

BETHANY HIGHLIGHTS

May 2015

Ben's Pen

How many people have an image of God as some fiery, angry voice on top of a mountain restricting Charlton Heston (Moses) from doing anything and everything that was enjoyable? To solidify the image, He wrote them down. Some four millennia later we still tout those ten rules as the center of our lives. Actually many folks who claim those commandments treat them more like suggestions or good ideas. Do you and I fit into that category? Christians fight vehemently about keeping the ten commandments as central in our government, but do we strive as ardently to keep them central in our lives. This month I will examine the commandments in a series of sermons focusing on their application to our lives in the 21st century. How do we relate to the God who brought the Hebrew people out of Egypt? Are all of the commandments relevant to us? I have not seen many Virginians casting golden calves, but we do create idols. Not many of us gun down or kill someone, but murder is much more common than we would admit. What about honoring the Sabbath or adultery or coveting or theft? We cannot earn our way to God by following the letter of the law. We still need God's grace to forgive us, but we should still keep the commandments as foundational in our actions. Let us look at Exodus 20 together this month and apply God's "rules" to our lives in 2015.

In Christ's Love,

Ben

Check out our new church sign! After several years of hard work and planning it is here. Check it out after dark as well. We have light! A big thank you goes to the Public Relations Committee; Janet Irving, Brenda Johnson and Danny Lee, for leading out in the effort to get our much needed sign.

Our Wednesday Bible study is working our way through the life of Jesus as recorded by Luke. We meet each week at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays (except on PRIME TIMERS days). We have a spot just for you and would welcome your contributions.

Rev. Steve Aycock has served the Fredericksburg Area Baptist Network (formerly Association) as executive director for over 20 years. The Fredericksburg area and our churches have gone through some drastic changes in those times and he has faithfully served with us through them. Steve is retiring at the end of May. To honor Steve and his years of service the Network is hosting a retirement reception for him on Sunday, May 31 at 3:30 p.m. at Salem Baptist Church. There will be several colleagues and friends as special guests to help us celebrate and thank Steve for his years of service.

The annual Woman's Missionary Union of the Fredericksburg Area Baptist Network is having their annual meeting on Monday, May 4 at Salem Baptist Church. The dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the program at 7:00 p.m. Valarie Carter, WMUV Executive Director will be the guest speaker.

The Farming for a Cure team will be hosting their spring yard sale on Saturday, May 30 at Bob's Car Wash. They would welcome donations of items to sell and would love for you to come out and purchase from the variety of items they will have on sale.

May 7 is the National Day of Prayer. Our country, our neighbors and our church need our prayers. Let us join together in lifting our prayers to God, who faithfully listens and answers our prayers.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Ben Thomas, Pastor

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Bethany Baptist Church
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May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship/Communion 11:00 am Retirement Reception for Steve Aycock at Salem Baptist 3:30 pm					1	2 Relay for Life Walk at Spotsylvania HS 1100 am -1100 pm
3 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	4 WMU – FABN Annual Meeting 6:00 pm Men’s Ministry 7:00 pm	5	6 Bible Study 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	7 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 	8	9
10 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Mother’s Day	11 Church Council 7:00 pm	12	13 PRIME TIMERS 12:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	14	15	16 
17 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	18 Food Bank Ministry @ Massaponax BC	19 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20 Bible Study 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	21	22	23 
24 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27 Bible Study 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	28	29	30 Farming for a Cure Yard Sale @ Bob’s Car Wash

May Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6 – Sharon Loring | 21 – Sammy Harlow |
| 6 – Berniece Vermilyea | 22 – Kathleen Howard |
| 10 – Michelle Corthon | 23 – Trevor Allen |
| 10 – Caroline Laibstain | 25 – Virginia Durrett |
| 12 – Todd Corr | 26 – Viola Marshall |
| 17 – Joanne Blanton | 26 – Ruth Ann Acors |
| 18 – Charlie Grimm | 27 – Nelson Reid |
| 19 – Evelyn Carter | 29 – John Michael Gatewood |

May Anniversaries

- 18 – Mike & Vivian Heflin
25 – Matt & Lora Faulconer
29 – James & Sandra Phelps

Homebound Prayer List:

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Joe Anderson | Pearl Haislop |
| Claude Corthon | Kathleen Howard |
| Virginia Durrett | Billy Johnson |
| Dorothy Gatewood | Viola Marshall |
| Herbert & Jeanette Gatewood | Ida Sanders |

Deacon of the Month:

Danny Lee

The mission of Bethany Baptist Church is to make a positive impact for Jesus Christ with people who live in our community by sharing the message of eternal life through Jesus Christ and by growing together as the family of God.

Just a thought... Why do we cringe when we hear the word “stewardship”? Is it because we fear the preacher will ask us to give more money or is it because we do not manage all of our resources, money, possessions and time well? Stewardship is not just about giving. It is about management. We are each managers of the same amount – all we have.