

**NICHOLS-BETHEL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

PO Box 176  
Odenton, Maryland 21113

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# The Enlightener



Address Service Requested

**March 2007**

**The Mission of our Church is to grow together as a faithful  
Christian Family:**

by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ  
through words and deeds;

by helping people experience a personal  
relationship with Jesus Christ;

by sharing opportunities for Christian growth through  
Worship, Education, Fellowship, and Service;

by responding in love to the physical and spiritual needs of our  
community and world.



# The Enlightener

March 2007

Nichols-Bethel United Methodist Church

Odenton, Maryland 21113 \*\* 410-674-2272/410-519-8665

Email: [NBUMC@verizon.net](mailto:NBUMC@verizon.net) website: NICHOLSBETHEL.org

## Loving, Even to the Last

***NOW BEFORE the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. John 13: 1***

There's many a stunning line and phrase in the Scripture. But I confess there are few that move me than the line above, especially the final phrase, "He loved them to the end." I really try very hard to hold onto that phrase. First it comforts me. Then it challenges me. And then it spurs me to act. There is, after all, something urgent about love. Something insistent. It may reach either forward or back, but somehow, it's always connected to the present.

That Jesus loves this way brings me constant comfort. Especially considering the circumstances. He was facing the end. And he knew it. Many of us, when up-against-it, turn inward. We focus on ourselves. Not Jesus. His eyes remained fixed on the loves of his life: God above, and those that were given to him all around. Then too, he knew how flawed were those gathered 'round him. He knew their capacity to betray, deny, or just fade away at the critical moment. Still, having loved them, he loved them to the end. Whenever I think about just how flawed and imperfect, and generally unworthy *I* can be, I take solace in the thought that Jesus has seen it all before. And the great thing is, he loves me anyway. Just like those so long ago. He loves you too, in the very same way.

But that's not all there is to it. You see Jesus issues a challenge, both by what he does and by what he says on that night in the Upper Room. The same Lord says to us, "Love one another as I love you." (Jn. 15: 12) At least one way to understand that command: love to the end. Love to the last. Love without ceasing. Stick to it. Love when it's hard

.Love when you'd rather not. Love when it seems like all is lost. (Because it never is, for those who call upon the name of the Lord.) Now for those who are just 'way better people than me (and I admit that's lots of folks), this may be easy. For me, this is a real challenge. But then, examples are often put in front of me...and you... that show us how, and give us courage to try harder. These last few weeks have been like this. One of our families seeking, time and again, a means to help someone so ill-of-spirit as not to want help. The rejection. The denial. The running away. Still, they love with a love that does not let go. Then too, another family in intense struggle, day after day, loving 'til the last drop of life is poured out, praising, comforting, easing each other's way. Loving with love that holds fast, but also lets go and lets God. Such love is a challenge, a marvel, a sign of God's saving grace right here with us. It is the lingering and lively echo of the some the Lord's last words to us all.



Faced with love like this, *you can't do nothin' about it.* (Bad English, but a living faith.) Across this Lenten season, let's encourage each other with *small and simple acts*. They might remind and embolden one another in a *larger* Christ-like love to the end! Here's a little list of things to do:

- ▣ Send a favorite Psalm, by mail, to someone you know who needs a lift. (No fair email, it's too easy. It's even better if you have to lick the stamp. They won't know. You will.)
- ▣ Send a handwritten letter to a friend, a former teacher, or somebody else who's touched your life, and tell them. (Same mailing rules as above.) It'll help them hold on!
- ▣ Go see somebody you know is lonely or lives alone, and try to stay as long as *they'd* like, not just as long as convenient to *you*.
- ▣ Go see somebody you're mad with and tell them you're ready to forgive them. And actually do that, with your whole heart.
- ▣ Take three hours off from whatever you think you *should* be doing (probably because somebody else said so), and go do something unexpected with or for somebody you love a great deal. It's even more powerful if you've quarreled with them lately.
- ▣ Go buy a box of chocolates (or whatever) and share the box with somebody you love more than anybody. And then offer them the last piece.
- ▣ Love to the end, friends. Love deeply, surprisingly. Love as Jesus love us.

