

*Loving God
Following
Jesus
Serving All*



Newsletter of Bethel Presbyterian Church

January/February 2010

The Bethel Beat

Ash

Wednesday

**Wednesday,
Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m.**

We will join with our brothers and sisters in faith at the Church of the Good Shepherd for a community Ash Wednesday service. As we enter into the Lenten season this is a service which invites us to ponder our total dependence on the victory Christ brings. All are encouraged to come to this contemplative worship time which includes the imposition of ashes.

Learning Forgiveness: A Lenten Lunch and Study Series

**Wednesdays in Lent
Noon-1:30 p.m.**

February 24 at Bethel
March 3 at Crete
March 10 at Good
Shepherd
March 17 at Bethel
March 24 at Crete

From the Pastor's Desk

In his poem "The Road Not Taken" Robert Frost describes a point on an early morning walk when he encounters a fork in the road. Two paths lay ahead, each, for all he could see, was about equally inviting, scenic, leading to where...he was not sure. What would be his guide post for judgment, his compass for decision making? In the final lines of the poem he tells us:

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."

Frost chose the one that had more grass along the edges, the one not quite as well worn as the other. His guide post? Perhaps it was the one that seemed more of an adventure, a little harder perhaps around the bend that he could not see, the one simply in need of a set of feet to travel that way.

In our Christian journeys we regularly come to forks in the road. How do we make decisions about which way to travel, what to do now, how to go forward? Do we ponder all the options; carefully weigh the challenges and opportunities? Do we, as the old hymn says, "take everything to God in prayer?" Oh, if I, if we, might do so well with the varied opportunities God sets in front of us.

Jesus tells us that the way that leads to life is through the narrow gate, and on the far side of the narrow gate the road is hard. (Matt. 7:14) The Message translates this "The way to God—to life—is vigorous and requires total attention." We are often tempted with shortcuts, the easy way out, the feeling that it is all right to do what everyone else is doing. The problem with these wide paths is that they don't have good guideposts.

Here at Bethel we have intentionally chosen a set of words to guide us: *Loving God, Following Jesus, Serving All*. This is a concise and helpful mission statement—in a sense a compass. When we encounter forks in the road in 2010 may we prayerfully ask ourselves how each option we have before us will allow us to positively live our mission statement. Perhaps both roads are quite equal and good, perhaps one is easily the better choice, may we choose wisely. Maybe neither seems to measure up well. Then may God give us the patience to wait, ask, seek, and find the better way, for it will make all the difference.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Bob Goossen

Belated Celebrations in January

Happy Birthday!

- 5 Cal Sesock
- 5 Bob Schroth
- 6 George Good
- 12 Ann Nicholls
- 19 Glenn Travis
- 19 George R. Wardo
- 23 Louise Bowman
- 24 Jane McGee
- 24 Heather Barnhart
- 25 Lindsey Cowoski
- 26 Nathan Good
- 30 Lillian Kinter

Happy Anniversary!

- 2 George & Jo Wardo
- 16 John & Jan LaMorte

Celebrations in February

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Judy Henry
- 6 Tom Mikesell
- 10 Tyler Nehrig
- 12 Heather Greene
- 15 Beth Schroth
- 24 Michelle Good
- 26 ChrisAnn Goossen

Happy Anniversary!

- 2 Fred & Ann Nicholls

With Sympathy

To Joselyn Harvey on the death of her mother, Loretta Pividori.

To the family and friends of Dean Strong

Missionary Society

Saturday, Feb. 13, 9:00 a.m. to ?

Our February meeting will be our annual 'Quilt Lay-Out and Knotting' which will be held in the fellowship hall. Betty Stewart, Eulene Risinger and Eleanor Winsheimer are busy planning for this day. All ladies of the church and friends are invited to help with this mission project. Your support is appreciated.

You are reminded to bring a sack lunch. The hostesses, Marilyn Cochran and Louise Bowman will provide the dessert and beverage.

The Stanley Product Sales will be held in conjunction with this gathering. Stop in for a cup of coffee and see what Stanley has to offer. If you can't attend and would like to purchase a product, see any of our members.

Being Good Financial Stewards

"May all we do be to the Glory of God" This often used phrase is one that rolls easily off the tongue, but not so easily through the paces of each week. As we enter 2010 we continue in uncertain economic times. It is a certainty that there are, and will be, financially challenging situations for families and individuals in our country, in our community and in our church. One of the great challenges in our living is giving a full first portion to God. Together may we strive to have those conversations in our homes that will guide us to be generous in our giving and fully committed in our living so that we will know the blessings when all we do is to the Glory of God.

~Pastor Bob

The 2009 numbers fell this way:

Budget	\$100,200.00
Budgeted Disbursements	\$93,477.58
Total Disbursements	\$107,795.21
Regular Offerings	\$85,390.87
Total Receipts	\$105,516.55
Fund balances on 12-31-09 were	\$43,013.12

A detailed report will be available at, and following, the annual meeting on January 31.

