

**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 number:** (812) 887-3810

**Pastor Mike Leydet's office hours--Weekdays:** 9 am-2-pm

**Phone number:** (812) 840-0157

**Council members-**

Gordon Clinkenbeard, President

Bill Resler, Vice President

Mary Ann Miller, Secretary

Dan Kixmiller, Treasurer

Kevin Hammelman

Joe Koenig

Garland Richter

Rowe Sargent

John Spanger

**FROM THE PASTORS STUDY**

Psalm 188:8 tells us that it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust man. While this one verse has held true through the ages, I believe it has special meaning as we look to the New Year. What will 2015 have in store for us? Personally, I can't see things getting better in our society, a society that has turned its back on God and His ways. How much longer will God allow us to go our own way before He sends His Son back for His church? I believe now is the time to make preparation for that return and our first steps should be returning to His word and all of the promise it holds for those who truly believe.

How do we begin those steps? Pick up the Word and become a student of it. Drop the remote and grab your Bible. I read that the average American watches on the average 5 hours of television daily. Can you imagine how much better off we would be if we spent those hours in the Word, rather than in the world?

We have been given a choice in the matter, repent or rebel, follow or run, the choice is ours. It is time to seek after and take

refuge in the One who has been and is and will continue to be steadfast in His promises.

Wishing you and yours a blessed 2015 in the Lord.

In His Service,  
Pastor Mike  
James 5:16

## **YOUTH PASTOR**

I can't believe that 2015 is already upon us. Christmas has come and gone and we are embarking on another year, and personally I am excited to get it started. We are taking the youth to Pigeon Forge January 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> for the Strength to Stand conference. This will be Renee and I's 5<sup>th</sup> year taking youth to this conference and it gets better every year. I jokingly say that there is no good way to get to Pigeon Forge from here but it is definitely worth the drive. I look forward to the youth telling you all about the conference and the impact that it had on them. I thank you in advance for that because you all made it possible. I would ask that you please keep the youth in your prayers during these 3 days, if you would like a list so that you can pray for those going by name, please see me.

On a personal note I would like to say how much my family and I have enjoyed the festivities the past few weeks and how happy we are to be a part of the Bethel family. I have been overwhelmed by the support you have shown us already. Your generosity has been pleasantly surprising. Your kind words of encouragement have been continual. So thank you again for your support and encouragement these last 6 months. My prayer is that as we all serve together throughout this year that our excitement doesn't wane and that the joy of the Lord be our strength.

In His Love,  
Pastor Mike

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## **Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2015**

**January – Nancy Tilly**  
**February – Christian Generations**  
**March/April/May (Spring) – Choir**  
**June – Bible School**  
**July/August – Mission Committee**  
**September – Preschool**  
**October/November – Nancy Tilly**  
**December – Faithful Footprints**

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### **GUILD**

Bethel Guild had a holiday meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 18 present for lunch. We enjoyed the program and singing carols. Nancy Tilly and Terri Miller sang two duets, Christmas readings by Shirley Brouhard and Lill Clinkenbeard, Edith and Edna Rinsch played a Christmas piano duet, and Dorothy Spanger gave prayer.

We made 26 cheer plates, and everyone took some plates to visit our shut-ins. Christmas cheer – we gave to Salvation Army, N. K. School Nurses Fund, Bethel Youth, and our Church staff.

We will not meet in January. Read a good book, visit a shut-in, call a friend, or come out to quilt on Tuesday afternoons!

Have a blessed New Year.

Lill Clinkenbeard

### **Preschool**

J is for Jesus--the best gift of all. December has been a fun and very busy month as we did all of our lessons on the birth of our Savior and King which lead us right to the next letter of the alphabet, letter k. We read a book called "I'm a King's Kid and So Are You." Our crafts, too were all about Jesus. We made an ornament where we put a baby in a manger and crown to show that we belong to Jesus.

We worked really hard on our new songs for our big program. I am very proud of all the preschoolers as they sang and told the story to a crowded congregation. Thanks to our church family who worked hard on getting the sanctuary decorated and ready. It all looks wonderful. Thanks to all who came to our program and watched or helped behind the scenes. We are truly blessed with a great church family.

We painted a reindeer using one foot and two hands. The kids were amazed when they figured out what we were making as they put a red nose on their craft. One little boy exclaimed "It's Santa's leader!"

