beautiful stained glass windows.

Our windows are in desperate need of repair as some are bowing and need reinforcing with additional vertical bars. The bowing was probably caused by lack of ventilation between the window and outside covering. So, after the windows have been repaired, there will be a new outside covering installed. These new coverings will be properly ventilated.

The windows on the west side of the sanctuary are in the worst condition. The first window (#11) has been removed and is being repaired and should be returned and installed before Easter. The cost of that restoration and new outside covering will be \$10,929.98. This window was in the very worst condition and is the most costly.

This is going to be a very expensive project. However, we feel the investment will be well worth the price, as these windows will be enjoyed by our future generations. Please prayerfully consider how you can become a part of this restoration project. We cannot do it without your help. It is our hope that you will choose to support our efforts through donations, pledges or perhaps sponsoring of a window as a family. Please mark your checks or envelopes: "Stained Glass Window Fund". Sunday School Classes, Circles and other unified groups are also invited to participate. Any donations will be a blessing.

If you are interested in sponsoring an entire window, please call Joyce Bryant (539-1367).

We ask that you keep this project in your prayers and know your support will truly be a blessing.

Sincerely,

Joyce Bryant, Kathy Morgan, Co-Chairpersons  
BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH, HOUSE COMMITTEE



H E A R T F E L T T H A N K Y O U N O T E S !

Dear Bethlehem Family,

I do not have the words to express my gratitude for all the kindness shown to me when my sister passed away. She was like a mother to me and it is a difficult thing to go through. All the prayers, cards, calls, etc. were such a support for me. A special thank you to Pastor Matt for his calls and prayers and to Lloyd and Judy Gatling for being at the funeral. Everyone's thoughtfulness was so greatly appreciated and needed!

With Christian Love,  
Linda Alexander

Dear Bethlehem Family,

I wish to express a big thank you for the prayers and many acts of kindness shown me before and after my surgery. It is comforting to know that you care. My love and best wishes for each of you.

Fran Smith

Dear Friends of Special Olympics,

A special thank you for your most generous contribution of \$179.76 (which came from Valentine sales by our children). This contribution makes many opportunities possible for our athletes. On their behalf, we thank you.

Special Olympics  
Virginia-Suffolk Area 29

Dear BCC Family,

Words have been hard to come by lately. Your overwhelming support and love are truly a blessing to me and my family. I appreciate you all in helping me pick up the pieces of my ministry while I was grieving the death of my mother-in-law. The plant, love, cards and more importantly your prayers have touched me deeply.

Love,  
Anne Godwin & Family

Bethlehem Family,

Words cannot express how grateful Bert and I are for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and hugs in the loss of my father. We are truly blessed by our circle of friends at Bethlehem. We thank you!

Bert and Denise Jones

Dear Bethlehem Christian Church,

Thank you very much for the visits, cards, and the beautiful flowers you sent during this difficult time. Your expression of sympathy touched our hearts.

God Bless,  
Sonya Beasley

## IMPORTANT EASTER-RELATED DATES

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014—11:00 AM **Children's Choir Easter Performance**



**Easter Egg Hunt**, Sunday, April 13, 2:00 PM — Bill and Edna Daniel's Home (Graham Hall in case of rain)

**Maundy Thursday Service**, Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM

**Sunrise Service**, Easter Sunday, April 20, 7:00 AM

**Easter Service**, Sunday, April 20, 11:00 AM



## IRON SHARPENS IRON MEN'S CONFERENCE

Many of you may remember the snowstorm several years ago that conflicted with BCC's hosting of the Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference. In spite of the snow, many men came to be challenged to lead manly lives for Jesus Christ. The Iron Sharpens Iron conference returns to Richmond, and we want to take a bus load of men. The conference convenes Saturday, March 22. Iron Sharpens Iron encourages fathers to be better fathers, husbands to be better husbands, men to be better men, and calls each man to a more mature faith. The cost is \$52 per adult man (lunch included) and \$37 for students. We will meet at the church at 6:30 AM and return by 7:00 PM. Please pray about joining us for our conference.

