



Bethel Presbyterian Church

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The Open Door

A Light to the Nations

Volume 12, No. 1

January 2015

Dear Friends,

It's Christmas! We are in the midst of the famous Twelve Days of Christmas that culminate on Epiphany, January 6. It's too bad really that we don't celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas with anything other than a song these days. I so wish we did celebrate them, maybe then we could savor those days of Christmas without the consumer pressure that gets us in Advent. At the end of those Twelve Days we could have a big Epiphany feast, eating and rejoicing together in the Light who has come into the world.

Maybe if we celebrated the Twelve Days of Christmas and feasted on Epiphany, we might then be prepared to reaffirm our baptismal vows and ordain and install our elders, not just because that is what we do the second Sunday of January but because that is how we respond to this great

gift of Light that has come into the world. We respond to the light shining with the little flicker of it that is in us. Sometimes we are so exhausted from Christmas and New Year's celebrations that we simply go through the motions of January.

Maybe this year we can find a few moments at the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas to pause, to breathe, to see the light flickering in us so that we may approach the reaffirmation of our baptismal vows with excitement and energy. That is one of the most wonderful, most moving worship services we have all year. Not only do we, on that second Sunday of January – Baptism of the Lord Sunday, reaffirm that we turn from the world and turn toward God, but we also ordain and install elders who make commitments to live into their

baptismal promises in specific ways. And we witness to the priesthood of all believers as all the ordained elders and deacons and ministers gather around those elders and lay on hands, offering prayer, providing a conduit of sorts for the Holy Spirit to come upon them just like the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at his baptism.

May we hear again the words Jesus heard, the words echoed at our baptisms, "This is my beloved son/daughter, in whom I am well pleased." Indeed remembering our baptisms reminds us to whom we belong, and who we are as we seek to live and love, to serve and help each day in this world.

**Merry Christmas,
Wendy**

Generosity Team

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve on another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter:10.

A will is the cornerstone of a well-organized estate plan, and can proclaim your Christian faith, demonstrating our response as a faithful steward to future generations.

The Generosity Team will present a workshop on wills on Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 12:15. We will provide a soup/salad lunch and childcare (per request). Each will is unique and must be structured to fit the needs and estate plans of each individual and the laws of our state. This workshop will provide you with workbooks and resources to take the next step for a formalized will and estate plan with a lawyer.

Epiphany Bonfire

January 4 @ 5 PM We will have a bonfire at Dick Evan's and Celia Simon's farm (979 Hamilton Lane). After the service we will have food and fellowship. Bring a heavy snack food to share.

Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser for the Guatemala Mission Trip

Join us January 18th for a delicious spaghetti meal prepared by Nelda Toon. Lunch will be served starting at 12:15 and end at 1:30. Salad, desserts and drinks will be served as well. Your donation is greatly appreciated!!!

Study Team

In January, the adult Sunday School class that meets in the Barber Library will read and discuss Ferenc M. Szasz's *Lincoln and Religion*. We welcome anyone who is interested in this topic to join us. Photocopies of this slim book can be found in the Barber Library - on the table at the right end of the room. We will not meet on Sunday 12/28. The following Sunday 1/4/15, we will focus on the Preface, acknowledgments and section entitled "Opening: Lincoln's Faith Perspective."

We anticipate completing this short volume in 3-4 weeks and hope to decide by 1/11 on the next book for our deliberations. Come join us, learn about Mr. Lincoln's interesting and important religious views, and help us select another book that will interest you ... and entice you to become a regular member of our discussions.

Mark Banker

Feasting on the Word

Our adult Feasting on the Word class has started meeting again in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for great conversation and study during the Sunday School hour.

Taoist Tai Chi

Resolved to exercise more? The Taoist Tai Chi Society, Oak Ridge Tennessee Branch will be offering another Beginners Class at Bethel on Saturday mornings at 9:00am, starting with an open house on January 3, 2015. (No more excuses that you have a regular Tuesday night conflict!)



The Tuesday evening class (6:00pm) will convert from a Beginning Class to a Continuing Class starting Tuesday January 6, 2015.

Taoist Tai Chi is a collection of centuries-old movements designed to "transform the body and elevate the spirit." Many of the moves were derived from martial arts, but have modified to emphasize balance, flexibility and stress relief. Come join us for this low impact way to improve your health. The movements can be adapted to any age, level of fitness, or state of health.

