

# BETHESDA BUGLE



*He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat!*

Bethesda United Methodist Church • P.O. Box 147 • Preston, MD • 410-673-7538 • Volume 2, Issue 7 • September 2011

## From the Pastor

It's hard for me to believe that I have been your pastor for more than one year. I guess it's true: "Time flies when you're having fun," and I am, by and large, having a ball!

The things that make my time with you so blessed for me are numerous. Among others:

- You love your church. Believe it or not, I've served churches where the active membership was somewhat indifferent to the church: its heritage, its mission, its God. So being

among folk who really care about their church and each other is a blessing.

- You face a lot of challenges that would daunt many congregations. But you folks take a deep breath, give thanks for what is, and work toward what might be (change that to will be) in the future. You demonstrated that by your willingness to get your financial house in order and to work to become financially independent. You're learning that stewardship is spiritual, not just a means of balanc-

ing some number, and the 33% increase in giving as a result of last winter's Consecration Sunday effort is nothing short of remarkable.

- You have a contagious sense of humor. Your smiles, your laughter are tonic for my soul.
- Last, but hardly least...you're great cooks!

I count my blessings that I have you all in my life.

*Bill Cruikshank*

## History & Archives Committee

This year's Homecoming service will take place on Sunday, October 16, at 10 a.m., and this year we will have two very special guests.

Our honored speaker for the day is Bishop Peggy Johnson. Bishop Johnson was baptized and grew up in the Methodist Church in Baltimore. She pursued a degree in Music Education at Lebanon Valley, a United Methodist-related college in Eastern Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1975. After teaching music in Baltimore County Public Schools for two years, she felt a call to ministry, specifically with deaf and disabled people. She left teaching and began to pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Asbury Theological Seminary, from which she graduated in 1980. Bishop Johnson was ordained a Deacon (transitional) in 1979 and an elder in 1981. During her early ministry, she served churches in Frederick and Baltimore, Maryland, and was campus minister at Gallaudet University, a leader in higher education for deaf persons located in Washington, DC. In 1988 she was appointed to pastor the historic Christ UMC of the Deaf in Baltimore, where she served for 20 years. She earned her Doctor of Ministry

degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1993 and taught deaf and disability courses there on a regular basis as an adjunct faculty member. Johnson was elected a bishop of the United Methodist Church on July 17, 2008, and was assigned to the Philadelphia Area, which is comprised of the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conferences, the following September. As Bishop, Johnson leads nearly 1,000 churches, and is one of nine active bishops in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, which includes thirteen annual conferences in the northeastern United States. Bishop Johnson believes that her most important role as a bishop is to pastorally empower and encourage the church to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The role also includes the presiding duties of ordering the life of the annual conference and the denomination and also to be a prophetic voice for justice in the church and the world. Bishop Johnson is married to Rev. Michael C. Johnson, and the couple have two adult sons, Peter and Gabriel.

Bethesda's other special guest is Leslie Schiff, who will be providing some of our special Homecoming music. Leslie was raised in Vienna, Maryland, and graduated from North Dorchester High School and Salisbury University. She works as a Librarian at Salisbury University, and lives in Hurlock with her husband, Tom. They attend Unity Washington Church in Hurlock, and are also youth leaders for the combined youth group at the Christ and Union Methodist Churches in Federalsburg. Leslie has sung for many local church events, and we welcome her to Bethesda in October.

*Eric Cheezum*

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## News Briefs

- Sunday worship service will remain at 10 am henceforth.
- September 27, 1:30 pm: Women of Bethesda meeting
- September 27, 6:30 pm: History and Archives meeting
- September 28, 7 pm: Handbell Rehearsal
- September 29, 7 pm: SPRC meeting
- October 4, 7 pm: Worship Committee Meeting
- Immanuel Lutheran is hosting a community concert on October 9 at 4 p.m. All are invited.
- Put Sunday, October 16 - Homecoming Sunday - on your calendar! All members and friends of Bethesda, past and present, are invited and encouraged to attend.
- This year's Charge Conference will take place Saturday, November 5, at 1 p.m. All are welcome and invited to attend.

