

### **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: secretary@bethelchurch-indiana.com

Web-site: www.bethelchurch-indiana.com

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:**

Kevin Hammelman, President (2018) Stacey Kahre (2020)

Justin French, Vice President (2020) Joe Koenig (2018)

Pam Loheider, Secretary (2019) Sam Miller (2019)

Virginia Koenig, Treasurer (2021) Terry Perkins (2021)

Nancy Tilly (2021)

(Indicates the time that the term is over)

## **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 2018 have in store for us? Personally, I can't see things getting better in our society, as 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 2018 in the Lord.

In His Service,  
Pastor Mike  
James 5:16

## **Youth Pastor**

Lamentations 3:22-23

<sup>22</sup> *Through* the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. <sup>23</sup> *They are* new every morning; Great *is* Your faithfulness.

New year, new you. We hear things like this a lot around this time. We make resolutions every year and usually forget about them by February. I am thankful that God doesn't operate like we do. I am thankful that He is faithful. I am thankful that His mercy and grace never fail, even though I often do. I have never claimed to understand God's love, and quite frankly would be a little scared of anyone who says that they do, but I sure do enjoy it.

In His Love  
Pastor Mike

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## **Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2018**

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January/February – Assigned  
March/April/May – Faithful Families  
June – Vacation Bible School  
July/August – Christian Generations  
September – Preschool  
October/November – Faithful Footprints  
December – Mustard Seed

## **GUILD**

Our December meeting was held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The day began by making 20 cheer plates – thanks to all who make cookies. They were all delivered that afternoon.

A bountiful lunch was enjoyed by 28, including quilters from Carlisle. After a short business meeting, as which time the new program books for 2018 were passed out, our Christmas program was given by the Bethel quilters, assisted by quilters from Carlisle. We ended with carols. Very enjoyable!

There will be no January meeting. The February meeting will be our Memorial.

Happy to report our President Lill is home and doing much better!! So happy for her.

Doris Brocksmith

## **Bethel Quilters**

Carlisle Quilters joined Bethel Quilters for “Quilters on Trial” performing for the December Guild meeting. The comedy played on quilting terms such as “stripping, sharing needles, hoarding, telling yarns, etc.” leaving a message that Quilters may all be different but God uses the Holy Spirit as thread to create something beautiful with their friendships and quilts.

Bethel will be teaming up with Carlisle Quilters next year for monthly UFO meetings. (Un Finished Objects). Meetings will be the 2nd Sat of each month from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. The groups will alternate between the Carlisle and Bethel churches. (The next meeting on Sat, Jan 13 will be at Bethel)

Projects can be anything that needs either starting or finishing. Come anytime! “Just visiting” is also encouraged.

Bethel Quilters continue work on 2 quilts tops and plan for many more. Join us anytime from 1-4 on Tuesdays in the Guild Room next to the kitchen.

For more information, call Shirley @ 812-486-9476 or Tambria @ 517-648-3652

### **Mission Committee**

We want to again say thank you for your generous hearts for children! What an outpouring of love to 161 children across the world.

We are going to do something a little different this year for our Nurses on a Mission Vitamin Drive. Stan Deweese, from Family Pharmacy, is generously giving us a great deal on adult and children's chewable vitamins. Instead of having you buy vitamins this year we are asking that you consider making a monetary donation. Nurses on a Mission is able to purchase 250 vitamins for \$3.50. As you can see, that is a very good price. These vitamins are small, so they are easy to bag and they don't take up a lot of space in our luggage.

The people of the Dominican Republic love to receive the vitamins. The parents feel like they are "better" parents if they can provide vitamins to their children. The smiles and hugs we receive when we give each person a 30-day supply of vitamins is such a blessing! Beginning in January the mission committee will have a big vitamin bottle up front by the cross where you can place your money. Please consider giving generously to those who have so little. Thank you!

### **Carpenters on a Mission**

I am planning to lead a mission team to the Dominican Republic on a building project in November of 2018. We will be joining with Foundation for Peace ([foundationforpeace.org](http://foundationforpeace.org)). I will have an informational meeting in January. I need people of all ages and all abilities. You don't even have to know how to use a hammer to join

us- all you need is a love for Jesus and a willingness to serve. We can use people to play with the children, to swing a hammer, to help with Bible School- just to name a few.

