

Church Office Hours-

Weekdays: 8:30 am-2:30 pm

Office phone (812) 328-2358 Fax # (812) 328-2357

Bethel Christian Preschool (812) 328-6038

Secretary: Lesa Houghland

E-mail address: bethel@wirelessilliana.com

Web-site: www.bethelchurch-indiana.com

Pastor Mike's office hours-

Weekdays: 9am-2pm

Phone numbers: Cell (812) 887-3810 **Home** (812) 354-8403

Pastor Shayne Cell (812) 430-0994

Council members-

Ed Hagemeyer, President

Scott Page John Koenig

Kevin Hammelman, Vice-president

Gordon Clinkenbeard

Herman Tilly, Treasurer

Monica Russell

John Trotter, Secretary

Mary Ann Miller

FROM THE PASTORS STUDY-

With the New Year upon us, let us take a time of reflection on the old. As we reflect, can we honestly say that we were pleased with the choices we made in the old year, especially those choices concerning our spiritual lives. We are fortunate to serve a God, who when we humbly bow down before Him, not only forgives us but also forgets our sins and transgressions. So, let us put the past in the past and press on into the future in 2012.

Paul writes in Colossians 3:24b that is the Lord Christ whom we serve. The choice is ours, whom will we serve in the New Year? The Lord Christ or our desires. If we want to be pleasing to our God let us choose to serve Him. As believes let us strive to make 2012 a special year, a year unlike any other we have experienced.

Choosing Christ above self is a guaranteed recipe for success.

In His service,
Pastor Mike
James 5:16

Youth Corner

Bah humbug. That's what I had to say about this holiday season...not about the birth of our savior, but about all the other stuff that cluttered up this joyous season. It seems like every year; Christ is removed more and more from the holidays, and replaced with the newest iPhone or the next big toy. If Jesus got have the publicity that the newest iPad or Mac Books got, more people would come to know him and experience what the holidays were really about. Now don't get me wrong, I actually love the hustle and bustle of the holiday season....I even like the chaos of a bunch of kids screaming but, with that being said, my household will always put the birth of Jesus Christ foremost in the holiday season, paying more attention to our nativities and our bible that the gifts under the tree.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

This what it's all about friends.....So by all means go shopping, put up your Christmas trees, and wonder in amazement at all the new gadgets and gizmos. But don't let it take away the true joy of the season, the true reason for celebration.....The birth of our Savior and Lord. Try something new traditions. Start reading the Christmas story as a family, or build a nativity, just do something to remind yourself and your family why we have this joyous season!

Have a happy New Year, Bethel!!

Your Youth Pastor,
Shayne Spurgeon

NOTES OF THANKS

Thanks to all who helped us celebrate our 65th anniversary. The cards, calls, and flowers were appreciated. Thanks, also, to our kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids for all they did.

Dallas and Shirley Miller

Thank you so much to the Guild Ladies for the Lovely Christmas plate of yummy cookies ~ we enjoyed! And thanks to Vera Jones for delivering it, and her visit. We appreciated you thinks of us.

Love and best wishes to ALL,
Dick and Marge Finke

Dear Bethel Church Members,

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the preschool Christmas program possible! Thank you to Pastor Shayne for leading the welcome and closing and Lesa Houghland for doing such a great job on the programs. Also, thank you to Ed Hagemeyer for providing the sound, John and Shelly Trotter for helping set up and creating CDs, my husband, Randy, for the narration, Tonya Miller and Brandy Williams for helping dress the children, Nancy Tilly, Darlene Resler, Nancy Rinsch and Chris Horst who helped both Friday morning and evening and, of course, Mrs. Durall and Miss Jennifer who also put so much into this program. How blessed the children and I are to have such a wonderful and caring church family and community!

Much love,
Ramona Hammelman

Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2012

January/February - Assigned

March/April/May – (Lent, Spring, Easter) – Christian Partners

June – Bible School

July/August – Mission Committee

September/October/November – (Fall) – Mustard Seed

December – (Christmas) – Faithful Footprints

Preach the Gospel at all times ~ use words if necessary.