## Weekly Income

Members and friends have committed \$915 a week in subscriptions to Bethesda. Weekly income is reported relative to that figure, with a breakdown of subscription versus general plate income.

	Attendance	Pledges	Plate	Total
August 21	45	\$882	\$41	\$923
August 28	No service	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sept. 4	36	\$1132	\$10	\$1142
Sept. 11	43	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sept. 18	n/a	\$1437	\$15	\$1452

Minimum Expected Income (5 weeks): \$4575  
 Actual Income: \$3517  
 2011 Average Attendance: 49

## Missions/Outreach

The Missions/Outreach committee is going to start the "backpack" program at Preston Elementary School this school year, and will be filling 15 back packs to begin with. We may add more as the year progresses. This program was put on hold last year due to the overwhelming response and the lack of funds to be able adequately to feed the number of children who had replied for help. Praise God, the committee received a \$5,000.00 donation a few months ago and this will greatly help with the cost of feeding hungry children. This said, we still need help with supplies to fill the backpacks and help packing them every week.

We have also helped families who were in need and, as God leads, will continue to do so. As a church we need to get the word out that we have a food pantry for anyone who is in need of food. There are several contact numbers: Rev. Cruikshank 410-690-3393, Judy Noel 410-673-8034, and Debbie Weems 410-476-1116 (cell) 410-673-1636 (home). The church answering machine can still be used, but these numbers are the best way to get help quickly. The committee is also donating 9 back packs to the school supply drive.

*Debbie Weems*

## Women of Bethesda

The Women are sponsoring or helping out with several events this fall. If you can help with any of our requests below, we will be very grateful.

*Judy Noel*

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 10 AM - 1 PM  
Soup & Sandwich Sale

We will serve vegetable beef soup, hot dogs, and grilled cheese sandwiches.

There will also be a bake table. Preston and the surrounding area seem to look forward to our Soup Sales, and have been supporting us for years. We have been blessed that most ingredients are donated thereby

allowing to net more money for the church. We will need: stew beef or chuck roasts, potatoes, carrots, celery, and onions. Also baked goods for the bake table. All donations and help are much appreciated.

October 8th, 9 AM Church Cleaning

The annual "big church clean" takes only one day if we have plenty of hands. Please bring cleaning supplies from home: rags and buckets, vacuum cleaners.

October 16th Homecoming Covered Dish

Women will provide meats and drinks for our annual Homecoming luncheon. The congregations is asked to bring covered dishes. Desserts are not necessary as we will be ordering a special cake for the occasion.



**Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Romans 8:35-39**

## Circle of Concern



Betty Hinnershitz  
 2701 Choptank Main St.  
 Preston, MD 21655  
 410-673-7383

Gloria Trice  
 21850 Water St  
 Preston, MD 21655  
 410-673-7339

Tharon Harrington  
 500 S. Dupont Blvd  
 Milford, DE 19963



**At Nursing Homes**

Bea Trice  
 William Hill Manor  
 Easton, MD

## Hurricane Irene Visits the Eastern Shore

Your pastor spent a good part of the Hurricane Irene event - or, non-event, depending on your perspective - at the Talbot County Emergency Management Center on Port street, right off the the Easton Bypass. When there is an emergency or the threat of an emergency, we amateur radio operators are often called in to help with communications. And since we'd already canceled church for that Sunday, I said: "Yes, I'll come down and help"

My particular assignment was to keep in touch by radio with the emergency shelter set up at Easton High School. The high school ended up sheltering 165 people, six dogs, and one cat.

As late as 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening, it looked as if Talbot County could receive a direct hit. With an internet connection, we were able to tap into the National Weather Service's radar and keep track of Irene's progress. These images were constantly projected on a screen for all to see. For two hours after Irene had struck Virginia Beach, its course was straight north - a course that would have taken the eye of the storm right over the Easton-St. Michaels area. Then, miraculously, Irene veered east, crossed the Virginia portion of the Delmarva, and started following a path over the Atlantic that kept it pretty much away from us.