Please pray and listen- maybe this is just the mission trip God has for you! Consider stepping out in faith and saying YES.

Dale Tiek

## **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 2018!

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 15<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 "Counting Down to Christmas!"

During the week leading up to 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 2017 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 2018!

Love,  
Mrs. Lemberg



I hope you all had a joyous Christmas! We read many stories about Jesus and His birth, the animals that joined in and the angels that sang. I love teaching about our Savior and His world entrance, then I love hearing the kids retell our stories. We have had many good prayers, and talks with Jesus.

Letter J was all about Jesus and his Love for us. We talked about how we have to tell others about Him and share that kind of love to everybody. I told the kids were going to make a craft using an envelope for Jesus manger. One little boy was quick to tell me, envelopes were for mailing letters only and then just going to the trash. Our ornaments were beautiful when we finished, and that same little boy was so excited to have baby Jesus hanging on his tree at home. Letter k, we read a book "I'm a King's Kid," and talked about how happy we are that Jesus is our King. Each child took home a Hersey Kiss Advent and few were told to eat one kiss a day to countdown to Jesus' Birthday. One preschooler told me Dec. 5 that the dog ate all of his kisses, one little girl told me her brother ate them all, and several were counting down the kisses as the day draws nearer.

We "Counted Down to Christmas" for our program. I thought the kids all did great. I didn't have any tears, everybody introduced themselves and stayed on stage. Some were even having so much fun, they played rock, paper, and scissors. Thanks to all of you who came to witness our singing and telling of a special baby. Thanks to all who helped keep all the kids in line and quite.

We ended our first half of the school year with our Christmas parties that were fun and enjoyed by all. I wish all of you a Blessed and Happy, Healthy New Year.

Mrs. Durall

## Thank You

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you all so very much for all the cards, phone calls, texts, well wishes and prayers that I have received the past couple months! It really made me feel good. I will admit was scared at first but immediately felt the presence of the Jesus and knew that everything was going to be okay! I feel good and I can't wait to put this all behind me so that I can continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus. I feel so blessed to be a member of this church. Much love to you all!

Hailley Kahre

Thank you to my church family that was able to make it to my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party, and to those who sent cards. It really made for a great day.  
Thank you.

John Buescher

I want to thank everyone who remembered me on my birthday. I received over 50 cards, and they were each very much appreciated.

I also appreciated the plate of cookies that the Guild brought to me.

Shirley Miller

Dear Bethel Council,

The Nurses' Fund is very grateful for your generous donations throughout the year. This listing gives you an idea of how your money is spent – starting in June:

6/3-Mackey's \$500.54 (12 people)	8/4-Mackey's \$1187.18
6/7-Family Pharmacy \$8.50	8/14-Duke \$100
6/15-Duke \$50	8/15-Bicknell Water \$300
6/15-Bicknell Water \$400 (8 People)	(6 people)
6/22-Duke \$136.17	8/30-Bicknell Water \$150
6/22-Vectren \$50	(3 people)



6/22-Duke \$100  
6/28-Duke \$50  
7/14-Duke \$50  
7/18-Family Pharmacy \$49  
7/18-Duke \$50  
7/18-Oaktown Water \$50

9/5-Mackey's \$456.90  
9/12-Duke \$50  
9/19-Duke \$100  
9/22-Grundman's  
(steel-toed boots for work)

I could go on, but this gives you an idea of how your money is spent. There are a number of gas vouchers for \$10 and \$25 that go out monthly also.

Thank you!!  
Maridell Sargent

## **Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Herb Grabbe:*

Gertrude Hagemeyer  
Karl & Virginia Newell  
Tim & Deborah Newell  
Mike & Tonya Newell

Paul & Reginia Kaiser  
Herman & Nancy Tilly  
Frank & Lenora McCrary

## **New Beginnings**

~unknown

How often we wish for another chance  
To make a fresh beginning,  
A chance to blot out our mistakes  
And change failure into winning—  
And it does not take a new year  
To make a brand-new start,  
It only takes the deep desire  
To try with all our heart  
To live a little better  
And to add a little “sunshine”  
To the world in which we’re living—  
So never give up in despair  
And think that you are through,  
For there’s always a tomorrow  
And a chance to start anew.