Ken



## Get On Board The Ark: Serving The Least

Jesus' ministry on earth was one of service. The life he modeled, as servant, was intended to be an example for all humanity. His association with those considered least (the undesirables or unworthy) brought him much criticism and speculation. However, his message was clear: **we are no better or more deserving than those, who through lack of opportunity, education or ability, find themselves lost and last.** Often persons of "low estate" come in last, in terms of having their physical needs met. They become lost in a monetary system, unobtainable for a variety of reasons. Despite skepticism regarding those at poverty level, Jesus' admonition is clear: **we are to minister to them.**

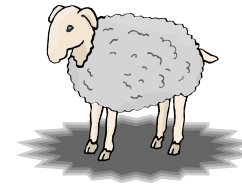
One of the ways we can do this is through Heifer International, whose motto is: *Ending Hunger, Caring for the Earth*. For almost 60 years, the Heifer Project, as it is commonly known, has assisted persons, world-wide, from Appalachia to Zimbabwe, by providing food, clothing, education and **LIFE**, to those struggling in poverty. Millions of people, who were once hungry, now have milk, eggs and means to buy other necessities. Families, who knew only poverty, learn techniques of farming and raising animals for food and by-products.

Passing on the gift means recipients agree to share the offspring of gift animals with others in need – reaching out to neighboring communities, making them partners with Heifer, in the fight to end world hunger. Children are able to go to school, rather than working in the fields, giving them education to provide a better standard of living for their families.

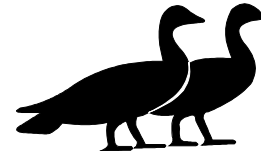
Heifer International maintains the highest standards in animal management, training the recipients of the gift animals in good techniques of feeding and overall care. Guidelines are strictly reinforced, with professional veterinary staff.

How can we, at Nichols-Bethel UMC help? Once again, we will be collecting for Heifer during the 6 weeks of Lent. Our Sunday School classes will receive "ark" banks, in which to collect coins. The entire congregation is invited to share in this endeavor. If every family gave \$5.00 a week, for 6 weeks, we could easily achieve our goal of \$5,000, to purchase an entire ark of animals!

### Individual donations could include:



A sheep - \$120  
Flock of ducks and geese - \$20  
A llama - \$150  
Honeybees - \$30  
A goat - \$120



Tree seedlings - \$60  
Trio of rabbits - \$60  
A water buffalo - \$250  
A pig - \$120  
A flock of chicks - \$20

A cow - \$500

These are some of the many possibilities. When a contribution is made, persons may designate a particular animal or animals to be purchased, or contributions may be combined to provide an entire ark filled with animals. This is our hope for Nichols-Bethel UMC.

During this time of Lent and self-denial, please consider helping those less fortunate, with a gift to Heifer International. Checks should be made out to Nichols-Bethel UMC, with Heifer designation. When all monies are collected, we will send one check to Heifer International. We will receive confirmation of receipt, a thank you note and a certificate of giving, suitable for framing.

Jesus taught us to serve one another. Let's buy an entire ark, filled with animals! Your gift will give **over and over again**, as it is passed on from recipient to recipient. Remember, just \$5.00 a week, for 6 weeks, per family, will buy an ark! What a wonderful way to thank God for all our blessings, by giving to others in need.

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God: Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. I John 4:7*

In His Service,

**Linda**

## YAVIM - Young Adult Volunteers In Mission

The Annapolis District is organizing a YAVIM trip to aid Katrina victims in the Bay St. Louis area of Mississippi (near Biloxi). Yes they still need help; actually they desperately need help. UMCOR (United Methodist Council on Relief) is forecasting it will be 9.77 years before this area is completely put back together - unfortunately UMCOR's forecasting is generally very, very accurate.



