

The Open Door

BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / DECEMBER 2011

Bethel Presbyterian Church

203 S. Kentucky Street
Kingston, TN 37763

To contact us:

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Email:

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On the web:

www.bethelpcusa.org

Office Hours: 9-3:00 M-F

Sunday Schedule:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
for all ages

10:30 a.m. Fellowship/
Coffee

11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Youth

Sacrament of Holy

Communion is celebrated

On the first Sunday of each
month.

*Bethel
Presbyterian
Church ~ a
community*

*of faith coming together,
for fellowship, study and
service...seeking God's
peace, justice and love ~*



Dear Friends,

I have been preparing worship for Advent and so I am already singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" in my head at least. It is indeed one of my favorite hymns and every year, I can't wait for Advent to get here so we can sing it again. Advent means to wait, to anticipate, to expect something's coming. It is the time of year when we are to be expectant – waiting for the Christ Child to be born in our midst once again.

Yet all too often, we rush through Advent to get to Christmas, then we take down the tree and the decorations before Epiphany even gets here. There isn't much waiting in Advent these days. But I want to reclaim it. I want to be counter-cultural and experience Advent this year. To be honest, I try every year. I have stood my ground that a Christmas Tree will not come into our house until at least 2 Sundays of Advent have passed. There will be no decorations, no Christmas cookies – only Advent for at least two weeks, and then I cave. It is hard to resist the temptation to play Christmas music, to have Christmas parties, to decorate with the Christmas Tree and the Nativity all before Christmas actually arrives.

I know there is a balance we all try to find, and we are fighting an uphill battle, but I hope you will join me this year as we try to just be in Advent for a little longer this year. Let's try to wait – preparing our hearts and minds to receive the Christ Child when he comes. We could spend 5 minutes each day pondering what it means for the baby Jesus to be born. We could spend 10 minutes at the dinner table each night, lighting an advent wreath, reading scripture, and praying, and if you have children get them involved too. Whatever it is you do, do something this year that you haven't done before to live into Advent, to experience the expectation, the waiting. For you see, the waiting is as important as the baby coming. If we aren't ready for him, what will we do with him?

Remember, Advent started Nov 27 and goes until Dec 24. Christmas begins Dec 25 and goes until Jan 6. So wait, ponder, prepare and sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" everyday of Advent. May we all experience the wonder, the excitement, even the anxiety of waiting for a baby to be born as we move through Advent this year.

Grace and peace, Wendy

Family and Fellowship

Join us on December 14 at 6:30 for our Fellowship Supper. Our December supper is a great way to get into the Christmas Spirit. After dinner, we will go to the Sanctuary to enjoy our Annual Bethel Christmas Pageant. Then we return to the Fellowship Hall for cookies, finger desserts, and punch.

Bring your favorite dish to share for dinner. For dessert please bring only what can be enjoyed without dishes and forks such as cookies, bar cookies, fudge, and other finger desserts.

Family and Fellowship Team will not meet in December.

Study Team

Next Sunday, December 4th, the Study Team joins forces with our Service Team on what might just be the busiest Sunday afternoon of the year for Bethel folks and friends. Starting at 3:30 in the afternoon, we will be decorating the building, creating gifts and decorations in the fellowship hall, and distributing Christmas baskets in the gathering area. At 6:00 we are all invited to share a simple meal of soup and sandwiches in the fellowship hall, followed by worship and hanging of the sanctuary greens. Please join us, bringing your hearts, hands, talents and welcoming spirits – there truly will be something for everyone to do!



This month at a glance:

Sunday, December 4th

Hanging of the Greens beginning at 3:30
Christmas Basket and Angel Tree Distribution begins at 3:30

Wednesday, December 14

Fellowship Supper and Christmas Pageant at Bethel beginning at 6:30 (please note that this is the second Wednesday, rather than our usual third Wednesday Fellowship Supper)

Sunday, December 18th

KUMC Christmas Musical and Caroling

Wednesday, December 21st

A Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness at 7:00 p.m.

