



Bethel Presbyterian Church

203 S. Kentucky Street
Kingston, TN 37763

To Contact Us:

Phone: 865.376.6340

Fax: 865.376.6390

Email: 1bethel@bellsouth.net

Website: www.bethelpcusa.org

The Open Door

Volume 10, No. 11

November 2013

Dear Friends,

On Tuesday, Oct 22, we at Bethel learned that KUMC had voted to dissolve the joint youth and young adult ministry. This was quite a shock. Immediately we set about praying and seeking God's guidance in moving forward. Just the Sunday before, at the monthly session meeting unanimous support and affirmation of the youth and young adult program and Will's leadership was offered. Knowing that the session would want to see if we could take a step out in faith and commit to funding the program and position full time, the personnel team put a proposal together.

On Sunday, Oct 27 at a called meeting of Session, Session approved moving forward and continuing these important ministries to youth and young adults in our midst and in our community. Recognizing that God has presented us with an opportunity through this unexpected change, the session also approved changing the position title to Director of Christian For-

mation. This allows us to move toward cross-generational ministry and increased mission opportunities for all ages. The session is excited about these new possibilities and gives thanks to God for the resources to make them happen. Will is also excited about this ministry that allows him to continue to build relationships with youth and young adults while at the same time affords him more of an opportunity to become involved with the whole life of Bethel Presbyterian Church.

There will be an impact to the 2014 budget as we assume responsibilities for all of the program and position costs. The session has allocated some special fund monies to ease that burden. Overall we are looking at an additional \$20,000 to the budget expenses. The step out in faith, trusting in God's gracious generosity and our generosity in response, is that the special fund will meet 2/3 of that in 2014 and the general fund giving will meet the final 1/3. In 2015 the special fund will meet 1/3 of the costs and the general fund will meet 2/3 so that by

2016 the general fund is meeting all of the costs of the full time position and program expenses.

Though this is not what we expected or planned for, we trust that God is in the midst of this doing a new thing. Bethel Presbyterian Church has as one of its ministry priorities ministry to youth and young adults. We believe vital ministry for that age group is essential. We also see that more opportunities for all ages to engage in faith formation is also important. This change enables us to continue our commitments to youth and young adults and further our formation ministry for all ages.

We are looking forward with excitement and anticipation into this new time of formation ministries. Youth and young adult programs will continue on without missing a beat, and new ministries are around the corner. Thanks be to God for resurrection faith that assures us of the new life that springs forth all around us!

Grace and peace,

Wendy

A Big Thanks!

Thank you to all of you for your expressions of appreciation toward me on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. I was overwhelmed with the love and generosity you showered upon me and my family. The song was the icing on the cake, but I also am grateful for the love offering – who knew that would come the day after my basement was flooded! It is my privilege to serve as your pastor. Your energy and enthusiasm for serving Christ is contagious and keeps me on my toes. Your willingness to give of yourselves and meet challenges is a witness to your faith. I am grateful to journey with you and give thanks to God for each of you.

Children's Programs

Sunday, Nov 3 the Coen Family will host the children of Bethel for a hayride and smores at their house from 3:30-5:30. We look forward to this Fall Fun Fellowship Event.

Sunday, Nov 10 Wendy will meet with the children from 4-5:30 to plan the Children's Sabbath worship for the following week, Nov 17. All children 3years -6th grade are invited to come and have fun together as we prepare to lead worship on Nov 17.

Sunday, Nov 17 is Children's Sabbath. We will meet at 9:30 in the sanctuary to rehearse our worship plans and then we will lead worship at 11am. This is a special day and we look forward to everyone's participation.

Generosity

We are in the middle of a season of Generosity so to speak as we prepare for Commitment Sunday on Nov 10. I have moved away from the lectionary in my preaching for a few weeks so we could spend some time hearing anew of God's gracious abundance to us in all of life. Indeed scripture is full of the good news of God's abundance: the creation story, manna in the desert, the 5 loaves and 2 fish that feed 5000 plus, the wine at the wedding, even the story of Zaccheus. Ps 104 is one of the best examples of the abundance with which God has gifted us.