This trip is being organized by our own Barry Oren (who has a lot of experience in this area) at the request of the Annapolis District Superintendent Rev. Chris Holmes and VIM co-ordinator Neil Moores. The trip is open to anyone who is interested regardless of past experience. We've eliminated the original age range to make it a little more flexible - if in doubt ask!

### Trip details:

- April 14 - 21
- We will be housed in the Lagniappe Presbyterian Church Dorms built specifically for this effort.
- Cost is \$20/per person per day and includes all lodging and all meals.  
Transportation is open - you may drive or you may fly - currently Air Tran is \$180 Round Trip complete (meaning all taxes and fees)

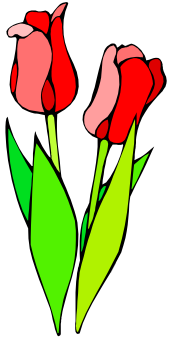
This is a truly exceptional opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters still in need even a year and a half after the devastating storm hit. Please join us!

In His Name –  
Barry Oren  
(410)923-3365  
[brjcoren@verizon.net](mailto:brjcoren@verizon.net)

## Easter Flowers

We will be decorating our church with an assortment of Easter flowers as we joyously celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, God's Gift to us. The flowers are all in 6" pots and cost \$7.00 per pot.

If you would like to donate flowers to decorate our sanctuary, please complete the form below and return it with the money to the Church Office by Sunday, March 25. **(No orders can be accepted after this date.)** Checks should be made payable to Nichols-Bethel UMC. Additional forms will be available in the narthex. Flowers may be claimed after the 11 AM worship service Easter Sunday.



I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ Lilies (assorted) @ \$7 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips @ \$7 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Mums @ \$7 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Azaleas (florist, indoor) @ \$7 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangeas @ \$7 = \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to give the flowers:

\_\_\_\_\_ anonymously to the glory of God and in honor of the Resurrection of Jesus—in thanksgiving for His gift of abundant and eternal life. **(No names will be printed).**

\_\_\_\_\_ to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the Resurrection of His Son, Jesus, the Giver of Life, and

\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print legibly and designate which flowers go with each dedication if you order multiple flowers)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

(needed if there is a question regarding flower order or dedication information)

# Capital Campaign Notes



*Roses are Red, Violets are Blue  
If you haven't decided on a use for that Refund check,  
We have an idea you may want to do.*

Friends, isn't it about time we put the FUN back in reFUNd? Some folks plan to catch up on those charge accounts. Some folks are planning for that summer vacation. Others are thinking about that special purchase. But, if you haven't thought about a use for your Federal and/or State tax refund, may we boldly suggest a creative way of putting those refund dollars to work in this part of God's Kingdom.

We ask you to prayerfully consider our Capital Campaign as a worthy investment for your refund dollars. You could use the refund to increase your pledge, or if you haven't already pledged, it can be used as a lump-sum pledge. We believe your refund gives you a chance to be part of something with a real, positive impact on others. We believe God in Christ is giving each of us such an opportunity through our Envision the Dream, Building the Future Capital Campaign. Imagine the FUN we will have participating in the countless events that will take place in our new Family Life Center. Remember that all gifts to the NBUMC Capital Campaign Building Fund are tax deductible. You will be provided periodic statements, as well as an end-of-year statement, documenting your donations.

## Here are several ways you can give to our Capital Campaign:

If you have not already made a pledge to the Capital Campaign, complete a "Commitment Card" with your name, address, Envelope Number (if you have one) and place the card in the envelope provided. Then either drop the envelope in the collection plate or mail it to the address on the envelope. If you do not have an envelope number for tithes and offerings, contact Diane Jones, Church Secretary, and she will assign a number to your family unit. Commitment Cards and envelopes are available in the Church office and the Narthex.