December 24th

Christmas Eve Candelight Service at 7:00 p.m.

December 25th

Christmas Day:
No regular Sunday School.
Please plan to enjoy a leisurely breakfast with your family, or come early to church and enjoy a time of fellowship.
Christmas morning worship at 11:00 a.m.

The following teams will NOT meet in December:
Family and Fellowship
Study
Service

In addition, activities such as Bethel's Arts Ministry, Digital Arts Group, Spanish Classes, etc., may take a break at Christmas. Please check your bulletins for the latest information.

A Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness

Wednesday,
Dec. 21, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Bethel
Presbyterian
Church

Sanctuary

Sponsored by the KUMC and
Bethel Stephen Ministry



For many of us, Christmas is a difficult time of the year. It is a time focused on family times, remembering both persons and events that have been part of our lives in the in the past. For those of us who have experienced loss of any kind—the death of a family member or close friend, divorce, loss of a job, etc.—this time of year is very difficult. While the passing of time helps to ease the pain, still these losses are part of who we are. It has been said one never gets over these losses but, instead, gets through them.

With this season of holiness and cheer is also the winter solstice, or the longest night of the year. You are invited to a special service, quiet and meditative, that makes time for remembering, for sharing our hurting places with God, and for preparing our hearts for the coming of the Savior of the world. All who have experienced loss of any kind this year (or in years past) are invited to join us for a time of special music, scripture, reflections, healing prayer and communion.

This service is for ALL who have experienced loss—not just folk from our two churches. Please feel free to invite your family and friends for whom this service will be helpful. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at sljkumc@comcast.net or 376-6337 OR contact Wendy Neff.

—Sue Lynn Johnson
Kingston UMC

Landscape Committee

Bethel received 150 tulip bulbs and 100 daffodil bulbs and two bags of bulb food from Barbara Baird in memory of Justus Baird and Betty Baird Brown. Lucy Webb gave us a large bag of daffodil bulbs. Our sincere THANKS to Barbara and Lucy. The Landscape committee is planting the bulbs - look for the spring show of color.

Thanks to Wayne and April Jackson for digging the holes for two dogwood trees.

Flower Ministry

We are going to miss the many beautiful summer and fall flowers and grasses in the sanctuary. It has been fun creating the arrangements and just seeing how many different ways flowers can be used. However, some of them will be reappearing later in the winter months as dried arrangements.

Just when I think Nancy and Joan cannot come up with any more arrangements to surpass some of those already shared, they do it again with the beautiful arrangement of pumpkins, gourds, etc. for Thanksgiving. If you were not able to enjoy the arrangement Sunday, November 20, check it out on the Bethel facebook page and the Bethel web site.

It is impressive. Thanks to both ladies.

Special thanks go to Virginia Fowler for sharing her beautiful African violets with us. She plans to let us enjoy them throughout the winter months. I know others in the congregation are successful with African violets. If you would like to share them or any other plants over the winter, we would appreciate it. —submitted by Jane B. Walsh

Environmental Team

Christmas is a very special time for us but it often results in a lot of unnecessary waste.

Much of the wrapping paper cannot be composted but if gifts are unwrapped carefully, the paper can be recycled and used again and again. It was a tradition in my extended family to have recycled wrapping paper, ribbons and later the gift bags and boxes show up year after year. Part of the fun was remembering what we received previous years from certain recycled materials and seeing just how many times wrappings could be recycled.



Scholarships

On November 2, 2011 Louisville Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky approved a new strategic plan that has at its core the provision of full scholarships for all students in the school's master's degree program. Identified as the Seminary's "Covenant for the Future," The new strategic plan is built upon the Seminary's commitment to theological education. This "Covenant Scholarship Plan" will maximize enrollment at 130 students (inclusive of all master's degree programs) in order to provide a full-tuition scholarship for every student by the Fall of 2015. Louisville's Master's degrees include Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy, and Master of Arts (Religion).

