

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

An Affiliate of



**March-April, 2008**  
**Fredericksburg Office**  
1616 Stafford Avenue  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
Director: Joan Richwine, MSW, LSW

540-373-5165: Bethany Office  
540-370-1800 Pregnancy Center  
540-373-6463 *Connections*

**Web Address:**  
[www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)  
[www.bethanypregnancycenter.com](http://www.bethanypregnancycenter.com)

**Hours:**  
Monday- Friday  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 21, 2008**  
Good Friday, Office Closed
- April 1, 2008**  
Pastor's Invited for "Stories of Hope"  
Open House  
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Fredericksburg Office
- April 1, 2008**  
Fredericksburg Board Meeting  
6:30 p.m., Fredericksburg Office
- April 8, 2008**  
Domestic Adoption Information Meeting  
6:30 p.m., Fredericksburg Office
- April 26, 2008**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Legacy for Life Golf Event  
Pendleton Golf Club  
Ladysmith, VA

## Director's Report, January-February, 2008

Shortly after the first of the year our staff met for our regular staff meeting. As is our custom, we selected a new verse for 2008. **"God...has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation," II Corinthians 6:18.** We all believe this is what we are called to do in 2008 here at Bethany.

How will we do this? We encounter women nearly every day of the week whose lives have been devastated through abortion. They are often pregnant again with an "atonement" child and need to know that God loves them and can forgive their sins. We will faithfully share the good news of the Gospel with each of these women.

When a woman, especially a young woman, faces a crisis pregnancy, there are many people who are affected. We will carry the message of reconciliation to their mothers and fathers who suffer distress and disappointment over their daughters' untimely pregnancies. We are able to offer compassion and hope in these situations. We can remind everyone involved that God sent his Son to restore broken relationships. Though the way ahead won't be easy, He is able to see them through.

Our **Connections** program helps new parents or expecting couples to explore relationship issues. This program helps these couples assess what is in the best interest of their child. Some of these young couples have experienced feelings of inadequacy and insecurity in their relationships. They need to know that there is hope for them, a chance for them to be reconciled to each other, their families and ultimately to experience reconciliation with God.

In the first eight weeks of 2008 we have already seen 59 women for pregnancy verification. Eleven of these women were considering abortion or

vulnerable to this option. Bethany provides the one place they can go to see the truth about their babies and to bring them a message of hope.

Bethany Christian Services of Fredericksburg is the only Bethany office nationwide which offers pregnancy verification and pregnancy resources to our clients. We strongly believe that adoption is often a good answer for women facing an unintended pregnancy. However, we also believe we owe the children of our parenting clients a chance at a good start in life. We believe this is one way to fulfill our mission to "manifest the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families."

Bethany provides an extensive array of services (ultrasound confirmation of pregnancy, free counseling, referrals, assistance in applying for Medicaid, adoptive family preparation, birth parent counseling for those making an adoption plan, etc.). Most of these services are free of charge. Adoptive families pay fees for family assessments and help underwrite a small part of our ministry to birth parents who are making an adoption plan. All other aspects of this ministry are underwritten by the gifts we receive from businesses, churches and individuals who value the contribution we make to the community.

**We need your help!** We ended 2007 with a significant deficit. If we are going to continue to serve the most vulnerable members of our community, we need your support. Recently a donor offered to match gifts given to Bethany up to \$25,000. This means that for every dollar we receive in **new** donations, during the first three months of 2008, the gift will be doubled. Please consider how you might assist us with this vital work. We believe God has called us to this work and welcome the opportunity to proclaim his truth to the clients we see. Please call the office if you have questions about how you might get involved.

*Joan Richwine, Director*

## Wish List

1. Small full size refrigerator, no larger than 10 cubic ft.
2. One or two lap top computers to meet the increasing needs of staff for technological portability. (These cost about \$800 a piece and must be configured in Grand Rapids, so it is best to designate a gift for the purchase of one or both of these).
3. Digital camera for taking pictures of our babies and significant Bethany events.

## Prayers and Praises

**Thank** God for BJ Sanchez and the folks from Stafford Crossing Community Church for their recent donation of time and hard work. This group came to **Bethany** on February 9 and organized our shed and assisted with several other projects. Thank you Stafford Crossing.

**Pray** for birth mothers who recently placed their children for adoption and for others who are considering this option.

**Pray** that the staff will continue to work together for God's glory.

**Pray** for the families we will serve in 2008. Pray that we will have opportunities to encourage spiritual growth in the people God sends to us.

## Golf, Golf, Golf!

April 26 is fast approaching, the day of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Legacy for Life Golf Tournament. Please save the date. We are looking for donations of silent auction items, volunteer helpers and, of course, golfers! Please see the enclosed brochure with details concerning this important event. Questions? Contact Mary Beth Bova ([mbova@bethany.org](mailto:mbova@bethany.org)) or Ali Antinozzi at ([aantinozzi@pendletongolfva.com](mailto:aantinozzi@pendletongolfva.com).) Pray for good weather and we hope we will see many of you there!

## WELCOME

In the last several months we have had the joy of seeing six babies join their

forever families. Elijah and Asher went home with Dan and Lisa Hunt in early October, 2007. We thank God for the courageous decision of their birth mother and for a warm and loving couple to be their forever family.



Asher and Elijah

Grace went home with Barbara and Harold Morton on February 7, 2008. She was welcomed by her older sisters. Ciara and Sydney and is being showered with love in her new family.



Grace

Whenever we experience the miracle of adoption with our families and birth parents we remember the privilege we enjoy as God's adopted children. Thank you for making it possible for us to do this important work.

## Mother's Day Idea

One of our faithful supporting churches has decided to honor the mothers of their congregation by giving a gift to **Bethany** on Mother's Day. They plan to donate to **Bethany** the money they would have used to purchase gifts for the mothers of their congregation. If you or your church would be interested in doing something similar, please contact Joan at **Bethany**. We'd love to talk with you about this.