If you have already made a pledge to the Capital Campaign and want to increase the amount of the pledge, please contact the Capital Campaign Financial Reporter, Ernie Munn, and he will be glad to adjust your commitment.

One-time gifts/donations to the Capital Campaign are always welcome. If you should come into some extra funds, e.g. that tax reFUNd, we suggest that you simply make out your check to NBUMC and mark it for the Capital Campaign Building Fund, place the check in the Special Building Fund envelope, put your name and envelope number on the outside of the envelope, and place it in the collection plate.

## Mission Notes .... Mission Notes ...Mission Notes

As part of our Volunteers in Missions program, we are planning to participate with Rebuilding Together of Anne Arundel County (formerly known as Christmas in April) on their major Blitz Day project scheduled for Sat, April 28th. This organization focuses on repairing residences of low income, elderly, disabled, or families with children. If you are interested in participating on this or other similar projects, contact Doug Wallace, 410-969-8640, or email [dougwall1@comcast.net](mailto:dougwall1@comcast.net). Also, if you know of a need within our church or local community, let Doug know, and he will work to put together a group to meet the need..



## celebrate Your Joys!

Special Occasion? Anniversary? Promotion or New Job?  
Visit from an old friend or family? This is YOUR space!  
Celebrate Your Joys with your church family . . . email  
Steffanie Felder at [msjv@comcast.net](mailto:msjv@comcast.net).



**Dan and Dorothy Lewis** are "finally grandparents". Dante Emerson Meucci was born January 25 at 4:59 p.m. in Annapolis. He weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and 18 inches long. He is considered a "premie" because he was born a month early. To quote the proud Grandma: "What a blessing he is!" Congratulations to all!

## Winter Relief for the Homeless

As many of you are aware Nichols-Bethel United Methodist Church is one of approximately 30 churches in Anne Arundel county that participate in a rotating winter shelter for homeless men and women. During the 2005-2006 season, Winter Relief provided 5, 127 total bed nights, over 16,000 meals and touched the lives of 137 people (111 men and 26 women).

Nichols-Bethel will be providing shelter during the week of **05-12 March 2007**. We will need **lots** of help to make the shelter a success. This help takes many forms; including drivers to assist with the daily transportation between the Church and Glen Burnie, people to help with preparation and serving of the evening meal and the lunches for the next day, and manning for shelter watch. (The watch is broken into two shifts, the first from 5:00 P.M. to 11:30 P.M. and the second (mid) shift, 11:30 P.M. to approximately 6:30 A.M. the next day.) In addition to these daily duties, we will also need to provide transportation for guests whose work requires a ride outside of our normal pick up times and to the showers at Crofton Middle School on Tuesday and Thursday evening. At the end of the shelter week, we will need to sort, wash, and fold the bedding used by our guests and deliver it to another sheltering church.

The reward for this hard work is a unique opportunity to put our Christian beliefs into action and to touch the lives of homeless people in a very direct and positive way. The strength of the Winter Relief program is the caring and compassion that our member churches show to a segment of our population in great need of those gifts. If you would like to assist or desire more information, please contact our site coordinator, Jim Roser, at (410) 672-6533 or [jh.rosier@verizon.net](mailto:jh.rosier@verizon.net).

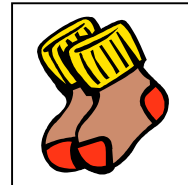


Winter Relief will be held from March 5-12. The following items are needed:

- Gloves
- Socks
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, mouth wash
- Towels, Wash Cloths
- Soap

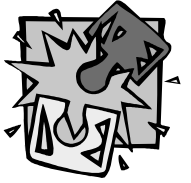


Please put these items in the box outside of the church office marked "Winter Relief"



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

**We're Retreating!!** The UMW will be holding their Spring Retreat on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Courtyard in Ft. Meade. Reverend Linda will lead the study entitled: "*The Puzzle of Life: Making the Pieces Fit.*" The cost will be \$75 for each 2 to a room; \$120 for a single; and \$60 for 3 to a room. Included in this cost will be a buffet breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Check-in after 3 p.m. Dinner will be on your own at the Courtyard Café. The first session will start at 7 p.m. on Friday in Rev. Linda's Suite. The last session ends at 3 p.m. on Saturday. Everyone will be provided a goody bag for Savage Mill. Please make reservations with payment to Beverly Humbert, Kay Bush, or Jeanne Gourley. The deadline for reservations is Sunday March 11, 2007.



