MAY 2015

The Bethlehem Star

Guiding us to God's presence in our lives

Bethlehem Christian Church
Suffolk VA

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Allen Family Concert
- Summer Drama Camp
- VBS Needs

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Being Boo More Often

I wish Arthur "Boo" Radley lived near me. I have a knot in a tree in my yard, and it's never filled with any surprises. Many of us remember Boo Radley the mysterious recluse from Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Boo fills a tree on Scout's and Jem's walk from their home to school, and occasionally they'll find the very things they need in their lives. Readers presume that Boo is placing these jewels in the tree, though he never leaves his home.

We actually never read about Boo outside of his home save for the closing scene where he saves the children's lives. Harper describes Boo's complexion as "sickly white that had never seen the sun." His skin is opaque, almost see through because he never gets out of his home. His "gray eyes are colorless and hair is dead and thin, almost feathery on his head." Boo spends all his time indoors and is only a part of his community because folks have heard about him.

If we aren't careful, Christians can become too much like Boo Radley. We can find all the comforts we desire within the walls of the church and we can close ourselves off from the world. Folks may think we exist within our walls but may not have ever seen us in action. We may avoid getting our hands dirty in the world or may avoid coming into contact with folks that are different than us. I think this separation is a danger to our faith. Staying only inside our walls and seeing just ourselves can limit our impact and our growth. Great challenges and opportunities await us when we go out into the messiness of life.

Mission Madness is a great expression of God's love in action. I'm excited because ten of our teenagers are getting involved in our community. They are difference makers and are being the heart of God at work for the people of God. While they are helping paint homes, build ramps, clean yards, and plant gardens, they are embodying hope and showing the world that our newest generation has a heart to serve. They are proving that this generation has a heart for God and has a willingness to sacrifice for Him. I am proud of them and so thankful that you, as a church, have decided to step out in faith and host this event. It takes a lot of our time and energy, and I am grateful to serve with you in this.

What happened when Boo finally stepped outside? He saved Scout's and Jem's life. Can we also be like Boo if we get active outside our walls? For sixty years, this book was the only book published by Harper Lee. This summer, her next book is due to be released. And I, for one, can't wait to read it. ~Pastor Matt

Happy Anniversary

(3) Keith & Nancy Carr—18 years
(4) Jordan & Kimberly McCrum— 2 years
(5) Jonathan & Becky Clark—8 years
(6) Mark & Morgan Tayloe—8 years
(10) Will & Christina Parker—7 years
(14) Bennie & Bonnie Speight—38 years
(15) Warren & Mary Faison—45 years
(16) Linwood & Betty Moore—61 years
Art & Margaret Holland—34 years
(26) Bert & Robin Morris—36 years
(31) Jonathan & Jill Mizelle—12 years

HOMECOMING & MEMORIAL SUNDAY, May 17, 2015

Our Homecoming/Memorial Service will be on Sunday, May 17 with a covered dish luncheon after the 11:00 service. We will recognize our members that have passed away in the last year. We will also have a short recognition in the cemetery for our veterans. Past and present military personnel are welcome to wear their uniforms this Sunday. Please plan to come and bring your family and friends.

Happy Birthday

(1) Danny Byrd
(2) Mark Tayloe
(3) Jena Brown, Caroline Hurley, Bonnie Maki
(5) Jonathan Mizelle
(10) Greg Greene
(14) Ariel Salerno
(15) Kathy Carr, Travis Fowler, Richard Gatling
(17) Grayson Holland, Janet Turner
(21) Kimberly Hurley, Brenda Conner
(23) Sandy Shirk
(25) Betty Faison
(27) Tyler Holland, Keith Carr
(28) Mark Greene
(30) Jonathan Thompson

Mother's Banquet
Saturday, May 2, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Our annual Mother's Day Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 6:00 PM in the Graham Hall. "Stars of Bethlehem" will be the program and the menu is fried chicken, string beans, & mashed potatoes. Contact Wanda Boyce, Susie Pearce or Jean Brinkley to get your tickets for $5.00. It's going to be a special evening for our mothers!

Patriotic Service

June 28, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

At Bethlehem Christian Church

Are you a veteran? Do we have a picture of you? Please leave your name, service, and picture at the church office for Janet Brinkley for the Patriotic Service. Your pictures will be returned.

2015 SCHOLARSHIPS

Again this year our 2015 graduating high school seniors and current college students of Bethlehem Christian Church will be able to apply for the following scholarships.

The **FRED C. JACKSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** The committee encourages all eligible individuals who have been accepted into or are currently attending an accredited college or university to apply for the Fred C. Jackson Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded each year to a deserving student. This will be the twenty-eighth annual award of the scholarship fund, and it will be in the amount of $1,000. For further information, contact Barbara Warren at 539-7347.

The **EVELYNE M. GRAHAM SCHOLARSHIP** is for high school seniors and college students, who have been accepted into or are currently attending an accredited college or university. This scholarship will be awarded in the amount of $1,000. For more information, contact Lynne Johnston at 923-3720.

The **LAYMEN'S FELLOWSHIP and WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP of Bethlehem** will be awarding a scholarship to deserving high school seniors who have been accepted into an accredited college or university. For more information, contact Robert Brinkley for the Laymen's Fellowship or Edna Daniel for the Women's Fellowship.

The eligibility criteria for the above scholarships are as follows:

1. The recipient shall be a member of Bethlehem Christian Church and must possess the ability to profit from further educational advantages.
2. It is preferred for the recipient to have been an active participant in Youth Group of the Church.
3. Applicant must complete an application provided by the church and must present the application to the church office by **MAY 15th.**

To obtain an application for these scholarships, please contact the person(s) noted or the Church office at 539-4274.

