

Bethel United Church of Christ
6650 Elizabeth Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48327
(248) 682 9240



Bethel United Church of Christ December 2010 Newsletter

Our Mission Statement:

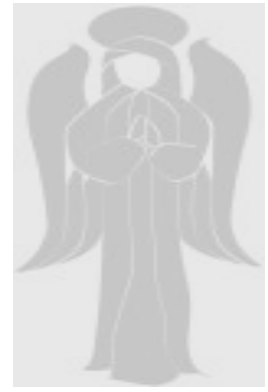
We are seeking the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit,
and the faithful response of our congregation to:

- Spread God's Word,
- Reach out to the community and world by
imitating Christ's service,
- Share the comfort of knowing Jesus Christ, and
- Grow in the knowledge and love of God in Christ.

Web site – www.BethelUCCwat.org

e-mail BethelUCCwat@sbcglobal.net

Pastor's Letter



December 2010 – Bethel UCC Pastor's Message

With December fast approaching, many of us may be gearing up for the holiday rush. A frenzied time when shopping lists are developed, decorations go up, and we find ourselves in the throes of Christmas preparation.

While the rush, at times, may seem overwhelming, we can all appreciate the anticipation this time of year brings. Maybe you anticipate reuniting with relatives you haven't seen in a while; maybe you anticipate traveling great distances to join family gatherings; or maybe you anticipate celebrating the Christmas holidays in a relaxing way. Whatever way your plans are shaping up, I'd like to suggest focusing for a moment on the feeling of anticipation itself and where we detect it. For the Christmas rush is not the only thing that draws us in with anticipation.

Advent is also a time of anticipation. We anticipate the coming of Messiah. We anticipate the coming of the promises of God into our lives; and we anticipate the transformational kingdom that God is bringing into the world – yea even into our very hearts! It is a kingdom ruled by love.

How do we understand Immanuel, God with us, in the world? Can we see God's kingdom and God's love at work in this time of festivities and frenzy? I believe we can. Usually though, we must slow down enough to notice it – hidden in a child's laugh; peeking out from beneath a blanket (as dogs and cats often do); or meeting us head on in a breath taking, star-filled sky, as we gaze at the heavens at night.

God's gift of love, brought to earth by way of Jesus' birth, alerts us to the fact that this gift often presents itself in small, almost unnoticed ways. So take time this season to slow down and notice the little things. For these tiny presents bear the gift of God's love and carry with them the power to transform us anew. The poem below, a favorite of mine, reflects this:

Hold fast to stars,
Hold fast to the elusive, the intangible,
The never to be had.
For stars fall from heaven sometimes,
And kings are born in barns,
And miracles rise out of the little things.

--- Anonymous

My prayer for you this season is for joy and peace. Joy as you discover new ways God is revealing his love for you; and peace as you accept this love, deep in your heart, and realize that you are God's child – a child of the King.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Diane

Bethel United Church of Christ
6650 Elizabeth Lake Road
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Office: 248.682.9240
Email: bethelucwat@sbcglobal.net
Web: www.betheluccwat.org

Pastor: Diane Baker
Organist: Teri Lynn Barnaby
Secretary: Kimberly Eve
Custodian: Renee Ingsbee

Ushers

Rose Sanok & Shirley Milligan

Greeter

Virginia Hudnell

Communion Servers

Shirley Milligan, Jane Ellen Bussard,
Gary Bussard, Dorothy Sherrit

Council Members

Lance Shew President
Gary Bussard Financial Sec.
Jane Ellen Bussard Treasure
Nola Shew Recording Secretary

Council Liaisons

Property
Shirley Milligan & Dorothy Sherrit
Missions/Christian Education
Rita Milner
Finance
Council at Large
Fellowship/Membership/Worship

Mission of the Month

**BEAUMONT ELEMENTARY
FAMILIES**

Military Prayer Requests

Sr. Medical Technician Penny Barker
Staff Sergeant Nicholas Barker
SPC Benjamin Duhamel
PV2 Eric Stewart
HM1 Michelle Teschner
—1st Class Petty Officer
SGT. Brandon Yarbrough
PFC Robert Yarbrough
SGT. Jeffrey Bussard

Bethel Ministry of Prayer

Here at Bethel

Lillian Bailey, Bettie Kluesner,
Kathy Petrik, Chris Struthers
Mardell Williams, Peggy Austin
Les & Marge Hotchkiss
Rita Milner

