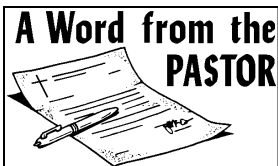


Bethany Road

Pewology



Did you know that back in the days of the reformers, people had to stand through the entire service! and the services were three hours long! Nobody knows who was the first person to hew a pew, but when seats finally arrived, a lot of problems came with them: for instance, What to call them? Lecterns

were elevated to "pulpit," robes were changed to vestments, and songs were re-christened to "hymns." So what to call the seats? It was finally decided that since they were really benches that rested on carved feet, they should be named after the old medieval word for feet, which was "*puie*." A lot of old smelly medieval feet probably deserved the word, but it wasn't fitting for use in church, so they changed the spelling to "*pew*."

Disagreement over when to use them caused major theological discussions. Anglicans were still much of the old school, that "no pews is good pews." Lutherans just used pews as a stopping place between risings and sittings. Baptists had no strong feelings either way. As long as you go all the way under when you're baptized, standing or sitting didn't mean a thing in the end. The only thing the Bible says is: "*that a person should not stand in the company of sinners or sit in the seat of the scornful*" (Psalm 1:1 KJV) Of course, anyone that perfect wouldn't really need to go to church in the first place. Pews have not just been the cause of disagreement; they have also been the source of familiar expressions like "*splinter groups*" and "*dead end*." Some pews come equipped with cushions. But one church had to put suction cups on the bottoms of the cushions because the sexton decided to wax the pews one day and worshipers were sliding right out of sight.

So how much pew time does it take before we like church? For me it took about 18 years! I've been attending Sunday School and worship services since before I was old enough to remember. My earliest memories were those of fidgety boredom. But like it or not, I put in my pew time and today, by the grace of God, I am what I am. I'm convinced that if it wasn't for all that pew time, I wouldn't be serving the church today. I'm just old fashioned enough to say that's what it still takes.

Doing "pew time" is an essential ingredient of Christian faith regardless of our age. Our faith will never grow without it. It's something we're called to do whether we feel like it or not. I realize that some people can do 'pew time' all their lives and still not like it. We may as well get used to pews, because it says that in heaven '*Sinners shall not stand in the judgement*' (Psalm 1:5 KJV) Whether that be the case or not, in the meantime, pew time is needed, desperately so!

See you in church,

Pastor Rick

**Bethany
Presbyterian
Church**

**Volume 10, Issue 5
May 2013**

Committee Meetings

- **Deacons** May 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Property** May 7 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Outreach** May 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Christian Ed.** May 8 at 7:30 p.m.
- **Worship & Memorials** May 14 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Member Involvement** May 14 at 7:00 p.m.
- **SESSION** May 23 at 7:00 p.m.

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Prayer Ministry

An update from Rev. Bovard arrived for our congregation:

Dear Friends and Loved Ones:

We send our greetings to you all. Thank you for remembering us in your prayers. As some of you are aware the Lord, in His infinite wisdom led us to this facility, the Danforth Adult Care Center in Hoosick Falls, NY, which is near Lorraine's old home (in fact, she worked in this town when we were married).

We came here because her Alzheimer's has progressed to the point where she needed daily care. Our health is good and we are able, weather permitting, to walk a mile most days. But eat your heart out!

On longer trips outside I can now ride in my almost new electric scooter! A gift from my children, found through the sharp eye of auction-wise daughter Kathy.

The Lord has been good to us in these declining years. We have not had everything but He has allowed me to continue to read many books and to keep up my art works. I have even sold a few sketches! Lorraine is still the happiest person in this facility. (I call her my "chucklehead")

May the Lord Jesus make Himself near and dear to you as we all face increasingly difficult times especially in our task of remaining faithful to Him in our walk and talk in these times of increasing testing. Our prayers go out for you in your particular needs.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bill and Lorraine Bovard

His love for the Lord and his sense of humor are always a blessing! If you would like to send Bill and Lorraine a card, their address is: Danford Health Care Center, 19 Danford St., Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Encouraging Others:

Sometimes when those we love are in a crisis situation, we often wonder what we can do to encourage or help them.

If you know someone who has been diagnosed with cancer and I would recommend a devotional called "Everyday Strength – A Cancer's Patients Guide to Spiritual Survival" written by Randy Becton. Randy is a cancer survivor who shares how the Lord helped him through the difficult journey that cancer can bring.

For those who have lost a loved one, I would recommend the devotional, "Grieving the Loss of Someone You Love," written by Raymond R. Mitsch and Lynn Brookside. This is an excellent resource that will encourage them through the process of grief.

With blessings,

Sue

Memorial Service for Bob Buchanan

A memorial service will be held at Bethany Church for Bob Buchanan on Saturday, May 25th at 10:30 a.m. There will be a luncheon following the memorial service that the family invites you to attend. The family is most appreciative of all of your support and loving kindness that has encouraged them during this difficult time.

