



Bethany United Methodist Church
Celebrating 115 Years
October 14, 2007

First established in the summer of 1892 on a parcel of land donated by Mr. J. B. Warren and known as Warren's Chapel, Bethany United Methodist church was built at a cost of \$1,300. Warren's Chapel was renamed Bethany at the dedication service on the 5th Sunday in October 1892. Preaching was held once a month while Sunday School tried meeting every Sunday. Many events took place to hinder the progress of the little church--harsh conditions, muddy roads, sporadic pastors--so in 1897 Bethany closed its doors for six years.

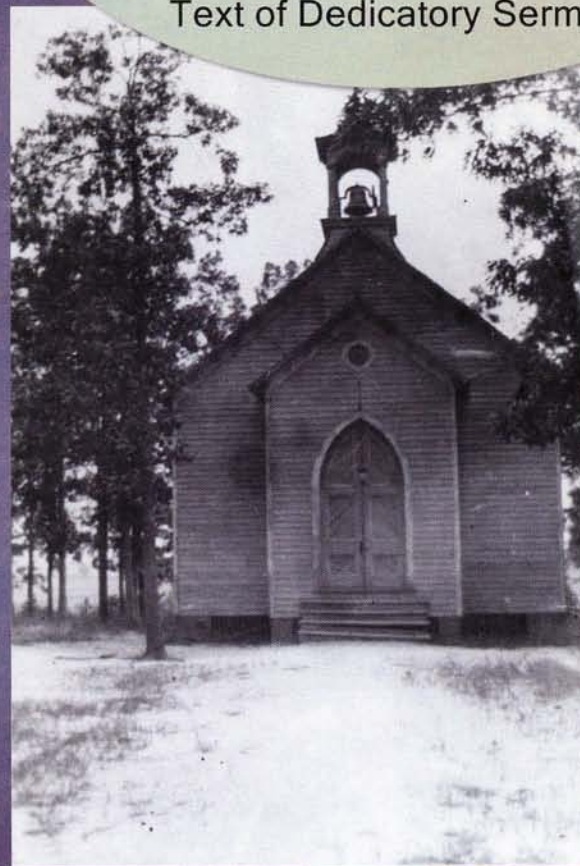


Bethany United Methodist Church as it appeared in 1966-- notice the trees.

"Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"

- 1 Corinthians 5:6

Text of Dedicatory Sermon



The original wood church built in 1892

Bethany United Methodist Church

Celebrating the Past, Preparing for the Future

In 1984 Mr. Albert O. Roberts wrote "The original Bethany building was a pretty little white church which seated about 140 people. It was of Gothic design, that is the windows and the front entrance had pointed arches. This with the steeple, gave it a very churchy look. The pews, chancel and other woodwork were of heart pine; well designed and varnished. The kerosene lamps were high on the walls; on brackets which held reflectors. My father, A. T. Roberts, could stand on the floor under them and blow them out. The heating plant was a wood stove in the center aisle. For water, there was a well on the east side of the church yard. It had pulley and chain but no 'Old Oaken Bucket'. The bucket was galvanized steel. Once, as a small boy playing around the church, I managed to get the front door open and went in. I was amazed to see that the pulpit was occupied. Something with two big eyes stared out across the empty pews. It was about two feet high and it remained very still right in the center of the lectern. I sat down to listen to the sermon, but it never said a word. It was a big horned owl. His message seemed to be, 'I don't give a hoot. Keep your eyes and ears open, but if you have nothing to say, keep your mouth shut!'"

After being closed for several years Bethany reopened in 1903 under the leadership of Reverend C. M. Lance with twelve members--four men and eight women. Rev. Lance organized a Sunday School which grew rapidly. Mr. A. O. Roberts wrote "The six Sunday School classes met in groups among the pews. Every Sunday each child received a card about 2 1/2 by 3 with a colored Bible picture on it. At the bottom was the 'Golden Text', a Bible verse. Most of the children went to church barefooted. This was because we sometimes did not have any Sunday shoes, and anyway we liked to go barefooted. People who lived within a mile or two walked to church. Others came in buggies, carriages, or wagons. The horses were tied to the oak trees, and they stood there for hours switching the flies away with their tails. When we had two services and a bountiful dinner on the grounds in between, the flies would leave the horses and come to dinner. The men took turns waving leafy branches over the table to shoo them away."

