

# BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

November, 2009

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

I start this month's column with a very sincere THANK YOU to the people of Bethel UCC. On October 18<sup>th</sup> we called a special meeting to vote on the new hymnals. We had the meeting and voted to accept the gift of new hymnals for the church. But it ended up being a bit of a surprise for me as consistory president Bob Ernst went into something else. He presented me with a gift from the congregation in recognition of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my call to serve Bethel. It was July 1, 1989 when I began serving as Pastor here at Bethel. And if you remember, that was an eventful year because Jeri and I got married April 22. I had the trial sermon April 30. I began serving July 1. We put a contract on a house July 2. We moved September 14<sup>th</sup> (or so). I had packed a lot of stressful items into that one year.

But, it was a very good year! Stressful, but good. I married a good man and we have shared these 20 years for better or worse. (Thank goodness the better outweighs the worse!) And, just like the good and not so good times in a marriage, Bethel and I have shared in some good and not so good times. Part of the process of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has been that this past year especially I have thought about the number of people that have died in that time. I have lost a number of people that I have called friend and I am so very thankful that I had the opportunity to get to know these people. I shared with a number of good times and laughter with them. I also shared with them in some of the struggles they had in life. I was able to share with them a portion of our journey of faith and I feel I have been richly blessed by the saints of Bethel church.

And we will admit that there were some rough times as well. Some of these times dealt with differences of opinion. Some of these times dealt with communication problems. Some of these dealt with my slacking off of the job I was called to do. I do apologize for the times that I have not done what I should have done. We were able to work through them and go on serving God as we are called to do. And we will go on serving God and being led by His Spirit.

And I definitely give praise to God for the time that I have shared with Bethel Church. As I think back over the twenty years, I just can't believe that it is that long. It seems like it is only a few years that we have journeyed together. But, when I think of the children who were just toddlers when I began serving here, reality hits thinking that they are now in college or graduated from college. That is mind-boggling!

These twenty years have definitely been a wonderful blessing to me as I hope the people of Bethel feel they have been blessed as well. And, who knows how many more years we will have to share in our journey of faith? We also have no idea what good times or not so good times lie ahead. But, we do know that staying true to God and the calling God has placed upon us, we will walk the road of faith together and we will make it through the potholes and rough places together.

Again, I give praise to God for leading me to serve Bethel and I pray to God that I always allow God to lead me as I serve! **THANK YOU** again for the **three night stay** at the **Jean Bonnet Bed and Breakfast** in Bedford, PA and for **the cash!** I love you all and I cherish having you all as a part of my life!

God Bless! Love, Pastor Lou Ann

**MONTHLY PASTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

MONTH: September, 2009

**WORSHIP SERVICES:** 9/6 - Outdoor Worship  
9/13  
9/20  
9/27 - Jeri Jones, Liturgist

**MEETINGS:** Consistory: 9/14  
Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29  
Newsletter: 9/28  
Ministry Advisory Committee: 9/14

**VISITS:** Home: 18  
Home Communion: 0  
Hospital: 0  
Nursing Home: 1

**OTHER:** Hymnal Committee - 9/8  
Wedding Rehearsal (Wisehaven Hall) - 9/11  
Wedding - 9/12 JORDAN FRANTZ & KIM CARBAUGH  
Hoss's Community Night - 9/17  
Errands - 9/14 (Curriculum); 9/25 (water)

Complete days off: 4  
Sick Days this month: 0  
Vacation Days this month: 0

Total for the year: 4  
Total for the year: 20

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Lou Ann Jones

Bethel U.C.C. Consistory Meeting  
September 14, 2009

Meeting was called to order by Robert Ernst, III at 7:35 p.m. Lou Ann led the group in a prayer.

Attendance was taken. Rev Lou Ann, F. Brillhart, R Ernst, III, Jeri Jones, D. Lauchman, J. Ernst, E. Miller and K. Weaver.

Minutes of the August consistory meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes was made by J. Ernst and seconded by F. Brillhart. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read by R. Ernst, III. Motion to accept the report as presented was made by K. Weaver and seconded by E. Miller.