From the Desk of the Clerk of SESSION

On Sunday, April 7 a special congregational meeting was conducted to vote on the recommended motion from Session as follows: "Shall Bethany Presbyterian Church seek affiliation from the denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church." Those voting had to meet the following qualifications: be members on the active roll, and had to be in attendance since no absentee votes were permitted. The voting was done by private paper ballot. The same procedure was followed as was done when the vote was taken to leave the Presbyterian Church USA. All voting and counting of paper ballots took place in the sanctuary. A quorum was present with 408 announced as the number on the active roll. The number of members voting was 148. The results were as follows: 147-yes and 1-no. The percentage voting in the affirmative was 99.3% and thus the motion carried. Pastor Vogeley informed the congregation what the time table was for dismissal from Shenango Presbytery and being received by the Presbytery of the Alleghenies of the EPC. This will not take place until September of 2013 because of when the Presbytery meetings are scheduled. During the summer the Session will be preparing for their examinations by the EPC. These exams have to be conducted before Bethany is received into the EPC. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask Pastor Vogeley or any of the Elders whose names are printed in the weekly bulletin.

Thank You

Dear Bethany Presbyterian Church Friends,

With God's grace, I will graduate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on May 31st with a Masters of Divinity degree. It has been a long journey and your prayers and financial support have been received with humble thanksgiving. I pray that the Lord's blessing be upon you all, now and forevermore!

Please too accept this invitation to CELEBRATE with me!

Graduation Party
Saturday June 1, 2013
2 pm-8 pm
5913 Meadow Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Blessings, Tara (Neely) Fanton

A Very Special Thank You

Thank You: Thank you to our "Bethany Church family" for your caring thoughts and prayers, all the cards with personal messages, as well as the telephone calls and visits, during Dale's 36 day hospital stay. We felt so loved and cared for with the delicious soup and meals you brought to us. We were surrounded by amazing blessings and miracles throughout this difficult time and we thank God for all of you because your love and support has given us great strength and comfort. *God Bless all of you, Fran and Dale Bish.*

Congratulations

We're the proud grandparents of Luca Stevenson Vallozzi, born 4/5/13 to our daughter Emily & son-in-law Jarred. Baby boy & parents are doing fine! Sue & Dick Stevenson.

VBS 2013

Wow! It is time to think about Vacation Bible School again! Come to Bethany's Vacation Bible School June 10th – 14th from 9:00 until 12:00 for an amazing adventure through God's Word! God's Word! Our theme this year is SonWest Round-Up. This is a free program offered to children in Preschool up to finishing 6th grade. Registration cards will be at the Welcome Center or at the church office.

See page 6 for the children's sign up form.

Call VBS Directors Linda Munnell at (724-662-3760) or Melissa Evans (724-62-1743) if you have any questions. We will look forward to seeing you there!

8 to 80 Stretch Class

Now that winter is over we are still meeting each Monday evening at 7:00 pm. We have participants at every skill level, so don't worry what level you are at. We still have room for you! Come join us!

West Virginia Mission Trip is Ready for YOU!

West Virginia Mission Trip informational meeting to be held on Sunday May 5th at 5:15 p.m. in Carson Chapel. All adults and teens interested in going should attend this meeting. Any questions, please call Mark Muehlman 724-475-2155.

Camp Opportunities

CAPNWP Work Days

Join us for a day of mission service and fellowship during our spring work days. We have projects for all skill levels and ages.

Westminster Highlands – May 4th, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, lunch provided

Camp Lambec – May 11th, 9:30 am -2:30 pm, lunch provided

For more information about our work days or to schedule a mission work group at one of our sites, visit www.capnwp.org or call us at 724-738-0058.

Summer Camp

Register for summer camp at Camp Lambec or Westminster Highlands – lots of great opportunities for all ages and families at both sites. Early registration discount through 4/30/13. Bring a friend and share the experience. Brochures, information and online registration at: <http://www.capnwp.org/17/Summer+Camps.html>. Campership funds available.

Summer Camp Staff Opportunities

Working at either Camp Lambec or Westminster Highlands is a great experience. You will learn a lot, receive excellent training and the support of a close community of faith. It's an experience you will remember your whole life. Summer Camp Staff receive salary, meals and housing and camp apparel. Our first week together is in training, team-building and leadership development. Then, we have five weeks of summer camps together. We are seeking male and female staff, age 18 or older.

Summer Camp Staff information and applications available at <http://www.capnwp.org/37/Seasonal.html> or by calling CAPNWP at 724-738-0058.