Mr. Roberts paints a wonderful description of the early days of Bethany that has not been captured by photos. Although the physical structure of the church has changed several times over the last 115 years, the dinners that Mr. Roberts spoke of continue and are enjoyed by the Bethany family. Sunday School classes continue to be a vital part of the worship experience along with a regular Sunday worship service.

As we look to the future of the church let us remember where we have come from and those who have worked so faithfully to make Bethany the church that it is today.

Children at 1949 Ground Breaking

Front row: Ann & Henry Garrett,
David Woods, Lynda Tyman, Gayle
Bowling, Les Foster, Jr., --- Tyson,
Marie Walker, Pat Sutherlin
Back Row: Unknown Boy, Nancy
Bristow, --- McLaurin, Sue Woods,
Tim Robers, Mickey Roberts, John
Walker, Jerry Peele



Families listen to Rev. Tyson



July 1949--Ground Breaking Ceremony for New Sanctuary
Rev. Tommy Tyson, Minister; Dr. E. L. Hillman, District Superintendent; Mrs. A. T.
(Everette) Roberts, Charter Member who played central role in the organization of
the church in 1892

1955 New church with open bell
tower
Old church visible to the left



*"For I know the plan I have
for you," declares the Lord,
" plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future."*

--Jeremiah 29:11

*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good! His faithful Love
endures forever. --Psalm 136: 1*



1970



1984



2005

Over the years the chancel area has seen many changes. The last renovation was in 1995 when the stained glass window was installed.

From Days Gone By

Young Builders Class 1970

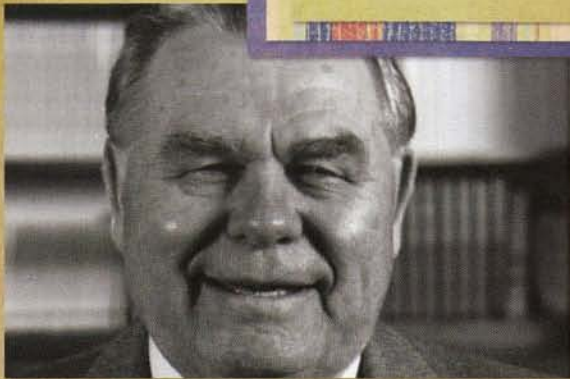
Morgan Riley, Claribel Sykes, Judy Riley, Charles Johnson, Phil Browning, Helen Hinton, Sybil Johnson, Billy Hinton, Margie Hurley, Clyde Sykes, Ralph Hurley, Kathryn Rhodes, Odell Rhodes, Cora Ruth Wilson, Minnie & Harvey Black, Marilyn McClintock, P. L. Wilson, Janet Truckner, J. C. Whitt, Bill McClintock, Ralph Fleming, Hank Garrett, Carl Truckner



Bethany has always been strong in supporting missions due in large part to sisters Minnie and Lizzie Grey Chandler recognized as Lay Persons of the Year in 1990. They are pictured here with Nita Travis, Edith Cain, Ada Foster, Mildred & John Memler, Ruth Campbell, Mildred & John Kirkland, Lois Fugua, Harvey & Minnie Black, Cheryle Takacs, Les Foster, Virginia Barrett, Janet Ashe, Duff Leaver

Meals on Wheels began in Durham in 1976 and Bethany volunteers Pat Crabtree, Harvey Black, Garland & Edith Gunter, John & Mildred Kirkland, Nellie Leary, Lizzie Grey & Minnie Chandler, Francoise Hughes, and Gary Blackwood were there. Bethany continues today to provide volunteers for this local mission.

