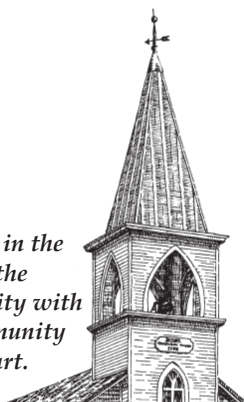


A church in the heart of the community with the community in its heart.



# The Bethel Beat

## 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Sundae Sunday

**Sunday, July 20, 11:00 a.m.**

It is hard to believe that fifteen years have gone by since Bob and Chris arrived at Bethel. We are setting aside this time to say how much we appreciate all that they have done. As we recognize their service to Bethel, everyone is invited to join us for this very special celebration during our worship on Sundae Sunday.

Worship will take place in the pavilion followed by our Sundae Sunday picnic. Drinks, hot dogs and freshly churned ice cream will be furnished. Bring your own service, a dish to share or a sundae topping, and taste buds for the "perfect food!"

## Bethel Community Carnival

**Saturday, August 2, 3:00-7:00 p.m.**

This fundraiser for the Bethel Church roof will be filled with fun and games for the family.

## From the Pastor's Desk

**"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." —Galatians 5:22**

During the last week of June our church was transformed from its ordinary decor into the vibrant hues of a county fair. A bright red barn graced the front of the sanctuary. There was the smell of hay and an amazing mix of blue ribbon critters, crafts and displays. Son Harvest County Fair was here! During this joyous week of Vacation Bible School Lesa Kendall and Missy Travis led the children in singing, playing and praying together as they learned about the fruits of the Spirit. What a wonderful Bible verse to combine with a county fair theme.

Each day Mike Travis and Jeremy Risinger, told the Bible story and talked about one of the fruits of the Spirit. One day as I was working here in the office the door was open just enough for me to overhear Scarecrow Joe (Mike) ask the kids how the Spirit of God gives us peace. In my too mature and sometimes one track mind, I was wondering how little minds were going to grapple with this international question. Then I was blessed to listen in on a discussion about how God provides all we need, so we need not worry.

God provides a wonderful planet with all the resources we need for food (milk, veggies and lots of fruits), clothing, homes to live in and families to care for us. God gives us parents and families so we can have the food, clothes and shelter we need. God provides us with a church family and friends who care about us and love us. And God gives us his Son Jesus who loves us no matter what.

It was a fairly short, yet deeply profound, discussion. God provides all we need so we can have peace. It seems most wars are fought (between countries or neighbors) over our inability to trust in God always. We hoard stuff and power we don't really need. Yet, in simple and profound ways God says to us, trust in me, I will provide you with love, joy, peace... gifts that transform your lives from the ordinary to the vibrant.

Yours in faith,

  
Pastor Bob Goossen

## Sunday School Kick-Off

**August 24, 9:45 a.m.**

The football teams are lining up to kick-off, the volleyball players are serving up the ball and the bands and cheerleaders are practicing every day. Let's experience the same dedication and energy as we kick-off the new Sunday School year.

Make a commitment that Sunday School will be a priority for you and your family. Come for the start, stay through the year! On August 24 we encourage everyone—children and adults—to join in for a Sunday of meeting new teachers, enjoying a special program and of course those wonderful refreshments!

## Iowa Flood Aid Appeal

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is offering hope through the chaos of the Iowa flooding. If you would like to make a donation please mark your check or envelope clearly and we will forward it to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for this specific need.

## Celebrations in July

### Happy Birthday!

- 4 Emily Topeka
- 7 Jim Nehrig  
Nick Cowoski
- 9 Taryne Kish
- 12 Matthew Schroth
- 16 Nick Goossen
- 18 Pearl Orr  
Maleia Good
- 26 Garret Greene
- 29 Emily Allison  
Michael Griffith  
Russ Risinger

### Happy Anniversary!

- 3 John & Chelsea Steigert
- 5 Mike & Missy Travis
- 9 Randy & Leisa Bruner
- 18 Mark & Tisha Cochran

## Celebrations in August

### Happy Birthday!

- 1 Logan Barnhart
- 3 Scott Griffith
- 4 Vicki Gibson  
Jan LaMorte
- 9 Adam Good
- 13 Wes Bruner  
Avery Shamberger
- 15 Abbygail Travis  
Chelsea Steigert  
Casey Sturiale
- 20 Jessica Risinger

### Happy Anniversary!

- 17 Chip & Bev Capriani
- 22 Rich & Vicki Gibson

## Sympathies

Bethel Church extends its sympathies to the family of Peg Sexton—her daughter Charlotte Overman, brother Gerald Shankle, sister-in-law, Sarah Shankle and extended family. Peg passed away on July 3.

