

BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

October, 2009

Greetings to you, and, peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Hello everyone! Whenever I embark on the process of writing this column I go through a litany of thoughts. I allow my mind to venture to relevant things happening at the time. So, of course for this column my mind entertained thoughts about the change of seasons; football; the chilly and damp weather we are having. I even thought about a topic that is a big part of Jeri's life: the Dillsburg "earthquakes". Now, knowing me, I could write a page (whether interesting or not?) on any of those topics. But there is one thought that keeps coming back to mind for me.

Our Gospel lesson for September 27 was one that in some ways disturbs the hearers. This is the passage where Jesus tells us to cut off a hand or a foot or to pluck out an eye if these are the parts of our bodies that cause us to sin. Because, as Jesus says, "It is better to enter life maimed or lame or blind than to [allow this offending part of our body] to cast us into hell....." Now the sermon for that day also covered the passages before and after these particular verses, but with the directive that Jesus gives us, these verses can be somewhat disturbing. I know I have difficulty thinking that Jesus would actually tell us to cut off our hand or foot or to pluck out our eye. It is this premise that led to a screenwriter many years ago come up with the character "Elmer Gantry". (At least I think I remember this correctly.) If I am correct, Elmer was struggling with things in life and how he could justify these things within the context of faith. In his struggle with sin he repeatedly heard a minister say this passage....."If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out." And, in the climatic scene of the movie, he did just that. Now, I was very young when I first saw this movie but that particular scene sticks in my mind to this day. It was very gruesome.

But, even though I was repulsed by that scene (and I am sure many others were too)... I cannot help but think that we should also be repulsed by sin and its consequences. We know that everyone of us will sin in our life. We also know what the consequences of sin are...eternal damnation where "the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." And, we know that we will all face our judgment day where God will call us to account for the actions of our life. We may try to put all of our actions in a good perspective (in other words we will try to justify why we continue sinning and doing things contrary to the will of God) but God will not accept our excuses. He will only hear that we did things according to His calling or we chose to do whatever we wanted to do for ourselves. He will either say "Well done, good and faithful servant" or "Your choices and actions were sinful and therefore you will spend eternity in hell."

Unfortunately, while we live life on earth, we are surrounded by many things that make life pleasurable. And, we need some of these things for the living of our lives. But, we do not **need** all the things we **want**. We want many things but God knows what things we **NEED** and provides all things for us. I guess one simple suggestion to follow in trying to live by God's guidance is this simple folk song: "**Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness. And, all these things shall be added unto you. ALLELUIA!**" Simple words for living a righteous life. Simple words to follow to limit the amount of sin in our lives. Simple words to keep our hands, our feet and our eyes from causing us to sin!

God Bless! Love, Pastor Lou Ann

MONTHLY PASTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

MONTH: August, 2009

WORSHIP SERVICES: 8/2 – Jeri Jones, liturgist
8/9 – Outdoor Service
8/16
8/23 – Outdoor Service – Rev. David Kirk, supply
8/30

MEETINGS: Consistory: 8/10
Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 8/3, 8/10
Newsletter: 8/31
Ministry Advisory Committee: no meeting

VISITS: Home: 7
Home Communion: 0
Hospital: 0
Nursing Home: 1

OTHER: Wedding Consultation – 8/7
Music and fall worship schedule – 8/25
Lay Life Picnic – 8/25

Complete days off: 4
Sick Days this month: 2 Total for the year: 4
Vacation Days this month: 7 Total for the year: 20

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Lou Ann Jones

Bethel U.C.C. Consistory Meeting
August 3, 2009

Meeting was called to order by Robert Ernst III at 7:40 p.m. Lou Ann led the group in a prayer.

Attendance was taken. Rev. Lou Ann, D. Bankert, F. Brillhart, R. Ernst, III, J. Jones, J. Nace, D. Lauchman and C. Martz.

Minutes of the July consistory meeting was reviewed. E. Miller, Jr. should read E Miller. Motion to accept minutes was made by F. Brillhart and seconded by D. Bankert. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read by C. Martz. Motion to accept the report as presented was made by D. Lauchman and seconded by J. Nace.

Pastor's report presented by Rev. Lou Ann. F. Brillhart made a motion to accept the report and seconded by D. Bankert. "4 Our Churches Campaign" update was distributed.

Committee Reports:

Social (D. Bankert): Indoor picnic was a success with over 60 people attending.

Church Care (E. Miller): J. Jones reported that ~\$200 of trash bags are being used yearly. We might want to think about going to a pickup fee. We will review the amount of purchased bags in October. J. Jones and D. Lauchman will get prices on replacing the hot water heater from 3 vendors.

