

**Church Office Hours-**

**Weekdays:** 8:30 am-2:30 pm

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

Secretary: Lesa Houghland

E-mail address: [bethel@wirelessilliana.com](mailto:bethel@wirelessilliana.com)

Web-site: [www.bethelchurch-indiana.com](http://www.bethelchurch-indiana.com)

Bethel Christian Preschool (812) 328-6038

**Pastor Mike DeCoursey's office hours-**

**Weekdays:** 9am-2pm

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

**Pastor Shayne Spurgeon** Cell (812) 430-0994

**Council members-**

Kevin Hammelman, President John Koenig, Vice President

Mary Ann Miller, Secretary Herman Tilly, Treasurer

Rowe Sargent Gordon Clinkenbeard Scott Page

Ed Hagemeyer John Spanger

**FROM THE PASTORS STUDY-**

In Philippians 4:4 we are commanded to rejoice in the Lord. This command is given twice in order that the reader might see who, rather than what needs to be rejoiced. Too many times in our culture today we rejoice in all the wrong things. We rejoice when our favorite athletic team wins, we rejoice at good news, a raise, and a job promotion, but how often do we rejoice in the Lord? Why do we allow this to happen? Is it because we have put the Lord in a box, only to be opened whenever we need help? That appears to be the norm in our society today. Let's put God on the shelf and only bring Him down when we need Him. Society says that we might hurt someone's feelings if we allow Him to be prayed to in our schools, to have His commandments hung on the walls in our schools, etc.

Look where that thinking has led us to, a society that rejoices in things, usually the wrong things rather than rejoicing in the one true thing, the Lord. Isn't it time we take back what we have lost? Maybe a good starting point for this New Year will be rejoicing not things that rust away, but rather the Lord, who is the same, yesterday, today and forevermore.

Have a blessed 2013.

Pastor Mike

James 5:16

## **YOUTH CORNER**

Wow, what a great year for Bethel youth!! We have attended several conferences, been to a few concerts, held some retreats, tried some new fundraisers, found God in the mountains and so much more! None of this would have been possible without the full support of our church family and its many proud supporters!! I started making a list of people to thank and found there were so many people on that it's safe to bunch Bethel youth supporters into one group known as Bethel Church!! I would like to pay a special thank you to the Bethel Women's Guild.....a lot of you don't know this but the Guild is constantly supporting Bethel Youth on all our endeavors. It is such a blessing for two completely different groups with two completely different personalities to come together under God for the sole purpose of growing the kingdom! Bethel Women's Guild realizes the importance of our youth as the future of our Church and does more than their part to help us succeed. Thank you. And to all of our other supporters.....keep it up!! Lives are changing and heaven's getting bigger, let's make this year our best year yet....a year where we are focused on God, putting aside our differences and working towards one goal, let's shout it from our steeple here at Bethel....Jesus was born, he died for me and you, and he was risen again.....one day he will return again, and oh, what a day that will be!!!! Happy New Year!

Shayne Spurgeon

## **Sunday School**

Happy New Year!!!! It's a brand new year on the calendar, but right now I'd like to say a few things about this past year.

First, I'd like to thank Beth Durall, Bonnie Organ, and Liberty Lemberg for organizing and leading such a great Christmas Program for our youth department! If you didn't get a chance to make it, you missed several, and I mean several, young Christian believers singing and portraying that so very special night of our Savior's birth.

Next, I'd like to say thanks again to Cheryl Hagemeyer for her past two years of service to the Sunday School Dept. and a big thank you to Terri Miller for stepping in to be my assistant this year.

A big thank you to all those that came out to put up the trees and all the beautiful decorations that make our church so beautiful and so special during the Christmas season. And thanks to those that helped remove the trees and decorations. It takes a team to do all of this and we at Bethel have great members on our team!