*Some of Bethany's Pastors
During the Last 58 Years*



Tommy Tyson
1949-1951



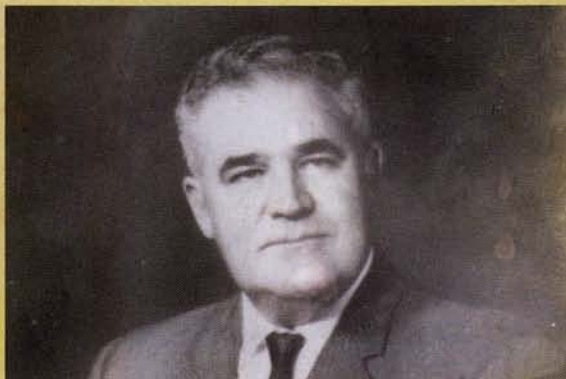
James L. Beaty
1951-1953



John Maxwell Cline
1953-1957



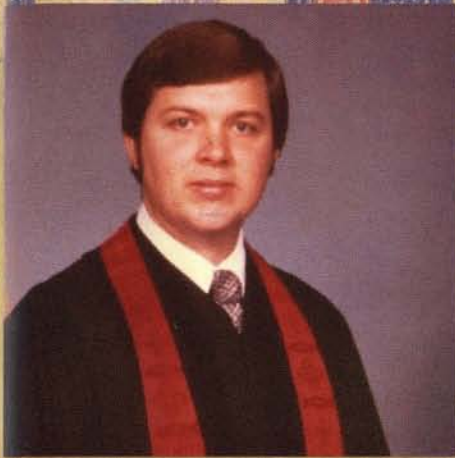
James Eugene Sponenberg
1957-1963



Brooks Patten
1963-1966



Ralph L. Fleming, Jr.
1969-1974



Roger Vernon Elliott
1974-1980



Wallace Martin Ellis
1980-1983



Lovell Roy Aills
1983-1988



Rex E. Brooks
1988-



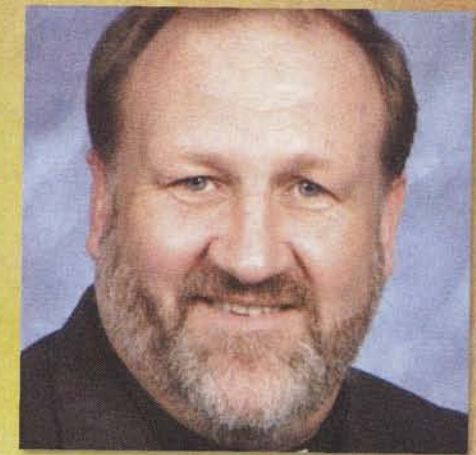
Robert Redmond
1993-1995



Michael Pasquarello
1995-2001



Diane Blanchard
2001-2003



Bryan Faggart
2003-present

*Blessed are the peacemakers;
for they shall be called
the children of God.*

Matthew 5:9



Minnie and Lizzie Grey Chandler, two very special ladies who epitomize the meaning of peacemakers, receive a special honor on May 31, 1992. The Educational Building was dedicated in their honor. The plaque presented by Charles Johnson and Rev. Rex Brooks hangs at the outside entrance to the building

Catch the Spirit



1973-74 Senior High Retreat

Kneeling: Jimmy Truckner, Brenda Sutherlin, Kevin Harden, Edith Cain, Linda Hurley, Lee Harden, Mrs. George Curtis;
Standing: Janet Truckner, ---, Carl Truckner, Leonard Wheeley, Gary Sauls, John Fleming, George Curtis