## Angel Food Ministries

With the recent rise in food and gasoline prices, many of us are caught in the dilemma of how to stretch our monthly budget. Fortunately, there is help in our community. Angel food Ministry is a Christ centered ministry with a call to demonstrate the love of God through providing wholesome, nutritious food at an incredibly low cost. If you or someone you know needs help contact Angel Food Ministries through:

Covenant Way Church, Indiana 724-349-9510  
United Presbyterian, Blairsville 7234-459-7991  
United Methodist, Blacklick 724-248-9650

## July Softball Schedule

Mon. July 14 at 7:15 vs. Grace 2 at AOG  
Tues. July 15 at 6:00 vs. Calvary at Mack West  
Mon. July 21 at 7:15 vs. Bible Baptist at Mack East  
Tues. July 22 at 7:15 vs. Divine Destiny at AOG  
Thurs. July 24 at 7:15 vs. Sovereign Grace 2 at AOG

## All Sons' Picnic

### Saturday, September 27

Bethel's Mens group will not meet the first Saturday of August, but the group is planning our 2nd annual "All Sons Picnic" for Saturday, September 27 at 5:00 p.m. in the pavilion. Lots of guy food, games and entertainment so mark your calendars now. Open to all the sons of Bethel and other guys in the community! Mark your calendars, invite a friend.

## Leadership Ideas?

The Nominating Committee will be meeting in early September to call forth people to serve as elders, deacons and trustees. Do you have a suggestion for someone you think would be a good fit for the leadership team of our church? If so please suggest their name to Bob Schroth, Mike Travis, Adam Good or Tom Mikesell.

## Financial Report

May income	\$ 8,117.25
June income	\$ 7,366.00

Thanks for your generous giving that met all regular May & June expenses.

### Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon  
Church: 724-479-2465 Pastor's Home: 724-479-8338  
Pastor's E-mail: bobg@bethelpc.net  
Church Website: www.bethelpc.net  
(under construction)

## July Calendar of Events

- 14–7:00 p.m. - Session
- 20–Sundae Sunday @ pavilion-following worship
- 23–7:00 p.m. - Trustees
- 26–2:00 p.m. - Presby YAKs, picnic at Kendall's;  
5:00 p.m. - Bethel Bunch, pizza night at LaMorte's
- 28–7:00 p.m. - Christian Ed. Meeting.

## New Friends

Indiana County Aging Services has begun using our basement as a site for their senior citizens lunch program. Every Wednesday a group of seniors gather for an activity or speaker and lunch. We are happy to share our church with the community for this valuable program.

## County Fair

Lew Sterritt will be presenting "Sermon on the Mount," August 24 at 7:30 p.m. He'll teach life lessons as he breaks and trains a horse

## The Bethel Beat

*Editor:*  
Jean Walker

*Designer:*  
ChrisAnn K. Goossen

*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 e-mail mjwalker@indianconnect.com by the 15th of the month.

## Missionary Society

Thursday, August 14,  
6:00 p.m.

The ladies of the Missionary Society will gather at the church pavilion for their annual covered dish picnic with Peggy Phipps serving as hostess. All ladies of the church are invited to join us. Please come and enjoy a relaxing evening.

## Congratulations

To Scott and Maria Jackson on the birth of Kierra Faith, March 3. (Our apologies for omitting this in our April Bethel Beat.)

To Elaine Perkovich, who recently won a "Community Spirit Award" from her employer, honoring her volunteer service to the community.

## Thank You's

I wanted to thank everyone for all of your prayers and cards I received throughout this hard time. Your prayers have given me a smoother recovery than expected.