We took our live nativity to Oak Village where we dressed as angels, cows, or sheep and sang Christmas songs for the residents. It is a joy to watch the smiles on the residents as we parade around. A big thanks to all of the Nursing Home staff for allowing us to go and sing, but also have our entire class session there.

We ended our last day before Christmas break with a party. We love party days because the parents do a lot of fun and different activities that we don't have time for during regular class time.

Hoping everyone enjoyed the reason for the season--Jesus. Looking forward to the New Year and all the blessings that will follow. Praying for all to have a happy and healthy new year.

Mrs. Durall



It is truly hard to believe it is almost Christmas and what a joy it has been to talk about the true meaning of the season with the preschoolers. We have done a lot this month, we continued our letter of the week routine by talking about the letter J. With the Christmas season quickly approaching I used this as an opportunity to talk about baby Jesus and the unconditional love shown to us from God, who sent his son for

us. We did a manger holiday craft with the letter J which I invite you to see in the hallway!

We were very fortunate to have the ladies from Generations return to preschool and allow us to shop for our parents. I believe all of the kids really enjoyed this. However I am uncertain if they were able to keep the gift they had picked out for mom, dad, or grandparents a secret. I know one little girl was so excited she had to have her parents open it the same night.

During K week we talked about who our true King is and what it means to be a true king's kid. We had fun dipping our kings crown cookie cutters in paint to cover our K. We even practiced cutting out a K and got to play in shaving cream for the first time. We of course were busy working on other handmade gifts for our parents we even got to paint and make our own wrapping paper for the gift with our preschool friends from downstairs.

The preschoolers worked very hard on learning the songs for the Christmas play. I am so very proud of all of them for getting up on stage in front of such a large audience. We truly enjoyed getting to know and practice with our friends from Mrs. Durall's class. I would like to thank all in the church who volunteered to help with the kids and the rehearsals. I also would like to thank all who decorated the church. I had many people comment on how beautiful it was, especially the trees.

We are finishing out our last week of preschool before Christmas break with a trip to the Oaktown Village nursing home. We had fun dressing up in costume and singing to the residents! Thursday the 18th will be our last day and Christmas party!

Merry Christmas!!!

Love,  
Mrs. Granderson



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 2015! 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 12<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 “On the Road to Bethlehem!”

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!

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 Jennifer 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 2014 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 2015!

Love,  
Mrs. Lemberg

## Thank You

Thanks so much for your prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls while I was in and out of the hospital two times in the last two months. I'm home now and doing better.

A big thanks to the Women's Guild for the fruit and cookie cheer plate. It was greatly appreciated.

God bless you all!

Gene Williams

We would like to thank everyone for the calls, visits, cards, gifts, and most of all the prayers that Dennis has received since his accident. Our church family is outstanding; we are so blessed to have you all in our lives. We also want to thank the men who built the ramp for him to get into the house. It looks and works great. Happy Holidays.

Love to all,

Dennis, Sharon, Tracey, Doug, Heather, Travis, Stacey, Hailley, Trevor, Sidney, and Briar Kahre

*Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.*

We would like to say thank you to all who kept us in their thoughts and prayers, sent cards, and visited. A special thanks to the ladies of the Guild for the cookie tray. All of these things are reminders of God's love shown to us, and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

With deep appreciation for all our friends and neighbors.

Charles and Evaline Johanningsmeier



Thanks for the prayers and calls during the time of Paul's death. Also, thank you to the Guild for Butch's fruit plate, he really enjoyed it. Thanks to all for your prayers, kind words, and help during this difficult time. A special thanks to Pastor Mike for always being there!

Have a great Christmas!

Bernettia and family

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

*In memory of Wendell Stoelting:*

Doris Brocksmith  
Joseph & Helen Gettelfinger  
Gertrude Hagemeyer  
Tom & Joyce Kixmiller  
James & Joan Morley  
Pieper-Efiyeier Family

Vera & Jerry Rusk  
Robert Stoelting Family  
Robert & Natalie Stoelting  
University of Indianapolis  
Gene & Carolyn Williams

### **Bethel Church Council Minutes December 9, 2014**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mike's report included conducting a service at the Freelandville Community Home, teaching Confirmation classes, which he said are going well, hospital visits, conducting a funeral, and weekly staff meetings. He is researching various materials and plans to begin a Bible Study in January. He shared that the annual Life After Meth banquet will be February 26 for which Bethel will reserve two tables, and the ABLAZE conference for Jr./Sr. High students will be held at North Knox High School on April 3 and 4.