Bethel Friends

David Dinger, Todd Hensel,
Pat Howell (Shirley Milligan's Sister)
Ryan Morrissey, Betty Jean Mulanix,
Carol Shew
Joe D. (Friend of Paul Crook)
Ralph & Diane Mueller
Nancy McNeff (friend of Dot)
Bill Cote (Cousin to Karen Crook)



December No Gossip Column

Oh how I love December. The Christmas season is the best season of the whole year. Some people feel sad and lonely during this season but not me. I may have forgotten a lot since I got older but I still remember the joy and love I felt at Christmas time. My Mom would make candy (Divinity, Date-nut Roll, Peanut Brittle, Penuche Fudge) and put it in a big suit box lined with wax paper. This was taken to the shop (Electric Company in Clinton, Indiana) by my Dad. He would come home for lunch and tell us how much the people at the shop loved the candy. We would get Christmas Thank you cards for that candy. So from the first I was taught by example to GIVE at Christmas time and the rewards of love and happiness that I received by giving. Since I was born in the great depression, I didn't get a lot of big fancy toys. I got homemade toys and reconditioned and painted hand-me-down toys. I didn't know because the toys were wonderful and given with love and joy. I got a doll every Christmas and I remember one year I got a "Toni Doll". Anybody remember those? My mother had spent months making clothes for the doll including a fur coat. Mother had a fur jacket that she cut and sewed together to make this fur coat. I felt so lucky to be the only child with a fur coat for my Toni. Years later when I was sewing fleece to make something I thought about the trouble Mom had gone to for me in making that coat. The fur must have flown while she was cutting and sewing but I didn't see a thing when I got home from school. A Christmas present is made wonderful by the love that is put into it. It can be so simple and easy like the following story by Susan Sharp.

The Christmas Present

Christmas is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for reuniting with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated packages. But mostly, Christmas is for love. I had not realized this until a small elf-like student with wide-eyed innocence and soft rosy cheeks gave me a wondrous gift one Christmas.

Jimmy was an 11-year-old orphan who lived with his Aunt Beatrice, a bitter middle-aged woman greatly annoyed with the duty of caring for her late sister's son. She never failed to remind young Jimmy, if it hadn't been for her generosity, he would be a vagrant, homeless waif. Still, with all the scolding and chilliness at home, he was a sweet and gentle child.

I had not connected with Jimmy particularly, until he began staying after class each day (at the risk of arousing Beatrice's anger, I later found) to help me straighten up the room. We did this quietly and comfortably, not speaking much, but enjoying the solitude of that hour of the day. When we did talk, Jimmy spoke mostly of his mother. Though he was quite small when she died, he remembered a gentle, loving woman, who always gave him caring attention.

As Christmas-time approached, Jimmy stopped staying after school as before. I had gotten accustomed to his company and as he continued to scamper hurried away after class, I asked him one afternoon why he no longer helped me with the room. I told him how I had missed him, and his large hazel eyes lit up eagerly as he replied, "Did you really miss me?"

Continued on next page

I explained that he had been my best helper. "I was making you a surprise," he whispered confidentially. "It's for Christmas." With that, he became embarrassed and dashed from the room

Finally came the last school day before Christmas. Jimmy crept slowly into the room late that afternoon with his hands concealing something behind his back. "I have your present," he said timidly when I looked up. "I hope you like it." He held out his hands, and there lying in his small palms was a tiny wooden box.

"This is beautiful, Jimmy. What's in it?" I asked as I opened the top to look inside.

"Oh you can't see what's in it" he replied, "and you can't touch it, or taste it or feel it, but my mother always said it makes you feel good all the time, warm on cold nights, and safe when you're all alone."

I gazed into the empty box. "What is it Jimmy," I asked gently, "that will make me feel so good?"

"It's love," he whispered softly, "and my mother always said it also feels good to give it away." Then he turned and quietly left the room.

That was years ago. Following the Christmas break, Jimmy began staying after school to help again until the school year ended. To this day I keep the small box crudely made of scraps of wood on the piano in my living room and only smile as inquiring friends raise quizzical eyebrows when I explain to them that there is love in it.

Yes, Christmas is for gaiety, mirth and song, for good and wondrous gifts. But mostly, Christmas is for love. ---
Susan Sharp---

I wish all of my Bethel family a merry Christmas of giving. It really does make you feel good.

Nola WFIM

Youseetimmy:

"Family" far and away outpaces any other biblical term to describe the church.

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree - the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other--



December 2010 Council News

Pastor Diane reported that she had met with the Association Church and Ministry Team. This is one of the preliminary steps in her quest to become licensed and, ultimately, ordained. Once she is licensed, she will be able to serve communion. I, for one, am looking forward to that day.

