

**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:**

Bill Resler, President

John Spanger, Vice President

Pam Loheider, Secretary

Dan Kixmiller, Treasurer

Kevin Hammelman

Joe Koenig

Sam Miller

Garland Richter

Rowe Sargent

**FROM THE PASTORS STUDY**

With Thanksgiving behind us and with Christmas before us now may the time to stop, take a deep breath and reflect on the season. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 Paul instructs us to give thanks in everything as this is the will of God. Have we done this? With all of life's busyness sometimes we find ourselves overwhelmed by stuff, stuff take robs us of our time, our peace, etc. Now is the time to reflect on the goodness of God as we look forward to celebrating the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

As we begin the season of Advent let us take time to escape the distractions of the world for awhile and reflect on all the Lord has provided for us through His Son. Let us make this Christmas season more than things, instead let us make Jesus the reason for the season.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas.

In His Service,

Pastor Mike

James 5:16

## **YOUTH PASTOR**

Growing up we always went “home” for Christmas. Home was Logansport, Indiana, where both my parents were born and most of my extended family still lives. Needless to say our Christmas usually looked a little different. We usually opened our gifts at home well before Christmas morning. But we still had our own traditions. As I got older I realized that when Dad loaded all of us kids up to go look at Christmas lights and Mom stayed home, it was present time. Now that I am older and have my own kids, we have our own traditions. One of which is tree night. The night we decorate the tree we always order pizza, usually 6th St. Bobe’s, and have strawberry crush in glass bottles. When the kids see the crush in the fridge they know tree night is close. I think that tradition can get a bad rap sometimes. Traditions in and of themselves are not a bad thing, but when tradition overtakes the real reason behind a celebration we run into trouble. So take time to enjoy this Christmas season. Hold fast to your traditions but hold onto the reason those traditions started even more.

In His Love,  
Pastor Mike

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

### **December – Faithful Footprints**

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#### **Preschool**

We came back to preschool from fall break ready to go! During our first week back was our Harvest party and trip to the Freelandville community home. All of the kids looked great in their costumes and I was so proud of them for parading around and

singing. I am sure the residents enjoyed it as much as they did! Also a special thank you to all of the preschool parents for transporting them there and then onto preschool. Our Harvest parties in both classes were excellent full of games, crafts, food, books, and we even decorated our own pumpkins in the afternoon class. A special thank you to the parents who organized these parties.

With all of the Leaves falling everywhere it was a perfect time to talk about the letter L. We read a story about the leaf man and how you never know where the wind is going to blow the leaf man. We also went on a very long walk looking for leaves! The kids thought the walk was really long! We collected leaves to make our very own leaf man. Some of the preschoolers were very creative, some created cows, dogs, and birds from their leaves.

Letter E week was to follow and also happened to be the same week as Veteran's day. For the letter Ee we practiced writing the letter E and also read a fun story about an elephant named Elmer who was a multi-colored elephant. He wasn't like the other elephants and did not like being different so he tried to paint himself grey. When he returned and figured out he blended in with all of the other elephants and no one knew who he was, he decided he'd rather be back to normal and be different but at least he'd be himself. I used this as an opportunity to explain that everyone is different and unique just the way God made us and intended us to be. Along with the Elmer book came a fun craft where the preschoolers got to use their fine motor skills and make their own Elmer the elephant. These are on display in my classroom, please come check them out! On Wednesday of this week was Veteran's Day, we were excited that we got to have two guest speakers at preschool to talk to us about Veteran's Day. Our morning class got to have Matt Granderson, who is a Navy Veteran. The afternoon class got to have Nancy Tilly whose father was a WWI Veteran. The kids really enjoyed hearing their stories as did I!

This week we are talking about the letter G and how God is good and as we prepare for Thanksgiving how we should be grateful for all the ways God has blessed us and all of the things he has given us. We are also preparing our costumes and crafts for the Thanksgiving feast. We will be talking about the pilgrims and

Indians and sharing the story of the first Thanksgiving. We completed thankful poems which are on display in the hallway! We are excited to have our Thanksgiving feast on Monday.