I'm looking forward to see what the New Year has in store. Make a resolution to get a little closer to God and let him show you the way! Just happened to flip to the hymn "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" and this caught my eye and sounded pretty good for the New Year: "Have Thine own way Lord, Have Thine own way, Thou art the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will, while I am waiting yielded and still." So, if your clay is not hardened all the way yet, let the Lord finish it the way HE wants!

You are loved,  
Randy Hammelman  
SS Supt.

## **Preschool**

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 2013!

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. ☺

After much hard work and a lot of excitement, our preschool Christmas program took place on the evening of December 7<sup>th</sup> 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 celebrated the greatest Christmas present of all!

The Monday following the program, we took a little time to visit the sanctuary where each child received one of the little stuffed lambs that helped to decorate our stage for Christmas program. There was a little lamb for each child as a gift from their prayer partner. They loved them! The little lambs got to spend the rest of the day with us at preschool on the carpet, at snack time and during table time. ☺ Thank you mission committee and prayer partners for all you do for our preschoolers!

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. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Miss Doris (Brocksmith) and Miss Nancy (Tilly) for the wonderful books they donated to us this month. Miss Doris gave us "The Legend of the Candy Cane" which we loved reading and learning about all the ways the candy cane reminds us of Jesus! We also got to hear Miss Doris read the Hallmark recordable storybook "The Night Before Christmas" that was donated by Chris Horst with a request for Miss Doris to read. The children loved hearing Miss Doris's voice each time we turned the page! We also got to unwrap and read "Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story" that was given to us by Miss Nancy. It was also a very special story that I know will be enjoyed by Bethel Preschool for years to come.

We finished 2012 with our Christmas Parties! What an eventful day it was as we played games, shared snacks, did crafts 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 2013!

In His Love,  
Mrs. Hammelman

What a fun and busy month it has been!!! We had a great time at our program singing and being onstage to tell our show our story about Jesus and His birth. One little boy told me there were a ton of people there. Thanks to all who support us and came to watch or helped in anyway. You are all amazing and we truly appreciated all you do for the preschool.

Each child took home a sheep from their prayer partners. The preschoolers were so excited to receive a gift. One little boy said his prayer partner is the best and I pray for her!! I love knowing someone is praying for each and every one that comes to Bethel. This is such a great mission and a blessing all in one.

We got to go shopping with the sweet ladies from Generations at "our very own shopping center and not Wal-Mart" was what one said about our day!!. We each got to pick out a gift for mom and one for dad.

We also went to Oak Village to visit and sing for the residents there. We thank all of them for having us. We had fun singing and giving the residents gifts. We got to play bingo with some sweet ladies and share the good news of Jesus.

We tried to squeeze in some letters during all of our singing and playing Christmas games. We looked at the letter L and talked about the lamb that was beside Baby Jesus. We made a craft and after it sat on the table one little preschooler said "Hey we just used a toilet paper thing for that lamb. He was right, but it took a little while to realize that.

We learned that letter K is for our King and are all happy to be a king's kid. We got to go on an adventure in the big church in search of a book, cookie cutter, and a couple of other items. One of my

preschoolers has had his book read to him enough times; he has almost memorized the story!! Thanks to Miss Doris (Brocks Smith) for adding the candy cane to our treasure hunt. What a nice surprise and sweet idea.

Letter M taught us about the manger, Mary the mother, and Merry Christmas. We got to stamp out the nativity scene and every one's paper looked different than all of our friends, but the kids decided where every animal or person was standing. "I like ink and things," said one little girl. We love to get a little messy some times. We received a Minnie and Mickey Memory game and enjoyed playing with our friends. Thanks to Miss Doris (Richter) for thinking of us!!

We painted our reindeer to guide the sleigh for Santa. We were so funny as were took off our socks and shoes to paint the body (Captain Shayno was very surprised we were really using our feet!!) Then we added our hands for the antlers. They are all different sizes and one little boy said "I have big big antlers don't I?"

May Jesus continue to shine through the New Year. Blessings to all!!

