

BLESSINGS FROM BETHEL

“Bethel United Church of Christ is called to be a welcoming Christian community of faith as we worship, learn, grow and serve.”

www.betheluccspringgrove.com

January / February



From the Pastor's Pen

“Joy does not simply happen to us.
We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.” Henri M. Nouen

Dear Friends,

In late November, members of the Consistory gathered together to begin discussing a **Vision** for our future together. We used the journey of Lewis and Clark, and the Corp of Discovery, as a model for the work we have before us at Bethel. Like the Corp of Discovery:

- ❖ We have no roadmap to follow; we are swimming in uncharted territory at Bethel.
- ❖ We have no “experts” to lead us; thus, we’ll learn together as we move ahead.
- ❖ We will need a spirit of adventure and the ability to try new things, adapt, let go, re-learn, and reframe situations while we develop our Vision...and even after a Vision has been created.
- ❖ We will need to wear God’s armor of fortitude, resilience, and patience while we explore the places that God is leading us to.
- ❖ The journey has no finite ending. Even members of the Corp of Discovery who were scared at the beginning of their long journey realized after they finally made it home – several years later – that they loved to discover new things. Many returned to the trails, spending the rest of their lives trying to improve and discover this brave, new world.

We were truly like a small band of explorers on that cold day in November! Those who participated broke into two smaller groups to talk over 10 questions that were thought provoking. The dialogue was great...and everyone realized that the questions led them to more questions. I was encouraged to see this response because it signified that people were REALLY thinking about why we do church the way we do church.

On January 21st, we will be gathering in our social hall from 9 AM to 11 AM to continue this discussion and **everyone is invited to participate**. If you want to make an important contribution to Bethel, please join us on this adventure!

I raised the question: WHERE DO WE FIND JOY AT BETHEL? One person commented that this was the first time they had ever been asked this question at Bethel. And, this is an important question – because, God wants us to be joyful!

During 2017, we are going to **be on the hunt for JOY** and we need your help. What would make your experience with Bethel more JOYFUL? What would you like to see us do – in worship, in education, in the mission field, in fellowship – to ensure a more JOYFUL 2017?

How can you contribute to our JOY by offering your skills, talents, and know-how?

God wants us to not only draw nearer to him as we engage in the work of the church...but God also wants us to receive JOY so that we are prepared to “pass it on” to others. Let YOUR JOY rise to the surface in 2017!

I’m going to leave you with a question to chew on over the next several weeks: if there is one thing we can do at Bethel to make it more JOYFUL, what would that be? Please share your thoughts and ideas with your elected Consistory members so we know what we could do to make this home we call Bethel a more JOYFUL community.

With Joy,
Pastor Sue

Pastor Fritz’s Goals January 2017 – March 2017

Worship Leadership

Plan two special Sunday services:

- Youth Sunday – February 5; would include leadership by all our teens and a teen “interview” sermon
- Scout Sunday – February 26th; with the input of our scouts, plan the service around scouting themes/activities/etc.

Spiritual Care

Deacons are called to nurture and provide oversight for the spiritual care of members. However, I don’t think that Deacons in most congregations realize that this is part of their call, nor do they know how to go about seeking information about who needs care, how to provide it, or what they should do if they visit a member.

- I’d like to offer a short workshop in March to all Deacons to assist them in developing these skills. As part of this education, we would discuss how the Deacons might provide this sort of spiritual oversight to the congregation of Bethel UCC.

Leadership Development

Plan and lead a 2nd retreat for church leaders on January 21st – continuation of the Vision Planning Process

With the Ministry and Advisory Committee, continue developing a “mutual accountability” assessment tool for personnel so we can have a process in place by the second quarter of 2017.

Christian Education

- Mission work at the Hanover Area Council of Churches – January 16th from 9:30 AM – 1
- Plan a “reservations only” meal (either a brunch or dinner) for the members of the congregation – prepared and served by the teens; a free will offering would be accepted to defer expenses and any extra funds over and beyond the expenses could be contributed to the Appalachian Mission project or another mission project of the church
- Review the “Little Lambs” program with Danetta & Stephanie – what is working/what is not

Administration

- Begin the development of a Financial Policy, in conjunction with Fred and Kim that will ultimately be forwarded to Consistory for input/approval. Initial meeting is slated for Wed., Jan. 18th 2017.