-Unknown

A Perfect Christian

You could count on a perfect Christian
To always be gentle and humble,
To be immune to sin,
And never, ever stumble.
He'd study and remember
All of God's commands;
He'd be trustworthy, moral and honest;
You'd know just where he stands.
With others, she'd be in harmony;
She'd never lose her cool;
Forgiving and forgetting,
Following the Golden Rule.
He'd surrender his life to God,
Full of joy and peace,
Free of stress and worry...
Perfect, pure release.
She'd lift up everyone,
Full of sweet compassion,
Free of worldly wants,
Ignoring worldly fashion.
But we can't ever be perfect,
So we always need to pray
For the strength to do our best
To love God and obey.

~By Joanna Fuchs



Guild

Bethel Women's Guild met December 7 for their Christmas luncheon. It was delicious and we had 17 present. We welcomed 3 guests who come each week to quilt with our quilters. We hope they will come again.

We opened our meeting with devotions by Nancy Tilly. We were told of how several of our Christmas songs came about and sang each one of them.

It was reported we fixed 32 Christmas cheer plates and sent several Christmas cards. We took care of our Christmas Mission.

We will not meet in January, but will have our February meeting on the 1st at 11:30. It will be our Memorial service.

Lill Clinkenbeard

Sunday School

As we enter into a New Year, let us reflect and thank God for the blessings he has given us. The glimpse of a special event that happened a couple weeks ago, the birth of Jesus, allows us to reflect on the legend of the Robin. The night that Christ was born a little brown bird shared the stable with the Holy Family. During the night, Joseph built a fire to keep the family warm, but as they slept the fire burned out. From its nest the bird flew down and fanned the embers with its wings. The bird was very close to the fire and the heat turned the bird's feathers red. The breast of the Robin has been red ever since to remind us of its love and compassion for the baby Jesus.

Thank you to everyone that decorated the church for Christmas and brought snacks for the special evening. As we all have enjoyed the beautiful illumination of the sanctuary, it is time to take the decorations down and pack them away until next year. We will "undecorate" on Tuesday January 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

The Sunday School Christmas Program was held on December 18, titled "I Didn't Think It Would Happen Like This". Thank you to the children that participated and the committee for organizing the program. The offering collected that evening was given to the North Knox Nurses' Fund.

Sunday School Nursery Workers for January 2012

January 1st – Krista Telligman & Nancy Rinsch

January 8th – Cheryl Hagemeyer & Holly Spanger

January 15th – Brandy Williams & Lana Dike

January 22nd – Diane Telligman & Andrea Miller

January 29th – Tambria Leonard & Lisa Richter

There will also be a list posted in Bethel Hall.

Cheryl Hagemeyer

Preschool News

We had a fun-filled first half of our preschool year, full of blessings and wonderful memories at Bethel Preschool, and I am looking forward to all that God has in store for us in 2012!

Since my last newsletter, we had another visit from the ladies of Generations. This time they provided the Little Elves Workshop for the preschool classes. Each child was able to personally select a special gift for each parent. This is a neat opportunity for the children and I really appreciate the time these ladies put into this project for the kids. J

After much hard work and a lot of excitement, our preschool Christmas program took place on the evening of December 9th to a very full audience. The children were so excited and did such a great job! It is so fun to see them all dressed up – what beautiful little girls and handsome little boys! I am so thankful to have such a wonderful group of class parents who were able to arrange schedules so that both classes could meet on Friday morning for rehearsal and then come back that evening for the program. I am also grateful to our Bethel family who provided many helping hands leading up to, the day of and also on the evening of our program. It wouldn't have been possible without you!! What a night it was as we began our "Countdown to Christmas" and the birth of Jesus!

Even with so many things going on in December we still were able to learn more Bible stories and memory verses along with our new letters, numbers and shapes. We made a Christmas tree out of green triangles, brown rectangles and yellow stars and talked about how the evergreen tree represents the everlasting life that we can have through Jesus and that when we look at the star on top of our Christmas tree, we are reminded of the bright shining star that led the wise men to Jesus on that very special night. The children continue to amaze me as they recall memory verses and bible stories we have shared throughout the first half of our school

year. They are becoming more independent as they learn to zip coats and tie shoelaces and work cooperatively during center time. I am so proud of each one of them. J

We finished 2011 with our Christmas Parties! What an eventful day it was as we played games, shared snacks, did crafts, decorated cookies and exchanged gifts! The parents did a great job planning a fun-filled day for their children and their classmates and it was a perfect send off to our Christmas vacation.