Outreach (D. Yost): No Report

Ministry/Advisory (R. Ernst reporting): Next meeting is September 14th.

Education: (Rev. Lou Ann reporting): Summer Sunday School format has been popular. The regular schedule will resume in September. Teachers are talking about the Christmas program.

Worship (Rev. Lou Ann reporting): Rev. Dave will conduct service on August 23rd. Pat Leader will be on call.

Rentals (F. Brillhart): Sue Tharp has hall on September 20th.

Offering/Attendance (F. Brillhart): Review of July's numbers.

Fund Raisers (C. Delozier): J. Jones reported that Hoss's will be September 17th, Friendly's on October 13th. October 14th is the sub sale deadline. Chicken BBQ was good with a profit of \$860.00. The bazaar planning will soon start. S. Tharp has agreed to serve as a supervisor. Consistory suggested discontinuing the store discount cards when supplies run out.

Hymnal Committee: Meeting planned for August 12th.

Old Business:

July Greeter: Thank you to J. Jones

Window Decorations – Thank you to M. Leppo for June, July and August

L. Noel trying to make another appointment to have organ checked for some minor problems.

Discussion on a new swing set will take place at the September meeting.

New Business:

Budget committee and nomination committee will be formed at the September meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeri L. Jones
Secretary

Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 9, 2009

Meeting called to order by President Ernst at 9:06 a.m. Rev. Lou Ann offered a prayer. Subject of the meeting was to approve the paying of the work conducted by Allison and Marshall to repair the broken sewer pipes. Total of the bill was \$3850.00. D. Bankert made a motion to pay the bill and motion seconded by G. Simpson. Motion carried. J. Ernst made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by C. Delozier. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

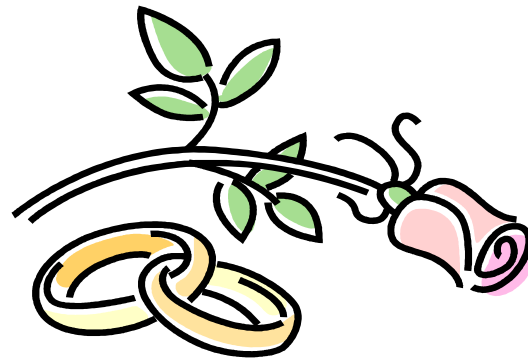
Jeri L. Jones
Secretary

October Birthdays

5 – Robert E. Thoman
5 – Walter Miller
9 – Dequay Lauchman
14 – George Shue
15 – Steve Beard
19 – Kayla Stevenson
20 – Jean Masenheimer
22 – Deb Bankert
22 – Anna Bankert
29 – Andrew Stevenson
29 – Diane Nace

October Anniversaries

4 – Ted & Georgetta Kreitz
7 – Gene & Diane Nace
10 – Greg & Tina Main



LIST OF SHUT-IN AND PRAYER CONCERN MEMBERS

JOYCE REICHERT
Room 215B
Colonial Manor Home
970 Colonial Ave
York, PA 17403

KATHRYN KALTREIDER
1935 Niagara Lane
York, PA. 17404

RUTH STERNER
P.O. Box 330
Hanover, PA 17331



From the Congregation's Life:

BILL ABBOTT is patiently waiting to be cleared for the Defibrillator. He will meet with the doctor in November and if he has not had an episode, he may have the surgery sometime after the 19th.

RUTH SNYDER had shots for her sciatic pain. We certainly pray that she finds long term relief from this pain! God Bless, Ruth.

DEB BANKERT is still having a lot of discomfort with her back. We uplift her in prayer that she finds relief too! Our thoughts are with DEB.

RUBY THOMAN is going through some tests and needs some follow up tests. We certainly pray all goes well for her! GOD BLESS, RUBY!

We definitely pray that most everyone is able to avoid the H1N1 virus (Swine Flu) this season. We do have a large container of Hand Sanitizer as you come in the front doors at Church and we invite you to use this if you desire. ALSO – as we do the passing of the peace, if you would prefer to refrain from shaking hands, this is perfectly fine! Just speak the Peace of Christ to those around you!

We certainly apologize if we fail to mention anyone going through any illnesses or other experiences we mention during our prayer concerns at church! We do keep you in our prayers!

JAMIE NACE and CLAY McKIM will become wife and husband on October 17. May God bless this young couple as they begin their married life! They are also in the process of beginning to build their home. BEST WISHES!

Did you see **DENNIS and RACHEL NELSON** on the Dr. Phil show? They were in a clip filmed in Philadelphia which aired on September 18th. Congratulations!

