

# BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

[www.betheluccspringgrove.com](http://www.betheluccspringgrove.com)

February, 2011

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

Well, after the frustrating time I had doing the newsletter last month, we pray that this month goes smoother. I had my computer worked on because of some problems and a new word processing program was installed. That program did not work with the programs at church so I bought a new program and installed it on my laptop. The true test will be when I try to open this file on the church computer! (This program already recognized the banner "Blessings From Bethel" so, we have a good start!)

Once again this winter has been giving us some trying times. This year is definitely colder than it has been for a number of years. We also hope and pray that this February is not as snowy as last year! (Since Jeri and I are heading to Florida if there is a lot of snow we will not be around to see it but it still causes a lot of concern for us.) I am so ready for spring and I certainly hope that Florida has warmer temps while we are there. We will be leaving the area on Feb 8th and making stops on our way south. We will arrive at Disney World on Feb 14th. This is somewhat significant for us because our first Valentine's Day as husband and wife we were at Disney World and ate at the restaurant at The Land in EPCOT. Unfortunately, we won't be able to eat at the same place because we won't arrive until late in the evening. But we will be there at the same time of year for the first time since 1990. And, of course, Jeri is in his glory this year since he will be able to go to the Daytona Race.

But, thinking about our journey and Valentine's Day, I once again think about love and the great gift of love I have in my life. I am so thankful for the love of Jeri and how we have worked together and grown these 21 years. In many ways I feel I do not deserve the love with which I am blessed so I praise God for this blessing! And, I also give praise and thanks to God for the love I share with the beautiful people of Bethel church. We have shared a lot these two decades (both good and bad) and I will cherish forever how you all have touched my life.

The greatest gift of love for which I am thankful is, of course, God's love for me. As I said earlier, I feel unworthy of Jeri's love but I certainly know that I do not deserve the love that God has given to me. None of us really do because God loved us so much that he sent his Son. Even though we all do things contrary to the will of God (sin) God came to earth, lived among us, loved us and gave his life for us. How great and awesome is this show of love! No love that we find on earth equals this kind of love! We may find a love that comes close and praise God for that!

So, as we generally do on Valentine's Day, we make sure that those we love know how much we love them but be sure to add God to the list of our "Valentines"! We need to make sure that every day God knows how much we love him by devoting our lives to service and love in His name.

I definitely want to make sure that all of you know how much I love you and cherish having you in my life. In so many ways I have been very blessed by the time I have served Bethel church. So, as Valentine's Day arrives may you be surrounded by love -- the love of your family and friends, the memories of loved ones who are gone, and the love of God. It can't get any better than this!

God bless! And, may the love in your life be deepened by a greater love and understanding of God.

Sent with my love, Pastor Lou Ann

**MONTHLY PASTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

MONTH: December, 2010

2010-12-31 10:00 AM

**WORSHIP SERVICES:** 12/5  
12/12  
12/17 – Blue Christmas Service  
12/19 – Annual Congregational Meeting  
12/24 – Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight  
12/26 – Rev. Earl Marks, Supply

**MEETINGS:** Consistory: 12/6  
Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 12/7, 12/21  
Adult Choir – 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/28  
Newsletter – 12/29

**VISITS:** Home: 6  
Contacts: 19  
Home Communion: 0  
Hospital: 3  
Nursing Home: 1

**OTHER:** Hanover Community Singers – 12/3, 12/4, 12/5  
Deliver gifts to Hoffman Homes – 12/6  
Hoffman Homes Gift Wrapping – 12/14  
Graduation of Jess Nace – 12/19

Complete days off: 4  
Sick Days this month: 0  
Vacation Days this month: 5  
Total for the year: 5  
Total for the year: 18

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Lou Ann Jones

## Bethel U.C.C. Consistory Meeting

December 6, 2010

Meeting was called to order by President Weaver at 7:30 PM with Pastor Lou Ann leading the group in prayer.

Attendance: Kim Weaver, Ed Miller, Brian Martz, Lynn McJunkin, Dave Bankert, Jolene Ernst, Sue Roth, Pastor Lou Ann, Tammy Diehl, Connie Martz.

