

BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

www.betheluccspringgrove.com

December, 2011

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

Christmas time is here..... words from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" song. As always, it is hard to believe that we are in December and Christmas is just around the corner..... again!

This year I have mixed emotions about the holiday season. Certainly I am caught up in the usual Christmas traditions..... decorating home and Rocky Ridge; Christmas Music playing in the stores and on the radio; rehearsals for the Hanover Community Chorus concert; etc. This does prove to be a busy time of the year for most people and I am in that mode too. These activities bring about the nostalgic side of Christmas because these are activities that I appreciate! But, this year there is a different side to my Christmas preparations. With my mother's death in September, Jeri and I are now in a totally new position – we do not have any living parents. The Christmas observances had changed for Jeri and I after my parents moved into their apartment and we did not gather for a family meal at my parents home. So, the past few years have been different in that we visited with mom and dad at the apartment or at the nursing home and gave them a gift or two and after visiting a while we would return home to do whatever the rest of the day. But, now visiting my parents would be to stop by the cemetery and it certainly would not include giving a gift or even shopping for what mom needed. This holiday season will definitely be different and I got a sense of this with Thanksgiving Day. For the first time this year I made Thanksgiving Dinner at home and it turned out fairly well. So, maybe for Christmas Dinner I will be doing the same thing and maybe start a new tradition for Jeri and myself.

This year presents a dilemma that we encounter every few years. Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year and so many believers are torn between the preparations and tradition observances of Christmas Morning or attending worship in church. I can certainly understand families have traditions on Christmas morning with children waking up and rushing to the tree to see what Santa has brought to them. And traditions mean a lot for all. But, with the emphasis of recent years on the materialism of Christmas I would hope that many people would make a definite point of including worship in the observances of Christmas this year. Over the years I have been serving Bethel I have seen families opting to get together for Christmas parties on Christmas Eve and that gathering does not include worship. It seems that many have given in to the influence of the secular world and have drifted away from giving time to join in worship to give praise to God that our Savior came into the world for us. Gathering for worship on Christmas Eve should be a priority for every believer because Christmas IS the celebration of the birth of our Savior. Christmas IS – God with us and when we participate in worship we show God how important this is for us! So, how important is Christmas Eve worship for you? What is more important – showing God how thankful you are that our Savior, Christ the Lord was born or, is the party and/or family gathering too important to take an hour and a half or two (travel time and worship time together) to give praise to God?

Now this year we not only have the Christmas Eve worship time but we also have worship on Christmas morning. So, we have a second opportunity to include worship in our Christmas observance. So, will worship be a part of your Christmas celebration? We certainly would hope that worship would be a priority for you and your family as a Christmas tradition, this year and every year. In recent years the church and belief in God has been receiving opposition from a cold hearted world. Show God how important your faith is to you and your family and step out of the secular world into the faith focused world. Place priority in faith and not in the secular. God needs us to be faithful – especially at Christmas so let us make the worship of God the most important thing we do at Christmas time!

May your Christmas be filled with love, happiness and peace! God Bless! Pastor Lou Ann
And, we certainly hope that your New Year Celebration is happy and healthy and, remember, we have worship January 1 with Holy Communion too!

Monthly Pastor's Activity Report

Month: October, 2011

Worship Services: 10/2 – World Wide Communion

10/9 – Rally Day

10/16

10/23

10/30 – Cancelled due to power outage

Meetings: Consistory – 10/3

Ministry Advisory Committee – 10/3

Bible Study – 10/18

Adult Choir – 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25

Prayer Shawl Meeting – 10/13

Prayer Meeting – 10/17

Visits: 10

Nursing Home: included in home communions

Contacts: 22

Hospital: 0

Home Communion: 6

Other: Bulletins – 10/6

Pet Sunday at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – 10/9

Organized Storeroom - 10/22

Operation Welcome Home Cards – 10/23

Newsletter – 10/25

Funeral – 10/29 – AMOS ALTLAND

Complete Days off: 4

Sick Days: 1 **Total for the year:** 8

Vacation Days: 0 **Total for the year:** 27

Respectfully Submitted:

Rev. Lou Ann Jones

Bethel U.C.C. Consistory Meeting
October 3, 2011

Meeting was called to order by President Bankert at 7:33 PM with Pastor Lou Ann leading the group in prayer.

Attendance: Jolene Ernst, Dave Bankert, Lynn McJunkin, Sue Roth, Jeri Jones, Dequay Lauchman, Ed Miller, Kim Weaver, Tammy Diehl, Bob Murray and Rev. Lou Ann Jones.