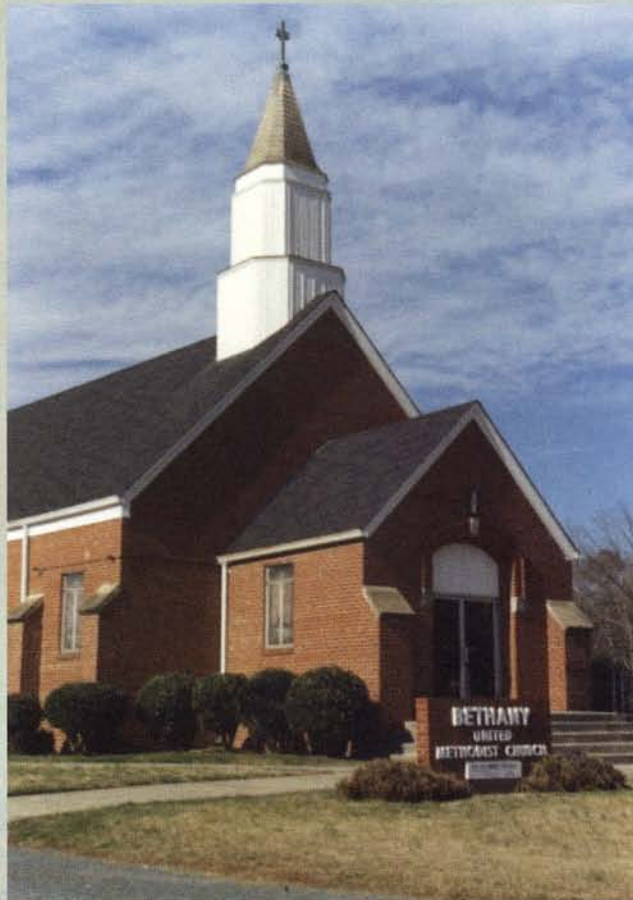
Camp Chestnut Ridge Retreat
1972 or 1973

Front Row: Gene, Peggy, Steve & Gail Bradley, George & Mary Rice, Mickey & Amy Roberts; Middle: Ed, Alice & Powell Osteen, Gloria, Les & Dana Foster, Barbara & Dan Roberts; Back Row: ---, ---, ---, ---, ---, ---, Mary, Gary & Dawn Shape



Youth Rafting Trip 1992

Front Row: Terry Wells, Lori Boso, Summer Covington, Erica McLean, Jennifer Wiles, Heidi Gerbracht, Mark Crispell, Evan Travis, Gray ---, Chris Wiles; Second Row: Winn Crenshaw, Angie Boso, Jacob Portaro, Peter Crispell, Nancy Van Allen, Gaetana Portaro, Frank Van Allen, Elizabeth Travis, Matt Campbell, Miles Travis, Aaron Dornback, Brett Gerbracht, Chris Mitchell



Early 1990 before new landscaping and stained glass window installed over entrance door



New stained glass window over entrance door in memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Westmoreland and Mr. & Mrs. Fred Johnson and sign after 1990 changes



1992 Bethany's Centennial

Pictured--Jackie Elliott, Roy & Gayle Averette, Rev. Roger Elliott, Lizzie Grey Chandler, Joyce Searls, Barbara Roberts, Mike, Jan & Jeff Stutts, Michael & Mickey Roberts, Mary Riley, Brad Kirby, Pam Kirby, Todd Puckett, Cheryl Takacs, Melissa Puckett, Kathy Mincey, Betty Chambers, Barbara Roberts, John, Dottie & Michael Walker



Hope Woods

Sybil & Charles Johnson

Long time secretary Ila Mae Poe speechless after being recognized by Mary Sharpe for her contribution to preserving the history of Bethany UMC.

David Bonney, Rev. Rex Brooks

Pictured--Bryan Roberts, Evan Lloyd, Minnie Mangum, Effie Massey, Lucille Eakes, Gayle & Roy Averette, John Roberts, David Woods, Charles Johnson, Yetta Roberts, Nancy Harden, Larry, Roberta, Evan & Caitlin Lloyd, John & Pauline Roberts, Gary Sharpe, Judy Woods, Connie Kirby, Flora Smith, Becky House, Connie Kirby, Joyce Bumpass, Claribel Sykes, Joyce Bumpass, Claribel Sykes, Sybil Johnson, David & Judy Woods



Some members dressed in period costume befitting the early days of the church.

Centennial Quilt made by the women of the church with the names of all the members.