Thank you to so many of you who supported the preschool this past month whether it was through a kind comment, volunteering your time or including us in your prayers. I'm sure the children would join me in wishing each one of you a happy and healthy year in 2012!

In His Love,
Mrs. Hammelman

Wow--December has been a very busy month for us at preschool. We talked about giving and what it means, then we went shopping across the hall for our parents something special. We talked about keeping secrets this time of year. One little boy said he could keep secrets and he would do it this time. Mom came to pick him up and as they were going up the hall, he said "mom I bought you a plate today, but don't tell cause I am not telling either." We truly appreciate the Elf ladies from Generations who give their time for a wonderful project. "Shopping is fun even if it is not Wal-Mart," said one little girl.

We only talked about the letter K this month so we could focus on King Jesus and all the Christmas stories. We made an ornament where we got to put Jesus in the manger. Every preschooler took home a Hershey kiss advent to help us countdown to Jesus' Birthday. I tried to explain that they only got one kiss a day from the little gingerbread boy. By December the 8th, at least two preschoolers had eaten all the kisses, some by themselves others had help from brothers and sisters. One little girl said she needed another kiss chart so she could start over.

We painted reindeer with one foot and two hands. Some thought it was very cold, others just laughed because they were being tickled. One little girl told Miss Jennifer, "Look now I have chocolate toes!" We also painted with stamps on tissue paper for another surprise we made for our parents. As we wrapped, one little boy told us, he didn't know we could make our own paper to wrap Christmas presents. He thought for sure we had to go buy it.

We were so excited our Big night finally arrived. We had waited to tell everybody our story of Jesus for a very long time--according to some. (We have to start practicing by the end of October, so I guess it is quite awhile). We had been up stairs in the church several times to practice, but nerves set in. I had at least three in tears as parents delivered the children before the start of our show. I am very proud of every preschooler and their performance during our "Counting Down to Christmas" play. I thought they all did a great job staying on stage and singing their songs without tears. Thanks to all our Bethel family for coming and showing your support.

I had told the kids after our program was over we would not sing those songs again. The next day back, when I ask them what songs we were going to sing they all wanted "Counting Down to Christmas." Thankfully, they did know those songs pretty well. We sang most of them when it was 60 degrees outside and we went caroling. Thanks to Lesa, Ebony, Garland, and Pastor Shayne for letting us interrupt their schedules and listening to us.

We read many stories about baby Jesus this month and His birthday. One of our favorites was "The Something Wonderful." The animals were anticipating what was coming and we know that Jesus is just that--wonderful.

We will celebrate with a Christmas party before leaving for break. Happy New Year to all.

Love in Christ, Mrs. Durall

MISSIONS

Over 100 potholders are on their way to New York to George and Julie Holmes to take with them to Albania right after Christmas. Thanks to everyone who donated! They will be a colorful addition to drab kitchens in remote villages in a foreign country and we pray that the message George and Julie share with the ladies in order for them to have one, will touch their hearts in such a way that they will want to know more about our Lord and Savior!

The Mission Committee is grateful to all for your support and generous giving of food, money, time, potholders, shoes, and all other forms of contributions this past year! Blessings to all for caring and sharing in 2011!!!

Maridell Sargent
Mission Committee

Genesis – A Book of Firsts

The Book of Genesis (origins) contains more “firsts” than any other book in the Bible. The following are only a few of the firsts. How many of them can you identify?

1. Who was the first baby?
2. Who was the first man to shave?
3. Who was the first Hebrew?
4. Who was the first mother to have twins?
5. Who was the first child named before birth?
6. Who was the first shepherd?
7. Who was the first person to laugh?
8. Who was the first person to be buried in a coffin?
9. Who was the first caveman?
10. Who was the first person to play an instrument?

Answers

(All references are found in Genesis)

- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1. | Cain, 4:1 |
| 2. | Joseph, 41:14 |
| 3. | Abram, 14:13 |
| 4. | Rebekah, 25:21-24 |
| 5. | Ishmael, 16:11 |
| 6. | Abel, 4:2 |
| 7. | Abram, 17:17 |
| 8. | Joseph, 19:30 |
| 9. | Lot, 19:30 |
| 10. | Jubal, 4:21 |

Every day we live is a priceless gift of God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights. ~ Dale Evans Rogers

Bethel Church Council Minutes

December 12, 2011

Pastor's Report – Pastor Mike's written report was approved as presented. In addition to preparing for church services, he has taught a Sunday school class and the confirmation class, finished the Bible study course, provided counseling services, and made visits. He reported that Sunday school attendance has increased.