Love,  
Mrs. Granderson

I am amazed that the final month of 2015 is nearly here! The past month has been another busy one but the Bethel preschoolers wouldn't have it any other way – the busier, the better. ☺

The children had fun dressing up for our visit to the Freelandville Community Home and Harvest Parties that had been planned by their parents. The kids all looked so cute in their costumes – how fun to have a day like that. They did a wonderful job singing and were so well-behaved. I had many nice compliments on them! They also had a great time at the parties with all the fun crafts, games, and yummy snacks!! The parents were all so creative and the kids love it when they see their parents or their friends' parents having so much fun.

We read the wonderful book, “Leaf Man” by Lois Ehlert. The kids loved the illustrations in the book as we journeyed with the Leaf Man. We decided to take our own nature walk and collect leaves and other items from nature to make our own “Leaf Man” just like in the story. This turned into quite a project but the kids are so creative! I hope you had a chance to see the Leaf Men displayed in the preschool hallway. The children worked very hard on them. At first glance, you might simply see leaves glued to paper but take a closer look and you will discover a leaf man! Miss Nicole and I were amazed at their creativity and well they turned out. ☺

We were so blessed to get to celebrate Veteran's Day by having special visitors come to read a story and talk about who veteran are. Matt Granderson, a Navy veteran, came to visit the morning classes and brought pictures of the submarine he served on. Nancy Tilly came to the afternoon class to share with us stories about her Dad who was in France during WWI and about the first Armistice Day. The kids loved hearing the stories from both of them and were especially excited to get to see the uniforms they brought with them and loved trying on the hats! We then painted flags to celebrate our freedom and help to remind us to thank all of

past and present service men and women. It was a really special day!

I am looking forward to our Thanksgiving meal we will be having in each class. The kids have been working on making table decorations and Pilgrim and Indian costumes to wear. They cannot wait to be able to go the kitchen to help cook the meal that we all will share! We have been talking a lot about the first Thanksgiving. The children were especially amazed to learn that the Pilgrim's homes consisted of only *one* room that served as the kitchen, bedroom, dining room and family room. How hard that is to imagine! For our meal, the children will be helping prepare the food and tables in order to get ready for this day of thanks. They are very excited about this! We will all have to work together just like the Pilgrims and Indians did.

We are looking forward to the kind ladies from Generations coming and bringing the little elves workshop. Also, we have been busy working to get ready for the Christmas Program to be held on Sunday, December 13. We are learning new songs and getting excited about this special day! The kids love the songs and quite often start humming or singing them while working at the tables or during snacks. I have to say that once one of them gets going it's not long before many more join in. Oh, what a time we have! 😊

Blessings to you, our Bethel Church family, as we celebrate and reflect on all that we are thankful for and as we head into this month of joy and sharing to celebrate the love God shared with us through the birth of His son, Jesus Christ.

Love,  
Liberty Lemberg

I am having a hard time believing I am writing the December Chimes already. We have had a wonderful fall season and have many things to be thankful for. I ask the kids to name 5 things in their lives that they are grateful for. I heard many great responses like God, the Bible, their favorite food, and family. One preschooler was thankful for rain on a sunny day...I didn't understand either, but it worked. We went to cooking school so we could glue an edible

turkey using peanut butter. I think the kids ate more peanut butter than they used to make the cookies stick together. One little boy said Dad really like the turkey cookie and wondered if we could make more soon.

We learned all about letter G by knowing God is great!! What a better way to talk about letter G. We also talked about the giant named Goliath. We talked about how we have to be brave, like David, when we face big obstacles in our lives. One little boy was quick to tell me that he has never seen a big obstacle in his life and he did not quite know what I was talking about. Sometimes, even at 3 and 4 years old, they are too smart.

We talked about how our hands and heart belong to God for the letter H. Everything we do with our hands should show love in our hearts for all of God's children. We did a heart lacing craft where we put Jesus right in the center where he should be, of course. I love to hear the kids say "I have Jesus in my heart".