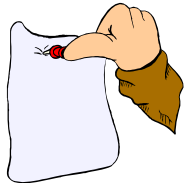
**HEY!** ..HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST?

**Our next meeting** will be held March 15, 2007 with a Potluck starting at 6:30 and the program starting at 7:00 p.m. We will be listening to a speaker on Missions.

Due to the weather, we had to cancel **February's UMW meeting** that featured:

**CONCRETE BLOCKS into AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
TO INDIA WITH LOVE  
FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

We will be rescheduling the program for this; Jim Gourley will share photos and details of his four months in India as part of the Habitat for Humanity *Jimmy Carter Work Project* pre-build team. Watch bulletins for more details on the new time and date.



## A Personal Note

I would like to thank Rev Ken, the Nichols Bethel family and especially Dorothy and Dan Lewis for the beautiful flowers which were personally delivered by Dorothy and Dan for Valentine's Day. They were a wonderful surprise and a great morale booster. It is very challenging for a full-time caregiver as well as the individual who is being cared for, and knowing that I have the support of the wonderful Nichols Bethel family is truly a gift from God. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Ann Hall

I would like to thank everyone for their kindnesses while I am recovering from knee replacement surgery. Your prayers, cards, reading material, and phone calls were very much appreciated. A special thank you to Rev. Ken for his concern.

Chet Devore

In behalf of the Baldwin and Musselman families, I would like to thank all of those who were kind enough to send cards, food, and hugs to all of us during the loss of Michael. You don't know the extent of how powerful prayer can be and how much it helps during tough times. We are truly blessed and thankful.

David Baldwin

## BUILDING COMMITTEE INTERVIEWING ARCHITECTS

**W**ith the assistance of Hogg Construction Company, the Request for Proposal has been sent to six architectural firms and interviews of architects will be held during the month of March, 2007. We should have an architect hired by April, 2007 and soon thereafter architectural drawings should be prepared.

Although the estimated cost of the new Family Life Center is over 2.5 million dollars, a more refined cost will be available as the architectural drawing and the project proceeds. The Building Committee will continue to work in concert with the Finance Committee to develop alternative sources of funding including grants, if available, bond programs, and financing options to present to the Administrative Board this spring.

The Greater Odenton area is a growing community and is expected to grow even faster with the announcement of the expansion of job opportunities at Fort Meade and NSA. With the new facility, Nichols-Bethel UMC will be able to offer a broader array of ministries to the Community and for our members.

Should you have any questions about the new Family Life Center, please contact Charles Billings at (410) 987-5359.

## St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck

Sure and ye have at least a drop of Irish in ye --  
Cause the Irish love to party!  
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Welcome Spring!  
Sunday, March 18th, at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall  
Adult Fellowship will provide Irish Stew and Bread,  
You bring salad or dessert,  
And we'll all have a great time!



# HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



# UMYF NEWS!

## Schedule of events:

March 4: Lenten Bible Study 2 4:30

March 11: Lenten Bible Study 3 4:30

March 17: Final preparations for Sunday services next

week!

