

*Loving God
Following
Jesus
Serving All*



Newsletter of Bethel Presbyterian Church

January 2013

The Bethel Beat

Ordination and Installation of Officers

**Sunday, Jan. 6
11:00 a.m.**

We will ordain and install new officers during worship. New officers beginning their terms in 2013 include: Deacons, Carolyn Good and Kathy McGahey; Trustees, Tyler Nehrig and Lyndale Walker; and Elders, Donna Bruner and Gerald Shankle. Rich Gibson and Tom Mikesell will also join the Cemetery Committee. We thank those members who concluded their terms of service at the end of December.

Annual Meeting

**Sunday, Jan. 20
Noon**

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held following worship. Come and hear Bethel's 2012 Year in Review and to thank and say good-bye to Pastor Bill King.

The Pastor's Corner

It is hard to believe how quickly these 12 months have gone by. It seems like only yesterday that I arrived, and on my first Sunday moderated the annual congregational meeting. The Session wanted it that way not just so that we could hold the meeting but also so you could help me celebrate the 30th anniversary of my ordination. What a special way to begin a special year.

Bethel IS a special place.

- Your worship is uplifting.
- Your commitment to mission is inspiring.
- You are blessed with good leadership.
- You are blessed with good fellowship.

Early on I described the work of an interim pastor to be like that of John the Baptist. My ministry has been to prepare the way for the one who will come after me. I hope you receive Terry Semsick with as much love and support as you have shown me. I look forward to hearing great things about the future of Bethel Church.

My last Sunday with you will be January 20, and my last day will be January 22. Terry will begin her service as Commissioned Ruling Elder on January 23. Worship on the 20 will be followed by the annual congregational meeting. Once again, the Session wanted it that way not just so that we can hold the meeting but also so we can have some time to say good bye.

There are so many people to thank, I hardly know where to begin. I want to thank the members of the congregation for all their support and the Session for its leadership. A special thanks go to the choir and to Rick Topeka for allowing me to participate in their ministry and to lead the choir this past Christmas season.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Bill

Please inform Pastor Bill King or the church office, 724-479-2465, when a church member is in the hospital or in need of pastoral care.

Celebrations in January

Happy Birthday!

5 Cal Sesock
5 Bob Schroth
12 Ann Nicholls
19 Glenn Travis
19 George R. Wardo
20 Morgan Cochran
23 Louise Bowman
23 Justin Horrell
24 Amanda McCaulley
24 Jane McGee
24 Heather Barnhart
25 Lindsey Cowoski
26 Nathan Good
27 Liam Randolph
30 Lillian Kinter

Happy Anniversary

2 George & Jo Wardo
5 Rick & Shari Topeka
16 John & Jan LaMorte

Bethel Youth Group

Monday, Dec. 31 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Party at the Travis home. Please bring food, friends and a beverage to share. Plan to stay overnight – we don't want anyone traveling late.

The Bethel Beat

Editor: Jill Wolford
Designer: Chelsea Steigert

The Bethel Beat is published monthly by and for members and friends of Bethel Presbyterian Church. Please submit news, notes and ideas to the editor. Email info@bethelpc.net or call 724-479-2465 by the 15th of the month.

With Thanks

The Kindred Spirits Class would like to thank everyone who donated to their Pathway Homeless Project. We delivered approximately 200 food items and numerous boxes of Christmas decorations. A few residents moved before Christmas and the decorations helped them decorate their new homes. Thank you.

Charlotte Overman would like to express thanks for all your prayers, cards, and food after her surgery. The surgery went well but the recovery will be long.

Financial Report

Monthly Receipts Financial Study

Reg. Giving	2011	2012
January	\$7,661.00	\$7,549.11
February	\$7,063.90	\$6,631.60
March	\$7,601.00	\$7,666.03
April	\$8,383.00	\$8,176.26
May	\$9,538.35	\$7,492.69
June	\$8,353.48	\$7,833.63
July	\$8,855.04	\$7,365.75
August	\$7,517.09	\$7,822.43
September	\$7,308.58	\$8,269.27
October	\$7,957.60	\$7,499.43
November	\$6,856.56	\$6,197.75
December	\$7,837.50	

Total \$94,933.10 \$82,795.95

Mon. Avg. \$7,911.09 \$7,526.90

November Regular Offerings	\$6,197.75
November Regular Expenses	\$6,586.11
Variance	(\$388.36)

2012 Offerings to date	\$82,795.95
2012 Regular Expenses	\$86,207.27
Variance	(\$3,411.32)

2011 Offerings	\$87,095.60
Variance	(\$4,299.65)

Men's Group

Sunday, Jan. 6 8:00 a.m.

