

A Note from Pat...

Dear Bethel,

I have just had the most amazing conversation with someone I consider “One of the Saints” of Bethel. She helped me see what I need to write in this article...

We have been occupying our “new space” for four months now, after a fourteen month sojourn sharing life and ministry with the generous and gracious Kingston United Methodist Church! Now, we are back in our beautiful new/old church...!

The building is awesome...the space is wonderful...BUT...it seems as though... “We are not doing anything to reach out into our community...to reach new people...or care for them...” Well, that is what “some people” are saying! “Why aren’t we looking at the initiatives we had put on paper during our “Season of Dreaming”...the dreams that spurred us to do what we did with the building?”

Interesting question: Following the “Season of Dreaming” and a season of discernment through prayer, scripture study, analysis and dialogue; we joyfully opened into – “A Season of Dedication and Action”. During that time - we as a church were asked to prayerfully discern what God wanted Bethel Church to do. We committed to the following “Six Ministry Initiatives”. At that time we believed these initiatives would bring about “God’s preferred future for our church...” Fifty nine (59) people signed the “Vision 2010 Initiative”...in fact - you can see it displayed in the Gathering Place area! Those initiatives were stated as follows:

1. An additional Sunday morning worship service to reach those outside our walls;
2. A task force to revitalize Bethel’s ministry to youth and children;
3. A congregational gifts-discernment program to enable each member and friend to discover and serve according to his or her special gifts, rather than exclusively according to Bethel’s needs;
4. A small group ministry to enable us, and those who join us, to comfort, and encourage and minister to one another and grow spiritually, using classes like Alpha, the Stephen Ministry, and others;
5. A Bethel Learning Center where those at risk in

- our community can receive tools for a better life;
6. A deeper commitment to and focus on mission and ecumenical partnership.

Some are asking: “Since we are in our new building...why aren’t we doing any of the things that we felt God was guiding us to do when we decided to expand?” I would like to respond to that question...and challenge each one of you, as well!

In the midst the huge building phase at Bethel Church - dozens of people spent untold hours dreaming, planning, directing, implementing and physically working on the building phase of Bethel’s expansion. At the end of fourteen months of construction...no one imagined Bethel Church would be transformed into such a beautiful, welcoming, friendly, and handicap accessible facility! Quite honestly, each day I walk into Bethel...I pinch myself - hardly able to believe this is the same church! But when I walk into the restored sanctuary... it feels like home!

Getting back to the 2010 Initiatives: From my perspective: During the building phase – many of the 2010 Initiatives began to unfold. But, first-I want to go back several years.

Initiative #4 brought the Alpha Program to Bethel Church. It was funded by a grant we received from Presbytery. The program was targeted to “the unchurched” or those who were “seekers”. The program was great...we had a weekly dinner, study and small group time. The premise of the Alpha Ministry (and its success...) all depends on people inviting people to attend. That was the failure of Alpha at Bethel...the meals were all great – studies planned...but only a handful of people attended because only a handful of people invited anyone! Because of that simple fact – the Alpha Program at Bethel died...and was considered “not successful”.

Almost in parallel with our building phase another #4 Initiative began...Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry began as a joint ecumenical effort with Bethel and KUMC. I taught the 50 hours of training along with

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(A Note From Pat continued...)

Rev. Sue Lynn Johnson and Holley Lopater from KUMC. Only one person from Bethel completed the training – but ten from KUMC were successfully trained. For your information...we are starting another class at the end of August and would welcome your participation in this healing ministry!!! Again – programs are offered...and it takes people to commit to make them successful!

Initiative 6: Our ecumenical “union” with the Kingston United Methodist Church was probably the most vivid ecumenical merger ever seen in Kingston... or Roane County! People (churched and un-churched) were amazed that two churches - in two different denominations - could not only get along...but share in worship, ministry and fellowship! And at the end of that time together – we wondered why did it have to end? And because of that - Initiative # 2 is being addressed! Youth of Bethel Presbyterian Church and KUMC decided to remain as “one”. Youth Sunday School meets jointly at Bethel – with Youth Group at KUMC. We have shared the leadership of our combined youth groups and are in negotiations to share a part-time Youth Director Position! In addition: we are discussing combining our Children’s Sunday School to compliment our Joint Children’s Choirs and Bell Choir!

