

Bethany Road

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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April 2012

'.....That's all I hope!'

A Word from the PASTOR



Jack, an old friend of mine, had a father who was a professional circus performer who also handled public complaints. Jack told me that his father had an interesting way of dealing with frustration and the problem of people filing their complaints with him. So he used the 'tag line'

from an old vaudeville skit which went like this:

The scene is the baggage department at a railroad station. A man who speaks broken English is trying desperately to retrieve his luggage. The attendant is having a hard time understanding the man, let alone finding his baggage! So as time drags on and on, the frustrated man shouts at the attendant, ***"Pretty seldom where my bag go, She no fly. You no more fit run this place than a darn sight. That's all I hope!"***

You can imagine what it would be like if you were wiping a dish and dropped it, to have your father shout at you: ***"You no more fit run this place than a darn sight. That's all I hope!"*** It's amazing how many frustrations would melt away because of that silly story.

Jesus said something of the same thing in one of his statements: ***"In this world you will have problems, but don't be afraid, I have overcome the world."*** Luke 16:33

You see Jesus will have the last laugh. And if we relax and follow him we may discover that the absurdities of life will not destroy us but make the whole thing a lot more fun. I have finally realized that, as a pastor, or a husband, or whatever.... ***"I no more fit run this place than a darn sight, that's all I hope!"***

How about you?

See you in church, *Pastor Rick*

Committee Meetings:

- **Property** April 2 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Outreach** April 2 at 7 p.m.
- **Deacons** April 3 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Christian Ed.** April 3 at 7:30 p.m.
- **Finance** April 4 at 7 p.m.
- **Worship & Memorials** April 9 at 7 p.m.
- **Member Involvement** April 9 at 7:00 p.m.
- **SESSION** April 25 at 7 p.m.

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Desk of the Clerk

Jesus Christ Our Hope. . .

On a dark day over two thousand years ago, all hope seemed lost as Jesus' lifeless body was placed in the tomb. Yet on that bright and shining morning when our risen Savior emerged, a renewed hope emerged as well.

At Easter, Christians celebrate Jesus' victory over death. His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is freely given to all who believe in him. Without His resurrection, Jesus would have been remembered as a good man. . . a wise teacher. But as He conquered death, once and for all, He proved that He was truly the Son of God.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?"

I Corinthians 15:55



From the Musical Desk of Gerri Weaver

Greetings to all of you this wonderful Easter Season as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

During the past six months we've enhanced the Praise & Worship time in our Sunday morning service. I hope and pray that you are being blessed as we worship God together singing the "newer" songs of praise.

We've added drums and keyboard every Sunday and sometimes guitar. If you are interested in helping lead our contemporary worship by singing or playing an instrument, please contact me at (724) 588-5452.

Many of you know that I have been struggling with numbness in my lower extremities due to a back problem. I'm going to be gone for a few weeks to have back surgery. Thanks to everyone who has been kind to me by offering their prayers and support.

It is my desire as I regain my strength to continue to serve the Lord in the music ministry of this beloved Bethany Church.

A Very Special Thank You

Dear Bethany Friends, Thank you for remembering us with the beautiful cards and special notes as we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. *Walter and Lois Barber*

Summer Intern

Bethany Church is now accepting applications for the summer intern position. If anyone is interested in applying for this position or if you know of anyone who may be interested, please contact Chris Evans of the Personnel Committee at 724-662-1742 or email at evanscram@yahoo.com. Application should be received no later than April 4, 2013. Applications may be picked up at the church office or from Chris Evans.

A Special Project

The Member Involvement Committee is sending final exam care packages to our college students and is collecting donations of snack items. Donations will be collected at the Welcome Center through 4/21/13.

We have had an outpouring of thanks from our students in response to the fall care packages. The students were so grateful that their Bethany Family took the time to send the boxes but also to pray for them just when they felt the most stress. Most expressed how the boxes arrived just at the perfect time!