While this change was taking place, I tried taking a cat nap on one of those canvas army cots with NO mattress whatsoever. It wasn't what I'd call a successful nap! When I came back out to the big operations room, which held about thirty-five folks from the various police agencies, the Health Department, FEMA, etc., I stopped at the Emergency Management Director, Clay Stamp's desk. I said to Clay, "It now looks like



*Bethesda's sign, Friday, August 26 - one day before Hurricane Irene visited Delmarva.*

we're dodging the bullet." He replied, "Yes, but if we hadn't mobilized and it did hit us, then we'd have been in deep trouble." Talbot County is lucky to have an Emergency Management Coordinator like Clay. Lots of experience - he came to us from holding the same position in Ocean City - and a genuine leader. He

has that rare knack of telling you to do something and do it now, and you do not feel pressured or offended.

Anyway, after a delicious breakfast of eggs, sausage, bacon, etc. we packed up and went our separate ways. But not without a rousing chorus of "Good Night, Irene, Good Night," led by yours truly. On the drive up St. Michaels Road to home, I wondered what I'd find. Joy and I live in a woods, so a tree through our house was a possibility. I pulled in the drive. The house looked fine, though my trees got "pruned." My neighbor's houses were all dark, so I wondered if I had power. I went to the breaker box and turned on the main breaker that Joy had turned off when she left Saturday morning for work at the Pines. Voila! I had power!! After calling Joy at the Pines (where she'd put in almost two days straight) to let her know I was home and the house was OK, I flopped out on the couch at about 10:30. The next thing I knew, it was 4:00 p.m. I guess 74 year-olds should not stay up for twenty-four hours! But I did my civic duty, learned a lot about what goes into good emergency management, and now I was at home, sweet home; tired but totally satisfied.

*Bill Cruikshank*

## My Bethesda Memories

In a peculiar way, Bethesda ties in with my marriage to Chris. In the 1980s, Bethesda held a Lay Witness Mission. I'm not sure of the exact year but I'm guessing around 1982 or '83, possibly the summer of '84. Lay Witness Missions were like mini-revivals in the church. Speakers would come in and hold Bible studies and lessons (I think each week night) for a week for every age group. All this was when I was a teenager so the details are a bit vague now.

In any event, the Youth speaker was Mr. Robin Farnell and we met up in the storage room for our class. (As an aside, it is worth noting that when I was a teenager, we held Sunday School for the teens in that upstairs storage room. We all liked to peer through the vent in the back of the room that overlooks the staircase to see who was coming up the steps!) I remember Mr. Farnell brought

his son Mark with him and there were several teenagers present. I can't remember the rest of them, now.

MaryAnn Farnell led a women's group that my mother and grandmother both attended. As I recall, they stayed with Rae Cosden that week. My mother and MaryAnn became close enough to have some conversation outside of the study and Mom learned that MaryAnn's other son, Chris, was in college. As Mom and MaryAnn talked, Mom even told her that she prayed that some day I would meet someone like her son Chris, as he sounded like such a nice, Christian man.

That Sunday, Robin gave the message in church and all of his family was there, including Chris. (Interestingly I didn't see much in him at that point, he was too old....I had my eyes on Mark.) When I went to Salisbury State in the Fall of 1984, I began attending Campus

Crusade for Christ meetings where, after several months, I met Chris, we began dating, and the rest in history. I did not know this story of my mother's until around the time we were married, so I never realized when I met him at college that he was the same guy!

*Kari Farnell*



Do you have a memory of Bethesda or Preston you'd like to submit?

Drop us a line at  
BethesdaNewsletter@verizon.net.