March 25: Capital Campaign Youth Event all 3 Services

## Looking Ahead:

April 1: Palm Sunday, No UMYF

April 5-6: Holy Thursday Rock-A-Thon Fundraiser

April 6: Good Friday Fast

April 7: Easter Car Wash Fundraiser

April 8: East Sunday! Youth Choir Sings 8:00 and 11:00

April 15: Talent Show Writing and Planning

April 29: Talent Show Writing and Rehearsal

May 6: Talent Show Dress Rehearsal

May 12: Talent Show and Dinner

## December and January Recap:

ROCK Retreat was amazing! What a tremendously fun time of fellowship and worship we had together. 5 youth went forward during the altar call and made a public commitment to Christ for the first time. We owe a special thank you to all the adult chaperones who attended: Jim and Terri Higgins, Christine Blair, Denise McHarg, Dave and Becki Richie, Mary Dobish, Christina Lloyd, Wes Baker, and Meghan Humbert. A special thanks to the Higgins for hosting the annual Super Bowl party at their home this year. We always appreciate your hospitality.

## SuperBowl Sub Sale:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the SuperBowl Sub sale. For each individual that made and distributed subs, there will be \$23 put towards your work camp money.

## Capital Campaign

The UMYF will host the worship services on March 25 to jump start our capital campaign. We will have to plan and implement a creative worship service to inspire people to make pledges or increase their pledges. So, get your thinking caps on! ALL YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATED IN MULTIPLE WAYS!

## Youth Choir Update

The youth choir will be next performing on March 25 when the youth lead the Sunday services. Please watch the bulletin board for rehearsal schedules.



## Work Camp Update

The first set of deposits have been made for both Group and Camp Hope workcamps. Our dates are reserved and WE ARE A GO! Please pay attention to the following due dates for deposits:

**March 15** and **May 15** for Group Work Camp

**February 15** and **May 6** for Camp Hope

Turning in funds and paying our debts must be punctual. Your fundraiser is deducted from these deposits. Also, please remember that there will be an additional fee this year for transportation because of our need to rent vehicles.

## Fund Raiser Dates and Programs

**Candy Bar Sale:** Candy Bars are available! They are 100% profit - so let's get selling!

**Rock-A-Thon:** April 5-6 with Holy Week Bible Study (Pledges taken in March)

**Car Wash:** April 7

**Talent Show:** May 6

## Spiritual Coaches

Mark your calendars! We are asking spiritual coaches to bring their favorite meals to church on Sunday, March 25 to host a lunch for the youth after they lead worship that morning. Bring your favorite dish to eat and discuss with your spiritual coaching youth. This is a rescheduled event from February. Please watch for a letter in the mail.

## Lent and Holy Week

UMYF will celebrate the season of Lent and Holy Week a little differently this year by participating in a series of 3 Bible studies that are specifically Lenten focused. This will allow us to prepare ourselves for a rather busy Holy Week (Rock-A-Thon, prayer vigil, and fasting, just to name a few). The car wash and choir rehearsal on Saturday will prepare us to worship together at the 8:00 and 11:00 services on Easter Sunday. What a busy weekend of worship together!

# The Christian Assistance Program, Inc.

**I**would like to thank everyone who donates food to CAP (the collection boxes are located upstairs under the coat closet and down stairs outside the ladies room). I would also like to thank everyone who donated soup during the SOUPER BOWL. The SOUPER BOWL winner for the second year in a row was Emmanuel Baptist (we donated 849 cans of soup).



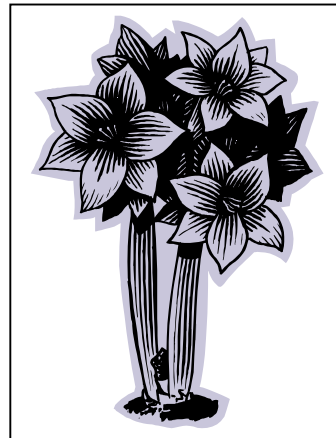
The next CAP sponsored **blood drive** will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Thursday March 22, 2007 between 2-8 PM. Please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE to schedule your appointment. The next blood drive at NBUMC will be Thursday May, 17, 2007.

