

BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

www.betheluccspringgrove.com

January, 2012

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! We certainly hope that your 2011 was a good year and that 2012 will be even better! As it turned out, 2011 was a "down" year for me and Jeri. With the death of my mother in September and the death of Jeri's brother, Floyd in December, we are looking to happier times in the new year. And, with some of the health things going on with me the past few days, I am looking forward to a healthier new year. I started with a sore throat on Christmas Day and the next three days went down from there. I ended up without a voice on Tuesday and aches and pains throughout the body. I slept most of the day and also slept a lot on Wednesday. Things did get better but my head still feels like I am wearing a cinder block hat. I do not feel congested but I certainly do not feel "normal". I also had a foot doctor appointment on Friday and got a Cortisone shot in my foot. Well, till Friday afternoon when we headed to the memorial service for Floyd the pain in my foot was more than I had expected and I hobbled around all evening. Praise God the pain is minimal this morning!

On top of the health problems, my laptop decided to bite the dust. The power connection has been touchy for a couple of months but finally it just gave out so I had to invest in a new laptop. And, of course the printer I had used is not adaptable to the new laptop so we had to invest in a new printer too. I am in the process of adjusting to the new features of each. Believe me, I am certainly a person who likes the familiar and I sometimes do not adjust well to new things. This is one of those times! I tried to install the Calendar program I have used for years but it also is not adaptable to the new computer. I can do the calendar on the computer at church at least for now. I hope I can get the laptop and the program to co-operate! And, along with everything else, I cannot access my e-mail on AOL so if anyone is waiting for a reply to an e-mail, give me time! I will get the account open sometime. I guess it goes without saying, I have not had the best days to close out 2011.

But, in light of everything I described in the previous paragraphs, I focus on one major truth in faith. That truth is that no matter how bad things get in our daily lives, no matter how unnerving things may become, no matter how many changes we encounter in the course of a day the one constant that we can always count on is that God loves us and is always with us! This fact became ever more clear to me on Friday morning after I left the doctors office. Again, my head felt like I had a vice grip pressing on my ears. I had an errand to run and decided to take the back streets instead of getting back on route 30. I had been over these streets a long time ago but was not very familiar with the area. My mind was on something when suddenly I was jolted to reality. I caught the glimpse of a U.S. Mail truck just feet from my driver's side. I heard the squealing of tires being slowed by the pressing of the brakes. My guardian angel was certainly with me because as close as the truck was to hitting me, there was no contact. But, believe me..... I pulled off to the side of the road and sat and cried for a long time. I had run a stop sign I did not even see until I was through the intersection. I can so close to being in an accident with who knows what the outcome may have been! I prayed and thanked God for keeping me safe! And, of course my mind went racing through many things. I realized that as preoccupied as I was with my destination and remembering things about the area where I was that I put myself and others in dangers because my mind was not on the task at hand. But, because God was with me I could just see his hand come between the side of my car and the mail truck and he kept us both safe!

The presence of God in our daily lives is something we generally do not think about from day to day. But, it is a fact that God is the one and only constant in our lives. God never changes and his love for us never changes. No matter how far away from God we may stray in our daily lives, he continues to walk with us and be with us in everything. And, until we "come to ourselves" and put control of our lives into God's hands or give it back to God, we may have days that are unnerving and we may feel that the world is out to get us but God will help us through and keep us safe! I know that I went on and on about the personal things I went through this past week, but we all have times in life when experiences parallel what I shared in this column. But, the message I give to myself and to you is ---- Remember always, God is with you and God loves you ALWAYS!

God Bless you with a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Love, Pastor Lou Ann.

Monthly Pastor's Activity Report

Month: November, 2011

Worship Services: 11/6 – Harvest Home
11/13 – Veteran's Day
11/20
11/23 – Thanksgiving Eve
11/27 – Hanging of the Greens

Meetings: Consistory – 11/7
Ministry Advisory Committee – no meeting
Bible Study – 11/1, 11/15, 11/22
Adult Choir – 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/23, 11/29
Prayer Shawl Meeting – 11/10
Prayer Meeting – included in Thanksgiving Eve service

Visits: 14
Nursing Home: 3
Contacts: 25
Hospital: 3
Home Communion: 0

Other: Fall Festival – 11/6
Candy Making 11/7, 11/8, 11/9
Boxed Candy – 11/14
OWHMD delivery – 11/18
Porter's Fire Hall Craft Show – 11/19

Complete Days off: 4
Sick Days: 0 **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
November 7, 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 Tharp, Sue Roth, Jeri Jones, Dequay Lauchman, Ed Miller, Kim Weaver, Tammy Diehl, Bob Murray and Rev. Lou Ann Jones.