Pastor's Report presented by Rev. Lou Ann. J Ernst made a motion to accept the report and seconded by F. Brillhart. Rev Lou Ann will be off October 8 for surgery.

Committee Reports:

Social (D Bankert): Lay Life and Work picnic was on August 25 with 18 people attending. Rally Day is October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Church Care (E Miller): Landscaping where bushes were pulled out is being done. Bushes will be trimmed on October 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 am. Prices for new hot water heater were discussed. Lowest bid was Allison and Marshall for \$485.00. Motion to award Allison and Marshall the job was made by F. Brillhart and seconded by D. Lauchman.

The church will start a recycling program to save collecting trash. J. Ernst made a motion and seconded by K. Weaver to investigate the cost of a larger outdoor vinyl storage bun to store garbage. Trash dumpster is \$700.00 per year and a pickup every two weeks. The fee is \$1100.00 with a pick up every week. Not included is a surcharge fee for fuel.

Outreach (D Yost): 22 – Birthday cards mailed; 8 – Anniversary cards mailed; 1- Get Well cards mailed; 3 – Thinking of You cards mailed.

Ministry/Advisory (R Ernst, III reporting): Meeting was held on September 14<sup>th</sup> with R Ernst, III. No issues were introduced.

Education (Rev. Lou Ann reporting): Christmas program is coming together. New curriculum is being used. A suggestion was made to have a worship service, followed by light refreshments and then the children's program. Candy drive has raised \$140.00 which will go to the Heifer Project.

Worship (Rev. Lou Ann reporting): Thank you to Jeri and Rev. Dave for August worship. Preparatory service attendance has been low in recent years. D Lauchman made a motion to cancel this year's service. F. Brillhart seconded the motion. Contact Rev. Lou Ann if there are any concerns. Blue Christmas service will be scheduled.

October 4<sup>th</sup> Communion servers are: E. Miller, K. Weaver, F. Brillhart, and D. Lauchman. Alternate is B. Martz.

Rentals (F Brillhart): Simpson's have the hall October 23 and 24.

Offering/Attendance (F Brillhart): Reviewed August's numbers.

Fund Raisers (C Delozier): J. Jones reported that Hoss's will be September 17<sup>th</sup>, Friendly's on October 13<sup>th</sup>. October 14<sup>th</sup> is the date for sandwich orders.

Hymnal Committee: The Chalice Hymnal (regular and large print copies) are available for congregation to review and comment.

Old Business:

July Greeter: Thank you to D. Lauchman

J. Jones has the windows for September

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 October meeting.

New Business:

Nominating Committee is J Ernst and K Weaver.

Budget Committee is F Brillhart, K, Weaver, Robert Ernst, III, and D Bankert.

The toys in the closet got wet with the latest water back up. They will be thrown out.

R Simpson inquired about the use of the changing table in the restroom and a vacuum cleaner that should be disposed of. The vacuum cleaner will be thrown out.

Bazaar meeting is planned for October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

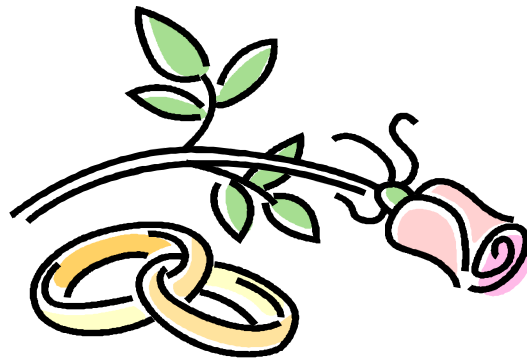
Jeri L. Jones  
Secretary

## November Birthdays

8 – Sue Tharp  
8 – Georgetta Kreitz  
8 – Bryan Rice  
12 – Ryan Simpson  
12 – Randy Noel  
15 – Sarah Diehl  
16 – Kathy Main  
19 – Melvin Rice  
23 -- Laura Walter  
24 – Steve Trimmer

## November Anniversaries

7 – Jim & Cheryl Worley  
16 – Bryan & Rose Rice



## 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:*

**RUBY THOMAN** had surgery on October 5<sup>th</sup> to remove part of her colon. She has been having problems with fluid retention. She had an MRI today. We certainly pray that the doctors get the fluid under control and that Ruby regains her strength soon! Our prayers are with you, RUBY.

