



Bethany Road

Volume 7, Issue 2

February 2010

"Hide n' Seek"

**Bethany
Presbyterian Church**

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Committee Meetings

* Property	February 2 at 6:30 p.m.
* Outreach	February 2 at 7:00 p.m.
* Deacons	February 3 at 6:30 p.m.
* Member Involvement	February 3 at 7:30 p.m.
* Christian Education	February 3 at 7:30 p.m.
* Finance	February 4 at 7:00 p.m.
* Worship & Memorials	February 16 at 7:00 p.m.
* SESSION	February 25 at 7:00

"Hide n' Seek." We have all played it: Someone hides and someone else tries to find them. I believe that many people think having a relationship with God is like playing "Hide n' Seek." God to them is someone who shrouds Himself in mystery and holds Himself aloof from us. They would say only those who are prepared to undertake an arduous search for God will find Him.

I think the very opposite is true. The Bible represents God as One who seeks and searches for us. Look at the story of Jesus' healing of the blind man in John 9. Once, while preparing to preach on this passage, my attention was drawn to verse 35 of this chapter. Just prior to this verse the healed man has been thrown out of his synagogue because he exalted Jesus for doing such a marvelous thing for him. Understand, please, that to be put out of one's synagogue was a very serious matter. A person in this state was not only excluded from the community's religious life, but also from its social and economic activities as well. Anyone thrown out of the synagogue was indeed in dire straits.

Look at what happens next in the story. Verse 35 reads: "Jesus heard that they had put him out; and finding him, He said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'" Note those underlined words. Mark them well~ "and finding him." Who looked for whom when this man was in trouble? It was Jesus who searched for this man, found him, and then brought him into relationship with Himself.

If there is any hiding in terms of our relationship with God, friends, it is we who are doing it. All it takes to find the Savior is to stop running, turn around, and look into the eyes of One who is hot on our heels. May all of us seek after God with the same passion God displays as He seeks after us.

Grace and Peace,

Jim

Confirmation Class Beginning on February 14th

A confirmation class for Bethany teens who are interested in joining Bethany will begin on February 14th with an introductory meeting for all members of the class and their parents.

This class is especially targeted for 7th and 8th graders, but all teenagers who have not joined the church and want to be part of the class are welcome to be part of the class.

This class will be lead by Pastor Jim and will meet every Sunday morning during the Sunday School Hour, from February 14th through May 23rd. The class will conclude on May 23rd with a confirmation service on Pentecost Sunday.

If you have questions about the class, please call Pastor Jim after February 4th. He will be in the Sudan during the beginning of this month and will be able to talk to you about the class when he returns.

Letters about the class will be going out to all 7th and 8th graders by February 1st. If your child is interested in the class and did not receive a letter, please call the church office at 724-662-4340 and let us know your child will be part of the class.

Desk of the Clerk

Since the next Session meeting won't be until after you receive this Bethany Road, I have decided to do a brief summary of the activities of the recent congregational meeting for those who were not able to attend.

The meetings followed a delicious dinner served by the Deacons. We did have a quorum present—a quorum is 10% of the active roll of Bethany. Since the active roll is currently 499 we had to have 50 people in atten-

dance.

The following were elected to serve three-year terms as Elders: Steve Amsler, John Inman, Dan Lawyer, Gary McElfresh, and Linda Munnell. Those elected to the office of Deacon for three year terms were: Deb Bayer, Kathleen Daley, Jennie Hunter, Ken Knechtel, Jack Miller, and Rita Thompson. Dave Ruhlman was elected to serve a two-year term.

It was noted that Bethany Church

finished 2009 with a net income of \$2,491.81 and a balanced budget was approved by Session for 2010.

Rev. Leuenberger and Mrs. Allen presented reports, which can be found along with more details of the life of Bethany Church in 2009 in the annual report, which can be secured from Lois in the Church Office.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance ~ Relief for Haiti

The recent earthquake in Haiti has caused much human suffering. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the relief arm of our denomination, is working with its partners in the area to respond to this tragedy.

