

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2014

ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday November 30 is the first Sunday in Advent. Michelle Patrick will offer special music, Tim and Sarah Miller will light the first candle on the Advent wreath, and Pastor Lynch will preach on "The 10 Commandments of Christmas."

Sunday December 7 has the Bethany Singers blessing us with music, Dale and Selma Patrick light the Advent wreath, and Pastor Lynch will preach on "Love Came Down at Christmas."

Sunday December 14 includes Sarah Miller sharing Christmas music on her violin and Pastor Lynch preaching on "Good Things Come in Small Packages." The Laraia family will light our wreath.

Sunday December 21 has the Sunbeam Choir blessing us with Christmas anthems and Pastor Lynch's message, "Stella and the Puppy." The Brandt family will light our wreath. Refreshments will be served in the Gathering Room from 10:00 - 10:20. Enjoy the goodies and the connection.

Wednesday December 24 is Christmas Eve. Our 7:00 service will include special music by a Christmas Choir, solo by Allison Deimler, carols, candlelight and a message from Pastor Lynch.

Sunday December 28 offers a Christmas trio by Braden and Jacob Dibeler and Kalin Scipioni. Pastor Lynch will speak on "Christmas Memories" from John 3:16-17.

THE MITTENTREE

Our Loyal Workers have set up a Mitten Tree in the Railroad Street entrance to Bethany. Please help us decorate it with mittens, gloves, scarves and knit hats. The items will be donated to the Hershey Ronald McDonald House for distribution to those in need. The last Sunday to decorate the Mitten Tree is December 14. Thank you. ~ Sandy Pillsbury

BETHANY CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come one, come all to a night of fun and fellowship. Sunday, December 14 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Room. Those who wish are invited to dust off the saxophone or violin, and tune up the singing voice and share your talent. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the Gathering Room. Refreshments will be served. The evening will close with a carol sing to help prepare for the Christmas season.

Please bring a gift (something for the Caring Cupboard) and place it at the manger for the Christ Child. ~ Selma Patrick

PASTOR'S POETRY CORNER

Here is a poem you can use with your family as you set up your manger scene at home:

Here's a stable, safe and strong,
 Here's a mother with her song,
 Here's a father with his prayer,
 Here are shepherds, and the
 sheep for whom they care.
 Here's a manger, an angel and star,
 Here are Wiseman from afar,
 Here's a baby,
 Here's a dove,
 Here's a picture of God's love.

**POINSETTAS**

You are invited to help decorate our church for Christmas by contributing red poinsettias in honor or in loving memory of your loved ones. Please fill out this form, and place it in an envelope with \$8.00, put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by Sunday December 14.

Your Name(s) _____

In Honor of _____

In Loving Memory of _____

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**Acolyte:**

Samantha and Michelle Patrick

Greeters/Ushers:

Barry Smith, Tom Gussler, Richard Funck, Dick Lasher

Scripture Readers;

DECEMBER 7: Barbara Laraia

DECEMBER 14: Mary Carl

DECEMBER 21: Drew Chapin

DECEMBER 23:

DECEMBER 28: Pastor

Sound System Operators: h

DECEMBER 7: Barry Smith

DECEMBER 14: Don Brubaker

DECEMBER 21: Dick Lasher

DECEMBER 23: Barry Smith

DECEMBER 28: Don Brubaker

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - W. Michael Peiffer

2 - Michael Scipioni

2 - Linda Walker

4 - Luke Scipioni

5 - Michael Long

7 - Chad Schell

10 - Kelly Finney

13 - Mary Carl

10 - Lois Grumbein

14 - Samantha Patrick

16 - Charles Hallman

19 - Vicki Smith

21 - Edward Frazier

26 - Miranda Schell

29 - Nathan Berkheiser

29 - Vicki Wright

THANK YOU

Dear Bethany Congregation: I am so thankful for your prayers, concerns and financial blessings. It was a very difficult experience being robbed but I praise the Lord for protecting me. I am in the process of getting all my documents replaced so I can remain in ministry in China. Thanks again for your care and concern. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to you. ~ Carrie Callahan.

Thank you to the Loyal Workers and all who helped, and baked, and made crafts for the Holiday Bazaar. \$2,054.00 was raised to benefit our congregation.

Thank you to Dave Brandt, who will donate his snow removal services this winter season. We greatly appreciate his generosity.

Thank you to all who helped with the food table for the parade in set-up, kitchen, clean up, working the table and donating of food. Again we had all ages working together and having fun for the benefit of the Caring Cupboard's Summer Children's Lunch Program. It would not have been so successful without each of you. Thank you for your prayers, help and support.