Highlands Rocks Family Festival

Save the date – June 1st, Noon-8:00 pm. This outreach event is for families throughout the region. It's a day of music, games, activities, food and fellowship. No entrance fee. Bands will play throughout the afternoon and early evening. We will have a wide variety of games for all ages, corn hole and horse shoe tournaments and Highlands Amazin' Race. The swimming pool, zip line and hayrides will be running. Vendors will be selling arts, crafts, t-shirts and more. Food vendors will have a wide variety of tasty treats. Tell your friends! Sponsorships and vendor applications are available. All proceeds benefit facility improvements at Camp Lambec and Westminster Highlands. For information, sponsor, vendor and volunteer applications visit: www.highlandsrocks.org or call the CAPNWP office at 724-738-0058.

Women's Night Out Banquet

Calling all ladies!!! The Deacons of Bethany Church are again sponsoring our annual Women's Night Out. It will be held here at the church on Monday evening, May 13th. Please come and enjoy a delicious dinner cooked by the Heckathorn family at 6:00 pm in the social room and a wonderful program by the Group 2 for ONE at 7:00 in the sanctuary. Tickets are \$4.50 each. Please bring all your friends and relatives. The menu is parmesan chicken, herb potatoes, green beans with almonds, candied carrots, broccoli salad, applesauce, rolls, and for dessert, strawberry-rhubarb crisp, apple crisp, and ice cream.

The Deacons will be selling tickets before and after church starting April 21st through May 9th.

We are also looking for a few good men to help serve and clean up. If you are interested in helping, or you would like me to reserve your tickets by phone, please call Laurie Waugaman at 724-458-4262 or 724-992-8290.

If your schedule will not allow you to make it by 6:00 for the dinner, please come to the program at 7:00 pm.

My Ladies...Let's Study the Minor Prophets

For the month of May, we will begin our Bible study by studying the three Minor Prophets from the Northern Kingdom. In the rear of Carson Chapel at 10:00 on May 7 and 21 we will look at the lives and prophecies of Jonah, Amos and Hosea. We will conclude by 11:15 a.m. All widows are cordially invited to attend.

Many Thanks

A special thanks you to the 50+ ladies who attended our recent Spring Brunch. We enjoyed fun games, great food and 17 ladies were winners of the 17 baskets donated by those in attendance. We are happy to report that our collection made it possible to purchase 60 cups for our little friends attending the preschool at the Children's Aid Society. Our Fall Brunch is scheduled for Saturday, November 16th~let's make it a date.



Sunday School Children singing on Palm Sunday

News From France

May 5th Randy and Sandy Moyer will be with us during our morning worship service to update us on their ministry in France. Sandy is the niece of the late Bob Duncan, one of our former pastors. Don't miss this time together!!

Children's Ministries

Director—Mrs. Nancy Thompson

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

We are all rejoicing on how well the children sang, waved their palm branches, and praised the Lord on Palm Sunday. A special thanks to all the children who participated and to Miss Laura who helped direct the children. See picture on the bottom of page 5.

Totally, Terrific Tuesdays went well. We had 48 children in first and second grades participate. Thanks to all who helped share Jesus with these little ones. In honor of all our helpers money was donated to our Haiti mission trip this summer to buy candy to give out to the little ones there as our team shares Jesus with the children.

Theme: Prayer--the month of May we will be learning the Lord's Prayer. We will practice each Sunday at the beginning of the Sunday School hour and recite the prayer on May 26 to our memory work teachers.

May 5—We will be saying good-by to our college intern from Westminster—Laura Chambers. Miss Laura has done an outstanding job helping with Sunday School, Children's Church, and Tiny Tots.

May 12th—Mother's Day—We will all be meeting in our large Sunday School classroom from 9:00-9:30 for a fun day of practicing our memory work, learning some new VBS songs, and doing a Mother's Day project, then at 9:30 we will go to our individual classrooms.

A Look Ahead:

June 9th—**VBS kick-off** in the Social room during the Sunday School hour.

June 10th-14th—**SONWEST ROUNDUP**---Bethany's **VBS**--- 9:00-12:00 for children in preschool up to finishing 6th grade. Any questions, please call VBS directors Linda Munnell at 724-662-3760 or Melissa Evans at 724-662-1742 .

June 2nd—**Teacher Appreciation Sunday** and **farewell party** for our sixth graders in our large classroom from 9-9:30. We will go to our individual classrooms at 9:30.

June 30—July 5—**Camp Lambec**—for all children finishing grades 3-6. **Pay in full by June 1st** to get your \$50 discount-- scholarships are also available. More information is at the Welcome Center, online, or by contacting Mrs. Nancy Thompson at 724-662-5369. The registration form is on page six.

No Summer Sunday School June 16 through August 25.



