

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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Kingston, TN 37763

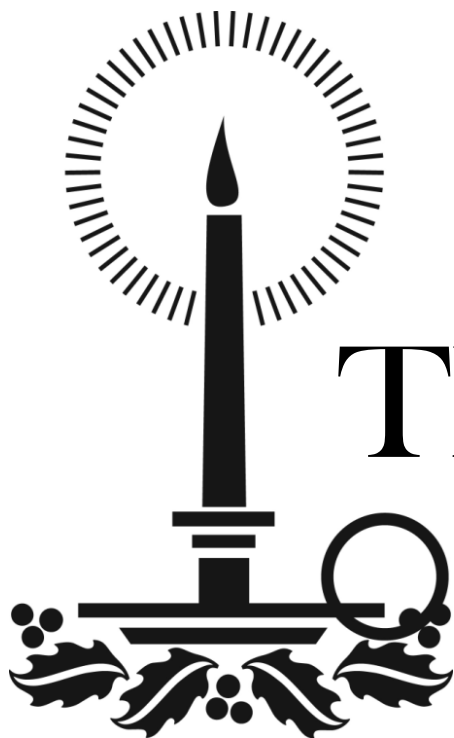
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The Open Door

Volume 11, No. 12

December 2014

Dear Friends,

I had the opportunity to attend an Advent Conference back in September. The conference was filled with music and art and great theology. We are gifted at Bethel to have wonderful musicians, a talented choir, as well as incredibly creative and artistic people in our midst. So this Advent, as we journey from the Wilderness to the Incarnation I pray that our educational and worship experiences will be enhanced by the music and art that will accompany us on that journey, and I am grateful to those among us who have offered to share their many gifts along the way. I am excited about our Advent journey that begins Nov 30 – and I hope you will be too.

On another note of excitement, the Session is in a process of refining our mission and vision statements. At our stated meeting on Nov 16, we began to list the ways we at Bethel nurture

spiritual growth through worship, Christian Formation, service to others and fellowship throughout our community. We spent the better part of an hour not only listing those things but giving thanks for both the opportunities to do these things and the blessings we realize through them. We will be working on a comprehensive list of these, but here are a few snippets from the conversation.

In talking about worship, we lifted up our participation in worship services as a way that we nurture spiritual growth: the participation through liturgy, children pulling the wagon down for the Hands of Mercy Offering, liturgists and acolytes, special music and services like that on Hanging of the Greens that welcome our friends, guests and visitors to participate with us.

In Christian Formation we talked a lot about the intergen-

erational opportunities of Sunday School, congregational retreats, Hanging of the Greens, mission opportunities like those through Save our Saturdays. Save our Saturdays was just one of many things mentioned that crossed into Christian Formation as well as Service to others. The Fall festival made the service to others list because of the community ministry donations and it made the fellowship list because of the joy we have coming together as a community to host it as well as the fun the community has at the event itself. It was remarked that the Fall Festival is one time when we have as close to 100% participation by the Bethel community as anything could.

Outside of those things listed in our mission statement, the session noted that Bethel members and friends are active in the community serving CASA, FISH, the Red Cross, supporting cultural events and generally doing our part to

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make the community the best it can be for all of its residents. Indeed both at church, in the community and around the world we are marking our mark, we are making a difference for the sake of the World.

As I reflect on the journey of Advent and what it means to me, to us, for the Christ Child to be born again in our midst, I am grateful for this community of faith that shines its light brightly in the darkness, knowing and trusting that the darkness will not overcome it. Thanks be to God for such a witness.

Grace and peace,
Wendy



Guatemala mission trip meeting

Are you interested in the Guatemala mission trip this summer? We will have an informational meeting on **December 3rd at 6 PM**, regarding our trip to Guatemala this summer (June 20th-27th). Please join us, as we discuss the organization we will be working with, what we will be doing, how we will pay for the trip and more. We will have pizza and drinks for dinner.