Bethany's Family Likes to Have Fun

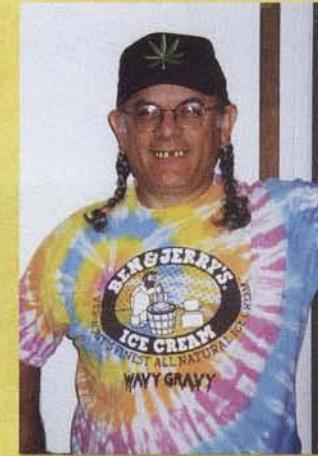
Fall Festival Talent Show in 1999



1984 Youth Clowning Around
Melissa Takacs, Cindy Mitchell, Joe Berini, Pam Kirby,
Warren Takacs, Chris Hughes



Minnie Pearl (aka Eva Johnson)
and Dub Johnson



Willie Nelson
(aka, Dan Portaro)



Mrs. Pearl Kirby at age 94
played harmonica & danced
(still going strong at 102 in 2007)



February 9, 1994
Family Fellowship Supper Program

Earlene (aka, Earl Kirby), Charlene (aka, Charles Johnson), Davilene (aka, David Woods) come to Samantha's Beauty World for a complete facial. The hands behind the curtain belong to Judy Woods, Bonnie Johnson, and Connie Kirby. Unable to see what they are doing, the hands go through the motions of giving the "ladies" a "nice" facial. The results were hilarious as you can see from the final picture of Earlene



*Blessed are the meek; for
they shall inherit the earth.*

Matthew 5:5



In 1990 a Peanut Butter Pie was auctioned for \$25.00 to throw in Rev. Rex Brooks' face. David Woods got the pie in more ways than one. In the picture above, David prepares Rex for the pie throwing as Jeff Portaro hold the "weapon" and Jack Brock observes. As David checks his subject--WHAM OH!! --you guessed it, David got the pie instead of Rex.. Jack Brock got the biggest laugh out of this.



Above: Nellie Emory, Nita Travis, Mary L. Browning, Lela Long, Ada Foster, Edith Gunter, Ruby Bristow, Edith Cain, Jackie Carrington, Alice Cook, Louise Bowling, Valmore Sharpe, Valinda Newton
1978

Below: Hope Woods, O'Neil Sharpe, Les Foster, Garland Gunter (kneeling), Elmer Johnson, Wallace Bowling, Buddy Carrington, Walter Cain





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2006 Halloween Trunk or Treat

Gary Crispell and Pastor Bryan Faggart, Lynne Sprague, John and Pauline Roberts ready to greet the trunk or treaters.

Dan & Cathy Portaro



Jeanette Vaughn & Ruth Campbell



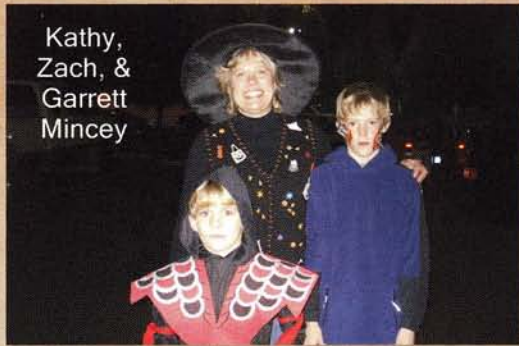
Terry & Rosalie Skinner



Evan Tucker & Miles Kearns



Kathy,
Zach,
& Garrett
Mincey



Rachel
Whitt,
Carla &
Madison
Neal



Tanielu & James Apisai



Barbara & John Long



Connie Kirby

Meredith Faggart



Bethany's Brunswick Stew

Ed Osteen, Hank Garrett, Carl Truckner in 1979. Sometimes could hardly see for the smoke and steam.



John Roberts and Benji Roberson taking care of cooking the potatoes and onions which is one of the first stages of preparing the stew. This is what the pots look like in the new stew hut built in 1990. The new stew hut cooks the stew by gas heat while the stew in the old hut was cooked over a wood fire. Wooden paddles made of oak are used to stir the stew. Everyone who has helped prepare stew knows what clothes smell like afterward.