If you would like to make an offering for PDA's work in Haiti, you can do so by putting your offering in a pew envelope that you mark, "Haiti relief." Cash or checks are acceptable. Please make checks to Bethany Presbyterian

Church and write the words, "Haiti offering" on the notation line. You can also mail your offering for this cause to the church or drop it off in the office. Thanks!

Prayer Ministry

Dear Friends,

No doubt about it - our lives are busy! Even in our busiest of times, most of us want to draw near to God and renew our relationship with Him.

We are going to offer you a way to begin the Lenten Season with an opportunity to slow down for a few minutes and draw close to God. We are going to offer communion on Ash Wednesday, February 17 at three different times during the day, with each time slot lasting about 15 minutes. You can stop by the church on your way to work at 6:15 am, during lunch-time hour at 12:15 pm, or on your way home after a busy day at 5:15 pm. We hope you will take this opportunity to stop "the rushing" for a few minutes, reset the focus button of your heart and begin the Lenten Season with renewed hope and thanksgiving for all Christ has done in your life.

Not only do we want to you be aware of God in your everyday lives, we also want to offer you a way to be an effective and caring witness to those around you by praying for others to be aware of God in their lives.

In knowing what prayer has meant to us and knowing that Jesus wants us to pray for all people, we are asking you to pick five neighbors to pray for during Lent. Who are neighbors? As Jesus said, they are people you pass on your journey. They could be family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, or even the difficult people in your life. We will have a little pamphlet available that will easily explain how to pray for five people, for five minutes, for five blessings, for five weeks during Lent. We also have Easter cards available for you to send as a way to let people know you care and that God loves them.

It's my hope and prayer for each of you to have a meaningful Lenten Season, both in what you receive and in what you give to others.

Blessings of peace,

Sue

Military Prayer

Prayer Focus – the Surge in Afghanistan

Currently about 70,000 U.S. troops are in Afghanistan. The surge will bring that number to around 100,000 service members. The conditions in this country are made difficult by the high altitudes and remote mountainous terrain. Our soldiers also face the elements of harsh weather – from about June to September there is a “wind of 120 days” when the country’s western and southern regions experience high clouds of dust and heat. The goal of our troops’ efforts in Afghanistan is to protect the Afghan people against the Taliban-led insurgents who are seeking to establish a Sunni state under their leader, Mullah Omar.

Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal is commanding our soldiers in Afghanistan and states that another goal is “improving citizens’ quality of life through reconstruction and infrastructure projects...and reducing Afghan civilian casualties during anti-insurgent operations.” Unfortunately, Gen. McChrystal also noted in a report in December that the insurgency is gaining strength and attacks are on the rise.

Your prayers are needed to give our soldiers protection especially from roadside bombs as they conduct patrols and for safety of the helicopter pilots who face the danger of bad weather and rocket attacks as they seek to deliver food, medical supplies and mail to our soldiers in the outlying bases.

Adam Lott currently serves in southern Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne, and

Blake Kosmowski and **Jay Kelso** are scheduled to deploy there later this year.

This note to the Congregation was received from **Bill Fusz**, who is based at Camp Ramadi, Iraq: “Thank you so much for thinking of me and my paratroopers during this Christmas season, particularly in your cards, thoughts and prayers. It is immensely comforting to know that as we go about our duties here in western Iraq this deployment, we are being lifted up in prayer by all of you in Mercer. I hope that you have had a blessed Christmas and look forward to seeing you and thanking you in person this New Year when I return from deployment.”

Our next prayer time for soldiers and families is Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7 pm in Carson Chapel. Please join us in lifting the needs of our soldiers to the Lord!

Music Ministry

LOOKING AHEAD

Trumpeter extraordinaire, Mr. Tom Hunt will be playing at both morning services on February 28th. Don’t miss it!

CALLING ALL MEN

Dr. Hendley Hoge will be directing the men’s chorus at Bethany on March 14th. Rehearsals are scheduled for Wednesday, March 3rdnd and Wednesday, March 10th at 7 PM. In years past, this has been one of the highlights of our musical calendar and we look forward with great anticipation to hearing the men of Bethany sing once again.

