

Church Office Hours-

Weekdays: 8:30 am-2:30 pm

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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-

John Koenig, President

Gordon Clinkenbeard, Vice President

Mary Ann Miller, Secretary

Dan Kixmiller, Treasurer

Scott Page

Bill Resler

Garland Richter

Rowe Sargent

John Spanger

FROM THE PASTORS STUDY

As we prepare to celebrate Easter once again, let us not forget the sacrifice behind the holiday. Too many times we concentrate on the changing of the season that accompanies Easter and forget the true meaning of the holiday. Easter for the believer must be more than new Easter outfits, Easter egg hunts and etc. Easter must be coming face to face with the fact that what we read in John 3:16 has come to pass. God does love us so much that He did allow His son Jesus to be nailed to that cruel cross. As believers we must treat this holiday differently than the way the world would treat the holiday. Our emphasis needs to be on worship rather than pleasure; our emphasis must be on reflection and then and only then, can we celebrate the true meaning behind Easter. Let us celebrate this Easter for indeed the tomb remains empty.

In His Service
Pastor Mike
James 5:16

YOUTH CORNER

Do you have a plan? Life is crazy; there is so much work to be done, so much to do, that sometimes we need to plan for God! So, what does it mean to plan for God? Well, it means simply this.....What are you doing to make sure you spend time every day in the word, in prayer, and what are you going to do to further the kingdom?

1. Prayer: This is how we build that relationship with our Lord. We need to set a time aside every day to talk to Him. Just like with any other relationship, you have to talk.

2. Reading the Word: This is how God talks back. Stop looking at the Bible like a boring history book, and pick it up knowing this is the voice of God speaking to you....how awesome is that!

3. Have a plan to further the Kingdom of God: Look at it this way – a football team practices, they perfect and then they go in on game day with a plan. They keep doing that until they are winning games. As Christians, we have to do the same thing – we practice and perfect at church and in Bible study, and hopefully in our homes, and then when we go out into the world (*the game*) and use our plans to try and get a Win. So many times, as we Christians get stuck in this rut of just going to practice, staying in the huddle; but what's the point of practicing if you never get in the game? Answer: There is no point. It's not just the pastor's job to play – you are all players. So put on your pads, strap on your helmet, and get in the game. This isn't a football game, this is the game of life and souls are at stake. Some people are happy with just going to church on Sundays....but it's not enough! Practice, perfect, plan, and GET IN THE GAME!!! God's waiting.....what's your plan?

God Bless,
Shayne Spurgeon
Youth Minister

MISSIONS

The Mission committee met on February 10th to discuss recommendations on the 2013 budget to be presented to the council at their February meeting and do the initial planning for mission projects for this year. We thank Steve and Debbie Telligman for their years of service on the mission committee and welcome Bruce and Terri Miller and Rowe and Maridell Sargent.

We plan to keep some of our same projects and continue to support outside missions/missionaries financially, but one thing we feel the Lord calling us to do this year is to disciple missionaries right here in our church. We need the men and women of Bethel to rise up and become disciples in their homes, our church and community.

We pray that you will join us in answering the command of God through His Great Commission “to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matt 28:19

We will keep you posted of upcoming events.

Your 2013 Committee Members:

John and Jan Spanger

Chuck Borgmeier

Tambria Leonard

Gordon and Janet Clinkenbeard

Dale and Jane Tiek

Bruce and Terri Miller

Rowe and Maridell Sargent.

PRESCHOOL

Wow! February seemed to just fly by as we kept busy, busy, busy in the MWF preschool classes! We were barely able to be sad that the weather only occasionally allowed us to venture outside but were so happy on the days that we were able to zip up our coats and head outside for a bit of fresh air. ☺

During V week we were very excited to have special visitor! Mr. Chuck (Borgmeier) brought in his violin to show to the preschoolers

and tell them about it and how he had come to begin playing the instrument. They loved hearing the songs he played and became even more thrilled when he let each of them have a turn at playing it! You can imagine how excited one little preschooler was when he played the Happy Birthday song and it was actually his birthday! Thank you, Mr. Chuck, for taking the time to come in and share with our preschoolers that it is never too late to learn something new!

