

BETHANY HIGHLIGHTS

March 2014



Ben's Pen

We have had several major expenses on our building lately, including a new furnace and a new security system. We have several much needed projects on the drawing board as well. But one thing that all of us realize is that projects take money. Our budget continues to need our support, thus our regular offering must remain a priority for each of us. As we proceed with our other capital improvement projects you will hear more about the specific costs and how you can help. Our wise use of the resources God has given us is essential to keep Bethany looking and running well.

The church season of Lent begins the first week of March. I know that many of you have very little experience with Lent, but it can be a very meaningful time for each of us. Lent is set aside to examine ourselves and our relationship with God. It is traditionally a time of repentance, prayer, self-denial and self-preparation for Easter. I urge each of you to examine how God enters your relationship with your family, your neighbors, your church family and your friends. Most importantly, how do you relate to God? Spend a few minutes each day reading scripture, talking to and listening to God. What inhibits your relationship with God? What strengthens your daily walk with God? The six weeks before Easter is an excellent time to examine your relationship with God, whether you want to call it Lent or not.

In Christ's Love,

Ben

What is your favorite green snack? Green dessert? We invite you to bring some "green" food with you as we celebrate a game night on Saturday, March 15th at 6:00 p.m. Join us for some fellowship, good green food and some friendly competition.

Our shoe collection is going well, but we still need another pair or two. Every shoe that is donated will be forwarded through *Soles4Souls* to poor and needy individuals around the world. Shoes are something that we often take for granted, but a pair of shoes can be life changers for many folks. Check out our collection site or the *Soles4Souls* website to learn more. There are hundreds of folks who would love to walk a mile in our shoes.

Several individuals from Bethany have become involved in the food pantry at Massaponax Baptist Church on the third Monday of each month. They would love to have you join them. Ask the pastor for some of our volunteer's names if you are interested. They would be glad to share some of the details with you and have you join them.

Our Woman's Missionary Union Sunday is March 23rd. We will celebrate the many ministries and projects that our ladies lead. One of the annual projects the WMU promotes is the Spring missions offering targeting North American missions. We will kick off this year's offering on that Sunday.

The April *Highlights* article deadline is March 20th.

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