**IRON  
SHARPENS  
IRON**

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

For several years in a row, God has inspired and challenged our ladies to continue to live for Him. BCC is excited to continue to provide another weekend retreat for women. The retreat will call us to a deeper prayer life, a closer walk with Christ, and a more fervent spirit of humility. Maye Jepson will be our speaker, and God will surely touch our lives through her testimony. Please make plans to be a part of our retreat. We'll gather Friday night, March 14, and Saturday, March 15. More details will follow but don't hesitate to register. The registration fee is \$45 and is due by March 2.

WOMEN'S  
*Retreat*



# March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony
2 12:15 p.m. Kidz /Easter Project 12:15 p.m. Teenz Meeting JAH Bus Trip	3 7 p.m. Board Of Christian Education	4 10:30 a.m. Savage Circle Old Fellowship Hall	5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 10 a.m. Bible Study  6:30 p.m. CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30 p.m. Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	6 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Old Fellowship Hall  7 p.m. Jackson Circle	7 Boy Scout Barbecue Sale Graham Hall	8 5 p.m. Graham Hall Pancake Dinner Fundraiser for Stained Glass Window restorations
9 <b>Daylight Saving Time</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> 8 a.m. Laymen's Breakfast Sign-up sheet in back hallway	10 6:30 p.m.. Girl Scouts Old Fellowship Hall 7 p.m. King Circle Graham Hall 7 p.m. Personnel Committee	11 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts Space Derby Graham Hall	12 10 a. m. Bible Study  6:30 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	13 6:45 p.m. Girl Scouts Leaders Old Fellowship Hall Decorate for Women's Retreat	14 6:00 p.m. <b>WOMEN'S RETREAT</b>	15 8:30 a.m. <b>WOMEN'S RETREAT</b>
16 <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> <b>FAMILY LIFE LUNCHEON</b> 12:15 p.m. Teenz Group	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>  6:30 p.m. DEACONRY BOARD	18 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts Old Fellowship Wing	19 10 a.m. Bible Study  6:30 Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	20 <b>SPRING BEGINS</b>  6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Old Fellowship Hall	21	22 Men's Conference /Bus
23 <b>Communion</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b> 12:15 VBS Decorating /OFH	24 6 p.m. Graham Hall Sons of Confederate Veterans  6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Old Fellowship Hall	25 11 a.m. Fellowship Club  6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts Old Fellowship Wing	26 10 a.m. Bible Study  6:30 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	27  6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Awards Committee ACTS Class	28  SET-UP for Roast Beef Dinner	COFFEE CLASS ROAST BEEF DINNER Graham Hall
30 <b>4th Sunday of Lent</b>	31					

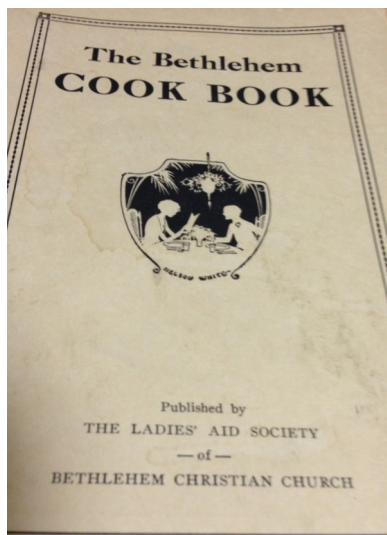


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**We resolve to love...We unite to serve.**

## HISTORY ROOM REORGANIZED



**COOKBOOK  
FROM MID-  
1900S WITH  
ALL KINDS OF  
SECRET  
FAMILY  
RECIPES**

Our House Committee has been hard at work in our history room. We look forward to the room's completion, which will have pictures of all the pastors of the church. We invite you to go into the History Room and look at some of the church's history. The history room is located beside the food pantry in the hallway just to the east of the sanctuary.



**COMMUNION SET FROM THE 1800S**