Finance Committee:

The third installment of the funds to be taken from the Legacy Fund has been requested. These funds are necessary to keep the bills paid during the coming months.

A preliminary budget for 2011 has been prepared and will be presented to the council at its December meeting.

The results of Stewardship Sunday will be reported next month because I haven't talked to the Financial Secretary about it yet. Sorry 'bout that.

Mission/Christian Ed:

Haven received lots of food and other needed items from Bethel in October along with \$105. Haven called to express their thanks and appreciation.

For our December mission, Craig Barnaby is going to work with Beaumont School to identify four children that Bethel can help to make their family's Christmas celebration more joyous. We plan to have a tree in the Fellowship Hall with names and gift suggestions for the children. We also plan to provide foodstuff for their Christmas Dinner.

The mitten tree will be in the Narthex and Christmas Fund envelopes will be in the pews as in the past.

Christmas Eve Worship Service will be at 5:00.

Fellowship / Membership / Worship:

Greeter for December is Virginia Hudnell.

Ushers for December are Shirley Milligan & Rosemarie Sanok.

If the Association gets busy and gets Diane her license, December 5 communion will be served by Jane Ellen Bussard, Shirley Milligan, Gary Bussard and Dot Sherrit.

The potluck and adult dinners have been canceled for both November and December. HOWEVER, the traditional Ladies Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 2.

By the time you get this news, the Greens will be hanging. Enjoy the Advent Season! (Got your shopping done, yet?)

"Our Daily Bread", a devotional for everyday use will soon be on the table in the narthex thanks to Dot Sherrit.

Continued on next page



Property:

Teri Barnaby will have the piano tuned in preparation for her piano recital.

Other Stuff:

Teri's Fall Piano Recital will be December 5. Plan to come. Her students really work very hard.

Our new web site, "Connected Word" from Earthrise Multimedia, is close to being finished. Craig is getting the site ready for becoming active. He just needs some photos and information about the staff and it will be ready for the world.

As soon as the office can be without the computer for 3 or 4 days, the computer will be taken to the shop for a much needed overhaul.

Bethel is up-to-date! We have WiFi available through out the church. (If you don't know what that is, ask Craig.)

The next blood pressure clinic is December 12th.

"Star of Wonder", the children's Christmas musical will be presented on December 11 at 4:30PM followed by a potluck supper. Tableware will be provided by Bethel. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

The Fall Congregational meeting is scheduled for December 19th after worship. We will be voting on council members for 2011.

Looking ahead, Ash Wednesday service March 9, 2011 will be 7:00 pm with a dinner at 6:00.

Lance Shew

(This edition of the Council News is coming to you from the Beautiful Smokey Mountains in western North Carolina. Thank goodness for laptop computers. If it weren't for this one, you would have to go with the old adage, "No news is good news.")

Best Wishes
for a
Merry Christmas

Missions



In October Haven received loads of groceries (13 bagfuls plus three large containers) and \$105.00.

For November our mission was Thanksgiving dinner baskets for families in need, which were distributed through The Open Door Outreach Center.

We will concentrate on Christmas for our December mission. Our goal is to adopt a family or two, from Beaumont Elementary, that need our help with Christmas dinner and gifts. We will have a gift tree for these families. We will also have a mitten tree again this year. Also we will be collecting for the Christmas Fund which is to help retired pastors.

Thank You for all of your contributions. This is such a heartfelt way we can show how much we really do care.

Mission Committee
Shirley and Dorothy

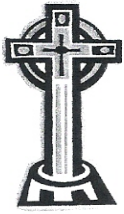


Benevolent Contributions thru October

Altar Flowers	23.00
Baldwin Center	120.00
Open Door	150.00
Haiti Relief	120.00
O.G.H.S.	120.00
Grace Centers of Hope	155.00
Penny Baker Care Package	286.00
Open Door/ Julie K. Run	200.00
Light House	100.00
School Supplies	80.00
Crop Walk	301.00
Haven	105.00

Gary Bussard
Financial Secretary





MEMORIALS



TO THE HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

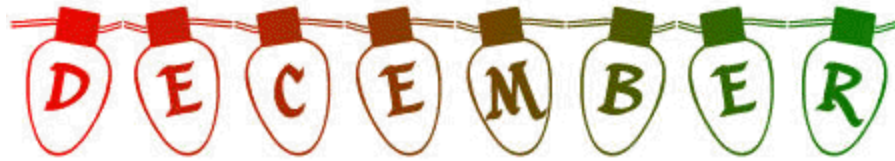
November Memorials

In Remembrance

Pauline Opal Crandall
Born: March 24, 1925
Died: June 17, 2006

Presented By

Starr (Crandall) Yarbrough



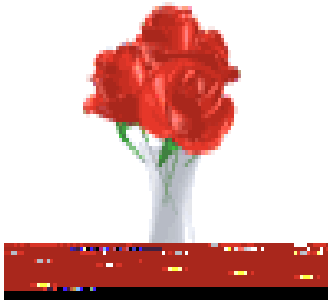
Jon Struthers	01
Chris Eve I	07
Dean Baker	08
Alex Petrik	15
Doris Edwards	26



