

Bethels Kirche

A Monthly Newsletter of
Bethel United Church of Christ

December 2014



PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite Christian authors is Anne Lamott. She is famous for telling humorous personal stories – oftentimes irreverent, but always poignant – which lead us to a deeper awareness of our relationship with God. This particular piece serves us well as we enter the season of Advent, preparing our hearts for the celebration of Christmas.

“I have a friend named Anne, this woman I've known my entire life, who took her two-year-old up to Tahoe during the summer. They were staying in a rented condominium by the lake. And of course, it's such a hotbed of gambling that all the rooms are equipped with these curtains and shades that block out every speck of light so you can stay up all night in the casinos and then sleep all morning. One afternoon she put the baby to bed in his playpen in one of these rooms, in the pitch-dark, and went to do some work. A few minutes later, she heard her baby knocking on the door from inside the room, and she got up, knowing he'd crawled out of his playpen. She went to put him down again, but when she got to the door, she found he'd locked it. He had somehow managed to push in the little button on the doorknob. So he was calling to her, "Mommy, Mommy," and she was saying to him, "Jiggle the doorknob, darling," and of course he didn't speak much English—mostly he seemed to speak Urdu. After a moment, it became clear to him that his mouther couldn't open the door, and the panic set in. He began sobbing. So my friend ran around like crazy trying everything possible, like trying to get the front door key to work, calling the rental agency where she left a message on the machine, calling the manager of the condominium where she left another message, and running back to check in with her son every minute or so. And there he was in the dark, this terrified little child. Finally she did the only thing she could, which was to slide her fingers underneath the door, where there was a one-inch space. She kept telling him over and over to bend down and find her fingers. Finally somehow he did. So they stayed like that for a really long time, on the floor, him holding onto her fingers in the dark. He stopped crying. She kept wanting to go call the fire department or something, but she felt that contact was the most important thing.”¹

What a wonderful image for Christmas. God reaching down, sliding divine fingers under the door of our separation, reassuring us of God's presence in a very real and profound way. Mary and Joseph named him Jesus; we call him Immanuel – God with us. After all, when it comes to matters of faith, isn't contact the most important thing? Wishing you all a meaningful Advent and a blessed Christmas!

Faithfully,



Pastor Bucholtz

¹ Lamott, Anne, *Operating Instructions: A journal of my son's first year*, Anchor Books, 2005, pp. 219-221

Come celebrate the joy of Christmas
At Bethel Church
December 24
Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Please invite a friend!

175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS AT BETHEL CHURCH

1840 – 2015

Honoring our Past – Embracing the Future

Beginning the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014, the Anniversary committee will begin selling spectacular, commemorative Christmas ornaments to grace your tree this year and for years to come. Your choice red, green, or blue – each beautifully inscribed. Wonderful keepsakes for your family and beautiful gifts for you to share. Cost: only \$8 for one or three for \$20. The commemorative ornaments will be on display for purchase following worship each Sunday until Christmas.

SAVE THESE SPECIAL CELEBRATION DATES

January 11, 2015 Our official kick off for our 175th year celebration. Church historian, Barbara Brown Zikmund, will join us to provide a wonderful portrayal of Bethel Church – from yesteryear till today.

April 12, 2015 A church-wide celebration of Confirmation, and that means anyone and everyone who has ever been confirmed at Bethel Church.

July 26, 2015 A very special celebration of everyone who has ever been married at Bethel church. Many great surprises and memories will be shared at our exceptional coffee hour.

November 8 This banquet dinner will bring together many of the most inspiring and significant memories and hopes for Bethel Church who continues to serve Christ in our place and time.

The Anniversary Committee has lots of meaningful and fun plans for the Bethel family and friends to lift up their memorable times, as well as visions for our future together with Christ.

BETHEL CHURCH STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

... To fill out your pledge card and return your Time and Talent Sheet for the 2015 year. We want and need you to be an active member of the church family and one very important way for every member to participate is to complete the Time and Talent sheet which was included in the 2015 Stewardship Campaign. If you need a replacement, they will be available in the back of the church or call/email Julie at [517-423-7588](tel:517-423-7588)/robjj525@aol.com.

The Time and Talent (T&T) sheets directly affect every person who enters the church for a Sunday morning service, a wedding or funeral, as well as affecting people 20 miles away to thousands of miles across the country. The greeters who welcome everyone, sign up on the T&T sheet. The ushers who guide you to your seat and take the offering, sign up on the T&T sheet. The choir members and soloists bringing praises through voice and instrument, sign up on the T&T sheet. The Sunday School leaders, teachers and helpers, sign up on the T&T sheet. The volunteers building bunk beds in South Dakota, sign up on the T&T sheet. The many volunteers who give hours and donations to purchasing and producing delicious meals for Vespers, Alpha House, our Seniors at the Saline Home, the Ice Cream Social, the Sauerkraut Supper, the Chili Cook Off, Funeral luncheons, sign up on the T&T sheet. The list can go on and on as to the hundreds of ways YOU support YOUR church.