Remember when the stew was really cooked in a pot? Frank Davis, Janet Truckner, Morgan Riley are pictured here in 1974 stirring the stew to keep it from sticking to the pot. The production of the stew has grown considerably over the last 60 years. In 1967 a whopping 465 quarts could be made at one time. Today between 1200 and 1300 quarts can be made, with the largest amount ever being 1345 quarts -- some say it just depends on the moon. This is one of the best fellowship activities of the church besides being a great fundraising event.

Preparation of the stew is an all day event and requires the hands of many volunteers. Pictured--LaFrance Ferguson, Eston Betts, Gerry McFarland, Patricia Proctor, Jane Roberts, Louise Hawley, Virginia Browning, Lisa Kearns, Charlie Bumpass, Rev. Bryan Faggart, Gary Kearns, Hank Garrett, Donald House, Brad Kirby, Kim Wiles, James Sprague, Connie Kirby preparing Spring 2007 stew.





Zach
Mincey

Youth Car Wash

Washing cars to raise
money for their Red Bird
Mission Trip to Kentucky.



Does anyone see any youth washing cars? Looks like Susan Porterfield, Lisa Kearns and Judy Faggart are doing most of the work.



*"For we are labourers together with
God." 1 Corinthians 3:9*



Meredith Faggart, Lauren Kearns,
Zach Porterfield, Zach Mincey,
Justin Hill, Myles Kearns, Evan
Tucker--Bethany's Youth
supervising the adults and
providing entertainment to keep
them motivated.





Zach Mincey, Miles Kearns, Zach Porterfield, Meredith Faggart, Garrett Mincey, Lauren Kearns

Enjoying the spaghetti are Gaetana & Cora Rampley, Ann Shonkwiler, Pat & Gary Crispell, Kim Wiles, Toni and Belton Joyner and many others.

YOUTH SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON ** MARCH 7, 2007

Besides the car wash and spaghetti luncheon, Bethany's youth held a large yard sale at the church to help fund their trip to Red Bird Mission. They also helped provide a meal at Urban Ministries. Pictured below are photos from the yard sale, preparing for the Urban Ministries meal and trip to Red Bird.



2007 Red Bird Mission Team
(pictured at right)
David Crispell, Miles Kearns, Zach Porterfield, Garrett & Kathy Mincey, Lauren Kearns, Meredith Faggart, Zach Mincey, Michael Overby, Evan, Lee & Michelle Tucker, Gary & Lisa Kearns, John & Barbara Long, Heather Huggett, Judy and Bryan Faggart



8 hour road trip in a van
FUN, FUN, FUN!!