Intergenerational Advent Study

Join us during the Sunday School hour at 9:30 A.M. for our intergenerational Advent study in the Fellowship Hall. Children, youth and adults are invited as we take time during the busy season to be still, reflect and ponder the meaning of Advent. There will be discussion, activities and more! This study will start on Sunday, November 30 and end on Sunday, December 21.



Deck the Halls

Save the Date!!!

Join us on December 7 for the Hanging of the Greens celebration from 3 PM until 8 PM. We will spend the afternoon and evening decorating and preparing the church for the Advent season. We will also be distributing Christmas Baskets and gifts.

All activities will start at 3 p.m. and will include; decorating the church building, craft activities for children and adults in the Fellowship Hall, gifts and Christmas basket distribution in the Gathering Area and the outdoor Nativity will be set up outside. A sandwich and soup meal will be provided and cupcakes for dessert. The evening will end with a worship service to start the Advent season.

Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army

We need your help to ring bells for the Salvation Army on **December 20th**. Volunteers are needed at each entrance/exit of Food City at Ladd Landing. We are scheduled to ring bells between the hours of **2 PM and 4 PM**. Contact Will if you are interested.

If you can work at other locations and times, contact Bob Cowan at 466-0418 for more information.

Christmas Caroling

December 21 @ 4 PM-? It is that time of year again. Join us as we go caroling to our Jamestowne, Wellington Place, friends of Bethel and shut-ins. We will meet in the parking lot at 4 PM and receive our caroling list. Once everyone has finished caroling or at **6:30 PM** for those not caroling, we will go to Vic & Nancy King's house for food and fellowship.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 @ 7 PM



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Joyfully the fellowship within the bell choir continues to grow and change. We are always appreciative of new members who would like to ring with us. Heartfelt thanks to those who continue to participate and nurture new members. We are a team who loves to share the skills it takes to play together. Fun to watch how we help each other learn and grow together. Bells will play the 4th Sunday of each month.



BIRTHDAYS

- 12 John Walker
- 13 Orlando Vanegas, Jr.
- 14 Bob Jones
Donna Walker
- 16 Ted Dailey
- 22 Tom Pickel, III
- 28 David Standridge
Maria Vanegas
- 29 Jessica Choate
Jim Schall

Prayer Reminders

Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

Jamestowne
851 Lawnville Road,
Kingston 37763

Ruth Ann Ludwig Room 308

Sophie Simon Room 302

George Warlick Room 313

Wellington Place
1098 Bradford Way,
Kingston 37763

Jack & Sue Muecke Room 206

Atchley TN State Veterans' Home
1 Veterans Way,
Knoxville 37931

Jan Parker

The Bridge at Rockwood

Dick Hettrick Room 221

PRAYER REQUESTS



Anneke Oonk, Marge & Rev. Dick Hettrick, Jan Parker, Jim & Mary B Hines, Ralph Jackson (*Cindi Fowler's brother*), Molly Cooper (*Chris Badger's daughter*), Dianne Swinler (*Brenda Strickling's sister*), Harold and Martha Underwood (*Anita Richmond's parents*).

Cards and Letters

To my dear church family, Bethel,

It is always painful to say goodbye to a beloved family member as I have with my daughter Karen. We were very close. The cards and words of love and condolences from you my church family have meant so much to me and I thank you from my heart.

Laura Walker



COMING SOON!!!

The Bethel Family Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th through Sunday, February 8th of 2015. We hope that you can join us at John Knox for relaxation and renewal. The retreat will consist of three sessions of study and discussion, free time, fellowship and worship. Childcare will be provided. In regards to housing, there will be a variety of choices. We will have handicap and singles lodging available in the dorm facility. Each dorm room houses four people and will cost \$50 for the weekend. Families can choose to stay in a cabin by themselves or join another family. The cabins house eight people and will cost \$90 for the weekend. If you would like to stay in your bed at home and commute, the cost is \$23. Food costs per person are listed below.

\$23 (11 years & up)

\$11.50 (5-10 years old)

Free (under 5 years old)

\$23 (only staying for meals & sessions)

More information will be available soon.