So please find your stewardship campaign packet, fill out your Time and Talent sheet, and bring it to church on Sunday or mail it in as soon as possible. We are all counting on each other! Thank you!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

WHEN: 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2014

WHERE: Begin at Bethel Church and travel around the area.

WHO: Bethel members, young and old; coordinated by our choirs!

WHY: Bring the music of the season to some really special people

WHAT ELSE: No meal is planned following this event to allow children and youth to get home at a decent hour on a school night.

WE hope we can plan on your participation.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND 2014

Bethel will receive this special mission offering on Sunday, December 21st. Envelopes will be in the pews or you may mail your offering to the church with “Christmas Fund” in the memo of the check. Thank you!

HOW THE FUNDS ARE USED: The generous gifts of UCC congregations and individuals to the Christmas Fund enabled the Pension Boards’ Ministerial Assistance program to provide some form of assistance to impact the lives of approximately 900 persons during the past year.

- CHRISTMAS THANK YOU CHECKS given to 500 retired UCC Clergy/lay church employees. This special gift at Christmas time reminds these Veterans of the Cross that they have not been forgotten and that the Church is grateful for their service. **Given to 543 persons in December 2013, totaling \$217,200.**
- MONTHLY PENSION SUPPLEMENTATION for 395 lower-income retired UCC clergy/lay employees. Our retired clergy/lay employees relied on this income supplementation for basic needs such as food, utilities, living and/or medical expenses. Since needs exceed the amount received through the Christmas Fund Offering, assistance was also supported by Our Church’s Wider Mission and legacy gifts to Ministerial Assistance. **Given to 408 persons in 2013, totaling \$1,353,654.57 throughout the year.**
- QUARTERLY HEALTH PREMIUM SUPPLEMENTATION for 228 lower-income retired UCC clergy/lay employees. These funds subsidized premiums for the UCC Medicare Supplement Health Plan with Rx so that individuals could afford and receive quality health care. **Given to 239 persons each quarter, totaling \$529,435.74 in 2013.**
- EMERGENCY GRANTS for 45 active or retired UCC clergy/lay employees. Sometimes those who serve the Church need our help, and emergency funds are available to assist in covering costs that arise unexpectedly – for example, large medical expenses, or home damage resulting from natural disasters. **Given to 54 individuals and families, totaling \$58,406 in 2013.**

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Members of our committee of five (Susan Layher, Millie Guenther, Carol Colby and Mary Sue Moore and Church Board Rep., Karen Weidmayer) invite you to join them if you would like to help maintain the record of Bethel’s rich history and heritage. They will be assisting the 175th Anniversary Committee as it prepares for the celebration next year. Please contact either Susan at 428-9128 or Mary Sue at 428-8687 if you would like to serve on this committee. **Next meeting:** 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2015

HEARTS ‘n HANDS

The Christmas season is joyous, but it also can be lonely. Bethel’s Hearts ‘n Hands group is available to visit shut-ins, mail greeting cards, and make telephone calls. If you or your loved one could use some extra support over the holidays, please contact Nancy Loudin (paradiseon@aol.com).

SING THE PRAISES OF MANCHESTER'S VOLUNTEERS: 27TH ANNUAL CRC RECOGNITION BANQUET, NOVEMBER 14, 2014

For the past 26 years the Volunteer Recognition Banquet of the Manchester Community Resource Center has provided the forum for area organizations to put a spot light on those who go the extra mile to make your organization and, in turn, the community a successful and wonderful place to live. This year, two Bethel members were recognized. Vicki Miller received the Community Service Award, and Jeff Mann won the Claire Reck award. Congratulations to you both!

SUSAN'S HOUSE STORY

Three weeks ago, while Bethel members were cleaning and painting our new home, I was asked how we found the house. After telling my story, I was asked to share it:

Patience is not my strong point. For over a year, Roger and I searched for a house. It seemed as if each house we found had major issues or was sold before we could even get a chance to look. My prayers were filled with, "God please help us find a house." I told myself I had put everything in God's hands. But, I really hadn't. I began to get discouraged and for several months stopped looking. One evening a thought came into my mind and encouraged me to type the word **Faust** into the search bar. Up came a realtor in Adrian, the house of the day was a small ranch with 6 acres.

I called our realtor to request a showing. When she called me back she couldn't find the house on any listing anywhere! I knew I hadn't dreamed this house up and asked her to try and call Faust realty. Finally, we had a date set to see the house, and at first sight we knew the house was what we wanted. So the process of making an offer began. It wasn't going well at all. The seller didn't really want to sell her home and wasn't in a hurry to accept or consider a counter offer.

During this waiting period we lost a relative. Uncle Andy (Andrew Luckhardt) passed away. While sitting in the sanctuary listening to Pastor Dave tell of Uncle Andy's life, I heard a voice say, "Be still and know that I am God." I began to look around to see who was talking. Then, the voice said again, "I mean it, Be Still." At the time, I wasn't even thinking about a house! Shortly after the service ended, I received a phone call from our realtor that the seller had finally issued a counter offer. I immediately felt a peace that everything would work out. And it did. The seller even moved out 10 days early!