LIST OF SHUT-IN AND PRAYER CONCERN MEMBERS

Janet Barnhart Brethren Home 2990 Carlisle Pike New Oxford, Pa. 17350	RUTH STERNER P.O. Box 330 Hanover, Pa. 17331	Miriam Walls 2705 Pentland Rd. Spring Grove, Pa. 17362

From the Congregation's Life:

Please Keep these people in your prayers as they face difficult times

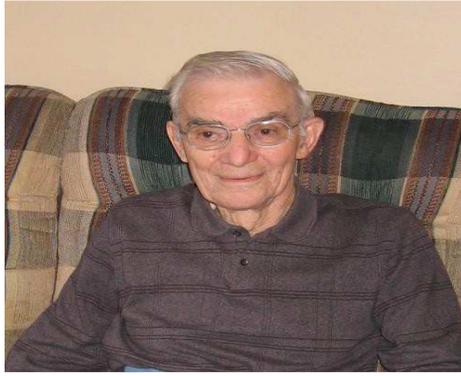
**CHARLETTE MILLER
GENETTA FAHNESTOCK
SHIRLEY MASENHEIMER
HEIDI WARNER:
PHYLLIS WARNER
LYNN McJUNKIN
CARL LAUCHMAN**

We also uplift many of our congregation and friends who have been going through some rough times. We certainly apologize if we fail to mention anyone going through any illnesses or other experiences we mention during our prayer concerns at church! We do keep you in our prayers

COMING EVENTS:

- **Worship and Activities**
 - **Sunday Jan. 1st:** Holy Communion service
 - **Sunday Jan. 8th Epiphany Sunday:** Kevin Byrnes will become a member of Bethel.
 - **Monday Jan. 9th:** Consistory Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - **Sunday Jan 15th:** After Christmas Family Dinner beginning at 5 PM
 - **Monday Jan 16th** Mission work at the Hanover Area Council of Churches from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM
 - **Saturday Jan 21st:** Vision planning retreat at the church starting @ 9 AM
 - **Sunday Feb. 5th: Youth Sunday**
 - **Monday Feb 6th:** Consistory Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 - **Saturday Feb 25th:** Family Bowling night at Greenmount from 5 – 7 PM
 - **Sunday Feb 26th:** Scout Sunday Service
 - **Sunday Feb 26th:** Appalachian Mission Project meeting @ Redeemer's UCC beginning at 12:30 PM.

MEET ONE OF OUR CONGREGATION: Robert Thoman



I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with “Bob,” as he is affectionately called, to discover more about him. Bob is a wealth of interesting information!

Did you know that Bob was born less than a mile from the current-day Bethel UCC, lives only about ¼ mile from his birthplace, walked through snow-sleet-and rain two miles roundtrip to a one room schoolhouse called Penn Grove, and married a local Spring Grove gal named Ruby 13 months after meeting on a bridge? Truth be told, Bob & Ruby did indeed meet on a bridge in Spring Grove but their love blossomed after sharing Friday night snacks and dances at Sadie’s Stover, a quasi-store & dancehall that sported a Nickelodeon. Those were the days!!

Bob was the only child of the late Earl and Naomi Thoman and on the day he was born, the doctor travelled to the house to deliver him. He was a healthy baby – 12 pounds – and was the apple of his parent’s eyes. His father, Earl, was a farmer. Bob never planned to follow his father into the family business. But, after his father replaced the four mules with mechanized tractors, the profession looked *a lot more appealing to him!*

In 1946, at the young age of 23 and after many dances to the great tunes of that age, Bob married his sweetheart – Ruby – and together they shared 63 wonderful years of marriage, the birth of a daughter, Becky, and a son, Rob. Ruby was truly Bob’s partner and love of his life! They were best friends and Ruby even learned to become a farmer’s wife...which was a new experience for her. What a good woman she must have been!

Bob and Ruby established their own farm around 1951 and he really grew to appreciate the smell of crops growing in the fields and the summer sunsets in the place he called “home.” It was a great way to raise a family and according to Bob, Becky and Rob were great kids and good helpers. But farming was only one of Bob’s interests. He also served as the township tax collector for 25 years! Whew – he could run races around most of us!!

One thing you might not know about Bob is that he likes to read a lot about the Amish. He is still amazed at how they work together and continue to use horses and buggies in today’s world. He also likes to take an occasional spin on a bicycle, loves the competitive sport of miniature golf, and enjoys shooting a game or two of pool. No wonder he’s so healthy! His favorite local restaurants are Dutch Kitchen, the Papertown Inn, Mexican food in Spring Grove, and the Starlight in Hanover.