September minutes were reviewed with several corrections. J. Ernst. Murray made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by B. Murray.

Treasurer's report (K. Weaver): The report was approved by a motion from S. Roth and 2nd by L. McJunkin with all approving.

Pastor's Report (Rev. Lou Ann): Motion to accept the report was made by K. Weaver and seconded by L. McJunkin. Rev. Lou Ann announced that the Grubb's have transferred to Dub's Church.

Church Care: (E. Miller) Trimming of shrubs will be October 22nd at 9:00 a.m. The pavilion, flag and water system have been winterized. Tractor upkeep continues.

Social: (L. McJunkin): Rally Day breakfast coming up. Fall Fest is on November 6th.

Outreach: (D. Yost): No report

Education: (T. Diehl): No issues to report. A kid's corner is on-going for students before Sunday School. The children will be singing on October 23rd; Working on ornaments for a tree at Christmas Magic; Kids program is December 18th.

Worship: (J. Ernst): Veterans Day recognition is planned for November 13th.

Ministry and Advisory (D. Bankert): Items discussed include the prayer shawls, Road to Vitality, pew cushions and find out why people are leaving the church. A letter from Hoffman Home requesting donations to repair a broken water main was discussed. B. Murray made a motion to present a \$100 donation to Hoffman Home and seconded by E. Miller. The church will participate in Operation Welcome Home, Maryland program. A gathering is planned for October 23rd to make cards to be coordinated by Rev. Lou Ann, T. Diehl and J. Ernst.

Rentals: (S. Tharp): Hall is reserved for the Diehl's on November 19th and Tharp's on November 24th.

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

Fund Raising: (J. Jones): Sub sale netted \$205 – thank you to all. Thank you to Bob Ernst for the chips for the sub sale. Rev. Lou Ann picked up the subs and K. Weaver organized the sale. Rev. Lou Ann will check if baked goods will be sold as part of the Porter's craft show on November 19th.

Website: (Jeri Jones) –All is updated.

Old Business:

Bylaws – To be completed for November meeting

New Business:

J. Ernst will donate a brief case to Treasurer K. Weaver.

B. Murray asked about the meetings starting at 7:00 p.m. To be considered for new year.

Motion was made by J. Ernst and seconded by S. Roth to participate in the Holiday Gift Program with Hoffman Homes.

Poinsettias - Rev. Lou Ann received information from Hueter's Nursery offering 4-6 blooms for \$8.00 each. S. Roth will check another source.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

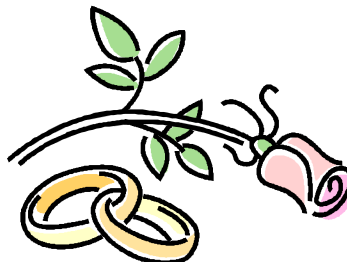
Jeri Jones
Secretary

December Birthdays

7 -- Steve Yost, II
7 -- Janel Zumbrum
10 – Joan Main
10 – John McMaster
11 – Josie Miller
12 – James Knaub
13 - Ted Kreitz, II
13 – Connie Delozier
14 – Brian Martz
16 – Ruth Sterner
17 – Vicky Jarvis
19 – Brittany Martz
20 – Carl Lauchman
24 – Justin Diehl
28 – William Zumbrum
29 – Lillian Mummert
30 – Amber Walter
30 – Dakota Frebertshouser

December Anniversaries

4 – Roy & Pearl Geisler
14 – Steve & Deb Yost
15 – Charles & Evelyn Grubb
19 – Mike & Colleen Walter
19 -- Matthew & Christine McKee
24 – Carl & Pat Lauchman



LIST OF SHUT-IN AND PRAYER CONCERN MEMBERS

JOYCE REICHERT
Room 215B
Colonial Manor Home
970 Colonial Ave
York, PA 17403

KATHRYN KALTREIDER
Room 316
118 Pleasant Acres Rd
York, PA 17

RUTH STERNER
P.O. Box 330
Hanover, PA 17331

RUSSELL WENTZ
Room E138
425 Westminster Ave
Hanover, PA 17331

MELLIE SIMPSON
67 York Drive
New Oxford, PA 17350

MELVIN RICE
Room 4527
Cross Keys Village, The Brethren Home
P.O. Box 128
New Oxford, PA 17350



From the Congregation's Life:

