

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

Web-site: 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

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

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 2014.

Paul writes in Colossians 3:24b that it is the Lord Christ whom we serve. The choice is ours, whom will we serve in the New Year? The Lord Christ or our own desires? If we want to be pleasing to our God, let us choose to serve Him. As believers let us strive to make 2014 a special year, a year unlike any other we have experienced. Choosing Christ about self is a guaranteed recipe for success.

In His Service,
Pastor Mike
James 5:16

MISSIONS

Mission Committee Update:

Because of your generosity the Mission Committee was able to deliver 138 shoeboxes to the Operation Christmas Child distribution center in Washington the last Sunday in November. We exceeded our goal of 100 boxes, so a huge thanks to those who shopped and filled several boxes and to those who donated money (over \$400) so that we could fill boxes for you!! This is such a worthwhile project and we ask your prayers for the volunteers all over the world who will be distributing these shoeboxes in sometimes hostile areas.

We also wrapped the Christmas gifts for the pre-school children from their prayer partners and the teachers will be handing those out to the children this week. Please remember to send the Christmas card that is in your packet.

Be sure to take a peek at the bulletin board downstairs which reminds us what this season is truly about...the gift of Jesus to the world, our Savior.....”Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift”.

Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2014

January/February – Assigned

March/April/May (Spring) – Faithful Footprints

June – Bible School

July/August – Mustard Seed

September – Preschool

October/November – Mission Committee

December – (Christmas) – Christian Partners

THANK YOU’S

Thank you for the cards I received on my birthday. Nice to have a church family!

Ruth Brocksmith

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you so much for all you have done for our family during Travis's accident and recovery and Stacey's recent surgery and hospital stay. Thank you for the visits, phone calls, text messages, food, cookies, and mostly the prayers. We have had a very difficult year this year, but with God's love and embrace and the support of our wonderful church family, we have overcome our challenges. We feel very blessed to be a member of Bethel church. Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Stacey, Travis, Hailley and Trevor Kahre

Dear Bethel Church,

Thank you so much for all the food you collected for us. And for everything else your Church does to help N. K. Social Ministries. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
N. K. Social Ministries

We would like to thank the Guild for the wonderful cookies that were delivered to us.

Also, thanks for all the cards I received for my birthday.

Shirley Miller

Dear Bethel Church Members,

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the preschool Christmas program possible! Thank you to Pastor Mike for leading the welcome and closing, providing the narration and running the sound. Also, thank you to Lesa Houghland for doing such a great job on the programs. A big thank you to Nancy Tilly, Darlene Resler, Sharon Dunkerly, Nancy Rinsch, Tim and Tonya Miller, Brenda Brocksmith, Chris Horst, Ramona Hammelman, Briana Ainsworth, Ashley Durall, Rylee Hammelman and Reeva Hammelman for helping dress the children during the program. Thank you to Miss Trudy who also put so much into this program. We are amazed at how

blessed we are and the children are to have such a wonderful and caring church family and community!

Much love and many thanks!
Mrs. Lemberg and Mrs. Durall

GUILD

Bethel Guild had their regular meeting December 4th with a covered dish luncheon with 17 present. We fixed 23 cookie cheer plates and 5 diabetic plates and sent several cards. Doris Brocksmith and Nancy Tilly had an inspirational Christmas program.

We won't have a January meeting, but will meet February 5th for our memorial service.

Anyone wishing to learn to quilt, come any Tuesday afternoon. Quilters are needed.

Lill Clinkenbeard

Sunday School News

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

The New Year is upon us Bethel family! What will we strive to accomplish this coming year? Hopefully we'll work at making our Christian lives more pleasing to God. Let's all make a plan to change something about our faith, maybe to read more of the bible or help out with something at the church. Maybe be a bigger part of our community; maybe help our children understand more about what a Christian person needs to be. I don't know exactly what I'll do, but I can't be satisfied of just staying the same. Let's all start our Christian engines up (some just need a tune-up), and see what we can do to make our faith light shine!

Thanks to all who volunteer their time to make the Christmas season here at Bethel such a success! From everything to putting up the trees and decorating the sanctuary, to the Christmas program, the Cantata, the live Nativity scene. Everything takes volunteers and we have the greatest in the world! Thank you to all.

