

The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ

February 2014

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

Meanderings February 2014

As I sit at my desk, I can look over and see the "Boys Town" 2014 Calendar on the board. The picture for January looks very similar to what I see outside the window.

Snow blowing all around, a house and church in the distance with snow on the roofs of both buildings and the Cardinals at the bird feeders. Some of us "hunker down" when the weather is like this, others play games inside, put puzzles together, watch TV, complain because there is no school (parents) or rejoice if a child.

This past Sunday we canceled services because of the blowing snow and cold weather so our annual meeting was postponed for one week. What else do we cancel in these times of cold weather? Do we cancel our prayers for others, do we double our offering this coming Sunday or just do one Sunday's offering, do we remember to confess our wrongs of the week and ask forgiveness or just let it slide like the sled going down the hillside?

It is important to keep in our hearts and minds that Christ keeps on being by our side and a presence to us even though the winter weather overwhelms us and we are forced to cancel activities and events. Our prayers of giving thanks for our blessings and asking for grace and forgiveness are important to remember even in the throngs of wintertime. The past few email meditations from Henri J. Nouwen have been on forgiveness and I want to share today's with you.

"Healing Our Hearts Through Forgiveness

How can we forgive those who do not want to be forgiven? Our deepest desire is that the forgiveness we offer will be received. This mutuality between giving and receiving is what creates peace and harmony. But if our condition for giving forgiveness is that it will be received, we seldom will forgive! Forgiving the other is first and foremost an inner movement. It is an act that removes anger, bitterness, and the desire for revenge from our hearts and helps us to reclaim our human dignity. We cannot force those we want to forgive into accepting our forgiveness. They might not be able or willing to do so. They may not even know or feel that they have wounded us. The only people we can really change are ourselves. Forgiving others is first and foremost healing our own hearts."

Healing our own hearts through forgiveness, is an important part of life, so as you sit and contemplate when the weather will change, as you watch the Cardinals via for the seed in the bird feeders remember that Christ is still with you ready for your prayers. Jesus has not been canceled or delayed by the weather and hopefully your contact with Christ still goes on this day.

Pastor Haan

Text excerpts taken from [Bread for the Journey](#), by Henri J.M. Nouwen, © 1997 HarperSanFrancisco. All Scripture from *The Jerusalem Bible* ©1966, 1967, and 1968 Darton, Longman & Todd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. Photo by V. Dobson.

http://www.henrinouwen.org/Resources/Meditations_and_Reflection_Emails/Meditations_and_Reflection_Emails.aspx



Bethel United Church of Christ

Consistory Notes

Date: January 14, 2014

It was decided to eliminate election of Treasure and Financial Secretary officers because they are now hired positions. Lee commented that the Church's constitution will need to be changed to reflect them as such.

Finance Report.

Ended year with all Bills paid.

At the request of Deborah Cappa, we reviewed her position as to compensation payment from hourly to salary. She would be paid bi-monthly. Lee moved to change Deborah Cappa's hourly wages to salary and to review and discuss in one year. Gloria 2nd motion, the motion passed.

Pastors Report: A written report was provided by Rev. Haan Phelps.

Haan suggested the church purchase an ad on the Knox Ruritan calendar for \$50. - \$100. Discussion of the benefits were covered with all positive comments. Gloria moved to accept the purchase of an ad. Cheryl 2nd the motion, motion passed
Reverend Jerry will have report later this month on visitation of members.

Sunday, February 2nd Haan was asked to lead two worship services in the afternoon at Copeland Oaks.

Sunday, March 23 there are plans for a Pulpit Exchange with First-Immanuel. The luncheon will be as before with Bethel bringing salads and desserts.

Haan will be on Study Leave August 5-19th and gone 2 Sundays (Aug 10 & 17). These two weeks were approved by the previous Consistory and includes one week from 2013 and 2014. Funds to be allocated accordingly.

Election of Officers:

President: Gloria nominated Lee, Kornick, LuAnn 2nd the motion, Lee accepted, voted, vote passed

Vice President: Cheryl moved for Luanne to continue as Vice President, Gloria 2nd motion, Luanne accepted, voted, Motion passed

Secretary: Cheryl nominated Jackie, Gloria 2nd motion, Jackie accepted, Motion passed

All Ministry Reports:

Food Pantry: Lee gave data for 2013, 1600 households were served averaging 31 weekly, 6600 people averaging 129 per week. Lee shared with the consistory that Bethel spent \$5494.74 at Second Harvest. If the pantry would have purchased these items at the store they would have spent \$59,102.71. Volunteer hours average 1-1½ hours weekly. Many of our volunteers are or have gone to warmer climates for the winter, leaving a need for other volunteers to help in the pantry.