Additional information is available on line: <http://www.lpts.edu>

Ministry Support Team FINANCIAL REPORT

Our expenses year to date have exceeded our available income by \$3,000. At the November 20th Session Meeting, Session approved moving \$5,864 from our escrow account to the operation account. Session also approved moving \$10,000 of the \$40,000 in our general reserve to the operation account with the understanding that the \$10,000 will be replaced after the end of the year if monies are available.

Session is grateful for the contributions received this year and wants the congregation to know we are seeking to be faithful stewards of our financial resources.

Respectively submitted,
Larry Strickling, Elder

General Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Jan 1, 2011 – Oct 31, 2011: | |
| Offering received: | \$188,445 |
| Less Expenses | -196,803 |
| = Net Decrease | \$ -8,358 |

Mortgage paid

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Jan 1, 2011 – Oct 31, 2011: | |
| Offering received | \$66,391 |
| Monthly Mtg Pymts | -83,495 |
| = Shortfall | -\$17,104 |

Mortgage balances 10/31/2011

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| PILP | \$891,281 |
| PET | \$ 92,034 |
| Private | \$ 70,563 |

Mortgage reserve (changed by Session)

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Reserve desired (6 months) | \$50,097 |
| Reserve 10/31/11 | 7,982 |
| = Shortfall | - \$ 42,115 |

Debt Free Campaign to date:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| YTD Extra Principal Pymts | \$13,300 |
| Total Extra Principal Pymts | \$52,500 |
| Est. Interest avoided | \$93,661 |
| Est. Mortgage payoff 21 months early | |

Transitions Fellowship

Are you looking for something fun to do in the Kingston area? Come join the Transitions Fellowship! We meet at Bethel, KUMC or a fellowship members' home every other Tuesday for dinner and a study. You can always find the basics on Facebook at Bethel/KUMC young adult ministry.

December 6- Dessert Fellowship at 7 PM in the KUMC annex. Bring an item for our Angel Tree child. Details can be found on Facebook and email.

December 18- Lunch after Church. We will leave the church at 12:15 for lunch!

December 20- Christmas Dinner and 1-year celebration of Transitions Fellowship!

December 25- Merry Christmas!!

Do you want to learn more about Transitions or get involved in the ministry? Join one of our ministry teams!

Live (Fun)-Think "Live" like the band. This team comes up with party ideas, fun activities for the group and more.

Experiences (Missions)-This team develops ideas for mission trips and outreach activities.

Study (Tuesday night gatherings)-Fill in for our small group leaders and help select studies for our ministry.

Hospitality-Help everyone feel welcome in the Fellowship. Keeps up with members on Facebook, email, snail mail, texting, etc.

Upcoming Events

January 17- Take Time Worship with Terrie Winkle 7 PM (Location TBA)

January 27-28- Divine Rhythm-Young Adult Retreat in Pigeon Forge, TN.



December is here! This is a busy season of family, exams, Christmas, Advent and life in general. Take time to enjoy this season with Ignite/Fusion Kingston! Please note that all activities and times are subject to change. Check the youth page on the Bethel website, Facebook, email, and text messages for up-to-the-minute details. Don't forget to help our friend Charity during the holiday season!

November 27, December 4, and 11th- Practice during the Sunday school hour for Christmas pageant. Contact Jan Rybka for more details at 882-8836 or jgrybka@hotmail.com.

December 4- Hanging of the Greens at Bethel (3:30 PM- 7:30 PM). We will need your help the entire afternoon and evening! Can you help us?

- Hanging ornaments and decorating the church
- Assist with mission outreach Christmas baskets
- Activities with children
- Food Setup
- And more

December 7- Shopping for Angel Tree children from 5-8 PM. Meet at the KUMC parking lot. Bring money for a fast food dinner.

