

BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

www.betheluccspringgrove.com

June, 2011

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

Angels has been an area of interest for many people over the years. We have many television programs and tons of books that focus on angels and their role in our world. So, we take a look this month to explore angels.

We certainly think of angles as being good because they are “messengers of God.” But, just one word of caution – Satan has his messengers too. We refer to his workers as demons, but there are some angels who are also evil. There are some angels whose choose to do work contrary to the will of God. They will sometimes take on appealing disguises to mislead us so we need to be careful when we feel we encounter angels.

Now, some of the points we may question about angels: Should we look to angels for spiritual guidance? The Bible says that angels do not ordinarily communicate with human beings unless they are bringing messages from God. And then their greeting is: “Do not fear....” So, we tend to be reluctant to interact with angels (again remembering that some can be “bad” angels) and encountering angels usually is frightening.

We also wonder what angels look like. Do they have bodies? Sometimes we have encountered beings we may refer to as angels and if indeed it was an angel, they may have taken on the human being likeness so that we could readily identify with them. But, scripture does not support angels having any specific body. They are neither male nor female – they are not gender specific even though most angels named for us have male names. Scripture relates that some angels have eaten with those they visited, but again this is most likely to assure the visited that the angels mean no harm.

We may wonder if we become angels. I have often felt that when our loved ones die, they become angels for us. Unfortunately, this is not backed up by scripture. But, I still will contend that when we face a situation and we think about our deceased loved ones and what they would say or do, I will qualify that as an “angel voice guiding us in God’s way.”

We hear many reports of people who say they have been visited by an angel and certainly we will not fault them for believing as they do, but scripture tell us that angel appearances are usually important and generally uncommon. We know the accounts of angels visiting key bible characters and announcing miraculous births (Abraham, Isaac, John the Baptist, Jesus, etc.). And we certainly know the role of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus. But, thinking about the period of time covered by scripture (thousands of years) and the number of accounts of angels visiting people, the visits seem to be infrequent and happening only to bring “great news” to those visited.

I will affirm that in my lifetime I have been blessed with knowing many fellow human beings who are “angels”. But, I don’t know that I can truly say that I have been visited by an angel. The night I was reading the catalogue from Lancaster Seminary and heard the voice saying “Yes” to everything about the Master of Divinity program comes close to being an encounter with an angel for me but whether it was or not is hard to say.

May you be blessed with many angels in your life! And, let us look for the angels of God to guide us and protect us from all that is evil and bad!

God Bless! With love, Pastor Lou Ann Jones

(No questions have come is as of this writing so, next month is open.)

Monthly Pastor's Activity Report
MONTH: April, 2011

WORSHIP SERVICES: 4/3
4/6 – Mid-week Service
4/10
4/13 – Mid-week Service
4/17 –Palm Sunday
4/21 – MaundyThursday
4/22 – Good Friday
4/24 – Easter Sunday

MEETINGS: Consistory – 4/4
Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 4/5, 4/12, 4/18, 4/26
Adult Choir: 4/6, 4/13, 4/21, 4/26
Newsletter: 4/27
Ministry Advisory: 4/4

VISITS: Home: 5
Home Communion: 2
Hospital: 0
Contacts: 18
Nursing Home: (home communions)

OTHER: Errands: 4/11
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter bulletins: 4/18, 4/19
Good Friday Prayer Vigil: 4/22
Lilies: 4/23
Errands: 4/30

Complete Days off: 4
Sick Days this month: 1
Vacation Days this month: 0

Total for the year: 6
Total for the year: 20

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Lou Ann Jones

Bethel UCC Consistory Meeting April 4, 2011

Meeting was called to order by President Bankert at 7:40 PM with Pastor Lou Ann leading the group in prayer.

Attendance: Ed Miller, Lynn McJunkin, Brian Martz, Jolene Ernst, Sue Tharp, Rev. Lou Ann Jones, Dave Bankert, Tammy Diehl, and Connie Martz.

~~March~~

April minutes were reviewed. Jolene Ernst made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Sue Tharp.