October minutes were reviewed. S. Tharp made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by D. Lauchman.

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

Pastor's Report (Rev. Lou Ann): Motion to accept the report was made by S. Roth and seconded by J. Ernst.

Church Care: (E. Miller) Thanks to everyone who assisted in the trimming of shrubs.

Social: (L. McJunkin): Over 50 people attended Rally Day breakfast. Fall Fest went well. Thanks to Tammy Diehl for arranging the hayride and bounce house. \$210 was raised in the White Elephant Sale with ~ 30 people attending.

Outreach: (D. Yost): No report

Education: (T. Diehl): Play practice to start in December during Sunday School hour. A proposal was introduced to have children leave church service after the offering and began Sunday School hour at that point. Involved parents have been surveyed with no issues. S. Tharp made a motion to try this system and seconded by K. Weaver. Motion carried.

Worship: (J. Ernst): Thanksgiving Eve service is November 23rd at 7:00 p.m. The Blue Christmas service will be December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Ministry and Advisory (D. Bankert): Next meeting is December 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Rentals: (S. Tharp): No new additions for 2011.

Offering and Attendance: (D. Bankert) No report

Fund Raising: (J. Jones): We will be selling candy at Porter's craft show. A lead was presented for Chicken BBQ. Scripps gift cards program will be coordinated by L. McJunkin.

Website: (Jeri Jones) –All is updated.

Old Business:

Operation Welcome Home Maryland Troops – Ten members made 84 cards and items will be delivered soon.

Thanks to Jolene Ernst for the donation of a brief case for the Treasurer.

B. Murray proposed that the 2012 Consistory meeting begin at 7:00 p.m. This item will be discussed by next year's Consistory.

Christmas poinsettias will be purchased from Lowe's at a cost of \$6.00

New Business:

Nomination Committee is T. Diehl, D. Bankert and B. Murray

Budget Committee is Fred Brillhart, J. Ernst, S. Tharp, D. Bankert and K. Weaver.

Dave Good and Bruce Conrad of the Road to Vitality (R2V) program made a presentation concerning the program. Further discussion will occur at the December Consistory meeting. There is an informational meeting on the R2V program at Zwingli UCC in East Berlin on February 19, 2012.

T. Diehl proposed at Girl Scout Sleepover at the church on January 13, 2012. B. Murray made a motion to accept the proposal and waive any fees. Motion was seconded by S. Tharp and motion carried.

Evening Bible Study will start this Wednesday for those interested.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeri Jones
Secretary

January Birthdays

2 -- Tammy Diehl
5 -- Fred Brillhart
10 – Eric Tharp
12 – Robert Lindsey
13 – Deborah Carroll
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

January Anniversaries



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 is hanging in there! It is amazing. We keep the family in our prayers throughout this time! And, Nancy is going on even with her health problems too. God Bless the Trimmers!

BILL ZUMBRUM has been having problems with a bad knee. He will find out early in January when he will have knee replacement surgery. We will let you know soon! We keep BILL in our prayers!

DEB BANKERT is having problems with her hip. There is bone rubbing on bone and she will need hip replacement sometime. We will inform you of her process, but we definitely keep Deb in our prayers and hope her discomfort is minimal!

From Sunday's prayer concerns: **DAISY ERNST** is under the weather. **SUE THARP** has Bronchitis and is on an antibiotic. A number of our faith family have colds and also flu-like symptoms.

MARG JACOBY continues her treatments. She is hanging in there! Praise God her bad days are somewhat few in number! GOD BLESS, MARG!

We also uplift many of our congregation who have been going through some rough times: **MARJORIE TRUMP; DEB BANKERT; 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.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY! Some people have expressed interest in an evening Bible Study and we are excited about this opportunity! We will meet the **first & third Wednesday evening of every month at 7:00 pm**. JOIN US as often as you can! And, invite your friends to participate with us! We are looking at ACTION HERO, a study to focus our lives on Jesus.

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 January 12 for the next gathering. **We need to work on making more prayer cards, so we need anyone who can cut and paste!** Also, 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! **January's meeting – January 16; 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 -- We have a number of contributions under our Christmas Tree! THANK YOU! Also, we plan to have supplies available at the Church Christmas Dinner so that all attending the dinner will be able to make a card to give to the soldiers! We received a very nice Thank You note from OWHMD.

SPECIAL MONTHLY OFFERINGS:

One of the developments from the 2012 budget is a pay cut in the Pastor's Salary. In order to help alleviate this loss of income, we are going to offer special envelopes that will be used for special gifts that go to Pastor Lou Ann. There will be envelopes in the bulletins the second Sunday of every month.