December 10- Salvation Army bell ringing at Food City in the afternoon. Watch Facebook and email for details.

December 11- Band Concert! See you there!

December 11- Christmas Party: Bring a tacky, Christmas-themed, wrapped, white elephant gift under \$5, canned good for Hands of Mercy and come as your favorite Christmas character (movie, Bible, etc.). There will be prizes for the best Christmas character. Uuhhh! It will be awesome! 6 PM-8 PM

December 14- 6:30 PM- 9 PM: Bethel Family Dinner and Christmas pageant. We will be practicing and preparing during the Sunday School hours, November 27th, December 4th, and December 11th.

December 16- School is out!!!

December 17- 4:30 PM- 7:30 PM: Meet at Bethel for caroling. More details to follow soon!

December 18- Children's Choir Christmas Concert 6 PM. NO IGNITION!

December 21- Service of the longest Night at KUMC. Time TBA
No Word Search

December 25- Merry Christmas!
December 28- No Word Search

Upcoming Events

January 4- Word Search

January 11- 11 PM deadline for Resurrection Registration.

Money and registrations are due!
January 15- 5 PM- Resurrection Meeting at KUMC.

January 20-22- Resurrection!

In the library:

The following childrens' books have been added to the Bethel church library: *Stone Soup*, by Jon Muth, *Psalm 23*, illustrated by Tim Ladwig, *The Lord's Prayer*, illustrated by Tim Ladwig, *To Every Thing There is a Season*, by Leo & Diane Dillon, *Noah's Ark*, by Lisbeth Zwerger, and *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, by Kadir Nelson.

Recent additions in the adult section include *Introduction to the Reformed Tradition*, by John H. Leith, *Raising the Roof: The Pastoral-to-Program Size Transition*, by Alice Mann, and *Theology for Liberal Presbyterians*, by Douglas F. Ottati.

Do you have old cell phones or old printer cartridges sitting around your house? Bring them to the church and help fund the Ignite/Fusion Kingston (formerly Bethel/KUMC Student Ministry). Contact Will at the church office for more information.

December Birthdays

- 1 Mac Robbins
- 2 Chuck Allen*
- 4 Don Gasparetti
- 12 John Walker
- 13 Orlando Vanegas, Jr.
- 14 Bob Jones
Donna Walker
- 16 Ted Dailey
- 22 Tom Pickel, III
- 23 Madge Mounger
- 28 David Standridge
Maria Vanegas
- 29 Brennan Foy
Jim Schall

Wish List for Travelers Bags

Our community has individuals passing through who have fallen on hard times. They usually are looking for food that help them get to their destination. We can fulfill this need by creating a travelers bag. The Ignite/Fusion Kingston Student ministry (Bethel/KUMC youth) is seeking donations for the traveler's bags. The bags have been distributed to the following agencies; Roane County Sheriff's Department, Kingston Police Department, and our churches. Please consider donating the following items for the traveler's bags.

The contents are listed below:

Adult bags

Cans of Tuna or Beanie Weenies with a pop-top
Crackers
Granola bars
Fruit Cups
Cereal bars
Bottled Water
Plastic spoons

Kids Bags

Fruit Roll ups
Bottled Water
Crayons
Coloring books with tear able pages

New Member Welcome

Welcome to our newest member, Elizabeth (Liz) Singley. Liz was baptized and joined Bethel during morning worship on Sunday, November 27.

Liz spent her early years in Southern California, then lived in Virginia from the mid '60s until 1978, when she moved here to work for the University of Tennessee as a molecular biologist. She loves all things biological, anthropological, psychological, and meteorological, but most of all, she loves cats. She also enjoys music, reading, and the outdoors; and is looking forward to being a formal member of Bethel.