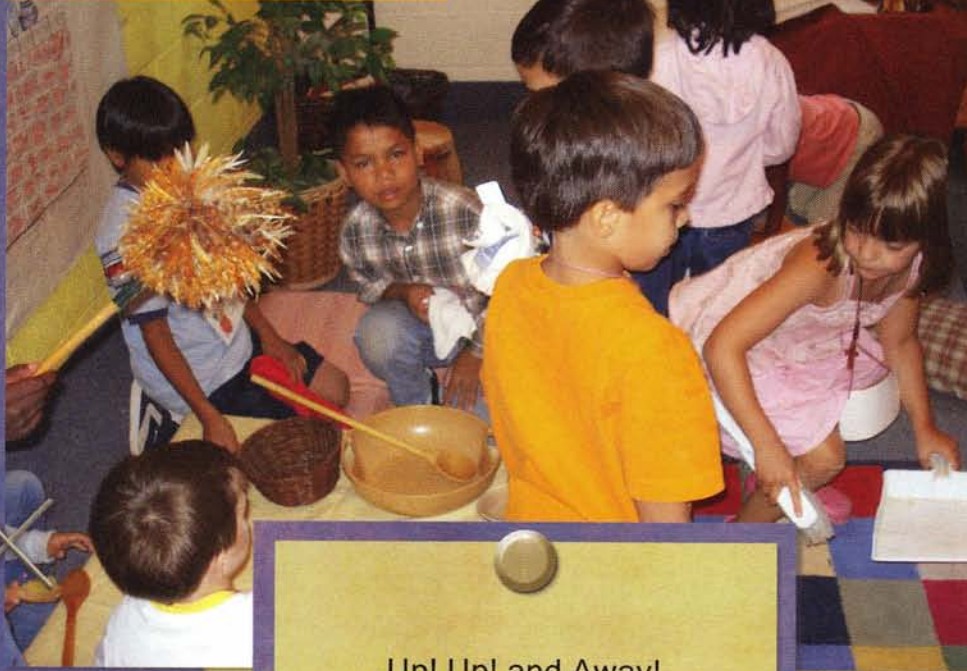
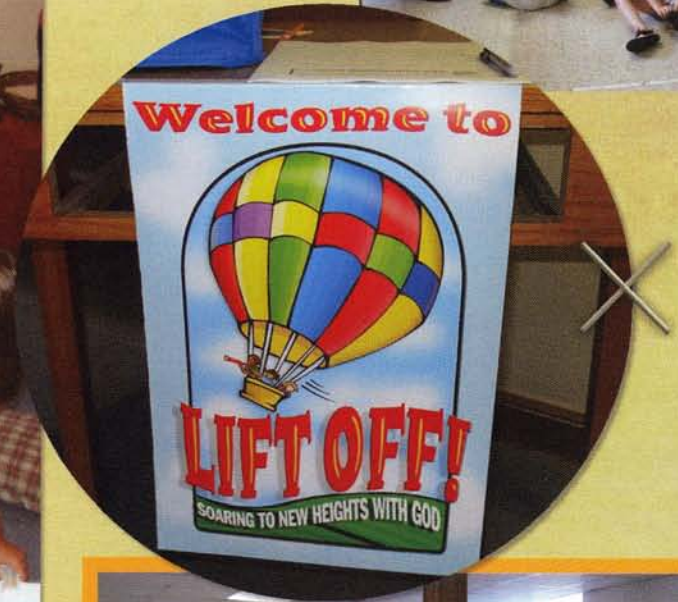
Boys and girls just want to have fun
but they also worked hard on their
mission trip



Ms. Reva, 87 year old woman
whose home the youth helped
repair on this trip

vacation bible school

june 23, 2007



Up! Up! and Away!
All too soon these
children will grow up, but
for now they enjoy a day
at Vacation Bible School.
Hearing stories, eating
hot dogs, and making
crafts.



Halloween 1992
 Caroline Harden, Caitlin Lloyd, Brianna
 Cooper, Jeff Stutts, Lauren Kearns



1984
 Girl Scout Sunday
 Front Row: Jill Shaffer,
 Amanda Hunt, Molly Pickett;
 Middle Row: Wendy Shaffer,
 Gaetana Portaro, Julie
 Dowdee, Kim Rowland, Katy
 Ketch, Jessica Latta; Back
 Row: Catherine Wheeler, ---,
 Cathy Poraro, Brownie Leader,
 Julie Dowdee, Assistant
 Leader, ---, Susan Ketch



Sunday School Early 1970's



Mary Clark, Brad Riley, Dawn Proctor, ---, Brian Anderson, Teresa Jones,
 Jenny Riggsbee, Teacher, ---, ---, ---, Kim Rhodes, Lois Whitt, Tim Fleming,
 Kathy Roberts, Ruthie Leaver

1984 Children's Choir
 1st row: Olin Woods, Jimmy Ryals; 2nd row: Jacob Portaro, Peter Crispell,
 Heather Willett, Beth Middleton; 3rd row: Chris Willett, Gaetana Portaro,
 Jake Middleton, Julie Dowdee, Brad Kirby, Chris Mitchell, Matt Campbell,
 Kristin Ryals, Jan Stutts



children from years past

Just for Fun Singers

Grasshopper Opera

Reverend Bumblebee--Clyde Sykes
Maestro--Rev. Bryan Faggart
Turkey Gobbler--Hank Garrett





What a bunch of bugs!

