

Bethels Kirche

A Monthly Newsletter of
Bethel United Church of Christ

January 2015



PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

Let me be the first to congratulate you on being 175 years young! Since 1840, this community of faith has worshiped, fellowshiped, and served in the name of Jesus Christ. Bethel has weathered many storms, celebrated many triumphs, and stands today on the shoulders of countless individuals who have sacrificed and loved in a manner consistent with the Word of God that we espouse.

The biblical term is *kenosis*. It's a Greek word meaning to empty or deplete. In the Bible, *kenosis* refers to the sacrificial life and death of Jesus. In terms of our Christian ethic, *kenosis* refers to being Christ-like in how we think, what we say, and ultimately, what we do. That's been Bethel Church throughout the years. Practitioners of *kenosis*. Thinking more highly of others than we do of ourselves. Opening our hearts and hands to the betterment of our membership, our community, and our world.

Kenosis is what's kept us in business for 175 years, it'll take even more *kenosis* to keep us viable and vibrant in the years ahead. New challenges are on the horizon, obstacles that our ancestors could not have imagined. We will have to be flexible, willing to yield traditions and practices, in order to be relevant to a world that is in a constant state of flux. Yet at the same time, we will have to be firm, unwilling to yield that which grounds us, the gospel of Christ. It has and always will be a delicate balance – to bend but not break – to be liberal enough to engage the culture in which we live, work, and play, but conservative enough not to let that culture overrun us.

One of the single greatest challenges ahead is fundamentalism – that place of hardened opinion – which basically says that I'm right and you're wrong. It's a place without conversation or compromise; a room with only enough air for people who look like us, think like us, and act like us. We need to be able to breathe, to take in the fresh air of the contemporary world without fear or trepidation. Our God gives us shelter that is big enough, grand enough, and good enough to withstand the torrents of any cultural storm – a room that is always and forever secure but never (no not ever) air tight.

So let's begin 2015, our 175th year, by taking a deep breath. Let's look back upon all the wonderful people and traditions that have gone before us. Let's look around at all the wonderful people and present traditions that are beside us. Let's look ahead to all the wonderful people and new traditions that lay in front of us, just waiting to be welcomed in.

Happy New Year, Bethel Church!

Faithfully,



Pastor Bucholtz

BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

“Marie Herter, who recently moved to the Brecon Memory Center, will be 85 years old on January 9, 2015. It would be great if Bethel congregation members could send her a card for her birthday. Her address is:

Marie Herter
Deerfield Gardens
Brecon Memory Center
101 Brecon Drive
Saline, MI 48176”

175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Glückliche einhundertfünfundsiebzigjährige Wiederkehr!!!
HAPPY 175th ANNIVERSARY BETHEL CHURCH!!!!

We celebrate a special history this year....the 175 years since Friedrich Schmid came to Freedom Township and helped establish the small German congregation of Bethel. A committee has formed and is making plans for four noteworthy celebrations throughout the year.

JANUARY 11th is the kickoff event that features a very special speaker, Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund. She is a well-known church historian, author of several books, and authority on the UCC organization. She is the first woman to be ordained at Mayflower Congregational Church in Detroit, the first female faculty member at Chicago Theological Seminary, and the first woman to be president at Hartford Seminary. She marked the 50th anniversary of her ordination in 2014. She brings a keen interest and enthusiasm for the extensive history of Bethel our spiritual, mission mindedness as well as our stone church, its symbols, our location and the people who have BEEN this church. We will have a special coffee hour to further enjoy her vast knowledge of church history.

In APRIL we will celebrate past confirmands with a WELCOME HOMECOMING. In JULY the focus will be on Bethel Weddings. Our final, NOVEMBER celebration will culminate in an all-church dinner.

Each Sunday's worship service in 2015 will include a 175-second message which will highlight activities, traditions, events, worship leaders, and members that over the years have made us the BETHEL we are today. We will continue to sell our special commemorative Christmas ornaments throughout the year, which will help to fund our special events.