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# Camp Pecometh: Sixty-five Years and Beyond

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*In 1946, a group of Methodist clergy and laypersons realized a vision for a Christian camp by purchasing 10 acres at "Bookers Wharf" along the Chester River just north of Centreville, MD. Bookers Wharf had once bustled with barges going to and from Baltimore but, at the time it was purchased, had become a local recreation area. The name "Pe-Co-Meth" was the winning entry in a naming contest, combining the first syllables of its owner, the Peninsula Conference of the Methodist Church. The hyphenated spelling lasted for many years, but as the camp grew to add more land, facilities and programs, the hyphens disappeared. Over time, Pecometh's identity flourished as a place where people experience God-inspired, life-changing experiences in a sacred place. Pecometh continues to partner with the more than 400 churches of the Peninsula Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church to serve persons of all ages and from all walks of life, not just United Methodists. (Pecometh.org)*

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There has been a great deal of activity at Pecometh in recent days. While summer camp has been in session this year, a whole new adult retreat ministry is being launched at the new Riverview Retreat Center (RRC). This adds opportunities to the ministries of local churches like ours. The RRC offers programs conducted by the folk at Pecometh or special guests they invite. Pecometh retreats focus on three areas; leadership development, spiritual renewal, and support for those in special life circumstances. In addition, The Pecometh Challenge Course Program offers an outdoor adventure experience focused on building teams and effective leadership.

This month, Pecometh is offering several retreats, including Seasons of

Life: A Senior Adult Retreat (Sept 6-8); Monastic Day Apart (September 9); and other retreats in worship and prayer. For information on future events, go to [www.pecometh.org](http://www.pecometh.org). In addition to these retreats, Pecometh invites us to create our own retreat and have it at the RRC. We may also arrange for the use of the challenge course for our leaders, or to build up our leadership team while on retreat.

Pecometh is always looking for people who share the interest of camp and retreat ministries. They welcome people who offer their time and talents as volunteers to complete projects needed for this ministry. If you would like information on how to support Pecometh, please or contact their Development Director, Dave Buchanan at 302-382-5359, or email at

[dave@pecometh.org](mailto:dave@pecometh.org). If you would like to receive additional information about Summer Camp and upcoming retreat opportunities, please contact Clarice Ritchie at [clarice@pecometh.org](mailto:clarice@pecometh.org).

Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministries is an extension of our ministry here at this church. It serves about ten thousand people each year in summer camp, challenge course, and retreat ministries. You are invited to be a part of the life-changing experience in Jesus Christ that happens there by sending a child to camp, scheduling a retreat, using the challenge course, or volunteering your personal time in service.

*Dave Buchanan*

Pecometh Development Director

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## Pecometh Memories

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### "A Week at Camp"

Pecometh is a camp for the youth of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference (ages 16 to 18?). It is located on a beautiful waterfront property on the Chester River just a few miles outside of Centreville, Maryland.

At the age of eight I got a chance to attend Camp Pecometh. This gave me the opportunity to get out of the chicken house for a week! Because my chances to get away were few I was going to make sure that I had fun and didn't get homesick. The word "homesickness" was not to be in my vocabulary!

Here is an approximate day's schedule for a camper, as best as I can remember after many years: 6 to 7 a.m., rise and shine, and tidy up our cabins – we made a competition of this chore, which made doing it more fun. 8 a.m., breakfast in the dining hall. The favored breakfasts were the ones where we had French toast or pancakes. After eating, we were told which girls' cabin and

which boys' cabin was the neatest, and thus who won the "tidying" contest. 8:30 to 8:45 a.m., back to our cabins to get our materials for the morning activities (i.e., pencil and pen, paper, Bible, and songbooks). 9 to 11:45 a.m.: This was Bible study and worship time, and singing and craft-making time. We praised the Lord in different ways, and built strong friendships with our fellow campers. Lunch was from noon to 12:45 p.m. We ate in the dining hall, then did "sing-alongs" afterward. I seem to remember the most frequently asked question at lunchtime was what kind of "bug juice" were we having to drink – meaning what was the beverage for that meal! 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. This forty-five minute block was set aside for free time, during which our meal was meant to settle, and to do whatever we wanted to do before the afternoon activities of swimming, rowing, and game playing.

