

BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

May 2009

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

How are U doing? Easter is well past and we have already had some days where the temps have reminded us of what awaits us in the summer days ahead. Isn't Spring just a fabulous time of the year? Now, I know that any spring allergy sufferers may be into the throes of misery from the trees budding and sprouting their leaves. We do pray for all allergy sufferers because it can be a very miserable time and it can be debilitating for some people.

But, Spring is truly a beautiful time of year. For the months of winter the grass and the fields take on a grey tint or brown colour as they go dormant for winter. But then, all of a sudden you look out the window and see a vivid shade of green. Sometimes it almost seems like it happens overnight! Of course, with the fresh greenness of the grass comes the demand for the mowers to be removed from the sheds and put to work! (As I write this message, Ed Miller is mowing the church lawn – keep up the good work, Ed!) I had to chuckle because one day as Jeri and I were driving to the church we saw a person with their riding mower doing some yard work. We both commented about this being the first mower we saw this year. So, it is kind of a right of passage when we see lawn mowers in use rather than snow blowers and snow shovels! We know that the season has changed.

Along with the beauty in the greenness of the grass is the joy of seeing flowers in the gardens and buds on the trees. I have a big Lilac bush at the one end of our deck and last night as I came back to go in the house I smelled the wonderful aroma of the Lilacs and I just stood there and took in three or four deep inhales. AHHHHHHH! (But, thank goodness no AH-CHOO!) It is also a joy to see the flowers on the trees. Everything is just so pretty this time of year. It is very appropriate that Easter – the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord takes place when all around us, things are coming back to life for another year. With the arrival of Spring, God reminds us of what He has done for us! With the beauty of the season of Spring we are reminded of how beautiful our world is because of the love Jesus showed us by giving his life for us. Our daily lives would be bleak (like the season of winter) if we did not have the promise of salvation through Jesus. Because of the sacrifice of himself on the cross, we have the promise that we too will rise again to life eternal in His kingdom which has no end! As our Lord rose from the dead, we too will rise again. This is a promise God has given us that if we believe Jesus is His Son and will have His love in our hearts! So, may the wonder of God's creation be in our hearts and minds always as we live with joy because our Lord is risen! Praise be to God!

With love,
Pastor Lou Ann

MONTHLY PASTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

MONTH: March, 2009

WORSHIP SERVICES: 3/1
3/4 - Mid-week Service
3/8
3/11 - Mid-week Service
3/15
3/18 - Mid-week Service
3/22
3/25 - Mid-week Service
3/29

MEETINGS: Consistory: 3/9
Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31
Newsletter: 3/27
Adult Choir: 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25
Ministry Advisory Committee: 3/9
Good Grief Group: no sessions

VISITS: Home: 26
Home Communion: 0
Hospital: 4
Nursing Home: 1

OTHER: Bowling – 3/14
Daffodil pick-up 3/20
Everybody's Birthday Party and Talent Night - 3/29

Complete days off: 4
Sick Days this month: 0 Total for the year: 0
Vacation Days this month: 3 Total for the year: 9

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Lou Ann Jones

Bethel U.C.C. Consistory Meeting
March 2, 2009

Meeting was called to order by Robert Ernst III at 7:45 p.m. It was announced that Lindsay Brillhart had resigned as President at the Ministry Advisory meeting. Rev. Lou Ann led the group in a prayer.

Attendance was taken. Rev. Lou Ann, D. Bankert, F. Brillhart, L. Brillhart, R. Ernst, J. Jones, D. Lauchman, B. Martz, E. Miller, Jr., J. Nace, and C. Martz were present.

Minutes of the February consistory meeting and February congregational meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes was made by D. Bankert and seconded by E. Miller, Jr. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read by C. Martz. Motion to accept the report as presented was made by F. Brillhart and seconded by B. Martz. A total of \$1667.00 was turned over to the Treasurer by the Crusader's Class from a CD that came due. Motion to accept this amount was made by D. Bankert and seconded by F. Brillhart. Motion carried. Electric bill has been high every month since December. The source of this increased usage will be investigated. The down payment for the new exterior sign will be taken out of the Memorial Fund.