We are spending time with these texts of abundance because we live in a world where we are saturated with the myth of scarcity. There isn't enough of anything and so we are "taught" by the world to hold onto everything for ourselves, to look out for ourselves alone because there isn't enough. That is a lie that the world repeats over and over again. Since the beginning of time we humans have been vulnerable to that lie – beginning with Cain and Abel there was a sense that there wasn't enough of God's grace and acceptance for everyone. So this is not new for us today but the need to hear again, to hear over and over again of God's abundance is as important today as it ever was.



God gifts us generously and gives us what we need. God provides manna in the desert and wine at the wedding and a new way forward for people like Zaccheus. God allows for transformation in us that will then transform the world. Indeed in the fulfilled Kingdom the idea of scarcity will be only a distant memory for the truth of abundance will inform all of life. As Christians we are called to live into that truth even now, even today. The truth of abundance is much more life giving than the myth of scarcity – and it is much more sustaining of a faithful life of discipleship.

You will receive a generosity packet in the mail, if you haven't picked one up in worship. I encourage you to read through the information in the narrative budget to see how Bethel uses its resources in ministry and mission, to read through the opportunity catalog to see all that this small community of faith is doing in service to God and the world. Read, pray and discern how God is calling you to share in the abundant life that is ours as you offer your gifts of self – of time, talent and money - and contribute to this amazing community of faith here at Bethel.

Sunday, Nov 10 is commitment Sunday. We will receive those commitments of time and talent during worship and celebrate God's generosity and our response. The celebration will continue at the lunch following worship. I hope this can be a season of reaffirmation of God's abundance to us as well as a season of renewal of our commitments to work with God here and now. I look forward to celebrating with you on Nov, 10.

Wendy

Fall Festival

Once again, we celebrate the completion of a successful Bethel Fall Festival. Thanks to everyone who contributed items, baked goods, plants, tents, time and generous shopping! It looks like our gross sales will be in excess of \$7000. In addition, the yard sale brought in over \$1500.

Bethel opened its doors to the community by hosting a youth-sponsored yard sale (done jointly with KUMC), a silent auction, a marketplace of hand crafted items, baked goods sale, games & horse rides for kids, a petting zoo, book sales, food from our cafe and fellowship breakfast. The Lord blessed us with great weather. Thank you so much for all the hard work everyone put into this great community mission and once again, Bethel will get the opportunity to hand monetary checks to Michael Dunn, Mid-East Senior Nutrition, and Roane County Cooperative Ministries.

One additional note -- If you have receipts, please turn those in by the end of October for reimbursement. If you prefer to donate your expenses, we want to know what those donations are and to provide you with a letter for donation purposes. This helps you for tax purposes, but also helps us to realize the cost of hosting this event. Your prompt response is appreciated!!!!



Fair Trade Wholesale Club News:

After several months of experience with the wholesale club, we're making a few changes. First, we're changing our name from Bethel Equal Exchange club to the Fair Trade Wholesale Club. While Equal Exchange will remain an integral part of our wholesale buying effort, we want to be able to include other fairly traded products in the future. Then we added "wholesale" to the club name just to identify that the products are purchased at wholesale prices, not at retail. We also removed Bethel from the club name because attendance at Bethel is not a requirement to belong to the club. Bethel will be identified in the literature of the club.

We are also changing the way orders are taken. Order information and order blanks will always be available in the gathering area, the fellowship hall,



and the library. Orders will be taken monthly, starting on the 1st and ending on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Fellowship Supper. Orders and payments may be mailed to the church, left in the church office, or placed in the offering plate. We will have a sign up table and display of products at Fellowship Supper. We will not have a sign up table in the gathering area on Sundays.

November 20th will be the last day to place an order. Contact Carol Brown, Anita Richmond, Cyndi Fowler, or Julie Coen if you have questions. So far, with two orders, we've provided close to \$1,800 to the small farmer initiative.