Mrs. Durall

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## **Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2013**

**January/February – Assigned**

**March/April/May (Spring) – Mustard Seed**

**June – Bible School**

**July/August – Christian Generations**

**September/October/November (Fall) - Choir**

**December – (Christmas) – Mission Committee**

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## Thank You

Dear Bethel family,

Thank you all so very much for all your messages, prayers, calls, visits, and cards during the recent hospital stay and diagnosis of our mom and nana. A special thank you to Pastor Mike and Karen for visiting us at the hospital. We know we have a difficult road ahead of us, but feel God's presents and know that he is in control. Please continue to lift my family up in prayer.

*Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the lord your God is with you wherever you go"*

Yours in Christ,  
Travis, Stacey, Hailley and Trevor Kahre

Dear Bethel members,

We would like to take the time to tell you thank you for everything. We love and appreciate everything you have done for our family in this time of need. The prayers, encouragement, the support, everything you have done to help.

We have a very long road ahead of us still, and the prayers and encouragement is what gets us through on a daily basis. Jake has needed so many things the past 5 months, and those needs have been met by you – our church family. We are so happy we have that in our lives, a lot of people do not have that in their lives. We are very lucky to have been blessed with it. Even though this is a very hard time for us, we are glad you guys are there to share it with us.

We would like to say thank you for everything you have done. It is greatly appreciated.

Jake and Heather Kail

## Cities

It's been said that the Bible story "begins in a garden and ends in a city." A number of cities mentioned in Scripture have symbolic names. Can you give the proper name? Hint: one appears more than once.

1. The City of David
2. The Cities of the Plain (2),  
KJV
3. The City of Truth KJV
4. The Holy City
5. Cities of Refuge (6,  
name 2)
6. The Great City
7. The City of Palm Trees
8. The City of Waters

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### Answers:

1. Jerusalem (Zion), 2 Samuel 5:5, 7, 9
2. Sodom and Gomorrah, Genesis 13:10, 12
3. Jerusalem, Zechariah 8:3
4. New Jerusalem, Revelation 21:2
5. Bezer, Ramoth, Golan Kadesh, Shechem, Kiriatharba (Hebron), Numbers 35:6, Joshua 20:7-8
6. Babylon, Revelation 16:19
7. Jericho, 2 Chronicles 28:15
8. Rabbah, 2 Samuel 12:27



## GUILD

Christmas luncheon was enjoyed by 21 present. We made up 38 Christmas plates, which were delivered by members. We gave our Christmas cheer to Salvation Army, North Knox Nurses Fund, Bethel Pre-school, Bethel Youth, North Knox Social Ministries, and two families. Our program was enjoyed by all. Dorothy Spanger and Sharon Kahre were in charge.

We won't meet in January, so read a good book from our Library. The February meeting will be our memorial service.

Lill Clinkenbeard

## Christian Partners

Christian Partners Sunday School Class had a Christmas get-together at McKinley's. It was enjoyed by all present.

The following are officers for 2013: President – Rowe Sargent, Vice President – Lenora McCrary, Treasurer – Tom Kixmiller, Assistant Treasurer – Anita Malone, Secretary – Lill Clinkenbeard, Assistant Secretary – Vera Jones.

Christmas Cheer went to Salvation Army and North Knox School Nurses Fund.

### *Recipe for a Happy New Year*

*Author Unknown*

*To leave the old with a burst of song  
To recall the rights and forgive the wrong;  
To forgive the thing that binds you fast  
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;*

*To have the strength to let go your hold  
Of the non-worthwhile of the days grown old;  
To dare to go forth with a purpose true;  
To the unknown task of the year that's new,*

*To help your brother along the road  
To do his work and lift his load;  
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,  
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.*

# Bethel Church Council Minutes

December 10, 2012

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mike shared his monthly report, which included hospital and home visits, teaching confirmation classes on Sunday mornings, and conducting a service at the Freelandville Community Home. He reiterated that Matt and Jenny Clinkenbeard will be teaching the Financial Peace sessions beginning some time in January, and Pastor Mike hopes to begin a Bible Study on David Jeremiah in January.