November Minutes were reviewed. One correction was made under New Business #3, rooms was changed to room. B. Martz made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by L. McJunkin.

Treasures Report: (C. Martz) The report was approved by E. Miller making a motion to accept and S. Roth seconded. To date \$5,030.00 was donated for the driveway repairs.

Pastor's Report: (Pastor Lou Ann) The report was approved by D. Bankert's motion to accept and seconded by L. McJunkin.

Church Care: (E. Miller) The light in the narthex will be looked at.

Social: (L. McJunkin) January 16<sup>th</sup> is the Holiday Dinner. A date for bowling will be looked into after the holidays.

Outreach: (D. Yost)

Education: (T. Diehl) Play practices have started for the Children's Christmas play. Dave Bankert is still planning a Young Adult Class.

Worship: (J. Ernst) 14 people attended the Thanksgiving Eve Service. The Hanging of the Greens Service was well received by the congregation. Communion servers for Christmas Eve: D. Bankert, S. Roth, K. Weaver, D. Lauchman, Alt-J. Nace. Communion servers for January 2<sup>nd</sup>: B. Martz, D. Bankert, E. Miller, T. Diehl, Alt. J. Ernst.

Ministry & Advisory: (K. Weaver) Next meeting will be January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Rentals: (B. Martz) No rentals for December.

Offering and Attendance: (D. Bankert)

Fund Raising: Checking into a different Gift Card program

Web site: Updated to this point

2011 Proposed Budget was discussed and L. McJunkin made a motion to approve the budget and J. Ernst seconded the motion.

Old Business:

1. Pew cushion discussions are continuing.
2. New electric meter has not been installed yet.
3. A new answering machine is still being looked into.
4. Pastor Lou Ann will be on vacation December 26<sup>th</sup>, the Rev. Earl Marks will be the supply minister.
5. Sunday school room needs cleaned.
6. T. Diehl's sleepover with a Girl Scout troop will be on January 14@7 PM to January 15 @ noon.

New Business:

Surveys were reviewed by a committee and the main concerns were:

1. The sermon
2. Why members don't attend and/or left the church
3. Need more youth programs

Consistory members will be contacting those members who stopped attending or left the church. Lori Nor has ideas for youth programs that she will be trying in 2011.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Diehl

Assistant Secretary

Congregational Meeting  
December 19, 2010

Meeting called to order by President Kim Weaver at 9:40 a.m. Rev. Lou Ann gave a prayer.

President Weaver thanked those that participated in the surveys and some steps are being implemented. Lori Noel will start a children's choir and Consistory members are visiting members who are not currently active.

Dave Bankert reviewed the 2011 budget. He thanked Fred Brillhart and Brian Martz for helping to put together the budget. Sue Tharp addressed the congregation in the importance of giving to the church. Karen Beard made a motion to accept the budget and seconded by Bob Murray. Motion carried.

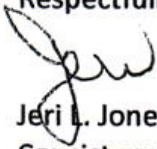
Nominations for Consistory members were held. Brian Martz, Jeri Jones and Jolene Ernst are nominated for second terms. Sue Tharp is nominated for Consistory, ~~as a replacement for Connie Delozier~~. Motion to close nominations was made by Jolene Ernst and seconded by Dave Bankert. The ballot was cast by President Weaver to elect the nominees.

Brian Martz thanked Kim Weaver for her service as President.