Final exams are a very stressful time for students especially as they are away from home. Please help us remind our college students that Bethany is still praying for them and hoping to see them when they are home for the summer.

We want to include all of our college age students, so if your student did not receive a fall care package, please leave your student's address with Lois in the Church office.

Snack ideas – microwave popcorn, hot cocoa mix, individual snack crackers, chip or pretzel bags and always candy! If you have any questions, please see Kathleen Daley.



CHILI COOK OFF!



Come on out and fellowship with us at 5:00 pm on April 14, 2013 in the Fellowship Hall for the **2013 Chili Cook-Off!**

Do you like to eat? Then come on out and enjoy great chili and fellowship. Do you make the BEST CHILI? Then whip up a batch and compete! Be sure to stay for the Praise and Worship service because prizes will be awarded in the sanctuary immediately before the service begins!

If you don't like chili, come on out anyway because we will also serve hot dogs!

Sign up to compete at the Welcome Center!

8 to 80 Winter Stretch Class



The 8 to 80 Stretch Class is meeting each Monday evening at 7:00 pm. We have been meeting for two months and have participants at every skill level, BUT, we still have room for you!

We are blessed to have Melissa Evans leading the class because she is certified to teach at every age and ability level. She can even teach you stretching while you sit in a chair!

Come on out and get ready for spring by loosening and stretching your muscles. If you are going to work out on the floor and have your own mat, please bring it along! If you don't have a mat we have extras you can use! If you have any questions regarding your ability to participate, contact Melissa Evans or just show up!

My Ladies...We Are Easter People. . .

Being Easter people, we will be continuing our study of Easter traditions and songs we associate with this special season.

Our Tuesday, April 2 we will be studying the traditions of the Easter parade and dressing up for Easter and on Tuesday, April 16 we will be looking at the history of the Easter egg and the Easter bunny. Both times we will be looking at three famous Lenten/Easter songs.

All Bible studies are open to all widows, meet at 10:00 a.m. in the rear of Carson Chapel and conclude by 11:15 a.m. Jesus' blessings continue, even after Easter Sunday!

Spring Brunch

Bethany Women's Spring Brunch, with a theme of "Welcome Spring," will be held in the Social Hall of the Church on Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Our almost two hours together will feature some fun activities, our basket give a ways, an opportunity to chat and share a fellowship time and lunch!

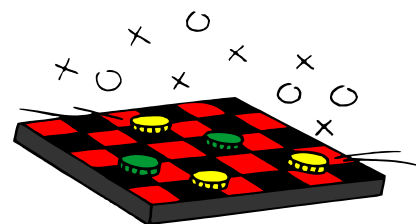
This Brunch will feature the following: homemade Italian Wedding soup, hot sandwiches and a variety of cup cakes. We do need to know if you are coming since we want to have lots of food for every one. Please **call the Church Office by Monday, April 1** (no fooling) and let us know how many will be attending. So put on a spring-like item of clothing and invite a member of your family, neighbor or coworker.

How much does it cost to attend? This year we are asking you to bring \$1.06 as your cost of admission—an explanation will be given at the Brunch. If you would be willing to provide a basket (any size. . .any theme) please let Lois know in the office or call Nancy Ollinger-Thiess at 724 662-3986.



Fun & Fellowship...April Style

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Room. Bring your "old-fashioned" game or a new game for sharing. If you are not into gaming, join us in our own version of a chat room. Refreshments will be provided by Dorothy Wester. All women are welcome to attend.



Hymn Sing...April 8, at 7:30 p.m.



Sing out and continue the joy of Easter season by attending the 3rd Annual Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Monday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. Mercer Music Club invites you to join with others in Mercer to raise our voices in praise and joy singing hymns old and new accompanied by Jim Sankey. There will be special music by Greg Vanderveen and Marla Moretti. Rejoice and sing with us on this special evening. Save the date of April 8th.