**DAVE BANKERT** had Gall Bladder surgery on October 28<sup>th</sup>. His surgery went well and we pray that the road to recovery is smooth! Get well soon, DAVE! Also, Dave's mother, ANNA went into respiratory arrest the beginning of the month. We keep her in prayer that she gets stronger! She is staying with her daughter and son-in-law. God bless, ANNA! And Deb is continuing to cope with her back problems. We certainly pray for comfort for her each day!

**BILL ABBOTT** had a good month and was free from complications that would prevent him from receiving the defibrillator. He has an appointment on the 18<sup>th</sup> and we will know about surgery after that. GOD BLESS, BILL!

**PASTOR LOU ANN** had her procedures on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Nothing unusual showed up in the results. I definitely thank you for your prayers and cards!

**RUTH SNYDER** also is continuing to have problems with her back. She will be having surgery Dec 29<sup>th</sup>. We certainly pray that she gets relief from all the pain and discomfort she has been having! GOD BLESS, RUTH!

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** were married at St. Joseph's church on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We congratulate this young couple as they begin their married life!

Also, we celebrated two baptisms in October. On October 4<sup>th</sup> SHAYLA POPE was baptized in a celebration following Sunday School. She is a daughter of WILLIAM and COURTNEY (RICE) POPE.

And, on October 11<sup>th</sup> during our worship service, we celebrated the baptism of DERRICK RYAN SIMPSON, son of RYAN and AMY SIMPSON and brother of NICHOLE.

A Bridal shower for **CHRIS SCHWEITZER** was held at the church on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Chris will marry MATTHEW McKEE on December 19<sup>th</sup> at Starview UCC, Mt. Wolf. We ask for God's Blessings on this couple!

And, we congratulate these families on their special occasions!

**CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT:** We have sponsored a Goat and a Flock of Chicks with the Heifer Project for a total of \$140.00. At this point our total raised is up to \$189.00. We will soon be deciding if we want to purchase other flocks or save the money for something bigger like sheep, goats, or other gifts.

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

## COMING EVENTS :

Remember the Fundraiser TEA that will be offered on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. You need to have a reservation to attend!

## *Thanksgiving Eve Worship*

We will gather at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> to join in a service of worship for Thanksgiving. We invite everyone to gather with us as we give praise and thanks to our loving God for all that He has given us!

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR RETURNS!

We are again planning our Holiday Bazaar for DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We are talking about changes to our plans for this year.

First of all, we definitely need lots of volunteers to help get the work completed. SUE THARP and MARY ALLISON are NOT able to do all the physical work they did in the past so we need people to step up and help us out. Sue and Mary will guide us in the mixing of the items but we need people to do the lifting, etc. **GUYS – this is where we can use your help!** We will be making the candy on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have not zeroed in on what time we will start but we are talking about starting later in the day and going into the evening for wrap-up. If you are able to come around 6:00pm or later, we will definitely put you to work! We will be announcing the times in church so call the church office (632-4260) or Pastor Lou Ann's home (225-3744) to find out more details.

And, we have decided to save ourselves some time and effort. **We will NOT be making Sugar Cookies this year.** We decided to save ourselves that work day and effort. **SO, we need donations of cakes and cookies again this year for the bazaar.** We ask you to pack them in either one dozen or one-half dozen bags. And, we look for a variety of cookies to be donated! If you would like to price them before hand, that would be excellent!

We also need helpers when we do the preparation for the soups. This will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then, the pie baking is on December 4<sup>th</sup>. And, we DEFINITELY need lots of helpers to roll the dough and fill the pies. Again, MARY cannot do all the work she did in past years so we need others (ESPECIALLY YOUNGER ONES) to step in.