But there’s more to Bob than just what is captured in this brief article. Come to church on January 1st, Epiphany Sunday, to learn about Bob and his faith. He sure has some great stories to tell and you won’t want to miss learning about the role he played in our church heritage! See you on Sunday...

REMEMBER OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES:

God's Meal Barrel –Donations for January are breakfast items. Donations for February are canned soups.

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES:

PAL: Salad Dressing, Coffee Mate, Hot Chocolate

CLOTHING BANK: Toiletries, Men's thermal gloves and knit hats

CHANGING LIVES SHELTER: Deodorant for men and women, Men's hats and gloves

RUTH'S HARVEST: *All single serving please!*, Snacks, Entrees and Fruit Drinks

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION. Many products we buy at the grocery store have these coupons on them. Collect the coupons and bring them to church. There will be a box to receive them. We can donate these coupons to Hoffman Homes or even divide them between the school districts our children attend. This will be an ongoing project just like another one we have in process.....

POP TOP CAN TABS: MARG LEPPA has been collecting Pop Top tabs for HOMEWOOD HOMES. She has contributed a couple of thousand of these so far and we are helping her with this project. So, ANY pop top tabs you may have collect them and bring them to church. There is a bin in the Narthex to collect the tabs for Marg. THANK YOU!!!!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS: We are aware that sometime in the future we will have major expense with either the Heat Pumps or maybe a new roof. In order to prevent a major blow to our reserve funds, we are asking people to use the special **Building Improvement Fund** Envelopes to help build up funds we would have available to replace anything we may need for the church building! There are envelopes available in the pews as well as one for each month in the envelope boxes and can be given anytime.

Consistory Minutes November 7, 2016

Meeting called to order by F. Brillhart at 6:32 PM with a spiritual reading and prayer lead by Peggy McCawley.

Attendance: T. Allison, D. Bankert, F. Brillhart, Pastor Fritz, P. McCawley, E. Miller, S. Tharp, N. Vickers. K. Weaver and C. Worley.

Time Keeper: Pastor Fritz

Process Observer: S. Tharp

The following reports were distributed and reviewed;

Minutes from last meeting, Treasurers report, Pastor's report, Outreach, Offering and Attendance. C. Worley made a motion to accept the reports as presented with a second motion from S. Tharp and everyone approved.

Synopsis of Reports:

- **Financial Report** (K. Weaver) YTD Receipts = \$51,272.42, YTD expenses = \$59,331.67, Deficit = \$8,059.25. Total funds available = \$98,839
 - Options to the *Upper Room* and *Focus on the Family* were discussed. The cost per year for these publications is \$395. Pastor Sue will order *Our Daily Bread*. A motion to switch to *Our Daily Bread* and to donate \$120 to the publication was made by T. Allison and seconded by S. Tharp with all approving. K Weaver will cancel the subscriptions to *The Upper Room* and *Focus on the Family*.
 - The well pump had to be replaced.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Sue)

Conference

- Leadership Training in Harrisburg – October 20, 2016

Association

- Installation service for the Rev. Russell Clark at Emmanuel UCC, Hanover: October 9, 2016
- Gettysburg Association Ministerial Group – October 18, 2016

Meetings:

- Consistory meeting – October 10, 2016
- Covenant group – October 13, 2016
- Meeting with Pastors re: Appalachian service project – October 19, 2016
- Website Development meeting – October 25, 2016
- Performance Appraisal development meeting – October 25, 2016

Worship - October 2; October 9, October 16, October 23, October 30

Visitations and Contact

- 4 - member visits
- 3 - nonmember visit
- 3 - (member) hospital/temporary nursing home visits
- 42 - contacts with members (phone/email/mail)
- 8 - contacts with the greater church & church community
- Met with Lindsey family to complete funeral service arrangements – October 24, 2016

Other

- Bible Study – 10/4; 10/11; 10/18; 10/25
 - Funeral – Robert Lindsey – October 26, 2016
 - Cleaned out office closet – finally done!
 - Led teen Christian Ed class on 10/2; 9; 16; 23; and 30th – great teens!

Hours worked during Oct. - 144.5

Outreach (N. Vickers) Birthdays = 9, Anniversaries = 4, Shut ins = 4, Sympathy = 1, Total = 18

Church Care (T. Allison) Cracks in the parking lot were sealed. The cost was \$2,100. We are looking for donations to offset the cost.