VBS Registration Card Bethany Presbyterian Church (June 10-14)

100 West Venango Street, Mercer, PA 16137

Child Name: _____ Age: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Grade Finished:** _____

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home E-mail: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Parent(s) Phone: _____

Emergency Name & Phone: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Crew Number (for church use only): _____

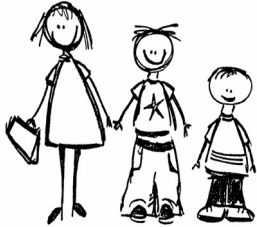
**** ONE CARD PER CHILD ****

Jr. Camp ~NIKES Camp Form

CIRCLE YOUR CAMP:

Bethany Presbyterian Church - Camp Registration/Permission Form
100 West Venango Street, Mercer, PA 16137 (724) 662-4340

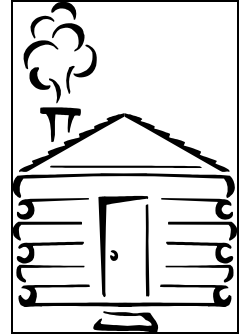
**Junior Camp
3rd - 6th Grade**



Name _____
 Address _____
 Home Phone _____
 Parent/Guardian Names _____
 Email _____
 Cell Phone Numbers _____

 Grade (2012-2013) _____ School District _____
 Church _____
 Health Insurance Name _____
 Card Numbers _____
 Physician's Name _____
 Medical/Dietary Restrictions _____
 Other Emergency Contacts _____

**NIKES Camp
7th and 8th Grade**



I give permission for my child to attend Bethany Church's Camp programs listed above the week of June 30—July 5, 2013. I release Bethany Presbyterian Church and CAPNWP/Camp Lambec, as well as employees and volunteers from any and all claims or liability arising out of this participation. In case of emergency involving my child, I understand every effort will be made to contact me. In the event I cannot be reached, I allow the adult leader to select a medical provider to secure the proper treatment of my child at my expense. This includes hospital visits, injections, or medication.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



Youth Ministry/Teen Happenings

May 5, 2013: Sexual Misconduct Policy OR Bingo @ Countryside Nursing Home 6 - 8 pm

May 12, 2013: Regular Lesson and Praise and Worship for both groups. 6 - 8 pm

May 19, 2013: Final Youth Group Party. (Upcoming 7th Graders and Parents Welcome) 6-8 pm



Sign up to be a Prayer Partner for a teenager.

-Adults needed for this very important ministry to our Youth Program. You may continue to pray for your designated teen until September of 2014.

-Teens: Please fill out a new informational paper. (Forms available on the Welcome Center or in Mrs. Ruhlman's office.)

NIKES Camp is for 7th and 8th graders. We will be attending Camp Lambec once again this year on June 30 through July 5, 2013. Sign up soon! There are early registration discounts as well as volunteer discounts.

“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.”

Proverbs 22:6

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service 5:15 WV Meeting 6:00 Youth Groups 6-7 Sexual Misconduct Class	6 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Stretch Class	7 9:00 Preschool 10:00 My Ladies 6:30 Property 7:00 Outreach	8 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Run for God 7:00 Military Prayer 7:30 Christian Ed.	9 9:00 Preschool	10 9:00 Preschool	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service 6:00 Youth Groups 7:00 Praise & Worship	13 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Cub Committee 6:30 Ladies Night Out 7:00 Stretch Class	14 9:00 Preschool 7:00 Worship & Memorials; Member Involvement	15 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool 6:30 Run for God	16 9:00 Preschool	17 9:00 Preschool	18 8:00 Geranium plant
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service 6:00 Youth Groups 7:00 SESSION Chairs	20 9:00 Preschool 7:00 Stretch Class	21 9:00 Preschool 10:00 My Ladies	22 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Preschool Program in the Sanctuary and Social Room 6:30 Choir; Run for God	23 9:00 Preschool Program in the Sanctuary and Social Room 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 SESSION	24	25 Memorial Service @ 10:30 for Bob Buchanan with a lunch to follow
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service	27 No School Office Closed	28	29 8:00 Quilters 6:30 Choir	30	31	

**Bethany Presbyterian
Church**

100 West Venango Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Phone: 724-662-4340
Fax: 724-662-1080
Web: www.bethany-presbyterian.org

**Non-Profit Organization
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PERMIT No. 39**

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

Evangelize

TO: _____
Current Resident or

Memorial Day Flower Form

Volunteer Helper I will volunteer to be a :

_____ Planter/Mulcher

_____ Dead Header

_____ Name

Phone Number _____

Memorial Day Geraniums At a cost of \$3 each. Please complete this form and return to the Church Office with your payment by Tuesday, May 14th. All donated geraniums will be planted on Church property.

Your Name: _____

No. of Geraniums _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

*The planting will take place on Saturday, May 18 at 8:00 a.m. If we have enough help, we will be done by noon! Can you give us two hours of your time?