All I had to do was "Be Still" as God always answers our prayers. Sometimes God says, "Yes" and sometimes he says, "No." And in my case he said, "Have patience. When I have the right home for you, it will happen. All you need to do is Be Still."

So I share this story not only as a testament to my faith. But as a thank you to everyone who came to the house to paint, clean and take care of many other tasks. I am so proud to be a part of the Bethel family. May God bless each of you with the many blessings that he has bestowed on Roger and me.

Susan Luckhardt

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

November 15, 2014 a memorial service was held for Barbara Damron at Bethel Church. Please keep Barbara's friends and family in your prayers.

WOMEN OF BETHEL

Advent by Candlelight is Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30. Bonnie Mitchell and her committee always have a wonderful evening planned. Plan to attend this great beginning of Advent or host a table.

Wednesday, December 10 at noon is the Annual Christmas Potluck. This is open to **all** members. Women of Bethel are reminded to bring 3 dozen cookies to help fill Christmas tins for the shut-ins. Coordinators are Elaine Creech, Jean Holder and Kay Martin.

Nancy Loudin is the kitchen steward for December.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Advent By Candlelight
Tuesday, December 2, 2014
6:30pm
Reineck Fellowship Hall
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ladies of Bethel, Advent is just around the corner! You will want to **START** the Advent Season meeting and mingling by candlelight, indulging in tasty food creations, and sharing delightful Christmas centerpieces, stories and music. Bethel members bring hors d'oeuvres, salads and/or desserts to share.

- ★ ALL Bethel women (Confirmants and older) are invited. SIGN-UP sheets to attend will be on the bulletin board outside the church office during the first three weeks in November.
- ★ SIGN-UP for Table Hostess will take place during the first three weeks in November (also on the bulletin board outside the church office).
- ★ Because all Bethel women should have the opportunity to attend this distinctive celebration of Advent, we may limit outside guests at each table, but only if necessary.

If you have any questions concerning the evening, if you want to sign up by phone, or if you would like to help with the planning of this special event, Bonnie Mitchell, 665-3068. It is an extraordinary way for women to begin the Advent Season!

VESPERS

Calling all of Santa's elves to help collect goodies for Christmas stockings for our Vespers Dinner Guests.

Needs: Warm socks-men sizes, travel size toiletries, combs, chapstick, hand warmers, granola bars, apples, oranges, candy, etc. Any small items that would be useful to the homeless are welcome. Please do not provide mouthwash, aspirin, Tylenol, etc.



On Sunday, December 21 following Worship we will meet in the fellowship hall to fill the stockings for delivery on Tuesday December 23. Questions? Call or email Susan Luckhardt.

Our next Vesper meal for the homeless population of Washtenaw County is Tuesday, December 23, 5:00 p.m., at First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor. If you can donate or help, please contact Susan Luckhardt at sluckhardt@att.net or 734-323-0001.

Newsletter articles are due on the 15th of each month.

Bulletin information is due on Wednesday of each week.

MISSION TEAM

DEUTSCHE KEKSE ZUM VERKAUF! / GERMAN COOKIES FOR SALE!

Leider werden wir keine Creche Ausstellung dieses Jahr haben. ABER! Wir werden Deutsche Kekse zum verkauf haben. Wohlschmeckend!

Unfortunately we won't be having our Creche Open House this year. BUT! We will have German Cookies for sale. Yummy!

Place your orders for Lebkuchen, Cinnamon Stars, Shortbread, Sugar Cookies and more. We will be baking on November 29th and December 6th to fill your orders. Please see the order form included in the December Newsletter or pick up one in the back of the church. Turn it in before December 5th to ensure your order is ready on Sunday, December 7th. If you have questions please see Susan Luckhardt or Cathy Moore.



Bethel UCC
10425 Bethel Church Road
Manchester
(734) 429-8530

GERMAN COOKIE ORDER FORM

Customer Name: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

- _____ dozen Lebkuchen \$7.00 a dozen
- _____ dozen Cinnamon Stars \$7.00 a dozen
- _____ dozen Almond Bars \$5.00 a dozen
- _____ dozen Christmas Oatmeal \$5.00 a dozen
- _____ dozen Nut Shortbread \$5.00 a dozen
- _____ dozen Spritz \$3.00 a dozen
- _____ dozen Zucker (Sugar) \$5.00 a dozen
- _____ dozen Gingerbread \$5.00 a dozen

Total cost of order _____ (Make checks payable to Bethel Church)

Orders received by **Friday, December 5th**, may be picked up at church on Sunday, December 7th

Call Susan at (734) 323-0001 or Cathy at (734) 649-7431 or email your order to catherinemore@att.net

Thank you!

