

The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ

January 2014

Bethel United Church of Christ Our mission is to be and make disciples

Meanderings January 2014

*Is it that time of year again, time to make those “**New Year’s Resolutions?**”*

A time for new beginnings, new jump-starts, new commitments to read the Bible daily, dutiful prayer time, visit and call on those unable to attend church and worship. The list is long the opportunities are great, are you up to the calling to be that Disciple Christ calls us to be?

As we begin this New Year, we pull ourselves up from our couches and recliners and away from our flat screens of the College Bowl Game Mania. Hour upon hour of time, which adds up to thousands to millions and even billions of time, spent on our duffs watching 22 young men collide with each other. I confess I too am one of those who must pull me up, up and away from the chair. While we are entrenched in that particular place, why not make up your own to do list for the year. Yes for the year, not the day or weekend as you outline your plans. Some of you may not be in that particular situation but I am sure you will be able to find some time to do this particular calling for 2014.

*The challenge is to “Play it Forward” or “Pay it Forward” as some say. The movie **Pay it Forward**, came out in 2000 with the general theme stemming from a classroom assignment in an elementary school. The task means the recipient of a favor does a favor for three others rather than paying the favor back. A favor or kindness given to someone else in response to a favor given to you without any thoughts of recognition to the giver.*

This is a great way to make and keep that resolution for the year 2014, and what better way than to contemplate in your easy chair those unknown givers of gifts or favors you received this past year. Now don’t sit there with a glazed look on your face as you read this, I am sure if you put your mind to it you can recall those thoughts and occurrence that unbeknownst to you, you were blessed by some form of kindness and grace. Christ calls us to do just that in our lives on a daily basis, as we are to be his presence in the world today and tomorrow.

The Magi followed the Star of Wonder in route to the Christ Child, to give their gifts and in doing so were filled with great joy. You too can be that receiver of great joy in the year 2014 by providing grace and hope to others. Make up that list and after you receive your new Epiphany Star during worship on the first Sunday of the year, you will have the guiding word for your personal ministry of “Pay it Forward”. Be Christ like in the year ahead and many blessings will come to you.

Happy New Year to All In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Haan

**Bethel United Church of Christ
Consistory Notes from
December 14 Meeting**

Financial Report: Lee Kornick reported that we are current on all bills. He also reported funds of \$175,000.00 for the remodel are in accounts that are accessible when needed for the Lift project. Anne McKarns purchased prepaid cards for emergencies situations.

Pastors Report: A written report was provided by Rev. Haan Phelps. Haan shared his plans of a possible pastor exchange with Neal Mann for March 23rd, 2014. A motion was made by Lee to go forward with the exchange. Gloria seconded that motion. The consistory voted to do this. Haan is checking with Neal to see if he is available to respond to calls while he is on vacation in Dec.

All Ministry Reports:

CFF. Sandy let us know there is a meal on Jan 13, 2014. She shared the menu and that she will need help in preparing this meal.

Property Team: Lee shared that he met with Kenny Hoopes and the mechanical engineer for the remodeling project. In this meeting they discussed what walls will be torn out, changes in the bathrooms, tile floors up to the sanctuary entrance and that the effect on the pantry operation would be minimal. They expect the project to be completed in a minimum of eight weeks or prior to Easter.

The property committee needs to have the storage room cleaned out prior to the start of this project. It was suggested that the kids can help do this by carrying the item to a storage area on the third floor. Luanne thanked Lee for all the work the Property team did to bring this project to fruition.

Old Business:

Lee spoke briefly about the reorganization and definition of each "Team" responsibility. He also brought a letter to the consistory to thank the congregation for their understanding and support of the remodeling project and also to let the congregation know what will be happening in the near future.

New Business:

The hiring of a new pianist/organist was discussed. There was some discussion and the consistory decided that renegotiation could be done in the future if needed.

The consistory along with Haan decided installation and ordination of consistory members would be Jan 12th, 2014. It was also decided that a consistory training day would be Jan. 25th taking 3-4 hours.

There will be an Annual meeting on January 26, 2014 after church. All reports for this meeting need to be turned into Deb by January 17, 2014.

Haan contacted Panera Bread to inquire about getting their day old bread for our food pantry. They said they are presently committed to other organizations.

Lee brought to the consistory's attention that we will be losing a lot of our pantry helpers due to them going south for the winter. It was suggested that we ask for help from the rest of the congregation.