Advent is here.

It is a time of waiting and preparation. It is a time that we celebrate the birth of Christ and anticipate his second coming. I want to encourage you to pay attention to the season of Advent and learn what is happening. During Sunday morning worship, listen to the words spoken as the candles are lit on the Advent wreath and learn about the Bethel Advent traditions. It will give you a new viewpoint on Christmas. I know you have exams, family parties and travelling to do but take time to rest. December is full of activities so watch your inbox and texts for up to date information.

December 3 @ 6 PM Guatemala mission trip meeting

Are you interested in the Guatemala mission trip this summer? We will have an introduction to our mission trip this summer (June 20th-27th). Please join us, as we discuss the organization we will be working with, what we will be doing, how we will pay for the trip and more. We will have pizza and drinks for dinner.

December 7 @ 1 PM;

3 PM-8 PM Hanging of the Greens

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM We need help hanging ornaments at the top of the tree. Free Pizza for your help!:)

3 PM-8 PM We will spend the afternoon and evening decorating and preparing the church for the Advent season. We will also be distributing

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Christmas Baskets and gifts.

All activities will start at 3 p.m. and will include; decorating the church, craft activities for chil-

dren and adults in the Fellowship Hall, gifts and Christmas basket distribution in the Gathering Area and the outdoor Nativity will be set up outside. A sandwich and soup meal will be provided and cupcakes for dessert. The evening will end with a worship service to start the Advent season.

December 8 @ 6:45 AM

Breakfast Club for Midway students at Handee Burger.

December 9 @ 7:15 AM

Breakfast Club for RCHS & Cherokee students at Handee Burger.

December 10 @ 5 PM We will go shopping for our Angel Tree children and eat dinner together. Watch for details.

December 17 @ 6:30 PM

Family Dinner & Pageant

December 14 @ 6 PM-8 PM

Christmas Party!! Bring a \$5 gift for a dirty Santa gift exchange.

December 20 We need your help to ring bells for the Salvation Army. We need volunteers at each entrance/exit of Food City at Ladd Landing. We are scheduled to ring bells between the hours of 2 PM and 4 PM. Contact Will if you are interested.

December 21 @ 4 PM-? It is that time of year again. Join us as we go caroling to our Jamestowne, Wellington Place, friends of Bethel and shut-ins. We will meet in the parking lot at 4 PM and receive our caroling list. Once everyone has finished caroling or at 6:30 PM for those not caroling, we will go to Vic & Nancy King's house for food and fellowship.

December 24 @ 7 PM- Christmas Eve Service

December 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

December 29 7 Hour Slam (Information TBA)

Save the Date!!!


The Bethel Presbyterian Youth are heading back to Montreat this summer!

What is Montreat? I am glad you asked!

Montreat is a Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) retreat center located in Western North Carolina. The event is a life changing and spiritual experience for youth. It is a gathering of youth from around the country where we will worship, study and participate in recreation activities.

Wendy Neff, Brian Shelby and I will be the chaperones for the trip. The week that has been chosen is May 31-June 6. We will need to know if you have interest by December 29th and commitments by January 15th. The cost is TBA.

DECEMBER

EACH SUNDAY: Inter- generational Advent Study during the Sun- day School hour in the Fel- lowship Hall 9:30 AM	1	2	3 Guatemala Mission Trip Meeting 6 PM	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday Hanging of the Greens/Basket Distribution/ Supper and Worship	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Youth Christ- mas Party 6 PM	15	16	17 Fellowship Supper and Christmas Pageant Beginning at 6:30 PM	18	19	20 Salvation Army Bell Ringing 2 PM
21 Christmas Caroling 4 PM	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 PM	25 	26	27
28 Handbell Choir plays	29	30	31	<div> <p>Since the newsletter was printed early this month, we don't have the very latest information on holiday scheduling for our regular classes and meetings. Be sure to check your weekly bulletins or call the office for the latest information.</p> </div>		