

# BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

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

July/August 2011

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

How is your summer going? My summer is flying by – as usual! It is hard to believe we are at the end of June already!

I am looking for more questions from you for future Pastor's Desk messages. This month I will focus on a question that stems from the Angel information of last month. Connie Delozier asked about the possibility of our loved ones spiritually coming back to us after their death. In last month's column I had mentioned that there is no biblical support for deceased loved ones coming back to us spiritually or as angels. I also went on to say my thoughts and feelings about the spiritual presence of our loved ones in our lives after they have passed. Even though nothing is mentioned in the bible to clarify this issue for us so what I say in answer to this question is simply my thoughts and feelings.

I stated last month that there are times after our loved ones die they come to us in our thoughts. When we face a situation we will often hear the voice of our loved one telling us what to do or how to handle the situation. Now, we could say that we are simply remembering a time from the past when our loved ones said those very words to us. And, that may very well be the case. But I feel that our loved one is speaking to us at the very time we are facing something and we hear their voice.

I also say that the spirit of our loved ones come back to us from time to time even though there is no scriptural support for this. The reason I say this (and have said this to people as they grieve the passing of their loved ones), I say that from time to time we may feel that our loved ones are in touch with us. We may be sitting in a room or doing something in the course of our day when we will look toward the chair where our loved ones usually sat because we just feel that they are sitting there or they are standing near to us. I have felt this from time to time in my life. I had a very dear friend from one of the churches I served in Schuylkill County. We both enjoyed playing Pinochle and so most Thursdays she would have me to her home for dinner and then we would play cards until late in the evening. She was also someone I would turn to when I needed some guidance in life and in faith. She was the toddlers' Sunday School teacher since she was about nineteen years old and even though she never had children of her own, she was a beacon of light for the many children who grew up in Christ Church. She was a dear and beloved friend. She died at age 45 from Lukemia. I lost one of if not the most dear friends I had in my life at that time. Since Marion's death there have been many times when I would feel her presence near me. In my mind I could hear her voice and it just seemed as though we were standing side by side again. Even though she died in 1986 even to this day I can hear the sound of her laughter – an experience I cherish! And I can still hear the laughter of other friends and loved ones I have lost.

So, Connie, to answer your question, there is nothing in scripture that tells us that our loved ones come back to us after death but experience tells me that they do. I feel sure that God knows when we are in need and sends our loved ones to help us through the situations we face in life. I certainly affirm that when I needed the wisdom and direction that my loved ones could give, that is exactly what I have received – even though it is after their passing. I will also affirm that I have felt the presence of many of the beloved people of Bethel since their passing. I often ask people if they have felt the presence of their loved one and many people will say "Yes, they did". So, I feel that God does send our loved ones to us from time to time.

If you have any experiences to share, I would love to hear them! If you disagree, I would love to dialogue with you because, as I said, this is only my opinion on this matter!

I hope you have a blessed and safe summer! The next issue of Blessings From Bethel will be available the beginning of September.

**GOD BLESS!**

With love, Pastor Lou Ann

# Monthly Pastor's Activity Report

Month: May, 2011

**Worship Services:** 5/1  
5/8 – Mother's Day  
5/15  
5/22  
5/29 – Music Sunday, Memorial Sunday, Ascension Day Service

**Meetings:** Consistory – 5/2  
Bible Study – 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/31  
Adult Choir – 5/3, 5/10, 5/17

**Visits:** 5  
**Nursing Home:** 2  
**Contacts:** 20  
**Hospital:** 1

**Other:** Chicken Bar-B-Q – 5/14  
Community Concert – 5/15  
Errands – 5/19  
VBS meeting – 5/19  
Lifeway (Books & Teen Curriculum) – 5/23  
Newsletter & Bulletins – 5/27

<b>Complete Days off:</b>	4		
<b>Sick Days:</b>	0	<b>Total for the year:</b>	6
<b>Vacation Days:</b>	0	<b>Total for the year:</b>	20

**Respectfully Submitted:**  
Rev. Lou Ann Jones

Bethel U.C.C. Consistory Meeting  
May 2, 2011

Meeting was called to order by President Bankert at 7:38 PM with Pastor Lou Ann leading the group in prayer.