Pastor's report presented by Rev. Lou Ann. Lou Ann will be given 3 bereavement days for her dad's passing. R. Ernst, III made a motion to accept the report and seconded by D. Bankert.

Committee Reports:

Social (D. Bankert): 18 in attendance at the Lay, Life and Work Holiday dinner. Thanks to Marge Leppo for playing the piano. Bowling will be March 14th. March 29th is Everyone's Birthday Party and Talent Night. June 14th is the Family dinner.

Church Care (E. Miller, Jr.): Reported that the shed will get new doors in the spring; tractors are ready to go for the spring; T. Kreitz has purchased a spot light for the sanctuary.

Outreach (M. Trump): Marjorie has resigned. Deb Yost and Marg Leppo are interested in the position. Lindsay will talk to both about working as a team. L. Brillhart read February's report. See chart at end of minutes.

Ministry/Advisory (L. Brillhart): Issues addressed at March 2nd meeting included outreach, Sunday School, ideas for Sunday School organization and programs, education. There needs to be better communications for better programming. **Many thanks to Lindsay for doing what she has done.**

Worship (Rev. Lou Ann reporting): Attendance at services: Ash Wednesday – 36; 2nd Wednesday – 25. April 12th is Easter with services. J. Jones and F. Brillhart will be communion servers at the Maundy Thursday service. Easter Sunday servers are E. Miller, Jr., L. Brillhart, D. Bankert and B. Martz. Alternate is R Ernst, III.

Rentals (F. Brillhart): Nothing in March.

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

Fund Raisers (C. Delozier): L. Brillhart reported. Have a survey where people shop; Sub sale is in progress with April 12th as the deadline; Restaurant fund-raisers are again being investigated for 2009; A tea is being planned.

Old Business:

February Greeter: Thank you to D. Bankert

Window Decorations – Thank you to Marjorie-Brown-Trump for February.

New Business:

Lou Ann visited Elsie Good after contacting the family to inquire where she was living.

Roy and Pearl Geisler's great-grand son is getting married at the church on June 27th. Because of another wedding off-site, Rev. Lou Ann is not able to conduct the service. Rev. Nace will conduct the service. Permission to use the building for wedding preparation was sought. Motion made to allow the use of the building was made by E. Miller, Jr., and seconded by D. Bankert. Motion carried.

South Penn Roadrunners seek permission to use our lower parking lot for a part of their 5k race on July 14th. Consistory approved the use.

A request from a representative from the Christian Motorcycle Association to speak to the congregation. Request denied due to inappropriate material.

Gettysburg Association would like to hold their spring meeting at Bethel on May 2nd. The church would prepare a breakfast. Approximately 60 people would attend. Consistory approved the meeting and breakfast with us supplying help to prepare breakfast.

Deb Bankert has requested the use of the church for an exercise class. Request approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeri L. Jones
Secretary

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 -- LARRY SIMPSON, JR.
3 -- ERIN MILLER
6 -- BILL E. ZUMBRUM
7 -- CODY SHUE
9 -- RUBY THOMAN
10 -- CHARLOTTE MILLER
13 -- LINDSAY BRILLHART
13 -- GARY SIMPSON
13 -- LARRY SIMPSON
14 -- DOT RICE
14 -- VICKIE MILLER
14 -- JAMES WORLEY
14 -- PEARL GEISLER
18 -- MARG LEPPA
19 -- WILLIAM ABBOTT
21 -- STAN REEVER
23 -- JOYCE REICHERT
25 -- DIANNA ZUMBRUM
25 -- ROBERT SHEELY
26 -- ANNA MARIE SIMPSON
29 -- LANE BENJAMIN REEVER
29 -- AMY (SMITH) CRABILL
30 -- MIKE STEVENSON

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

2 -- RANDY & LORI NOEL
5 -- RON & DONNA JARVIS
5 -- DEQUAY & EDITH LAUCHMAN
7 -- JOE & CHRISTY SIMPSON
9 -- STEVE & KAREN BEARD
9 -- BOB & RUBY THOMAN
16 -- FRED & DIXIE BRILLHART
16 -- MARLIN "DOODLE" & ROSE RUTH
19 -- JOHN & BECKY McMASTER
22 -- STEVE & DEB TRIMMER

"Happy Birthday to you!"