~ The Administrative Council

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL NEWS

The Administrative Council adopted a tentative 2015 budget. Several items have been updated, therefore the council will vote on the budget again at the December meeting. Both income and expenses could change during the year. For example we changed our heating to gas, therefore we do not have a history of this expense. Also, with having an old building, we cannot predict emergency repairs, which can quickly change our financial situation.

Our Trustees have done a great job keeping building expenses in check by using volunteers to help with repairs when possible. A new outdoor sign has been approved and already has donations to help pay for it. If you feel led to donate towards the sign, please indicate this on the memo line of your check. The approved sign will allow Pastor John and our committees to promote upcoming events for our church. More information will come from our trustees.

Like any household, we continue to ask that you would please turn off lights when they are no longer needed, close doors and double check that all outside doors are locked. We appreciate your continued vigilance with this request.

The Council also approved to expand wifi throughout the church in order for Sunday School classes to incorporate into their lessons. Barry Smith our Webmaster has purchased and installed an additional antenna for \$95.39. In Barry's own words, "There is wifi in every area of the church now."

We are grateful and blessed by Dorothy Starner's donation. The family requested that we use \$10,000.00 of the donation for missions. The Administrative Council approved to honor the family's request to \$2,000.00 a year for the next 5 years. \$1,000.00 will be sent to Rachel Nicholson for the next 5 years or for as long as she is still serving the Lord as a teacher in Germany. The Administrative Council also approved \$200.00 to Carrie Callahan and \$500.00 to UMCOR for Ebola.

~ Cindy Anspach for the Administrative Council

NEW MEMBERS

On All Saints Day, November 2 we welcomed the Brandt family into our Bethany fellowship. They reside at 603 S. Franklin Street, Palmyra. Dave is President of Brandt's Landscaping, Inc. and Paula is owner of Paula's Daycare. Andrew is 10 years old and Chantelle is 15 and is a sophomore at Palmyra High school.

The Brandt's enjoy camping, dogs, antique cars and Harley riding. Welcome Chantelle, Paula, Andrew and Dave.

PASTOR'S PUN

Our dog Sami loves Christmas, especially when she gets her gifts from Santa Paws. Hope yule have a wonderful holiday. ~ Pastor John and Sharon

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember the Christmas musical put on by Bethany's Youth and Junior Choirs on the evening of December 22, 1963? Mrs. Paul Hoover, our Minister of Music directed and Helen Lutz accompanied the Youth Choir and Sally Skishalley accompanied the Junior Choir.

Youth Choir members were John Moyer, Ruth Ann Lanham, Kathy Mader, Sherry Valentine, Brenda Kohl, Sharon Poorman, Marian Havens, Curtis Frantz, Pat Miller, Deborah Havens, Sandra Wilson, Bonnie Jean Greenawalt, James Ehrhart, Barry Frantz, Edward Kaylor, James Messersmith, James Kettering, Linda May, Marion Schaffner, Julie Mader and Sylvia Gussler.

The Junior Choir included LuAnn Shenk, Pamela Miller, Karen Messersmith, Lori Ann Harps, Mildred Schreckengast, Stephanie Starner, Billie Ann Kepler, Jeffrey Patrick, Julie Snavelly, Judith Lutz, Jacqueline Lutz, Cynthia Kettering, Mary Elizabeth Brightbill, Kitty Morris, David Showers, Kay Kaylor, Patricia Ehrhart, Barbara Schreckengast, Dawn Ward, Douglas Morris, Jody Bixler, Dale Valentine, Frederick Shenk, James Moyer, Terry Patrick, Kathleen Keefer and Debra Fake.

The closing moments of the evening were devoted to a candlelight memorial service on behalf of the late President John F. Kennedy. December 22 was the last official day of mourning the martyred president.

OCTOBER 2014 FINANCES

Financial Report:

2014 Year To Date Income: \$88,201.71
2014 Year To Date Expense: \$92,785.66
Expense larger than Income (\$4,583.95)

Additional Expense:
Concrete work \$2,275.00
Expense larger than Income \$6,858.95

As of the end of October, the church needs to cover this overage in expense in order to end the year in the black. (more income than expense)

Year To Date Income does not include donation from Dorothy Starner's estate.

~ Respectfully Submitted, Diane Miller and Cindy Anspach

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Our sympathies are extended to: Barry and Vicki Smith in the death of Donna Smith, sister-in-law of Barry. Brandon and Quinn Laudermilch and grandparents Dennis and Stephanie Laudermilch in the death of 5 month old Rowan Laudermilch. Nancy Souder in the death of her sister, Mary Baker.

