

THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission is to change peoples' lives
through a relationship with Jesus Christ

August 2008

From The Pastor's Heart

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer seems to be the time most of us tend to pick up that book we've had hanging around all year and have really wanted to read. Even at the bookstores you see tables piled high with suggested summer reading!

Well, I finally picked up a book that I've had on my "to read" list since April. It is one of those books that maybe only a pastor might be interested in – however – as I read I quickly found myself intrigued! The title of the book is *I Refuse To Lead A Dying Church!* The author, Paul Nixon, takes a look at the existing problem that many mainline denominations are facing these days - declining membership and worship attendance. In the book he names six choices that church leadership can make that will transform them, and in turn their church and the community.

The choices are intriguing:

- Choosing Life Over Death
- Choosing community Over Isolation
- Choosing Fun Over Drudgery
- Choosing Bold Over Mild
- Choosing Frontier Over Fortress
- Choosing Now Rather Than Later

In the chapter on "Choosing Fun" he tells about how, when they opened a new facility, they flooded the nearby neighborhoods with

post cards and other publicity that invited people to come visit and asked folks the question, "Are you having fun yet?" Some church members complained about this question, said that it "trivialized the church's purpose" but in the first weeks they were open hundreds of people flooded into their building and into the on going life of the church.

As I have been reading Nixon's book, I have also been praying about what we are being called to do now that we have this new building! I don't believe that the Spirit inspired and moved us to build Faith Hall so that it remains empty most of the time! I **do** truly believe that God has a bigger plan for us here at BVUMC! What I am struggling with, praying about, is what that plan is!

At the beginning of the summer I invited all of you to pray! I believe that it will only be through prayer that we will discern what purpose God has for us and this new beautiful space. So pray on, Church! Pray, reflect, dream and let the Spirit into your heart! Above all, let Church Council know if the Holy Spirit has touched you!

Blessings,

Rev. Michele

In this issue:

From the Pastor's Heart	1
Women's Ministry	2
Summer Fellowship	2
Sunday School News	3
Stewardship	3
Celebrations	4

Special points of interest:

- Free Kid's Lunch
- Summer Fellowship Activities
- Stewardship Moment with Bob Marseglia
- 2nd Annual Teddy Bear Picnic September 14.

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

Bowling and Pool
Saturday, August 2 from 7:00PM-9:00PM
Sparetime Recreation RSVP to Carolyn Mitchell

Ice Cream and Mini Golf
Thursday, August 7 at 7:00PM
West End Creamery

Golf
Saturday, August 9
RSVP to derekplourde@charter.net by August 4 if you are interested

Blackstone Valley Community Concert Band Free Concert
Saturday, August 9 at 7:00PM
Sutton Town Common

Lunch
Sunday, August 10 after church
The Valley Café, Church St. Whitinsville

Fishing
Tuesday, August 19 at 7:00PM
RSVP to derekplourde@charter.net
Meet in the church parking lot and help pick a location

Purgatory Chasm
Saturday, August 23 at 10:30 AM
RSVP to lauralplourde@charter.net
Take a hike and then gather for a picnic lunch.

Check the bulletin each week for more information about Summer Fellowship opportunities. For more details on any event, please contact Laural Plourde at 508-278-9518.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Food for Thought

“Just one word more—please steal time every day, if your cannot find it any other way, to lie on the grass, or in a hammock, under a huge tree this lovely month...and RELAX. What a tonic this is for the soul! What a rest for weary nerves! Our husbands, children, friends—yes, and the nation—will profit by our relaxation. The greatest need today is for calmer homes, and no fireside can be calm unless its guardian is at peace with the world.”

Good advice, wouldn't you say? It comes from Nell B. Nichols and was given in the summer of 1924.

The more things change, the more the stay the same. I urge you all to take his advice. I plan to. I, personally, will not be planning extra activities for the month of August. I hope you join me for some much needed R&R.

I have plans forming in my head for the fall, so get ready. For now, I think I'll head for the hammock.

Peace,
Lee

Book Study will meet every other Tuesday from 7:15PM-8:30PM. Come and join us on August 12 and August 26.

FREE KID'S LUNCH PROGRAM

Free Kid's Summer Lunch Program sponsored by Peace of Bread Community Kitchen on Wednesdays through August 20th 2008. Noon to 1:00pm. Free lunch, crafts and games. Children of all ages are welcomed. Under age 16 must be accompanied by adult. If you would like to help make lunches, volunteers gather at 10:30 on Wednesdays at the Peace of Bread Community Kitchen.

Please contact Rev. Michele (508-234-2243) if you are interested in helping.

