

Loving God
Following
Jesus
Serving All



Newsletter of Bethel Presbyterian Church

March 2010

The Bethel Beat

Holy Week & Easter Sunday

**Palm Sunday,
March 28**

Sunday

School – 9:45 a.m.

Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Children's Easter

Party – 2:00 p.m.

BYG 6:30–8:00 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday,
April 1, 7:00 p.m.**

Communion in the Fel-
lowship Hall

**Good Friday,
April 2,**

Nazarene Church

12:00–1:00

**Easter Sunday,
April 4,**

Sunrise

Service – 6:45 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

Following Sunrise Service

Sunday

School – 9:45 a.m.

Resurrection

Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Fair Trade Coffee

Packages of regular and decaffeinated coffee are available for purchase in the Glory Room.

From the Pastor's Desk

The Lenten season is upon us as we journey towards Easter. We began with our community Ash Wednesday worship at the Church of the Good Shepherd. As Pastor Katie Ward Stear shared the message I was reminded of the ever present gift God brings into our lives—forgiveness for our sins. Lent naturally moves us into a time of looking inward, asking us to examine our lives and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation where it is needed.

For many there is a great challenge in this journey. It requires that we acknowledge our short comings, something that can be much more difficult than we want to admit. Asking God to forgive us is step one—often the easiest. In seeking God's forgiveness we are given strength for the next part. Step two on a reconciliation journey is to apologize and ask forgiveness from the one we have offended.

Randy Pausch, who gave an inspiring Last Lecture at Carnegie Mellon and wrote a book by the same name as he battled cancer, shares this reflection. "A good apology is like an antibiotic, a bad apology is like rubbing salt in a wound. We can't apologize for others.

First, two classic bad apologies:

1. 'I'm sorry you feel hurt by what I've done.'
2. 'I apologize for what I did, but you also need to apologize to me for what you've done.'

Proper apologies have three parts:

1. What I did was wrong.
2. I feel badly that I hurt you.
3. How do I make this better?

Randy went on to say, "If other people owe you an apology, and your words of apology to them are proper and heartfelt, you still may not hear from them for awhile. After all, what are the odds that they get to the right emotional place to apologize at the exact same moment you do? Just be patient... Your patience will be both appreciated and rewarded."

May our Lenten journey help us grow in being forgiving and forgiven and to restore the brokenness in the relationships in our world. For further reflection you might like to consider the forgiveness Jesus offers in Luke 7:36–50.

Blessings in the richness of these days,

Pastor Bob Goossen

Celebrations in March

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Donna Ream
- 2 Fran Schroth
- 3 Sue Bernd
- 11 Jean Risinger
- 12 Jim Allison
- 12 Hazel McIntire
- 17 Tim Allison
- 22 Rich Gibson
- 22 Reed Henry
- 25 Jean Walker
- 27 Ted Predko
- 27 Cindy Allison

Happy Anniversary!

- 6 Buddy & Donna Ream
- 8 Joe & Stephanie Gibson

BYG Events

Sunday, March 7, Noon

Serve the meal and help with the Youth Mission and Camp Auction.

Sunday, March 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Rehearsal

Sunday, March 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Rehearsal

The Bethel Beat

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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.

Wednesdays during Lent

March 3-24, Noon-1:30 p.m.

Lunch is at Noon. \$3.00

Bible study following -

During lent friends from Good Shepherd, Crete and Bethel will gather each Wednesday for lunch and a time of Bible Study led by Father Chuck and Pastors Katie and Bob. Our study this year is titled "Learning Forgiveness." Study packets are available in the vestibule. Come for all or some!

Youth Mission & Camp Auction!

Sunday, March 7, 1:00 p.m.

Bring your gifts of creativity, your passion for supporting mission and Christian camping for our children and youth, and your competitive bidding spirit. Our luncheon begins at noon with auctioning soon to follow. Anyone may offer items they have created or services they are willing to do for another. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

Prayer Chain

Do you have a prayer request? Most of the emergencies in life for which we'd like prayers don't happen just before Sunday worship. If you or someone you love needs our prayers contact Sara Shankle at 724-465-7045 or Pastor Bob and we'll activate the prayer chain. If you would like to become a member of the prayer chain please make the same contacts.

Financial Report

January 31, 2010

Income \$7,923.45

Expenses \$7,959.58

Here is a great Lenten discipline. Prayerfully and joyfully give God the very first fruits of your income, not the leftovers. Decide it and do it, with the power of the Holy Spirit under girding your life. Discover God's great provisions for a practice that can become a year round blessing.

Missionary Society

Thursday, March 11, 7:00 p.m.

Eulene Risinger will lead the Devotions and The Bible Study Joshua. A Journey of Faith will begin with the Introduction and Lesson One- "Who is the God of Joshua?"

