

Loving God
Following
Jesus
Serving All



Newsletter of Bethel Presbyterian Church

February/March 2013

The Bethel Beat

Community Ash Wednesday Service

**Wednesday, Feb. 13
7:00 p.m.**

The Ash Wednesday Community Service will be held at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Kent. Pastor Terry will be delivering the message. Please join us as we begin the season of Lent.

Lenten Luncheons

**Wednesdays
Noon**

The Lenten Luncheons will be held at the following churches:

February 20

Homer City Church of the Nazarene

February 27

Hope Lutheran Church

March 6

Homer City United Presbyterian Church

March 13

Our Lady of the Assumption, Lucerne

March 20

Homer City United Methodist Church

A Note from Terry...

Thank you all for the warm welcome you have extended to me as I begin serving as your CRE and for the lovely pen/desk organizer that I received. It's hard to believe that the first week of our partnership has already come to a close. In my brief time here I've already had the pleasure of attending the lock-in with the kids, was able to be with you at the Congregational meeting and met with the Christian Ed. Committee for the first time. And here it is, Saturday...the last day of the week and as I sit at my desk, The snow is falling outside, parking lots and sidewalks are being plowed and shoveled by Dave, Carl, and Timmy. Dorothy, Louise, and Eulene are in the basement sorting and piecing fabric for quilts and soon there will be folks here getting ready for a shower. If the past week is any kind of indicator, Bethel church is a busy place and the caring and activity that I have seen demonstrated so far remind me of one of my favorite scriptures from Acts that speaks about the fellowship of the church.

Acts 2:42-47 says this:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

This scripture describes the church that we all long for... a church that embraces the ideals of friendship, community, generosity, justice and worship. It is a community of faith that doesn't operate on its own power but operates in the power of God's Spirit. Its accomplishments are not the accomplishments of extraordinary folk; they are signs of the Holy Spirit working within a community of ordinary people who understand themselves as united in purpose and identity. They are not just a collection of individual churchgoers, but a family under the headship of Jesus Christ. Being that kind of church isn't always easy. Many days it is a struggle to achieve and maintain that kind of unity. In the coming days and months it will be exciting to see just what we can accomplish as we work together keeping Christ at the center of all we do.

In His Service,
Pastor Terry

Celebrations in February

Happy Birthdays!

2 Judy Henry
2 Dave McCracken
4 Debbie Risinger
6 Tom Mikesell
10 Tyler Nehrig
12 Heather Greene
15 Beth Schroth
17 Alysa George
24 Michelle Good
26 Jessica Jones

Happy Anniversary!

18 Fred & Ann Nicholls
20 Jason & Cindy Stewart

Lenten Dinners

Fridays During Lent 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The Church of the Good Shepherd will be holding fish, seafood and pierogie dinners with all the trimmings each Friday during Lent, except Good Friday. Adults \$10, children 6-12 \$4 and children under 6 are free. Take-outs are available.

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. Email info@bethelpc.net or call 724-479-2465 by the 15th of the month.

February Schedule of Events

Monday, February 11

7:00 p.m. – Session Meeting

Wednesday, February 13

7:00 p.m. – Community Ash Wednesday Service

Saturday, February 16

Bethel Youth Group – Dinner & Snowtubing

Sunday, February 17

11:00 a.m. – Twabumbogo Partnership Sunday; Communion; Children's Choir

Wednesday, February 20

Noon – Lenten Lunch

Wednesday, February 27

Noon – Lenten Lunch

Financial Report

Monthly Receipts Financial Study

Reg. Giving	2011	2012
January	\$7,661.00	\$7,549.11
February	\$7,063.90	\$6,631.60
March	\$7,601.00	\$7,666.03
April	\$8,383.00	\$8,176.26
May	\$9,538.35	\$7,492.69
June	\$8,353.48	\$7,833.63
July	\$8,855.04	\$7,365.75
August	\$7,517.09	\$7,822.43
September	\$7,308.58	\$8,269.27
October	\$7,957.60	\$7,499.43
November	\$6,856.56	\$6,197.75
December	\$7,837.50	\$9,145.60
Total	\$94,933.10	\$91,941.55
Mon. Avg.	\$7,911.09	\$7,661.80

December Regular Offerings	\$9,145.60
December Regular Expenses	\$10,986.97
Variance	(\$1,841.37)
2012 Offerings to date	\$91,941.55
2012 Regular Expenses	\$96,659.90
Variance	(\$4,718.35)
2011 Offerings	\$94,933.10
Variance	(\$2,991.55)

Celebrations in March

Happy Birthday!

1 Donna Ream
2 Bentley Patterson
2 Fran Schroth
3 Sue Bernd
11 Jean Risinger
12 Jim Allison
17 Tim Allison
22 Kim Coleman
22 Rich Gibson
22 Jake McCracken
25 Jean Walker
27 Ted Predko
27 Cindy Allison
27 Joe McCracken
29 Hunter Shamberger

Happy Anniversary!

6 Buddy & Donna Ream
8 Joe & Stephanie Gibson

Bethel Youth Group

Saturday, Feb. 16

Dinner in Monroeville followed by snowtubing at Boyce Park. See Mike & Missy Travis or Dave & Donna Schroth for more information

Sunday, March 3

Noon

Camp Auction

Sunday, March 17

TBA

Sunday, March 24

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Easter Party helpers

Sunday, March 31

7:00 a.m.