Youth Pastor's Report – Pastor Shayne reported that the youth collected a large box of canned goods and is currently collecting hats and mittens for the North Knox Social Ministries. The Junior and Senior High youth will be participating in a progressive dinner for their Christmas party and will also be decorating doors at the Freelandville Community Home. Youth Sunday is scheduled for January, and an after-school program for fourth and fifth graders is scheduled to begin January. In February the Junior High youth will be attending a conference; the Senior High youth's conference will be in March. Pastor Shayne expressed frustration that his youth programs are in constant competition with the school's sports programs.

Secretary's Report – The secretary's report was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – One correction was noted on page five of the written report. The amount in the M. L. Mables account should have read \$445,037.05. The council approved the following dispersals from the Ministry Fund: \$500 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to a recent fire victim and \$3,400 to the Freelandville Community Home, funds collected during a recent fund drive by the Mission Committee.

Deacon's Report – The report was approved as written. The average attendance for November was 169, and the income for November was: offering, \$14,850.57; Atlas Gas, \$479.45; facility use, \$85; Rural King, \$28.74; interest income, \$85.64;

preschool, \$4048.18; FCH collection, \$2,517; mission fund, \$555; youth pastor, \$150; Mabes fund, \$2,000 (transferred for the final Anthis Heating & Air-Conditioning); and cemetery fund, \$100.

Elder's Report – It was shared that the Faithful Footprints SS Class would like relocate upstairs from the social room, which will take place as soon as a space becomes available. Pew communion will be celebrated on January 1, Epiphany Sunday.

Building and Grounds – It was reported that the required electrical work due to the installation of the new heating and air-conditioning system us nearing completion. Wolfe Construction is working on the leak problem around the tower and feels they will be able to correct the situation. Kevin shared information on the settlement progress with the insurance company concerning the storm damage last spring. Kevin will investigate other possible insurance companies and report his findings at the next meeting.

Old Business – There was no report on the purchase of the big screen and computer system for the sanctuary.

New Business – Ed shared that there are problems with the sound system and the assisted hearing devices. Also, some monitors are not working. Hopefully these can be corrected when the new computer system is installed. The need for a new TV and DVD player in the social room and a DVD player for the portable TV cart was discussed. It was decided to ask the special gifts committee to get quotes and make a recommendation at the next council meeting. The council reviewed committee assignments for 2012; board members will contact prospective new committee members.

Coming Events

December 25 – Early Christmas Service at 6:30

January 1 – Epiphany Sunday Communion

Parish Records:

Attendance:

Nov. 27 159
Dec. 4 139
Dec. 11 192
Dec. 18 208

Greeters:

Jan. 8 & 15 Bill & JoAnne Brocksmit
Jan. 22 & 29 Danny & Linda Kixmiller

Ushers: Andy and Andrea Miller

Nursery Notes (Worship):

Jan. 1 Tracey Kahre/Stacy Page
 8 Kelci Anderson/Bonnie Organ
 15 Debbie Telligman/Hallie Durall
 22 Cally Miller/Beth Durall
 29 Andrea Miller/Ashley Durall

Children's Church:

Jan. 1 Bonnie Organ/Chris Horst
 8 Lenora McCrary/Tracey Kahre/Kelci Anderson
 15 Jo Anne Brocksmit/Chris Horst
 22 Dale Tiek/Nancy Tilly
 29 No Children's Church

January birthdays:

Jan. 6 John Repass (Happy 82nd)
 7 Marilyn Johanningsmeier (Happy 80th)
 13 Don Johanningsmeier (Happy 82nd)
 17 Agnes Lee (Happy 82nd)
 19 Gertrude Hagemier (Happy 88th)
 31 Marge Finke (Happy 92nd)

Chimes news will be due on January 16.

January 2012

Bethel
Chimes

Bethel Church
Freelandville, Indiana

Bethel Church
13673 E State Rd 58
Edwardsport IN 47528

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Freelandville, Indiana
Permit No. 4

Phone: 812-328-2358

E-mail: bethel@wirelessilliana.com

Web-site: www.bethelchurch-indiana.com

Bethel Preschool-812-328-6038

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Dated Material - please deliver by January 3