May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. Psalms 20:4

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 2014!

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, a lot of excitement and a snow delay our preschool Christmas program took place on the evening of December 13th 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 Jesus' birthday!

During the week following the program the children worked hard making a special Christmas gift to take home for their parents. It was fun to watch them put so much thought into what their parents would like! Each child was also given a very special gift to take home from their prayer partners. 😊 The kids were excited to receive such a special gift. Thank

you mission committee and prayer partners for all you do for our preschoolers!

Even though the snow caused us to miss a couple days of school, we didn't let it slow us down. The first day back we brought the snow in and painted it with watercolors! The kids were surprised to find out that we didn't even need water to paint the snow and soon figured out that it was because the snow was already wet. ☺ Thank you to Levi Telligman and his family for donating two new Christmas books to add to our library. The children love to read Christmas stories and talk about Jesus' birthday. We colored a Christmas tree 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. We also loved reading "The Legend of the Candy Cane" and learning about all the ways the candy cane reminds us of Jesus! We were able to make it outside a time or two and I was pleased to notice that Miss Trudy and I were not needed as much to help zip coats. ☺ The children are becoming more independent as they learn to zip coats and work cooperatively during center time. I am so proud of each one of them. ☺

We finished 2013 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 2014!

Love,
Mrs. Lemberg



We have had a busy December even with the unpredictable weather.

We had a lot of stories and crafts this month to help us remember why we celebrate Christmas. One craft was covering the little lamb with popcorn during L week. We read a story, "Little Lamb's Christmas" about how even the smallest animals followed the star to see Baby Jesus. I tried to tell the kids not to eat the wool from of the lamb, but use it to glue on the lamb. They told me it didn't feel like wool or even taste like it. Smart kids and I can't fool them. When they were gone, there was a trail of half eaten popcorn going out the door. Nobody complained of a stomach ache form eating too much glue, so I hope the crafts made it home with some "wool" still attached.

Letter K was based on a story called "I am a King's Kid." We got to wear crowns and parade through the church to let God know we are happy to be His. One little girl only heard the word King as we went marching. She was quick to tell me that she is NOT a king, but a princess and I was not convincing her that I was not calling her a king, but a King's Kid.

We got to go shopping for our moms and dads, thanks to Generations and the Elf Warehouse ladies, including our very Own Miss Doris Brocksmith. We truly appreciate the ladies that come to Bethel, help the kids pick out the perfect gift, and then help wrap also. The kids loved going to our "Mall"--just right across the hallway and picking out that special gift. We talked about keeping the gift a secret and not letting mom and dad open until Christmas. One little boy was quick to tell his mom "I can't tell you that I got you a snow globe for Christmas." He didn't even realize there was

no secret now as he was just making conversation about how his day went.

We got to paint our hands and one foot to make the cutest reindeer. After we finished and we looked at all of them on the wall, one little boy saw his name, but told me that was not his reindeer because the nose (heel of the foot) was too big to be his. He really wanted one that was smaller; maybe he could trade with his friend next to him:-)

We took a field trip to Oak Village Nursing Home, where we dressed in nativity costumes and sang of Baby Jesus for the residents. A big Thanks to Miss Marilyn (Koenig) and Miss Lill Clinkenbeard for meeting us there and helping us. We also thank the friendly staff and sweet residents for letting us hang out there for class after we had performed. We had fun and it was a great experience for all involved.

Then it was time for our big night that we had worked so hard on. After being cancelled due to the weather, we finally got to perform "The Colors of Christmas" and one little girl told her friend "there were a lot of smiley faces in the church." THANKS to all of you who came to support us even if it was snowing outside--we have a great church family and are blessed. As I was giving one little boy his gift from under the tree he questioned if we could sing again tomorrow, although I think he was one of the quieter ones on stage and didn't sing very much. They were all so cute!!

As I write this, we still have two days before break, and I look forward to making a craft for our parents, reading more stories of the Miracle Birth, and having our Christmas Party. I pray everyone had a blessed Christmas and look forward to the New Year.