Treasures report: (C. Martz) The report was approved by a motion from Sue Tharp and seconded by Lynn McJunkin. A matching contribution will be offered to the congregation to raise the remainder of the driveway paving. Connie Martz stated the on demand meter was installed. Met-Ed never notified Connie about the installation. The church has received very high electric bills because the settings need to be changed. Connie is having discussions with Met-Ed about the bills not being correct. Sue Tharp will contact Met-Ed about the electric bills.

Pastor's report: The report was read by Pastor Lou Ann. Lynn McJunkin made a motion to accept the report and seconded by Jolene Ernst. It was recommended that all Sunday School teachers have clearances. Jolene will look into the cost of background checks.

Church Care: (E. Miller) A no trespassing sign was put up in lower parking lot because people were driving through the grass when using the parking lot and a lot of littering was noticed. If we continue to have a problem, we'll talk to the township police.

Social: (L. McJunkin) May 1st will be Everyone's Birthday Party with talent show following Humor Sunday service. June 5th will be the Family Dinner with music group playing after dinner.

Outreach: (D. Yost) Report was reviewed, see below.

Education: (T. Diehl) VBS will the week of June 26-30th. Volunteers are still needed to be "Life Guards" to help in moving the children in their rotations. The children will sing May 1st, May 8th, and in June before breaking for the summer. The candy sell is doing well, sold \$555.00 so far. The children may help with the flowers for Mother's Day.

Worship: (J. Ernst) Mid-week service is well received. We'll have Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday Prayer vigil, Friday night service, Sunrise service, Easter Service. Humor Sunday is May 1st. Communion servers will be Jolene, Ed, Kim, Brian, Alt. Tammy

Ministry and Advisory: (D. Bankert) Met tonight at 6:30. They discussed reimbursement for Pastor Lou Ann for playing the organ in Lori's absence. This discussion would be brought to consistory for approval.

Pastor Lou Ann discussed the difficult time she is having since the congregational opinion survey was released last fall. Even though the majority of the comments were positive, she continues to have problems accepting the critical comments. As a committee we focused on the positive and that the problem areas were opportunities for growth. The committee acknowledged her feelings but that it is necessary that we also acknowledge the problems. The committee expressed reassurance with her.

Rentals: (B. Martz) April 9th and April 16th-youth candy making. April 23rd-Tammy Diehl.

Offering and Attendance: (D. Bankert) March was reviewed.

Fund raising: (B. Martz) Sold 193 subs, profit was \$348.00. We are having Chicken BBQ's on May 14th and August 27th. Pizza sale in July and a sub sale in October.

Website: Is up to date.

Old Business

1. Pew cushions will be purchased using Memorial monies only.
2. LP tank was ordered.
3. Financial report to be in bulletins weekly.
4. Roadrunners have permission to use the parking lot on July 12th.

New Business:

1. Ministry and Advisory discussed with consistory to reimburse Pastor Lou Ann for playing the organ in Lori's absence. Sue Tharp made a motion to approve, retro to March 2011. Lynn McJunkin seconded. All approved.
2. A suggestion was made to not purchase bulletins and make our own, as a way to save money. Members of the congregation can submit pictures for the front of the bulletins. All agreed to try this.
3. Discussed what financial information would be printed in the bulletins weekly about the church's financial standing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tammy Diehl
Assistant Secretary

June Birthdays

6 – Deb Trimmer
12 – Morgan Main
13 – Betty Knight
15 – Becky McMaster
15 – Russell Wentz
16 – Noah Kuhn
19 – David Smeltzer
23 – Raymond Warner
24 – Linda McJunkin
26 – Sara Miller
26 – Todd Jacoby
26 – Chad Brillhart

June Anniversaries

13 – David & Pat Smeltzer
25 – Ryan & Amy Simpson
29 – Marvin & Betty Knight



1 LIST OF SHUT-IN AND PRAYER CONCERN MEMBERS

JOYCE REICHERT Room 215B Hall 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	RUSSELL WENTZ Room 123, Hanover 267 Frederick Street Hanover, PA 17331
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From the Congregation's Life:

DEB BANKERT had her surgery on May 24. She did well with the surgery but it did take longer than first expected because of the deterioration of her discs. She is home and is getting stronger every day! The pain in her legs is gone so that is a great step in the right direction! God Bless, Deb!