DICK TRIMMER went into York Hospital on Thanksgiving Day. He had a slight heart attack. His blood pressure came up to a level so he could receive dialysis and he returned home on Saturday. He is very sick and is having a rough time. **GOD BLESS THE TRIMMERS!**

DEB YOST & STEVE YOST have both recently had surgery. Deb had a stent put in her leg that has relieved the pain in that leg. She had the other leg being done Nov. 30. She did have some problems following the procedure but is doing better! Steve had back surgery and is now walking the road to recovery. We certainly hope this helps with all the pain and discomfort he has had! **AND.....** The Yost's have welcomed a new grandchild into the family! **JANELL & STEVE, III, Steven, Jenna and Kora** welcomed **BRIA OLIVIA YOST** into their family! She was born November 12,

JIM & CHERYL WORLEY are grandparents again! **BETH & GEORGE ZIMMERMAN** welcomed **OWEN XAVIAR** into their family on November 10th. He came about a month early and has been in the Premie Unit at York Hospital. They have removed the feeding tube and he is doing well! **ALSO.....** Jim went into Hanover Hospital on Thanksgiving Eve. He has Pneumonia in the right lung. He went home Nov. 28th and is taking it easy! (Bored, but behaving!) We certainly are thankful he is doing well! **GOD BLESS** the **WORLEY** family!

We also uplift many of our congregation who have been going through some rough times: **MARJORIE TRUMP; DEB BANKERT; JOLENE ERNST, RAYMOND WARNER.** 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!

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.

DECEMBER 11, 2011 ---- ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING! 9:00 AM

We will have our annual meeting to vote on the 2012 budget and Consistory nominations during the worship service on December 11th. The budget will be presented at the consistory meeting on December 5th and will be available after that date. If you are interested in serving on Consistory, please contact Jolene Ernst and let us know of your interest.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

BLUE CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 14, 7:00 PM. Once again we will be offering an opportunity for anyone who feels sadness and is “blue” at Christmas time to join us for a service of worship. We acknowledge that not everyone is HAPPY at the Holiday time! We invite you to bring family and friends too who may be feeling down this Christmas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM – December 18; 10:30 am. We will begin our Sunday Worship Service at 9:00 am and we will have a shortened service. Around 9:45 we will end worship and share in a time of Cookie fellowship downstairs. Then at 10:30 the Sunday School program will begin. The Children will present the play “The Night Before Christmas”. We certainly thank LORI NOEL for her leadership in the children’s department. And we look forward to this presentation!

CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES:

Christmas Eve – December 24; 7:00 pm. This will be our traditional service with Holy Communion and Candlelighting. We will share in lots of music and worship! We invite you to come and bring your family to share in our worship service. We have battery operated candles for anyone who does not want to hold a lit candle.

Christmas Day – December 25; 9:00 am. Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year we will have a worship service. We certainly understand that many of you have lots to do that morning but we hope you will take a bit of time to join us in worship. We will be singing lots of Christmas Carols and share some meaningful readings. We plan a very informal worship time and will try to keep the service to about 45 minutes!

Looking ahead..... **JANUARY 1** is the first Sunday of the New Year. We WILL have Holy Communion during the worship service on January 1, 2012.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY! Some people have expressed interest in an evening Bible Study and we are excited about this opportunity! We met November 16 for the first time. We will meet the **first & third Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.** Our first focus will be to look at different Psalms and then we will look at what books of the Bible the members want to study. JOIN US as often as you can! And, invite your friends to participate with us!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY –

We are very blessed with the support this ministry has received already! THANK YOU ALL!!!! We have given a number of shawls and prayer lap wraps so far! We do have a good number available to give to anyone who could use them! Just list their name in the book so that we can

We are looking for people willing to knit or crochet shawls for the church. These shawls will be kept at the church and there will be copies of prayers for special occasions or events. You are welcome to choose a shawl for someone you know going through a rough time or celebrating a special occasion and present this shawl to them to let them know the people of Bethel are praying for them!

Also, if you have any yarn you don't know what to do with, please contribute it to the church and we will use it to make these shawls. THANK YOU!!!!!!

We will meet again the second Thursday of the month so we will meet at 7:00 pm on December 8 for the next gathering. Bring the shawls or lap blanket you are working on!