We also celebrated Valentine's Day with a party for each class. The mothers did such a wonderful job planning a fun day full of crafts, games, and yummy snacks. We had a wonderful month as we celebrated the love we have for Jesus, our family, our friends and the love we receive in return! We read lots of stories about love and kindness and made lots of heart crafts. I hope you were able to browse through the preschool hallway and enjoy some of the children's quotes about their friends and what they love about each other. We were also able to get our superhero capes as the Superheroes of Kindness strapped on their capes to spread more love and kindness! They took great care to create special cards to send to Bethel shut-ins and other loved ones who were in their hearts. Once the cards were made and envelopes were addressed and decorated with a sufficient amount of stickers ☺ we made our way to the "Post Office" (thank you Ms. Lesa for taking money and passing out stamps and Pastor Shayne for making sure they made it to the real Post Office!) to "buy" stamps and then place them in the mail slot at the church office. The children had so much fun getting to mail their letters and visit with Ms. Lesa, Pastor Mike and Pastor Shayne. It was a wonderful time! ☺

By the time you read this we will have had Donuts with Dad. Right now, we are counting down each day to the star on our calendar that marks the special day. We are having fun deciding which songs to sing and making a small keepsake. The kids are so excited to have a special day with their Daddy.

I am looking forward to some warmer days and more blessed moments God has in store for us during our preschool days. Thank you for the continued love, support, and prayers that are continually sent our way.

In His Love,
Mrs. Hammelman

God's blessings are all around and I am very thankful. I am blessed to have a great group of active and involved parents for the preschoolers.

We were blessed with nice weather one afternoon and decided to take a walk. As we were getting our jackets zipped up, one little boy said, "we never get to go outside at preschool anymore. Why today?" I explained that the weather was better than it had been and we were heading out. "Great!" he said with a big smile. We were out less than 10 minutes, but we sure enjoyed it.

Letter P kept us very busy as we painted a pretty pink pig puppet out of a paper bag to show our parents. With only one girl in class on that day, the boys would have rather painted a different color like "John Deere green," but that wouldn't have been a pretty pig. Our story was "The Prodigal Son," but that was hard to remember or say so we called him the lost son, and we were glad when he returned home to help his dad and not work in the pig pen anymore. We then went to the kitchen for cookie class where we made our own pepperoni pizza for a party! We love to make messes, but enjoyed this mess as we got to eat it later. Some kids only wanted pepperoni on their pizza, some wanted just to eat the sauce right out of the jar yet not add any to our bread. There are all so different and unique--love them all :-)

We read about Queen Esther for our letter Q and how she was very brave to help God's people. She was a Hero! We want to be brave when we face life's problems and we can be if we always let God be with us everywhere we go. We also painted a plate yellow and made ducks that quacked a lot all day. It was noisy and fun!!

Letter R was all about the Rainbow God gave us as a promise to never flood the earth again. We loved looking at magazines to see all the different colors God gave us. We used our cutting skills to cut out the colors and make our own rainbow as a class. We had all sizes of paper to go in our poster board; Captain Shayno was a little sticky after helping us glue, and all for a beautiful class project. Thanks to Lesa, Chris, and Pastor Mike for their help when I have crazy ideas and can't draw!

We got to make a mess of another kind when we tried to sow seeds on good soil for letter S. We decorated our cups with stickers and planted several seeds hoping a few will grow. We learned that seeds need sunlight, water, lots of love and prayers to grow.

Hopefully in a couple of weeks, we will see some changes in our cups. Some of our preschool moms may have seeds growing in the car as at least two cups were turned over in the car ride home. One little boy came back in next day asking when we could play in the dirt again, that was the best he said.

We talked a lot about God's love for us and how we don't need a special day--Valentine's Day--to show that kind of love. We should show love everyday to someone who needs it. I asked the kids how they show special love. The responses were great. One little boy likes to watch his mommy in the kitchen making cookies--chocolate chip--so he can eat them all. I said do you like to help her make cookies for someone else to show love. He said no. I kept asking ways he helps show love. Finally he said, "Okay I'll do the cookies next time and mom can eat them. Is that love?" I had to tell him yes as I was laughing the whole time. I also heard "I like to help my dad do things in the garage." I questioned what do you do to help. "Just sit beside him in the chair." Not sure what those boys really do in the garage, but I am glad they are having a good time together. We had fun filled Valentine Parties with lots of games and activities. A big thanks to all who helped. We always love to see what the party planning parents come up with for us to do.