BCC Youth & Children's Ministries

Upcoming Dates for BCC KIDZ

May 17—Strawberry Picking The BCC KIDZ will go to a local strawberry patch to pick strawberries and enjoy the afternoon together. We'll take the church bus, and all who want to go with us are welcome to attend.

VBS 2015
Sun. June 21—Thurs. June 25

We've already started gearing up for Vacation Bible School. Plans are beginning to come together. Below is a list of supplies we can use for VBS.

- 350 Zipper Gallon Bags
- 50 Paper Egg Cartons
- Scrap Ribbon
- 2,000 Spring wooden clothes pins
- Old purple and white t-shirts
- 200 Soda can tabs

Please place any of these items in the box in the back hall.

Church Softball News

We have a church softball co-ed team in the Suffolk Parks and Rec league. We are improving every week. Follow our team and record on our Website, and come out to our games!

Record through April 24, 2015

2-4

Coach: Bryan Holland
Manager: Ellie Holland

Purse Auction!!

Please donate your gently used purses and wallets to Bethlehem's Mission Committee. We will have a purse auction on June 13 from 8:00 AM — 12:00 Noon. Please contact Julie Dorn for more information.

Look for a Mission Madness Update in May's Newsletter!

Allen Family Concert

It's Almost Here!!

Bethlehem will be hosting The Allen Family Concert on **May 16th at 7pm**. Send your questions to bccallenfamily@yahoo.com or see Phyllis Hedgepeth! All tickets are now sold only through the church website and will be $15.00 a ticket.

About The Allen Family

Since 1991, the Allen Family has traveled internationally. The group was launched onto the Gospel music scene with a first place finish in the 2000 National Quartet Convention Talent Search. Since then, the group has two nominations for Singing News New Mixed Group Of The Year and multiple appearances on the Southern Gospel Top 80 radio charts. Todd, Michelle, Caleb, Gabrielle, Joshua, Jared, Danielle, Abigail, Zachariah, and Christian live in their bus 365 days a year and fill over 275 engagements each year. In October of 2014, their original television pilot, Home Sweet Bus, premiered on TLC. The show is based on their unique lifestyle and follows their travels as they share the Gospel in song.

thank you!

Dear Church Family,

The Daisies of Troop 946 wish to thank everyone who contributed to the Plastic Bag Collection. We helped Kilby Shores Elementary collect almost 500 pounds of plastic bags which will be turned into useful things like benches and decks. We are no longer collecting this year.

Thanks,

Angie Salerno

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for supporting the Afghanistan School Supplies Drive. Three full boxes were mailed to Camp ISAF and were delivered to the local Afghan school in Kabul. The Afghan teacher Qudsia Fazli Mirzakhial sent pictures of her students along with sincere appreciation for the donations. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Thanks,

Suzanne Kawasaki

Thank You!! We had another successful Easter Egg Hunt at the Daniels bringing out 213 guests to fellowship together. We wanted to thank all of those that helped make this event a success.

Thank you to Bill and Edna Daniel who are gracious enough to host in their yard year after year. Our 50th Easter Egg Hunt is next year so look for something special next year.

Thank you to the Easter Egg Stuffers where the women clearly beat the men in the stuffing contest!

Special Thanks to:

~The Acts Class for hiding eggs, Jay and Dawn for some great games, Wanda Boyce and Phyllis for Crafts, Denise and Janet for registration, Morgan Tayloe who actually knows the chicken dance, and the many others who helped!

~DJ Jeremy and Jennifer Simpson for volunteering your time!

~Special thanks goes out to our Special Friend that brought the Easter Bunny for a visit!

We are so blessed!

Heather Holleman & Nancy Carr

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 11:30 to 6:30 p.m. ACTS CLASS Barbecue Dinner **(Take-out only)** Graham Hall	2 2:00 p.m. Bridal Shower Old Fellowship Hall **6:00 p.m.** **Mother's Banquet** **Graham Hall**
3 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship (Christening)	4 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7 p.m. Board of Christian Ed.	5 10:30 a.m. Savage Circle 7 p.m. Women's Quarterly Meeting	6 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. CHURCH COUNCIL	7 7:00 p.m. Jackson Circle 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	8	9 King Circle Soup Kitchen At Salvation Army
10 **Mother's Day** 8:30 a.m. Laymen's Breakfast Ladies Invited (Graham Hall)	11 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7 p.m. King Circle 7p.m. Personnel Committee	12	13 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study	14 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	15	16 **7:00 p.m.** **Allen Family** **Concert** Set-up for homecoming
17 Homecoming **Memorial Sunday** **(covered Dish Luncheon)** BCC Kidz Strawberry Picking	18 6:30 p.m. Deaconry Board	19	20 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study	21 5 p.m. Rehearsal Dinner 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	22 Wedding Reception Graham Hall 6 p.m. Rehearsal Sanctuary	23 3 p.m. Wedding Sanctuary only
24 **Communion** 31	25 Memorial Day 6 p.m. Sons of Confederate Veterans 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts OFFICE CLOSED	26 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Club	27 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study	28 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	29	30 Cypress Chapel Yard Sale Parking Lot

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We resolve to love…We unite to serve.

Children's Summer Drama Camp

Mon. July 13-Wed. July 15
9:00 — 12: 00 PM

Dinner Theater Performance
Wednesday Night, July 15,
7:00 PM

More Details to Come!