We would love your ideas, comments, and participation on the committee co-chaired by Duane Kuebler and Karen Weidmayer and including Pastor David Bucholtz, Carol Colby, Judy Jahnke, Susan Layher, Nancy Loudin, Bonnie Mitchell, Mary Sue Moore, and Lyle Wahl.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting is coming up on January 25, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. There will be many opportunities to get involved. There are 2 open positions on the Church Board, 1 open position on the Cemetery Committee and 4 open positions on the Board of Christian Education. If anyone is interested in any of the positions or has any questions, please contact a current Church Board member; Patti Henes, Lyle Wahl, Will Riley, Mike Meranuck Karen Weidmayer, Julie Roberts or Alison Robison.

This is also an opportunity to see how the year 2014 finished out and to help set the direction for the upcoming year. There are lots of exciting things planned, so please plan on attending. See you there!

“EAT, DRINK, AND BE MORE LIKE MARY”

This was but one of the lessons we took away from Advent by Candlelight 2014. Diane Seeger presented the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-39. We can remember Diane’s words the whole year through and set aside the pressing demands of our lives and quiet ourselves to be with Jesus.

There were 11 tables filled with women from age 13 to 90+! We had four generations of Weidmayer women. Candlelight filled the room, wonderful food creations filled the tables, and the music and words of Christmas filled our hearts. Thanks to all who participated and made this wonderful celebration possible.

LEON FELDKAMP HOSPITALITY AWARD

Nancy Loudin was awarded the *Leon Feldkamp Hospitality Award* on Sunday December 21. The plaque reads:

The Leon Feldkamp Hospitality Award

*In appreciation of firm handshakes
and warm smiles too numerous to count*

Living Faithfully – Welcoming Cheerfully

She touches many of us by sending cards for special events in our lives and greeting us at church on Sunday mornings as she goes about the business talking with as many as she can to determine our wellbeing. She is frequently available to take your blood pressure if you would like. Because Nancy serves as the Chairperson of Bethel’s Hearts and Hands Committee, she spends many hours visiting shut-ins and bringing a meal or snack along with her cheerfulness. This “behind the scenes work” is really appreciated by those she visits.

Congratulations, Nancy, and thank you!

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

WOMEN OF BETHEL

Prayers to all for a happy, healthy 2015. Funeral luncheon co-chairwomen for January, February and March are Eleanor Beitelshees, Bonnie Hieber, Susan Mann and Diane Seeger.

Kitchen steward for January is Susan Mann. Betty Cipri and Jean Holder are the Vesper cooks for January 27th. As always, Susan Luckhardt will have a sign-up sheet for other duties. We will be looking for volunteer cooks for the February 24th Vesper meal. You will find this a very rewarding experience.



My My
CHOICE...HEALTH.
Diabetes Prevention Program

Small steps can prevent diabetes

Becoming more active and losing a moderate amount of weight can help you change your family history. The **Diabetes Prevention Program** workshop will help you take steps to prevent diabetes.

-
Move those muscles
.....
-
Control your portions
.....
-
Find your healthy weight
.....
-
Be part of a group
.....
-
Take back negative thoughts
.....
-
Stay motivated
.....
-
16 weekly sessions followed by monthly maintenance sessions
.....

Location

Village of Manchester Offices
Village Room
912 City Road
Manchester, MI 48158

Date

Informational session on
Wednesday, February 25, 2015
Weekly core sessions start
Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Time

5:30-6:30 pm

Call to register

Visit the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan at www.nkfm.org/dpp to sign up online or call the NKFM at 800-482-1455. Questions? Email preventdiabetes@nkfm.org.

Cost

Free for qualified participants



This program is for people who have not been diagnosed with diabetes. © National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, 2014. All rights reserved.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF BETHEL MISSIONS

Thanks to those who signed up and participated in the Meijer Rewards program this year. In 2014 \$466.39 was earned and deposited in the Bethel Mission account. Bethel members have participated in this program since 2006. Over this time we have earned \$4,153.47!