Haan shared that Panera Bread gives away its day- old bread to organizations that can disperse it to who they wish. Recently Bethel picked up bread that was dispersed to our food pantry patrons. The bread we got from Panera served 50-60 people. Bethel is on Panera's list for pick up if other churches do not come.

CFF: We served 150 at the dinner in January with 50 to 60 carry-outs for an approximant total of 200 people served. Ten to twelve people from Bethel helped at the dinner.

Property Team: Lee received a letter from Kenny Hoopes, saying bids are expected to be ready by the end of the month. We will be ready to pay bills as they come in for the project. Testing was completed for Asbestos and the results were negative, meaning we are able to move forward with the project as planned.

Thank you was expressed for Wanda Humphrey, Jackie Sanor, Sue and Haan Phelps for spending the day before the Christmas clean-up, cleaning out and organizing the new storage room. Special thanks were expressed to everyone, especially the kids for carrying totes to the 3rd floor.

Old Business: Reminder of Deacon/Elder training for Saturday, January 25 at 4:30pm.

New Business:

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Haan shared information for possible Vacation Bible School programs. We are looking into having VBS at church again or jointly with another church congregation. Possibly an evening VBS or even a weekend VBS. Lee suggested we include the other churches in deciding times, days and where. Haan will check with pastors about VBS. Progress will Report on progress on training day. Cost of VBS advertisement supplies would be approximately \$200. Haan noted this would be a great way to get people into the church.

Church Website: Concerns were expressed and discussed as to the status of the website and Haan shared information regarding a possible new website. This will continue to be reviewed and discussed with that company and the individual doing our website update.

Notes: Haan FYI, Bible study was full 10 to 12 people! Thoughts on Bible study to continue during the summer months.

Minutes were taken by Jackie Sanor

Beacon Financial Report: through December

Monthly approved budget \$13,216.42

Income: \$16,710.44 annual 2013: \$170,858.38

Expense: \$ 19,668.77 annual 2013: \$180,563.45

Difference \$ -2,958.33 Difference \$ - 9,978.07



As you can see we spent 9,978.07 more than we took in for the year. This is actually good, as we have approved up to \$25,000.00 from the Hofer funds to use for utilities during the year. Great Job all on your dedication and giving.

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

Help Wanted!! If you are able to assist with providing a meal and or preparing a meal for Bethel Buddies. Please contact the church office. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

CFF Meal– Bethel served a beautiful meal for Sebring dinner on Monday January 13, 2014. Sandy and the crew served Ham and Scalloped potatoes, beets blueberry cobbler and of course cake that was donated by members of the congregation. They served approximately 200 people. All are welcome to come and eat and participate in the fellowship. Hope to see you at the next meal.

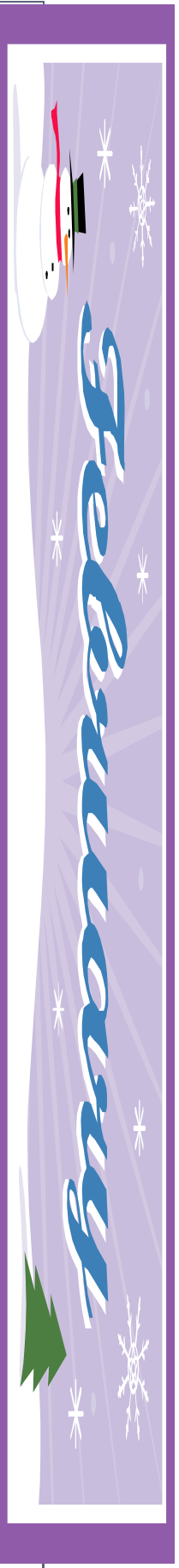
Wednesday Evening Bible Study– All is going well with the Bible Study class. The class has 10 to 12 participants each week. We are studying The Gospel of Mathew. The book we are using was written by Max Lucado. The class is very interesting and there is a lot of participation by the class members. Come Join us. I am sure there is something for all to learn and ponder.






