



**NICHOLS-BETHEL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
PO Box 176  
Odenton, Maryland 21113

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P.A.I.D.  
Odenton, MD 21113  
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# **The Enlightener**

## **FEBRUARY**

**February 2008**





When you are troubled ... who do you talk to?

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest."*

*Matthew 11:28*



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# The Enlightener

February 2008

Nichols-Bethel United Methodist Church

Odenton, Maryland 21113 410-674-2272/410-519-8665  
Email: [NBUMC@verizon.net](mailto:NBUMC@verizon.net) website: [www.NICHOLSBETHEL.org](http://www.NICHOLSBETHEL.org)

Ancient words yearly introduce us to Lent and prepare us for the cross, and Easter:

**Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!**

**Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near - a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!**

**Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again in ages to come....**

**Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.**

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.**

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-13

## DON'T BLOW IT, LORD

### A LENTEN PRAYER



Dear Lord in Heaven, please.

Don't blow it, yet. Not that trumpet, please!

Plainly, we can see that you have cause to sound that horn that signals time is up, and **YOUR DAY** justifiably born.

That ol' prophet was right to say as he said, and call your own, "The-Day-When-Darkness-Will-Be-Thick," and sinners' hearts deserve to be sick, and spirits sink like lead.

But still, don't blow it yet. Not that trumpet, Lord, please.

Though Temple heralds wet their lips and angels take their stands, and time unwind the last wound clocks and hour glasses spill their sands. Lord, before that trumpet drawing near, sound another sound down here.

Not so loud a sound, Dear God, (though it might to some be odd)

A little baby's voice would do, a soft, revealing nod,  
a growing word, wise, inviting, favored best by you.  
O, stay the golden trumpet, God, 'til we've seen this thing come true.

Please, Lord. Could you still our traffic, unplug our news,  
hush our pronouncements and too-knowing views?  
Would you hold off the blare of the Last Announced Day  
for the sound of stern mercy, a more excellent way?

Dear Lord, in your Jesus, come, linger, draw near.  
And speak what I and so many find so hard to hear.  
Blessing! In not having, but in weeping, taking the lesser place;  
heart-hungering for connection, and giving second chances sacred space.  
Blessing for those single-minded for peace,  
in a day so soaked in MY-WAY-ONLY, this way lies sweet release.

O Lord, you'd be right with all of your might to blow that trumpet blast,  
but could you hold off, yet for a while, 'til even I come 'round at last?

I have not walked so close I could sneeze his footprint-dust,  
nor so quick Jesus' breeze forgive my sin-rust off.

As yet, if truth be told, I have not climbed that cross strewn hill  
where Jesus emptied human-awful out, and of mercy, given me my fill.

At this late hour, I admit, I've not surveyed beyond that garden wall  
and spied the place where grave stones roll **and** death itself is made to fall.  
So I am left to pray for time, time undeserved, before that trumpet call,  
to come to Jesus and to you and in your grace enthrall.

O, be gentle with these words implored,  
And as for that golden horn with music fully scored,  
I ask, I pray, "Please, don't blow it now, dear Lord!"

Lenten prayers for you all...

**KEN**



# 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).



**Ken and Ann Dunshee** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary - best wishes from the 8 o'clock singers and the clothes closet staff.

Congratulations to **William McHarg** for being cast as the lead! He will be playing James in "James and the Giant Peach!" Way to go William.

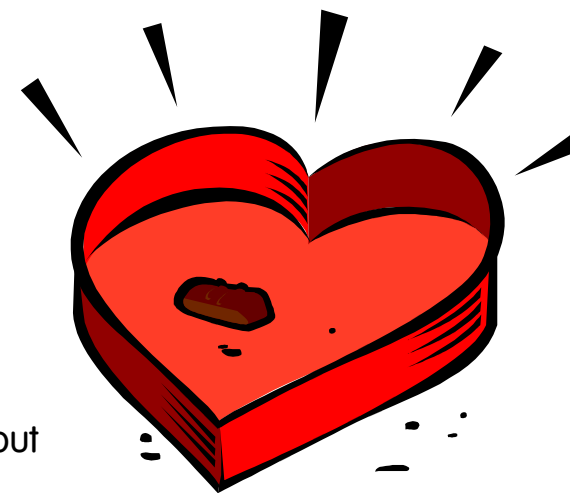


## Transportation for the Homeless

During the week of March 3-10, Nichols-Bethel United Methodist Church will host the Winter Relief rotating shelter for 25 homeless men and women. One of the essential elements of that ministry is providing transportation from the Arundel House of Hope Day Center in Glen Burnie to the church each evening and return transportation from the church to Glen Burnie each morning. These transportation requirements represent a significant challenge for our congregation. The availability of a bus, van, or other large vehicle would be of great help to us. If anyone has a bus, van, or other vehicle capable of carrying at least 12 passengers that could be used to help transport our guests, please call Jim Roser at 410 672-6533.

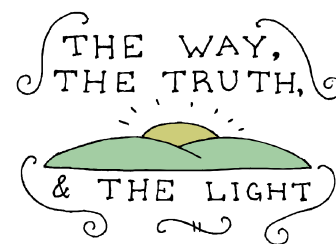
Thanks to all of you who responded so generously to our plea for sheets to assist with the homeless ministry. The response was heartwarming – we received enough sheets to meet our needs and to assist another church participating in the Winter Relief Program.

## There Could There Be Another Piece Left!



Each year we hear wonderful words about Project Valentine, delivering gifts, remembrances and shared moments with over fifty folks who can't get out, or have other special needs. It makes February 14 such a special day! The point is just to share the love of Christ in a personal touch with others. Wouldn't it be something if YOU were to have a part in this gracious ministry of sharing and caring? If you'd like to help this year, just sign up on the posters around the church, or give the office a call at 410-674-2272. Thanks so much for caring!

## CONFIRMATION 2008!!!



We can't wait to get started. *All we need is you!* Classes for those in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, or age 12 or above, begin this year on **February 17**. Together we help launch youth on the *Discipleship Adventure* of a lifetime, and welcome them into the *membership of the church*. Please use the line below to express interest, sign up around the church or call 410-674-2272, or see Rev. Ken or Rev. Linda. See ya on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Choir Room, 9:30 AM.

Name Phone Parent(s) Email

(Place in offering plate, church office slot, or mail.)



We will be decorating our sanctuary with an assortment of Easter flowers as we joyously celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, God's gift to us. The potted flowers cost \$8.00 per pot.

To donate flowers, please complete the form below and return it with the money to the Church Office by Sunday, March 9. **(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 should not be removed until after the 11:00 AM worship service Easter Sunday.

I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ Lilies (assorted) @ \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils (mini) @ \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips @ \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Mums @ \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Azaleas (florist, indoor) @ \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangeas @ \$8 = \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

by \_\_\_\_\_

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

by \_\_\_\_\_

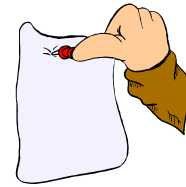
\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

(This information is needed in the event we must contact you).



## A Personal Note

*Thank you for all the phone calls, cards and prayers during my recent bout. I want to express our sincere appreciation for the many prayers, visits, phone calls and cards by the church family that were received for Richard. The many visits during his hospital stays and at home by Reverend Ken were comforting to Richard and family. Richard deeply treasured the many memories of Nichols-Bethel Church and his church family. When he was no longer able to attend church service and activities anymore, he missed seeing and talking to everyone---he thought of you often. May God's blessings be with each and every one of you.*

*In Christian love,  
 Dorothy Sappington and family*

*For every expression of love and support, and for every act of kindness, our family wishes to express our deepest appreciation. Especially, we want to thank those who have sung, played, spoken, and uplifted us today by attending these services.*

*A special thanks to Rev. Ken for all his visits and his beautiful funeral sermon. Also a special thanks to Rev. Linda for playing the piano for Yancy's funeral – he loved hearing her play. Thank you, my friends, for all the cards, visits and prayers during Yancy's illness.*

*Nancy Price*

*Just a note to say thank you kindly for each kindness - a card - a prayer - a call or so generous a supply of food. We were feeding more than 60 people a day and I could not have kept up with that. I bless you and thank you.*

*Johana Rittenhouse*

**T**he church website now has a way to accept payments online. This capability is located on the new [store & donations page](#) (found under the Resources menu) and is currently being used to accept donations to the general fund and capital campaign fund as well as to set up recurring donations. This capability will also be ideal for short-notice special offerings.

You can use various credit cards or a direct bank transfer. We are using PayPal for this capability, which means that there is a small per-transaction fee (you won't see this fee for donations, but it does get deducted). You do not have to set up a PayPal account to do this, although that is also an option. If you have any questions, please contact the church webmaster via the [contact page](#).



Altar flowers can be ordered to celebrate a joy or honor a loved one. Arrangements are \$25, \$30, or \$35. The cost for a dozen roses is \$50. 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.

Do you have something for the newsletter? Contact Steffanie Felder via email at [msjv@comcast.net](mailto:msjv@comcast.net) or by phone 410-672-6807.



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

NBUMC again achieved designation as a Global Mission Partner in 2007. This included contributing 100% of our apportionment in support of the UM missions; continuing our commitment to our covenant relationship with Unalaska, Alaska to the level recommended by the UMC; and continuing support to a GBGM sponsored Health Educator of Mother and Child Care in Afghanistan under the Partners in Mission program.

### **Our Nichols Bethel Core BELIEFS**



- Jesus is Lord.
- His Word makes us new.
- We follow & serve.

*That earth may be as heaven, and  
all who call upon him be saved.*

### **Looking for friends, fellowship, and good times?**

Nichols-Bethel has many groups that are just what you are looking for! Try some of these, just for starters:

- ❖ United Methodist Women (meet monthly)
- ❖ United Methodist Men (meet monthly)
- ❖ Adult Fellowship committee (and the many many events they sponsor!)

Call the church office at any time for more information on these groups (or others)!



## Sunday School Offering Envelopes are here!

Starting in January Offering Envelopes for the Sunday School will be available. Each child will be given a box of envelopes (similar to the ones adults traditionally make use of) to use throughout the year. Each envelope has a bible verse and picture on it and is designed to encourage children to remember each week to give to the church. It is never too early to teach our children about Stewardship, and these envelopes make it both practical and fun!

### Give a Different Kind of Gift: Sponsor a Bulletin!

Bulletins for one Sunday worship service can be provided at the cost of \$25. Your dedication will appear in the bulletin. Checks should be made out to N-BUMC and can be left in the church secretary's office mailbox.

I would like bulletins provided for Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_

The dedication is as follows (in honor, celebration, or memory of...)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



## Come one come all to Sunday night Supper and a Movie!!

**Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup>**

from 5-8pm

Nichols-Bethel UMC

1239 Murray Road, Odenton

- ❖ Supper will be Soup, Grilled Cheese and a Drink
- ❖ Cost is \$5.00 for Adults and \$2.00 for Children under 10 Years
- ❖ Bring a dessert to share
- ❖ Baby sitting will be available



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

The February program for UMW will be yummy indeed .... Our next meeting

-- February 21st. the program is Biblical Chocolate presented by Jeanne Gourley.



## UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

On Sat, 8 Dec, a group of our men participated in distribution of 20 tons of potatoes as part of the Annapolis District UMM Society of St Andrews service project to provide food to the area needy.

UMM will sponsor a **Pancake Supper** on Tues evening, February 5th (the day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday), from 4:00 to 7:00PM. Cost of the dinner is \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children with children under 6 free. There is a maximum of \$25.00 for families. Tickets will be sold at the door.

UMM has agreed to provide one of the dinners for the homeless shelter scheduled at NBUMC 3-10 March. This is in addition to the Sat breakfast the UMM provides during the Homeless shelter week



## UMYF NEWS!

### Schedule of Events:

**January 27:** 5:00 Regular Meeting

- February 2:** Super Bowl Sub Assembly 12:00 noon
- February 3:** Sub distribution all 3 services
- February 3:** Super Bowl Party at the DeLeon's home
- February 6:** 7:30 Ash Wednesday Services
- February 10:** "Burn the Fern" Sunday 5:00 and \$100 deposit for Camp Hope Due
- February 15:** American Cancer Society Dance Old Mill High School
- February 17:** Valentine's Day Babysitting 6:00 – 11:00
- February 18:** Choir sings 8:00 and 11:00
- February 23:** Tubing or Rock Climbing – Weather Permitting
- February 24:** No meeting
- March 2:** 5:00 Split Grade – Financial Responsibility
- March 9:** Split Gender
- March 16:** Choir Rehearsal for Easter
- March 20 – March 21:** ROCK-A-THON
- March 21:** 9:00 a.m. Begin Fast
- March 22:** 8:00 a.m. Break the Fast and Egg Dying
- March 23:** Happy Easter! Sing 8:00 and 11:00 Services
- March 30:** Prepare for Youth Sunday
- April 6:** Rehearsal for Youth Sunday
- April 13:** Youth Sunday!
- April 19:** Nichols-Bethel PROM! (Fundraiser) 7:30-10:30 p.m.
- April 20:** No Meeting
- April 27:** 5:00 Meeting and Talent Show Planning
- May 4:** Talent Show Writing
- May 11:** No Meeting – Stay Home and Love your MOM!
- May 18:** 5:00 Rehearsal
- May 24:** Dress Rehearsal
- May 25:** Talent Show

*Whew! I'm tired just reading that list!*



## ROCK Recap!

Oh my gosh! What an amazing weekend! I am still rocking out to “*We Lift Our Hands In The Sanctuary*” in my head! I am so grateful and thankful for all of you who participated in this fantastic weekend. We are all especially thankful for the adult chaperones who helped us this weekend. Steffanie Felder, Christine Blair, Kevin Blair, Denise McHarg, Mike McHarg, Wes Baker, Mrs. Patterson, and Christie McMullen, and Meghan Humbert. They gave up an entire weekend to be with us and we could not have participated had it not been for them. Our theme for the weekend was “Jesus Christ – More than a Rock Star!” Salvadore was our

musical band for the weekend and they were AWESOME! It was so much fun watching all of our youth and adults dance and sing and lift their hands in praise. The scripture lesson for the weekend focused on the Matthew scripture where Jesus asks his disciples “Who do YOU say that I am?” We were challenged by that question all weekend. We examined the idea of being “someone” for “somebody” after reading

the scripture where “some people” bring a blind man to Jesus to be healed. We communed together under the Bishop’s direction with 5,500 other people. This was truly an amazing weekend. We did have some fun though – the Playland at the Boardwalk will never be the same! There were many challenging games of Ski Ball enjoyed by all. Not to mention the fact that we discovered the joys and wonders of Thrashers French Fries, Dumsers ice cream at 11:30 p.m., and the Candy Kitchen! We would especially like to thank the United Methodist Men for buying each participant a ROCK T-Shirt. They were worn on Saturday night and adorned by glow necklaces. The kids looked great. Come see the bulletin board outside of the youth room for pictures.

### Work Camp Update:

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

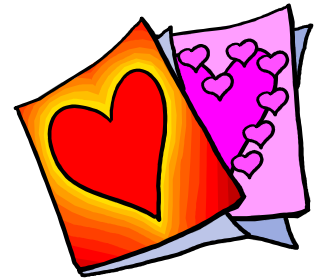
**February 10** and **May 4** for Camp Hope

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. **February 10 is the first \$100.**

youth retreat  
**ROCK**  
BOCK

## Valentine’s Day Babysitting

Calling all babysitters! We need your help. Sunday, February 17 from 6:00 – 11:00 will be our fundraiser. (Don’t worry there is no school the next day.) We need youth and PARENTS to participate. Please see Meghan to make sure you have signed up to help.



## Work Camp Lists

We must have final lists for Camp Hope. We are EXTREMELY limited in space. If you are not on the list you must let Meghan Humbert know ASAP. When the first deposit is due we will cut off the list. We are almost full. So, act fast!

## Fund Raiser Dates and Programs

Super Bowl Sub Sale: February 2 and 3

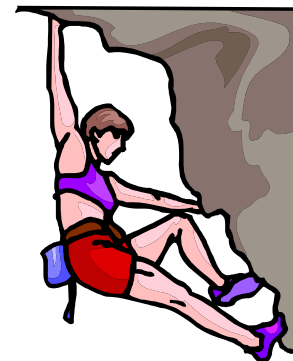
Rock-A-Thon: March 20-21 with Holy Week Bible Study (Pledges taken in March)

April 19: Nichols – Bethel Prom 7:30 – 10:30

Talent Show: May 25

## Youth Choir News:

The youth choir will be next performing on Easter Sunday!. Please watch the bulletin board for rehearsal schedules.



## Rock Climbing or Tubing

Depending on the weather, we will be adventurous on Saturday, February 23. Please watch for details in the bulletin, but save that day.