We are working on surprises for our dads as we are excited to bring them on Saturday, February 23 for a date and donuts. We have some visitors coming soon but I will have to wait and share that next time. We will be talking a lot about Easter as it is the end of March this year. We are blessed to have wonderful volunteers and a great church family. Thanks for all your support, love, and prayers.

Mrs. Durall

Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2013

March/April/May (Spring) – Mustard Seed

June – Bible School

July/August – Christian Generations

September/October/November (Fall) – Choir

December – (Christmas) – Mission Committee

Thank You's

Dearest Bethel Family,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Bethel congregation for their love support and prayers these past few months during the short illness and death of our mom and nana, Mary Cox. Whether you visited, provided us meals, sent cards, text messages, or just quietly said a prayer, we felt your love and we truly felt the power of prayer.

God's loving arms were wrapped around our entire family as we said goodbye to our mom and nana.

A special thank you to Dennis, Sharon, and Tracey Kahre for never leaving our side. To Pastor Mike and Karen for their visits and to the church choir for their beautiful music and fantastic Christmas Cantata that our mom loved so much!

Please continue to pray for our family as we begin to heal and move forward in the coming days. We also ask that you pray for those who do not have a church family and do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

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

John 16:22

So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

The family of Margaret Koenig wishes to thank all who sent cards, gave flowers, donated food and prayed for us in the passing of our Mother. We thank Pastor Mike for his celebration of life message, Edith Rinsch for the beautiful music, and the Bethel Women's Guild for the lovely meal prepared for family and friends.

We also thank those who gave monetary gifts to the Women's Guild and Hospice. Words cannot express our gratitude we have for the outpouring of love shared with us this past week.

Thank you and God bless you, Bethel Church Family.

The family of Margaret Koenig

Bethel Church,

On behalf of N. K. Social Ministries, we would like to thank you for all the help your Church has give us. It is greatly appreciated. Without the help from the community, we couldn't help all the people in need.

Thank you.

N. K. Social Ministries
Sharon Kahre, Secretary

Wanted: A Children's Church preschool teacher for the 3rd Sundays of each month. Please contact Bonnie Organ if you are interested in volunteering

The new Bethel Shelter House Committee will be meeting for the first time on Thursday, February 28 at 7 P.M. Anyone who is interested in this project is welcome to attend!



GUILD

We had a memorial program at our February meeting, sharing memories of our departed members, Helen Smith and Helen Hankins.

Our March meeting on the 6th will be cleaning the kitchen beginning at 9 am. At noon, we'll have a lunch with Nancy Tilly and Sharon Kahre as hostesses.

We will have a short meeting when we get the cleaning finished. Please bring canned goods for North Knox Social Ministries.

Our annual Lenten Breakfast will be March 16 at 9 am, in the Social Room. All ladies from around the area are cordially invited for a morning of good food, good fellowship and an inspirational message from our speaker, Janet Clinkenbeard on "I Am Redeemed". Hope to see you there.

Lill Clinkenbeard

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Marge Horst:

Carolyn Allen

Scott and Lana Dike

Marjorie and Dick Finke

Edgar & Linda Hammelman

Linda M. Hammelman

Randy and Ramona Hammelman

Butch and Bernettia Hollingsworth

Mary Ann Miller

B. G. and Patsie O'dell

Herman and Nancy Tilly

Organ Fund: Gertrude Hagemeyer

In memory of Margaret Koenig:

Anon.

Dick and Marjorie Finke

Tom and Joyce Kixmiller

Charles and Medera Meier

Bethel Church Council Minutes

February 11, 2013

Youth Pastor's Report: Pastor Shayne shared that "Kids for Christ" for grades 3-5 has begun, meeting on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:30. Also, the middle school youth will be attending the ATF Conference in Nashville, IN, later in February.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike's report included conducting a service at the Freelandville Community Home, weekly confirmation classes, pre-marital counseling, hospital visits, and conducting a funeral. He shared that the Financial Peace sessions will begin Tuesday, February 12, led by Matt and Jenny Clinkenbeard. The Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 13, and most speakers have been secured for the remaining weekly Lenten services.