May God comfort them with His love.

RACK - RANDOM ACTS OF CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

I invite you to join me in a RACK Advent. Here's how it works: Each day of Advent, November 30 through Christmas Eve on December 24, perform a Random Act of Christmas Kindness (RACK). What a blessing we, inspired by the Holy Spirit, can be to others this holiday season.

Below are ideas on daily RACK's you might do. Of course, you will have your own ideas. I have placed cards on the information table that invites people to Christmas Eve worship at Bethany. You are welcome to use these as the Holy Spirit directs you.

I will be interested to hear how your Random Acts of Christmas Kindness effect you, as well as those you bless in honor of Christ. ~ Pastor John

RACKs

- Send a card or e-mail to a soldier through <http://www.amillionthanks.org/>
- For \$2, give a cup of coffee to a soldier overseas through <https://www.greenbeanscoffee.com/coj/>
- Bake a batch of cookies and deliver them to a staff at a nursing home.
- Send a thank you card to someone who has inspired you.
- Give Christmas cards to residents of a nursing home.
- Give out three compliments today.
- Send an inspiration quote or scripture to someone who needs it.
- Pray for five people today.
- Leave encouragement notes around the house for family members to find.
- Tape a quarter to a gumball machine with an invitation to Christmas Eve at Bethany.
- Purchase a bunch of flowers and deliver them to a nursing home or hospital.
- Give someone a "heart attack." Write encouraging statements on several heart shaped cut-outs and tape them on a car window, mirror, or door.
- Tuck \$1 into the next Redbox movie you return with an invitation to Christmas Eve at Bethany.
- Give a bag of Hershey's hugs and kisses to someone who needs to be encouraged.
- Bring a bag of groceries to the Caring Cupboard.
- Donate a jacket to Salvation Army and put a \$5 bill in the pocket.
- Put some Christmas treats in your mailbox for your mail carrier.
- Have a Starbucks card ready to give to the next delivery person that comes to your door.
- Put a donation in Salvation Army kettle.
- Sign up to ring the Salvation Army bell.
- Leave an encouragement note along with a generous tip the next time you go out to eat.
- Give a gift through Heifer Project www.heifer.org/gift
- Bake some muffins or cookies and take them to a local firehouse or police precinct.
- Pay for someone else's groceries.
- Clean up trash on the beach or in a park.
- Go Christmas caroling in a nursing home or at the hospital.

RACKs Cont.

- Donate pencils or pens to a teacher for use in their classroom.
- Trade places with someone at the end of a line.
- Collect all the shopping carts in the parking lot and return them to the store.
- Donate a bag of dog treats or dog food to an animal shelter
- Schedule coffee with a friend and concentrate on listening instead of talking.
- Make a meal for someone and deliver it to their house.
- When you see a child doing something good, compliment their parents.
- Leave a note of encouragement on a friend's facebook page.
- Let someone in front of you while driving in heavy traffic.
- Be thankful. Make an extra effort to thank everyone you meet today.
- Write a poem for someone special.
- Wash someone's car.
- Purchase a meal for someone who is homeless.
- Offer free babysitting for young parents.
- Send a friend an ecard.
- Bring up your neighbor's trash cans.
- Give someone your umbrella next time you're stuck in the rain.
- Give away a close parking spot to a stranger.
- Collect coats from people in your neighborhood and donate them to Salvation Army.
- Donate you favorite picture book to a teacher's classroom library.
- Get a haircut and donate your hair to locks of love.
- Relinquish the TV remote control for the day.
- Give someone a \$5 iTunes gift card.
- Invite someone to spend Christmas Eve or Christmas Day with your family.
- Take coloring books and crayons to the ER waiting room at the hospital.
- Purchase a dozen donuts and deliver them to the janitor at a school or office building.
- Give a gift through Compassion's Gift Catalog: <http://www.compassion.com/catalog.htm>



**It
came
to pass
in those
days that
there went
out a decree
from Caesar
Augustus that all
the world should
be taxed, and this
taxing was first made
when Cyrenius was gov-
ernor of Syria. And all
went to be taxed. Everyone
into his own city. And Joseph
also went up from Galilee out
of the city of Nazareth, into Ju-
dea, unto the city of David which
is called Bethlehem, because he was
of the house and lineage of David, to
be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife,
being great with child. And so it was
that while they were there, the days were
accomplished that she should be delivered.
And she brought forth her first-born Son,
and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and
laid him in a manger, because there was
no room for them in
the
inn.**

Luke 2:1-7

We hope you have a merry Christmas

And a wonderful New Year.

~ Pastor John and Sharon