



## Bethel Presbyterian Church

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# The Open Door

Volume 15 No. 5

May 2018

## Dear Friends,

We are just a little over a month away from our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. Throughout the year we have enjoyed minutes for history, celebrated a new cookbook, and been blessed by the beautiful singing of Michael Rodgers. In the coming month we have another concert, a production of the revised *Church Called Bethel Play*, a fellowship supper with stories and hymns and of course a much anticipated commissioned anthem.

As I have spent some time learning more about Bethel's history, I have been struck by a few things. First the membership of Bethel has always been unexpected – in a good way. In those very early days of the 1800s Bethel counted among its own soldiers, lawyers, doctors, businessmen, teachers, homemakers and both slave and free blacks. The names of the slaves are recorded. They were examined for membership just like everyone else. They were even dismissed

that was required. To have had slave and free, male and female worshiping and serving God together was an incredible witness in those days and today.

Today I am struck by the percentage of our folks who speak English as a second language. For a small southern town, we have an unusually high number of people who came to live here not from another town but from another country: Germany, Thailand, Guatemala. As it has from our beginnings, I believe this diversity adds to our strength and our witness as the church of Jesus Christ.

The second thing I noticed reading through session minutes is that some things never change. Presbyterians have a certain way of doing things that apparently was handed down from John Knox himself! Even in the 1820s, session minutes recorded receiving members who transferred their certificate of membership from another church as well as sending members with such letters to other churches. Congregational meetings were held annually

and the pastor's salary was always on the agenda. Annual reports of membership were submitted to the denomination and session minutes were reviewed.

The final thing to note is that early session minutes were a record of church courts. Session functioned as the arbiter of member's behavior such that persons seen to be drunken, disturbing the peace, or acting in anyway unchristian were brought to account. If they refused to admit their indiscretions or to repent of them, they had the privilege of membership in the church revoked. Thankfully that practice changed over the years.

There are many other interesting stories in the session minutes that provide glimpses into the community that is called Bethel, that remind us who we are and show us how we have grown in faith and practice. Thanks be to God for the continued privilege to be part of Bethel Presbyterian Church!

**Grace and Peace,**

**Wendy**

**The Tour des Trees Coming up...** Riders will ride from Columbus to Cleveland Ohio July 29-August 4th. The bicycle ride (530 miles) is a fund raiser for the TREE FUND which supports urban tree research and education. Melanie Sherrod will be participating with her sister and needs to raise \$3,500 for TREES! More info will appear in the June newsletter; in the meantime, if you'd like to donate, please see Melanie.

### Children's Pentecost Party



May 20 3-5 PM  
in the Fellowship Hall  
Come celebrate the  
Church's Birthday with  
games, activities and cake!

All Ladies of  
Bethel Presbyterian Church and Kingston United  
Methodist Church are invited to attend  
the Mother's Day Luncheon  
on Saturday, May 12, 2017  
at 11:30 A.M.  
to be held in the Bethel Fellowship Hall.



We will enjoy a catered lunch and fellowship.  
The cost is \$7.00 per person.  
Deadline to register is Monday, May 7th



Mandy Knies will be taking Fair Trade orders **April 29th-May 6th**. Orders can be made through email or Mandy will have the cart in the Gathering Area on Sunday, April 29th and May 6th.

### MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON SIGN-UP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also register by calling  
the Bethel church office at 376-6340  
or email [1bethel@bellsouth.net](mailto:1bethel@bellsouth.net)

### Children's Choir

Meets Wednesdays at 5:30 PM  
as the children rehearse a song  
for the Birthday Celebration.



## YOUR HELP IS (URGENTLY!) NEEDED!

We all know that we have a birthday coming up AND we have a ton of events scheduled to help us to celebrate and remember. One of the things that many are looking forward to is the re-enactment of a play called **A Church Called Bethel** which was originally performed in 1968 and again in 1993.

Wendy and Marge Hettrick have been hard at work on the script and it's almost time to begin rehearsing. Here's where you come in:

We need actors, narrators, costume people, sound people, prop people, and several brave souls to coordinate everyone.

### Rehearsals will be:

**Wed. May 9, 23, 30 from 6-7,**

**Sun. June 3 after worship—Pizza will be provided.**

**Wed. June 6 from 5-6:30.**

Please be thinking about where you fit in, and come to the first rehearsal ready to share your unique talents!

## PRESBYTERY MEETING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bethel will host the Presbytery Meeting on **Tuesday, May 15**. We will also provide lunch for the attendees. Volunteers are needed to help serve the meal and clean up after. There is also a need for pastries/sweet rolls and cut fruit for coffee time prior to the meeting. If you can help with these needs please contact Sue Jones (384-4587) or Joan Pharis (924-8140)



## Birthday Schedule of Events:

**May 15, 8 am to 3 pm**

Host Presbytery of East TN

**June 1, 6 pm**

Concert at Southwest Point

**June 3, 10 am**

Kickoff birthday week with Childrens' Choir in worship

**- 6:30 pm**

Potluck Fellowship Supper to share memories and join in a hymn sing

**June 8, 7 pm**

**A Church Called Bethel**

followed by ice cream social

**June 10, 11 am**

Birthday Worship and Lunch; commissioned anthem and group photo

Here's how you can help:

We need volunteers for the Presbytery meeting on May 15. Set up, clean up, serving food, helping with parking, providing hospitality, helping with registration – if you can offer an hour or half a day, please let us know in the office. Call 376-6340 to sign up to help!

Buy a cookbook if you haven't already and spread the word among your friends.

Promote the concert on June 3 as our gift to the community.

Share your stories at the fellowship supper on June 6.

Invite your friends to come see the play, **A Church Called Bethel** on June 8. And if you want to participate in the play, please let Wendy know. You are more than welcome to join the cast!

Join us for worship and lunch on June 10. Please RSVP for lunch!



On April 22nd, Bethel hosted a concert of gospel pieces and spirituals featuring Michael Rodgers, local artist and frequent soloist with the Knoxville Opera Company. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed this uplifting performance!

On June 3 the Bethel Children's Choir will be singing during our 11am service. This children's choral ensemble will lead musically in worship, with a special anthem composed by Becky Price honoring the children of Bethel and the special presence of God in their lives. As we celebrate God's leading in Bethel's past, we also open the door to God's guidance in Bethel's future."

On June 6, Bethel will host Liz McGeachy and Tim Marema, a.k.a. Liz and Tim, headlined by Bethel's Charlie King, in an outdoor concert at Southwest Point. Liz and Tim specialize in Americana, Folk and Traditional Appalachian Music, and have written, performed, and recorded extensively. (See me if you would like to check out one of their CDs.)

Then, on June 10, the chancel choir will present "Be Still," the commissioned anthem composed by John Purifoy. The piece is written for choir, flute, violin, and piano. In addition to our choir, several members of the music community will be singing with us, as well as Rebecca Hettrick, violin, and Lyric Rivera, flute.

# The Open Door

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Dear Bethel Youth,

Thank you so much for the flower tray decorations you made for the MECAA Meals on Wheels program.

Your flowers brought smiles to many seniors in Roane and Loudon Counties.

You are such a blessing!

Thank you again,

Sincerely, Amber Jacks  
Senior Services Director, MECAA

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## Cookbooks for Sale

Bethel Forever—the new cookbook or Bethel Always—the original cookbook are available in the office \$20/each or purchase the set for \$35.

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## DOING OUR PART

As part of our Earth Care Congregation program we have a Cell Phone Recycle Box located in the office.

We also recycle ink cartridges and toner. These can be dropped off in the office (please bag them).

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## FIREWOOD

Shirley & Fred Swindler have firewood to give away. The wood is cut and ready for you to pick up. If you are interested, contact the Swindler's at 354-0837

## HOME Food Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed food for our April HOME collection. 36 jars of spaghetti sauce, 44 pkgs of pasta and 21 assorted foods were collected. Thank you for supporting our local food pantry and helping feed hungry folks in our community. For the month of May our focus foods are **Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, Spam)**. These and other non-perishable food items can be brought in throughout the month and placed in the HOME collection basket in the Gathering Area. Our in-worship collection will be Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.



- 1 Avery Parish
- 2 Jennifer Vandever
- 4 Bram Hyder
- 5 Jane Pickel
- 6 Joe Coen
- 7 Samantha Rybka
- 11 Erick Crocker
- 12 Celia Simon
- 16 Jim Hines
- 18 Linda Gerth
- 19 Maggie Dungan
- 20 John Carter  
Loffin Gerberding
- 21 Ron Thompson
- 23 Chuck Bunch
- 24 Marianna Oonk  
Kalyani Purushotham
- 26 Mark Patton  
Jane Walsh
- 28 Jackson Gerberding  
Robert Vickers
- 29 Donald Cross
- 30 Julie Bunch Barber  
Karen Hart  
Vernon Law

## memorials & gifts

In memory of Linda Pogany  
from Jill McMaster  
In memory of Jacob Murr  
from Liz Singley  
In memory of Rev. Marc Sherrod  
from Mark and Kathy Banker  
In memory of Rev. Dick Hettrick  
from: Liz Singley,  
Mark and Kathy Banker  
In memory of Larry Strickling  
From: 2nd Tuesday Bridge Club,  
Melanie Sherrod,  
Jim and Mary B. Hines,  
Frank and Marilyn Harris,  
Liz Singley,  
Tom and Jane Pickel,  
Jill McMaster,  
Terry and Charity Robbins,  
In memory of Bill Shadden  
from Dave and Helen Stevenson



Are you dependable, friendly, and motivated by helping others?

Do you have availability for any of these days:

Mon, Wed, or Thurs. from 9-Noon?  
Roane County Cooperative Ministries (RCCM) needs your help to assist community members with rent & utility payments.

Interested? Contact Sue Jones at 384-4587

# May 2018

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Children's Choir 5:30 pm	<b>3</b> Book Club 10 am	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Faith Team 12:15	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Children's Choir 5:30 pm  Play Rehearsal 6 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Mother/ Daughter Lunch 11:30 am
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Finance Team 6 pm	<b>15</b> Presbytery of East TN meets at Bethel 9 am	<b>16</b> Children's Choir 5:30 pm  Fellowship Team 5:30 pm  Property Team 5:30 pm  Fellowship Supper 6:30 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> H.O.M.E Collection  Session 12:15  Children's Pentecost Party 3 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Children's Choir 5:30 pm  Play Rehearsal 6 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Serve Team 12:15 pm  Study Team 12:15 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Children's Choir 5:30 pm  Play Rehearsal 6 pm	<b>31</b>		

**EACH WEEK:**

Bethel Arts Ministry: Art Club Mon. 10-Noon  
& Mon 5-7 PM  
Taoist Tai Chi: Tues. 6-7:30 PM,  
Fri. 10-11:30 AM, Sat. 10-11:30 AM  
Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:00 PM  
Yoga: Thursdays, 5:30 PM

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

In Nursing Homes:  
    Tauno Maki, Chris Badger, Bobbie Martin  
At Home:  
    Gil and Julie Barber  
(The office has up-to-date contact info on all of these.)