**CHILI COOKOFF
SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015**

ALPHA HOUSE

Bethel supports the Alpha House family shelter in Ann Arbor. Several Saturday evenings during the year we are privileged to cook and serve dinner and enjoy activity time with the resident children. The last date for 2014 is: **December 20**. If you'd like to be part of this wonderful local mission, please contact Tammy Wakevainen (tammywake@gmail.com).

MATERIAL AIDS

Remember to continue to save: Campbell soup labels, Box Top labels, pop can tabs, no longer needed eyeglasses, lenses, hearing aids, cell phones, and cancelled postage stamps (leave at least a ¼ inch around the stamp PLEASE). We also are collecting the fronts of greeting cards to send to St. Judes for their recycled card program.

Also bring your paper and plastic grocery bags to church and leave them at the back of the church or near the coat rack by the Fellowship Hall. These are used every month for the Manchester Family Service food distribution day. **Please specifically ask for paper bags when you go grocery shopping.** Family Service uses at least 270 paper bags each month. If we provide them with paper bags then they don't need to purchase them each month. **Thank you!**

And if you have medical equipment that you no longer need to use check with Cathy Moore. The World Medical Relief organization may be able to use it.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING

The Board of Christian Education will meet on **Monday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m.** The members include Susie Amrhein, Jeff Elliott, Rachel Heuser, Darryl Kuebler, Patty Lambarth, Linda Perkins, and Jennifer Tasker.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our annual Sunday School Christmas pageant will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 14. This year's program, OUR FAMILY'S MEMORY OF CHRISTMAS, will take an intergenerational look Christmas. Please join us to hear how Bethel's seniors remember Christmas' past, and to watch as Bethel's children create memories of Christmas' present.

YOUTH LOCK-IN DATE SET

All youth, grades 5 and up, are invited to join us on Sunday, **December 28th**, beginning at 7:00 p.m. for our annual Youth Lock-In. Youth in 5th and 6th grades are invited to stay until 11:00 p.m. The lock-in will conclude at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, December 29th for those who stay all night. Friends are welcome and parent volunteers are needed. Permission slips and additional information will be emailed to all youth and will also be available at the back of the church. All youth and friends **must be signed up by Friday, December 26th**. If you have additional questions, please contact Julie Roberts, 517-423-7588 or robjj525@aol.com.

SMALL GROUP

If you are interested in leading or attending a Small Group Bible Study please contact Judy Jahnke at fjahnke123@aol.com and 734-213-8459 or Pastor Dave at bucholtz@umich.edu and 734-323-4129.

QUILTERS AND FRIENDS

Quilters Day Camp! Friday, January 9, 1:30-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. in the Bethel Fellowship Hall. All the fun, fellowship and quilting as our overnight retreats! Cost: \$50
See Susan Luckhardt for more information.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE & MUSIC FESTIVAL

On November 23, the Bethel Senior Choir and Bethel Chamber Orchestra joined with musicians from seven other area churches in an ecumenical service of worship hosted by Zion Lutheran Church, Chelsea. Each group shared a musical selection. In addition, a combined choir of over 60 voices sang a lively anthem entitled *Holy Manna*. It was a most enjoyable time of music and fellowship.

EVANGELISM

The **Ushers, Greeters, Lay Readers and Acolytes** lists for December are included in this newsletter. Please mark your calendars where dates apply to you. Your help with these services is appreciated and is a vital part of keeping the life of Bethel Church running smoothly.

As with any other obligation, you are expected to be there. If you are unable to perform the service at your scheduled time, please arrange for a substitute, and inform the church office at 429-8530 or Joe Moore (Ushers and Greeters) at 428-8687, Renee St. Charles (Lay Readers) at 429-8530, Kristi Campbell (Child Care) at 330-0029 and Bonnie Mitchell (Acolytes) at 665-3068 before the Wednesday of your scheduled Sunday. They can help you find substitutes if you are unable to do so.

Usher & Greeter lists are gleaned from the Time and Talent Sheets that are the result of the Stewardship program that was held in November. If you haven't turned in your Time and Talent Sheet, it is not too late. Knowing that you are willing to **usher, greet** or serve as a **lay reader** or in **child care** is helpful when those lists are prepared and saves many a phone call.

ELVIRA M. VOGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Higher Education Scholarships are awarded on a yearly basis. The deadline for applying is May 15, 2015. For more information, contact Mary Sue Moore.

Other Scholarship Fund Activities: Other types of educational grants and scholarships are considered as funds become available. In the past, these have included assistance for church camp fees, high school trips abroad for cultural awareness, youth leadership conferences, classroom supplies, Bethel mission trip expenses, workshops relating to a person's area of expertise, retreats, etc. These applications can be submitted at any time of year. Any person who wishes to request assistance should do so in writing to a member of the committee, the members of which are: Darlene Kuebler, Joann Finkbeiner, Sula Horodeczny, Judy Mann, Cathy Moore, Mary Sue Moore, and Lou & Elvira Vogel's daughters, Virginia, Valorie and Sue Ellyn.