"Happy Anniversary to you!"



From the Congregation's Life:

BILL DUBS is doing amazingly well! He has his prosthesis and is able to get around with a walker. Praise God for the strength Bill has had throughout this whole situation! And, we praise God for the care Joan and Leo and all of the family give Bill!

BILL ABBOTT had a blood clot that blocked the new stent. He had another Catheterization and they placed another stent. Bill is doing well and we pray that continues!

MARJORIE TRUMP had shoulder tendon surgery on April 22. She was in the hospital overnight and is now on the road to recovery. She will have to keep her arm in a sling for up to six weeks. We pray this relieves the pain Marjorie has had! God Bless, Marjorie!

We also keep the **KREITZ FAMILY** in our prayers. **ABBEY**, their beloved pet dog was diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer. She died peacefully sometime early Monday April 27th. She is buried in their back yard. May the peace of Christ be with the Kreitz Family as they mourn this loss!

We also offer our prayers that for anyone who contracts the Swine Flu. It sounds like the US is not having as much of a problem as Mexico has had but we understand it is going to get bad with the number of sufferers. We pray that we are all able to avoid getting this flu!

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!

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

ELSIE GOOD
17 Antler Lane
New Oxford, PA, 17350

NEW HYMNALS: I have been approached by a member who is interested in donating hymnals to replace the red E & R Hymnals we have. We do need a committee to look into what hymnals are available and make a recommendation to the congregation. So far we have committee members: **LORI NOEL, JOLENE ERNST and PASTOR LOU ANN**. We would like to have one or two additional representatives. If you are interested, please let Pastor Lou Ann know.

COMING EVENTS :

Gettysburg Association Spring Meeting – May 2.

Bethel church has been asked to host the Annual Spring meeting for the Gettysburg Association of the United Church of Christ. The meeting will be held, Saturday, May 2. The gathering will begin with a breakfast at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. The business meeting will begin at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.

We need donations of EGGS, SAUSAGE, and ingredients for PANCAKES. So, let us know if you can help us out with any of these items. ALSO, we need people to help in the preparation and the serving of the breakfast. Please, let DAVE BANKERT know if you are able to help in any way.

Wii Party – May 17, 2:00 pm

We are planning a get together the afternoon of May 17. The purpose of the gathering is to have FUN playing the Nintendo Wii games. We will have a number of games systems and TV's so that different games will be played for all to enjoy. If you have never played Wii, plan to come out and see how much fun you can have with these games. If you do have a Wii, bring your Mii and join in on the fun as well! If you have any questions, see DIANE NACE, LORI NOEL or Pastor Lou Ann

If you would bring along a snack and/or a drink to share, that would be greatly appreciated!

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

On **Thursday, MAY 21 at 7:00 pm** we will gather for our Annual Ascension Day service. We look to have a meaningful service of worship to remember when our Lord returned to heaven following the resurrection. This day is important for Christians throughout the world because we recognize that Jesus returned to heaven to await the day His kingdom is established. Is that important to you?

PENTECOST SUNDAY – MAY 31, 2009

This year our Pentecost Service is on May 31. We will share in the sacrament of Holy Communion during our 9:00 worship service. **PLAN TO ATTEND!**

SUMMER WORSHIP: We will begin our summer worship schedule on Sunday, June 7th. Last year we discussed having every other weeks worship service outdoors. So, to plan ahead, our **OUTDOOR SERVICES** will be: **JUNE 7, JUNE 21, JULY 5, JULY 19, JULY 26** is our **PICNIC SUNDAY** -, **AUGUST 9, AUGUST 23** and **SEPTEMBER 6.**

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP: SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 5:00 PM. Mark your calendars and sign the sheet for the family fellowship dinner. We will have Ham, green beans, etc along with our Strawberries and Ice Cream dessert! YUM! We do need to know how many to prepare for so let us know if you plan to attend and how many will be in your party!