

*Loving God
Following
Jesus
Serving All*



Newsletter of Bethel Presbyterian Church

May 2010

The Bethel Beat

Children's Chorus

The Children's Chorus will sing for worship on Mother's Day, May 9. A final rehearsal will be at 9:45 a.m. on the 9th. Our thanks to Amanda Horrell and Rick Topeka for their leadership with this group.

Mother— Daughter Spring Fling

**Thursday, May 13,
6:00 p.m.**

The Missionary Society will hold their annual Mother-Daughter banquet (Spring Fling) on Thursday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the church's social hall. Everyone should bring a covered dish.

Check the bulletin board to make your reservation and to get some clues about the program. All mothers, daughters, granddaughters and friends are invited to attend.

From the Pastor's Desk

Elder Bob Schroth and I were journeying to the March Presbytery meeting at Sugar Hill Presbyterian Church, just outside of Brockway. We were having a great drive, the weather had broken and the snow was clearing. The sun was bright as we started out, our spirits were high. In the call to the meeting had come a set of directions. The usual route through DuBois was familiar, the alternate route through Reynoldsville, not so. But the notes said it was a little quicker, especially if one wanted to avoid the traffic in DuBois. Now we, being fans of rural roadways, opted for the roads less traveled. And, being guys, we naturally shared some crazy stories about not asking directions and finding our way. Well, I think I shared the story. Bob said he would stop and ask.

The first odd moment came when we arrived at an intersection in Reynoldsville where there was no clear sign about which way to turn and our directions didn't give us a hint. Spotting a guy on a motorcycle, Bob pulled over and asked. "Just head down through town, over the tracks and take a right at Fox's pizza," he said. "Thanks, we can do that." We tooled along and were making fine time when we came to a stop sign at a T intersection, again no clear marking about which way to go and no written indication that we would encounter this challenge. "What feels right? How about we turn left? Okay. Nobody to ask. That's fine, we'll make it." So off we go, but about five miles down the road it just didn't feel right. We should have encountered route 219 by now. And, now, almost dark, nobody to ask, no one out in their yard, just the driver in the car ahead. Suddenly, said car blinks left to enter a driveway, Bob follows. The car pulls up to a garage. We pull in creating a full block of any escape. I decide I best put on my friendliest hello as I get out of the car with my hands in clear sight.

Much to my amazement, in the driver's seat was Cheri Crawford, Presbyterian elder and friend who I'd met while serving on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Hugs and laughter followed, along with detailed directions and an encouraging word that we'd make it just on time for the meeting. Yes, we were lost. Funny thing was, Cheri didn't even live there, she was just checking in on her cousin's house while they were out of town.

So, what did I learn in this little God moment? Be humble, turn to the Lord and seek direction before we're too far off the path. God has one of His angels waiting, we just need to ask.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Bob Goossen

Celebrations in May

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Zackory Good
- 3 Carol Allison
- 7 Marge Mikesell
- 7 Carl Shamberger
- 8 Sara Shankle
- 13 Michael Topeka
- 15 Gerald Shankle
- 17 Leisa Bruner
- 18 Wendy Sturiale
- 30 Donna Nehrig

Happy Anniversary!

- 1 Tim & Carol Allison
- 7 Bill & Jane McGee
- 10 Wes & Margaret Bruner
- 13 Dick & Mary Lou Thompson
- 15 Adam & Michelle Good
- 22 Jason & Chris Stone
- 24 Ted & Dora Predko
- 26 Chuck & Wendy Sturiale

Sympathies

To Sandy Shamberger whose father Tom Henry died on April 7.

To Sandra and John Roudebush on the death of Sandra's mother, Thelma Rebecca Baker on April 16.

The Bethel Beat

Editor: Jean Walker

Designer: Chelsea Steigert

The Bethel Beat is published monthly by and for members and friends of Bethel Presbyterian Church. Please submit news, notes and ideas to the editor. Call 724-479-8697 or email jwalker86@verizon.net by the 15th of the month.

In Memory of Betty

If our church had a penny for each and every stitch Betty Stewart put into quilts over the many years that she sewed for the Ladies Missionary Society, we wouldn't need to worry about our budget. Betty was the chair of Mission Opportunities (Sewing and Supplies) for over 30 years. Now the committee is known as "Together in Service". Piecing quilts, sewing them together, sewing backings for quilts and binding the finished projects were tasks Betty enjoyed doing. She was a talented lady and a great teacher to all those she worked with. Over the last decade approximately 15 quilts each year were donated to the needy in our community. We appreciated all the time, talents, and efforts Betty put into supporting our group and the mission of the church.

Now, even after her passing, we thank the family that these mission projects can continue. Harry asked that we take fabric, patches, and yarn to make more quilts. Thirty-six totes were bought to organize and store the materials. We along with some of her granddaughters wish to continue the work for missions. We thank Dottie Sesock and Donna and Buddy Ream, along with Harry and ladies from the church that helped with cleaning out some of the supplies from the Stewart home. We have enough to last us a long time and we will remember Betty every time we use the fabric.

She was looking ahead and has approximately 12 quilts ready for us to knot next winter. We are truly blessed to have had her in our midst.

This past month 5 double quilts were donated to the Red Cross, 3 single quilts were taken to the Pathway Homeless Shelter in Blacklick and 6 more given to the needy in Indiana County. We also have 10 additional quilts on hand to be donated during this year.

~**Ladies Missionary Society**

Softball Players

If you would like to participate on the Bethel-Blairsville Presbyterian church softball team contact John Steigert, 724-422-1085.