Love in Christ,
Mrs. Durall



A Hive Of Bees

EACH name begins with “B” and the order of the second letter forms an interesting pattern.

1. Deborah asked him: “Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?” (Judg. 4:14) _____
2. Jacob left here for Haran (Gen. 28:10) _____
3. The place Paul “tried to enter” (Acts.16:7) _____
4. His girls gleaned the barley (Ruth 2:23) _____
5. Brother of Uz (Gen. 22:21) _____
6. “Set apart for me. . .and Saul” (Acts 13:2) _____
7. King of Aram (2 Kings 6:24) _____
8. A Shuhite (Job 2:11) _____
9. A cliff near Micmash (1 Sam. 14:4) _____
10. The month the Jerusalem temple was finished. (1 Kings 6:38) _____
11. Jeremiah’s scribe (Jer.36:4) _____
12. Known for its Bible students (Acts 17:10) _____
13. Guarded the doorway at the king’s gate (Esther 2:21) _____
14. Sons of Thunder (Mark 3:17) _____
15. Its young men “will fall by the sword” (Ezek. 30:17) _____

1. Barak
 2. Beersheba
 3. Bithynia
 4. Boaz
 5. Buz
 6. Barnabas
 7. Ben-Hadad
 8. Bildad
 9. Bozez
 10. Bul
 11. Baruch
 12. Berea
 13. Bighana
 14. Boanerges
 15. Bubastis

Medical Mission Trip

Three people from Bethel are going on a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic in March. The group, going with an organization called “Foundation for Peace” is Micah Morgan, Dale and Jane Tiek. We are going with 3 VU nursing faculty and 17 second year nursing students. We will be running medical clinics in villages and the foundation tells us that we will see 600 people/day! We are excited and overwhelmed!

We are asking for you to pray for this trip. Each person going has to pay their own way (\$1400). We also have to provide the supplies needed to run the medical clinics to these people who have very limited access to health-care. We will be conducting a **vitamin drive** to collect children’s chewable, adult multi-vitamins and prenatal vitamins in January and February. Please consider buying some vitamins to help our brothers and sisters, many of whom suffer from malnutrition. You can also make a monetary donation toward supplies by contacting Micah or the Tieks. Any amount will be put to good use and greatly appreciated.

We have already seen God at work in the planning stages of this trip and we know that He is going before us to prepare the way. We thank our Bethel family in advance for your prayers and your generosity!

Bethel Church Council Minutes

December 9, 2013

Pastor Mike’s Report: Pastor Mike’s report included hospital, home, and nursing home visits, leading a Sunday service at the Freelandville Community Home, youth meetings, planning the all-church dinner provided by the youth prior to the Christmas program on December 15th, Confirmation, and conducting counseling sessions.

Secretary’s Report: It was approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report: It was approved as written. The following mission allocations were made: North Knox Social Ministries, \$500, and special emergency fund need, \$1,000.

Deacon's Report: The average attendance for November was 156, and the offering was \$17,232.24. Income included: Atlas Gas, \$475.26; Facility Use, \$60.00; Preschool, \$3,634.89; Strate Acres, \$27,512.93; Brocksmith Mission, \$109.68; Youth, \$208.68 (Pumpkin judging contest); North Knox Social Ministries, \$100.00; Memorial Fund, 1,025.00; Cemetery Fund, \$800.00; Cemetery Plots, \$650.00, and IRS Refund, \$2.48 (Employee Withholding refund).

Buildings and Grounds: Gord Clinkenbeard thanked those who helped with the snow removal of the church parking areas. It was noted that the new exterior doors in Bethel have been installed, and the exterior door leading into the preschool area has been repaired.

Elders' Report: Assisting church members with health needs was discussed, and it was asked that anyone knowing of a needed visitation or special need inform Pastor Mike or an elder.

Old Business: It was shared that the Youth Pastor Search Committee continues reviewing resumes and is in the process of contact prospective candidates. It was noted that the grip strips installed on the steps leading to Bethel Hall came loose when it rained. Therefore, a more durable replacement will be sought. Scott Page shared that the Faithful Families SS Class will have a live nativity scene on Sunday, December 22, from 6:00-8:00 PM in front of the church.

