



Bethel Presbyterian Church

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The Open Door

Volume 12, No. 11

November 2015

Dear Friends,

November is a time of Thanksgiving. As the Fall colors give way to Winter landscapes, we are reminded of God's ever present care with us. We are reminded to slow down, to rest from our labors, to wait for the new life that is coming.

We begin this month of Thanksgiving with All Saints Day, remembering with a mixture of thanksgiving and sadness those who have gone before us to the fulfilled Kingdom of God. This year has been a particularly tough year with the unexpected deaths of Nelda Toon and Jacob Murr. While we continue to give thanks for their lives, we also mourn their loss. It is appropriate, I think, to begin this season of Thanksgiving acknowledging the sadness that came this past year.

Yet, as God's people we are enabled to praise God even in the midst of sadness. And so we move from grief to thanksgiving as we celebrate the goodness of creation. In such a spirit, I want to say how thankful I am for this congregation. You are a congregation that cares for each other (and your pastor), you reach out into the community to make a difference in the lives of others, you are aware of the plight of people around the world and are willing to help there too. You are a fun group of people who enjoys fellowship as well as the work that comes in being church.

I am inspired by your desire to learn and grow in faith, your commitment to provide meaningful experiences of church for children and youth, and your faithfulness to go where God calls

and do what God asks. You are a generous congregation, both with your time and your resources. You are a congregation that truly welcomes everyone and appreciates the diversity of your fellowship.

You are in many ways a congregation most pastors can only dream of serving. I am grateful to be your pastor and to grow in faith with you. It has been an exciting and fulfilling 4.5 years so far and pray for many more years serving God together here and now. I give thanks to God for you, for your faithfulness and for your witness to God's love in all that you do.

Grace and peace, Wendy

This Month:

Nov 1: **Children's fall party** at the Coen's House; 3-5pm

Nov 8: **Guatemala Conversation and Movie**

After worship join us for lunch in the fellowship hall. The Mission trip participants will show some of their pictures and talk a bit more about their experience. We will also show the Family Detention Center film put together by the Immigration office of the PCUSA. See you there!

Nov 15: **Alternative Christmas Market**

It's that time of year – time to buy Christmas gifts for friends and family. This year we will once again have the Palestinian Olive wood crafts as well as pottery made by BAM members and Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate and tea. The pottery is left from the Fall Festival and the money will go into the Fall Festival fund to help local ministries. Remember that gifts bought on this day make a difference in the lives of the crafters and farmers around the world. Give gifts that make a difference.

November Digital Arts Meeting:

Nov 14th: the **Digital Arts Group** will go on a photo outing to the new wetlands/park area off of Swan Pond Circle. We'll start a little later in the day – at noon – to allow for possible cooler weather. If you have an interest in photography please plan to join us. (Note: if the weather is rainy, we'll meet at the church instead and work on improving our Adobe Lightroom skills.)

Equal Exchange Orders –

Nov. 1st through Nov 15th

The Fair Trade Wholesale Club supports the mission of just food practices by offering Equal Exchange products at the wholesale price to anyone who wants to participate. You pay exactly what the club pays to Equal Exchange. There is no profit. For each pound of product we purchase, Equal Exchange donates \$.15 to the PCUSA Small Farmer Fund.

November 1st – 15th is the last order period before the holidays. Orders will be taken in the gathering area before and after church or you can send your order by e-mail to Carol Brown,

carolduckbrown@gmail.com. You may order individual bags/boxes/cans of standard items or cases of any other product.

Standard items for the November order period are:

Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil – 500 ml (\$11.95 / bottle)

Coffee -

Love Buzz or Breakfast

Blend (\$6.40 / bag) Drip or Whole Bean

Organic Decaf (\$7.40 / bag) Drip or Whole Bean

Cafe Salvador - (\$5.92 / bag) (Drip Only)

K-Cups - Breakfast Blend or Unwind Decaf (\$7.50 / box of 12 cups)

Baking cocoa - 8 oz. can (\$5.00 / can)

Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips – 10 oz. bag (\$3.60 / bag)

Dark Chocolate or Milk Chocolate minis – 150 minis (\$24 / box)

NEW – Box of Winter Mini's – 20 minis per box - \$4.75/box – this perfect stocking stuffer comes in either dark or milk chocolate.

Want to see everything Equal Exchange offers? Ask Carol to send you a digital copy of the wholesale catalog or go to shop.equalexchange.coop and check out the retail section.

National Donor Sabbath – November 13-15, 2015

This three-day observance seeks to include the days of worship for major religions practiced in the United States. It is a time to learn about and celebrate donation and transplantation, and pray for those affected by it.

5 Reasons to Learn, Discuss, and Decide About Organ and Tissue Donation

- ➔ **If you don't make the decision for yourself, someone else will.**
- ➔ **Someday you may have to make this decision on someone else's behalf.**
- ➔ **A new person is added to the transplant wait list every 10 minutes.**
- ➔ **18 people die waiting for a transplant each day.**
- ➔ **The number of people waiting to receive an organ transplant reaches into the 100,000's.**

Christmas Baskets

Each Christmas the Bethel congregation provides 50 food baskets at a cost of about \$3,000. The program is funded by your generous donations. You can drop your donation in the collection plate or mail or bring it to office. Please be sure to write Xmas Baskets in the memo area of your check, so we know how to direct your donation. Please consider helping those who may in less fortunate circumstances than you are. Baskets and Angel Tree gifts will be distributed on December 6th, at the Hanging of the Greens. These gifts give "food for the soul"- the hope of a brighter future and the reassurance that someone does indeed care.

