



## Bethel Presbyterian Church

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April 2016

# The Open Door

## Dear Friends,

It is the season of Easter. That's right, Easter isn't just a Sunday once a year. It is a season, the time between Easter Sunday and Pentecost. It's the time we are to sing Alleluia because Jesus has risen. God has brought life where we expected death. Because Jesus lives, we live. Traditionally we have thought of this in almost exclusive terms of life after death. However, the Resurrection is about much more than just life after death.

The Resurrection is God's yes to the world's no. It is a validation of the way Jesus lived his life, proclaiming good news to the poor, recovery of sight to the blind, release to the captives, letting the oppressed go free and declaring the year of God's favor. The Resurrection is confirmation that goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness and life is stronger than death. In this

way, the Resurrection is our call to live into the new heaven and new earth that Isaiah describes in chapter 65.

In Isaiah's description, no more will babies die, no more will people work and not have a house to live in, no more will people work the fields but not have nutritious food to eat themselves. No more will women bear children for calamity, no more will weeping and cries of distress fill the air. No more for Christ is alive. Christ is alive and so we all have the gift of abundant life. And if that is true, then it begs the question, "why do women still bear children for calamity and cries of distress still fill the air?"

That's where you and I come in. For those of us who believe in the resurrection, who know that Christ is alive, who trust that God has brought life where we expected death, we are called to live into the new heaven and new earth that Isaiah describes. We are to live our lives to make sure that no

babies die of malnutrition or preventable disease. We are to live our lives so that war is no more and no mother has to bear children for calamity. We are to live our lives so that people who work hard each day make a fair wage and can live in affordable, safe housing. We are to live our lives so that those who harvest our food can also eat healthy nutritious food. We are to live our lives expecting the wolf and the lamb to feed together. We are to live our lives so that no one is hurt and nothing is destroyed on God's holy mountain ever again.

We have a season of Easter to ponder how we do this. So pray, give thanks and live with Resurrection faith.

*Grace and peace,  
Wendy*

## BAM Art Exhibit

The Artists of BAM will present their work in an exhibit on Sunday, April 10 in the Gathering Area. You are invited to meet the artists and engage them about their art. There will be a reception as well, so spread the word and invite your friends to the exhibit on April 10 following worship. This is a great opportunity to make connections with BAM and see first hand the impact of this ministry in the community.

## Women's Retreat

All women are invited to a day of relaxation, fellowship and worship at Jennie Morris' picturesque farm on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm. There will be plenty of time to draw, paint, read and enjoy fellowship and quiet space as well as good food and good company. Lunch will be provided. Please let Wendy know if you would like to attend.

## Women's Bible Study

Beginning April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Bible Study will study Women in the New Testament. Followers of Jesus, leaders of households, caretakers, mothers, daughters, women who suffered and had great faith will be our companions for the next several months. You are invited to join us the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10:30 to noon. Childcare is available for \$5. The Bible Study meets in the library.



## Eagle Scout Project

On March 19, 2016 Joey Michaud with assistance from about 30 Troop 101 Scouts and adults, worked about 8 hours in the labyrinth area behind Bethel. This work was Joey's Eagle Scout Project – a lot of weeds were removed, some additional wild flowers were planted, and one area was reseeded with grass seed, etc. It was a beautiful day and Joey had things well organized, so a tremendous amount of work was accomplished. Thanks so much to Joey, his parents and sisters, Troop 101, and the adults who donated in many ways to make the project such a success. It was just a FUN day.

The labyrinth is a very special place and is a public-use facility. It was built in October 2010 to Honor the Memory of Rev.

Marc Sherrod, Bethel's beloved minister from 2001 until his death in 2009. One of Rev. Sherrod's



goals was to have a labyrinth for public use. Stuart Bartholomaeus, nationally known labyrinth builder and Master Gardner, provided the expertise for building the labyrinth.

With grateful appreciation to Joey Michaud and all who participated in Joey's Eagle Scout Project. By keeping the labyrinth area maintained, we continue to Honor the Memory of Rev. Sherrod.

*Submitted by Cathy McDowell*

# The Open Door

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## March 20, 2016 Session Highlights

- 1) Rick and Regina Durham requested a transfer of their membership to Bethel from First Christian Church in Rockwood. The session warmly welcomed Rick and Regina as formal members of the Bethel family.
- 2) At each monthly session meeting, a particular elder does the devotion. The theme for this year is "Share your favorite scripture passage or story and tell why it is your favorite."
- 3) The session spent a lot of time discussing the following questions: "Looking back over the past five years, what has gone well, what were our challenges? How are we positioned for the next five years? What do we need and who do we need?"
- 4) Bethel Arts Ministry (BAM) will have an art display in the Gathering Area on Sunday, April 10. The Fellowship Team will host a reception. The session usually meets on the third Sunday of each month at 12:15 p.m.

The session minutes are stored in the church office. These minutes are open for anyone to read or research a topic, but please do this in the church office. Thank you.

Cathy McDowell, Clerk

## Welcome, Rick and Regina Durham



Rick and Regina will be joining us in early April. Please be sure to give them a warm welcome!