Generosity Team

There is nothing better than a warm bowl of chili with all the trimmings to usher in the cool weather of fall. Let's join together for a chili lunch after worship on Commitment Sunday, November 10. You will be hearing a lot more about what Commitment Sunday is during upcoming worship services. If you would like to volunteer to make a crockpot of chili, regular or vegetarian, for this lunch please contact Laura Dailey or Nancy King. Thanks!



IRA Reminder -

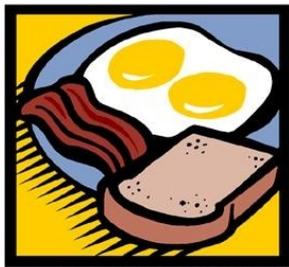
This year if you are 70 ½ and have an IRA, you may make your regular charitable contributions directly from your IRA to avoid taxes on the withdrawal and meet your required minimum distribution.

BETHEL STUDENT MINISTRY

Wow what an incredible October! We had great bonfires, fun at the corn maze and more! Where has the year gone? Can you believe that cooler weather is here, and Thanksgiving is coming!

November 3- We will be gathering to discuss new opportunities and plans for the ministry. (Bethel Fellowship Hall & Youth Suite)

BREAKFAST



FELLOWSHIP

November 11- Breakfast Club for Midway students. I will have the church van to get you to school. Meet at 7:00 at Handee Burger.

November 12- Breakfast Club for RCHS & Cherokee students. I will have the church van to get you to school. Meet at 7:15 AM at Mc Donald's.

November 17- 6 PM BINGO at Wellington Place. We will head out for a fast food dinner after BINGO.

November 20- Bethel Family Dinner & Movie with Meaning

November 24- No Youth

November 28- Happy Turkey Day!!!

Due to the changes in our ministry structure, you will need to contact KUMC regarding signing up for Resurrection.

November 10- Buddy's Race for the Cure (No Youth)



Upcoming Events

December 8- Hanging of the Greens festivities at Bethel

Watch for more information regarding Advent activities in weekly emails and messages.

The bell choir is doing great with their performances. We are enjoying the music and each other! We are getting used to filling in for each other. Watch as some play the bells for 2 people!

As always, there is room for you in the joy of praising God with music! Come join us @ 6 pm on Wednesdays in the music room.

Medicare 101

Mid-East Community Action Agency Senior Services Department in partnership with the Kingston Public Library will present "Medicare 101" on November 21, 2013 at 5:30 P.M. at the library located at 1004 Bradford Way in Kingston.

If you are aging into Medicare, thinking about retiring, or just have questions this session is for you. Medicare Parts A, B, and D will be discussed. Discussion will include the different options to get your Medicare coverage, as well as supplemental policies that cover the gaps in Medicare.

Please contact the Mid-East Senior Services Department at 354-0450 ext. 228 to register.

Remember open enrollment runs through December 7, 2013 if you are considering a change to your Medicare benefits.

November Birthdays

- 1 Josh Brown
Diego Vanegas
- 2 Jack McNew
- 3 Julie Hart
Helen Roostee
- 9 Chelsea Richmond
- 10 Nancy Landers
- 11 Charlie King
Lyric Rivera
- 12 Leonard Kirby
- 20 Bill Shadden
- 21 Brian Shelby
- 25 Jimmy Walker
- 28 Andy Avel
- 29 Cyndi Fowler
- 30 Jerry Harvey

Transitions Fellowship

November 5- We will meet in the Youth Suite at Bethel for food and conversation as we study Chapter 5 of The Heart of Christianity at 7 PM

November 19- Thanksgiving TV Dinner night and Mission Extravaganza!!! We will eat some delicious TV dinners and write letters to Charity in Uganda and build care packages for children in Roane County. We will meet in the Bethel Youth Suite at 7 PM.

November 24- GET OUT!! Join us for a day in the mountains to relax and hang out! We will leave the church at 1 PM and return around 8 PM. Bring money for dinner.

Upcoming Events

December 8- Hanging of the Greens at Bethel

If you are interested in attending Divine Rhythm, you will need to contact the KUMC church office for information.

National Donor Sabbath

 will be celebrated from 15 to 17 November 2013. This is a time to reflect on the enormous need for organ donation and to remember and honor those who have given the gift of life.