Scholarships are funded by the Annual Sauerkraut Supper. Next year's date is Friday, October 23, 2015.

♪ TAKE NOTE ♪

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS and CAROLS **Morning Worship on December 21, 2014**

This year marks the 14th year Bethel's musicians have presented the Festival. The first one took place in 1999. In 2000, we tried to present the festival, but Mother Nature took charge, resulting in having to cancel two rehearsals, so we did not hold it.

In 2002, it was not planned as the Sunday School's Christmas Program took its place in the Sunday morning worship.

Taking part this year are soloists, pianists, the Bethel Chamber Orchestra, Youth Choir Plus, Senior Choir and Handbell Choir. Members of the congregation will serve as readers for the scriptures that tell the story of the loving purposes of God, from the Creation to the Incarnation.

DECEMBER'S SPECIAL MUSIC plans are as follows:

- 7th SENIOR CHOIR *People, Look East* Text: Eleanor Farjeon
Tune: Traditional French Carol/arr. by John Leavitt
- 14th CHILDREN'S CHOIR *A Home for Jesus* by Ruth Elaine Schram
- 14th BETHEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA with vocalist Kolleen Kuebler,
El Shaddai by Michael Card/arr. by J. Bucholtz & M. Momohara
- 21st BETHEL'S MUSICIANS *Festival of Lessons and Carols*
- 24th Christmas Eve, 5:00 p.m. CHILDREN'S CHOIR & YOUTH CHOIR PLUS
A Christmas Gloria by Timothy Shaw
HANDBELL CHOIR - TBA
- 24th Christmas Eve, 7:30 p.m. SENIOR CHOIR
Peace, Peace by R. & S. Powell, Arranged by Fred Bock
- 28th WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE – *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*
Traditional West Indian carol/arr. by Hal Hopson

Rehearsals in December are listed below:

DECEMBER 1 and 8

- HANDBELL CHOIR 6:30 p.m.
- CHILDREN'S CHOIR 6:30 p.m.
- SENIOR CHOIR 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 7 at 12:15 p.m. YOUTH CHOIR PLUS

DECEMBER 15

- CHILDREN'S CHOIR **NO REHEARSAL**
- REHEARSAL for Festival of Lessons and Carols at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 8:15 a.m.

- FINAL REHEARSAL for Festival of Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 22 - CHOIR'S POTLUCK AND REHEARSALS

- 5:45 p.m. YOUTH CHOIR PLUS & CHILDREN'S CHOIR combined rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. ALL CHOIRS & ENSEMBLES POTLUCK
- 7:30 p.m. HANDBELL CHOIR & SENIOR CHOIR

BETHEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: Watch for announcements

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

Mary Girbach
158 Circle Ct.
Saline MI 48176

Genevieve Haft
2835 S. Wagner Rd. #169
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Diane Ratkovich
7531 Weber Rd.
Saline, MI 48176

Diana Haft
5600 Prairie Rd.
Saline, MI 48176

Paul and Jennifer Heimerdinger
5490 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

Tyler Buter
146 Connors Rd.
Middletown, NY 10941

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours for Pastor Bucholtz:

Tuesday 1:00p-4:00p

Friday 9:00a-12:00p

Other times by appointment: (734) 323-4129

Office hours for Renee:

Tuesday-Friday 1:30p-4:30p

Please call ahead (734-429-8530) before coming to the church to make sure Renee is in the office and expecting you. Office hours are subject to change. If you need pastoral assistance during non-office hours, please call Pastor Bucholtz. (734-323-4129)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Thank you to those who provided the beautiful altar flowers for October.

October 12 *Altar:* Rudy and Susan Layher in honor of their 32nd wedding anniversary
Piano: Toby and Renee St. Charles in honor of their 18th wedding anniversary
October 19 In honor of Jack Roland Austin's 5th birthday from Mommy, Daddy and
Grandma Guenther.



Available dates to provide altar flowers: **December 28**

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS

December 7 Esther 4:1-17
December 14 Isaiah 42:1-9
December 21 Matthew 1:18-25
December 24 Luke 2:1-14
December 28 Matthew 2:1-12

REMINDER ABOUT RECYCLING BULLETINS

Think green! Remember to leave your bulletins on the back pews of the sanctuary or annex for recycling.



Scouting for Food
Manchester Pack 421
Please donate and support
Manchester Family Services
this holiday season
(cleaning supplies, detergents and non-perishable goods welcomed)

Saturday December 13, 2014 10am-2pm
Sunday December 14, 2014 noon-4pm

Collections at Manchester Market

The poster features a winter-themed background with snow-covered evergreen trees under a starry night sky. On the left, there is an illustration of two cans of tomatoes. On the right, there is a diamond-shaped logo for Cub Scouts featuring a wolf's head and the text 'CUB SCOUTS' with a fleur-de-lis below it.