Hillen Grason

**Altar flowers** can be ordered to celebrate a joy or honor a loved one. Arrangements are \$25, \$30, or \$35. They will be placed in a glass vase after the 11 AM service to be taken home.

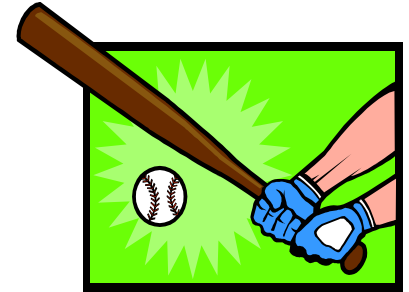
To place an order, contact Peggy Williams at 410-672-

5190 or email [emptywilliams@hotmail.com](mailto:emptywilliams@hotmail.com). If you do not receive a reply within a day, please place your order through the church office.



## It's Softball time again!

Yes that's right, we need to start now to get organized, in shape, practice and get ready to have a great time with our Christian Brothers and Sisters in AA County! You can contact Barry Oren at [brjcoren@verizon.net](mailto:brjcoren@verizon.net) or 410-923-3365 for more details, but the basics are:



- Men's League: 18 and older (minors may be allowed depending on circumstances) Games are on Monday Nights, Thursday Nights, or potentially both if we join both leagues. Start times vary but will either be 5:45 or 8:15 depending on whether we have the early games or play under the lights.
- Co-ed League: 18 and older (minors may be allowed depending on circumstances) Games are on Friday Nights with the same start times as above. To field a co-ed team we must have an equal number of men and women for each game.

Please join us - we have a lot more fun than we're supposed to in a tight knit Christian League.

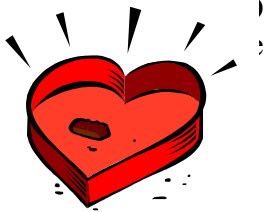


**Wanna get involved,  
but unsure Where you  
fit in?**

Nichols-Bethel has many opportunities for volunteers with time and talents! Pick up a blue Programs & Committees sheet available in the Narthex or the Contemporary Service table and see how you can help! There's a place just for you!

## Can There Be Another Piece Left?

We've been hearing some wonderful words about **Project Valentine** this year. The reports back are so soaked in thanks and praise. Despite the mean weather, over a score of NBUMC saints were out and about delivering gifts, remembrances and shared moments with nearly fifty folks who can't get out, or have other special needs. The point is just to share the love of Christ in a personal touch with others. Wouldn't it be something if we were to launch a larger ministry of sharing and caring? There are these year 'round at-home households to serve. And those who have illness, with special short-term needs. There are households where grief has paid an unwanted call. DO YOU FEEL GOD MIGHT BE LEND YOUR HAND AND HEART TO SERVING SUCH A month of March, we'd like to hear from you! (Just call the church office, 410-674-2272, say a word to Rev.s Ken or Linda, or use one of the sign-ups posted around the church.) Using this information, we'll gather those interested to see how best to enable our outreach to others, all for Jesus' sake!



Trying to make the pieces fit? Our UMW Spring Retreat may be just the answer you're looking for! Check out the UMW