**Secretary's Report:** It was approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** It was approved as written. It was shared that the mission allocations for 2012 have been fulfilled, and \$646 we used from the Emergency Distress fund to build a ramp at the home of Jake and Heather Kail. It was approved that the church pay the remaining amount due to members who had financed the last Bethel calendar.

**Deacon's Report:** The average attendance for November was 166, and the monthly offering was \$20,988.05. November income included: Atlas Gas, \$445.43; Facility Use, \$35; Interest Income, \$765.12; Preschool, \$3,695.39; Brocksmith Mission Fund, \$111.60, and Mission Fund, \$1,936 (Hurricane relief collection).

**Elder's Report:** It was reported that 110 were served communion on the first Sunday of Advent.

**Buildings and Grounds:** The Deacons shared that the trees have been cut down in the grove, and the council wants to thank Bill Hagemeyer for providing the equipment and assistance for this project. Gord Clinkenbeard will check to see if the broken pew in the social room can be repaired. It was reported that there are some pews in the sanctuary that also need to have some repairs made.

**Old Business:** The council is in the process of filling vacancies on the church committees that will be vacated at the end of January, and Garland Richter, Monica Russell, and Debbie Telligman have agreed to serve on a nominating committee to find replacement council members who will be retiring. Ed Hagemeyer is looking into possibly using a long-wearing composite material to replace the floor covering in the social room and will report at the next meeting.

**New Business:** The deacons will look into repairing the carpet on the front steps until it can possibly be replaced when warm weather returns. A request to transfer a cemetery plot was approved.

## **Coming Events:**

December 16 – Sunday School Christmas Program, 7:00 PM

December 25 – Christmas Service, 6:30 AM

December 30 – Youth Sunday

January 6 – Pew Communion

January 27 – Annual Meeting

## **A New Year With The Lord**

A new year is about to unfold  
With new opportunities to explore  
Doors will open for new experiences,  
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,  
The things of this past year,  
The Lord will do new things in us  
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us  
As we put our trust in Him  
And He will guide our every step  
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,  
We find we'll be able to do  
If we look for the opportunities,  
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back  
But rise up and take our place  
And be all that God wants us to be  
With a fresh touch of His grace

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## **Parish Records:**

### **Attendance:**

Nov. 25            143  
Dec. 2             133  
Dec. 9             165  
Dec. 16            198

### **Greeters:**

January 6 & 13 – Ed and Cheryl Hagemeyer

January 20 & 27 – Bill and Jo Anne

Brocksmith

**Ushers:** Jerry Lee & Kate Hammelman

### **Nursery (Sunday School):**

Jan.        6        Lana Dike/Krista Telligman  
             13        Cheryl Hagemeyer/Nancy Rinsch  
             20        Brandy Williams/Holly Spanger  
             27        Diane Telligman/Carole Albrecht

### **Nursery Notes (Worship):**

Jan.        6        Cally Miller/Kelci Anderson  
             13        Hallie Durall/Jesse Organ  
             20        Emily Pirtle/Madison Meurer  
             27        Ramona Hammelman/Rylee Hammelman

### **Children's Church:**

Jan        6        Bonnie Organ/Hallie Durall/Jesse Organ  
             13        Lenora McCrary/Tracy Kahre/Kelci Anderson  
             20        Jo Anne Brocksmith/Chris Horst  
             27        Dale Tiek/Nancy Tilly

### **January birthdays:**

6        John Repass (81)  
7        Marilyn Johanningsmeier (81)  
13       Don Johanningsmeier (83)  
17       Agnes Lee (83)  
19       Gertrude Hagemeyer (89)  
31       Marge Finke (93)

*Chimes news will be due on January 21<sup>st</sup>.*

*January 2013*

*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](mailto:bethel@wirelessilliana.com)

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