The Open Door

Roane County Cooperative Ministries

Two workshops are being offered by RCCM to address poverty in Roane County. *Bridges out of Poverty*, gives people who have not experienced it a better perspective and understanding of those who live in poverty. *Getting Ahead* is a sixteen-week workshop that includes people living in poverty along with "allies" who will support them after completion of the workshop. The goal of *Getting Ahead* is to help people analyze their current situation, take charge of their lives, and move toward a better future. This is actually a very eye opening process, as they come to recognize their personal strengths and feel empowered to move ahead. We will notify you when and where the next workshops are scheduled. We plan to offer them at various locations in Roane County, including Bethel. Please consider participating in this important program.

RCCM always appreciates your monetary support to provide such programs, but volunteer assistance is equally important. Allies are needed to offer on-going support and guidance to graduates of *Getting Ahead*. RCCM also needs volunteers to help obtain grants and funding that is so essential to offering these important programs. Please see Roger Richmond or contact John Leitnaker at john@ourrccm.org or [865-407-0726](tel:865-407-0726).

(The following is excerpted from an email from Steve Cantrell, Chaplain at the Morgan County Prison:)

Dear Ministry Leaders,

If your ministry is not providing a Christmas dinner this year at MCCX, but still wants to be involved in blessing the inmates for Christmas we can use treat bags... many churches have pledged to provide bags, but there are 1000 bags still needed. Below is a list of items permitted to be in the bags:

2-3 bars of candy
2-3 packs of nuts (peanuts, cashews, etc.)
Individual beef jerky
Bar of soap
Small tube toothpaste
Toothbrush
Pocket calendar
Stick deodorant (alcohol free)
2 stamped envelopes
Gospel Tract
Stick ink pen
Small bottle of shampoo
Crystal light (or Great Value drink mix) individual packets – any flavor is good

These are suggestions only. The bags do not have to contain all these items, but should be uniform. They must also be in clear plastic baggies.

(As you can see, this is an extensive, and expensive list. Providing the bare essentials will cost at least \$5 per bag. If you are interested in helping with this project, please consider making a donation and marking it for Prison Ministry gift bags.

In the past, we have asked for donations of items to put in the bags, but we feel that we can make our money go further if we buy in bulk, and we can ensure that each bag will be uniform.)

Thanks for your support!

In
memory
of:

memorials
& gifts

Homer Clevenger from
Ladies of Town and Country
FCE Club

Nelda Toon from
Dave and Nancy Braski

Rev. Marc Sherrod from
Mark and Kathy Banker

Rev. Dick Hettrick from
Mark and Kathy Banker

Jacob Murr from
Mary Hook
Frank and Marilyn Harris
Gilbert and Linda Pickel
Robert and Lynn Spires
Jim and Karen Schall
Cecil and Teresa Murr
George and Nancy Dailey
Jill McMaster
Bill and Marianne Shadden
Will and Amanda Purushotham

-
- 1 Josh Brown
 - 2 Diego Vanegas
 - 2 Jack McNew
 - 3 Julie Owens
 - 7 Lyric Rivera
 - Megan Paris
 - 9 Chelsea Richmond
 - 10 Nancy Landers
 - 12 Leonard Kirby
 - 13 Charlie King
 - 16 Eyan Choate
 - 20 Bill Shadden
 - Archer, Gracie
 - 21 Brian Shelby
 - 25 Jimmy Walker
 - 27 Jim Gerberding
 - 28 Andy Avel
 - 29 Cyndi Fowler
 - Bryson Turnbull
 - 30 Jerry Harvey



Our General Fund Giving & Summary of Expenses

Updated 9/30/15

	Actual	Budgeted	% of Budget
Operating Income	\$188,051.85	\$280,645.00	67.01%
Operating Expenses	<u>\$192,905.32</u>	\$280,645.00	68.74%
	-\$4,853.47		
Transfer	\$6,667.00		
Shortage	\$1,813.53		

Debt Reduction

Updated 9/30/15

YTD 9/30/15

Gifts, Pledges

& Building Use Income \$45,535.90

Monthly Payments

Balance

PILP	5,700.87	738,733.60
PET Loan	450.00	72,464.24
Other Bldg Ln	<u>833.30</u>	<u>31,396.94</u>
	6,984.17	842,594.78

9 mos. Payments = Expense 62,857.53
 Shortage of income to expenses -\$17,321.63

Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

Jamestowne 851 Lawnville Road, Kingston 37763

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

NHC Place - Farragut 120 Cavette Hill Lane, Knoxville 37934

Jean Dice Room 234

Harriman Care & Rehab 240 Hannah Rd. Harriman 37748

Ruth Ann Ludwig Room 605

Appalachian Christian Village

Tauno Maki ACV-Sherwood 2-1 Oak St, Johnson City 37601



The Murr, Pickel & Dailey families,
 Ruth Ann Ludwig,
 Bill & Marianne Shadden,
 Sam & Peggy Sheppard,
 Molly Cooper (Chris Badger's daughter),
 Dianne Swinler (Brenda Strickling's sister),
 Harold & Martha Underwood (Anita Richmond's parents).

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Children's Fall Party at the Coen's 3 PM	2	3	4 Young People's Bible Study 5:30	5 10 Ten Book Group 10 AM	6	7
8 Luncheon and Guatemala Conversation	9	10	11	12 Women's Bible Study 10:30	13	14 Photo Group Noon @ Swan Pond
15 Alternative Christmas Market 12:15 Session 12:15	16	17	18 Young People's Bible Study 5:30 Property 5:30 Fellowship 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30	19 Women's Bible Study 10:30	20	21
22 Study Team Serve Team	23 Generosity Team 7 PM	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 Prison Ministry Team: 5th Sunday Worship at MCCX	30	Each Week: 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 Bell Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:00 PM Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM Looking Ahead: Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Basket Distribution: Dec. 6th Fellowship Supper and Christmas Pageant: Dec. 16th				