**Youth Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mike Leydet continues to make weekly visits to NKHS and is attending various sporting events to support our youth in their activities. He shared that the youth meetings continue to go well, and they assembled several Operation Christmas Child boxes. He also reported that he and Pastor Mike delivered Christian materials no

longer used at Bethel to Love Packages in Butler, IL, so that they may be sent abroad.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** It was approved as written. The following mission allocations were made: NK Social Ministries, \$500; Nurses' Fund, \$500; and, NK Backpack Fund, \$1,005.90.

**Buildings and Grounds:** The gas heater will be installed in the shelter house when the electrician is available, and the insulation has been add to the ceilings of the bathrooms. Anthis has replaced a faulty thermostat in the preschool area, and lighting repairs will be made throughout the church. Rowe Sargent reported that replacement windows have been installed in the custodian's house, and he is in the process of getting a bid for replacing the windows in the office building. It was also noted that the chimney cap on the custodian's house has blown off and will be replaced soon.

**Deacons' Report:** The average attendance for November was 168, and the offering was \$21,224.62. Income included: Atlas Gas, \$411.78; Facility Use, \$35.00; Preschool, \$8,943.44; Strate Acres, \$29,457.35; Brocksmitth Mission Fund Interest, \$107.52; Youth Income, \$1,560.00; Memorial Income, \$550.00; Cemetery Fund, \$426.61, and Organ Fund, \$10.00.

**Elders' Report:** Mary Ann Miller reported that 102 were served communion on the first Sunday of Advent. Possible visitations were discussed, and the council members were reminded to continue contacting Pastor Mike or an elder if a visit is needed or requested.

**Old Business:** Gord Clinkenbeard reported that Bethel has been given permission by adjoining a land owner to make improvements to a section of the cemetery road, which may include the removal of some trees. It was shared that a bid for the projector and screens in the sanctuary will be presented at the annual meeting. It was reported that the basement of the office building has been cleaned out, and the deacons are still working to alleviate the sewer gas problem. Pastor Mike presented a proposal to be added as an article to Bethel's constitution outlining our position on same sex

marriage. It was moved by Bill Resler, seconded by Joe Koenig, and passed unanimously to present this to the congregation at the annual meeting for its approval.

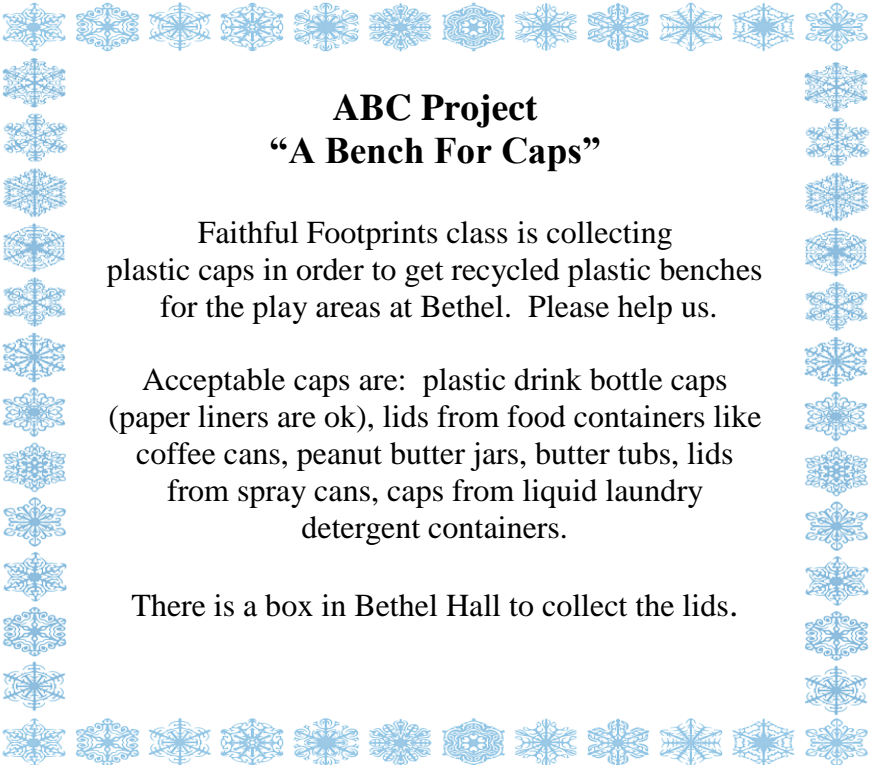
**New Business:** It was decided that the Mustard Seed SS Class will be serving the meal for the annual meeting. Joe Koenig noted that the fire extinguishers have not been checked by a professional as required and will contact someone to take care of this need. The council will meet on Monday, January 5, to form next year's budget and revise the standing committees for 2015.