## Fellowship Team

Happy Graduation! Bethel will celebrate the accomplishments of graduates at the fellowship supper to be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please let a member of the fellowship committee know, or call the church office, with names of graduates who need to be recognized. Committee members are Rachel Gallaher, Marilyn Harris, Laura Dailey, Jane Pickel, Robinette Garner, Joni Morgan, Viviana Vanegas, Mary Hines, Micki Anderson and Amber Jacks. Thank you.

## Mission Trip Update:

Due to several factors, the mission trip is being delayed. If you are interested in participating in a mission trip to the border, please speak with Wendy. We are tentatively looking at going during fall break which is Oct 10-14, 2016.

## Summer Camp

It's time to start planning for camp! Our Presbytery Camp, John Knox Center, is just down the road and a great place for kids to spend time outdoors and continue to be formed in the faith. You can find more information about summer camp at [www.johnknoxcenter.org](http://www.johnknoxcenter.org) or check out the kiosk in the Gathering Area. There is scholarship money available. Talk with Eric Windhausen or Wendy Neff if a scholarship would help your child be able to attend.

## Hands of Mercy Offering

Thank you for supporting our local food pantry and helping feed hungry folks in our community. For the month of April our focus foods are Pasta/Spaghetti Sauce. These and other non-perishable items can be bought throughout the month and placed in the box in the gathering area. Our next in-worship collection will take place on Sunday, April 17th.

## Family Promise Rummage Sale



Will take place on Friday, April 8th and Saturday, April 9th at the Kingston Church of Christ Family Center.

If you have items to donate, you can drop them off at the center Monday (4/4) or Tuesday (4/5) from noon-2 PM.

Please plan to come and support this fundraiser to help alleviate homelessness in Roane County.

# memorials & gifts

In memory of George Warlick  
from:

Jim and Karen Schall  
Frank and Marilyn Harris  
The Pierce Family  
Terry and Charity Robbins  
Ruth Ann Ludwig

Gary and Dianne Griffith  
In memory of Joe Zirkle from  
Mary Gelder Plummer

In memory of Janet Gasparetti  
from:

Jim and Karen Schall  
Rockwood Chapter 382 OES

In memory of Dot, Gene, and  
Larry Pierce from

The Pierce Family

In memory of Sophie Simon  
from:

Jim and Karen Schall  
First Presbyterian Church,  
Rockwood

In memory of Sam Davis from  
Dave and Helen Stevenson



- 3 Amanda Purushotham
- 4 Laura Windhausen
- 6 Mary Kathryn Willett
- 9 Bill Sides
- 10 Cathy McDowell
- 17 Chuck Brumley
- 19 Clay Landers
- Sheryl Stadnik
- 22 Dolores Sandmel
- 23 Sophie Crocker
- 27 Sarah Applegate
- David Choate
- Joni Morgan
- 28 Nancy Braski
- 30 Previn Griffith Langham



## Prayer Requests

### Assisted Living and Nursing Homes:

Wellington Place  
1098 Bradford Way,  
Kingston 37763

Chris Badger Room 107  
Sue Muecke Room 206

TN Veterans' Home  
1 Veterans Way,  
Knoxville 37931  
Jan Parker

The Lantern  
55 Morning Pointe Drive,  
Lenoir City 37722  
Ruth Ann Ludwig Room 102

Appalachian Christian Village  
Tauno Maki  
ACV-Sherwood 2-1 Oak St.,  
Johnson City 37601

### At Home:

Marianne & Bill Shadden,  
Larry Strickling, Molly Cooper  
(Chris Badger's daughter),  
Harold & Martha Underwood  
(Anita Richmond's parents).

### Our General Fund Giving & Summary of Expenses

Updated 2/29/16

	Actual	Budgeted	% of Budget
Operating Income	\$38,063.18	\$39,416.64	96.57%
Operating Expenses	<u>\$38,500.22</u>	\$39,483.36	97.51%
	-\$437.04		

### Debt Reduction

2/29/2016

Gifts, Pledges

& Building Use YTD  
2/29/19

Monthly  
Payments Income \$7,505.00

PILP		Balance
PET Loan		
Other Bldg		
Ln	5,700.87	720,992.24
	450.00	70,214.24
	833.30	27,230.29

2 months  
payments 6,984.17 818,436.77

Shortage of income to  
expenses Expense 13,968.34  
-\$6,463.34

# April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Faith Team 12:15 Serve Team 12:15 Confirmation 5:30	4	5	6	7 10 Ten Book Club 10 AM	8	9 Camera Group 10 AM
10 BAM Art Exhibit Confirmation 5:30	11 Finance Team 6 PM	12	13 No Youth Bible Study	14 No Women's Bible Study	15	16
17 H.O.M.E. Offering Session 12:15 Confirmation 5:30	18	19	20 Fellowship Team 5:30 Property Team 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30	21	22	23
24 Study Team 12:15 Confirmation 5:30	25 Generosity Team 7 PM	26	27	28 Women's Bible Study 10 AM	29	30 Women's Retreat 10 AM

## 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, Fri. 10-11:30 AM, Sat. 9-10:30 AM

Bell Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:00 PM

Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM

Youth Bible Study: Wednesdays 5:30 PM