Let us know if you can help in any way! THANK YOU!

## SPECIAL CHURCH PROJECTS -- --

**THE ESTRADA FAMILY:** Remember that we have a long term outreach with the Estrada Family. We look to continue to help them with meeting their needs year round. If you would like to give gift cards to any grocery store or to a department store, that would be wonderful! If you would like to give anonymously you may drop donations in our SHARE DROPPERS BANK inside the front doors of the church. Remember, the Share droppers bank is intended for contributors to drop loose coins or currency you may have available at any time. We continue to support the Estrada's as they took on raising the children left without their mother because of domestic violence. Any questions, you may see JOLENE ERNST.

And, we have had interest in a **special project** mentioned to us. So, we are opening this opportunity to everyone. With the Children's Mission Project reaching out through the Heifer Project, we have also had interest in more outreach through the Heifer Project for the holidays. So, DIXIE BRILLHART is willing to be our co-ordinator for this outreach.

We invite you to consider giving a special gift through the Heifer Project this holiday season. There are a number of options you may choose and the listing follows. We have just a few points to bring to your attention. If you would like to give this gift for Christmas, we can provide a tag and information for you. If you would like to donate a specific item, you may indicate that with your gift. If you do not have a specific gift in mind, your contribution may be combined with others to purchase a larger item.

As the holidays approach, we continue to think about those in our world who are less fortunate than ourselves and we reach out in the love of God to help in whatever way we can.

The options for the Heifer Project are:

- For \$20.00 you may purchase a Flock of Chicks, a Flock of Ducks or a Flock of Geese.
- For \$30.00 you may purchase Honeybees
- For \$50.00 you may purchase a Hope Basket (chicks and rabbits).
- For \$60.00 you may purchase a Trio of Rabbits
- you may purchase an Earth Basket (Honey Bees and tree seedlings)
- you may purchase a Flock of Hope (chicks, ducklings and goslings)
- you may purchase Trees
- For \$85.00 you may purchase a Love Basket (shares of a Heifer, goat and water buffalo)
- you may purchase a Promise Basket (geese, ducks, chicks, and rabbits)
- For \$120.00 you may purchase a Sheep OR a Goat, OR a PIG
- You may purchase a New Beginning Basket (sheep)
- For \$150.00 you may purchase a Llama
- For \$250.00 you may purchase a Water Buffalo
- For \$500.00 you may purchase a Heifer
- You may purchase a Knitting Basket (two Llamas and two Sheep)

We have information on gifts costing \$1,000.00; \$1,500.00; and \$5,000.00 if you would be interested in this information.

And REMEMBER ALSO – you may give gifts of \$10.00; \$20.00; \$25.00; \$50.00; \$100.00; or \$150.00 which would be a share of the larger gifts. See Pastor Lou Ann or DIXIE BRILLHART for further information.

We will hope to participate in this project through the beginning of December. The cut-off date will be announced in church and in the next newsletter.

# POINSETTIA Order Form

If you would like to order any Poinsettias for our Christmas Services, please fill out the form below and return it to Sue Tharp or Pastor Lou Ann. The cost for the 3 to 5 bloom Poinsettia this year is \$7.25. The deadline for ordering flowers is November 29.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$7.25 each, the total is: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEDICATIONS: Please indicate if your dedication is in loving MEMORY of or loving HONOR of and the name(s).**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Planning ahead: **THE BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** will be offered again this year. We plan to offer this service every year on DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>. (One week before our Christmas eve service). The service will begin at 7:00 pm. We invite everyone to attend this service. Invite your friends and neighbors as well. This service is intended to help anyone who is down or depressed at the holiday time to share in the love of the holidays. This service also is intended to help anyone who is coping with trauma or loss of any kind such as the loss of a job, the loss of a friendship or relationship and especially the loss of a loved one through death. We had a very moving experience at the first Blue Christmas Service in 2008 and we look for another meaningful time together supporting one another at a time of loss, loneliness and sadness.