Thanks to all who purchased Scrip Gift Cards in 2014. A total of \$809 was earned and deposited in the Bethel Mission Account. Bethel has participated in the Great Lakes Scrip Program since October 2011. Over this time we have earned \$3,208.00! We will have gift cards available again for purchase in 2015.

MATERIAL AIDS

The Blanket + and Material Aids programs will begin in earnest in January.

To assemble a School Kit you will need:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- (The cotton bag is provided through the generous donation of time and material by Jean Martin)

To assemble a Health/Hygiene Kit you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Health/Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to these kit shipments just prior to shipment.

Look in the back of the church for extra items that are available to anyone to help complete their kits.

Remember to continue to save:

- No longer used eyeglasses/lenses
- Hearing aids and hearing aid batteries
- Campbell Soup labels
- Tabs from pop, soup, etc. cans
- Box Tops for Education
- Cancelled Postage Stamps (leave at least a ¼ inch margin around the stamps)

The items listed above can be left at the back of the church.

- Paper & plastic grocery bags and egg cartons, which will be used by Manchester Family Service.

There is always a need for especially, paper bags. Please leave all bags in obvious places at the church. Thank you from Betty and Mary Sue and the rest of the MFS Board.

VESPERS

Our next Vesper meal for the homeless population of Washtenaw County is Tuesday, January 27, 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.

MISSION TEAM

German Cookie Sale Report

Thanks to all our bakery elves for making our German Cookie Sale so successful. We baked approximately 150 dozen cookies during our two cookie baking Saturdays. We had children ages 5 and older (80 + year olds) assisting by mixing, rolling, decorating and eating = sampling = Quality Control. Thank you to everyone who donated ingredients for the cookies, who helped on the baking Saturdays and who purchased the yummy cookies.

We received over \$750 from the cookie sales, which will go towards Bethel's missions.

Mission Trip Chili Cook Off

The next fundraiser for Bethel's missions will be on Sunday, January 25th. It is Chili Cook Off time! We need to have some of our Bethel cooks put on their aprons, pull out the pots and whip up a batch of chili to enter in the Cook Off. If you would like to be one of our chili cooks please let Cathy Moore or the church office know by January 18th.

As a participating cook you would need to bring to church on the 25th enough chili for approximately 35 people. (Some of the chili will be used for cook-off samples and some for people to purchase for lunch). In addition bring the list of ingredients. Your chili will be judged by our illustrious panel of judges.

Lunch and sampling will begin at 11:00 a.m. (Sunday School children at 11:45 a.m.). Tickets will be sold for samples (\$.50 each). You can buy as many tickets and try as many samples as you like and then purchase a bowl of your favorite chili (A Bowl and A Roll) for \$5.00.

ALPHA HOUSE

Bethel is a supporting church of Alpha House shelter in Ann Arbor. Several Saturday evenings during the year Bethel is responsible for making and serving dinner and activity time with the children. The following dates are for 2015:

Feb. 7 (Dinner & Activity Time) Confirmation class will be serving
May 9 (Dinner & Activity Time)
July 18 (Dinner & Activity Time)
Oct. 3 (Dinner & Activity Time)
Nov. 21 (Dinner & Activity Time)
Dec. 19 (Dinner & Activity Time)

There are opportunities to provide food for dinner, serve dinner (arrive at Alpha House at 5:30 p.m.) and also supervise evening children's activities from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

If you would like to learn more, please talk with Tammy Wakevainen, Bethel's volunteer coordinator or send an email to: tammywake@gmail.com

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING

The Board of Christian Education will meet on **Monday, January 5** 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

Bethel Sunday School had an amazing fall! Following our kick-off in September, we began learning about parts of the Old Testament that we didn't even know existed! We sang a bunch of great new songs, read about a boy named Joseph who became an important leader, and were told about people like Abraham who had more descendants than there are stars in the sky! We learned words like "covenant" and "prophet" and why these concepts are important. In October, many of us walked three miles with other Manchester churches to show our support for CROP and their mission to end world hunger. The week after Thanksgiving, we made crafts, sent Christmas cards to seniors, and shared a meal together at our annual Advent Workshop. We capped off our fall with the annual Christmas program on December 14th. The program was an inter-generational look at Christmas and how times have changed but faith has not. We are looking forward to starting up again on January 11th to begin our study of the New Testament!