The afternoon session began at 1:30 pm, and was devoted to fun and games in the water and on the shore. There were two

lifeguards: one teenage girl and one teenage boy. (The girls had a "crush" on Dale, the teenage boy, and the boys had a "crush" on the teenage girl – sorry, I can't tell you the name of the female lifeguard! At 4:00 p.m., everyone left the water and the beach area. We got changed and ready for the evening meal. Dinner began at 5:30 and lasted until 6:15, with some singing after the meal. After dinner, we went back to our cabins and readied ourselves for the evening worship service. This service took place from 7 to 8 p.m. in the outdoor chapel. We would line up near the dining hall and walk along the sandy shoreline to the chapel. The service drew to a close sometime after 9 p.m., and we had a few minutes between 9:30 and 10 to get ready for bed. Then it was "lights out," and everyone was supposed to be in bed and quiet.

The above schedule was pretty much the daily routine, with a few changes. One Friday night before leaving on

## Camp Pecometh: Sixty-five Years and Beyond, contd.

Saturday to go home, there was a "Galilean Service" in the outdoor chapel. This service took place at dusk: we would walk to the chapel by way of the shoreline, carrying our flashlights. When arriving at the chapel we sang a few meditative songs, had some prayer time, and then we were given a small candle; these were lit one at a time, down the line. When all the candles were aglow, we walked down the steps of the chapel and put our candles afloat on the Chester River, and then we stood on the shore singing "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Going to Let it Shine." To see fifty to sixty candles floating down the river was a very impressive sight. After our little lights had floated away, we would all walk back along the shore singing quietly "Kumbaya" and "We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder." This service was a perfect ending to a fun-filled week of learning about God and making new friends.

For most of us Saturday morning came too soon, because we were going to be saying goodbye to new friends – and for me it meant back to work in the chicken house! However, I will always remember fondly my week at Camp Pecometh.

I hope that maybe I've sparked a little interest in some child or children to want to go to Pecometh. And guess what? There's a place for us "Big Kids" as well. The adults could have a retreat weekend or a day retreat and seminar. What do you say Bethesda? Let's plan an outing outside of our four walls and see what God can do for us, and within us.

*Wanda Prothero*

### "I Prayed I Wouldn't Get Lockjaw"

I attended Camp Pecometh, with Walt Coulbourne, for a week in the summer of 1958. My mother and Walt's mother must have gotten together at some point and made the arrangements, and Walt's parents, "Tink" and Mildred, carried us up to Centreville. I was very excited about going to Pecometh. Like many kids (I was almost thirteen), I was looking forward to camping and boating and nature trails and doing outdoorsy things. I was a little surprised, not to mention disappointed, when we ended up

discussing the Bible instead! It wasn't the camp's fault – but there was a wide gulf between Pecometh's mission and my expectations! We didn't get to do *any* camping!

We did spend a lot of time outdoors. One of the first things we did was go sit in an amphitheatre and learn about the Bible. We also went walking out on a long pier extending into the river. The older guys went walking on the pier with their girlfriends. Walt and I just had...each other.

All of us went swimming in the Chester River. The swimming area was closed in with fencing, which was meant to keep the sea nettles off of us while we were in the water. But the wire had rotted away in places, leaving holes that let in nettles. It also ended up on the floor of the riverbank, right in place for me to ram a piece into my foot while swimming. It is a fact that, like all kids, I was scared to death of doctors. Now the day before, I had seen another guy do the same thing – embed a piece of this wire in his foot – and he made the mistake of telling one of the camp leaders about it. Next thing I knew, he was hauled off to get a tetanus shot. And I don't mean one of those modern-day, don't-feel-a-thing hypodermics; I mean one of those long, thick needles they had in the 1950s. Having seen what happened to that kid, I knew what would happen to me, so "Mum" was the word. I yanked out the wire, kept my mouth shut, and prayed to God I wouldn't get lockjaw.