Also, we are looking to build up the amount in our Improvement Fund. We realize that sometime in the future we will need Heat Pumps and/or a new roof, etc. In order to minimize the drain on our reserve funds, we will ask for contributions for the Improvement Fund. There will be special envelopes in the pew racks that are marked for the Improvement Fund. You may place a contribution in these envelopes at any time.

THANK YOU for all that you give to support the work of Bethel Church!

FUND RAISERS: We have had a number of good fund raising events this past year and will need to have other fund raisers this year! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the Fund Raisers! Look for information on Sandwich sales and meals at local restaurants.

And, a successful Fund Raising venture has been the gift cards! We offered these cards from late October and we definitely did well with the income from the purchases you made! We will continue offering Gift Cards. See the note below from Lynn:

Bethel Fundraiser: Thanks everyone for supporting the Bucks for BUCC gift cards fundraiser. To date (December 2011), we have made for our church \$516.30. We are hoping to continue this fundraiser. Depending on the level of interest, we will place orders for gift cards quarterly or more often, if needed. Please plan ahead for your gift card needs. A new list with a bigger variety of cards will be on the next order form. Let Lynn know about your special requests for cards. If they are available, she will get them.

Thanks,

Lynn



Happy New Year!
2012



Hey Kiddos!

What a FANTASTIC job on the Christmas Play “T’was the Night Before Christmas” and the songs that you sang! You sounded great and the play was so fun to watch! I was so proud of you and I know your moms, dads, grandparents, and many others were as well.

Now as we look forward to beginning a New Year, I am sure you have heard some people talk about having a New Year’s resolution (and maybe you have even established a New Year’s resolution). A resolution can be defined as a firm determination, which means someone is determined to do something. You will often hear many adults say their New Year’s resolution is to lose weight and what they are saying is they are determined to lose weight. And if they “break” their resolution, this means they lost their determination to lose weight. I have decided that I have 2 New Year’s resolutions this year – 1. Eat healthy and exercise and my second one is 2. Learn more about my God. I see both of these resolutions being challenging for me but I know if I ask God to give me Patience and Persistence, I can hopefully be successful in my New Year’s resolution. Children, I invite you to think about a New Year’s resolution as well. It could be “To make a new friend”, “To be nice to my brother and/or sister”, “Saying something nice to someone everyday”, “Keep my room clean”, “Read a Bible Story every day or once a week” and I am sure you could come up with many more.

LOOKING Forward – We hope to host another Carnation Sale just before Valentine’s Day – details will soon be forthcoming. Also, we may do an Easter candy sale. We would like to schedule another trip to Sight and Sound, this time to see Jonah and the Whale. Of course, there will be Bible School again. I am looking to be very creative with VBS this year and try to do it without the purchase of a kit (saving \$100.00) and I would like to do a theme tying in with the Olympics since this is a summer Olympics year. So I am using my wonderful and experienced resources (YOU) and taking suggestions of some Bible Stories that could be about being a “Winner for God”.

CHILDREN - Your challenge for the month of January is to decide on a New Year’s Resolution for yourself (something you are determined to do this year). It may or may not be church related – everyone has their own resolution. Then either draw a picture of yourself doing something to achieve this resolution or write a few sentences of how you plan to succeed in your resolution.

Look forward to seeing each of you in Sunday School! Happy 2012!

God’s Blessings,
Lori



My New Year's Resolution for 2012 is...



Happy New Year!
2012



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Look forward to seeing each of you in Sunday School! Happy 2012!

God's Blessings,
Lori



My New Year's Resolution for 2012 is...

Remember..... you can make a resolution TODAY..... Any day, and every day! Also, if you make a resolution in the morning and have "broken" it in the afternoon, try again to make the resolution. Eventually when you try to keep your resolutions you WILL keep the resolution so, try as many times as you need to in order to make your resolutions stick! -- This is important for people of every age!

January 2012

Bethel United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Worship - 9:00 am</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>Sunday School - 10:30 am</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Adult Choir - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship - 9:00 am</p> <p>Sunday School - 10:30 am</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Consistory - 7:30 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bible Study - 9:00 am</p> <p>Adult Choir - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Ministry - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>After Christmas Dinner - 5:00 pm</p> <p>Worship - 9:00 am</p> <p>Sunday School - 10:30 am</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Bible Study - 9:00 am</p> <p>Adult Choir - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Evening Bible Study - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship - 9:00 am</p> <p>Sunday School - 10:30 am</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bible Study - 9:00 am</p> <p>Adult Choir - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
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