Thank you to everyone here at Bethel for your support of Sunday School!

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.

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

EVANGELISM

The **Ushers, Greeters, Lay Readers and Acolytes** lists for January 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.

We count on you to fulfill this obligation. 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.

Look for the new lists (February 2015 – January 2016) in the February Newsletter.

♪ ♪ TAKE NOTE ♪ ♪

JANUARY'S SPECIAL MUSIC plans are as follows:

- 4th HANDBELL CHOIR *We Three Kings* by J.H. Hopkins/arr. Barbara Kinyon
- 11th SENIOR CHOIR *We Will Keep Our Faith Alive* Words by Don Besig & Nancy Price
Music by Don Besig
VOCAL DUET Frau Mitchell und Fräulein Moore *A German Hymn, To be determined*
- 18th SENIOR CHOIR *With a Voice of Singing* by Martin Shaw
- 25th YOUTH CHOIR PLUS *It's All in the Hands of God* by Natalie Sleeth

CHOIR REHEARSALS will resume the week of January 5th.

Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Sunday, January 11th at 11:45 a.m. Youth Choir Plus (Lunch at 11:45, rehearsal approx. 12:15)

BETHEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA rehearsals, TBA; stay tuned

MANY THANKS TO OUR CHOIRS and ENSEMBLES for their efforts of extra time for rehearsing the Special Music presentations during December. It was very much appreciated by Mary Sue, Julie, Michelle and Jennifer - and those in congregation.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING took place Sunday, December 7. A total of 39 people, divided into three groups, caroled to 20 homes or apartment rooms. All of them appreciated it; you could tell by the smiles on their faces. At one house, a group heard an impromptu violin recital, at another, they got lots of lovin' from the family dog, at another when they asked for a request, the home owner asked for *The Hallelujah Chorus*. We will make an attempt to learn it – next year. **MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO CAROLED!**

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

Lisa Novess
11433 Sheridan Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

Paula Young
9071 Waters Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Diane Wahl
527 Wilkinson St.
Chelsea, MI 48118
734-649-5131

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.

- November 2 The Riley family in honor of Lauren's 15th birthday.
November 9 The members of the Financial Peace University in memory of their debt and the Generation Change class looking toward their debt-free future!
November 16 Evelyn and Beverly Nelson in memory of Evan Nelson.
November 30 Norma Brees in memory of Don.



Available dates to provide altar flowers:

ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----|
| November 2 | Communion | 171 |
| November 9 | | 149 |
| November 16 | | 138 |
| November 23 | | 161 |

THANK YOU

Dear Bethel Friends,

I am deeply moved, in addition to being surprised to receive "The Leon Feldkamp Hospitality Award." It's an honor to be in the company of Leon Feldkamp, Joe Moore, and Ava Goff. They have been my role models and I have admired each of them. I will continue my efforts to be worthy of this recognition. I'm honored to be part of a congregation that cares so deeply for each other and takes the time to cherish each other and call them friends.

Mother Teresa said it best: "I can do something you cannot do, you can do something I cannot do – together let us do something beautiful for God."

Thank you.

Love, Nancy Loudin

REMINDER ABOUT RECYCLING BULLETINS

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

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

Bulletin information is due on Wednesday of each week.

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS

January 4 Matthew 2:1-23
January 11 Matthew 3:1-17
January 18 Matthew 4:1-17
January 25 Matthew 5:1-20

IN THE COMMUNITY

ST. JOHN'S SKI TRIP - Join St. John's on February 16th for a fun filled day of skiing and snowboarding at Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac.

The price is \$50 which includes, bus ride, day ski pass, ski rental, and group ski lesson. Snowboard rental is an extra \$8 and helmet rental is an extra \$3.