Thanks again,  
Kristin Allison

To the Bethel Family: We would like to take this moment to say thank you for all your help and support moving into our new house. We are truly blessed to have a church family like you.

Thanks again, Dave  
and Donna Schroth

## West Virginia Mission Trip

Prayer...Leadership...Planning...Cooperation...  
Communication...Instruction...Supply...  
Willing Workers...Friendship...Fun

What is this list? It is how my Dad (Dick Thompson) summarized our mission trip to Kopperston, West Virginia. I have to agree with him, plus more. It was such a blessing to have another opportunity to travel to West Virginia to serve the Lord by being his hands for those in need. This year's trip hit closer to home for me. Jayme, the father of the family where a small group worked on gutting and beginning the refinishing of the only bathroom in the home, is the same age as me. He has led a life with many hardships, including a gravely ill wife and his own heart and back problems that prevent him from working. The few opportunities that I had to talk with Jayme and his two daughters were refreshing in my own faith in how he talked about his faith and how he knows God is watching over him and his family. No matter what he is dealt, he knows the outcome is what the Lord wants to happen and is best, even if it doesn't seem that way.

The home that the majority of us worked on (scraping, priming and painting the exterior) was for Becky, a mother, grandmother and retired nurse without the means to do the needed work on her own. It brought a different light to the trip. Becky's neighbors would come out and talk, walk by and socialize, something Becky said has not happened in years. Having our youth around for the week meant a lot to her and made each day brighter. But having her neighbors out and talking to them also meant a lot to her. Our presence in this community made a difference, to some it might have been the sound of the truckers blowing their horn as they passed Becky's home (most of which was prompted by our youth encouraging them from the yard), to others it was our hands that made a physical difference, and hopefully for most it was the smile seen on faces within our group and throughout the community as we did the work we were sent to do, no matter what meaning it had to each of us, we were there as God's workers.

Going on the trip were: Tyler Nehrig, Jeremy Risinger, Michael Griffith, Dick & Jane Thompson and Nick & Bob Goossen and six friends from the Blairsville United Presbyterian Church.

Jane Thompson

## Bethel Open

August 17, 1:30 p.m.

Come for an afternoon of golfing fun at Cherry Run Golf Course. We'll play our traditional scramble format with prizes and hot dogs at the finish! We plan on eighteen holes of par 3 play. Contact Tim Allison or sign up in the vestibule.

## Pictorial Directory

Mark your calendars for Sept 26 & 27 for picture days for a new Bethel directory. More information will be coming soon.

## General Assembly News

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, 39, an energetic new church development pastor in San Francisco and leader in the "emergent church" movement, was elected moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

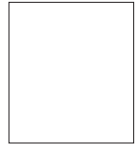
Reyes-Chow is pastor of Mission Bay Community Church, an innovative new church of San Francisco Presbytery

In both his speech and his responses to questions, Reyes-Chow reiterated over and over his belief that "nothing is too hard or too wondrous for God. If the church steps out in faith rather than clinging to survival, to be more intent on being faithful than on being right, to be together based on our common covenant in Jesus Christ rather than by property or pensions, then we will be able to live into a future in which we are a vital and vibrant presence in the world."

Rev. Gradye Parsons was elected to succeed Cliff Kirkpatrick as stated clerk. For full news on the 218th General Assembly go to [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).



**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
 1470 Bethel Church Road  
 Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701



## August 2008 Calendar for Bethel Church Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<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>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 3:00 -7:00 p.m. - Bethel Community Carnival
<b>3</b> Red Wagon Food Pantry Collection	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 p.m. - Wedding of Sally Cowoski and Eric Hummel	<b>9</b>
<p>August 1-6—Pastor Bob on vacation</p>						
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:00 p.m. - Missionary Society Picnic	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 2:00 p.m. - Wedding of Teia Williams and Don Henry
<b>17</b> Worship in the Pavilion 1:30 p.m. - Bethel Open (golfing)	<b>18</b> 7:00 p.m. - Joint Session/Deacons Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:45 a.m. - S.S. Kick-Off 11:00 a.m. - Teacher Rec. 7:30 p.m. - Harvest Home Festival	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						