

*Loving God
Following
Jesus
Serving All*



Newsletter of Bethel Presbyterian Church

September 2013

The Bethel Beat

A Story of Faith

**Sunday, Sept. 22
9:30 a.m.**

Bethel Presbyterian Church, the oldest church in Indiana County, will be celebrating 225 years of ministry. The day will begin with a light breakfast, self-guided tours and church history displays. Please note that there is no Sunday School and worship will be held at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a covered dish lunch in the pavilion following worship. The afternoon will be filled with activities for the kids, a historical walking tour of the cemetery and time to reminisce. We've invited old and new friends of Bethel to share in this special day with us. Plan to come, bring your favorite dish to share and celebrate with family and friends.

A Note from Terry...

It's early September...OK the middle of September and as we look ahead I think it would be fair to say that this month will be a month of great story telling. In fact next Saturday evening it's probably fair to say that there will be several folks preparing their first Sunday School lesson of the year. Thank you. Thank you for teaching, for telling the story, for loving the kids as well as the adults of our church as we strive to learn more of God's love for us all and for helping all of us in the church to fulfill our baptismal promises to our children and their parents. It matters.

As a church celebrating its 225th birthday, we are also telling another story, but it's the same story. It's the story of a people of faith. That story matters as well.

In his novel, "Ceremony" Leslie Marmon Silko says, "I will tell you something about stories . . . They aren't just entertainment. Don't be fooled. They are all we have, you see, all we have to fight off illness and death. You don't have anything if you don't have the stories." Did you ever think of stories as medicine...salve for the soul! That's what the stories of the Bible are... stories of a God who loves us. HIS-story and the history of this church...the stories of the Christian mothers and fathers who worshiped here offer us strength when we are weak and mend our hearts and give us a vision for what can be when we are blind.

As people of faith, we have lots of amazing and wonderful stories. Together they make up one big story. It's the story of a God who created this good world and all of us in love and won't ever give up on us. It's the story of a God who has the first word and will have the last one, and that word is "Yes." It's the story of a God who finds a way when we don't, and who will be the way through life's many dangers, toils and snares.

So everyone..., tell your stories. We all have at least one and don't forget to keep telling "The Story". As we do this, we will endow the hearts and imaginations of our children and adults. We don't have anything if we don't have the stories.

He brought the people of Israel out of Egypt. The Egyptians loaded them down with silver and gold. From among the tribes of Israel no one got tired or fell down. ~Psalm 105:37

In His Service, Pastor Terry

Celebrations in September

Happy Birthday!

- 1 James Ratay
- 2 Tim Schroth
- 2 Jim Workman
- 3 Judy Fancella
- 9 Matthew Griffith
- 10 Jared Wardo
- 11 Dick Thompson
- 14 Sally Hummel
- 21 Addison Horrell
- 22 Michelle Taddie
- 24 Amanda Horrell
- 27 Carl George
- 29 Ken Shields
- 29 Chris Stone

Happy Anniversary!

- 3 Art & Judy Fancella
- 4 Rusty & Heather Barnhart
- 14 Jim & Faith Workman
- 22 George & Connie Wardo
- 25 David & Donna Schroth
- 29 Adam & Casey Carnahan

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.

News from Sunday School

Sunday, Sept. 15, 9:45 a.m.

Here's the bad news...summer is over. But, the good news is that Sunday school will be starting up fresh and new with something for everyone.

What do Oreos, windsocks, stepping stones, and Joseph of the Old Testament have in common? They are all part of our Fall Children's Sunday school program. As the kids begin a study of "Joseph...Living in a Land of Many Colors", they will explore the stepping-stones in Joseph's life and how he lived through each one with faith and trust in God. They will step out into Joseph's life starting with the coat of many colors that Joseph receives as a favorite son and come to learn that through the bad situations in Joseph's life God was working HIS good plan. Through the workshops the children will understand and explore the main concept: God is supreme over their lives, working for good in the lives of individuals, families, and nations. In each workshop the children will collect a different colored bead to add to their "pin of Many Colors." This is a rotational workshop format and a team of caring adults will be walking alongside the kids through their study of Joseph.

But, you know... Sunday School isn't just for little kids! All God's children need the opportunity to learn and grow in their faith...young and old alike. The Senior High class will start out with lessons about a great grand-ma, a king maker, a king and a royal pain. If you want to know who these folks were, make plans to join Wendy and the gang. For adults interested in a traditional Sunday School format there will be a quarterly study that will explore "A Living Faith" using the books of Hebrews and Acts. Marilyn Bruner will facilitate this class.

For those looking for something a little different, stay tuned – something new is in the works and we hope to unveil it soon.

