

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



Bethel United Church of Christ January 2011 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

Happy New Year to you!!! Does your calendar say 2011 too? Incredible!

As we enter a new year, it is very common to look forward, make resolutions, and start new projects. It's a way we mark this season of new beginnings. However I think it is also wise to look behind us, at the year we've just completed, as a way of seeing where we've been and notice from where God has brought us. It also gives us a way to understand where God has been leading us, which in turn gives us a glimpse of where God is guiding us.

As I look back over December I realize what a full month of activity and giving it has been! From the start, I had opportunity to visit one of the practices for "Star of Wonder," the children's production that described the birth of Jesus from the star's perspective. Here I witnessed Teri Barnaby working hard to develop our young artists into true performers as she coached and directed them. Craig Barnaby too was working hard at the sound and lighting, making adjustments that would make the production even brighter. And later in the month, we all had the opportunity to see what an awesome job they all did as "Star of Wonder" lit up the sanctuary and the performers shined brightly!

December was also the month that Bethel hosted a piano recital for Teri Barnaby's piano students. The sanctuary was full of students and parents alike. It was wonderful to hear Teri's students perform various songs.

December was a month of meeting needs too. The base of our Christmas tree in the foyer did not stay empty long as presents began to collect there for the family Bethel adopted for Christmas. Hats and mittens were among the decorations on the tree that were designated for the students at Beaumont school next door. It was a way to keep the little ones warm with hats, mittens and love.

December was also a month in which we welcomed three new members into our congregation. Our guest book shows we hosted sixteen visitors throughout the month. There were many more who came for our productions and Christmas Eve service that did not sign their names, but they were all welcomed in that warm, Bethel style.

Thinking about all of the activity we shared together in December, we can certainly attest to the fact that God's spirit was moving in and through our congregation. As you followed the urging of God's spirit to bring gifts and meet needs, you allowed others to see God's presence here. God's Christmas present of his Son now dwells in our hearts. You reflected that!

Since joining you in September I have witnessed many ways in which God has been working in our lives together and in our midst. A warm graciousness abides in the hospitality you offer. I have also witnessed a people with open, welcoming arms who are ready and willing to meet the needs of those around them. I have appreciated all of the ways each of you have supported me in my transition as your pastor as well. Thank you so much.

In the coming New Year I wish you God's abundant peace, joy and love.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Diane

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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 & Friend

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

Baldwin Center

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

Bethel Friends

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)



January No-Gossip Column

Wow! A brand new year has begun. Isn't it wonderful to start fresh with all our mistakes and problems to be left in 2010. Let's expect joy and peace this new year of 2011. Once upon a time in a village in the hills, a young boy named Nathan was pronounced "old enough" to be given the job of shepherd. The villagers had a rather large flock, so Nathan was mighty proud to be assigned this responsibility. The elders in charge presented their young choice with his shepherd's crook and prepared him to go to the hillside pasture. When you see a wolf, cry 'WOLF' and we will hear your voice and the men of the village will come running with guns and pitchforks," they instructed.

All was going well with Nathan in his new duty. He kept a keen eye on the peaceful animals as the hours passed. As he tended to a lamb that had wandered into the brush, the shepherd boy spotted a lion in the distance on the opposite side of the flock. He cried out: "LION, LION!" No one came. Again Nathan cried toward the village, "LION!" But there was no response or rescue. The lion killed and ate several sheep.

After being relieved of his shift on the hillside, the very distressed young shepherd returned to the village elders. "Why didn't you come when I called 'LION'?" he asked.

"There are no lions in this part of the country," the older men replied. "It is wolves for which we must be on the lookout." Nathan learned a valuable lesson with his first experience on watch as a shepherd: *People respond only to what they are prepared to believe.*

My Bethel family, I want you to be prepared to believe anything is possible. Leave your minds and hearts open to all the great things to come in the year 2011. God is so good to the people who follow Him and have faith the size of a mustard seed. I find comfort and courage and strength with the people here at Bethel. Everyone of you is an **Are**.

Nola WFIM

I'd rather be a **Could-Be**
If I cannot be an **Are**:
Because a **Could-Be** is a **May-be**
Who might be reaching for a star.
I'd rather be a **Has-Been**
Than a **Might-Have-Been** by far,
For a **Might-Have-Been** has never been
But a **Has** was once an **Are!**
....Milton Berle

Youseetimmy:

Only kisses and money could be so loaded with germs and still remain popular.

Council News, January 2011

The weather did not cooperate on December 13. (You live in Michigan so you know all about that.) The council meeting was postponed and held on December 16 instead.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Diane will be out of town for three Sundays in January. She has arranged for one of her colleagues to fill Bethel's pulpit on January 16 and 23. Pastor also requested that the Annual Congregational Meeting be postponed until she returns from vacation since this would be her first annual meeting. The council concurred and scheduled the meeting for February 6.

Finance:

A proposed budget for 2011 has been prepared but still needs the council approval before it is presented to the congregation at the winter meeting.

The last \$20,000 installment of funds from the Legacy Fund has been put into the General fund. The Finance committee will probably meet to determine if funds will be needed for this year (2011). If needed, an item will be put on the agenda for the February Congregational meeting.

The stewardship campaign brought in 16 pledges totaling \$27,000. Out-of-town members will be sent pledge cards early in January.

Mission / Christian Ed:

\$70 plus quite a lot of food items were delivered to Open Door for Thanksgiving baskets.

A whole bunch of gifts and a gift card for Kroger were delivered to the Beaumont School family that Bethel chose to help. A big thanks to Dot Sherrit and Craig Barnaby for coordinating the project. The family was very appreciative.

The hats and gloves on the Mitten Tree will be taken to Beaumont right after school resumes in January.