STEWARDSHIP

We have accomplished much and our next challenge is to find ways for all of us to pay off the \$300,000 mortgage that we have on our new building. The Capital Campaign is still in full swing and will not end until the mortgage is paid. Bette and I were talking about how we could come up with another donation to the new building, and we agreed that we need to scratch our heads and find a way to do it. All of the sudden I heard on the news that President Bush had passed a new economic stimulus package that means that all of us will be receiving \$300 to \$600 apiece, depending on our status. "There you go," I said to Bette—"That's where we'll get the money for our next donation." It's money we never would have had in the first place. Now tell me that prayers aren't answered? Thank you, Lord.

Now I've got just one more prayer to our Lord and Savior—and that prayer will be that all of us here in this place (where the Lord truly is) will find it in our hearts to take this gift from our President and share as much of it as we can with the Lord by a donation toward our new building.

Thank you,
Bob Marseglia

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY

Our Christian love and sympathy goes out to Marion Castinguay, on the death of her mother Nema Gallagher; and to Ruth Avedisian, on the death of her husband Andy.

GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Someone in our congregation has been working tirelessly behind the scenes planting flowers, mulching, seeding, watering, mowing and killing the dreaded weeds. Our sincere thanks go to Glen King, our landscaper extraordinaire. He surely is our good and faithful servant of this summer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The 2008-2009 Sunday school year for children in Preschool (ages 3-4) through Grade 5 will begin on September 14, 2008.

Our Welcome Back Sunday will include the 2nd Annual Teddy Bear Picnic. This will be held immediately following Sunday school and church service on September 14. There will be more information to follow.

Registration for Sunday school classes will be held on 3 consecutive Sundays, August 24, August 31, and September 7.

All students need to have a newly completed registration form for the new school year. The forms will be available at the registration table which will be located outside Faith Hall on the dates listed above.

The Sunday school program is always looking for new teachers and helpers. Helping a class or helping during a special event are volunteer options. If you feel helping the children grow in their faith is part of your calling, please contact Susan Wood. Any time you have to offer in youth ministry will be welcome.



Celebrations



August Birthdays

1. Paula La Flamme
Randy Belseth
2. Ryan Belseth
Diane McKeon
Richard Leighton
3. Howard Anderson
Gabrielle Wood
4. Gregory Steele
5. Ty Wollen

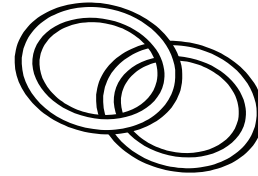


7. Melanie Bagaglio
8. Bruce DeLang
Loren Andrews
9. Mark Hanny
Bev Wheeler
John Jeskevicius
10. Ruth Avedisian
13. Ellie Lloyd
Grant Brown
Nicholas Hull

14. Dick Hanny
15. Judith Ammen
Bill Brown
18. Jeff Wheeler
Beverly Morse
Patricia
Whittaker
21. Glenn Ellis
23. Taylor Hanson
24. Cassie McKeon
25. Albert Bergeron
26. Ted Cammarano
27. Beverly Palmer
28. Jacquelyn (Jackie) Gilliam
Jim Muscatell
Olivia Muscatell
31. Alyssa Marszalkowski



August Anniversaries



2. Bonnie & Steve Mochun
3. Howard & Ruth Anderson
14. Peggy & Steve Codner
16. Helen & Russell Pimentel
19. Paul & Carolyn Mitchell
Tim & Jennifer L'Italien
21. Sherri & Patrick Grazulis
27. Guillaume & Maria (Mitchell) deSyon



Congratulations!

Congratulations – to Allison and TJ Wollen on the baptism of their daughter Maya on July 20th

Please help the Communications Team keep the Birthday/Anniversary list up-to-date. Should you notice an error or omission, please let us know.



THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2008

					1	2 8AM AA Meeting 7:00PM-9:00PM Bowling @ SpareTime Recreation
3 10AM Sunday Worship Blue Bag Sunday 4:30PM Prayer Shawl	4	5 8PM AA Meeting	6 7PM Resound Rehearsal	7 7PM Chancel Choir 7PM West End Creamery	8	9 8AM AA Meeting Golf time TBD 7PM Concert on Sutton Town Common
10 10AM Sunday Worship Lunch after church at The Valley Cafe	11	12 7:15 PM Women's Book Study PM AA Meeting	13 7PM Resound Rehearsal	14 7PM Chancel Choir	15	16 8AM AA Meeting
17 10AM Sunday Worship	18	19 7PM Fishing 8PM AA Meeting	20 7PM Resound Rehearsal	21 7PM Chancel Choir	22	23 8AM AA Meeting 10:30AM Purgatory Chasm
24 10AM Sunday Worship	25	26 7:15 PM Women's Book Study 8PM AA Meeting	27 7PM Resound Rehearsal	28 7PM Chancel Choir	29 7PM Chancel Choir	30 8AM AA Meeting
31 10AM Sunday Worship 6PM Power of Praise						