An ad was created for the Alliance Review, Salem News and The Morning Journal the Christmas Cantata. Two members volunteered to pay for them.

Minutes taken by Deb Cappa

Beacon Financial Report: December

Monthly approved budget \$13,216.42

Income: \$12,659.00 annual 2013: \$154,147.94

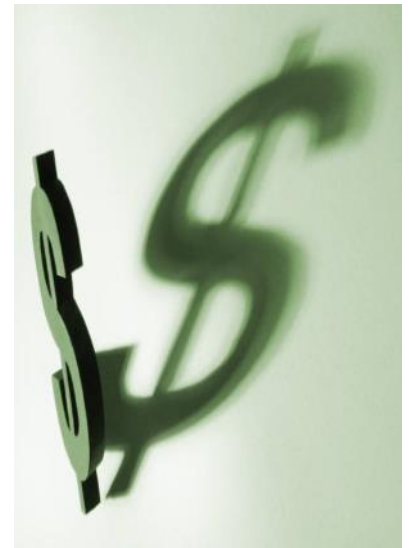
Expense: \$ 8,858.41 annual 2013: \$160,894.68

Difference \$ 3,800.59 Difference \$ - 6,746.74

Reminders:

Remember, as a congregation, we have made a commitment to tithe at least 10% of our remodeling project money for a minimum of \$17,500

Received to date for remodeling project: \$545.00



The Apple Dumpling Gang wants to thank everyone who contributed either by helping make the dumplings or by purchasing supplies or giving monetary donations to make the dumplings. They have helped make this another successful year. The Gang made approximately 1209 apple dumplings this year. Last year they made about 1200 dumpling also. Sales last year produced \$2301.07. This year produced \$1606.00. At present they have no plans to make more unless they get a big order. They are thinking about purchasing a new stainless steel freezer for the kitchen.



Caroling— The Carolers started their day worshipping Sunday morning Dec 8th at Bethel. They then had a nice lunch provided by Anne McKarns, Dee, and Lee Kornick. After lunch 22 people set out on their journey of Caroling. One group went toward Alliance and the other group went toward Salem. The Carolers visited 20 of our own members. They also sang to friends of members in Auburn nursing home in Damascus and at Copeland Oaks. After caroling they came back to Pastor Haan and Sue's open house where they enjoyed fellowship and refreshments along with other members. And I'm sure a train whistle could be heard in the background.



Lighting up Damascus

This years Damascus had its annual "Light up Damascus " on December 14th some events starting as early as 8 A.M. The lighting of the "Memory Tree" was at 5:30 P.M. There were a multitude of events that took place during this event. Members of our congregation that participated in the choir were Luanne Sanor, Sue Phelps, Alan Deckerd, Phil Harlan, Lori Wallace, and Helen McBride. Ali Harris and Olivia Brunner, two of our young members, who are members of Young and Alive from West Branch High School sang at the Friends Church.



Bethel Annual Meeting for 2014

On January 26, 2014 we will be having our Annual meeting after the service. Plan on staying to hear about events of this past year and plans and progress of the current projects and Oh yea Lunch and Fellowship after!!!.



CFF Meal– Bethel will be responsible for the meal in Sebring on Monday January 13, 2014. Sandy is asking for donations of cake for desert for this event. I am sure that she will not turn away anyone wishing to help serve this meal at B.L. Miller School in Sebring

NEW BIBLE STUDY to begin on January 8th at 6 pm. Join us at 5:30 with Bethel Buddies meal then we will begin our new study. All participants should pick up their books by December 29 or January 5 at the latest. Max Lucado and *“The Gospel of Matthew”* in the Life Lesson Study Series.

This study will give you an inside track to the Liturgical Gospel readings for this new year.

“Not only was Matthew a tax collector; he was a public tax collector. Some collectors did their business underground. They hired runners to do their dirty work. Matthew did his own. He was the leech at the bottom of the pit. He pulled his stretch limo right into the greasiest parts of town and set up his table and held out his hand. That’s where he was when Jesus called him.” “This relationship Jesus had with Matthew can serve to convince us that if Jesus had a place for Matthew, he just might have a place for us.”

Join us for this 12 week class to prepare us for the coming year. Nominal cost of \$10.00 if you are able to help with price of the book and shipping.



