

# *Blessings from Bethel*

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

January 2011

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

The New Year is upon us again and that fact came into focus as I typed the date for this column. Of course at this time of year many thoughts are focused on the past year and the important events that happened. We have been hearing the news reports both local and national about different events that were important in our communities and in the nation and the world so I don't need to restate those in this column. But certainly events that made a lasting statement would include natural disasters and how many are still suffering from them. Even five years after the devastation of Katrina, the gulf states are rebuilding. Then, the oil spill has added a major burden to the economy of the gulf states. (I find it interesting that we heard almost hourly reports about the spill while it was happening but now that the spill is capped, have we heard much about the effects and what is still happening along the coast? I haven't heard very much.)

As I stated earlier there are many more events that truly shaped the year of 2010 on the world, national and local levels and we need to keep focused on what needs have risen because of these events. We need to ask for God to guide our hearts and minds in the ways that we can reach out and help others to rebuild. If our outreach is by getting involved, then so be it. If our outreach is by giving contributions, then so be it. But, we do need to continually be in prayer for those whose lives have been affected and for those who are working to help them.

Of course in 2010 you are all aware that I have made a very major change in my life. I had the gastric by-pass surgery in June and I am definitely on the path to becoming "half the woman I once was!" At this time I am down 106 pounds from my highest weight of a year ago. I definitely feel better and am able to get around much better. (In preparing for the Christmas Eve service I was up and down the stairs at church so many times I lost count but I didn't mind the trips!) I also have more energy than I can remember having for a long time. This definitely was a positive change for me. I can't tell you how many years I made the resolution to lose weight but, thanks be to God, I am now making that resolution come true. I would like to take off another 50 pounds or so and then I will definitely be half the woman I once was!

The weight loss was not the only major event that I experienced this past year. As you remember we took a survey at Bethel and this stemmed from the fact that there was some dissatisfaction with how things are going. Our attendance has been down and giving has been down to. We had to use more reserved funds this past year than we used for many years and this definitely hurts our financial setting. Now, I could kind of make light of this by saying that most every church is experiencing a similar situation – which is true – but we still need to look at the reasons why this is happening. So, we took a survey to find out the opinions of the people. We have looked at this feedback and are working to make changes in how we do what we do at Bethel. We hope that changes we have made and are making will meet the needs of the people and build up their satisfaction with the ministry that I serve at Bethel and the fellowship of the church in general. But, we need to know if what we are doing is helping or not, So, please give us feedback if you like or dislike what you experience at Bethel church! As I said, we have instituted some changes already, and there are more to come! Let us know what you feel and if there is anything else we can be doing!

God Bless!

Pastor Lou Ann

**Monthly Pastor's Activity Report**  
**Month: November 2010**

**Worship Services:** 11/7  
11/14  
11/21  
11/24 – Thanksgiving Eve  
11/28 – Hanging of the Greens

**Meetings:** Consistory – 11/1  
Bible Study – 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30  
Adult Choir – 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/24, 11/30

**Visits:** 7  
**Nursing Home:** 1  
**Contacts:** 17  
**Hospital:** 0

**Other:** Errands: 11/16  
Newsletter: 11/30  
Christmas Decorations: 11/26

<b>Complete Days off:</b>	4		
<b>Sick Days:</b>	0	<b>Total for the year:</b>	5
<b>Vacation Days:</b>	4	<b>Total for the year:</b>	14

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Rev. Lou Ann Jones**

# From the Congregation's Life:

**RUTH STERNER** is currently in Hanover Hospital. She was admitted on Dec 27 and they think she has a viral infection. She hopes to return home by the 30th, and we pray that she will be home by then! God bless, RUTH!

**BOB THOMAN** had surgery for the first time in his life on Dec. 9th. It was an outpatient procedure and he did very well! It is amazing how well he did for his first surgery! God bless you, BOB!

**MIRIAM WALLS** was in the hospital earlier in the month with an infection. They were doing additional tests and we certainly pray that all is cleared up and there are no more symptoms! We keep MIRIAM in our prayers.

**TERRY JARVIS** is doing fairly well following his hospitalization. He did have a stent placed during his catheterization but there will be surgery needed sometime. He is passing the time waiting to hear when surgery will be. Hang in there, TERRY! God bless!

I also ask that you keep my friend, **SHARON COOLEY** and her parents **DICK & DOTTIE SWISHER** in your prayers. Dick has Skin Cancer and it has spread to his liver and lymph system. He is also experiencing shortness of breath even with light exertion. Dottie was in the hospital the week before Christmas and had a pacemaker placed. She is doing better now but it was touch and go for her. Pray for the strength of God's Spirit to be with them all!

We hope that we have remembered all who have been in our prayers but we realize that we often miss mentioning someone and their prayer needs. We apologize if we have missed your prayer concern in this column.