Children's Ministry Happenings at Bethany

Director—Mrs. Nancy Thompson

Totally, Terrific, Tuesdays start on Tuesday, April 9th for first and second graders. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or put your completed form in the basket at the entrance of the Mercer Elementary School.

Our After School Program in March for grades 3-6 was a great success!! Thanks to all who helped! We had 65 children participate each Tuesday.

Sunday School April Memory Work:

Our theme for the month of April is Hope.

Our memory verse is Isaiah 40:31.

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

We will recite our verse to our memory work teachers on April 28th. Extra credit for all who learn extra memory verses.

A Look Ahead!!!!!!

VBS—SonWest Roundup—June 10-14—9:00-noon for ages 3-6th grade. **Adults and teens**-- Please see Linda Munnell or Melissa Evans to let them know you can help.

Junior Camp—for finishing 3rd-6th grade—June 30-July 5 held at Camp Lambec in Erie, Pa. We need adults to come share with the children this week. Please see Gary Wiggins if you would like to share in this ministry.



JUNIOR CAMP 2013 JUNE 30 – JULY 5, 2013 AT CAMP LAMBEC

Junior Camp will be held June 30 thru July 5, 2013, at Camp Lambec on Lake Erie. Gary Wiggins is the director this year and is planning a week of fun, faith and friends with the theme “Fruit of the Spirit.” Augie Hurst will again be the pastor in attendance and will provide vespers as well as his high energy and enthusiasm for camp!

Students finishing Grades 3-6 are encouraged to come and experience Camp Lambec as campers; students finishing Grades 9-10 will be Counselors in Training (CITs) and will supervise games for the Jr. Campers as well as having their own camp experience; and students finishing grades 11-12 are encouraged to attend as Teen Counselors who along with Adult Counselors stay in the cabins with the Jr. Campers (a great way to accomplish your Senior Project!). Students finishing Grades 7-8 will have Nikes Camp at the same time and place, conducted by Laurie Ruhlman.

Gary is especially looking for Teen Counselors and Adult Counselors to step forward, as well as an adult lifeguard and a nurse. These are volunteer positions, but the rewards are priceless!

Cost is \$300 for Jr. Campers, with a \$50 early-bird discount if paid by June 1 and a \$50 discount for participating in Totally Terrific Tuesdays, Sunday School, or VBS. Contact Nancy Thompson for information on additional scholarships. Cost is \$200 for CITs with a \$50 early-bird discount if paid by June 1 and assist with Totally Terrific Tuesdays or VBS, and a \$50 discount if part of the West Virginia mission team. Adult counselors, teen counselors, and other adult volunteers are not charged to attend. Adults and teens are reminded they need to complete Bethany's program on sexual misconduct before attending camp – another session will be held before camp.

TEEN HAPPENINGS

Sunday, April 7: "Gutter Sunday" West Virginia discussion with Ice Cream! 6 - 8 pm

Sunday, April 14: CHILI COOK-OFF and Praise and Worship with Terry Harrison 6-8 pm

Sunday, April 21: Regular Lesson for NIKES and Renovate @ the Café 6-8 pm

Sunday, April 28: Regular Lesson for NIKES and Renovate @ the Café 6-8 pm



CHILI COOK-OFF will be held on Sunday, April 14th in the Social Room of Bethany Presbyterian Church. Bring your crock-pot of chili and enter our contest for bragging rights and ACTUAL prizes! Praise and Worship Service will follow at 7:00 pm with Rev. Terry Harrison and his wife as our guests.

The Andy Needham Band will be performing at Penn State Shenango on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 7:00 pm. There will be a \$5.00 ticket charge at the door. Check out their website andyneedham-band.com for a free song download off of their new album "LIFTED HIGH."



It's not too early to start thinking about Summer! Here are some of the opportunities the teens have for the summer of 2013:

June 10 – 14, 2013: **Vacation Bible School** for 3 year olds to finishing 6th grade. We need 7th through 12th volunteers for the program. This is held at the church Monday thru Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 noon daily for a week.