January Birthdays

1/01	Travis Lane	1/15	Craig Miller
	Ron Brunner	1/17	Mickey Liebhart
1/03	Pamela Bandy	1/20	Shelly Baumgartner
1/06	Nicholas Della Penna	1/22	Joe McKibben
1/07	Paul Rozich		Robert Wallace
1/08	Edward Ramsayer	1/27	Kevin Miller
1/10	Neal Baum		Marcia Smith
	Shelly Gibbons	1/28	Robert Brogan
	Maxine Lentz		Jacob Oblander
	Paighton Covert	1/30	David Yaggi
1/12	John Bower	1/31	Katherine Harlan
	Christa Cranston		
1/13	James Kestner		
	Sarah Liebhart		



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Wednesday's Schedule 4:5:30 Food Pantry- 5:30– 6:00 B.B. Meal 5:30– 7:00 B. B/Adult Bible Study 5:30– 7:00 B.B. Children's Bible Study/ Music 7:00– 7:30 Prayer and Meditation 7:00-7:30 Bell Practice 7:30– 8:30 Choir Practice			1 No Pantry or Bethel Buddies	2	3	4
						
5 Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M	6	7	8 See key for Wednesday schedule	9 5:30 P.M. Girl Scouts	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Installation of Officers	13 CFF Dinner 5-7P.M.	14 Consistory Meeting 6:30 P.M.	15 See key for Wednesday schedule	16	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.	20	21	22 See key for Wednesday schedule	23	24	25 Consistory Retreat
26 Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Annual Meeting	27	28	29 See key for Wednesday schedule	30	31	

Living the Season after the Epiphany



January 12

Matthew 3:13–17

In this focus scripture, Jesus is baptized by John the baptizer, not the other way around as scripture tells us John would prefer. Jesus' ministry begins by turning our ideas about him and how God works upside down. God calls us to a deeper relationship with God, a deeper understanding of God, in our baptism. We are called beyond the things we know and understand in the world around us. We are called to imagine how God wants the world to be – how God sees the world. In our own baptism we bathe in waters of Kin-dom understanding and truths.

This week play in some water; visit a river, lake, or other body of water; or touch wet fingertips to your forehead in the shower and think about to what God has called you through baptism.

January 19

Isaiah 49:1–7

The prophet speaks a message of hope to a community in exile. Being separated from all that they know, the people of Judah are defeated and depressed. They are waiting for better tomorrows. The prophet shares God's message of reassurance and affirmation that not only will their lives be restored – they will be a "light to all nations." Given their current situation, that seems pretty unbelievable, but God's vision for the people of Judah is more than they can see and understand on their own. God continues to work in these ways in our lives today.

This week think of someone who needs a message of encouragement or reassurance. Send them a handwritten note or give them a call on the phone. Make personal contact and let her/him know that she/he is being remembered.

January 26

Matthew 4:12–23

Jesus calls his first disciples. They set aside their lives and livelihoods and follow Jesus. Not only does Jesus call Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow him, he gives them a new purpose for their lives. In this way, not only is answering Jesus' call to discipleship a gift for God, it is a gift to the disciples who have chosen a new course and direction for their lives. Coming together in a new community, the disciples follow Jesus and God's will for their lives.

This week call upon someone you know to be in discipleship or service with you. Together you might attend a Bible study, take on a small service project in your community, or volunteer for an activity or leadership role at church.

February 2

Matthew 5:1–12

The Beatitudes – the blessed and the not so blessed. In these verses Jesus asks us to re-think, to re-imagine, what the world has taught us about the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots, the powerful and the powerless. No small feat given the way we see the wealthy and the powerful portrayed in today's society where we measure being "blessed" by what we accumulate and acquire. And it's up to us to be sure that Jesus' teachings are realized in the here and now. It's our job to be the liberators for those oppressed by society's notions of "blessed."

This week look closely at the way the media and pop culture portray the "blessed" in today's world. For every news item you read about society's blessed find a story about Jesus' blessed.

What is Epiphany by Dr. Mark D. Roberts -- www.TheHighCalling.org

And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News (2 Timothy 1:10). January 6th is Epiphany this year, the day after the twelve-day celebration of Christmas (or, in some liturgical calendars, the twelfth day of the Christmas season). The English word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means "appearing" or "revealing." Epiphany focuses on God's self-revelation in Christ. On this day, some Christian traditions pay special attention to the visit of the Magi. Other traditions focus on the baptism of Jesus, especially the voice from heaven that identifies Jesus as God's Son. In either case, the emphasis is upon God making himself known to the world through Jesus, the divine Son.