We also did crafts. Beaded pouches, wallets. I remember we made belts, too, which we did by weaving together leather segments shaped like two letter Ds connected back to back. The Ds interlocked somehow so that several segments connected to make a belt. I made a belt out of black leather, and I wish I still had it.

The big thing in the morning was to get up and get to the mess hall for breakfast. The hall was screened in with wooden tables, and I think did double duty during the week as a meeting hall. Breakfast at Pecometh was the first time I'd ever seen those little individual boxes of Kellogg's cereal that are now quite common. I had never seen them before. We'd go eat breakfast, cereal, eggs, bacon. The food was pretty good.

I still remember the day that Tink and Mildred came to get us. It was sort of a dark, grey day, in contrast with the preceding week, which had been sunny, hot, and humid. I remember looking out the back window of the car as we drove away, watching the clotheslines where we dried our swim trunks receding into the distance. I have always meant to drive up and see the camp again, but in over fifty years I have never been back. While I was at the camp, I remember thinking "Man I wish I was back home sweeping out the barn!" Looking back, I remember Pecometh as a pretty neat place – I just wasn't at the right age to appreciate it.

*Tom Cheezum*

This year, Camp Pecometh completes construction on its brand new River Retreat Center, a venue for adult retreat ministries situated, like the rest of the camp, on the Chester River. Although individual donors gave \$1.5 million toward the construction, the Conference asks that churches across the region help provide the furnishings for the center. In a recent letter, Bishop Johnson explained that contributions toward this phase of the project "will enable us to include every member of our churches in the campaign as we work toward a conclusion." "The time has come," she writes, "for all our churches to step up and take ownership of this retreat facility and ministry."

We here at the *Bugle* think it would be a nice gesture to contribute to Pecometh's cause. A number of options exist, from multi-year commitments ranging in the tens of thousands of dollars, to smaller donations for individual items. The cheapest item on the list of furnishings costs \$150. We would like to challenge our readership to see if we can reach that goal by next month. If you would like to make a donation, checks can be written to Bethesda UMC, with "Pecometh" on the memo line. If you'd like to contribute some other way, please drop us a line at BethesdaNewsletter@verizon.net. If we can make \$150, maybe we can make a higher goal next month.

## *Peach Festival In Pictures*



*Chris Farnell poses with a peck of peaches.*



*Judy Noel pours a glass of peach iced tea.*



*Bake Sale Table.*



*Pat Zepp and Charlie Weems serve food at the 11th Annual Peach Festival.*

## *9/11 Remembrance Service*



*Piper Randy Welch plays on Main Street before the service. Welch movingly performed the spiritual "Going Home" and "Amazing Grace" during the service.*



*Members of Cub Scout Pack 461 Thomas Cheezum, Davis Newcomb, Matthew and Mason Willis performed a flag ceremony at the opening of the 9/11 Remembrance Service.*





## Outside the Red Doors: Our Lutheran Neighbors: Part Two

The previous article concluded with German immigrants arriving in the Preston area. By March 18, 1897, enough of them had settled here for the first congregational meeting of the church to occur. After briefly holding services in the Preston Academy School [The Academy stood just west of where the Norma Phillips house stands now, roughly catacorner to the Post Office -- Ed.], the congregation rented the Swedenborg Church at 166 Main Street (now the Apostle True Foundation Church) for \$38 a year to hold services there once a month. By May, 1890, there was enough growth in membership that the church's Voters' Assembly decided to purchase land on the current site and construct a wooden church that was completed in April, 1901.

In 1899 a Christian day school (where German was taught and spoken) was established in a dwelling on the farm where Tom and Mary Cheezum now reside. After 4 years, the school relocated to a store in Linchester. In 1905 a building was constructed on church property for this school. The school provided an opportunity for church members to retain part of their German heritage and communicate with others who spoke the language used in their homes. This school and the church, however, became a

lightning rod for tensions within the Preston community when World War I broke out in Europe in August 1914. Although the U.S. did not enter into the war until April 1917, the hostilities abroad created increasing anti-German feelings at home long before war was declared. The German language was predominant in the church's Worship Services, Sunday School, baptisms, weddings, funerals, Voter's Meetings and school instruction. Members of the congregation had close blood relatives in Germany, which caused divided loyalties. Some members expressed strong views in the community to defend their "fatherland" (Germany). In 1915, the church had a special collection for the German Red Cross. All of these things contributed to fear and distrust of the German families in the community.