## Notes . . . from the Trustees

### Recent Activities:

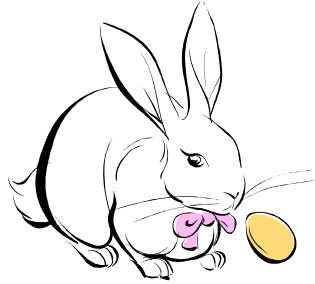
- A new commercial grade replacement hot water heater was purchased and installed after corrosion and leaks were discovered on the old one.
- New programmable thermostats have been installed throughout the church. We are in the process of fine-tuning the thermostats to maximize energy savings, while assuring that everyone is comfortable at the appropriate in-use times.
- For safety improvement, new railings have been installed on the steps leading from the back door to the narthex. In addition, a new tread has been installed at the top of the steps to alert folks of the impending steps. Replacement non-skid strips will soon be installed on the steps.
- New carpet runners have been purchased for each exterior door replacing old worn ones.
- The social hall light problems have been fixed. Only one switch now controls the overhead lights.
- Due to extensive problems with clogged drains, root damage, and ground water leakage, two trees were removed from the church property.
- In January we discovered our accounting software would no longer work properly with our Treasurer's outdated laptop. The Automation Committee purchased a new laptop for the accounting staff and will be keeping the old laptop as a backup unit for the Contemporary Service.
- The Trustee's are participating in the development and implementation of church website enhancements.
- The Nichols-Bethel Board of Trustees is charged with and responsible for the care and maintenance of all church property. In the coming weeks, we'll be addressing many more already identified issues, as we carry out our mission to keep the church facilities safe and comfortable for the many users. The current top priority issue is the ground floor water seepage problem. Suggestions or comments on improvements can be directed to any of the Trustees.



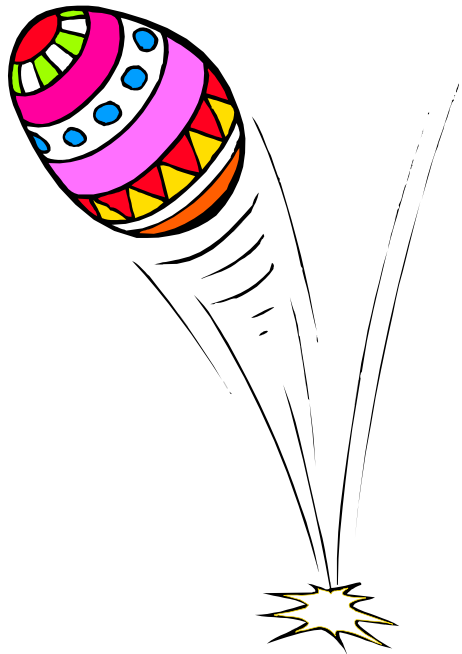
The next meeting of the Trustees is Saturday, March 10 at 8:00 a.m.

Jim Higgins, Chair

# It's that time again



Nichols-Bethel Annual  
Easter Eggstravaganza  
will be on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-12:30.



Open to ages 2-12.

We will play games,  
color eggs, have a  
snack and of course  
the big hunt.

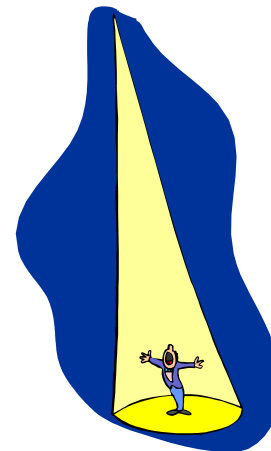
## THERE IS A NEW BOARD IN TOWN!

Are you looking for a way to get involved with committees or projects going on at Nichols Bethel? There is a new bulletin board located across the hall from the library that can be used by committee and project leaders to advertise for volunteers for their particular efforts. Committee or project leaders are encouraged to use the folders on the board to publicize their activity and to place sign up sheets for volunteers. If you have any questions please contact Paula Griffie (410) 695-0542.



## ADULT FELLOWSHIP

The Adult Fellowship committee is sponsoring a trip to Lancaster, PA to see the live production of "In the Beginning" at the Sight and Sound Theater on 4 May at 3:45pm. Ticket price of \$75.00 per adult includes tickets to the show plus an evening meal at one of the Family Style Restaurants in the Lancaster area. Transportation is not included but car-pooling is a possibility. Map and directions will be available. Sign up and money deadline is 6 April. Please see Jim or Paula Griffie 410-6950542 to sign up or to get more details.



# Impossibilities

"When God intends to make something wonderful he begins with a difficulty.

When he intends to make something **very wonderful**, he begins with an impossibility."

*(Former Archbishop of Canterbury [Lord Coggan](#) 1909-2000)*