The mission focus for January will be the Baldwin Center. A "Souper Sunday" is planned in conjunction with our potluck dinner. Soup will be served at the potluck but it will cost you a can or two of soup to get your soup on Souper Sunday. Let's hope it will be a very soupy Sunday.

Fellowship / Membership / Worship:

Greeter for January:

Virginia Hudnell

Ushers for January:

Rose Sanok and a recruit

Communion servers January 2:

Shirley Milligan, Jane Bussard

Dot Sherrit, Gary Bussard

"Un-hanging" of the Greens is scheduled for January 8 at 9:00. That's the Saturday after Epiphany. Rumor has it that there will be some goodies to get us started and some lunch when we finish. (Sounds like Bethel likes to eat but I don't know if that's true or not.)

The Ladies Luncheon --the third Thursday-- January 20th will be at Buddy's Pizza (sign up in fellowship hall) And the Adult Dinner will be January 28 at Gino's in Keego Harbor. (Guess who the host is!) There will be a sign up sheet for that, too.

Property:

Inspections of the church's boiler and back-flow prevention device are due.

Continued on next page

Continued

A can has appeared by the coffee pot in the fellowship hall. Donations will be accepted to defray the cost of “Christians drug of choice – Caffeine”.

Legacy Fund:

The Legacy Fund may be asked to support Bethel’s General Fund again in 2011.

Other items discussed:

Our new website is up and running. For those with computers or smart phones and internet access, the site is <http://betheluccwat.org>. Take a look! We will be putting up staff photos in the near future.

The office computer is still in need of an overhaul. All we need is a time when it isn’t needed to take it in.

Blood pressure clinic is January 9.

We may be having a Knitting group meeting at Bethel. One of the Quilters has requested use of the building for their meetings.

Annual reports from the committees should be in Kim’s hands ASAP so she can get the annual report prepared. The annual meeting is scheduled for February 6.

The Bethel council will begin operating under the new organizational guidelines with the January meeting. Let the current president know where you want to serve and we will see you at the January 10 meeting.

Lance Shew, Council President

p.s. Just a reminder that all are welcome to attend the Council meetings.

Missions

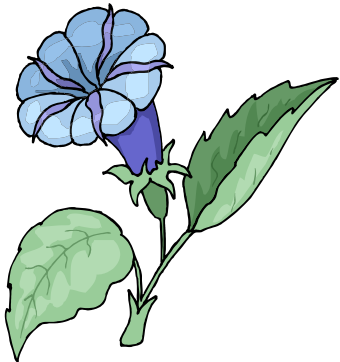
In November we collected food items totaling 76 lbs (gross weight) and \$80.00. This was distributed to Open Door for use in their holiday dinner packs.

The foods, money and gifts collected this month will be donated to a needy family referred by Beaumont School. The money will be used to purchase a gift card from Walmart and everything will be delivered Tuesday, December 21.

Our mission for January will be the Baldwin Center. As you may recall, this is a sanctuary for homeless and desperate people and families. They always need clothing, food items and grooming items.

Once again we will be having Souper Sunday January 30th. Bring a can of soup for a bowlful of soup.

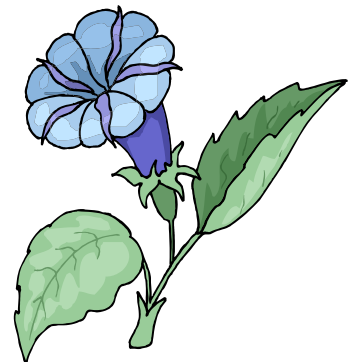
Mission Committee
Shirley Milligan
Dorothy Sherrit



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	270.00
Light House	100.00
School Supplies	80.00
Crop Walk	301.00
Haven	105.00

Gary Bussard
Financial Secretary

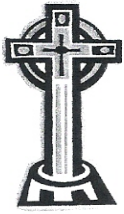


2010Poinsettias ordered from greenhouse

AMT.	POT SIZE	COLOR	EACH	COST	PRICE	DIFF.
3	4"	red	4.35	13.05	14.55	1.50
3	4"	white	4.35	13.05	14.55	1.50
4	6"	red	8.85	35.40	37.40	2.50
2	6"	white	8.85	17.70	18.70	1.00
3	6"	pink	8.85	26.55	28.05	1.50
1	6.5"	red	10.90	10.90	11.40	.50
2	6.5"	white	10.90	21.80	22.80	1.50
1	8"	tri	24.75	24.75	25.25	.50
<hr/>						
19				163.20	172.70	9.50
	Greenhouse discount			-8.87		
	Delivery charge			<u>10.00</u>		
	Total collected				173.50	
	Totals			164.33		

Flowers ordered by:

Dean & Diane Baker
 Lee & Betty Collins
 Jane Ellen Bussard
 Kim & Chris Eve
 Marge Hotchkiss
 Ed & Joan Matthews
 Rita Milner
 Lois Nicklow
 Kathy Petrik
 Rose Marie Sanok
 Ruby Sey
 Dorothy Sherrit
 Nola & Lance Shew



MEMORIALS



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

December Memorials

In Remembrance

Presented By

JANUARY



Mr. and Mrs. Craig Barnaby 20

Gary Bussard	09
Jolene Davis	12
Cheyenne Eve	14
Mason Eve	14
Lee Collins	24



Corrected Address

**Steve Knisely
84 Samaritan Ave. Apt B-6
Ashland, OH 44805**

This is a poem I wrote for the worship service on December 26, 2010. Teri and I planned a lighthearted service, so my sermon theme for the day was on “God’s Humor.” Afterward, several people asked me to include it in our newsletter. The purpose of this piece was to reflect humor as well as be something to delight those who heard it. Some of the scenarios are fictitious — ones I created so certain members’ names could also be included. So enjoy! — