



# The Enlightener

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## Since Summer Is for Feasting...

June rolls around. And picnics make a happy sound. Everybody knows summer's for feasting: at home, the neighbors', the beach, *EVEN* at church!!! All this got me to thinkin' about another kind of banquet that blesses. A spiritual banquet. It can be a summer treat that lasts year round. I recently received a little abstract called "A Banquet of Spiritual Practices". It's taken from a larger piece called, "The Sacred Way: Spiritual Practices for Everyday Life," by Tony Jones. Edited to fit our format, I thought you might appreciate reading this. More... I pray you might consider including these spiritual practices as part of a renewing summer season for yourselves and those you love.

### Spiritual Disciplines

*Spiritual disciplines* like Bible study, prayer, spiritual direction and fasting (emptying to be full of God) *provide a time set aside to be shaped by God*. Seeking God is never easy. It requires intention. Spiritual disciplines give us a pattern that provides structure and direction to grow in holiness, enlivened by the Spirit of God. Here are some classic ways to become more and more like Christ.

**Silence and Solitude:** In today's chaos, it's easy to get lost in the noise of our lives. Like Jesus, once in a while we need to seek silence and solitude to listen for "that still small voice" and align ourselves with what God desires of us. This isn't just "not talking." It is opening our heart to God's will. *Silence* is essential to our soul's growth. Writer Henri Nouwen says, "As [believers] our greatest temptation is too many words. They weaken our faith and make us lukewarm. Silence is a sacred discipline, a guard of the Holy Spirit."

**Sacred Reading:** Sacred Reading, *lectio divina*, evolved in Middle Ages monasteries. When we enter deeply into God's Holy Word, God will make God's self known to us and shape our lives. Such devotional reading follows a format. Begin with a prayer, asking God's presence and direction. Choose a Bible (or inspirational) text. Read aloud if possible. Savor it. Then meditate on the text. Reflect on how it applies to you. Have a *conversation with God* that brings the words to life in new ways. As a final step, try to move beyond the words and thoughts to that "thin space" where you *feel* God's presence. *Sacred Reading* can be done in families. Read the text read in different voices, letting each person choose words or phrases that are meaningful to them and sharing these with one another.

**The Jesus Prayer:** "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." The Jesus Prayer comes from Eastern Orthodox monasteries (1700s) to assist us to pray, continuously calling on Jesus name. Its purpose is to unite our mind and heart in God. To start: sit comfortably in a dimly lit room, head bowed. Pray in rhythm with your breathing. Breathe in: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God;" breathe out: "have mercy on me, a sinner." Avoid distraction. With each repetition, focus on the meaning of the words, praying them from the heart for about 5-15 minutes daily. It will make a difference in your life.

**Fasting:** Fasting, going without food, is a common spiritual practice. (Early Christians fasted Wednesday and Friday in penitence and sacrifice.) To exercise self control and purify ourselves reveals our excess earthly attachments and forces us to consider their spiritual implications. Food *is* needed, but sometimes we make it more necessary than God. There are various fasts. Begin this spiritual practice gradually. *Besides food, we can also fast from television, shopping and other things that have a stronghold on our lives.*

(Continued, page 3)



## Connecting Through Worship and Praise

### **June 1, 2008 Student Sunday**

*Lead Me in Your Truth and Teach Me*

Psalm 25: 1-14; Luke 4: 16-21

In The Discipleship Adventure:

*Why am I HERE? "Because I Have a Practical Need for THE BOOK"*

Recognition of Graduates

Holy Communion

### **June 8, 2008 Pentecost IV Jubilate!**

*Known by Our Fruit*

Galatians 5: 18-25; Matthew 7: 15-21

In The Discipleship Adventure:

*Why am I HERE? "To Be PASSIONfruit... for Christ"*

**JOIN US AFTER CHURCH FOR MISSION FAIR/PICNIC!!!**

### **June 15, 2008 \*Fathers Day**

*Know Jesus the Son; Know God the Father*

Psalm 51: 10-15; John 14: 9-15

In The Discipleship Adventure

*Why am I HERE? "Because I Have a Heart for the Father"*

**\*St. John's Day**

RECOGNITION OF OUR FATHERS

### **June 22, 2008**

### **Pentecost VI**

*I Want To Be Like Jesus!*

I Corinthians 15: 3-10; Luke 2: 46-52

*In The Discipleship Adventure Why Am I HERE?*

*Because I Have a Desire to Grow*

### **June 29, 2008**

### **Pentecost VII: Work Camp Dedication Sunday**

*You Shall Be My Witnesses!*

Matthew 10: 16-20; Acts 1: 8-11

*Why Am I HERE?*

*Because I Have a Call to Bear Witness*

DEDICATION OF OUR 2008 WORK CAMPERS AT ALL SERVICES !

Our Second Annual "Grill and Chill" Worship Series Begins Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Picnic on the Lawn beginning at 6:30 PM, Outdoor Worship 7:15-7:45PM. Back by popular demand! Come and see.

## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Summer is nearly upon us. By the time you are reading this many of us will be making plans for the summer season, winding up school (as a student or teacher) or just looking forward to the warm, lazy days that the summer months bring.

How about something different this year? With rising gas costs,, food costs, and so much more stresses on our families, why not spend the summer together?

Like the Beach? We'll have a week-long trip to the Beach from July 13 to 18 (Vacation Bible School) where kids of all ages (1—100) can get to know Christ better while having a great time.

Like the Movies? We'll have a movie night, too! Weather permitting we'll do it outside like the old-time drive ins.

Busy all weekend but still want church? Come to our summer Praise Thursdays where you can grill, chill, and share the word of God together!

Summer doesn't have to be the time our church family separates; it can easily be the time we spend more time in fellowship and fun! Check out the rest of this newsletter and upcoming ones, too, for more information!

*Steffanie Felder*  
Editor

Summer Feasting    *Continued from page 1*

**Sabbath:** *Sabbath*, from the Hebrew *shabbat*, “to cease.” The seventh day, God rested. He instructed us to do the same. The 4<sup>th</sup> is the most invoked Commandment by the Hebrew prophets. For Christians, Sabbath points back to creation, but also forward to the peace of Christ. Ceasing from work [and excessive activity... like working at playing!], we are called to worship, prayer, family time, reading, naps and walks. *Sabbath requires a radical break*. It isn't always easy. Dorothy Bass says, “To act as if the world cannot get along without our work for one day in seven is a startling display of pride that denies the sufficiency of our generous Maker.” Think about that this summer as the season invites you to rest in God!

**Service**

The best theology is empty without an ethic of service. Christians seem do their best when they look outward. Church leadership takes its finest form in humble service. (Not with a scepter but a towel.) The trick to living a life of service as a spiritual discipline is in determining what Jesus is calling you to do today. Writes Henri Nouwen, “The spiritual life is not something we add onto an already busy life. ... It is to impregnate and infiltrate and control what we already do with an attitude of service to God.”

In the adventure...



**This Summer let us take you to the Beach!**

**Vacation Bible School is Sunday July 13 through Friday July 18th and everyone will be going on an exciting journey to the ocean.**

**Kids (and adults) will learn the basics of surfing, ride the wave of God's love, and go home with a new Beach -Be Attitude. Having a Beach Be-Attitude means being obedient, kind, forgiving, bold, and believing. There will be cool beach music (reminiscent of the Beach Boys), Snacks, and plenty of sun and sand.**

**Sign up by calling the church office at 410-674-2272; the cost is still just \$5.00 for the week!**

## AN INVITATION TO BE OF GREAT HELP...

Summer's coming, and with it, vacations, long weekends and lots of other things to get our attention. THIS YEAR, another thing that's coming is *rebates* from the Internal Revenue Service. Lots of us will be glad, what with the price of gas and so much else going up. Many of us really need the help. If that's true for you, we thank Heaven for this unexpected blessing to you. But lots of us can take another course. We can give away a portion or even the whole of this unexpected blessing. *Nichols-Bethel is hoping you will consider sharing this blessing with the church, in whatever portion you find faithful and possible.* This will help us maintain our summer and fall missions. Often, we lose major portions of funding during this summer “away” season. These gifts would be a simple way to help us in the \*ongoing work of Christ.

Thank you.

*\*You may, of course, designate your gift to either the General or the Building Fund.*

Its back and this time better than ever!  
Nichols-Bethel Church  
will be kicking off the summer on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> at  
noon with an old fashioned

# Down Home Country



- ☺ Bring a dessert or a casserole to share
- ☺ Bring a “treasured” item to donate to the auction
- ☺ Horseshoes
- ☺ Tug-a-war
- ☺ Square Dancing
- ☺ Just Old Fashioned fun
- ☺ Something for all ages

# FATHER'S DAY ALTAR FLOWERS

We will be decorating our altar with *CARNATIONS* in honor of Father's Day. The long stemmed carnations and dedications in the bulletin are \$2.00 each.

To donate flowers to decorate our altar and honor a special father or grandfather, please complete the form below and return it with payment to the Church Office by June 8<sup>th</sup> (no orders can be accepted after this date).

Please do not claim your flowers until the conclusion of the 11 AM worship service on June 15th.

I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ carnations @ \$2.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

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

by \_\_\_\_\_

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

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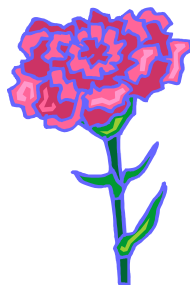
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_

(needed in case of order/names clarification)



## SUMMER "GRILL AND CHILL" WORSHIP



Our Second Annual Series Begins Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Runs Thursdays to August 21.

WEEKLY Picnic on the Lawn beginning at 6:30 PM,  
Outdoor Worship 7:15-7:45PM.

Back by popular demand! Indoors for rain or excessive heat.

\*\*\* \*\*

Just get together on a summer evening with church friends and families for a little outdoor supper... fresh off the grill...and a brief, informal time to share the Lord's praises?

This is a time to refresh, renew and give God glory in the cool of the evening... relaxed, refreshing, recommitting to serve Christ in the week to come.

- ☺ We'll provide the grill, the burgers and 'dogs, and space if you'd like to "grill your own."
- ☺ You bring a veggie or salad or fruit to share. (Make it easy!)
- ☺ We'll provide a cool drink.
- ☺ You bring a blanket, or chairs, as you desire.
- ☺ We'll bring the music, a story for faith and time for word of prayer.

**WE'LL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME!!!**

**PLACE  
HOLDER  
FOR  
CALENDAR**

**PLACE  
HOLDER  
FOR  
CALENDAR**

# Thanks

“To know you  
is to know people  
who are kind, considerate, and  
thoughtful.

To know you  
is to be grateful  
for the special things you do.

For Everything you've done ..  
For being special people that you  
are ...

Thank you so very much!”  
Kathryn Redmiles



## Celebrate Our Joys!!

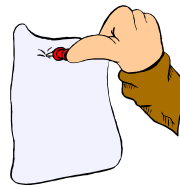
Celebrating the birth of **Nathaniel James Gorman** on April 24th, son of Libby and Mark Gorman, grandson of Linda and Doug Wallace.

Also celebrating the birth of **Patrick Henry Knoll** on April 25th, son of Vanessa and Greg Knoll, grandson of Irene and Jerry Knoll.

Another joy from a loving husband: *“I would like to congratulate my wife **Mary Jeeter** on her promotion to district leader @ primerica financial services .it wasn't easy for her to get her life insurance license while working a full time job at Annapolis city humane resources. Me , Brian and Mackenzie are very proud of her.”*

Our Congratulations go to **Jordan Jeffrey Fly** who graduated May 22nd from the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus with a BA Degree in Philosophy. Jordan is the grandon of Jessie and Lois Fly.

Way to Go, everybody!!