Missionary Society

Thursday, Sept. 12
6:00 p.m.

The Bethel Missionary Society will meet at the church. Carol Allison and Jean Walker are the hostesses for the evening. Lesson Six, "The Elders," will be led by Carol Allison.

Youth Group

Sunday, Sept. 15
4:00 p.m.

We will hold a Youth Group summer wrap-up and reorganizational meeting at the church. Wear your work camp clothes. Didn't make it to work camp? Not to worry. You are invited too. Come and plan to stay for dinner. **AND**...anyone with pictures of past youth group events please bring them for our bulletin board for the 225th birthday party.

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 Louise Bowman at 724-726-9091.

At College

Please keep the following young adults in your thoughts as they continue their studies during the year.

Christa Sturiale, Duke
Michelle Taddie,
University of
Pennsylvania
Alyssa Taddie,
Salus University
Michael Griffith, IUP
Jeremy Risinger, IUP
Emily Topeka, IUP

Going, Going, Gone

Congratulations to the Bethel Church Softball Team on another successful season. This year the team finished third in the league. Thank you to John Steigert for managing the team that included Chris & Tyler Nehrig, Casey Roser, Jason Stone, Adam Carnahan, Bob Schroth, Dave Orr and Tim Stewart as well as other friends from around the area.

Don't Forget!

The following groups are reminded to check their mailboxes in the office: session, deacons, cemetery board, trustees, missionary society and Christian Ed.

Bethel 225th Commemorative Mug

The birthday planning committee has made arrangements to celebrate the occasion with a special commemorative mug. The 11 oz. white mug will have a picture of the church on one side and our name, and the years 1788 – 2013 on the other side. The graphic will come in royal blue or green, with a cost of \$5.00 each.

We are taking orders and will have the mug available on September 22, the day of the celebration. Payment will be due the day of the celebration.

If you are interested, please see the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

Financial Report

Monthly Receipts Financial Study

Reg. Giving	2012	2013
January	\$7,549.11	\$8,057.73
February	\$6,631.60	\$9,080.49
March	\$7,666.03	\$9,295.83
April	\$8,268.26	\$8,328.09
May	\$7,492.69	\$7,455.00
June	\$8,033.63	\$11,047.50
July	\$7,365.75	\$6,252.11
August	\$7,822.43	
September	\$8,269.27	
October	\$7,499.43	
November	\$6,197.75	
December	\$9,145.60	
Total	\$91,941.55	\$59,516.75
Mon. Avg.	\$7,661.80	\$8,502.39

July Regular Offerings	\$6,252.11
July Regular Expenses	\$4,529.11
Variance	\$1,723.00
2013 Offerings to date	\$59,516.75
2013 Regular Expenses	\$44,049.94
Variance	\$15,466.81
2012 Offerings	\$53,000.24
Variance	\$6,516.51

The Session

Class of 2013

Charlotte Overman
Mike Travis

Class of 2014

Donna Schroth
Jane Thompson

Class of 2015

Donna Bruner
Gerald Shankle

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2013

Louise Bowman
Tom Bruner

Class of 2014

Tim Allison
Jessica Risinger

Class of 2015

Carolyn Good
Kathy McGahey

The Property Managers

Class of 2013

George Clark
Dave Schroth

Class of 2014

Carl George
Vicki Gibson

Class of 2015

Tyler Nehrig
Lyndale Walker

The Cemetery Board

Class of 2013

Wes Bruner
Ted Predko

Class of 2014

Carolyn Good
Ed Nehrig

Class of 2015

Rich Gibson
Tom Mikesell



Bethel Presbyterian Church
 1470 Bethel Church Road
 Indiana, PA 15701



September 2013 Calendar for Bethel Church Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>No Sunday School</i> 8:00 a.m. – Men’s Group 11:00 a.m. – Red Wagon Food Pantry Collection	2 <i>Labor Day</i>	3	4 7:00 p.m. Property Managers	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Back to Sunday School Breakfast	9 7:00 p.m. Session & Property Managers	10 7:00 p.m. Presbytery Meeting at NuMine PC	11 Nominating Committee	12 6:00 p.m. Missionary Society	13	14
15 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School classes begin 4:00 p.m. – Youth Group	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>No Sunday School</i> 9:30 a.m. – Breakfast 10:30 a.m. – Worship Noon – Lunch in the pavilion	23 7:30 p.m. Cemetery Board	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School with Worship Team 11:00 a.m. – Twabumbogo Partnership Sunday	30					

**We gather on Sundays for Adult, Youth
 and Children’s Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
 and Worship at 11:00 a.m.**