Mark your calendar and plan to participate. See you there!

EASTER HOLIDAY CHOIR

It seems that Christmas has just passed and hard to believe but Easter is right around the corner on April 4th. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays, March 17, March 24th and March 31st all at 7 P. M. Please plan to be a part of this special choir and make it a great day of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord.

MUSICAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.”

Victor Hugo

MUSICAL SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Psalm 66: vs.1 & 2 “Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious.”

Giving Envelopes

If you have not received your February giving envelopes or 2009 giving statement, please contact Lynda McQuown at 724-962-3154.

Children's Ministry Happenings at Bethany

Director—Mrs. Nancy Thompson

The children have been very busy the month of January:

Hearing stories about Jesus.

Studying scripture memory verses.

Praying for our food, friends (especially our friends in Haiti), and our troops. We even made Valentine cards for our soldiers overseas.

Fellowshipping with each other at Cool Spring Fitness—enjoying swimming and rock wall climbing.

We will continue our emphasis on prayer in February as we pray for our families, teachers, preachers, and government. Our song for the months of January and February is---- Why Worry When You Can Pray? Why worry when you can pray? Trust Jesus, He'll be your stay. Don't be a doubting Thomas. Rest fully on His promise. Why worry, worry, worry, worry, when you can pray?

Totally Terrific Tuesday After School Program

When: February 16th –March 23rd

Where: Bethany Church (beside Pizza Joe's)

Time: Every Tuesday a bus will transport the students from the elementary school to the church. Parents may pick up their children at Bethany at 5:45 p.m. in the church basement.

What: Tasty Food (Dinner), Tricky Games, Terrific Crafts, Truthful Bible Stories, & Trusty Homework Time.

Who Will Lead: Mrs. Nancy Thompson and her team of fantastic adults and high school teenagers.

Who May Attend: Any student in grades 1-6

Requirements: Fill out the permission slip on the back of the flyer found at the Welcome Center and return it to Bethany Church Welcome Center by **Sunday, February 7th**. (Also make sure to send a note to your child's teacher.)

Questions: Call Mrs. Nancy Thompson @ 724-662-5369

BETHANY YOUTH MINISTRIES

On the Scene Coverage:

30 Hour Famine: Raising Money for Survivors in Haiti



This month, Nikes and Renovate Youth Groups, are participating in the National Event known as the 30 Hour Famine, with this year's proceeds providing aid to earthquake survivors in Haiti. This is an amazing opportunity to participate in your teen's desire and ability to send Christ's love to an area of the world that is in desperate need of it. It is my hope and prayer that you would join us in this mission of hope!

Our Group Fundraising Goal is \$2,500!!!

Ways To Be Involved: 1) Pray for Our Teens and for Those in Haiti; 2) Sponsor a Teen; 3) Chaperone at the Lock-In (contact Claire); 4) Attend Fundraiser Events and Bring Friends!!!

Youth Group Events in February

Friday, Feb 5 th	7PM-8PM	30 Hr Famine Fundraiser: <i>Service Auction in Sanctuary</i> Groups of Students will be Auctioned Off to the Highest Bidder for a Day of Service at Your Home “Do you have a room/garage/etc in your house that has a mind of its own—let our students school it into submission”
Sunday, Feb 7 th	6PM-Half Time	Super Bowl Party @ The Way Café Bring \$5 for Pizza and Wings
Friday, Feb 19 th	7PM-9PM	30 Hr Famine Fundraiser: <i>Talent Show in Sanctuary</i> Suggested Donation of \$10 @ the door This night is sure to be a blast—as Bethany Teens will showcase their talent through instrument, singing, acting, and more. A night of fun for the whole family- guaranteed!
Saturday- Sunday (Feb 27 th -28 th)	6PM-6PM	30 Hr Famine Lock-In @ The Way Cafe

Continues on page 6

Youth Group Curriculums

Nikes:

We will be finishing up our series entitled, "Jesus Said It." This study has taken your students on an in-depth look at the one-on-one encounters with Jesus occurring in the New Testament, through a multi-sensory and interactive exploration.

Renovate:

We will be continuing with our *Hope Lives* series this month in order to "encourage our students to develop a Jesus-centered, compassionate response to poverty."

Lesson Topics:

- Week 1: Poverty of the Heart
- Week 2: Who Is My Neighbor?
- Week 3: For Such a Time as This
- Week 4: The Power of Prayer
- Week 5: Be the Change

Bethany Ladies Lunch Group

The Bethany Ladies Lunch Group will be meeting on Sunday, February 14 to go to Benjamin's after the second worship service. We will meet in the rear foyer after the second worship service if you need a ride. All single ladies are invited to come along.

Fun & Fellowship

Our monthly Fun and Fellowship will be held in the Social Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 15. We will be making a decorative wall plaque—

with a theme of your choice. This is just a fun and easy project.

The cost will be \$1.25 each. If you have any paints or brushes, please

bring them; otherwise, just come and join us. If you don't feel like doing a craft, just come for the fellowship time.

Who's New?



Do you have a new addition to your family?

Bethany Members want to welcome your little ones, whether they are in Mercer County or far away! All we need is a photo with the baby's name, birth date, parents' names, and Bethany connection (grandparents? Former members?) Bring to the Welcome Center, or email to

loismetelsky@bethany-presbyterian.org

My Ladies—February Meetings. . .

We are going to be spending the two sessions in February on the very small book of Jonah. We know that Jonah was a prophet and was swallowed by a whale (really?) See how much you can learn about Jonah and how God used him even when he didn't want to be used.

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 2 and we will be reading and then discussing Jonah 1 and 2. Our second meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16 and we will be proceeding into chapters 3 and 4. All meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in the rear of Carson Chapel.



ANNUAL BETHANY FAMILY RETREAT

The Annual Bethany Family Retreat will be held this year on March 19-21, 2010 at River Ridge Castle in Franklin. This is a great time to get to know one another in a less formal setting and still enjoy a time of Christian fellowship. The retreat is open to the entire Bethany Church family so don't be left out. The cost for this year's retreat is \$45 per person or a \$125 family maximum for 2 nights or \$35 per person or \$95 family maximum for one night. There will be lots of fellowship, daily devotionals and plenty of snacks. So pack your favorite comfy clothes, a snack to share and invite a friend. Sign up starts in February at the welcome center. For more information contact Chris Evans at 724-662-1742 or e-mail at bearclearing@yahoo.com.

2009 Thankoffering Updates. . .

All three organizations who received Thankoffering funds have acknowledged that each of them have received your gifts. The thank you notes can be found on the Women's bulletin board across from the Outreach Board in the rear hallway. Each organization was very appreciative of your generosity.

You will also remember that we had a collection for Joshua's Haven, the homeless shelter which serves the Shenango Valley. This is a ball park list of the items that were collected and taken to them for its use: Donations received and

delivered to Joshua's Haven (delivery courtesy of Nancy Thompson): 1 fleece blanket, 16 t-shirts, 17 fabric handkerchiefs, 4 scarves, 20 hats, 29 men's briefs, 6 pairs of gloves, 1 belt, 40 bars of soap, 35 tooth brushes, 24 tubes of tooth paste, 22 deodorant, 1 thermal coffee cup, 2 pairs of nail clippers, 10 packages of disposable razors, 12 bottles of shampoo, 2 after shave lotions, 1 box q-tips, 11 combs, 145 pairs of socks (and, no, that is not a typographical error), 1 cap and t-shirt set, 1 sweater, 18 shirts, 1 brush, tons of assorted hard candy, 6

pairs of boxers, 2 wash clothes, 3 comb and brush sets, 6 individual packages of tissues, 8 cans of shaving cream, 1 bottle cologne, 1 pair lounge pants, and 2 bottles of lotion. This list is a little incomplete for we are sure there may have been an item or so that didn't get counted as the boxes were being filled.

Our sincere thanks, as well as Joshua's Haven, for caring enough to provide for those who need our help at this time in their lives.

Mini-Mission Fair

You are invited to a Mini-Mission Fair at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, 2466 Scrubgrass Road-off Rt. 173 North of Grove City, on Sunday February 21 at 6 p.m. It is difficult to make plans in February, so the "snow date" is February 28th. We will have speakers, visual displays and serve dessert.

We hope some of your church family can attend! For more information, call 814-786-7004 (Sue Ellen Hamilton) or 814-786-7578 (Harold and Sonja Glisson). Sincerely The Mission Committee.

Adoption Opportunity

- At any given time, there are about 20,000 in Pennsylvania who need placement in safe, stable homes. Homes like yours.
- It is people like you who are able to provide the kind of nurturing environment where these children can realize their full potential.
- If you or someone you know is interested in making a difference in a child's life, adoption may be right for you.
- Please pick up the phone and call Children's Aid Society of Mercer County for more information at 724-662-4730.

Thank You from Sandra Probst, Director of Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

My deepest heartfelt thank you to everyone that contributed in any way to Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry. Whether you gave food, produce, money, organized can food drives or with your prayers we are so grateful. We had almost two tons of food donated to us with your help. Presently we have almost four hundred people at the pantry and the need is great. The Lord definitely blessed us this year because we had a thirty percent increase in monetary donations to help us with the increase in clients.

Some members helped with the Boaz Field and your hard work and desire to help our clients received fresh produce was enjoyed by them. They were so delighted and appreciative with receiving fresh produce. Some of you donated produce on your own and we thank you for your generosity.

All I can ask of you is a willingness to continue supporting our mission in the same way as you shown this year. We appreciate all your efforts in helping us feed the hungry in our community. Thank you for the bottom of my heart from supporting our local mission. May the Lord bless you and our pantry!

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Preschool & Moms in Touch 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Cub Scouts 9:11 a.m. & 7:9 p.m. Women's Bible Study	2 10:00 My Ladies 5:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Property 7:00 Outreach	3 9:00 Preschool; Quilters 6:30 Deacons 7:30 Christian Ed; Member Involvement	4 6:00 OA 7:00 Finance	5 9:00 Preschool & PDO	6	
7 8:15 & 10:45 Services 9:30 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Groups	8 9:00 Preschool & Moms in Touch 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Cub Scouts 9:11 a.m. & 7:9 p.m. Women's Bible Study	9 5:45 Girl Scouts	10 9:00 Preschool; Quilters 11:30 Preschool Teachers 1:00 Preschool Committee 1:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Military Prayer	11 6:00 OA	12	13
14 8:15 & 10:45 Services 9:30 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Groups	15 7:00 Fun & Fellowship 9:11 a.m. & 7:9 p.m. Women's Bible Study	16 10:00 My Ladies 3:00 Afterschool Program 5:45 Girl Scouts 7:00 Worship & Memorials; Writers Club	17 9:00 Preschool; Quilters	18 6:00 OA	19 9:00 Preschool & PDO	20 New Elder Training in the Work Room Pinewood Derby in the Social Room
21 8:15 & 10:45 Services 9:30 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Groups	22 9:00 Preschool & Moms in Touch 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Cub Scouts Pack Meeting 9:11 a.m. & 7:9 p.m. Women's Bible Study	23 3:00 Afterschool Program 5:45 Girl Scouts	24 9:00 Preschool; Quilters	25 6:00 OA 6:30 District Scouts 7:00 SESSION	26 9:00 Preschool & PDO	27
28 8:15 & 10:45 Services 9:30 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Groups						

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

Evangelize

TO: Current Resident

February Worship at Bethany

February 7th – Our choir will be singing and Pastor Jim will be back from the Sudan and speaking about his experiences there. Remember our new young adult Sunday School class has begun meeting. This would be a great day to try it out!

February 14th – Pastor Jim will be preaching and elders and deacons will be ordained and installed today. This will be the first day for the confirmation class. Please pray for our young people as they start this important time which will culminate in our confirmation service on May 23rd.

February 21st – This is the first Sunday of Lent. Pastor Jim will be preaching.

February 28th – We look forward to welcoming Tom Hunt who will bring music on his trumpet today. Pastor Jim will be preaching.