The theological essence of Epiphany is found in [2 Timothy 1:10](#): "And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News." If you were reading this verse in Greek, you'd find the word *epiphaneia* where we have "appearing." God has made "all of this" plain to us through the epiphany of Christ.

But what is "all of this"? We find an answer in the previous verse: "For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time-to show us his grace through Christ Jesus." The original language makes it clear that "all of this" is God's plan (or purpose) and grace. In other words, though Jesus, God not only reveals himself to us, but also reveals his plan to save us, a plan that centers in his grace. The gracious plan of God reflects and confirms his gracious character.

If we want to know God, we must turn our eyes to Jesus. In his words and deeds, and most of all in his sacrificial death, he reveals God to us. On this day of Epiphany, let us thank God for making himself known to us in such a marvelous way. And let us renew our commitment to sharing this good news with the world.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Can you think of some specific attributes of God's character that you have come to know through Jesus? Are there people in your life with whom you might share the good news of God's love in Christ? Are you willing to ask the Lord to use you to communicate his good news to them?

PRAYER

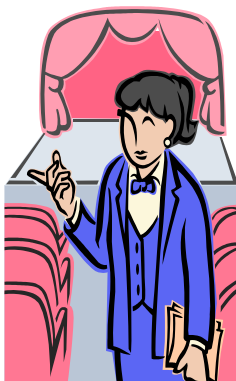
Gracious God, today we thank you for making yourself known to us in Jesus Christ. Thank you for helping us to know your character, your glory, and your grace. All praise be to you, O God, because you have revealed yourself to us. All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, because you have shown us the Father and because you have embodied divine grace so that we might receive it.

All praise be to you, Holy Spirit, for helping us to live in that grace each day. Fill us afresh with your power, Spirit of God, so that we might share the good news of Christ with the world . . . beginning with our friends and neighbors. *Amen.*

Mark D. Roberts, as Senior Director and Scholar-in-Residence for Laity Lodge, is an advisor and frequent contributor to [TheHighCalling.org](http://www.TheHighCalling.org) <http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/What-Epiphany-Means.html>

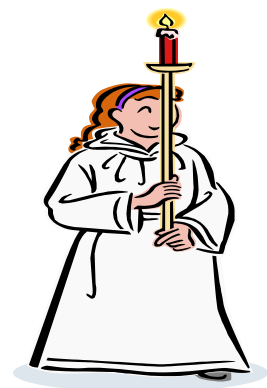
Head Usher Anne McKarns

January 5
January 12
January 19
January 26



Acolytes

January 5
January 12
January 19
January 26



Liturgist

January 5 Youth
January 12
January 19
January 26 Lee Kornick



Coffee Time Host

January 5 Patty Brogan
January 12
January 19
January 26



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Treasurer

**Communion Elder or Deacon for the
Month of January**

Luanne Sanor



Prayer Concerns –To the Family of Evelyn Barker, Ernie Grossniklaus, Mary Lou Scott, to the Family of Bill Stockburger, Lawrence (Friend of Will Stryfeler), Cindy Hergenroder, Gayla Flowers (Pam Baum’s Sister), Jim Santee, Kathy Hoopes (David’s Wife), Delores Stoffer, Goldie Summers, Matt Ketterer, Mike Early, Joe Monter, Wayne Harlan, Dawn Marie Hull, Betty Ring, Delores Brunner, Morgan Loudon, Ina Cameron, Maxine Lentz, Randi Ring, Kylie Dillon, John Handschin, Janice McLaughlin, Keith Simpkins, and our military



Thank You Lorie Wallace for covering for Debbie in the office on Dec 13, 2013

Mary Lou sent Bethel a beautiful card thanking us for the gift of money but more importantly for the love and care , concern and prayers she received during this time as she goes through treatment. If you wish you can see the card on the office door.

Pastor Neal Mann sent a card to Bethel to thank the members for contributions and volunteers who helped distribute close to 1400 Thanksgiving meals.

Thank You to Tammy Summers for your donation of fruit to the Bethel Food Pantry.

Bob Swallow sends thanks to the Carolers for spreading there joy. It meant a lot to him.

Cassaday-Turkle Christian Funeral & Cremation Service sends greetings and thanks for our assistance with the announcement we put in our bulletin to let people know about their “Celebration of Memories”.

Thanks to you all, you know what contributions you have made. Keep doing what you do.

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