MANCHESTER FAMILY SERVICE CHRISTMAS SHOP - Manchester Family Service is holding its annual Christmas Shop on December 20. At this time of year, we ask individuals and organizations in the community to “adopt” clients and purchase Christmas gifts for them. If you are interested in assisting this way, please contact Mary Sue Moore, 428-8687 or email msjoe56@aol.com. There are single individuals up to families of 5 persons who we would like to place in the adopting program.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st	Jennifer Sawyer	17th	Jacqueline Lanz	28th	Ben Baker
3rd	Marleen Glasser	18th	Lois Hieber		Phillip Walker
	Emily Uphaus		Melissa Vitale	29th	Cathy Koefoed-Smith
5th	Bruce Greene	20th	Sula Horodeczny		Regina Kruger
	Rusty Wilson		Kyle Kreitzer	30th	Hans Brus
6th	Brennan Carson	21st	Travis Hieber		Jennifer Bucholtz
	Jackson O'Rourke	22nd	Ron Diuble	31st	Katie Farr
8th	Beatrice Haeussler		Sheryl Feldkamp		
	Drew Sheets		Katie Wakevainen		
9th	Wilma Greene	23rd	Tim Van Schoick		
	Lori Tursak	25th	Tammy Elliott		
13th	Mary Beth Baker		Ted Guenther		
	Joann Finkbeiner		Dan Harris		
	Tom Tobias	26th	Tammy Sears		



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3	Vic and Susan Mann	27	Ron and Janice Raab
5	Dan and Jennifer Harris	30	David and Dianne Bowman
11	Jim and Alison Robison	31	Brian and Mary Finkbeiner
12	Travis and Janette Hieber		Larry and Kathy Guenther
26	Virgil and Jane Roberts		Charles and Kara Hieber

Please contact the church office if your birthday or anniversary is in December and your name(s) were not listed. Thank you.

BETHEL CHURCH BOARD OCTOBER MINUTES

Bethel Church Board October 14, 2014 at 7:00 PM

President: President Patti Henes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotion led by: Pastor Bucholtz

Members Present: P. Henes, A. Robison, J. Roberts, K. Weidmayer, W. Riley, Lyle Wahl, M. Meranuck

Guests: Susie Amrhein delivered two digital concepts of a stone cut sign on the hill entering the parking lot. Two illustrations will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Secretary's Minutes (September):

Motion made to accept September minutes with corrections: A. Robison

Seconded by: K. Weidmayer

Approved: All

Treasurers / Financial report:

**Treasurers Report
For Month End September 2014**

Funds	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$1,956.46	\$ 16,391.75	\$ 12,852.10	\$ 5,496.11
Building Fund	\$22,941.31	\$ 484.00	\$ 929.78	\$ 22,495.53
Mission Fund	\$ 1,909.55	\$ 361.22	\$ 614.55	\$ 1,656.22
Memorial Fund	\$ 71,280.54	\$ 1,338.21	\$ -	\$ -
Change in Market Value		\$ (1,285.47)	\$ -	\$ 71,333.28
Discretionary Fund	\$13,239.21	\$ 79.59	\$ -	
Change in Market Value		\$ (432.47)	\$ -	\$ 12,940.33
Sabbatical	\$ 1,842.55	\$ 14.01	\$ -	\$ -
Change in Market Value	\$ (88.80)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,767.76
Planned Giving Endowment	\$467,697.80	\$ 836.36	\$ -	\$ -
Change in Market Value	\$ (10,370.40)	\$ -	\$ -	\$458,163.76

Motion to accept Treasurers report, and pay all monthly bills: J. Roberts

Seconded by: W. Riley

Approved: All

Committee Reports:

Next Cabinet meeting scheduled February 3rd 2015 @ 6:45 p.m.

Cemetery: (Alison) Approved work costing \$9,500 to correct all headstones. This includes: Resealing (39) 2 piece monuments, Level and reseal (28) monuments, and cleaning (75) monuments, work will be completed by Thanksgiving.

Endowment: (Lyle) Met October 7th and made minor changes to our funds. Lyle will meet quarterly to review their performance.

Evangelism (Julie): Met October 12, new members will be received on October 26.

Stewardship (Church Board): Stewardship kick-off starts November 2

Board of Christian Education (Mike): Next meeting, September 15

- ❖ Sunday school is going well
- ❖ 22 children participated in the crop walk
- ❖ Safe church policy update. Doors have been replaced or fixed in the lower exit sections of the facility. A central microphone was installed as a part of the new sound system. This will allow all class rooms to hear emergency notifications.
- ❖ Discussed adding a line in the budget for BOCE. BOCE needs to determine real budget needs, and bring to the board for approval.

Mission (Lyle): Next meeting is October 21. The Mission Sunday coffee hour will have all food donated.

Memorial (Karen): New sound system installed.

Communion (Mike /Will): Next communion service is scheduled for November 2nd, and will be served in the traditional manner serving members in the pews.

Archives: (Karen) Met September 25, and will meet again on October 22. The committee is compiling a lot of great historical records for our Church. The committee would like a line item in the budget. The committee needs to determine real budget needs, and bring to the board for approval.