PRAYER MEETINGS – Third Monday of each month. Following the special Prayer Meeting we held in July, I would like to see this gathering continue. So, the third Monday of every month we will gather at church for a Prayer Meeting. We will begin at 7:00 pm for the prayer time. You may bring prayer concerns that we will share. We will also pray for our church, the community, the nation and the world. There may also be an opportunity for healing services during this prayer time so if you have need for healing, plan to participate. This prayer time will also be open to anyone interested so if your friends or neighbors would like to participate, invite them to come also! **December's meeting – December 19; 7:00 pm**

REMEMBER OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES:

God's Meal Barrel – Continue to fill our shopping cart with donations that we give to Doris and God's Meal Barrel as they provide supplies to the needy of the Hanover area! We have been supporting this ministry for many years and are so thankful that you have been so generous! THANK YOU!!!!!!

Operation Welcome Home -- This is a new outreach we started in October. We ask for donations of snacks that OWHMD presents to soldiers coming into BWI as they are returning home. We ask for these donations to be placed at the front of the Sanctuary. Right now, we ask you to place these donations under our Christmas tree! We will also be looking for HAND MADE CARDS! We will have a special gathering to make more cards for the soldiers, so keep check on the calendar for the next card making!

Gift Wrapping for Hoffman Homes! Last year a group of ten had a great time wrapping gifts for the residents of Hoffman Homes. We will again be wrapping gifts this year! **Monday, December 12 at 9:00 am** we will begin wrapping the gifts! We will leave Bethel church at 8:30 am and will carpool to Hoffman Homes. We will plan to eat lunch on our way back home (unfortunately, Hillside is closed on Mondays) but, we will find a place to eat lunch too!

We also want to thank EVERYONE who gave gifts to residents of Hoffman Homes and Homewood Home! We had a tremendous response this year! THANK YOU ALL!



**Merry Christmas
A n d A
Happy New Year!**



Hey Friends!

Christmas is just around the corner! The birthday of our King!!! If you remember back to our Vacation Bible School, we talked about the birth of Jesus because this was God's Promise to us.

Children, I hope you have enjoyed this past year as much as I have. When I think of the things we did, I just cannot decide what was the most fun for me because I thought it was all fun. We did things from selling carnations at Valentine's Day, making candy at Easter, Easter games this year before our Egg Hunt, our Beach Blast Vacation Bible School with learning about God's Promise (which we will celebrate in a few weeks – when God sent his son Jesus for our Salvation), and our trip to see Joseph at Sight and Sound. If I had to choose which activity I enjoyed the most, I would probably say it was our trip to Sight and Sound (which we are considering doing again next year to see Jonah and the whale).

PARENTS – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! Christmas is coming quickly and our Christmas program this year will be on **Sunday, December 18th** beginning at 10:30. The play for this year is entitled "T'was the Night Before Christmas" (sound familiar) and your child should have received his/her copy. I am looking forward to working on this play with all the children and then presenting it to the Congregation on the 18th of December during the Sunday School hour. In order to prepare for this program (in the midst of crazy holiday busy-ness), we are going to meet right after the Children's' Sunday School at 10:30 on **Sundays, December 4th and 11th**. – remember, Sunday School now begins at 9:30 (right after the Children's Sermon). Following play practice, we will dismiss from Tammy's Sunday School classroom at 11:15. We will have one dress rehearsal with props/costumes on **Saturday, December 17th** from 9:00-11:00 (we may not need the full 2 hours). Also, there WILL be church on Sunday, December 25th, however there will be NO Children's Sunday School.

CHILDREN - Your challenge for the month of December is on the next page. The page is somewhat blank because I want to know what your favorite Sunday School/Church activity was this past year and then draw a picture of yourself enjoying that activity!

God's Blessings,
Lori



My Favorite Sunday School activity this past year

was _____.

(Draw a picture to show your favorite activity)

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship - 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:30 am	5 Ministry Advisory Committee - 6:30 pm Consistory - 7:00 pm	6 Bible Study - 9:00 am Adult Choir - 7:00 pm	7 Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm	8 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 7:00 pm	9	10
11 Worship - 9:00 am Congregational Meeting Sunday School - 10:30 am	12 Gift Wrapping at Hoffman Homes - leave church at 8:30 am	13 Bible Study - 9:00 am	14 Blue Christmas Service - 7:00 pm	15	16	17
18 Worship - 9:00 am Children's Christmas Program - 10:30 am	19 Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm	20 Bible Study - 9:00 am Adult Choir - 7:00 pm	21 Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship - Holy Communion and Candle Light - 7:00 pm
25 Christmas Morning Worship - 9:00 am	26	27 Bible Study - 9:00 am	28	29	30	31