

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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The Open Door

Volume 12, No. 12

December 2015

Dear Friends,

This Advent I have invited you to share your pictures of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love with the purpose of filling this season with images that remind us of the gifts the Christ Child has given us. I look forward to seeing all your images and discovering with you all the places God is at work even now fulfilling God's promises.

Here is my picture of Hope. It is of Jairo, the boy we met in Guatemala. We began building a wall for his family so he would not have to be restrained but could be safely free near his house. You may remember that Jairo has special needs and his wandering off from his house was becoming dangerous for him so his family restrained him. We were able to build one side of the four walls while we were there. We

returned and shared of our experience with Jairo and within a week, through a very generous donation, we had enough money to finish the walls.

We sent that money to Guatemala and a few weeks ago, I received a letter and pictures of the completed project. Jairo is showing off his unshackled leg in this picture. He is also meeting weekly with a special education teacher and hopes to be able to begin attending the school in January 2016.

Jairo's family was in a state of despair about how to keep their son safe. Many people and organizations had offered to help only to never show up again. ADISA met with the family and promised to help. The father was dubious. And then we got connected with ADISA and were able to be part of restoring Jairo's Father's hope. When we

left, the fence was unfinished with only a promise from ADISA that it would be finished at some point. Yet that was enough to bring hope.

Seeing Jairo's smiling face, I have hope that small acts of kindness radiate out making a huge difference. Remember Hope is the antidote to despair. Hope is a gift we receive from the Christ Child in order to share it with the world. Hope is trusting the words of Jeremiah, "Surely the days are coming..." and living as if they have already arrived.

May Hope, Peace, Joy and Love surround you all this season and may you share them with abandon with those around you.

**Advent Blessings,
Wendy**

2015 ADVENT PROJECT

You are invited to participate in Bethel's Advent project of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. As you may know we will focus on one of these words each Sunday in Advent.

So bring in your pictures of :

Hope (11/29), Peace (12/6), Joy (12/13) & Love (12/20).

Please affix place them on the kiosk in the gathering area.

With so much that causes despair in the world today, with this project we desire to highlight where God is at work in the world, bringing Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Your pictures may be one you take specifically for this project - one of your children or pets; it may be one taken a long time ago or one you found somewhere. Children are invited to draw their pictures, bring them to the children's moment and then post them on the kiosk. Bethel folks, let's fill our kiosk and our hearts and minds with images of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this Advent Season.



The Open Door December Events

Woman's Bible Study

Helpmates, Harlots & Heroes
This Bible Study led by Rev. Neff will meet
Dec. 3 & Dec. 17 from 10:30 – Noon in the library
Child care available - \$5.00

Angel Tree

Angel Sponsors: please return gifts, wrapped, and with the angel tag securely attached, to the church office no later than **Wed. Dec. 2.**

Sunday, Dec. 6: Hanging of the Greens

Christmas Baskets & Gifts Pickup
3:30 PM—5:00 PM
Activity Centers in Fellowship Hall
3:30 PM—5:00 PM
Cleanup and Setup for Dinner
5:00 PM—5:30 PM
Dinner
5:30 PM—6:15 PM
Worship
6:15 PM –7:00 PM

Fellowship Supper and Christmas Pageant

With the holiday season upon us it is time to think of the Christmas Pageant which will be held after Fellowship Supper on Wednesday, December 16th. Please plan on bringing a finger-type dessert item to share (cookies, brownies, etc.). We will enjoy a time of fellowship with dessert and punch after the pageant.

Caroling

Sunday, Dec 20 at 4pm

HOME Collection

For the month of December our items are **Baby Supplies** (diapers, rash cream, baby wipes, lotion, shampoo, bath). Our in-worship collection will be Thurs. 12/24 at the **Christmas Eve Service.**



**Christmas Eve
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

December 24 at 7pm

Birthdays for December

- 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

memorials & gifts

In memory of Jacob Murr from:

Chuck and Robinette Garner
Lewis and Ann DeBord
Andy Holloway
Sam and Peggy Sheppard
Lucy Webb
Phil and Jane Walsh

In memory of Nelda Toon from:

Jennie Morris

In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick from

Mark and Kathy Banker

In memory of Rev. Marc Sherrod from

Mark and Kathy Banker

Welcome!

Welcome to new member Jeremy Copeland, and son River Dean, who was baptized last month.



Jeremy and Stacey Copeland

River Dean Copeland



From the Fellowship Chair:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Fellowship Committee members who make it a pleasure to serve with: Robinette Garner, Marilyn Harris, Joni Morgan, Jane Pickle, Viviana Vanegas, and let us not forget Nelda who is still so much a part of the fellowship community at Bethel. She is greatly missed.

Each month on the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. the fellowship hall is transformed into a place of smiles, laughter, tears, and good food. This does not happen magically, so thanks to everyone who lends a hand to set-up and take down tables and chairs, to those who faithfully load and unload the dishwasher, to those who bring dishes to share, to those who decorate or help with special events, to those who attend, and to all of those who hosted a Fellowship Supper in 2015...please know that your gifts of time and talent are greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Amber Jacks



HANDBELL CHOIR

Unfortunately, this fall, Bell choir member participation was down by 50%. We are so happy to have Nidia join us. Even with continued announcements, we are in need of 3 more members. Each member plays a different part so we have obvious holes in the melody or in the supporting parts. Without more participation, think singing happy birthday without some of the melody notes. Think we need YOU. The person you thought would fill in is relying on YOU. And besides...who has more fun than we do? You'll never learn any younger!

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:30	3 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	4	5
6 Communion Sunday Cong. Mtg. 12:00 PM Hanging of the Greens Events 3:30 PM Worship	7	8	9 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:30	10	11	12 Richmond/Shirk Wedding 4:00 PM
13	14 Finance Team 6:00 PM	15	16 Fellowship 5:30 Property 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30 Christmas Pageant following supper	17 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	18	19
20 Session 12:15 PM Caroling 4 PM	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7:00 PM	25	26
27 No Study Team Serve Team 12:15	28 Generosity Team 7:00 PM	29	30	31		

Happening

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

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

TN Veterans' Home 1 Veterans Way, Knoxville 37931

Jan Parker

The Lantern 155 Morning Pointe Drive, Lenoir City 37772

Ruth Ann Ludwig Room 102

Appalachian Christian Village

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



At Home:

Darrell Guy, Margaret & Greg Murr, Sam & Peggy Sheppard, Edith Miles, Molly Cooper (Chris Badger's daughter), Dianne Swinler (Brenda Strickling's sister), Harold & Martha Underwood (Anita Richmond's parents).