And, it's fun!

Join us:
Saturday Jan 3rd, 2015 (if you can't make it then, start the 10th)
9:00 to 10:30
Bethel Fellowship Hall. Thank you, Bethel for making your facilities available for us to share.



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Bethel Family Retreat

The Bethel Family Retreat is scheduled for February 7-8. The costs for lodging and food are listed below. We have developed a housing and meal plan with everyone in mind. Childcare will be available during the sessions.

You can sign up online or registration forms can be picked up in the church office.

The deadline to register is January 21st

Cost Breakdown:

Lodging

Cabin-\$90

Dorm Room-\$50

Meals

Adults 11-up: \$25

Children 5-10: \$12

Contact Will Purushotham in the church office to setup your lodging and payment

The dorm has six rooms with bathrooms in each room and is handicap accessible.

There are 5 cabins available in B unit (Bathrooms are located in each cabin)

We can set you up with a roommate or you can make roommate requests.

Our study sessions will be held in B Lodge and childcare will be provided in Abel Lodge.



**WINTER
RETREAT**

Sample Costs:

How Many People?	Lodging \$50 (Dorm) \$90 (Cabin)	Meals (Lunch, Dinner & Breakfast) (\$0 0-5) (\$12 5-10) (\$25 11-up)	Total
Commuter (Meals only)	XXXXX	\$25	\$25
Singles	\$50 (Dorm)	\$25	\$75 (Dorm)
Couples	\$50 (Dorm)	\$50	\$ 100 (Dorm) \$140 (Cabin)
Family of 2 (1 Parent & 1 child 5-10 years old)	\$50 (Dorm)	\$37	\$87 (Dorm)
Family of 4 (Parents & 2 children 1 child 5-10 & 1 child 11-up)	\$50 (Dorm)/ \$90 (Cabin)	\$87	\$137 (Dorm) \$ 177 (Cabin)
Family of 4 (Parents & 2 children 5-10 years old)	\$50 (Dorm)/ \$90 (Cabin)	\$74	\$124 (Dorm) \$164 (Cabin)
Family of 4 (Parents & 2 Teens)	\$50 (Dorm) / \$90 (Cabin)	\$100	\$150 (Dorm) \$190 (Cabin)

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January Calendar

January 1- Happy New Year!!!

January 4 @ 5 PM We will have a bonfire at Dick Evan's and Celia Simon's farm. After the service we will have food and fellowship.

January 11 @ 6 PM We will start our new study series at Youth: Distorted Images of God.

January 15- Youth Summit registration deadline

January 18 @ 6 PM Distorted Images of God (Part 2)

January 21 @ 6:30 PM Bethel Family Dinner

January 25 @ 6 PM Distorted Images of God (Part 3)

January 12 @ 6:45 AM Breakfast Club @ Handee Burger (Everyone)



Bethel Presbyterian
Youth Ministry

I hope that we can all take a look at our year of blessings. New Year's resolutions are nice but take time to look at your life and see how God has blessed you. Remember, your youth group cares for you, Bethel cares for you, and I care for you. God Bless and have a great 2015!

Upcoming Events

February 1-Souper Bowl Sunday. We need your help to collect funds for the Souper Bowl organization. We need volunteers for the 11 AM service.

5 PM Super Bowl Party
(Location: TBA)

February 7-8 Bethel Family Retreat (Information for the retreat is in the Christian Formation section of the newsletter.)

February 27-March 1 Senior High Youth Summit in Gatlinburg. The cost is \$100 per person and we will be staying at the Glenstone Lodge.



Save the Date!!!

Montreat

The Bethel Presbyterian Youth Ministry is looking at taking a trip 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.

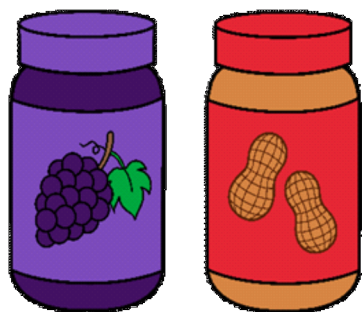
We will need to have commitments by January 15th. The cost is TBA.

