



## 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 an-  
gel 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 Wednes-  
day, December 16<sup>th</sup>. 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

In memory of Nelda Toon  
from:

Jennie Morris  
In memory of Rev. Dick  
Hettrick from  
Mark and Kathy Banker  
In memory of Rev. Marc Sher-  
rod from  
Mark and Kathy Banker

### Welcome!

Welcome to new member Jer-  
emy 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 op-  
portunity to thank the Fellowship  
Committee members who make  
it a pleasure to serve with: Robi-  
nette Garner, Marilyn Har-  
ris, Joni Morgan, Jane Pickle,  
Viviana Vanegas, and let us not  
forget Nelda who is still so much  
a part of the fellowship commu-  
nity at Bethel. She is greatly  
missed.

Each month on the  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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 faithful-  
ly load and unload the dish-  
washer, to those who bring dish-  
es to share, to those who deco-  
rate or help with special events,  
to those who attend, and to all  
of those who hosted a Fellow-  
ship 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 participa-  
tion, think singing happy birth-  
day without some of the melody  
notes. Think we need YOU. The  
person you thought would fill in  
is relying on YOU. And be-  
sides...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	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
Each Week:	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).