All the men of Bethel are invited to join us for breakfast at Eat 'n Park.

Missionary Society

Thursday, Jan. 10 7:00 p.m.

Our Bible Study for 2013 for the Bethel Missionary is titled "Dispatches to God's Household." The goal of the Bible Study is to teach us to serve one another in truthfulness and love. Lesson One "An Overview of the General Epistles" will be led by Dora Predko. Hostesses for the evening are Jean Walker and Kathy McGahey. It is a new year, we have new officers, we need new people. Come and learn new ways to serve God's Household.

Looking Ahead

The next issue of the Bethel Beat will be a combined February/March edition. Please have all your information, including those regarding Easter, to Jill in the church office by Thursday, January 24. The newsletter will be distributed on Sunday, February 10.

A Note from Terry...

I hope you and your families have had a wonderful Christmas Season and are looking forward to a truly happy New Year. I have many wonderful memories of this church as my church home in my growing up years. I watched my grandmother play the piano during worship, first from my vantage point in the pew and then from the alto section of the choir. I remember Sunday school and the many lessons I learned from great teachers alongside good friends. I remember the boys chasing the girls with the prickly shelled nuts they gathered from under the Horse Chestnut tree after church on Sunday morning while the men stood at the end of the sidewalk sharing stories from the field or about the neighbor down the road as the women stood closer to the church talking about their kids.

I also have memories of strawberry festivals, Sunday school picnics with ice cream kept cold in insulated chambers filled with dry ice. Afterwards, there were games for the kids and the church picnic softball game on the lawn between the church and Bethel Road. So many good memories of good times. Then came college (IUP), marriage (Dave), kids (Zack, Josh and Laura), and a new church home in Blairsville. Along the way, Dave and I opened an antique & upholstery shop. As our kids came of age I became involved as a volunteer with the youth program at Blairsville serving as youth leader and Sunday school teacher. But there was stirring in my heart. God was calling me to youth ministry full time. At first I tried to do upholstery and ministry at the same time. I didn't want to leave Dave and the business he had worked so hard to start, but it just didn't work. There wasn't enough time. Something had to give. What had to give was the upholstery shop as I went on staff as the Christian Ed Director. My days were filled with directing VBS, designing Sunday school programs, mission trips (that involved kids from Bethel as well as Blairsville), winter retreats and community events for youth of all faiths. Soon I was teaching adult Bible Studies, and working with the worship team. Then in 2004 there was a new urging in my soul and I became certified as a lay preacher in the Kiskiminetas Presbytery. I loved the people and the pulpits of the many different churches I was asked to fill.

As my ministry came to a close in Blairsville this new one of preaching took its place and there was scarcely a Sunday that I was not out on the roads of our Presbytery sharing the worship of and Word of God. All of that will come to an end in just a few short weeks as life has come full circle, and I find myself back at Bethel...back not just to visit here and there on a Sunday morning or attend a Christmas Eve service with my family. I have been called back to where my faith first took root, back to serve as your Commissioned Ruling Elder. It is humbling and a privilege to return to serve this church. I want to thank you for the warm welcome that I have received. I am thankful for the good work that has been done here over the years in building a firm foundation of faith and outreach to the local community.

I am very excited for the future possibilities of our new partnership and for the tremendous potential we have, with God's help and guidance, to continue to be a light in our community as we seek to make the name of Jesus known and loved. We've much to learn and much to do in the days and weeks that lie ahead and so I ask for your continued prayers as we begin this exciting new adventure. Many thanks to Pastor Bill for his care and direction through this transition and to the members of session for their diligence and hard work. May God who has begun a good work in us bring it to completion and may God be praised for all the gifts that God has entrusted to our care.

Terry

Terry's first day of service will be January 23. Her regular office hours will be: Monday 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.; Thursday 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 7:00 a.m. – Noon. Please inform Terry, 724-840-3519, or the church office, 724-479-2465, when a church member is in the hospital or in need of pastoral care.



Bethel Presbyterian Church
 1470 Bethel Church Road
 Indiana, PA 15701



January 2013 Calendar for Bethel Church Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31 7:00 p.m. Youth Group	1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 7:00 p.m. Trustees	3	4	5
6 8:00 a.m. – Men’s Group 11:00 a.m. – Communion; Red Wagon Food Pantry Collection; Ordination & Installation of New Officers	7	8	9	10 7:00 p.m. Missionary Society	11	12
13	14 7:00 p.m. Session	15	16	17	18	19
20 11:00 a.m. – Twabumbogo Partnership Sunday Noon – Congregational Meeting	21	22 Pastor Bill’s final day	23 Terry Semsick begins serving	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	We gather on Sundays for Adult, Youth and Children’s Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Worship at 11:00 a.m.	