**Coming Events:**

December 12 – Preschool Christmas Program

December 14 – Sunday School Christmas Program

January 26 – Annual Meeting



**ABC Project**  
**“A Bench For Caps”**

Faithful Footprints class is collecting plastic caps in order to get recycled plastic benches for the play areas at Bethel. Please help us.

Acceptable caps are: plastic drink bottle caps (paper liners are ok), lids from food containers like coffee cans, peanut butter jars, butter tubs, lids from spray cans, caps from liquid laundry detergent containers.

There is a box in Bethel Hall to collect the lids.

## **Parish Records:**

### **Attendance:**

Nov. 23    172  
Nov. 30    ?  
Dec. 7      ?  
Dec. 14    172

### **Greeters:**

Jan. 4 & 11 – John and Marilyn Koenig  
Jan. 18 & 25 – Ed and Cheryl Hagemeyer

**Ushers: Kevin and Linda Hammelman**

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

Jan.      4      Cheryl Hagemeyer/Krista Telligman  
          11      Cheryl Hagemeyer/Lana Dike  
          18      Kate Hammelman/Holly Spanger  
          25      Diane Telligman/Carol Albrecht

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

Jan.      4      Jesse Organ/Tiffany Granderson  
          11      Bonnie and Emilee Organ  
          18      Stacy and Brianna Page  
          25      Virginia Koenig/Hallie Durall

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

Jan.      4      Ryan Johanningsmeier/Jesse Organ/Hallie Durall  
          11      Tracey Kahre/Liberty Lemberg  
          18      Bonnie Organ/Cheryl Hagemeyer/Krista Telligman  
          25      Dale Tiek/Jenny Clinkenbeard

### **January birthdays:**

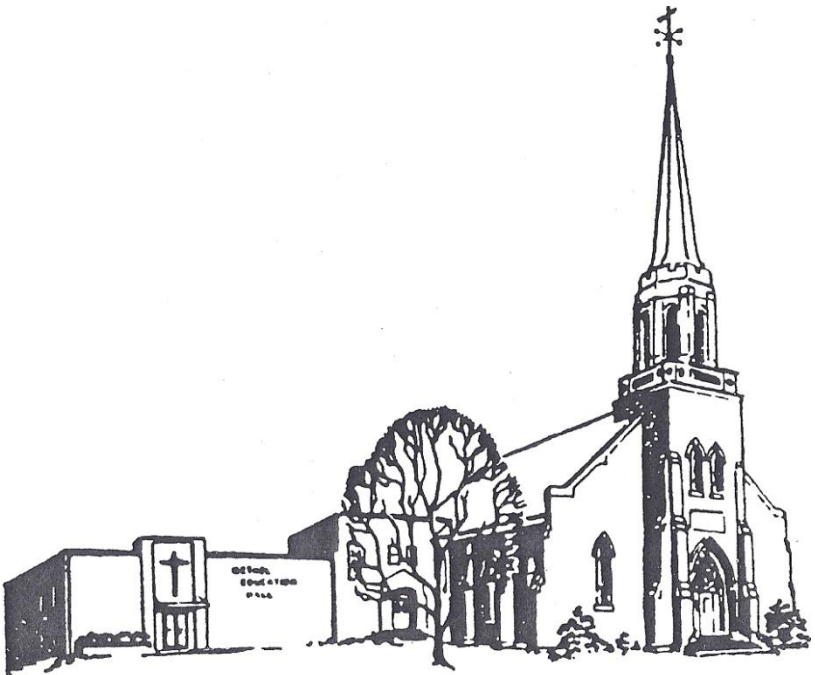
Jan.      13      Don Johanningsmeier (85<sup>th</sup>)  
          17      Agnes Lee (85<sup>th</sup>)  
          19      Gertrude Hagemeyer (91<sup>st</sup>)  
          31      Marge Finke (95<sup>th</sup>)

***Chimes news will be due on January 19th.***

*January 2015*

*Bethel*

*Chimes*



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