MELLIE SIMPSON had another spell recently and we just keep her in prayer that she has easier days! God Bless, MELLIE!

BOB LINDSEY has been having some health problems recently so we certainly pray that he is able to find relief for his symptoms. We keep you in prayer, Bob!

We uplift in prayer those in our nation who have been victims of the violent weather in recent days and weeks. Even in our area we have had some very severe weather systems move through. We certainly hope and pray that as Mother Nature vents her wrath, we may all remain safe and our homes and belongings protected!

We also uplift many of our congregation who have been going through some rough times: **RUTH SNYDER; SUE THARP; MARJORIE TRUMP; MARY ALLISON; DICK TRIMMER;** We also keep many friends of our faith family in our prayers!

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!

Parking Lot fund:

We are very thankful for all the contributions that have come in to help cover the cost of the work we had done on the parking lot last year. But, the contributions have slowed down – to a halt. At the April Consistory meeting a challenge was offered by a group of people. **THE CHALLENGE IS THIS: ANY CONTRIBUTIONS GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE OF BETHEL TOWARD THE REMAINING BALANCE OF THE PARKING LOT WILL BE MATCHED BY THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE!** . LET'S TAKE AND COMPLETE THIS CHALLENGE!!!!!!

COMING EVENTS:

Have you checked out the church website? You can find us at www.betheluccspringgrove.com
Our e-mail address: betheluccspringgrove@g-mail.com.

Our CHICKEN BAR-B QUE! On MAY 14th turned out to be a good venture even though the weather was not the greatest. We certainly want to thank EVERYONE for your support! The helpers are great and do a fantastic job! The baked goods are top notch! And the Chicken – it IS the best! So, thank you ALL who helped in this fund raising venture.

SPECIAL SERVICES COMING UP:

MUSIC SUNDAY – May 29, 2011. The Adult choir will once again offer their favorite anthems from their repertoire. This is Memorial Weekend and a new anthem will be offered for “Unsung Heroes”. We give praise to God for the gift of music and the talents of those on choir! We will also have Ascension Day as a focus in this service. So, lots of favorite hymns and good, patriotic thoughts will be experienced.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY – June 5, 2011. We will congratulate all who have graduated this past year or finished a degree or special training. Please write down the information for any of your family members who have completed training, degrees or will receive their diploma this year! The service on June 5 will be the first of our outdoor services for this year!

PENTECOST SUNDAY – June 12, 2011. During the 9:00 worship service on this day we will share in the service for Holy Communion. Remember also, on Thursday June 2 we will have our Ascension Day worship service beginning at 7:00 pm.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES: Beginning on Sunday, June 5th we will start our schedule of EVERY OTHER WEEK Outdoor Services. So, June 5 and 19 will be outdoor in the pavilion. Then, every other Sunday will be out in the pavilion – weather permitting!

NOTE: I could not find the file Lori sent with the VBS registration form. If you would like to register a child for VBS, please contact Lori or the church office.

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!!!

It is MAY. Remember your moms as Mother's Day is May 8th and Memorial Day on May 29th! School will soon be over as well. Enjoy those last couple of weeks!

We got the COW!!! Way to go kids! Again, thank you to the Congregation for all your support. Now we are saving for the pig, which is \$125.00.

Next I would like to say THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU!!! A HUGE Thank You to EVERYONE who SOLD and/or PURCHASED Candy. A BIG Thank You to Tammy Diehl for organizing and running the Easter Candy Fundraiser for the Youth. There was over \$600.00 in sales!!! Also thank you to the moms and children who were able to come out and help make the candy, bag the candy, and decorate the bags. Thanks too to our special candy making helpers – Lynn McJunkin, Mary Allison, and Karen Beard – who also helped us out tremendously. Along the lines of Thank You's, I also want to say a sincerely SPECIAL Thank You to all who supported the Bunny Money fund – your generosity supplied our Egg Hunt with approximately \$42.00 to be placed in the plastic eggs this year – the kids LOVED this idea. Congrats to Connor, Dakota, and Brett picking up the prize egg at the Egg Hunt.