Recognition of Leaders: (Thanks to)

- Tammy Diehl for the entire extra she does.
 - The Unsung Hero for the month will be awarded to Tammy Diehl. Sue Tharp agreed to purchase a \$25 Darden gift card which will be awarded to Tammy during an upcoming service.
- Mary Allison for cleaning the Advent wreath
- Cheryl Worley for being greeter in September.
- Bob Becker, Ed Miller, Walter Miller and Gary (Joe) Simpson for lawn mowing. T. Allison is still researching caps for our ground crew.

Old Business:

- Oil Candles: Sue Tharp demonstrated the new candles. A nice improvement over the wax candles,
- **Fundraisers:**
 - Zook Pies Sale: Orders will be taken during the month of October. Order sheets will be collected on Sunday Nov. 6th. Delivery on Wednesday Nov. 23rd.
 - K. Weaver will check into a Butter Braids fundraiser. (looking at Easter)
 - Popcorn fundraiser: P. McCawley
 - Flavors: White Cheddar, Carmel, Butter and Peanut Butter/ Dark Chocolate
 - Orders due by Nov. 27th and pick-up is December 11th.
 - Gift card sale is scheduled for the Christmas Season.

- **Appalachia:** (Pastor Sue) Bethel will join St. Mary's of Westminster and Redeemers of Littlestown on this mission project in Pipeline, West Virginia. An organizational first meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2017 at 12:30 PM at Redeemers UCC in Littlestown.
- **Nominations Committee:**
 - Lynn McJunkin, Kim Weaver and Jolene Ernst accepted nominations for consistory. One more position remains vacant.
- **Budget Committee:** F. Brillhart presented the 2017 budget to consistory.
 - OCWM is added as a line item on the budget.
 - A motion to increase the envelope contribution to \$55,000 was made by T. Allison and seconded by S. Tharp with all approving.
 - D. Bankert made a motion to accept the 2017 budget with the increase in envelope contributions and C. Worley seconded the motion with all approving.
 - The 2017 budget will be presented to the congregation on Sunday December 11th after the service.
- **Church Directory:** The church directory was presented to consistory and approved. The directories should be distributed in December.
- **Policies and Procedures:** Pastor Sue will keep a "Policy and Procedure" book on church office desk. This book will contain all the approved and updated documents.
 - **Prayer Chain:** S. Tharp is working on this procedure. She still needs some input from the church directory. The "Prayer Chain" procedure will be distributed as soon as it is completed.
 - **Safe Church:** Pastor Sue presented the policy to consistory. P. McCawley made a motion to accept the policy and C. Worley seconded the motion with all approving.
 - **Financial Policy and Internal Controls:** F. Brillhart and Pastor Sue will begin to work on this policy
- **Website:** D. Bankert, F. Brillhart and Pastor Sue met to discuss options for our website. It was decided to renew our agreement with the present webmaster for 2017. The group will reconvene in 2017 the work on the Mutual Accountability process is complete.

New Business:

- **Our Church Wider Mission (OCWM)** Bethel will contribute \$200.00 for this mission.
- The Long Range Planning Meeting was an excellent meeting that prompted much dialog. More to follow.
- Advent candle drip protectors will be ordered by Sue Tharp for the Christmas Eve service.
- The commissioned music wall hanging will be removed from the Narthex since it is just a copy and Rev. Luann Jones has the original.
- **Future Business:**
 - December: Discuss the mosaic class options
 - January: Discuss options to consolidate our mission projects
 - January: Discuss how to proceed to "Safe Serve Kitchen"
 - January: Upgrade the designated nursery area.
 - February/March: Discuss a fellowship cookie time
 - Move the Bethel Reformed Church stained glass from the social hall to the sanctuary

N. Vickers will lead the devotions and prayer in December..

Next meeting will be Monday December 5th @ 6:30PM.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:42 PM by motions from S. Tharp and P. McCawley. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted , David Bankert

Christmas Poinsettia's



In loving memory of...