# **Bethel Church Council Minutes**

December 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Hammelman and opened with prayer by Justin French.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mike's report included conducting a Sunday service at the Freelandville Community home, helping with confirmation classes, and hospital visits.

**Youth Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mike Leydet reported that he is busy with confirmation classes and youth meetings. He is planning events and activities for the youth groups for the upcoming year.

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

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

**Mission Allocations:** The following were approved: Love Packages - \$500, CCF - \$1000, Youth - \$1000, and Preschool - \$1300.

**Deacon's Report:** Terry Perkins reported that the average attendance for November was 162, and the offering totaled \$18,403.18.

**Elder's Report:** Kevin Hammelman reported that 128 were served communion on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. He reminded council members to contact Pastor Mike or an elder if a home visit is needed or requested.

**Building and Grounds:** Joe Koenig reported that he has installed weather stripping on the new sanctuary door. He has installed blinds in the church offices. The porch roof on the parsonage has been caulked. Kevin Hammelman contacted Wolfe Construction to look at the back staircase.

## **Old Business:**

- Kevin Hammelman thanked everyone for helping with the Johanningsmeier auction meal. Bethel Church made \$2100 for the van fund. The total van fund is now \$20,520.24.
- Pastor Mike reported that Karen did receive pricing for sound system upgrades. He will continue to pursue other options.
- Electric wiring issues were tabled.
- Justin French reported on additional software programs available for cemetery mapping.

- A freezer was purchased for the storage of ice.
- The nominating committee of Scott Page, Bill Resler, Garland Richter, and Jane Tiek are in the process of getting elder and deacon candidates to be voted on at the annual meeting in January.

### **New Business:**

- Pastor Mike Leydet reported that the youth will put together food baskets again this year. It was approved to give \$600 for this project.
- Committee members for 2018 were discussed. A council member will chair each of the committees.
- Improvements for next year include: purchasing a copy machine for the church office; replacing the back staircase; and replacing the blacktop for the parking lot across from the church.
- The council will meet on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the budget for 2018.

### **Upcoming Events:**

December 15 – Preschool Christmas program

December 17 – Sunday School Christmas program

December 25 – Christmas morning service at 6:30 a.m.

December 31 – Youth Lock-In

January 7 – Communion

January 21 – Annual meeting

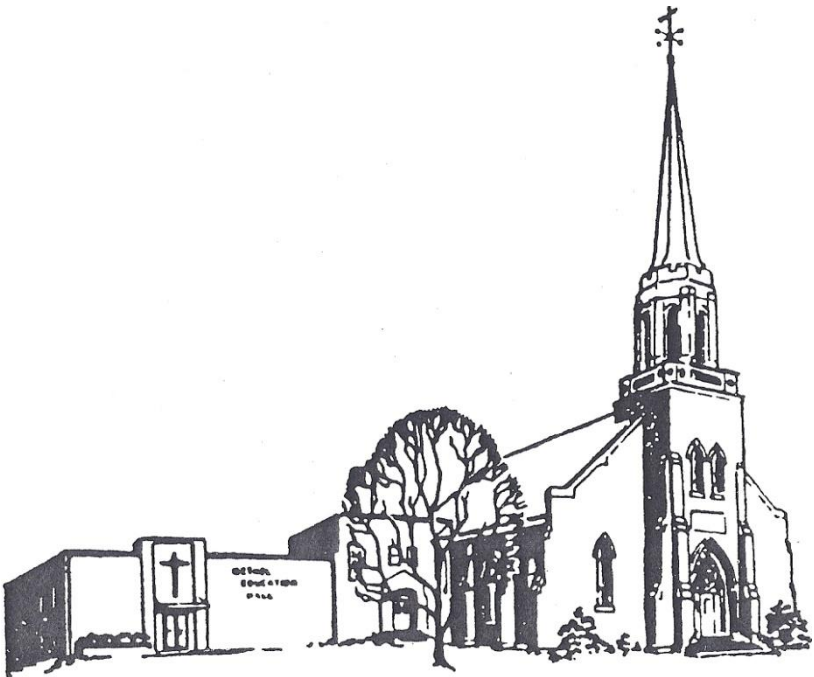


*Chimes news will be due on January 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*January 2018*

*Bethel*

*Chimes*



# Bethel Church

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