June 15 – 22, 2013: **West Virginia Mission Trip**. This is a tent-camping, traveling experience where high school students put on a Vacation Bible School for the kids in Circleville, WV. All 9th through 12th graders are highly encouraged to go.

June 30 – July 5, 2013: **Junior Camp** for finishing 3rd through finishing 6th grade kids. This is held at Camp Lambec in Erie, PA where we live in cabins for a week of fun and learn all about Jesus with our friends. 11th and 12th graders are counselors (with an adult supervisor in each cabin). 9th and 10th graders become "CIT's" (Counselors-In-Training) where skills are taught to teens in preparing them to become counselors.

June 30 – July 5, 2013: **NIKES Camp** for 7th and 8th grade. This camp will also be held in Camp Lambec up in Erie, PA, but these teens will live in cabins "up on the hill" enjoying a separate camp experience at Cliffhaven Lodge where we will learn acts of kindness and how to "pay it forward." We will have day trips during the week to area spots such as Waldameer, Presque Isle, and other exciting adventures, TBD.

July 26 – August 4, 2013: **Senior Mission Trip to Haiti**. Our team will join the members of Victory Christian Center Mission Team for a "Capstone" event that connects the people of Haiti with Americans using the Love of Christ while we serve "the Least of These."

April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 No School 7:00 Stretch Class	2 9:00 Preschool 9:30-11:30 & 7-9 Women's Bible Study 10:00 My Ladies 6:30 Property 7:00 Outreach	3 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Deacons: Run for God 7:30 Christian Ed.	4 9:00 Preschool 7:00 Finance 7:00 District Scouts	5 9:00 Preschool 1:30 Set up for the Brunch on Saturday	6 10-12 Women's Brunch in the Social Room
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Ser- vice 6:00 Youth Groups	8 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Stretch Class	9 9:00 Preschool 9:30-11:30 & 7-9 Women's Bible Study 3-6 TTT 7:00 Member Involvement; Worship & Memorials	10 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Run for God 7:00 Military Prayer	11 9:00 Preschool	12 9:00 Preschool	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service 6:00 Youth Groups 7:00 Praise & Worship Service	15 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Cub Commit- tee 7:00 Fun & Fellow- ship; Stretch Class	16 9:00 Preschool 9:30-11:30 & 7-9 Women's Bible Study 10:00 My Ladies	17 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Run for God 7:00 Choir	18 9:00 Preschool	19 9:00 Preschool	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service 6:00 Youth Groups 7:00 Session Chairs	22 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Cub Scouts Pack Meeting in the Social Room 7:00 Stretch Class	23 9:00 Preschool 9:30-11:30 & 7-9 Women's Bible Study 3-6 TTT	24 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Run for God 7:00 Choir	25 9:00 Preschool 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Session	26 No School	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Ser- vice 6:00 Youth Groups	29 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Stretch Class	30 9:00 Preschool 9:30-11:30 & 7-9 Women's Bible Study				

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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**We're here
to Exalt,
to Encourage,
to Equip, to**

Evangelize

TO: Current Resident



Bethany Preschool Update

Due to declining enrollment which has led to financial hardship over the past several years, it has been decided by the Session and the preschool executive committee that Bethany Preschool will close at the end of the current school year. It is our prayer that each of the four staff members will be able to find employment that brings joy and blessings to them and their families.

What Bethany Believes About Stewardship

Bethany Church believes that the Bible teaches that members should be cheerful givers of the resources the Lord has blessed us with. *“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

We believe the Bible teaches that we should tithe, that is, give a tenth of our income to the work of the church. And although at first the idea of giving that much of our income to the church might seem impossible, the Lord will bless our efforts to reach that goal. *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”* (Micah 3:10)

At Bethany we follow a Unified Budget philosophy of managing our finances. We do not encourage designated giving. Instead we ask each member to give to the whole work of the church. The Elders, as elected by the congregation, are charged with prayerfully managing the offerings received to advance the mission of the church. *“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”* (Acts 20:28)