Bethel Bunch

**National Aviary
Saturday, May 15,
1:30 p.m.**

Join in an adventure with God's feathered creation as we have an opportunity to view up to 600 species of birds from around the world. After our visit we'll dine at a German restaurant on the north side (optional). We'll meet at the church to carpool to Pittsburgh. Admission \$12 for adults, \$9.50 ages 2-12. The Bethel Bunch invites anyone who would like to join us for this outing. If we have fifteen participants the rates drop to \$8 & \$7. Sign up in the vestibule or contact Bob & Chris Goossen.

BYG Event

Sunday, May 16

Mini Golf and Ice Cream, time T.B.A.

Church and Cemetery Mowing!

As the grass begins to grow we are again organizing to mow this summer. Contact Dave Schroth, Bill Williams or Pastor Bob if you are willing to help with the mowing on a volunteer basis. We'll provide the mower and the gas!

Mission to New Orleans

May 1-8

Christa Sturiale will be part of a group of 60 people from across Kiskiminetas Presbytery who will fly to New Orleans for a week of work. The Task: to rebuild homes; to be a listening ear; to use our gifts for God's glory and to be blessed. Please keep this mission group in your prayers the first week of May.

Homeless Shelter Benefit

Thursday May 20, 6:00 p.m.

A banquet dinner will help to raise funds for the Pathway Homeless Shelter in Blacklick, the only family shelter in Indiana County. The evening's events at the Novosel Center include a keynote address by Dr. Jim Withers', physician and nationally known advocate for the homeless. With the debilitating economy and budget cuts there is an ever increasing urgency to keep the shelter going and consider expanding the number of beds. Cost for the dinner is \$25.00. reservations may be made through the church office.

Words of Thanks

To all who helped on spring cleaning day and before or after. Each of you made an important contribution to the care of God's house on this hill top.

The Missionary Society extends a thank you to the many people who helped make our annual spaghetti dinner a great success. All donations made, hard work and the time spent in many ways are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all who helped with the Youth Mission and Camp Auction where \$2,132.05 was raised.

We thank all who gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter. The fish banks had \$69.33 and the offering included \$566.35 for a total of \$635.68. These offerings will go to help feed the hungry, bring shelter to the homeless, empower people to improve their lives and aid in times of disaster. Thank you for your generosity.

Good Shepherd Fund

A few years back a special fund was established here at Bethel to assist people in times of need. This pastor's discretionary fund is used in a quiet and confidential manner to provide for assistance in a variety of situations. If you know of someone in the church family or neighborhood that needs help please contact Pastor Bob. If you would like to make a donation please mark it clearly when sending it to the church office or treasurer John Risinger.

Financial Report

Regular Income in March	\$6,500.04
Regular Expenses	\$7,318.82

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2010 these numbers may be helpful. Our first quarter's general offerings totaled \$21,396.96. One quarter of the year's budget is \$24,775.00. Expenses against budget were \$22,401.64. The session is deeply thankful for each gift to the work we do in our corner of God's kingdom. We continue to ask each member to consider their financial stewardship as we move forward in faith this year.

Welcoming Confirmation Class & Adult New Members

Sunday, May 23

We are delighted to welcome our confirmation students into the full fellowship of faith here at Bethel. This year we celebrate with Stephanie Nehrig, Glenn Travis, Morgan Cochran, Jill Overman, John Risinger, Megan Topeka and Serena and Amanda McCaulley

We also welcome a great group of adults into our church family. Justin Horrell, Dave and Debbie McCracken, Mike and Angel McCracken with sons Joseph and Jacob, George Clark, Ken and Jean Shields, Jason and Cindy Stewart with children DJ Campbell, Josh and Jessica Jones.

Celebrating Our Grads

Sunday, May 23

We congratulate Tyler Nehrig who graduates from Homer Center High School and Greg Harvey who graduates from Indiana High School. College graduate, Jessica Risinger receives a degree from IUP. A reception will be held in their honor following worship on the 23rd.



Bethel Presbyterian Church
 1470 Bethel Church Road
 Indiana, PA 15701



May 2010 Calendar for Bethel Church Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8:30 a.m. - Men's Breakfast 9:45 a.m. - Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m. - Red Wagon Collection, Baptism of Maddison Barnhart 6:30 p.m. - Exploring Membership Class	3 7:30 p.m. Cemetery Board	4	5	6 6:45 p.m. Choir	7	8 3:00 p.m. Wedding of Krystle McClafferty & Aaron Rupert
9 Mother's Day 9:45 a.m. - Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m. - Kids Chorus	10 7:00 p.m. Session	11 7:00 p.m. Presbytery at East Brady	12 8:30 a.m. Ministerium	13 6:00 p.m. Mother/Daughter Spring Fling	14	15 1:30 p.m. Bethel Bunch
16 Twabumbogo Partnership Sunday Change For Change Offering	17	18 1:30 p.m. Session Records Reading at Calvary	19 7:00 p.m. Trustees	20 6:45 p.m. Choir	21 Sunday School Campout, details T.B.A.	22
23 11:00 a.m. - Pentecost Communion Noon - Graduates & New Members Reception	24	25 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed	26	27	28	29
30 11:00 a.m. - Baptism of Matthew Stone 7:00 p.m. - Homer-Center Baccalaureate	31 Memorial Day			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>We gather on Sundays for Adult, Youth and Children's Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Worship at 11:00 a.m.</p> </div>		