Letter I was all about ice and how God thought to make it from water. We played with an ice cube on our tray to see how fast it would melt if we played with it or blew on it through a straw. The kids thought for sure one cube would stay frozen until next summer. We made ice cream crafts and talked about how many flavors God thought of for us to enjoy. One little girl was very happy that God was so smart.

We visited the Freelandville Nursing Home residents and the kids all did a fantastic job singing. It is was nice to see the residents smiling and tapping their feet as we sing.

We have already started learning our songs for the Christmas program. I told the kids this time of year is crazy when we try to do a letter of the week, count and blessings and get ready for Christmas. One little boy says, "Well, can't you just wait on somethings?" We don't have time to wait, but I hate to rush right through everything too. Come and join us Sunday, December 13 at 2 for the am classes' presentation, or at 5 for the pm classes.

Thanks to all who support our Preschool. If you volunteer, pray for us, give us stamps or stickers, we appreciate all you do and are very thankful for a great church family.

We are excited and eager to learn all about Jesus and what His birth means to us. Jesus, our super star then and now!!!!

Mrs. Beth Durall

# Memorial Fund

## **In memory of Gladys Brocksmith:**

*Edward Brocksmith family*

*Scott McClanahan family*

*M. Sharon Powell*

## Thank You

The family of Gladys Brocksmith would like to thank everyone who honored mother by coming to the Church for visitation and her funeral. It's a blessing to have such a loving and supportive Church family. Also, thank you to the ladies of the Guild for the meal they prepared, it was delicious and everyone enjoyed it.

Last, a special thanks to Pastor Mike. You made everything easier. We wanted her service to be a celebration of her life and you did just that. Thank you all again.

Janet Steimel

Nancy Wilson

Carla Brocksmith

We so appreciate all the support you gave us during our Silent Auction and Spaghetti Fundraising Event for the Ablaze Youth Conference.

It was a very successful event and we were so please with the response and the amount we received. We are closer to our goal and continue to seek God's will as we plan for the next conference.

Thanks you much,

In His love,

The Ablaze Board

## **GUILD**

We had twelve ladies at our November Guild meeting. Doris Richter gave an exciting book report on “Crying Days” by a writer from Indiana. We voted to give Christmas Cheer to Salvation Army, North Knox School Nurses Fund, Bethel Youth, and Bethel Preschool.

Our December meeting is Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, with a covered dish luncheon at 11:30. Bring cookies for our Christmas plates by 9:30 am. The Quilting Ladies will have the Christmas program after the lunch. All women are invited to come.

Also, remember to save the Box Tops from food products for the Indian Reservation School. A basket is in the Guild room to put them in.

Lill Clinkenbeard

## **Christian Partners S. S. Class**

The Christian Partners Sunday School Class is having their class party on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at McKinley’s at 6 pm. Please let Lenora McCrary know if you can come by Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Sunday School Workers and Teachers Meeting**

November 11/11/2015

Sunday School Workers and Teachers meet at 7:30 on 11/11/2015 with 12 present. The 2015 Christmas giving was discussed and some changes were made. Gifts will be given to the North Knox Nurses Fund, Helping His Hands, Salvation Army, Yahweh Center, Faith Built Homes, North Knox Social Ministries, Open Arms Christian Ministry, and Love packages. Our current balance is \$11,513. Expenditures this year have included, SS Materials, the Sunday School picnic and Vacation Bible School. It



was felt that the picnic was well received and should be planned in the same manner next year.

The 2015 Christmas program was discussed and 12/20/2015 was decided to be the date for the program. Tambria Leonard will help the Children's department develop a program.

How the Sunday School functions was discussed with the need for more assistance with Opening, Treasury, and program development. It was felt by the group that classes needed to express their feelings about the need for opening exercises. Members present at this meeting were asked to talk with classes to see what could be done to improve our Sunday School format and to ask for help. Suggested format changes included no opening with participants going directly to their classes. A committee formed with individuals chosen from each class would guide Sunday School. Opportunities for quiet meditation would be provided in the sanctuary during the Sunday School time. Any changes in the format will not occur until January and after further discussion. Our goal is to improve our Sunday School time.