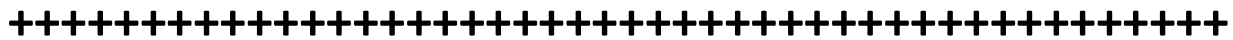
Upcoming in the month of May, we have more planned! On Sunday, May 1st we will sing during the Humor Sunday service. We also plan to sing the following Sunday, May 8th on Mother's Day – moms and dads – watch for an e-mail for a special choir rehearsal.

Thinking ahead to our Summer Schedule for the Children's Sunday School, as it will be here before we know it! Our last Sunday of Sunday School for the children for the summer will be Sunday, June 19th, Father's Day as the VBS will start the following Sunday. On June 5th, 12th, and the 19th the Children's Sunday School will be outdoors weather permitting and as one group. But don't go too far this summer, as we will be planning summer activities so we get to still spend some time together outside of our regular church service. And then mark your calendars for Sunday, August 28th for when we will reconvene again with a special activity worshipping our God!

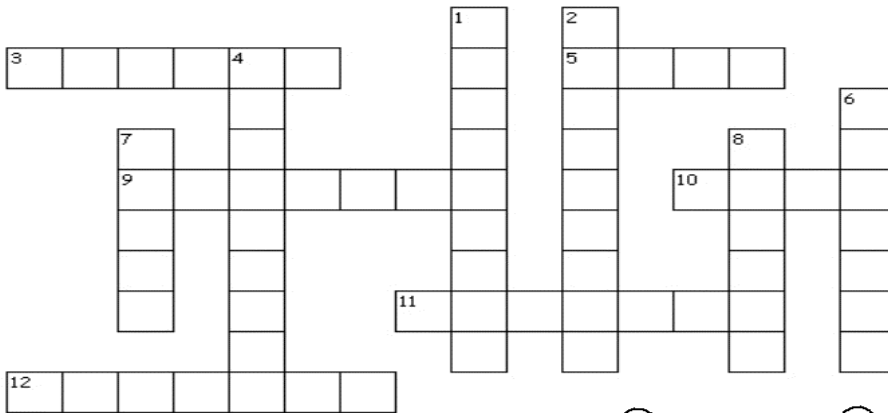
DON'T FORGET – Our Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching us as well. It will be Sunday, June 26th through Thursday, June 30th. Again, it will be from 6:30-8:15. Our theme this year is Beach Blast! Our group leaders are already lined up; just need a few Life Guards to maneuver our groups through the rotations! Watch for Registration Forms to be available shortly!

AGAIN – On the next page you will find 2 activities. The picture of the heart with Happy Mother's Day is for children 6 and younger. The crossword puzzle at the bottom is for children 7 and older. Complete your age appropriate activity (put your name on it) and bring it to Sunday School – you will get to pick a piece of candy from our outreach program!!! (Only one activity/prize per month.) So get an adult to print out this page for you so you can complete the activity and bring it to Sunday School during the month of May!

God's Blessings,
Lori



Mother's Day Crossword



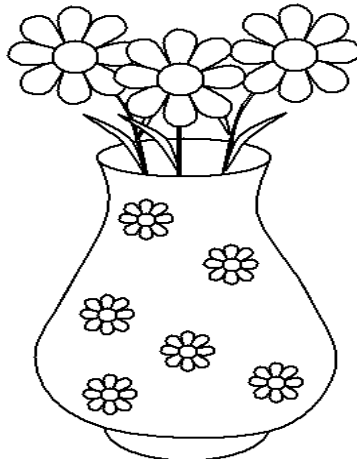
Word List: awesome, brunch, candy, celebrate, chocolate, flowers, hugs, love, mother, nurture, present, wonderful

Across

3. Special meal between breakfast and lunch.
5. Tight squeeze.
9. Inspiring awe.
10. The feeling mom has for her children.
11. To help someone grow up.
12. A bouquet of these will make mom's day!