On May 28, 1917, a new minister, Louis Geiger, was installed at Immanuel. This young man, with only 4 years of ministerial experience, faced a daunting task of leading a congregation out of the perception that they were enemies of the country into acceptance as loyal citizens and residents. Within a month of Pastor Geiger's arrival, two Sunday Services a month were conducted in English instead of in German. Within a year, a committee was formed to sell U.S. war bonds and stamps throughout the membership, Communion was celebrated in English, a

collection was taken for U.S. Lutheran servicemen, a Liberty Loan Committee was formed to raise funds for the U. S. war effort, two U.S. flags were acquired, Voters' Meetings were conducted in English, and the parochial school was closed. During this period concerns in the community came to a head at a citizens' meeting at the Preston Town Hall. Strong and loud anti-German sentiments were expressed. The crowd became increasingly boisterous, and only the intervention of one of the town's leading citizens kept things under control.

How differently the subsequent history of this church would have been had Pastor Geiger not helped Americanize his congregation and the leading Town citizen not intervened to subdue the tensions against this ethnic group. Over time relationships with members of Immanuel and the community improved. The congregation continued to grow to the point where the present stone church was constructed in 1952 and the Geiger Hall (Sunday School) building in 1968. Although our membership is not as large as it once was, Immanuel is still an active presence in the Preston community.

*Linda Kleinwachter Nabb*

*(Only a second generation American)*

## School Supplies

On August 23, Barbara Baker received a letter with the following statement from Robin Daubach, Principal of Preston School:

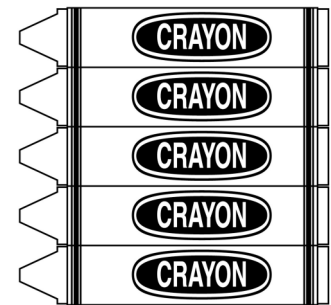
*On behalf of all students and staff at Preston Elementary School, thank you and your friends at Bethesda Methodist Church, for your generous donation of school supplies. We truly appreciate your dedication and contributions to*

*our students and value your support to our community.*

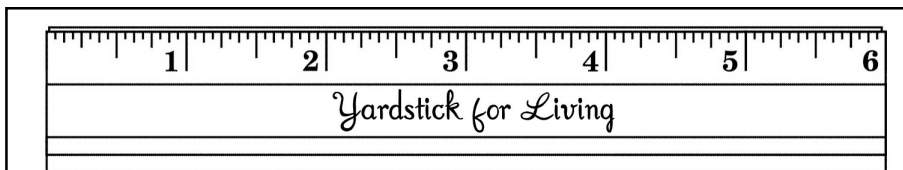
The Women of Bethesda delivered 374 items to Preston School last month, and they are still taking items for collection. Requested items include: paper, notebooks (spiral-bound and composition), pencils (lead and colored), crayons, gluesticks, school boxes, folders, and child scissors. They also need paper

towels, Kleenex, hand sanitizers, and disinfectant wipes.

Thanks to everyone who donated supplies this year!



The collection taken on August 21 to support African Famine Relief yielded \$298.50. Thanks to all who donated.



**"The only people who never make mistakes are those who never do anything."**

**Lloyd Morris**

# Church Calendar

## September 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11 9/11 Observances	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Women: 1:30 pm History/Archives 6:30 pm	28 Handbells: 7 pm	29 SPRC: 7 pm	30	

## October 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4 Worship Committee: 7 pm	5	6	7	8
9 Immanuel Lutheran Concert at 4 pm	10 Columbus Day	11	12	13	14	15
16 Homecoming & Luncheon	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

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