TESS WEAVER was very surprised as she walked in at her Sweet 16th birthday party. She was surrounded by friends and family wishing her a very happy birthday. As she blew out the candles on her cakes fireworks started (they were part of the Spring Grove Community day festivities) – not everyone has fireworks for their birthday celebration!

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**CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT:** We shared in the announcements on September 20<sup>th</sup> that the project we started for a children's Sunday School Mission project is going very well! Back in the Spring of the year we started offering candy bars for sale at 50 cents a piece. These are located on a table outside the Pastor's Office. The candy is all donated so all money goes to this project. On September 20<sup>th</sup> the children decided that with the \$142.50 raised to this point, we will purchase a **GOAT** and a **FLOCK OF CHICKS** from the Heifer Project.

THANK YOU for supporting this project and please continue to support it throughout the months and years.

# COMING EVENTS :



## RALLY DAY SERVICE – OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

Worship and program begins at **10:00 AM!**

We invite you to join us for our RALLY DAY activities! And, invite your friends and neighbors to join with us that day! We will have our program presented by the Chapelmen from Red Lion. Then, following the worship service we will join in our covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall. After we have enjoyed all the wonderful food items, we will have some games and activities available.

Of course, we will have our WHITE ELEPHANT sale once again! And, I know the White Elephant is looking forward to his appearance at the sale. Maybe you will be the one to host the White Elephant for the next year! Our activities will last up to 2:00 pm or so. We always have a good time of fellowship as we talk with our friends and eat lots of good food!

# ***Tea Time Together***

**Bethel UCC Tea Party Fund Raiser**

**Sunday November 8, 2009**

**Tea Time 2:00PM**

**Cost per Guest \$15.00**

***Bring your favorite Tea cup for your own use***

**Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with friends and family.**

Family, Fellowship, Food

Piano Music featuring Rev Lou Ann Jones

Each guest will receive a ticket for a door prize drawing

**Please sign up by October 25, 2009**

Any Questions call Dixie 632-1409

## ***WORSHIP HAPPENINGS:***

Just a few things for your attention:

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION is on OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> at 9:00 am. We will NOT have a Thursday Evening communion service this year.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 is HARVEST HOME SUNDAY. Please bring contributions of non-perishable food items. All donations are given to God's Meal Barrel.

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Consistory would like to know what help is going to be available for the Holiday Bazaar this year. We are asking EVERYONE who is willing to help in ANY WAY with the bazaar to attend a meeting on OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> beginning at 7:00 PM. We will need to know what you are willing to do and what hours you are available. If you cannot attend, please sign the sheet in the narthex or see any of the consistory members and give them your information.

# September 2009

Bethel United Church of Christ

| Sunday                                                                    | Monday                                                                                 | Tuesday                                                           | Wednesday | Thursday                                                                                   | Friday    | Saturday  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                                                           |                                                                                        | <i>1</i><br>Bible Study -<br>9:00 am<br>Adult Choir -<br>7:00 pm  | <i>2</i>  | <i>3</i>                                                                                   | <i>4</i>  | <i>5</i>  |
| <i>6</i><br>Outdoor<br>Worship - 9:00<br>am<br>Sunday School -<br>1030 am | <i>7</i><br>Labor Day                                                                  | <i>8</i><br>Bible Study -<br>9:00 am<br>Adult Choir -<br>7:00 pm  | <i>9</i>  | <i>10</i>                                                                                  | <i>11</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>13</i><br>Worship - 9:00<br>am<br>Sunday School -<br>1030 am           | <i>14</i><br>Ministry<br>Advisory<br>Committee -<br>6:45 pm<br>Consistory -<br>7:30 pm | <i>15</i><br>Bible Study -<br>9:00 am<br>Adult Choir -<br>7:00 pm | <i>16</i> | <i>17</i><br>Hoss's<br>Community<br>Night -<br>remember to get<br>your card for<br>Bethel. | <i>18</i> | <i>19</i> |
| <i>20</i><br>Worship - 9:00<br>am<br>Sunday School -<br>1030 am           | <i>21</i><br>Girl Scouts -<br>615 pm                                                   | <i>22</i><br>Bible Study -<br>9:00 am<br>Adult Choir -<br>7:00 pm | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i>                                                                                  | <i>25</i> | <i>26</i> |
| <i>27</i><br>Worship - 9:00<br>am<br>Sunday School -<br>1030 am           | <i>28</i><br>Girl Scouts -<br>615 pm                                                   | <i>29</i><br>Bible Study -<br>9:00 am<br>Adult Choir -<br>7:00 pm | <i>30</i> |                                                                                            |           |           |