Jamestowne 851 Lawnville Road, Kingston 37763

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Nelle Griffith | Room 206 |
| Dick Hettrick | Room 102 |
| Louise Pickel | Room 209 |
| Mac Robbins | Room 305 |
| Sophie Simon | Room 302 |

Wellington Place 1098 Bradford Way, Kingston 37763

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Jan Parker | Room 107 |
|------------|----------|

Renaissance Terrace 257 Patton Lane, Harriman 37748

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Marge Maki | Room 108A |
|------------|-----------|

The Bridge at Rockwood 5580 Roane State Hwy Rockwood 37854

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Roberta Cash | Room 201B |
| Margaret True | Room 349 |

NHC Healthcare Oak Ridge 300 Laboratory Rd Oak Ridge 37830

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Wanda Carter | Room 212A |
|--------------|-----------|

Brakebill Nursing Home 5837 Lyons View Pike Knoxville 37919

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Anne Smith | Room 416-B |
|------------|------------|

In Need of Prayer: the Plummer family, Lucy Webb, Gil & Julie Barber, James Woodard, Pat Hale, Helene Ricker, Dianne Swinler (Brenda Strickling's sister), Justus Baird (brother of Barbara Baird).

Just for Kids...

STAINED-GLASS STAR COOKIES


These star cookies will remind you of the star that led the Magi, or wise men, to our Lord Jesus. Enjoy these treats for yourself or give them as gifts.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) margarine or butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Plastic wrap
- Hard candy such as Life Savers in assorted colors
- Zippered baggies
- Rolling pin
- 2 star cookie cutters, one much smaller than the other
- Aluminum foil

What you do:


1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together.
2. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and vanilla.
3. Add the flour mixture and beat until well blended.
4. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.
5. Separate candies by color and place each color in a sealed, zippered baggie. With a rolling pin, crush candy into small pieces (not a fine powder).
6. One at a time, roll out each chilled dough piece on a well-floured surface.
7. Use the large cookie cutter to make stars, and then place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Then press the small star cookie cutter into each large star and remove the small piece of star-shaped dough.
8. Place some crushed candy in each star-shaped hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. (The candy will melt and be translucent when cooled, like a stained-glass window.)




The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.


Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.




1 - k




2 - (1) e




3 - m




4 - h



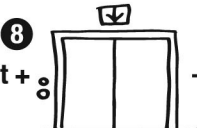
5 - paper



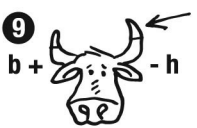
6 - b



7 - b



8 - d



9 - h

"Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3. I bring you _____ 4

_____ 5 of great _____ 6 that will be for _____ 7 the people.

Today in the _____ 8 of David a Savior has been _____ 9

to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(1)e=be; 3. afr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Remember: Practice for the Christmas Pageant will take place Sunday mornings at 9:30 on December 4th and 11th. There's room for everyone, so if your child/grandchild/neighbor wants to take part, be sure to bring them to Sunday School on those dates! Pageant will be December 14th.

December 2011



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|---|----|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Each Week: BAM Mondays 10 AM and 6 PM; Wednesdays 4 PM Spanish: Tuesdays 6 PM Tai Chi: Tuesdays, 6 PM, Saturdays, 9 AM Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7 PM</p> <p>Bethel's Digital Arts Group, Family & Fellowship Team, Service Team, and Study Team will not meet in December.</p> | | | | 1 TN-10 Book Club | 2 KUMC Women's Gathering 9 AM | 3 |
| 4 Communion Sunday Faith Team 12:30 Hanging of the Greens 3:30 Christmas Basket/Angel Tree Distribution 3:30 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Youth: Salvation Army Bell Ringing Thai Cooking Class with Noi Muecke |
| 11 RCHS Band Concert | 12 | 13 | 14 Fellowship Supper 6:30 Bethel Christmas Pageant | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Minute for Mission: Christmas Joy KUMC Children's Program | 19 | 20 | 21 Bethel/KUMC Service for the Longest Night 7:00 | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 |
| 25 Christmas No Sunday School Worship at 11:00 a.m. | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |