

Bethany Highlights June 2015



Ben's Pen

Another school year closes out. This one is different for me because I have a graduate at my house. It only seems like a few years ago that I was the graduate. I guess I forgot the 25 years of congratulating the seniors as a minister. How often do things seem more important when they include us? Do we treat our faith the same way? Our personal relationships with Christ are critical and should be very important to us. Just as we celebrate the joy of graduation and accomplishment with our seniors, we should also celebrate faith with our brothers and sisters. Do we ask questions of one's academic progress? Yes. Well, do we ask questions of one's faith progress? We should be about encouraging each other in our faith walk. We should be about challenging each other to grow in our faith. We should pray for each other in our walks. We seem to be focused on academic progress or job searches or dating/marital relationships, but we avoid faith questions. A large portion of the New Testament is Paul's letters of encouragement, correction and caring for his fellow Christians. Granted none of us will pen a Biblical text, but we can sure encourage, care for, correct and walk with our fellow travelers on the journey. If our faith walk is a solo journey, we do not need the church. Let us be about strengthening each other as we travel together. Congratulations.

Serving Christ with you,

Ben

Congratulations to our 2015 graduates:

Charles Grimm
Elizabeth Thomas

Spotsylvania High School
Massaponax High School

Vacation Bible School is on the way! Our school is set for July 27 – 31. VBS has been our top outreach over the past several years, with our enrollment of 40 – 45 youngsters annually. We have multiple needs for leaders, guides and workers. We also will have many needs for supplies. Keep a watch out for the list of needed supplies. If you can give some time, whether for one night or every night, talk to our director, Susan Thomas, today.

Over the past few years we have had large collections of supplies for the mission trips to the Standing Rock Indian reservation in South Dakota and we are trying again. Our Woman's Missionary Union will lead the way as we collect shoes, socks, underwear and gift cards this month. If you have questions, talk to Linda Lee or Mary Lee Bullock. Let's top our gifts from previous years as we seek to reach out to the residents of the reservation. There will be a drop box set up at the church.

The July *Highlights* article deadline is June 18th.

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