Brian Martz made a motion to close the meeting and seconded by Connie Delozier. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

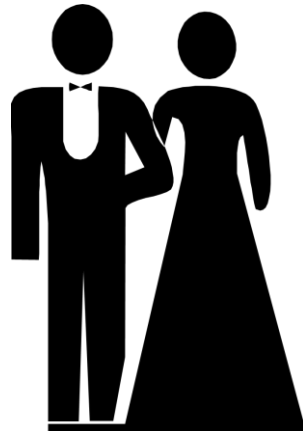
  
Jeri L. Jones  
Consistory Secretary

February Birthdays

- 7 – Jolene Ernst
- 14 – Pat Smeltzer
- 14 – Brady Noel
- 15 – Pam Ernst
- 17 – Miriam Walls
- 18 – Cheryl Worley
- 18 – Jeff Carroll
- 22 – Terry Jarvis
- 26 – Curt Miller
- 28 – Karen Beard
- 28 – Jeff Zumbrum

February Anniversaries

- 7 – Dave & Deb Bankert
- 20 – Mike & Joan Stevenson



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

# 1 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:*

**JOLENE ERNST** had knee replacement surgery on JAN 26 at Memorial Hospital, York. She will be going home on Jan 30 for her recovery. She will be home for a few weeks so we definitely keep her in prayer and hope her recovery and rehab goes smoothly! GOD BLESS, Jolene!

**LESTER FREY** had a stroke while on vacation in Florida. He and Rose were visiting in Ft. Pierce when the stroke happened. He is doing well and we certainly keep him in our prayers! He is in rehab at Ft. Pierce until he is able to travel home.

**TERRY JARVIS** had quadruple by-pass surgery. He is doing well (trying to be patient). We certainly pray that he has no more problems! GOD BLESS, TERRY!

**RUTH STERNER** was in the hospital a few weeks ago with a rash. She has also had a bout with shingles. We keep Ruth in our prayers that these she is healed and has no more problems! GET WELL, RUTH!

**BILL SNYDER** has been having problems with swelling in his ears. He has been receiving treatment and it is getting better. Praise God!

**CHARLOTTE MILLER** has been having problems with Arthritis. She had a lot of pain with her back and now her legs. We certainly uplift Charlotte in prayer and hope she gets better! GOD BLESS!

**DEB YOST** had a bout with Belles Palsey. She is doing very well so we give praise and thanks to God for that!

**PAT SMELTZER** fell on ice and hit her head. Tests showed she is ok! She is sore and hurt her hands in the fall but we praise God she was not injured more severely!

**ELAINE STRAUSBAUGH** has been through tests for a lump in her breast. It is not cancer so we definitely feel the relief of anxiety with her! God Bless, Elaine!

**LORI NOEL** has been experiencing some health problems for a while. She will be having surgery on Feb 28. We certainly keep Lori in our prayers for her surgery and a quick recovery! God bless, Lori!

DAVE BANKERT'S mother, **ANNA BANKERT** was in the hospital with symptoms from her congestive heart failure. She is now with her daughter CAROL. We certainly hope that she does well and has no more breathing problems.

CONGRATIULATIONS to **JASON & DANIELLE SPAHR** on the birth of their son, **JAKE RYAN** on January 8th. He weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches! Congrats too to Grandparents, KAREN & STEVE BEARD and Great Grandmother, MARY ALLISON!

*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!*

# COMING EVENTS:

Have you checked out the church website? You can find us at

[www.betheluccspringgrove.com](http://www.betheluccspringgrove.com)

Our e-mail address: [betheluccspringgrove@g-mail.com](mailto:betheluccspringgrove@g-mail.com).

## ***BOWLING FELLOWSHIP - FEBRUARY 26***

We are having a Bowling Fellowship time at Greenmount Lanes in MD. beginning at 5:00 pm on Saturday, February 26th. We again will have the church pay for games bowled by children. DAVE BANKERT will have information on the costs available if you call 225-6666. We need to know how many lanes of DUCKPIN or 10 PIN bowling we need to reserve so, please sign the sheet at the church or call DAVE and let him know how many people will be in your party.

**PASTOR LOU ANN & JERI** will be on vacation from February 8 to February 27. Rev. Earl Marks will be the supply Pastor for Feb 13, 20 and 27. He will also cover any pastoral emergencies that may occur during that time. If you have need of Pastoral care, contact DAVE or DEB BANKERT at 225-6666 and they will contact Rev. Marks for you.