This trip is for all ages (13 years old and under need an adult). We will load the charter bus at 5:00 AM in the St. John's parking lot (8805 Austin Road, Bridgewater, MI 48115) and return to St. John's around 8:30.

SHARON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HAITI MISSION TEAM -

The Leroy Street Band from Fenton, Michigan and Jan Harris, the music director at Sharon UMC, in concert. Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Sharon United Methodist Fellowship Hall (M-52 & Pleasant Lake Road) This evening will include food, a silent auction and great music! This is benefit for the SUMC Haiti Mission Trip in March.

CROP TILL YOU DROP FOR HAITI - Sharon United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 17. \$35 per person from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. A light breakfast, lunch and dinner are included. Beverages provided with meals. Reserved seating. Door prizes and raffles. All registration forms and payment are due by January 11 unless it fills up sooner. Any questions, please call Nancy Flint (734) 428-9260 or email nancyej@aol.com.

*"The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you; the LORD
turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

Numbers 6:24-26

NEW BABIES



December 10, 2014, Delaney Jay and Harper June Henderson were born to Justin and Tiffany Henderson at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. Delaney weighed 5 lbs. 12 oz. and 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. Harper weighed 5 lbs. 8 oz. and 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|--|------|--|
| 1st | Amanda Corwin Marcella Luckhardt Ian Penberthy | 10th | Jacob Herter Luinda Smith Julia Tobias | | Kevin Reineck |
| 2nd | Dan Young | 12th | Susan Layher Irma Weidmayer | 24th | Jennifer Dubnicki |
| 3rd | Marcy Haggard Jody Munson | 14th | Olivia Greene Mary Munson | 27th | Sherrie Diuble |
| 4th | Virginia Dieterle Michael Haeussler Rob Pettigrew Linda Young | 17th | Steven Baron Ray Goff Emma Harris | 29th | Darlene Kuebler Matthew Roberts Stacy Sheets |
| 8th | Emma Mrocko Renee St.Charles | 18th | Todd Jedele Katy Loy | 30th | Cheryl Helber Karen Shuey |
| 9th | Colin Carson Marie Herter R. J. Layher Tom Mann Tim Preston | 20th | Marlena Baker | 31st | Dolly Bond Jeffrey Pieske |
| | | 22nd | Lisa Burmeister Cat Meyer | | |
| | | 23rd | Hayleigh Buter Megan Mann | | |



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1/2 | Robert & Nancy Guenther | 1/18 | Mark & Angela Drake |
| 1/3 | Eldean & Marie Bauer | 1/23 | Larry & Joan Egeler |
| 1/9 | Robert & Jean Martin | 1/23 | Larry & Patsy Aiken |
| 1/14 | Rick & Mary Jones | 1/31 | Doug & Mariel Peck |



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



BETHEL CHURCH BOARD NOVEMBER MINUTES

Bethel Church Board November 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.



President: President Patti Henes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Devotion led by: Pastor Bucholtz

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

Not present / excused:

Guests: None

Secretary's Minutes (October):

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

Seconded by: K. Weidmayer

Approved: All

Treasurers / Financial report:

Treasurers Report For Month End October 2014

| Funds | Beginning Balance | Receipts | Disbursements | Ending Balance |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| General Fund | \$5,496.11 | \$ 26,931.00 | \$ 31,813.47 | \$ 613.64 |
| Building Fund | \$22,495.53 | \$ 11,728.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 33,723.53 |
| Mission Fund | \$ 1,656.22 | \$ 1,340.00 | \$ 1,266.46 | \$ 1,729.76 |
| Memorial Fund | \$ 71,333.28 | \$ 13,259.25 | \$ 20,136.74 | \$ - |
| Change in Market Value | | \$ 215.33 | \$ - | \$ 64,671.12 |
| Discretionary Fund | \$12,940.33 | \$ 2.99 | \$ - | |
| Change in Market Value | \$ 61.16 | \$ | \$ - | \$ 13,004.48 |
| Sabbatical | \$ 1,767.76 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Change in Market Value | \$ 7.15 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,774.91 |
| Planned Giving Endowment | \$458,163.76 | \$ 517.41 | \$ 15,657.99 | \$ - |
| Change in Market Value | \$ 5,285.82 | \$ - | \$ - | \$448,309.30 |

Motion to accept Treasurers report, and pay all monthly bills: W. Riley

Seconded by: A. Robison

Approved: All

Committee Reports:

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

Cemetery: (Alison) Nothing to report

Endowment: (Lyle) Nothing new to report.