## LIST OF SHUT-IN AND PRAYER CONCERN MEMBERS

Joyce Reichert

Kathryn Kaltreider

Ruth Sterner

Room 215B

1935 Niagara Lane

P. O. Box 330

Colonial Manor Home

York, PA 17404

Hanover, PA 17331

970 Colonial Avenue

York, PA 17404

# **COMING EVENTS:**

With the winter months, there is generally not much happening. But, we do have a big event scheduled for January –

## **Church “After Christmas” Dinner!**

On Sunday, January 16, we will gather in fellowship hall at 5:00 pm for our annual Christmas Dinner – after Christmas! Everyone is so busy in the month of December that we have moved the date for this dinner to after Christmas and we are more relaxed and can enjoy it better!

We will have the traditional fare of Turkey, mashed potatoes, filling, gravy, etc. It is always delicious! DAVE & DEB BANKERT, SUE THARP, LYNN McJUNKIN and JOLENE ERNST all do a terrific job in the planning, cooking and decorating for this event.

We do need to know how many people plan to attend. So, if you are in church, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for you to sign and indicate how many people will be attending. If you are not able to make it to church and would like to attend, just call the church office – 632-4260 and leave a message with your name and how many people will attend. We look forward to sharing a good time of fellowship!

## **FOLLOW UP TO THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN DECEMBER:**

On December 19th we had our Annual Congregational Meeting for the vote on the budget for next year. The budget passed as it was presented. We also had the election of Consistory members. Returning for a second three year term are: BRIAN MARTZ (Trustee), JOLENE ERNST (Elder), and JERI JONES (Deacon). Newly elected to a three year term is SUE THARP (Deacon).

If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office and we will see that you receive one.

**CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT** – Outside the office door, we have a variety of items offered for \$.50 a piece. These items are donated by Pastor Lou Ann. All proceeds from the sale of these items goes toward a mission project chosen by the children. So far we have purchased a goat and a flock of chicks and a Water Buffalo. We are well on the way to our next foal of \$500.00 to purchase a Cow through Heifer International. We THANK YOU for your support in this project and if you would like to donate any candy or just donate money toward our goal, we would appreciate that very much!

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Lent begins very late this year. Ash Wednesday will be March 9th. Because of this, I told Jeri that this would be a good year for him to go to the NASCAR race at Daytona since that will be on Feb 20th. Of course, he jumped at that opportunity! So, we will be heading south on Feb 8th. I am planning vacation Sundays and will be away Feb 13, 20 and 27. I do not have information of the supply Pastor at this time but will inform you in the next newsletter.

If you would like to see other things included in the newsletter, please let us know! We want to produce a newsletter that keeps you informed and offers you information that helps. If you have come across any articles in e-mail or in your reading that would be good to share, please see that we receive a copy! THANK YOU!

## January Birthdays

2 – Tammy Diehl  
5 – Fred Brillhart  
10 – Eric Tharp  
13 – Robert Lindsey  
15 – Connor Main  
15 – Kathryn Kaltreider  
17 – Jeremy McMaster  
17 – Nichole Simpson  
20 – John Martin, Jr.  
22 – Krista Mellott  
23 – Greg Main  
24 – Mellie Simpson  
25 – Rose Rice  
27 – Mary Allison  
28 – Bill Snyder  
29 – Alex Miller  
30 – Elizabeth (Smith) Zimmerman  
30 – Jesse Diehl  
31 – Owen Lochbaum

“Happy Birthday to you!”



In case of snow.... please listen to **WGTY** or here,.... again, cannot **WHVR** radio stations. You may also watch **WGAL** or **FOX 43** for cancellation information.  
THANK YOU – but, we hope we don't have to make use of this!

## Happy New Year!!!

Here we are at the beginning of a new year ~ 2011. I am excited to see what God has in store for us this year.

Fantastic job kiddos! The Children's Christmas program was absolutely wonderful. You all worked very hard learning your parts and it showed. Give yourself a pat on the back (pat, pat)! Also, thanks to the moms and dads, grandparents, etc. for your time in helping your child(ren) learn his or her part and for your time bringing them to the Saturday morning practices. I very much appreciate it.

Upcoming in the month of January, we will begin working on some new songs! We will then have the opportunity in the future to sing a song during the church service. We will let you and your parents know as soon as we have a date that we will be singing in church.

Also, mark your calendar (well, you should probably have mom/dad mark the calendar for you) for Sunday, January 31st from 2:00-4:00, we will be having a Wii party at the Noel's this year (thank you to the Kuhn's for hosting this last year). Bring your favorite Wii games and remotes/nunchuks (maybe some you just got for Christmas) and we will have an afternoon of games! If you want, feel

free to bring some snacks,. And if some of you big kids from our Congregation would like to join us, feel free to – the more, the merrier! We live at 508 Hartman Avenue in Hanover. *{Directions: Go to the square in Hanover, take Frederick Street to Forney Avenue (Turkey Hill is on left). Turn left onto Forney Avenue. At stop sign, go straight and at next intersection is Hartman Avenue. Turn right onto Hartman Avenue and we are the 4th house on the left. Parking is available along the street.}* We look forward to having you!

AGAIN Kids – On the next page you will find 2 activities. The picture of the angel is for children 5 and younger. The cryptogram at the bottom is for children 6 and older, since you told me you really like doing the cryptograms, I found another one for January. Complete your age appropriate activity (put your name on it) and bring it to Sunday School – you will get to pick a prize from the prize box!!! (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 January!

God's Blessings,

Lori