Sunrise Service

11:00 a.m.

Easter Worship

<p>Children's Choir The Children's Choir will be singing during worship on the following Sundays: February 17, March 24 and May 12.</p>	<p>Daylight Savings Time Sunday, March 10th Time to spring ahead! Don't be late for Sunday School and church.</p>	<p>What is Per Capita? You may have noticed blue envelopes in your pew titled "per capita" and may have wondered, "Exactly what is per capita and what does it do?" Per capita is an amount of money per member that our congregation pays to our larger Presbyterian Church (USA). This money enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It also allows us to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world. We do not believe in being lone rangers in the PC (USA). We need each other as we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Your per capita pays for the programs, training, mission programs and resources that help us work together and discern the mind of Christ for the PC (USA). Thank you to all of you who have already paid your share of this year's apportionment of \$4,318.02; you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community. If you haven't yet contributed, we hope you will consider doing so.</p>
<p>Men's Group Sunday, March 3 8:00 a.m. The men's group will meet in the church kitchen. All men of the church are welcome to join us for breakfast.</p>	<p>Holy Week & Easter Sunday Palm Sunday, Mar. 24 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School 11:00 a.m. – Worship & Children's Choir 2:00 p.m. – Children's Easter Party Maundy Thursday, Mar. 28, 6:30 p.m. Potluck dinner with Communion Easter Sunday, April 8 7:00 a.m. – Sunrise service on top of the hill, weather permitting with Easter breakfast following 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School 11:00 a.m. – Easter Worship</p>	
<p>Missionary Society Thursday, March 14 7:00 p.m. The Bethel Missionary Society will meet at the church. Virginia Clawson and Eulene Risinger are the hostesses for the evening. Lesson Two, "Fatherhood", will be led by Marilyn Bruner.</p>	<p>Mission & Camp Auction Sunday, March 3, Noon The Mission and Camp Auction is quickly approaching. A soup and sandwich luncheon will begin after church and a free will offering for the luncheon will be received. We are so grateful to everyone who is donating items for this year's auction, however, in the interest of time and to best enjoy all donations some changes have been made. March 1 is the last day to submit any items for the auction. This year we will be using the silent auction to showcase all the wonderful bakers and chefs here at Bethel. The youth will collect the baked goods the morning of the auction. Please note that if you have a special baked item you wish to donate for the live auction it must be added to the list prior to March 1. Finally, duplicate items will also be added to the silent auction as well. Thank you to everyone who supports this special ministry. The camp auction promises to be a fun-filled event with plenty of special treats to bid on! We ask you all to invite your friends, family and neighbors to help support our youth. The Mission and Camp Auction is such a wonderful ministry here at Bethel!</p>	
<p>Children's Easter Party Sunday, March 24 2:00-4:00 p.m. We are inviting all children, grand-children, neighbors and friends to the children's Easter party. Please see the sign-up sheet in the vestibule if you are interested in helping with the plastic or hard-boiled eggs.</p>		

I'm finally going to South Africa!

I will be spending roughly 9 weeks working with the organization Hands at Work (handsatwork.org). Hands at Work is an organization that has been working in South Africa since 2002. They now also work in the DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Their goal is to mobilize the Church to heal the broken communities. They try to provide holistic care to fill every need of the community. They do anything and everything from working on houses, in gardens, providing nutrition or sex education, and providing meals to children of the communities - for some of them, the only food they will have access to that day. The goal of the groups' founder, George Snyman, is to reach 100,000 children that would otherwise not be reached by other organizations.

I feel so blessed to be able to spend a short time serving with these individuals; it is an awesome responsibility! My fellow travelers will be Mariah, Alicia, and Russel from Canada, Dave and Joe from the United Kingdom, and Melissa and Leyton from Australia. I will be leaving Pittsburgh on February 6th. The eight of us should all be arriving to the Hands Base in South Africa on February 8 and will have a few days to adjust before our service actually begins on February 11. We will all be staying at the base for different durations. I will be leaving the Hands Base on April 12 and should land in Pittsburgh on April 13. Please keep us all in your prayers as we travel to Africa to begin this journey together.

To stay in touch with me you can email me at jessicarisinger@gmail.com or read my blog, jessinsafrika.blogspot.com. We do have internet access in the main office at the Hands Base. I'm not exactly sure how often I will be able to check in, but I will try for at least once a week. I will also be taking a camera to post photos of my trip.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support!

~ Jessica Risinger

March 2013 Calendar for Bethel Church Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 8:00 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast 11:00 a.m. – Red Wagon Food Pantry Collection Noon – Camp Auction	4	5	6 Noon Lenten Lunch 7:00 p.m. Trustees	7	8	9
10 <i>Daylight Savings Time</i>	11 7:00 p.m. Session	12	13 Noon Lenten Lunch 6:00 p.m. Christian Ed.	14 7:00 p.m. Missionary Society	15	16
17 11:00 a.m. – Twabumbogo Partnership Sunday	18	19	20 Noon Lenten Lunch	21	22	23
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Children’s Choir 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Easter Party	25	26	27	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 6:30 p.m. Communion Service	29 <i>Good Friday</i>	30
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 7:00 a.m. – Sunrise 11:00 a.m. – Easter Worship				<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>		