Evangelism (Julie): Pastor Dave had a successful new member class, accepting 6 new members to Bethel

Stewardship (Church Board):

- ❖ Motion made to willfully remove the following members by their own wishes.
- ❖ Sarah Burrell, Tom Colby, Jennifer Corker, Gary, Helen, and Mike Davis, Michael Herrst, Kurt and Michelle Mrocko, Brandon Sears, Kim Thompson, Michael, and Leanne Vitale
Valerie Vershum

Motion: J. Roberts

Second: L. Wahl

Approved: All

Board of Christian Education (Mike): Met November 3rd, teachers, and education team had what was perceived as the best meeting to date.

- ❖ Advent workshop (Nov 30) Still looking for volunteers to work tables
- ❖ Christmas program December 14 at 6:00 pm
- ❖ Adding line item to the budget for operating expenses

Mission (Lyle): Met October 21. Discussed Cookie Bake, and Spaghetti dinner fund raisers.

Memorial (Karen): Nothing to report

Communion (Mike /Will): Next communion service is scheduled for December 7th, and will be served in the traditional manner serving members in the pews.

Christmas services:

1st service – 5:00 pm Communion will be by intinction

2nd service – 7:30 pm Communion will be by intinction

Archives: (Karen) Archive committee came to the board with a budget proposal of \$200 annually. A line item will be added to the budget.

Hearts and Hands: (Julie): 38 Flu shots were dispersed. The group continues to visit members abroad.

Elders (Allison): Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- ❖ **Church project and repairs update:** (Roof repairs, and painting will need congregation approval)
 - Kitchen fan needs to be looked at.
 - Amish shed will be moved to new location near the back of the church. The Duble's have volunteered to move the building, and Bruce Lobbetael volunteered to remove the bushes in the area.
 - 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:** This will be completed by the 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):** Currently have 75 boxed bulbs, they will be ready for sale on November 23rd

Maintenance / Building:

- ❖ The Health Department water testing will be ongoing every quarter.
- ❖ Safe Church: Still need to conduct fire drill.

New Business:

- ❖ Correspondence: None
- ❖ Proposed using the library as a dual purpose room. Library / Board room.

Adjourn Meeting: 9:50 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, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: W. Riley

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bethel United Church of Christ Report from the Treasurer - General Fund