**Dennis Kahre after several years of dedicated service as treasurer of the Sunday School has requested to be replaced. We shout out hurrah to Dennis and his family for all their work. We ask and will be seeking volunteers to step forward to be Sunday School treasurer and assistant treasurer. Please give this prayerful consideration.**

The "Come and See" Sunday School event was discussed and it was felt that the event was successful with an increase in attendance as the result as well as an increased interest in Sunday School.

Individuals volunteered to assist with breakfast snacks served in the basement.

Sunday School teachers and workers decided to assist Renee Leydet with a fun evening on the Fifth Friday in January. This will be open to all of Bethel for time together for fun and fellowship. More information will be available in the future.

## **January Mission Team**

### **Carpenters on a Mission**

Hola (hello) from your mission team! The time is fast approaching for the team to board a plane in Indianapolis and head to the Dominican Republic to help build a church. We have been amazed by the support our Bethel family has shown to us. Thank you- Gracias!! It means a lot to each one of us to know that you care and that you support this team.

We will leave around 7 PM on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and return late on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Our 1<sup>st</sup> evening in the DR we will worship with the people whose church we will be working on. Throughout the week we will be working “mano a mano” (hand in hand) with the people of the DR. On Friday we will have a Bible School program for the children in the morning- work in the afternoon and then the team will lead the worship in the evening! Pastor Mike Leydet has agreed to give a message on the parable of the Prodigal Son (that is also the story we will be using for Bible School).

Here are the team members: Susan (Sargent) Brocksmith, Janet Clinkenbeard, Matt Clinkenbeard, Karen DeCoursey, Mike Leydet, Allan Mackey, Bruce Miller, Noah Miller, Bill Resler, Christopher Sargent, Patrick Sargent, Jan Spanger, John Spanger, Dale Tiek and Jane Tiek. We also have Stacy Thomas joining our team from California- we will meet her for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the DR. God has called us to this mission and we are excited to see how He uses us. God is leading the team and we are trusting in Him. He has been so very faithful throughout the preparations and we know that He will be faithful to us in the DR.

We would like to ask you to do one more thing for us: please pray for us. Pray that we will be humble servants- that we will adjust to a new culture (including cold showers) and that people would see Jesus in each one of us. We are planning to have a blog site that you can visit to keep up with us (more information on that soon). We will be giving the church in the DR greetings from our Bethel family.

Adios! Dios te bendiga! (Good bye and God bless you!)

# **Bethel Church Council Minutes**

## **November 9, 2015**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mike reported that he conducted a funeral at Bethel, a graveside service at Vincennes, and a service at the Freelandville Community Home. The first Sunday of Advent is November 29<sup>th</sup>. The confirmands will be in charge of the readings, lighting of candles, and prayers during Advent.

**Youth Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mike Leydet reported that the youth saw the movie Woodlawn at Terre Haute. The cookout was well attended with 30 youth present. The free will offering for the fund raiser totaled \$1400. Pastor Mike expressed his appreciation for the church's support of the youth and their activities.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** It was approved as written. The following mission allocations were approved: Social Ministries - \$500 and Nurses' Fund - \$1000.

**Building and Grounds:** The cap on the shelter house chimney is on, and the heater is now working.

**Deacon's Report:** The average attendance for October was 143. The offering for the month of October totaled \$17,005.

**Elder's Report:** The visitation schedule for November was made. Please notify a council member or Pastor Mike if you would like a home visit. John Spanger reported that the next communion is scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of Advent. It will be pew communion.

**Old Business:** No bids were submitted for the church pews in the social room. 95% of our mission allocations for the year are complete. Donations collected for the mission trip in January total \$11,700.

**New Business:** Bill Resler volunteered to check internet options for the church office. The floor by the front entrance to the Education Hall is in need of repair, and options were discussed. The church lawn mower will need to be replaced soon. Bill Resler will check on cost of replacement.

