

BETHANY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2014

March 2 worship will be a healing service. There will be the opportunity to be anointed with oil and prayers made for physical, emotional or relational well being. Dale Patrick will offer "He Touched Me" and Pastor Lynch will preach on James 5:13-16, "Is Jesus Still in the Healing Business?"

March 9 will see the Chancel Choir bless us with a ministry of music. Items may be placed in the Caring Cupboard wagon, and Pastor Lynch will preach on Philippians 3:7-16, "Aiming for Perfection." Daylight Savings Time begins on the 9th.

Talent Night will be enjoyed at 6:30PM on March 9 in the social hall. Come out and enjoy the talents of our church family. You can not get entertainment like this on television. Refreshments will be served and an offering taken for our carpet debt.

March 16 has our youth serving as greeters/ushers and the Sunbeam Choir singing. "Holy is the Lord." Pastor Lynch's message will be "Extravagant Love" from Mark 14:1-9. We thank our youth for their worship leadership.

March 23 will see the Director of Gretna Glen Camp, April Miller, spending the morning with us. April will make a church camping presentation to our children during Sunday School and she will give a brief testimony in worship on the opportunities that await our children this summer at Gretna Glen. Check out gretnaglen.org for info. The Chancel Choir will sing and Pastor Lynch will speak on Luke 16:19-31, "Eternity, it's Hell Without Jesus."

March 30 we will feature "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," sung by the trio of Allison Deimler, Casey Funck and Michelle Patrick. The message by Pastor Lynch is from John 14:1-7, "Heaven: The Gospel Truth."

PUNS FROM PASTOR O'LYNCH

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, here are two of my favorite Irish puns.

What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a
four leaf clover?....A rash of good luck!

Never iron a shamrock. You don't want to
press your luck!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Twenty-seven years ago the Bethany Council of Ministers met on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1987. Devotions were offered by Ken Schaeffer and Secretary Olivia Tice's minutes were approved. Plans were discussed for a spiritual retreat in the Fall with Rev. Bob Neely preaching.

Doris McClean reported that a team of Bethany people are visiting members who are hospitalized. Cathy Weiland, speaking for the Education Committee, said that Mary Brightbill has donated 12 Good News Bibles to the Youth Class. It was decided to hold Sunday School from 9-10 and church from 10:15 -11:15 in the summertime.

Greg and Lisa Longenecker reported that the youth retreat was great and that their hoagie sale helped with the expense. Pastor Gary Nicholson closed the Council meeting with prayer.

NEW MEMBERS

Paul and Karen Leicht will become members of Bethany on Sunday March 9. The Leicht's live in Myerstown and are transferring from Zion UMC, Myerstown. Karen Eisenour grew up in Palmdale, same neighborhood as Pastor Lynch, and with her family were members of Bethany. Karen sang in our choir. She and Paul, originally from Middletown, were married here at Bethany 50 years ago on March 14, 1964 by Rev. Updegrave. We welcome Karen and Paul back to Bethany!

SOUPER SUNDAY REPORT

What a great day! The music and testimony Dawn and Randy Marks offered was so uplifting. The collection of soup for the Caring Cupboard filled the altar table and cans were stacked three and four high. The lunch was wonderful as was the fellowship. Barry Smith won the guessing contest of the final Super Bowl score. And little Aiden Schell came in a close second.

FACTS AND FIGURES

During February we are averaging 81 worshipers on Sunday mornings. Last year we averaged 64 persons in attendance. Despite the increased expenses with snow removal and heating costs, we remain in the black, averaging \$1,490.00 in the offering plate on February Sundays. We need to take in at least \$1,500 each Sunday to keep on track. Our carpet debt, as of mid-February, is now down to \$4,262.74.

SUMMER CHURCH CAMPING

Brochures outlining summer church camping opportunities at Gretna Glen, Innabah and Pocono Plateau are available on the information table in the Gathering Room alongside the sanctuary. Camps fill up, so get your registrations in. Bethany will be glad to contribute ½ the camper fee up to \$100.00. Please let Pastor Lych sign your application forms before you send them in.

April Miller, Gretna Glen Director, will be at Bethany for children's Sunday School and our worship service on Sunday March 23 will be happy to talk with you at summer church camp.

PRAYER CHAIN

Would you like to be a link in our church Prayer Chain? We are reorganizing the chain. Please let coordinator Vicki Smith or Pastor Lynch know of your desire to serve in this way.

Those in the Prayer Chain will receive a phone call giving the name and need. Then the request is to be passed on to the next person on the chain.

“Are any among you sick? Call the elders of the church to pray for them.”

UPPER ROOM

March/April Upper Room devotional booklets are available in the Gathering Room or at the rear of the sanctuary. Please take one for yourself and one to give away. There is no charge.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Terry Patrick
- 2 - Arlene Gable
- 5 - Barbara Laraia
- 10 - Anna Scipioni, Cara Scipioni
- 12 - Emily Scipioni
- 16 - Almeda Long
- 17 - Kirsten Scipioni
- 21 - Selma Patrick
- 22 - Holly Frantz
- 28 - Kevin Brubaker, Aiden Schell
- 29 - Nannette Rechel

HELP ME, HOLY SPIRIT

*I want to talk like Jesus,
words of truth my mouth to speak.*

*I want to walk like Jesus,
carefully with Holy feet.
I want to see like Jesus,
tenderly with loving heart.
I want to be like Jesus,
Spirit-filled and set apart.*

*I want to live like Jesus,
faithful to my God alone.
I want to give like Jesus,
not of duty, but of love.
I want to pray like Jesus,
"Father not my will by thine."
I want to stay like Jesus,
in God's presence all the time.*

*I want to dare like Jesus,
speaking out on wrong and sin.
I want to care like Jesus,
seeking souls to win for Him.
I want to teach like Jesus,
setting captive people free.
I want to tell of Jesus,
of the blood He shed for me.*

*Help me, Holy Spirit,
live like Jesus lived.
Help me, Holy Spirit,
learn the meaning of forgive.
Lift me up to things above,
that everyone may see,
Christ and His redeeming love
exemplified in me.*

PASTOR'S STORY CORNER

An old man lived on a hill that overlooked the ocean. At the bottom of the hill was a public campground where people would come to pitch their tents, hike along the beach, and play in the surf. One day the old man was looking out at the ocean from his window when he noticed a huge tidal wave bearing down on the campground. He knew that the people who occupied the

campground below were doomed. He had no phone or any other way to warn them from his hillside perch. And he knew that if he attempted to run down to the campground, by the time he got there, he would be wiped out, too.

There was only one thing to do. He grabbed a book of matches and set his house on fire. Within minutes the people in the campground noticed the smoke from the fire and rushed up the hill to try to save the man. Just as the campers made it to the top, the tidal wave reached land and completely destroyed the campground and everything in it. But the people were saved.

The man on the hill sacrificed his home to save the lives of people he didn't even know. There was no other way. God did much more than that when he sacrificed his son on our behalf. There was no other way.

Just as the fire on the hill drew people away from the death and destruction of the tidal wave, so the cross draws people away from their lives of sin.

Jesus said, "But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (John 12:32). When we run to the cross, we escape the death and destruction of sin. It's the only way to salvation. Now that's something to think about.

~ Pastor John