| | November | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Month Ended | | Year to Date | |
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Receipts: | | | | |
| Offering | \$ 15,810.00 | \$ 12,586.50 | \$ 126,767.00 | \$ 126,167.50 |
| Loose Offering | \$ 983.00 | \$ 385.00 | \$ 7,828.29 | \$ 4,925.95 |
| Initial offering | \$ 110.00 | \$ 2.00 | \$ 288.00 | \$ 248.00 |
| Hall & chair rental | \$ 10.00 | \$ - | \$ 685.00 | \$ 750.00 |
| Sale of excess tables | \$ 40.00 | \$ - | \$ 280.00 | \$ - |
| Thanksgiving | \$ 250.00 | \$ 407.00 | \$ 250.00 | \$ 407.00 |
| Christmas | | \$ - | \$ 25.00 | \$ - |
| Maundy Thursday & Easter | | \$ - | \$ 3,649.00 | \$ 2,756.00 |
| Lenten & Family Services | | \$ - | \$ 256.00 | \$ 224.00 |
| Memorials | | \$ - | \$ 125.00 | \$ 100.00 |
| Sunday School | | \$ 100.00 | \$ 1,010.00 | \$ 1,130.00 |
| Sunday School programs | | \$ - | \$ 71.00 | \$ 214.00 |
| Archives Fund Raiser | | \$ - | \$ 300.00 | \$ - |
| Benevolences (OCWM) | \$ 667.00 | \$ 1,055.00 | \$ 5,946.00 | \$ 5,733.00 |
| Strengthen the Church | | \$ - | \$ 271.00 | \$ 70.00 |
| Local benevolences | \$ 423.00 | \$ 70.00 | \$ 3,018.00 | \$ 1,960.00 |
| Blanket Sunday | | \$ - | \$ 522.00 | \$ 521.00 |
| Neighbors in Need | \$ 218.00 | \$ - | \$ 223.00 | \$ 377.00 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | | \$ - | \$ 537.00 | \$ 1,246.00 |
| CWS - Crop Walk | | \$ - | | \$ 834.00 |
| Camp Talahi | | \$ - | | \$ 65.00 |
| Confirmation gowns | | \$ - | | |
| Mission Trip | | \$ 250.00 | \$ 370.00 | \$ 545.00 |
| Discretionary Fund | | \$ - | \$ 750.00 | \$ 180.00 |
| Transfer from Endowment Fund | | \$ - | \$ 15,153.00 | \$ 11,744.00 |
| Transfer from Ice Cream Social | \$ 500.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Total Receipts | \$ 19,011.00 | \$ 16,355.50 | \$ 169,824.29 | \$ 161,697.45 |
| Disbursements: | | | | |
| Personnel (salaries & related expenses) | \$ 8,747.23 | \$ 8,076.37 | \$ 95,276.41 | \$ 91,712.75 |
| Building costs (custodian, utilities & propane) | \$ 1,901.52 | \$ 4,671.72 | \$ 46,818.98 | \$ 42,501.86 |
| Operations (phone, office & worship supplies) | \$ 312.26 | \$ 1,074.08 | \$ 7,390.31 | \$ 8,907.48 |
| Archives & Local Outreach | \$ 674.60 | \$ - | \$ 1,063.14 | \$ 679.63 |
| Education & Conferences | \$ 180.17 | \$ - | \$ 358.82 | \$ 403.72 |
| Sunday School | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 981.00 | \$ 1,144.00 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | | \$ - | | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Local Benevolence | | | | \$ 57.77 |
| Local Benevolence | | \$ 202.00 | | \$ 430.00 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Discretionary Fund | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | 750.00 | \$ | 178.51 |
| Church World Service Blanket | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | 522.00 | \$ | 521.00 |
| Church World Service Crop Walk | | | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | 834.00 |
| Mission Re-Member Trip donations | | | \$ | - | \$ | 370.00 | \$ | 255.00 |
| David Strobbe Washington Trip | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | 500.00 | \$ | - |
| Foundation Fighting Blindness | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | 250.00 | \$ | 250.00 |
| Amanda Laberdee Mission Trip | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | 500.00 |
| Transfer to(from) Building Fund | | | \$ | - | \$ | 11,368.00 | \$ | 5,550.00 |
| Camp Talahi Camp Fee Bethel Kids | | | \$ | - | \$ | 3,285.00 | \$ | 5,372.50 |
| Total Disbursements | \$ | 11,815.78 | \$ | 14,024.17 | \$ | 68,933.66 | \$ | 60,298.22 |
| Excess (Deficit) | | | | | | | | |
| Receipts over Disbursements | \$ | 7,195.22 | \$ | 2,331.33 | \$ | 890.63 | \$ | 1,399.23 |
| Beginning Cash | \$ | 613.64 | \$ | 3,873.32 | \$ | 6,918.23 | \$ | 4,805.42 |
| Ending Cash November 30 | \$ | 7,808.86 | \$ | 6,204.65 | \$ | 7,808.86 | \$ | 6,204.65 |

November was a 5 Sunday month. That extra Sunday helped increase our cash position along with good attendance our net revenue was over \$7,000 for the month. This will help us meet our commitment to Our Church's wider Mission in December. Thanks for your support. Lyle R. Wahl, Treasurer

Pecan nuts in the Cemetery

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts.