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HOME Food Collection

For the month of January our focus foods are **Peanut Butter / Jelly**. These and other non-perishable food items can be



brought in through-out the month and placed in the HOME collection basket in the Gathering Area. Our in-worship collection will be Sunday, January 18th.

Thank you for supporting our local food pantry and helping needy families in our community.

memorials
& gifts

In honor of Rev. and Mrs Dick Hettrick from:

Liz Singley

In memory of:

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Robbins, Sr.,
Mr. and Mrs. George Hunt, Sr.,
Carol Jane Row,
Russell O. Thornton

from Terry and Charity Robbins
In memory of Doris Ann Parkinson from:

Terry and Charity Robbins
David E. Wampler
Joe and Amy Coen
Tom and Jane Pickel
William and Rosemary Wheeler

In memory of Marc Sherrod from:

Mark and Kathy Banker
The David Sherrod Family

In memory of Christine Woods

Swap Shop

Back by popular demand — here is your opportunity to pass along items that you no longer need, or to search for things that you want but haven't been able to find. Please pass along your swap shop listings to Karen Schall (schallk@highland.net) or the church office. Here are two requests for this month:

Wanted: If anyone has an extra Bethel cookbook to sell for \$15, please bring it to the church office or contact Laura Lee at 376-6269.

Wanted: Ladle Avocado Green by Earthgrown

I would like to purchase a ladle like this. Cathy 376-7616 The Earthgrown name will be at the hole on the green portion of the handle.



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

5580 Roane State Hwy, Rockwood 37854

Dick Hettrick Room 211

Please Remember:

Sophie Simon, Marge & Rev. Dick Hettrick, Jan Parker, Jim & Mary B Hines, Molly Cooper (Chris Badger's daughter), Dianne Swinler (Brenda Strickling's sister), Harold and Martha Underwood (Anita Richmond's parents).



- 2 Thomas McGill
- 8 Paul Stadnik
- 9 Matt Hines
Marlene Woodard
- 15 Jennie Morris
- 16 Tollie Banker
Isaac Shelby
- 19 Ryan Preston
- 21 Henry Coen
River Phillips
- 22 Laura Walker
- 24 Anita Richmond
- 25 Joan Davis
Katie Dungan

IRA Provisions for Charitable Giving Extended

On December 16, 2014, the United States Congress extended the Charitable Rollover Provision enabling IRA owners ages 70 ½ or older to make a direct, tax-free transfer to the charity of your choice. Consult your tax advisor for tax planning purposes.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2014 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement from the church. All contributions will be acknowledged in writing by Jan. 31, 2015.

Faith Team

Who loves Sunday morning's Children's Moment? EVERYBODY!!! You can get to know these darlings better and fulfill your baptismal vows to them by volunteering to be a Children's Church Leader for one month.

Bethel provides Children's Church for children ages 4 - 6 during our regular worship time. Volunteer leaders enjoy them from the period after Children's Moment until the end of worship hour (approx. 30 - 40 minutes). Teaching materials are provided or you may create your own. Jan Rybka will teach the lesson with you the first week if you wish. A youth volunteer is available to assist every week.

Please contact Jan Rybka at 882-8836, 310-8836 or jarybka@hotmail.com if you are interested.



Welcome!

Welcome to our newest members, Jim and Nancy Beth Gerberding, who joined us on December 28th. We'll try to have a brief bio in next month's Open Door. In the meantime, be sure to extend them a hearty welcome!

In case you missed it... this year's Christmas Pageant was a delightful occasion, as always. Here are a couple of photos from that stellar event:



January 2015

Weekly Events: Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club—Adults: Mon. 10-Noon & Mon 6:30-8:30 PM 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 Bell Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:00 PM Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM Bethel Youth Ministry: Sundays and Wednesdays; check page 4 for times				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3 Beginners' Tai Chi class starts
4 Communion Sunday Faith Team 12:15 Epiphany Bonfire 5 PM at the Evans/Simon farm	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Wills Workshop 12:15	12	13	14	15 Youth Summit Reservation Deadline	16	17 Session Retreat 9 AM to 2 PM
18 H.O.M.E. food collection Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 12:15 No Session Meeting	19	20	21 Deadline for Retreat Reservations Fellowship Team 5:30 Property Team 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30	22	23	24
25 Serve Team 12:15 Study Team 12:15	26	27	28	29	30	31