**LENT BEGINS MARCH 9th.** Ash Wednesday services will be held on March 9th at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This service will again offer the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes. You may receive the mark of the cross on your forehead or on the back of your hand. If you prefer to not receive the imposition of ashes, that is perfectly fine!

Then for the Wednesday evening services we will also meet at 7:00 pm for worship. We will vary the focus of services from week to week and will offer time of prayer as well as a healing service during one or two of the weekly services. There will be a special theme for each service. More information will be offered closer to the start of Lent.

**In case of snow..... tune to Channel 43, Channel 8 or tune your radio to WGTU. We will have the cancellation posted or announced on these stations. We are also looking into getting a phone machine that enables us to change the announcement from a remote location so that we can put a cancellation message on the church phone machine.**

## Bethel UCC Offering and Attendance Report 2009 vs. 2010

2009				2010			
Envelopes	Loose Offering	Total Offering	Attendance # of Weeks	Month	Envelopes	Loose Offering	Total Offering Attendance # of Weeks
\$4,012.00	\$110.00	\$4,122.00	239	January	\$5,416.00	\$203.00	\$5,619.00 338
4,014.00	98.00	4,112.00	292	February	3,385.00	115.25	\$3,500.25 199
5,335.00	204.00	5,539.00	402	March	4,310.00	162.00	4,472.00 347
4,483.00	402.16	4,885.16	426	April	3,956.00	261.00	4,217.00 348
5,331.00	384.50	5,715.50	404	May	4,852.00	227.25	5,079.25 337
3,846.00	193.00	4,039.00	291	June	3,635.00	135.00	3,770.00 231
3,628.00	194.05	3,822.05	272	July	4,458.00	136.00	4,594.00 248
5,039.00	232.00	5,271.00	335	August	4,894.00	193.50	5,087.50 268
3,716.00	156.00	3,872.00	262	September	3,462.00	142.15	3,604.15 242
3,820.00	225.00	4,045.00	327	October	4,574.00	196.20	4,770.20 314
4,575.00	307.00	4,882.00	350	November	3,801.00	129.25	3,930.25 250
5,267.00	411.00	5,678.00	302	*December	4,482.00	388.50	4,870.50 331
\$53,066.00	\$2,916.71	\$55,982.71	3,902	<b>Total</b>	\$51,225.00	\$2,289.10	\$53,514.10 3,453
			52				
Average Weekly Attendance-December			75.5		Average Weekly Attendance- December 82.8		
Average Weekly Offering-December			\$1,419.50		Average Weekly Offering-September \$1,217.63		

\* December 2010 includes Christmas Eve Service

Year-to-Date 2009 # of Weeks	
Attendance	52
Offering	3,902
Average Contribution per Attendee	\$55,982.71
Average Weekly Attendance	\$14.35
Average Weekly Offering	\$1,076.59

Year-to-Date 2010 # of Weeks	
Attendance	51
Offering	3,453
Average Contribution per Attendee	\$53,514.10
Average Weekly Attendance	\$15.50
Average Weekly Offering	\$1,049.30

### Comparison 2010 vs. 2009

Avg Weekly Attendance	-7
Avg Weekly Offering	-\$27.29
Avg Weekly Offering by Attendance	\$1.15

### Comparison Summary by Month of Previous Year (December 09 vs 10)

Avg Weekly Attendance	7.3
Avg Weekly Offering	-\$201.88
Avg Weekly Offering by Attendance	-\$4.09

# February 2011

Bethel United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<i>1</i> Bible Study - 9:00 am Adult Choir - 7:00 pm	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> Worship - 9:00 am Scout Sunday Sunday School - 10:30 am	<i>7</i> Consistory - 7:30 pm	<i>8</i> Pastor Lou Ann, vacation through to the 27th.	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> Worship - 9:00 am Rev. Earl Marks, Supply Pastor Sunday School - 10:30 am	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> Worship - 9:00 am Rev. Earl Marks, Supply Pastor Sunday School - 10:30 am	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> Worship - 9:00 am Rev. Earl Marks, Supply Pastor Sunday School - 10:30 am	<i>28</i>					