Parents Leona & Joseph Ernst, by Jolene Ernst

Mother & Grandmother Mary Ellen Noel and Father & Grandfather Carl Main, from the Randy & Lori Noel family

Parents Robert & Mary McCawley by Peggy, Kae & family

Grandparents by Peggy McCawley, Kae, & family

Skip, Mom & Dad, & Effie by Susan Tharp

Esther Miller by Edward J. Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Edward R. Miller by Edward J. Miller

Erich M. Halter by Larry & Crissy Stambaugh

Parents Richard & Helen Miller and Earl & Edna Becker by Rose and Bob Becker

Parents Carroll & Anna May Bankert and Fred Zartman by Dave and Deb Bankert

My Dad, Don, by Susan Fritz

Wife Ruby by Robert Thoman

Ben Masenheimer by Ed and Jean Masenheimer

Parents and Granny & Grace by Cheryl and Jim Worley

Jean and Charles Tharp by Connie Delozier

Ron Walls by Donna Polychronos

Ben Masenheimer by Donna Polychronos

In loving honor of...

Mother & Grandmother Joan Main, from the Lori and Randy Noel family

Sons, Brett & Brady Noel, from Randy and Lori Noel

Children & son-in-laws by Susan Tharp

Grandchildren Connor, Max, & Elise by Susan Tharp

Our children and grandchildren by Joe and Rose Simpson

Doris Garman by Dave and Deb Bankert

Family & friends by Robert Thoman

Children & Grandchildren by Jim and Cheryl Worley



January Birthdays

2 – Tammy Diehl
5 – Fred Brillhart
10 – Eric Tharp
11 – Tori Allison
15 – Connor Main
17 – Jeremy McMaster
17 – Nicole Simpson
20 – John Martin, Jr.
22 – Krista Mellott
23 – Greg Main
25 – Rose Rice
27 – Mary Allison
28 – Bill Snyder
29 – Alex Miller
30 – Elizabeth Smith
30 – Jesse Diehl
31 – Owen Lochbaum

February Birthdays

7 – Jolene Ernst
14 – Pat Smeltzer
14 – Brady Noel
15 – Pam Ernst
17 – Miriam Walls
18 – Cheryl Worley
22 – Terry Jarvis
28 – Karen Beard
28 – Jeff Zumbrum

February Anniversaries

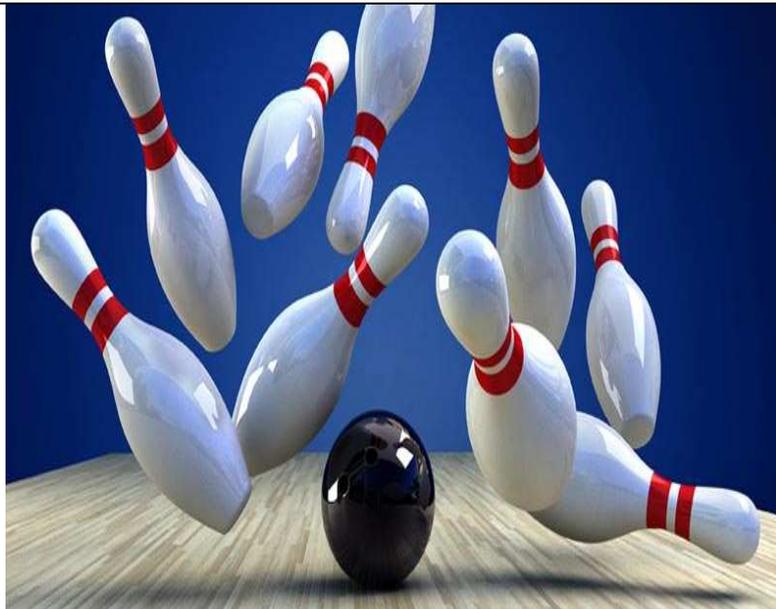
7- Dave & Deb Bankert
20 – Mike and Joan Stevenson



**After Christmas Dinner and Fellowship
Sunday Jan. 15th @ 5 PM**

Turkey and all the trimmings

Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex or contact the church



**Bowling Fellowship @
Greenmount Lanes near
Hampstead.
Duck pin or Ten pin**

**Saturday Feb. 25th from
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**Sign-up sheet is in the
Narthex**



**Celebrating Scout Sunday
During the Feb. 26th Service**

**Please give any scouting
information to Deb Bankert**

SCOUTS

Bethel United Church of Christ
January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>8</i></p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">9:00 AM Epithany Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Bible School</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>9</i></p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">6:30 PM Consistory Meeting</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>10</i></p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 0;">9:00 AM Bible Study at Ruth Sterners House</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>11</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>12</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>13</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>14</i></p>																																																																																																		
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Bethel United Church of Christ
February 2017

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