**Upcoming Events:**

November 29 – first Sunday of Advent

December 13 – Preschool Christmas Programs:

Morning Classes – 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Classes – 5:00 p.m.

## Another Story From The Past

It was the spring of 1960 at Bethel Church, and Rev. Paul Lammers had just turned in his resignation after 8 years as pastor at Bethel. A search committee of 9 members was chosen to find a new pastor. I happened to be one of the 9. This story is not about me, I was only one of several members who had a part in it. The United Church of Christ Conference of Indianapolis gave us some names of some prospects, and we looked at 3 or 4, but didn't choose one. One of the names given was a Pastor from Ohio. Also, the pastor at Merom was Rev. Kenne Leebold, a friend of his, so Paul Begeman and I were asked to go to talk to Rev. Leebold about our prospect. It sounded good, thirty-four years old, a pastor for 10 years, serving 3 small churches, had a good youth program, married with 3 children. We couldn't wait to get back to report to the others.

In the meantime, Paul Begeman moved to Brazil, Indiana and couldn't follow thru. Our Church Council decided to send 4 search committee members to Lewisville, Ohio, which was 400 miles away. It was almost to the West Virginia border. I had a Ramble station wagon at the time with good gas mileage, so we decided to take it. Judge Ernest Till, Herman Pepmeier, Irvin Volle, and I left on Saturday so we could stop about 20 miles from Lewisville and be at the Church at 10:00 am Sunday. We sat in front of the Church in our car, because Sunday School was in session. We thought when Sunday School let out, we would go in, but no one left.

I remember Lena Tilly (mother of Janet and Herman Tilly) telling me "Are we going to Sunday School or Church?" She said "We went to both every Sunday." Then a little green For Falcon came racing down the street, stopped and a man got out and ran into the Church. We hurried in, and the Church was full, the usher said the only seats left were in the front row, so that is where we sat. We were sure everyone there knew we were a search committee coming to maybe take away their Pastor. After church was over, we introduced ourselves to Pastor George Varns and said we wanted to talk with him. He told us to come to their home after lunch and meet his family. The visit and interview went well. We were very satisfied with all that we had learned, and were ready to start our long trip home. Ernie and Herman crawled in the back seat, it

folded down, and they slept most of the way home. Irvin sat up front with me, and told me about his long trip to Montana to visit relatives. It lasted a long, long time, but it helped keep me awake. Later, I asked Herman why they didn't stay awake, and he said they had heard the story before.

So, now to the rest of the story. The search committee then had to report to the Church Council and congregation on their findings and recommendations. Everyone seemed really pleased and ready to proceed. After we told them about George, Ernie Tilly said, "And wait till you meet his wife, she's a living doll."

The next step was trial sermon at Bethel, and let everyone see what was there for us. The vote afterwards was unanimous and everyone was extremely happy. Pastor Varns and family would be here to start his ministry the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Sept. 1960. We were all sure it was a hard decision for the Varns's to make to move 400 miles away from their families, they were both born and raised in Ohio. Also to become pastor of the largest country church in America, and the largest congregation.

Everything we had learned about George came true here at Bethel, and the years went by too fast. George and Ruth were both talented singers and sang many duets at Bethel and surrounding areas. George also played the piano. Past George started The Bethel Chimes right away, and it's been going strong for 55 years. George involved himself with the Freelandville community, serving on the first board of the Freelandville Community Home, the Improvement Club, and helped with other projects that were needed.

This is a tribute to George for his fine ministry and leadership at Bethel, and to Ruth for being much, much more than "a living doll" as Ernie stated earlier, also to their 4 children, Rachel, Nathan, Tom and Peter, for 18 wonderful years at Bethel. George and Ruth now reside in Vincennes, and attend St. John's Church.

HAPPY MEMORIES!!! Bethel has been blessed by many good pastors.

Thanks for reading this.

God Bless,  
Bob Jones

The Faithful Footprints Class is collecting plastic caps and lids again. There is a tub located by the Preschool and one in Bethel Hall.