Attendance: Dave Bankert, Sue Tharp, Jeri Jones, Dequay Lauchman, Brian Martz, Ed Miller, Kim Weaver, Tammy Diehl and Rev. Lou Ann Jones.

April minutes were reviewed. S. Tharp made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by E. Miller.

Treasures report: (C. Martz): The report was approved by a motion from K. Weaver and 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Lauchman with all approving.

Pastor's Report: Presented by Pastor Lou Ann. Motion to accept the report was made by S. Tharp and seconded by D. Lauchman.

Church Care: (E. Miller) Cleaned upstairs restroom floor, painted shed doors, continuing maintenance on mowers, turned water on in pavilion.

Social: (L. McJunkin) Everyone's Birthday Party and Talent Night coming up. June 5<sup>th</sup> is Family dinner with Behavior Nightmare. Picnic is July 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to all involved with Easter breakfast.

Outreach: (D. Yost): No report

Education: (T. Diehl): \$565.17 was the candy sale profit; Thanks to all involved; Sunday School will end June 19<sup>th</sup> for summer and then start on August 28<sup>th</sup> for fall; Bible School postcards will be distributed in the area; A pig has been purchased through Heffer Project; Flowers will be planted in garden areas; Thanks for contributions to the Bunny Money.

Worship: (J. Ernst): For Humor Sunday 2012, starting time will be 9:00 a.m.; Maundy Thursday Service had 20 in attendance; 14 for Good Friday service; Easter sunrise service was held outdoors; Humor Sunday service went well. A discussion on continuing Ascension Day was held and decided not to hold in 2011 due to low attendance in past several years. Outdoor service offering will be collected with plate on table as people arrive.

June 12<sup>th</sup> communion servers are K. Weaver, D. Bankert, D. Lauchman and B. Martz. Alternate is E. Miller.

Ministry and Advisory (D. Bankert): Next meeting will be June 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Rentals: (B. Martz): May 14 Jeri will be using hall and May 21st is Rose Simpson.

Offering and Attendance: (D. Bankert) April report was reviewed.

Fund Raising: (B. Martz): Chicken BBQ apple sauce donated by Kevin and Sharon Cooley. There is a concern with pre-sale tickets. An idea of having a winter mini bazaar is being discussed.

Website: (Jeri Jones) – Updated to this point. Chicken BBQ has been added.

### Old Business

1. Funds to purchase pew cushions is being tabulated.
2. New LP tank to be installed in early May..
3. Pictures and drawing are being sought to put on front of home-made church bulletins for July, August and September.
4. More Communion folders should be placed in pews.
5. White envelopes will be used for offering using a label for name was discussed. It was decided to let the envelopes as is for less confusion.
6. Easter flowers were not delivered by Anderson Greenhouse on time (or actually never returned call to schedule a time). Other lilies purchased and received the Anderson order later in the day. J. Jones will check if bill has to be paid.
7. Deb will be having surgery in late May and will be out of the office for several weeks.

### New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeri Jones  
Secretary

Special Consistory Meeting  
May 8, 2011  
10:15 am

Meeting called to order by Vice President Sue Tharp. Sue introduced a proposal from the Youth Department that they would be allowed to setup their own checking account using the church's IRS tax number. Jolene Ernst made a motion to allow the account to be setup as outlined in the proposal. Sue Roth seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jeri L. Jones  
Consistory Secretary

July Birthdays

3 – Rose Becker  
3 – Nancy Trimmer  
4 – Leah Shyk  
6 – Rose Simpson  
11 – Leona Ernst  
13 – Isabell Kuhn  
14 – Tom McCollum  
15 – Dave Bankert  
16 – Matthew McKee  
21 – William Dubs  
22 – Dixie Brillhart  
22 – Deb Yost  
24 – Ruth Snyder  
26 – Burnell Trone  
28 – Danetta Lochbaum