The Just for Fun Singers performed their opera as part of the entertainment after the June 6, 2007 Wednesday night fellowship supper. Pictured--Claribel & Clyde Skyes, Joyce Bumpass, Lewis Byrd, Evelyn Clark, Charlie Bumpass, Margaret Murphy, Rosalie Skinner, Jeanette Vaughn, Valmore Sharpe, Becky House, LaFrance Ferguson, Connie Kirby, Betty Schell, Cathy Portaro, Jane Roberts, Ruth Campbell, Rev. Belton Joyner

Susie Arnold, Hank Garrett, John Roberts, Sabrina Williams, Dan Portaro, Nancy Williams, Rev. Bryan Faggart, Rosalie Skinner, Judy Faggart, Cheryle Takacs, Rev. Barbara Hays, Pauline Roberts, Kathy Mincey, Pat Crispell, Ann Jones, Lynne Sprague, Barbara Long
Sam Marion, Director

Music

Handbell Choir
Pat Crispell, Director; Sam Marion, Kim Wiles, John Roberts, Barbara Long, Cheryl Kahn, Rev. Bryan Faggart, Heather Huggett, Cathy Portaro, Angie McKehan, Gary Crispell



*"O worship the King, all
glorious above, O
gratefully sing His power
and His love."*

Children's choir from Glendale Heights UMC which includes James and Tanielu Apisai from Bethany UMC (second from left and right on front row)



Sam Marion has led Bethany's music ministry since 1993 serving as organist as well as choir director

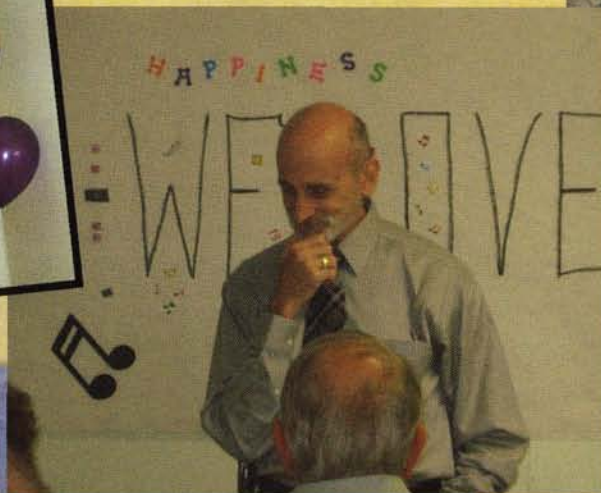


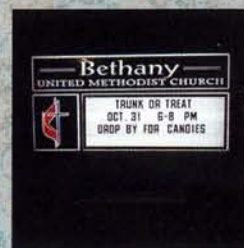
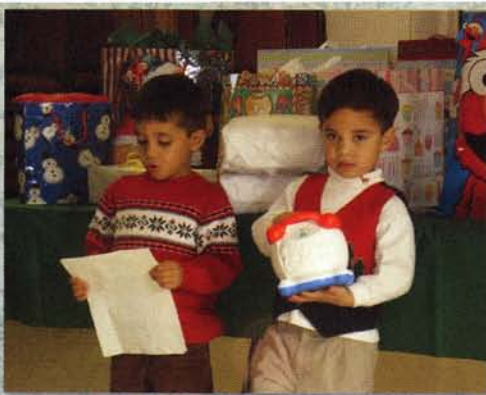
Sam's nephew Buddy Milks and his wife Beth came from Greensboro, NC to help celebrate the occasion. The surprise caught Sam at a loss for words.



Choir members eating lunch with Sam--Rev. Barbara Hays, Sabrina Williams, Susie Arnold, Dan Portaro, John & Pauline Roberts, Pat & Gary Crispell, Rev. Bryan Faggart

Sam Marion Appreciation Day
September 17, 2007







WE WERE FILLED WITH
AND WE SANG WITH
laughter
JOY

I hope that you have enjoyed looking
back at some of the events in the life of
Bethany United Methodist Church over
the last 115 years.

Cathy Portaro
Historian
2007

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personalized Storybook or would like to own a
copy of this storybook, please contact
Cathy Portaro
Creative Memories Senior Consultant
919-477-8030
portcd@aol.com

*There are three things that will
endure -- faith, hope and love. And
the greatest of these is Love.*

--1 Corinthians 13:13





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