The goal this time is a picnic table. It takes 1,000 lbs. for a six foot table (plus \$500) or 1,100 lbs. for an eight foot table (plus \$650).



The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Please have your reports in to the office by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Bells

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The Carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;  
'For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'

## **Parish Records:**

**Deaths:** Ruth Lorene Huffman, age 90, died on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Burial was in Prairie Chapel Cemetery.

Tina Buescher, age 57, died on Monday, November 16. Burial was in Bethel Cemetery on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Births:** Jeff and Tara Albrecht welcomed daughter, Jovi Loretta on November 1. She weighed 8 lb. 5 oz., and was 21 inches long. She is also welcomed by brother, Wade.

### **Attendance:**

Oct. 25    145  
Nov. 1     205  
Nov. 8     135  
Nov. 15    164

### **Greeters:**

Dec. 6 & 13 – Jerry Lee & Kate Hammelman  
Dec. 20 & 27 – Collin & Amy Tiek

**Ushers:** Jason and Brooke Boyles

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

Dec.    6    Lana Dike/Mary Ann Miller  
      13    Cheryl Hagemeyer/Kate Hammelman  
      20    Krista Telligman/Cheryl Hagemeyer  
      27    Diane Telligman/Carole Albrecht

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

Dec.    6    Stacy and Brittany Page  
      13    Beth Durall/Jesse Organ  
      20    Brenda Maddox/Tori French  
      27    Debbie Telligman/Emilee Organ

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

Dec.    6    Ryan Johanningsmeier/Jesse Organ/Hallie Durall  
      13    Cally Miller/Liberty Lemberg  
      20    Micah Morgan/Cheryl Hagemeyer/Krista Telligman  
      27    Brenda Maddox/Tiffany Granderson

### **December birthdays:**

3    Ruth Brocksmith (92<sup>nd</sup>)  
30   Jack Brouhard (82<sup>nd</sup>)

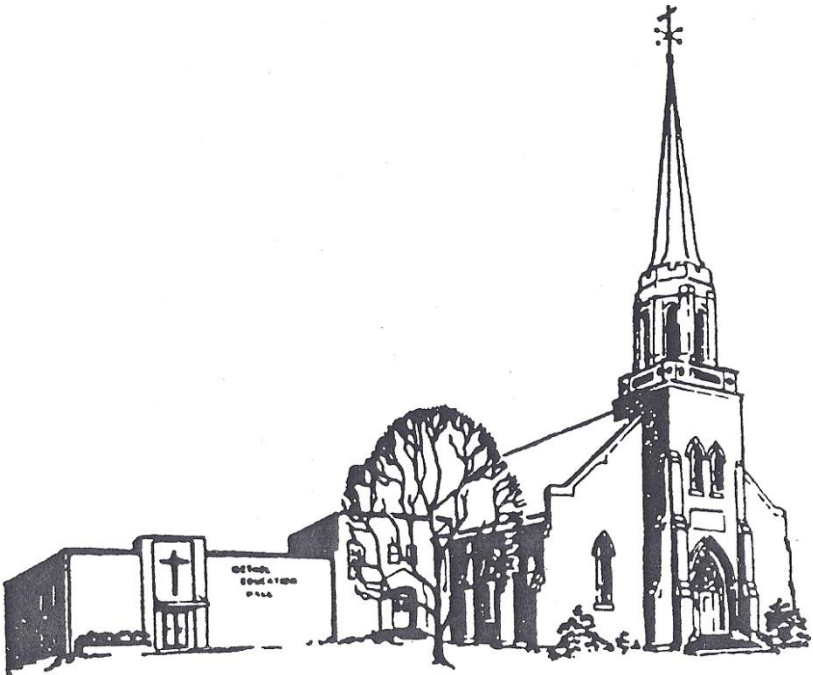
*Chimes news will be due on December 21st.*



*December 2015*

*Bethel*

*Chimes*



Bethel Church

Freelandville, Indiana

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