Thank You

Thanks for your monthly contributions you make to our Food Bank. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

~Grace United Methodist Church

Thank you for the gift (\$500) which we will use with care for families in dire need of fuel or utilities in unimaginable hard times.

~The Church Crisis Committee

Congrats!

To Adam and Michelle Good on the birth of Lillian Christine on December 30, 2009.

Grandparents are George and Carolyn Good and Kathy McGahey.

To Nathan and Sarah Good on the birth of Trent Patrick, born January 7, 2010.

Grandparents are George and Carolyn Good.

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.

Bethel Bunch

**Saturday, Feb. 6,
6:00 p.m.**

We'll gather at Tom and Marilyn Bruner's for dinner and more!

A sign up sheet for the meal is posted in the vestibule or contact Tom and Marilyn.

**Introducing and
Inviting You!**

Bethel's

Second

Saturday

Club

Bethel Young Adults, Adults Young at Heart, Families and Those Who Would Love to Join a Bethel Circle of Friendship. We will meet the second Saturday of each month to have good fun and fellowship. Our first meeting of the Second Saturday Club will be "Valentine Luncheon" Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. at the Travis Family Home. Bring a covered dish and a calendar. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

In the Mail Box

The Church of the Good Shepherd will be serving Lenten Fish dinners Fridays, February 19 thru March 26, from 4-7 p.m. All are invited!

Haiti Earthquake

Responses

As God's people, we are called to stand in the "GAP—Give, Act, Pray

Give. Financial gifts are the most urgent need and will be added to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance monies already being sent to Haiti. Designate your gifts for Haiti—DR000064 or call 800-872-3283 or go on-line at pcusa.org

Act. Make Gift of the Heart hygiene kits, instructions are available at church.

Pray. Join in lifting up the people of Haiti in these critical days.

15th Youth Mission and Camp Auction!

March 7th, 1:00 p.m.

The time is near, for the bidding to begin! Bring your gifts of creativity, your passion for supporting mission and Christian camping for our children and youth, and your competitive bidding spirit. Anyone may offer crafts, baked goods or services they are willing to do for another. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

5th WV Mission Trip

June 6-12, 2010

Have you gone before? Have you heard all the great stories from work groups on what they have done, the lives they have touched and how our lives have been changed? A group from our church and Blairsville United Presbyterian will again go to West Virginia to help in housing rehabilitation. We'll be returning to Kopperston in one of the poorest counties in West Virginia. The need is great!

We'll travel on the 6th of June in the afternoon, work with Harry on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, enjoy a leisure activity on Wednesday and return Saturday morning. The trip is open to junior/senior high youth and adults. We need both seasoned veterans and rookies on the team. Contact Pastor Bob if you'd like to sign up or have questions.

BYG Events

**Sunday Feb. 14,
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Easter Sunrise planning
Saturday, Feb. 27
Tubing at Hidden Valley, details to be announced

Thank You

We want to thank our Bethel Church family for all the love and concern shown to us at the time of John's surgery. We have felt a peace and certainty that we believe comes from falling back on the grace of God. Your cards, notes and expressions of love helped us keep our eyes on Jesus. Thank you and please continue to pray for a complete healing.
~John and Jan LaMorte

Thanks to Bill Williams for the donation of his zero turn lawn mower to the Church. His generosity has helped the church immensely. This has made finding volunteers to mow the grass much easier.

Also to Carl George for his hard work in keeping the parking lots plowed and salted for all church activities. We would also like to thank Carl for his time and supplies in the construction of the cement slab the new storage shed will rest on. It is greatly appreciated.

~The Trustees



Bethel Presbyterian Church
 1470 Bethel Church Road
 Indiana, PA 15701



February 2010 Calendar for Bethel Church Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 6:00 p.m. Bethel Bunch
7 8:30 a.m. - Men's Breakfast 11:00 a.m. - "Soup"er Bowl Offering Red Wagon Food Pantry Collection	8 7:00 p.m. Session	9	10	11	12	13 9:00 a.m. Missionary Sewing Day/Stanley Party Noon - Second Saturday Club
14 6:30-8:30 p.m. BYG, Easter Sunrise Practice	15	16	Pastor Bob in Nebraska			20 Wedding of Jason Stewart and Cindy Campbell
Pastor Bob in Nebraska			17 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship at Good Shepherd	18 6:45 p.m. Choir	19	27 BYG Tubing at Hidden Valley, time TBA
21 11:00 a.m. Communion	22	23	24 Noon-1:30 p.m. Lenten Luncheon & Study at Bethel	25 6:45 p.m. Choir	26	
28			We gather on Sundays for Adult, Youth and Children's Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Worship at 11:00 a.m.			