July Anniversaries

7 – Tom & Diane McCollum  
15 – Joe & Connie Delozier  
17 – Jeff & Donna Carroll  
29 – Raymond & Phyllis Warner

## August Birthdays

1 – Steven Yost, III  
5 – Edith Lauchman  
5 – Jeff Shyk  
6 – Nadine Trone  
8 – Phyllis Warner  
8 – Pat Lauchman  
10 – Katie Jarvis  
10 – Jamie Nace  
13 – Carol Kopp  
18 – Steven Yost, Sr.  
19 – Tina Main  
19 – Evelyn Grubb  
21 – Marg Lingg  
23 – Lester Frey  
24 – Fred Wentz  
24 – Jenna Yost  
25 – Kevin Byrnes  
26 – Ed Masenheimer, III  
27 – Benjamin Kreitz  
27 – Elizabeth Kreitz  
29 – Courtney (Rice) Pope  
31 – Danielle Spahr

## August Anniversaries

10 – Jeff & Leah Shyk  
22 – Bob & Rose Becker  
24 – Walter & Josie Miller  
24 – John & Marg Lingg



## 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

### RUSSELL WENTZ

Room E138  
425 Westminster Ave  
Hanover, PA 17331



## *From the Congregation's Life:*

**DEB BANKERT** is well on the way to recovery from her surgery. Unfortunately she is still restricted from driving, but that will come around soon! GOD BLESS, DEB!

**MELLIE SIMPSON** had been in the hospital because of a rapid heart rate. She was put on different medication and the adjustment has not been easy. She will have a procedure next week to shock her heart to get it into regular rhythm. Our prayers are with you, MELLIE!

**BOB LINDSEY** had been in the hospital because of a very bad infection from a Kidney stone! He was a very sick person but PRAISE GOD, Bob is doing well. His stone was "blasted" with a laser and he is waiting now for the "all clear". Bob is our miracle man because the infection was very severe but God brought him through it. PRAISE GOD!

**DAISY ERNST** had an injection in her eye to help with the vision problem she has been having. So far it seems it has not helped but we do ask God to correct Daisy's vision! GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS FOR DAISY!

**RUTH SNYDER** has been having a lot of pain recently. She found out she does have a cracked vertebrae and she is seeing a surgeon for consultation. She does not want to think about surgery, but we keep her in prayer for relief from this problem! GOD BLESS, RUTH!

**JOLENE ERNST** is afflicted with "trigger finger". She had a cyst on her hand that caused problems with her thumb. The cyst was drained and things are getting better. PRAISE GOD!

**GLORIA FAHNESTOCK** has been having problems with her foot and will be having surgery to correct the problem in early July. She has been through a few health problems recently and we hope she has clear health for a long time to come. Gloria's daughter-in-law is also going through tests for severe headaches. We hope they find the problem and provide the treatment she needs! GOD BLESS, GLORIA and TAMMY!

We are aware of a couple of people having surgical procedures the first week of July. They wish to remain anonymous so offer prayers for healing for faith family members!

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!!!!!!**

The cutoff date for the challenge is July 3. BUT, we can still use contributions to cover the remaining balance for the work done last year! If contributions exceed the amount needed for the outstanding balance, we will use those contributions in general fund.

# 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).

**CHURCH PICNIC!** On JULY 31 we will have our service of PRAYER AND PRAISE IN THE PAVILION and worship will begin at 10:00 am. Following the conclusion of the worship time we will share in a covered dish picnic! Soup and Hot Dogs will be provided but we ask you to bring your favorite dishes to share with others! Bring a veggie, salad, meat dish and/or desert. Drinks will be available but if you would like to bring tea or other drinks to share, please feel free to do so.

Also, we would like to have you invite friends and neighbors to join us in worship and fellowship for the picnic, so extend an invitation and bring them along!

**Our CHICKEN BAR-B QUE!** We have another Bar-B-Q scheduled for AUGUST 27! We have had great success with this venture in the past and we ask for your help and support again for this Bar-B-Q. Tickets are available and we ask for your willingness to sell tickets for us! The tickets are \$7.50 for the dinner.