## A Personal Note

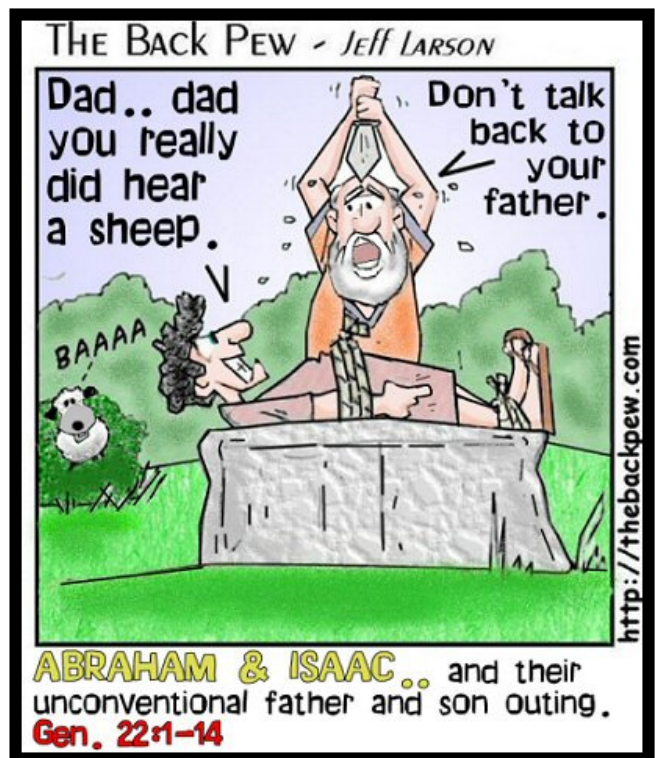
Dear Church Members,

I have been overwhelmed by all the cards I have received from all of you and I appreciate them so much. Also, thank you for all the prayers.

Love you all  
Marlene Keck

We were very touched by the many expressions of sympathy to us and all the family at the death of our brother-in-law Terry Witt. The prayers for him and the family during his long bout with cancer were much appreciated by Terry and all of us, too. Your love and concern will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,  
Barbara and Kermit Taylor



# United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women will take a field trip on Saturday June 14th to tour the Baltimore Basilica. We will carpool from the church at 8:15. Following our tour we will have lunch downtown. Everyone is invited to go. See Beverly or Kay for more details.

Friday August 15th the UMW will spend the day Volunteering in the gift shop of the Brethren Service Center of New Windsor. It is a long day of fun and accomplishment. Lunch is provided. Let us know if you are interested in joining us.



Do you have something for the newsletter?

Contact Stefanie Felder via email at [msjv@comcast.net](mailto:msjv@comcast.net) or by phone 410-672-6807.

## Visit by Unalaska Missionaries

The Wilcox family, our missionaries from Unalaska, Alaska will visit Nichols-Bethel UMC on Tues evening, June 10th. Following a social time, Rev Dan Wilcox will provide an overview of Unalaska and Christ's on-going work there. Please plan to join us to meet the Wilcox family and get to know our missionaries with whom we have a covenant relationship.

## A LETTER FROM THE ARUNDEL HOUSE OF HOPE:

Dear Reverend Humbert,

On behalf of the Arundel House of Hope, I would like to extend our appreciation to you and your dedicated group of volunteers who participated in your 15th year of ministry giving shelter to our guests during the week of 3-9 March 2008. Our guests felt welcome and at home in your cozy surroundings and they truly felt your love and compassion.

A very special thanks goes to Mr. Jim Roser as Site Coordinator. He certainly showed a spirited leadership that resulted in the success of the week. I would also like to express our gratitude to the many parish members who volunteered for the one week period, Without them, the program could not have gone forward. Both Mr. Roser and your church volunteers were amazing and an inspiration to all of us who seek to serve the Lord by meeting the needs of the least and the last. I saw personally how hard they worked and how enthusiastic they felt in fulfilling this ministry.

God Bless you all for sharing these gifts.