To address Initiative 5: The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church has unanimously voted (in our June 2009 Session meeting) to support the grant submitted by the Mid East Community Action Agency and yoke with them to support pregnant and parenting teens in Loudon and Roane Counties. Because Loudon County has the third highest teenage pregnancy rate, and Roane County is not far behind, this expansion of programs to teenagers is a critical need in our community. There are currently 49 pregnant teenagers in Roane County with at least 30% more teen’s pregnant and/or parenting teens not enrolled in school. The need to help is critical!

The proposed program will operate a service which will counsel pregnant teens, provide home visits, while working with the entire family around child development needs. We have been asked to provide office space and join them in ministering to these young people and their children! We find this to be a worthy

endeavor and a critical link is making our community a better place to live and raise a family. A home-base development program for these young people will make all the difference in their success as parents, not to mention the happiness of their children! We live in a community that does not always support pregnant teenagers. Bethel Presbyterian Church is committed to assist the Mid-East Community Action Agency because we believe these young people and their children deserve to have a place to live where they can not only birth their children, but raise them with dignity. We believe this is critical if these young people will have the opportunity to be successful! What better way to show the love of Christ than to come-along-side young people struggling with unplanned pregnancies! The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church has unanimously adopted a commitment to walk alongside Mid–East Head Start’s Expansion Program. In addition to provide office space, and we hope to offer a caring place for staff and clients to receive encouragement, support, caring relationships, and if needed and requested pastoral care. We are delighted to be a part of this effort since we are within walking distance of Roane County High School.

We are also yoking with Michael Dunn Center to assist in their Adult Day Care Program. It is interesting to note that after all these years, when the ministry of Michael Dunn Center was “birthed” in the basement of Bethel Presbyterian Church)...they are coming home!

You know...it is still only four (4) months into re-entering our new space...and amazing things are happening! The activities I have lifted up to you are not inclusive of all that is going on – but I hope you are blessed to hear what is going on...and the dreams that are being met or still being dreamed! Keep on dreaming Bethel Folks...and as you dream...remember God needs you to get on board and support what God is doing in this place we call Bethel! Blessings!

Love in Christ’s Service, Pat Harvey-Parish Associate



The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church has affirmed the creation of a beautiful labyrinth to be designed and constructed by Stuart and Mary Bartholomaus, master Labyrinth designers. Their design and assistance is a gift of love to Bethel! The Labyrinth will be constructed by adults and youth from Bethel and KUMC between Bethel Presbyterian Church and the shore of Watts Bar Lake. The labyrinth will be created out of the foundation bricks of Bethel Presbyterian Church and crushed Tennessee limestone. The bricks were salvaged from the second relocation of the historic Bethel Presbyterian Church sanctuary which took place in 2009. Bricks from Kingston United Methodist Church will also be used representing the renewed ecumenical union of our two congregations. The city of Kingston is doing a great deal of the work with sidewalks, curbing and fill dirt. We pray our Labyrinth will be an outreach to people walking the trail around the lake...and to the entire community of Kingston! Special thanks to Cathy McDowell for her work on this project!

What Is A Labyrinth?

A labyrinth is an aid on a spiritual journey. It is used for comfort, prayer, meditation and reflection. Meditation is an art in which one quiets the mind, lives in the present, and is attentive to listening to one's soul. As humans, we experience a dilemma about living in the present as we seem to focus on the past and look toward the future. We lose sight of the present. A labyrinth can help us with meditation in order to fully live in the moment.

Some people confuse a labyrinth with a maze which is meant to confuse as it is a puzzle with deceptive turns and dead ends. However, a labyrinth has one path leading to the center and back out. Its aim is not to confuse but to comfort, encourage, and enlighten.

A Personal Walk

Each individual's walk is a personal experience. The reasons one walks can be to clear the mind, to reflect, or to enter with a question or a problem for which you seek a solution. As you walk following along the path, you do not need to think about where you are going. You are going to the center.

This can leave your mind open to quietly think. As you enter the labyrinth, you begin to meander and walk back and forth turning 180 degrees. Some say this shifts awareness from right to left brain and then one enters a more receptive attitude. When one reaches the center, one can reflect or pray. As you walk out, you integrate what you have received in the center. Your walk may be just a pleasant walk or it could have a profound impact.

How to Use a Labyrinth

There are three parts to the labyrinth. The first is called Releasing. It is where you initiate your walk. At this point you can think of your problem or concern. It is also referred to as Surrender as it is here that you give yourself, your "ego" up and surrender to God. You let go of the details of your life by eliminating distractions.

The second part is Illumination or Receiving. It is at the center where you can open your heart and soul and listen through prayer and meditation. You receive what is there--an answer or a thought to ponder.

The third is the Union or Returning. This is the point where one has connected with God and returns to the world refreshed. You become empowered!

History of the Labyrinth

References to labyrinths can be found in Mayan, Celtic, Greek and American cultures. The Hopi called the labyrinth a symbol for "mother earth" and used it

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(Labyrinth continued)

as a medicine wheel. Through images on pottery and baskets and symbols carved in rock or tiles, labyrinths can be traced back over 4000 years ago to the areas of Peru, Arizona, India, Iceland, Egypt, and Sumatra. The popular designs for a labyrinth focus on the number of circuits which is the number of times the path winds around the center. Either a seven circuit or an eleven circuit labyrinth is common. Chartres Cathedral at Chartres, France, was built over 2000 years ago. During the Middle Ages, many pilgrims walked this path. Its name lends itself to one type of labyrinth which has the eleven circuits. That is the type of Labyrinth we will be constructing at Bethel Church. The circle design gives a sense of timelessness although one can find some linear designs.

Labyrinths are made out of various materials and can be rather large such as forty feet in diameter or quite small. They may be made out of sand, painted on canvas, fashioned with string or arranged with stones cut into the earth. One can walk a labyrinth or even use a finger to trace a path such as in sand or on a painted canvas. There are websites with a screen size labyrinth that one can trace as one reflects. We will be constructing our labyrinth out of the old foundation bricks from Bethel's foundation. The inside the walkways will be crushed Tennessee stone.

Labyrinths are sacred places with a powerful design in which one makes a spiritual journey. It can be a potent means for prayer and reflection. An individual with a problem can walk seeking a solution. One can walk reflecting and achieving a deeper sense of prayer. A person with hypertension can walk to reduce stress. A cancer patient can walk for strength prior to taking chemotherapy. Families can walk it during their loved one's surgery. All can walk to become more attuned to our spirituality. It is a path for prayer. It is about being in the present. It is integrating our spirit, our mind, and our body in God. We pray our Labyrinth will be a blessing!



In Memory of Henry Tulley

Bill and Sibyl Nestor,

Dwight and Laurie Ann Severs

Larry and Brenda Strickling

Richard and Megan Broome

Mike and Jeanette McElhinney

Tom and Jane Pickel

Ruby Luckey Fielden

Ruth Ann Ludweg

Ken and Maggie Dungan

Florence S. Dockweiler

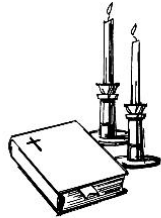
Roane County Rural Mixers FCE Club

Imogene Owens

Mrs. T. E. Willmarth

In Memory of Tom Roostee

Ken and Maggie Dungan



Joint Worship Bethel & KUMC

FIFTH SUNDAY JOINT WORSHIP

Bethel and KUMC Joint Worship Services

Sunday August 30th

8:30 AM Joint Healing & Wholeness at KUMC

10:30 Joint Traditional Worship at KUMC

(There will be no worship services at Bethel on August 30th)

Regularly Scheduled Bethel Sunday School at 9:45 for all ages)



James 5:15-16 says “The prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.”

On August 30th at 8:30 A.M. there will be a Healing and Wholeness Service with Reverend Don Morris and me at the Kingston United Methodist Church. If you have never been to one of these services, I want to explain what they are (or are not) all about. First of all, these services are open to all people. Jesus welcomed people of all creeds, races, income levels, etc. and so do we. The vital element in this service is prayer to God for healing, whether that healing is of the body, spirit or mind. Reverend Morris and I will provide a time when you may come forward to be anointed with Balm of Gilead (or Olive Oil). This is combined with a time of lying on of hands and praying if you so desire. I would like to add at this time that this **is not like** what is shown on televangelist’s programs. This is done quietly and reverently for “healing is by the Spirit”

I Corinthians 12:9.



Andrew Peterson Returning in Concert

Lake Hills Presbyterian Church

3805 Maloney Road

Knoxville, Tennessee

Friday August 28 – 7:00 PM

\$10.00 – Call 865 577- 8510

PARISH LIFE NEWS

Bill and Marianne Shadden will host our

August Fun Lunch at Noon August 11th

Invite a Friend!



Save the date of September 27th

For our annual

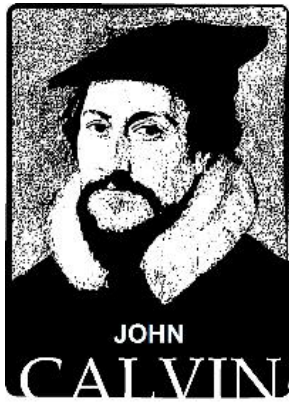
Church Picnic. 3:00 PM at the Hettrick’s home.



Can You Help with Fall Sunday School?

Call Jan Rybka at 882-8836

John Calvin Remembered



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Smokie's Baseball Game – Aug. 2
Price: \$11 field level + money for food
Smokie's Stadium, Kodak, Tn
SONIC Flood will perform live after
the game.
Contact: Regina to reserve your spot

SAVE THESE DATES

August 14 & 15 Youth Lock-In

August 16th Sunday Night Youth Group

August 19th Fall Youth Bible Study begins

Youth Sunday School in August

Sunday's ~ 9:30 at Bethel

THANKS!

Thanks to Jared McGill (and Greg Murr) for setting up a Church Information Booth during the Kingston 4th of July Celebration. Jared and Diego Vanegas are Covenant Partners this year and this was one of Jared's projects.

ATTENTION: DO YOU LOVE YOUTH?

BETHEL AND KUMC ARE CONSIDERING HIRING A SHARED PART-TIME (10 HOURS PER WEEK) YOUTH DIRECTOR. JOB DISCUSSION IN CHURCH OFFICE OR ON OUR WEB-SITE. *Questions?*

Contact Regina Little at KUMC at 376-6337.

(TEMPORARY EDITORS NOTE) OUR "REAL" EDITOR- KAREN SCHALL- IS ON VACATION THIS MONTH. WE NEED TO APPRECIATE ALL HER HARD WORK! THANKS KAREN!

Recently, Reformed churches throughout the world celebrated the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth. He was born in France on July 10, 1509. Calvin was a powerful communicator, both in his preaching and his writings. He articulated his understanding of Christianity in four books called the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, published when Calvin was only 26. His theology is still read and studied among many churches and denominations today.

Calvin's statements are still relevant: "We are God's: let us therefore live for him and die for him. We are God's: let his wisdom and will therefore rule all our actions. We are God's: let all the parts of our life accordingly strive toward him as our only lawful goal."

Calvin exerted great ecclesiastical, political and social influence on the city of Geneva, Switzerland. He preached there in St. Peter's Cathedral from 1536 to 1564, when he died at age 54.



Stop by the Nursery and

Thank Linda Girth for loving our babies over the years!



AUGUST MISSION

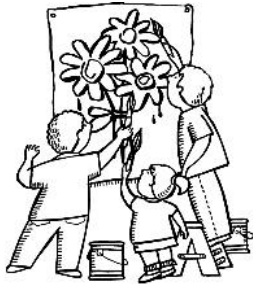
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

8/2	1 st Sunday canned good collection for Hands of Mercy	Teresa Hettrick
8/13	MO Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	Joe Coen
8/14	Angel Food August orders due to United Way	Jane Walsh
8/19(?)	Cents-Ability offering Fellowship Supper	Joe Coen
8/22	Angel Food distribution for July Luminary UMC / Roane County United Way	Jane Walsh
8/23	Minute For Mission – Bethel Prison Ministry Sunday Worship	Karen Schall
8/30	5 th Sunday Worship Morgan County Regional Correctional Facility	Karen Schall

MISSION FOCUS FOR AUGUST – BETHEL PRISON MINISTRY

Notes:

1. Bethel recently received thank you notes from the Kingston Foursquare Gospel Church and CASA de SARA for our recent support of their efforts.
2. Watch for announcements soon of fundraising efforts for our Christmas Basket program. Our funds for this effort are at unusually low levels going into this year.



THANK YOU TO OUR
LANDSCAPE AND
MEMORIAL GARDEN MEMBERS!

Committee are doing a wonderful job
creating beautiful spaces around Bethel
Church! You all are a blessing!

The Bethel Church Landscape
Committee and Memorial Garden