New Business: Committee members for 2014 were discussed, and the deacons will meet to form a proposed budget for 2014. Bill Resler will purchase a Shop-Vac and a replacement sweeper for the sanctuary. It was announced that communion will be given on Epiphany Sunday, January 5th. Needed changes to the Wedding Policy Handbook were needed.

Coming Events:

December 25 – Christmas morning church service, 6:30 AM
January 5 - Pew Communion

Memorial Fund:

In memory of Roy Volle:

Cardinal Farms Partnership

Parish Records:

Births: Kent and Melissa Schroeder welcomed Dylan Wayne, on December 17th. He weighed 7 lb. 15 oz., and was 22 inches long. Big brothers are Luke and Keevan. Bethel grandparents are Bill and Jean Schroeder, and great-grandparents are Dallas and Shirley Miller.

Attendance:

Nov. 24 156
Dec. 1 136
Dec. 8 95
Dec. 15 147

Greeters:

January 5 & 12 – Ernie & Monica Russell
January 19 & 26 – Ed and Cheryl Hagemeyer

Ushers: Brian & Bonnie Organ

Nursery (Sunday School):

Jan. 5 Lana Dike/Krista Telligman
 12 Cheryl Hagemeyer/ Nancy Rinsch
 19 Kate Hammelman/Holly Spanger
 26 Diane Telligman/Carole Albrecht

Nursery Notes (Worship):

Jan. 5 Kelci Anderson/Beth Durall
 12 Bonnie and Jesse Organ
 19 Tiffany Granderson/Ashley Durall
 26 Stacy and Brianna Page

Children's Church:

Jan. 5 Bonnie Organ/Jesse Organ/Hallie Durall
 12 Tracey Kahre/Liberty Lemberg
 19 Jo Anne Brocksmith/Cheryl Hagemeyer/Krista Telligman
 26 Dale Tiek/Jenny Clinkenbeard

December birthdays:

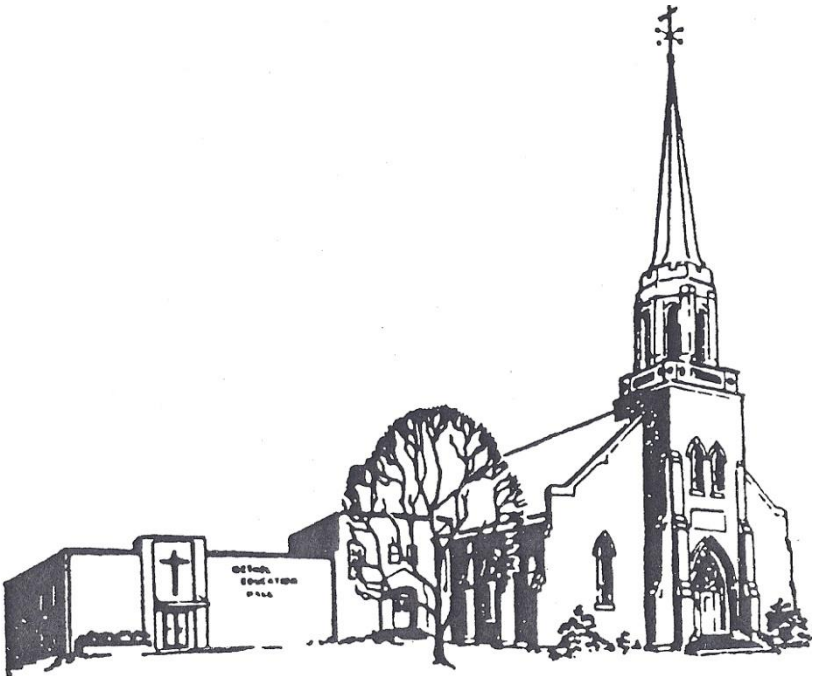
Jan. 13 Don Johanningsmeier (84th)
 17 Agnes Lee (84th)
 19 Gertrude Hagemeyer (90th)
 31 Marge Finke (94th)

Chimes news will be due on January 20th.

January 2014

Bethel

Chimes



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Freelandville, Indiana

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