Hearts and Hands: (Julie): Nothing to report

Elders (Allison): Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- ❖ **Church project and repairs update:** (Roof repairs, and painting will need congregation approval)
 - Drinking fountain fixed.
 - Currently getting quotes to have Fellowship hall, and annex roof replaced.
 - Currently getting quotes to repaint the fascia areas and trim around the Church
 - Dan Young to schedule re-finishing the outside doors prior to winter
- ❖ **Evaluations / Job Descriptions:** Work in progress.
- ❖ **Wedding Policy review Committee:** Rough draft completed and is being reviewed. Will be completed prior to the 2015 Annual meeting. Two informational meetings will occur before the annual meeting that highlights the proposed changes in language.
- ❖ **Outdoor signage on Schneider Road:** Work in progress
- ❖ **175th Anniversary (2015):** "Honoring the past / embracing the future" is the theme for the 175th celebration. Tee shirts and Christmas ornaments (hand painted bulbs) will be sold for fund raisers. This is an extraordinary milestone for our beloved church.

Maintenance / Building:

- ❖ The Health Department water testing will be ongoing every quarter.
- ❖ Reviewing pricing for Propane, the board will go with the cheapest carrier.

New Business:

- ❖ Correspondence:
 - CRC is looking for a participant to recognize from Bethel Church.
 - Fall clean-up is scheduled for November 1st, 2014

Adjourn Meeting: 10:10 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting: W. Riley

Seconded by: K. Weidmayer

Approved: All

Adjourned at 10:10 p.m. by joining together in the Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 11 @ 7:00 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by: W. Riley

OCTOBER PASTOR'S REPORT to the Bethel Church Board

September - October 2014

Summary/Reflection

God said to Abram, "I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2b). It's an old, old promise, but it still bears our consideration today. God has blessed Bethel Church. We have both human and financial resources that are enviable. How we think about these resources and how we use these resources is up to us; then again, it's not – it's up to God. Like Abram before us, we are blessed that we may be a blessing, that we might extend the love of God to others both near and far. We have so much to be thankful for. As trustees of Bethel's resources, let's not forget from whom our blessings flow nor the divine directive that accompanies them.

Worship

Weekly study and sermon preparation, weekly staff meetings, various internal meetings
Senior Choir – Monday rehearsals and Sunday anthems
Funerals – Andrew Luckhardt (September 11); Becky Schultz (September 27 – at Staffan-Mitchell)
Communion (October 5)
Blessing of the Animals (October 12)

Committee Work

Mission Team (October 21)
Hearts 'n Hands (September 11)
Evangelism (October 5)
Memorial (September 28) – Oversaw installation of new sound system (September 29 – October 3)
Board of Christian Education (October 6)
Elders (Next meeting TBD)
Wedding Policy Review – authored/edited policy draft
175th Anniversary (September 10)
Cabinet (September 17)

Pastoral Care

8 visits at EHM Saline; 6 home visits, 4 office visits; 3 St. Joe visits, 2 UofM visits, 1 Chelsea visit
Mill Pond Manor – evening devotional (October 1)

Mission

Vesper's Monthly Meal for the Homeless (September 23)
Mission Sunday (October 5) Co-officiated with guest, Sandra Pilgrim-Lewis

Christian Education

Connections Newsletter (October pastor's letter)
Bethel's Kirche (October Newsletter pastor's corner)
Sunday School Curriculum – weekly teacher preview letter and lesson summary
Confirmation – weekly class meetings
New member orientation (October 12 and 19) – potentially 8 new members

Denominational Work

Camp Talahi Retreat and Nature Center Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
MI Conference Annual Meeting (October 10/11)
Evangelical Homes of Michigan Saline – Quarterly Sunday afternoon worship
Monthly Covenant South Clergy Meeting

Ecumenical Work

Manchester Area Clergy Monthly Meeting (September 25)