Secretary's Report: It was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: It was approved as written. The Mission Committee presented their suggested budget allocations for 2013, totally \$30,000. Garland Richter moved to accept the budget, seconded by Gord Clinkenbeard, and approved by the council.

Deacon's Report: The average attendance for January was 142, and the monthly offering was \$15,379.68. January income included: Atlas Gas, \$478.08; Interest income, \$1,675.94; Preschool, \$3,670.39; Brocksmith Mission Fund, \$112.32; Youth, \$10.00; General Donation designated for the Youth Pastor, \$100.00; and, Cemetery Fund, \$3,229.32.

Buildings and Grounds: Gord Clinkenbeard reported that there is still a water seepage problem in the basement; they will work on the suspected exterior area causing the problem when weather permits. The deacons will get estimates on replacing the exterior door by the ramp in the basement and also the doors in Bethel Hall. Upon examination it was discovered that there was a great deal of deterioration to the wood structure of the Bethel Hall doors. There are three tile holes on the Strate ground that need to be repaired, and there is some brush in a fence row that needs to be removed. John Spanger will check with Brandon Spanger concerning remedying these problems.

Elder's Report: A visitation schedule for the elders and Pastor Mike has been completed. Altar communion will be served at the Ash Wednesday service.

Old Business: A motion was made by Scott Page, seconded by Garland Richter, and passed by the council to proceed with installing new flooring in the church kitchen.

New Business: Herman Tilly shared that seven people have volunteered to serve on a committee to explore renovating the shelter house. Dan Kixmiller will represent the council on this committee. A letter will be sent to area churches to see if there is an interest in joining Bethel in organizing a Journey to Jerusalem in 2014. Due to the poor condition of the carpet on the front steps and those leading into Bethel Hall, the deacons will investigate different possibilities for replacing them. They will also get estimates on replacing the remaining windows on the main floor of the Sunday school wing. The Preschool asked permission to enlarge the play area behind the church, which they will pay for, and it was granted. It was decided to continue paying the Lenten speakers \$100 and to sponsor tables at the upcoming LAM and Heart to Heart dinners.

Following the regular meeting, the council met in executive session to discuss employee contracts.

Coming Events:

February 13 – Ash Wednesday
Wednesday Lenten services
February 21 – LAM Banquet



Parish Records:

Deaths: Marjorie Horst died on Tuesday, February 5th.
Margaret Koenig died on Saturday, February 9th.

Attendance:

Jan.20 140
Jan. 27 136
Feb. 3 117
Feb. 10 141
Feb. 17 138

Greeters:

Mar. 3 & 10 – Sam & Cally Miller
Mar. 17 & 24 – Bill & Carole Albrecht
Mar. 31 – Frank & Lenora McCrary

Ushers: Bill and Carol Albrecht

Nursery (Sunday School):

Mar. 3 Lana Dike/Jo Anne Brocksmith
 10 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Holly Spanger
 17 Krista Telligman/Nancy Rinsch
 24 Diane Telligman/Brandy Williams
 31 Tambria Leonard/Lisa Richter

Nursery Notes (Worship):

Mar. 3 Tracey Kahre/Debbie Telligman
 10 Virginia Koenig/Jesse Organ
 17 Beth Durall/Kelci Anderson
 24 Cally Miller/Emily Pirtle
 31 Ramona and Reeva Hammelman

Children's Church:

Mar. 3 Bonnie Organ/Hallie Durall/Jesse Organ
 10 Lenora McCrary/Tracey Kahre/Liberty Lemberg
 17 Jo Ann Brocksmith/Chris Horst
 24 Dale Tiek/Nancy Tilly
 31 No Children's Church

March birthdays:

4 Anna Mae Koenig (88th)
6 Darwin Emmel (82)
23 Carl Johanningsmeier (84th)

Chimes news will be due on March 18th.

March 2013

Bethel
Chimes

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Freelandville, Indiana

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