'One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me,' said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, 'One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me...'

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. 'Come here quick,' said the boy, 'you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls!' The man said, 'Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk.' When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they heard, 'One for you, one for me. One for you, One for me.' The old man whispered, 'Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord...'

Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter, as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, 'One for you, one for me. That's all...Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done....'

They say the old man had the lead for a good half-mile, before the kid on the bike passed him.

PASTOR'S REPORT

October – November 2014

Summary/Reflection

We're spending a lot of time in the Old Testament this fall and discovering again (perhaps for the first time) ancient scripture's relevance to modern day living; not the least of which is the privilege of membership – belonging to and supporting this entity we call church. A better name for this organization is The Body of Christ. It's a lofty title, but so apropos when you consider who we are – called and gathered, everyone – each unique, yet woven together – toes, elbows, fingers, feet, or hearts. As such, the body can't be healthy without each member's contribution – hence the call for stewardship – remembering that all we have and all we are is a gift from the Giver. How can we do anything less than to use those gifts, those resources, to nourish the body, the Body of Christ – the church? Stewardship – it's the broccoli of Bethel. Vegetables anyone?

Worship

Weekly study and sermon preparation, weekly staff meetings, various internal meetings
Senior Choir – most rehearsals and anthems
Funeral – Barbara Damron (forthcoming, November 15)
Communion (November 2)
New Member Reception (October 26)

Committee Work

Mission Team (October 21)
Hearts 'n Hands (upcoming – December 12)
Evangelism – New Member Coffee Hour
Stewardship (promotional and pulpit work)
Memorial
Board of Christian Education (November 3)
Elders (Next meeting TBD)
Wedding Policy Review (upcoming meeting – November 19)
175th Anniversary (November 4)

Pastoral Care

8 visits at EHM Saline; 5 home visits, 7 office visits; 5 St. Joe visits, 2 UofM visits, 1 Chelsea visit

Mission

Vesper's Monthly Meal for the Homeless (October 25)

Christian Education

Financial Peace University (weekly class)
Connections Newsletter (October issue)
Sunday School Curriculum / weekly teacher preview and lesson summary
Sunday School Teachers Meeting (October 23)
Confirmation – weekly class meetings
New member class meeting (October 19)

Denominational Work

Evangelical Homes of Michigan Saline – Quarterly Sunday afternoon worship
Monthly Covenant South Clergy Meeting (October 29)

Ecumenical Work

Manchester Area Clergy Monthly Meeting (October 23)
Guest Clergy – Installation of Rev. David Williams @ Emanuel (October 26)

Miles Accumulated in travel: ~285 miles

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

GREETERS

- 4 Stan and Patty Lambarth
- 11 Larry and Patsy Aiken
- 18 Julie and Joe Roberts, Colleen & Michelle
- 25 Doug and Mariel Peck



USHERS

- 4 Ron Mann, Jeff Mann, Tom Mann, Vic Mann and Gerry Merz
- 11 Lori Tursak, Cameron Hibbard, Debbie Hibbard and Joe Roberts
- 18 Rick Jones, Jim Burmeister, Larry Helber, Beverly Nelson and Betty Schneider
- 25 Dave Herter, Mike Haeussler, David Strobbe, Lynn Strobbe and Stephen Strobbe



ACOLYTES

- 4 Annelise Baron
- 11 Jordan Campbell
- 18 Lilly Diuble
- 25 Bailey Elliott



LAY READERS

- 4 Jody Munson
- 11 Michelle Roberts
- 18 Rick Jones
- 25 Ava Goff



CHILD CARE

- 4 No Sunday School. Volunteers as needed.
- 11 Sue Mann and Michelle Roberts
- 18 Stacey Neigebauer and Megan Mann
- 25 Michelle Jedele and Lauren Riley