Down

1. Amazing or astonishing.
2. Mom's favourite cocoa indulgence.
4. To engage in festivities.
6. A gift.
7. Sweet treats.
8. The woman who loves you no matter what!



Bethel UCC Offering and Attendance Report 2010 vs 2011

2010				2011					
Envelopes	Loose		Attendance	# of Weeks	Envelopes	Loose		# of Weeks	
	Offering	Total				Offering	Total		
\$5,416.00	\$203.00	\$5,619.00	338	5	\$4,254.00	\$628.00	\$4,882.00	332	5
3,385.00	115.25	3,500.25	199	3	\$4,186.00	220.00	\$4,406.00	267	4
4,310.00	Loose	4,310.00	347	4	4,080.00	175.00	4,255.00	273	4
3,956.00	261.00	4,217.00	348	4	4,401.00	419.00	4,820.00	304	4
4,852.00	227.25	5,079.25	337	5			0.00		
3,635.00	135.00	3,770.00	231	4			0.00		
4,458.00	136.00	4,594.00	248	4			0.00		
4,894.00	193.50	5,087.50	268	5			0.00		
3,462.00	142.15	3,604.15	242	4			0.00		
4,574.00	196.20	4,770.20	314	5			0.00		
3,801.00	129.25	3,930.25	250	4			0.00		
4,482.00	388.50	4,870.50	331	4			0.00		
\$51,225.00	\$2,127.10	\$53,352.10	3,453	51	\$16,921.00	\$1,442.00	\$18,363.00	1,176	17
Average Weekly Attendance- April				87.0	Average Weekly Attendance- April				76.0
Average Weekly Offering- April				\$1,054.25	Average Weekly Offering- April				\$1,100.25

* December 2010 includes Christmas Eve Service

Year-to-Date 2010 # of Weeks	51
Attendance	3,453
Offering	\$53,352.10
Average Contribution per Attendee	\$15.45
Average Weekly Attendance	67.7
Average Weekly Offering	\$1,046.12

Comparison 2011 vs 2010

Avg Weekly Attendance	1
Avg Weekly Offering	\$34.06
Avg Weekly Offering by Attendance	\$0.16

Year-to-Date 2011 # of Weeks	17
Attendance	1,176
Offering	\$18,363.00
Average Contribution per Attendee	\$15.61
Average Weekly Attendance	69.2
Average Weekly Offering	\$1,080.18

Comparison Summary by Month of Previous Year (April 2010 vs. 2011)

Avg Weekly Attendance	-11.0
Avg Weekly Offering	\$46.00
Avg Weekly Offering by Attendance	\$2.36

June 2011

Bethel United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Ascension Day	3	4
5 Outdoor Worship - 9:00 am Graduate Recognition Sunday School - 10:30 am	6 Ministry Advisory Meeting - 6:30 pm Consistory - 7:30 pm	7 Adult Choir Dinner - Red Lobster, 6:00 pm Bible Study - 9:00 am	8	9	10	11 Penn Central Conference
12 Worship - 9:00 am Pentecost Sunday - Holy Communion Sunday School - 10:30 am	13	14 Bible Study - 9:00 am	15	16	17	18
19 Outdoor Worship - 9:00 am Father's Day Sunday School - 10:30 am	20	21 Bible Study - 9:00 am	22	23	24	25
26 Worship - 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:30 am Vacation Bible School - 6:15 pm "Beach Blast"	27 Vacation Bible School - 6:15 pm "Beach Blast"	28 Bible Study - 9:00 am Vacation Bible School - 6:15 pm "Beach Blast"	29 Vacation Bible School - 6:15 pm "Beach Blast"	30 Vacation Bible School - 6:15 pm "Beach Blast"		