I wish each of you could have witnessed the amazing recovery my young relative experienced as a result of a kidney transplant in September. You would have absolutely no doubt of the goodness of this gift. She is now able to continue working, continue her graduate studies, and continue caring for her 2-year-old child. Her organ donor, her husband, returned to his job just 12 days after surgery.

Our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ and tissue donation, and encourages all Christians to become organ and tissue donors as a part of their ministry to others.

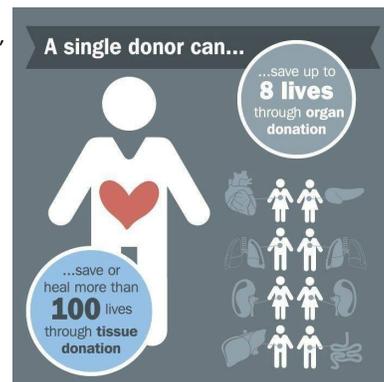
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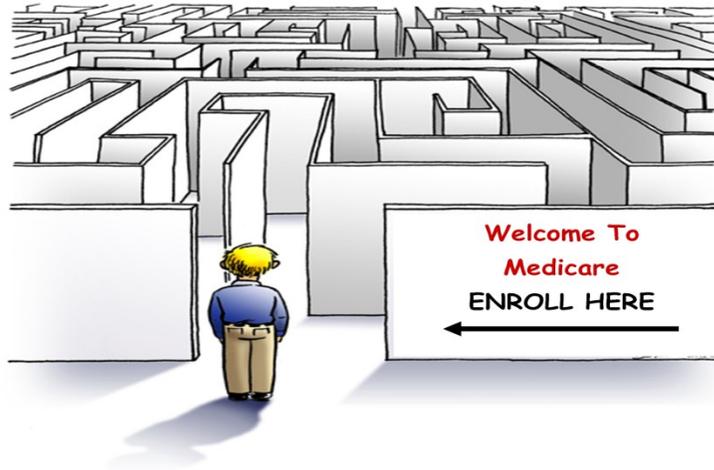
--Make the commitment – decide to become an organ and tissue donor. Sign-up when you renew your drivers license or register on-line at www.tndonorregistry.org.

--Make your decision known – tell you family and friends about your decision.

Together we can make a difference.

--Jill McMaster





Aging into Medicare, retiring, questions about your options for 2014?

Join us for **MEDICARE 101** to help you sort out the maze of questions and options.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013 at 5:30 P.M.

Kingston Public Library

1004 Bradford Way

354-0450 to register and for additional information

A joint partnership between the Mid-East Community Action Agency Senior Services Department and the Kingston Public Library.



Mid-East Community Action Agency does not discriminate on the basis of race national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs, activities, and employment.



November

Weekly Events: Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club—Adults: Mon. 10-Noon & Mon 6:30-8:30 PM Youth Art Mon. 4-5:30 PM Teen Art Wed. 4-6 Taoist Tai Chi: Tues. 6-7:30 PM, Sat. 9-10:30 AM Kids Spanish Tues. 5-5:45 Beg. Spanish: Tues. 6-6:45 PM Advanced Spanish: Tuesdays: 6:30-7:20 PM Bell Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:00 PM Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM Children's Choir Practice: 8:30 AM Sundays in the KUMC Annex Bethel Student Ministry: Sundays and Wednesdays; check page 4 for times					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Children's Fellowship @ the Coen's						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Commitment Sunday Chili Lunch 12:15 Buddy's Race for the Cure	Veterans' Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Children's Sabbath H.O.M.E. Offering: Personal Items Session 12:15			Property Team 5:30 Fellowship Team 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30	Medicare 101 @Kingston Library		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Serve Team 12:15 Study Team 12:15				Thanksgiving Day		

Looking Ahead...December will feature annual events like Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Baskets (Dec. 8th), Christmas Pageant (Dec. 18th), and Caroling (TBA). Be sure to check your Sunday bulletins or follow us on facebook to find out the **Who, What, When, Where, and How you can take part!**