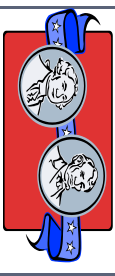
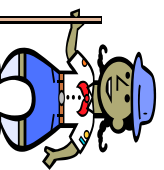
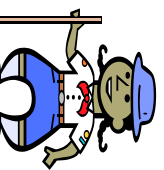
Confirmation Class-The confirmation class continues to meet and is in the process of preparing to visit other denominations and experience other types of worship. Remember to keep both the Confirmands and Mentors in your prayers. Asking them how they are doing, what they are experiencing and learning about themselves. Olivia Brunner, Harlee Garlock, Allie Harris, Loretta Berkheimer, Joanne Meier, Linda Buttermore, and Pam Harlan



February Birthdays

2/03	Dorothy Zurbrugg	2/16	Don Schumaker
2/04	Wayne Fieldhouse Linda Harris	2/17	Gloria Kurena
2/05	Allison Harris	2/18	Debbie Garlock
2/07	Kim Baum	2/20	Wilda Bandy
2/09	Scott Barnett	2/22	Walter Smith
2/10	Helen McBride Betty Schumaker	2/23	Betty Simpkins
2/15	Wayne Harlan	2/25	Ella Humphrey
2/16	Mary Jo Dye Violet Schoeni	2/27	Destiny Cappa
		2/29	Chelsea Cappa

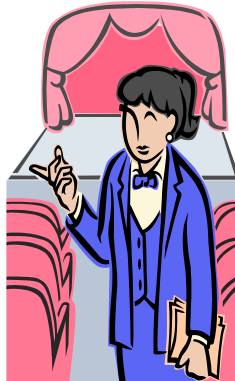


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Wednesday's Schedule 4:53-5:30 Food Pantry- 5:30- 6:00 B.B. Meal 5:30- 7:00 B. B./Adult Bible Study 5:30- 7:00 B.B. Children's Bible Study/ Music 7:00-7:30 Bell Practice 7:30- 8:30 Choir Practice						
2 Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M Groundhog's day 	3	4	5 See key for Wednesday schedule	6 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:00 P.M. 	7 Valentines Day 	8
9 Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.	10	11 Consistory Meeting 6:30 P.M.	12 See key for Wednesday schedule	13 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:00 P.M. 	14 Valentines Day 	15
16 Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.	17 President's Day 	18	19 See key for Wednesday schedule	20 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:00P.M. 	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.	24	25	26 See key for Wednesday schedule	27 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:00P.M. 	28	

February

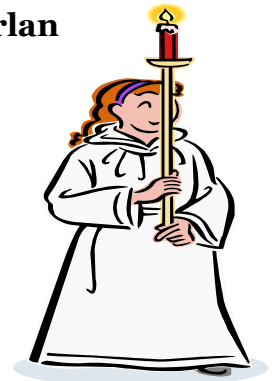
Head Usher Jim Garlock

February 2
February 9
February 16
February 23



Acolytes– Katherine Harlan

February 2
February 9
February 16
February 23



Liturgist

February 2 Youth
February 9 Jackie Sanor
February 16 Anne McKarns
February 23 Lee Kornick



Coffee Time Host

February 2 Lorie Wallace
February 9 Dee Kornick
February 16 Garlock's
February 23



Ministry Staff

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Treasurer

Communion Elder or Deacon for the Month of February

Jackie Sanor



Prayer Concerns –to the family of Neal Baum, Mary Jo Dye, Nathan Harlan, Jerry Wallace, Jim Orlosky, , Patsy Harlan, Mary Lou Scott, Delores Stoffer, Goldie Summers, Matt Ketterer, Mike Early, Wayne Harlan, Dawn Marie Hull, Betty Ring, Delores Brunner, Morgan Loudon, Ina Cameron, Maxine Lentz, Randi Ring, Kylie Dillon, John Handschin, Janice McLaughlin, and our military



Marie Miller wishes to thank her Bethel family for the gift card she received at Christmas time.

Terrence & Leigh Ann Brown wish to thank Bethel for providing a funeral dinner for their father, Earnest Grossniklaus.

Thank You to members of the congregation who donated cake for the CFF Meal on January 13th.

Thank you to all the people who helped call members to cancel church on Sunday January 26th and all the members who contacted people to let them know the Annual Congregational Meeting and Pot luck was rescheduled for Feb 2 after church.

We received a Thank You from Cassaday-Turkle Christian for our assistance with the 2013 Celebration of Memories Program.

We received thanks from Betty Simpkins for the Funeral service and meal that was provided for Keith Simpkins.

Thank You to all the people who continually go to Second Harvest to pick up the food, unload the food truck, serve in the pantry, and all who donate money or food or hygiene items to the pantry. You are the ones who make our pantry a success.

Thank You to the people who provide food for funeral dinners, bethel buddies and serve at these dinners.

God Bless You All!!!

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25701 Buck Road
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