New Addresses

FLOWERS PRESENTED

**Tom & Jane Knaebel
Presented In Loving Memory
By
Dorothy Sherrit**



**STAR OF WONDER
A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 11
4:30 PM**

FOLLOWED BY A POTLUCK SUPPER

**BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
6650 ELIZABETH LAKE ROAD
WATERFORD, MICHIGAN**

**PLEASE RSVP FOR THE POTLUCK BY DEC.5
1-248-682-9240**

**Mark your calendars for the next adult fellowship dinner!
Thursday January 28, 2011
6:00 pm
Hosted by Lee and Betty Collins at Gino's Restaurant**

**December 05, 2010
You are invited to attend a winter
piano recital brought to you by
Teri Barnaby
Here at Bethel
Recital times are as follows:
1:30 pm and 4:30 pm

We hope to see you there!**

**DECEMBER 13, 2010
COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND**

**DECEMBER 19, 2010
THERE WILL BE A FALL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
WORSHIP TO DISCUSS FUTURE
OF CHURCH COUNCIL ORGANIZATION.**

**Don't Forget about the Ladies Christmas
potluck luncheon.
Thursday, December 2nd at 12 noon
In Bethels fellowship hall!**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 24, 2010
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WILL BE AT 5:00 PM**

As A Baby Jesus Came

*As a baby Jesus came
From His home above
He left His throne and who He was
To teach us how to love*

*As a baby Jesus came
Wrapped in swaddling cloth
Willingly took on humanity
Though He was one with God*

*As a baby Jesus came
To one day grow to be
The savior of the human race
People like you and me*

*As a baby Jesus came
The hope of eternal life
Reconciling us back to God
Giving meaning to our lives*

*As a man Jesus died
His blood poured out for all
Cleansing and forgiving us
For to this He was called*

*We Thank Him that He came a babe
And grew to be a man
And for His sacrificial love
His nailed scarred feet and hands*

*Through it all we can live on
With Jesus Christ our Lord
The babe that came that first Christmas
Is what we thank Him for*

By M.S. Lowndes





Christmas fun Page

Christmas Word Jumble

1. VISROA _____
2. NGELA _____
3. YRAM _____
4. ODNYKE _____
5. ISKNG _____
6. HEJOPS _____
7. NAECDL _____
8. BHTRI _____
9. AVENHE _____
10. SINAMEW _____
11. MALEC _____
12. DPREHSEH _____
13. LHEHTEEMB _____
14. REMGNA _____
15. RASTW _____
16. PEEKNNRIE _____
17. TSRA _____
18. YTSPoiHLIR _____
19. SUJES _____
20. SEDSBLE _____

Angel	star	birth	savior
Candle	wiseman	donkey	Holy Spirit
Jesus	camel	Heaven	straw
Manger	shepherd	innkeeper	kings
Mary	Bethlehem	Joseph	blessed

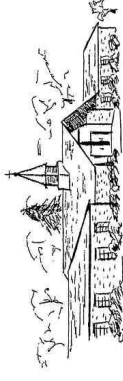
Christmas Prayer for Children

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in.
Be born in us to-day.
Amen.

Christmas Prayer for Children

O welcome, little Christmas Guest,
Dear Jesus, from above;
Upon thy face, so pure and mild,
We see God's smile of love.
Amen.

December 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 First night of Hanukkah	2 Ladies Christmas lunch 12 noon	3	4 Star Of Wonder Rehearsal 9-11 am
5 BP Sunday Winter piano Recital	6	7 QQ 9 -1 pm	8	9	10 Star Of Wonder Dress rehearsal 6-8 pm	11 4:30 pm Star Of wonder performance
12 Choir practice 9:30	13 Council Meeting 6 pm	14 QQ 9 -1 pm	15	16	17	18
19 Fall congregational meeting	20	21 QQ 9 -1 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve service 5:00 pm	25 Merry Christmas!
26 First Day of Kwanza	27	28 QQ 9 -1 pm	29	30	31 New Years Eve	
					**Location to be Announced	