*Minerva Rivera*

Nichols-Bethel UMC Segment Coordinator

*Phil Bailey*

AHOH Program Director



# UMYF NEWS!

## Looking Ahead:

- May 25: Last "official" UMYF meeting 5:00 (Possible picnic at Wes Baker's)
- June 1: Student Sunday – Come Recognize our Graduates!
- June 8: 2:00 – 4:00 Camp Hope meeting for adult chaperones
- June 13: Relay for Life! Old Mill High School
- June 15: Father's Day – Stay home and celebrate Dad!
- June 29: 8:00 and 11:00 services Work Camp Dedication of youth and adults
- July 20-July 27: Camp Hope Frostburg, MD

## Work Camp Training Update:

Watch for upcoming dates for our opportunities for work camp training. All participants in Camp Hope must be present for these training sessions. We are working on putting these projects together. There will also be sessions in handling ladders, safety training, and organizing the tool buckets for the camps.

## FILL OUR TOOL BOX!

After we receive our job assignments for Camp Hope, we will need to gather materials. So, we will have a giant tool box in the church and invite the congregation to help us fill it! We will need help keeping track of all the food and supplies that are donated. This will also help us to fill our buckets. Let's all pitch in and get ready!

## Camp Hope Vespers Planning:

After the adult meeting on June 8, we will need to meet to plan our evening vespers service. We have a lot to live up to after how AWESOME last year's was! Watch for dates in late June and early July.

## Work camp Dedication Sunday:

All work campers, parents, and spiritual coaches are asked to attend the 11:00 service on Sunday, June 27. This will be our opportunity to dedicate our youth before they head off for a week of service. This is a very meaningful and spiritually uplifting time. Please attend!

## Meghan's Musings

The summer is looming on us rather quickly now. School is

winding down and it seems difficult to believe that I accepted the position as your new youth Director three years ago! What a year it has been! We have seen the active participation of our youth increase three fold! The youth choir has performed more than ever, with the most number of singers it has ever seen. We sold hundreds of pumpkins, had a "dancing" Christmas party, partnered with members of the congregation in spiritual coaching relationships, , ROCKED Ocean City for a weekend, celebrated the capital campaign, designed and led worship, and prayed through the evening in rocking chairs over Holy Week, just to name a few. It has been quite a year! However, during this time of reflection before the summer comes, the thing that I am most proud of has been watching our youth grow in their relationship with Christ and in their relationships with each other. The year has been a learning curve for most of us. For many of us, this has been our first year involved with the UMYF at all. For others of us, much has changed since we first came to UMYF. However, through it all, the one thing that we are sure of is that God's love and blessings have seen us through.

We enter another challenge this summer...CAMP HOPE! It will challenge us physically, emotionally, and most especially, spiritually. It will be a tremendous faith building experience, but will also challenge you to grow in your walk with Christ. I hope you will listen for God's call for your life this summer. It may come up on a roof, or on a ladder painting a house, or scrubbing a bath tub, or during evening vespers, or in the laughter of a new friend from another church, or in a quiet moment before you sleep. But, whenever it comes, listen for it. Open your heart to it. Be moved by it. Then, bring it back to Nichols-Bethel with you. Share it at school, share it at church, and share it at home.

My prayer for all of us is that we continue to grow our spiritual witness to those around us during this coming year. I pray that the activities and studies we have undertaken this year will grow next year. What would it look like if the youth choir met every week for rehearsal and sang once a month? What would it look like if the UMYF not only met on Sundays, but also one day during the week? What would it look like if God were an active part of our everyday lives, not just something we "went to" on the weekends? How will our faith walk be reflected in the new family life center? How will we sacrifice of ourselves to help this dream become a reality? How will we welcome in all the new youth who are searching for Christ in this new building? I challenge every family to discuss this in their homes and to open themselves up to this commitment over the summer. Let us all take some time over the coming summer months to reflect. I thank all the parents who brought their kids to UMYF over the last year, and I especially thank all those members of the church who have volunteered their time to coach and share with the youth. We look forward to an uplifting work camp experience, and a strong faith filled fall!

Meghan Humbert

This  
page  
for ads

June 2008



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## Inside This Issue:

- A Trip to the Beach
- Movie Night
- Flowers for Dad's Day
- Church Picnic and Mission Fair
- "Good Times by the Gallon" (check this one out!!)