Hostesses for the evening will be Peggy Phipps and Hazel Edna Johnston.

Second Saturday Club

Saturday, March 13, 6:00 p.m.

Dinner and a movie at the Travis'. We'll order in pizza, contact Mike and Missy to let them know you'll be there!

Men's Group

Sunday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.

Note the change to the second Sunday for March. As always, all guys are welcome. Come hungry!

In the Mail Box

Lenten Dinners at Good Shepherd
Fridays March 5-26
4:00-7:00 p.m.

Spring Cleaning/ Work Day

**Saturday, March 27,
9:00 a.m.**

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us rain or shine to clean God's house for Easter. April 10 will be our rain date for outside work.

Celebrate Recovery

**Every Thursday,
6:15-9:30 p.m.**

**Downstairs at the
Homer City United
Methodist Church**

Had enough? Here's help! Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to get real about your hurts, habits and hang-ups.

Come deal with the pains of your life—addictions, anger, guilt, anxiety, depression, reliving the past pain. This is a recovery ministry based on biblical principles with a goal to let God work through a Christ centered 12 Step program. Participants open the door to being changed as they become willing to accept God's grace and forgiveness in solving life's problems. No reservations or appointments needed, just come.

For information contact Kim Torzok at 724-479-8682.

World Day of Prayer Service

Friday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.

This year Cameroon, Africa is the country featured in the World Day of Prayer. The women of Cameroon tell us. "In the Cameroonian context people praise God even in and especially during difficult times in their lives. This is because generally we consider life to be God's greatest gift to us. As long as one has breath, there is hope. So we sing in the hope that things will be better."

Come and join us here at Bethel, along with our friends from Crete and Homer City churches for this World Day of Prayer Service. Carol Allison,
Coordinator for Bethel

Vacation Bible School Dates

Vacation Bible School will be June 21–25, 2010, 9:00 a.m. –noon! We'll have our VBS program and the all church picnic on Sunday, June 27! Mark your calendar and share the good news! Missy Travis will be our director and will be delighted when you contact her to volunteer to help.

Christ Calls, We Respond

**by Eugena Gamble from
The Presbyterian Leader**

(edited for length, used with permission.)

Here is the simple truth. We are each called. God has a purpose—a unique, specific, focused, powerful purpose—for each of our lives. This calling is not something that can be given to another to answer on our behalf, nor is it something we devise, root out, wrestle to the ground, choose, aspire to, or maybe even naturally recognize. The call on our lives is initiated by God and controlled by God.

The precious core of our calling is not just that God has something for us to do, although that also is certainly the case. The precious core of our calling is that we are the objects of God's desire (Isa. 43:1–7). The questions that God asks are, "Can you yet believe that I am good? Can you yet believe that I love you? If so, will you act on that belief so that I can make my will full?"

In saying yes to Christ and to all that following Christ means, we realize that we are not accidental visitors to this place and to our own lives. We are deeply loved creations fashioned for a holy purpose—maybe not grand, maybe unsung, but nevertheless a holy purpose. That purpose is to worship God, love God, serve God, and declare God. It is to offer our bodies, minds, spirits, and gifts toward whatever ends the Beloved desires.

Our calls began in the heart of the Lover long before we knew. Our calls ring inside us when we see need in our homes, churches, and world, and we wonder, how can we respond? They cut through our priorities with one phone call from a nominating committee or a Spirit nudge to make a commitment to a particular congregation. They snatch us to our senses in the midst of a world gone mad when we look at the wreck of human life and think, Perhaps it doesn't have to be that way. "Here I am, Lord. Send me."



Bethel Presbyterian Church
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February 2010 Calendar for Bethel Church Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Noon-1:30 p.m. Lenten Lunch & Bible Study at Crete	4	5 7:00 p.m. World Day of Prayer Service at Bethel	6
7 Noon - Lunch 1:00 p.m. - Youth Mission & Camp Auction Red Wagon Food Pantry Collection	8 7:00 p.m. Session	9 7:00 p.m. Presbytery at Sugar Hill	10 Noon-1:30 p.m. Lenten Lunch & Bible Study at Good Shepherd	11 7:00 p.m. Missionary Society	12	13 6:00 p.m. Second Saturday Club
14 8:30 a.m. Men's Group 6:00-8:00 p.m. BYG Daylight Savings Time Begins	15	16 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed	17 Noon-1:30 p.m. Lenten Lunch & Bible Study at Bethel 7:00 p.m. - Trustees	18 6:45 p.m. Choir	19	20
21	22	23	24 Noon-1:30 p.m. Lenten Luncheon & Study at Crete	25 6:45 p.m. Choir	26	27 9:00 a.m. Spring Cleaning
28 11:00 a.m. Children's Chorus 2:00 p.m. Children's Easter Party 6:00-8:00 p.m. - BYG	29	30	31			