Miles Accumulated in travel: ~345 miles

TREASURER'S REPORT

	October			
	Month Ended		Year to Date	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Receipts:				
Offering	\$ 10,628.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 110,957.00	\$ 113,581.00
Loose Offering	\$ 785.00	\$ 485.00	\$ 6,845.29	\$ 4,540.95
Initial offering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 178.00	\$ 248.00
Hall & chair rental	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 675.00	\$ 750.00
Sale of excess tables	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 240.00	\$ -
Christmas	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ -
Maundy Thursday & Easter	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,649.00	\$ 2,756.00
Lenten & Family Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 256.00	\$ 224.00
Memorials	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 100.00
Sunday School	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,010.00	\$ 1,030.00
Sunday School programs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71.00	\$ 214.00
Archives Fund Raiser	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Benevolences (OCWM)	\$ 490.00	\$ 395.00	\$ 5,279.00	\$ 4,678.00
Strengthen the Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 271.00	\$ 70.00
Local benevolences	\$ 70.00	\$ 205.00	\$ 2,595.00	\$ 1,890.00
Blanket Sunday	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 522.00	\$ 521.00
Neighbors in Need	\$ 5.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00	\$ 377.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 537.00	\$ 1,248.00
CWS - Crop Walk	\$ -	\$ 834.00	\$ -	\$ 834.00
Camp Talahi	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65.00
Vespers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mission Trip	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 370.00	\$ 295.00
Discretionary Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 180.00
Transfer from Endowment Fund	\$ 14,653.00	\$ -	\$ 15,153.00	\$ 11,744.00
Transfer from Ice Cream Social	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Total Receipts	\$ 26,931.00	\$ 2,079.00	\$ 150,813.29	\$ 145,341.95
Disbursements:				
Personnel (salaries & related expenses)	\$ 8,499.97	\$ 8,652.21	\$ 86,529.18	\$ 83,636.38
Building costs (custodian, utilities & propane)	\$ 6,496.47	\$ 4,336.88	\$ 44,917.46	\$ 37,830.14
Operations (phone, office & worship supplies)	\$ 774.75	\$ 887.49	\$ 7,078.05	\$ 7,833.40
Archives & Local Outreach	\$ 38.28	\$ 24.38	\$ 388.54	\$ 679.63
Education & Conferences	\$ -	\$ 219.00	\$ 178.65	\$ 403.72
Sunday School	\$ 981.00	\$ 1,144.00	\$ 981.00	\$ 1,144.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Local Benevolence - Vespers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57.77
Local Benevolence	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 228.00
Discretionary Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 178.51
Church World Service Blanket	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 522.00	\$ 521.00
Church World Service Crop Walk	\$ -	\$ 834.00	\$ -	\$ 834.00
Mission Re-Member Trip donations	\$ 370.00	\$ -	\$ 370.00	\$ 255.00
David Strobbe Washington Trip	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Foundation Fighting Blindness	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Amanda Laberde Mission Trip	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Transfer to(from) Building Fund	\$ 11,368.00	\$ -	\$ 11,368.00	\$ 5,550.00
Camp Talahi Camp Fee Bethel Kids	\$ 3,285.00	\$ -	\$ 3,285.00	\$ 5,372.50
Total Disbursements	\$ 31,813.47	\$ 16,097.96	\$ 157,117.88	\$ 146,274.05
Excess (Deficit)				
Receipts over Disbursements	\$ (4,882.47)	\$ (14,018.96)	\$ (6,304.59)	\$ (932.10)
Beginning Cash	\$ 5,496.11	\$ 6,451.78	\$ 6,918.23	\$ 4,805.42
Ending Cash October, 31	\$ 613.64	\$ (7,567.18)	\$ 613.64	\$ 3,873.32

Disbursements for October exceeded our receipts by \$4,882.47, lowering our Cash at month end to \$613.64. Donations received for Benevolence of \$8,787., which have not been paid, leaves our operating cash at a negative amount of \$8,173. We normally make up this difference in December. Hopefully with your support we will do it again this year. Thanks for your past support.

Lyle R. Wahl, Treasurer

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

GREETERS

- 7 Earl, Cat and James Meyer
- 14 John and Sarah Heuser, Ben, Jordan & Rachel
- 21 Rhonda Holbrook and Misty Holbrook
- 24 (5:00 p.m.) Jack and Elaine Creech
- 24 (7:30 p.m.) Rudy and Susan Layher, R.J. & Matthew
- 28 Tom and Emily St. Charles



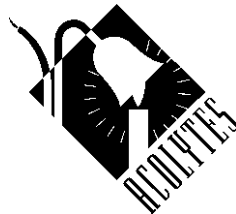
USHERS

- 7 Duane Kuebler, Julie Kreitzer, Tom Kreitzer, Darryl Kuebler and Mike Meranuck
- 14 Scott Diuble, Ron Diuble, Rudy Layher, Bruce Lobbestael and Ethan Lobbestael
- 21 David Seeger, John Bihlmeyer, Mike Horodeczny, Diane Seeger and Jeff Shankland
- 24 (5:00 p.m.) Larry Aiken, Patsy Aiken, Brian Finkbeiner, Jacob Finkbeiner and Mary Finkbeiner
- 24 (7:30 p.m.) Jean Martin, Courtney Campbell, Kristi Campbell, Cathy Koefoed-Smith and Amanda Laberdee
- 28 David Haeussler, Derald Bauer, Jeff Elliott, John Heuser and Jordan Heuser



ACOLYTES

- 7 Jordan Campbell
- 14 Bailey Elliott
- 21 Maddy Harris
- 24 Megan Mann
- 28 Hailey Roulo



LAY READERS

- 7 Diane Wahl
- 14 Cathy Moore
- 21 Festival of Lessons and Carols
- 24 H.S./College students
- 28 Jean Martin



CHILD CARE

- 7 Jill Corwin and Collin Campbell
- 14 Sue Mann and Jordan Campbell
- 21 Stacey Neigebauer and Courtney Campbell
- 24 Christmas Eve Service – volunteers as needed
- December 28-January 4 No Sunday School - volunteers as needed