We also will need donations of items for the Bar-B-Q. We definitely need BAKED GOODS to sell that day! We have had fantastic support with baked goods in our previous sales! We could also use donations of drinks and if you would be willing to cover the cost of the rolls or apple sauce, or other items needed that day, it would help our budget in many ways!

Most of all, we ask for your prayers that we work together for the glory of God!

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES:** Sunday, July 3 and July 17 will be 9:00 services. JULY 31 is our picnic Sunday and worship begins at 10:00. August services are the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. And September 4 will be the final outdoor service for this summer. See you there!

## HAPPY SUMMER!!!

Wow kiddos – what a great and fun week we had at Vacation Bible School – it sure was a Beach Blast! The first evening we talked about **God's Promise** and how he sent his son Jesus into the world. The second night, we learned about **God's Provision** (which remember means to provide) and that evening we heard to the story about the feeding of the 5,000. On Tuesday evening, we heard about **God's Power** and our story for that evening was Jesus Calms the Storms. The next night we learned of **God's Plan** and the story that evening was Jesus teaches Nicodemus. Also, during Vacation Bible School, the children and helpers collected canned goods for God's Meal Barrel as our Outreach project. At the end of Wednesday evening, we had collected 72 cans/boxes with one more night to go. Yeah! Way to go!

In order to provide a fun-filled week for the 22 children, I would also like to thank the leaders that assisted with Vacation Bible School because without YOU, it could not have happened. Thanks to Miss Danetta (Lochbaum) who was our Story Teller who provided the lesson for each evening. Thanks to Miss Tammy (Diehl) who was our Craft's leader who sprayed 33 t-shirts with bleach so we could have cool t-shirts and provided other fun crafts. Thanks to Mr. Dave (Bankert) and Mr. Fred (Brillhart) who were our Games/Activities leaders and these guys constructed our slippery water slide along with Scavenger Hunts, water balloon battles, and other challenging games. Thanks to Miss Lynn (McJunkin) and Miss Sally (Sheaffer) for providing the themed focus snacks each evening from edible flip flops to crab cupcakes. Thanks to Rev. Lou Ann, our Song leader who rehearsed the songs with the children each evening. Also Thank You to Miss Cheryl (Worley) and her assistant Miss Beth (Zimmerman), Miss Karen (Beard), and Miss Jill (Kuhn) for being our lifeguards and leading our groups to each rotation. Thank You also to Miss Jolene (Ernst) for her assistance with both games/activities and snacks for the week. Also, Thank You to Amanda (Groft) for being our photographer for the week and putting together a DVD for us.

Upcoming in July and August, we will share in some activities together! Have mom and/or dad keep an eye out for e-mails over the next few weeks. We are trying to get some dates together for a miniature golf outing, a sleep over (hopefully camp out), a trip to Sight and Sound, and many other activities.

**DON'T FORGET** – To mark your calendars for the start up of our Sunday School again on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

God's Blessings,  
Lori



# July 2011

Bethel United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Outdoor Worship - 9:00 am  Adult Sunday School - 10:15	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship - 9:00 am  Adult Sunday School - 10:15	11 Consistory - 7:30 pm	12 Bible Study - 9:00 am	13	14	15	16
17 Outdoor Worship - 9:00 am  Adult Sunday School - 10:15	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship - 9:00 am  Adult Sunday School - 10:15	25	26 Bible Study - 9:00 am	27	28	29	30
31 Church Picnic - 11:30 am Prayer and Praise in the Pavilion - 10:00 am						

# August 2011

Bethel United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Consistory - 7:30 pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 Outdoor Worship - 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - 10:30 am	8	9 Bible Study	10	11	12	13
14 Worship - 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - 10:30 am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Outdoor Worship - 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - 10:30 am	22	23 Bible Study	24	25	26	27 Chicken Bar-B-Q 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
28 Worship - 9:00 am Supply Pastor Sunday School - 10:30 am	29	30	31			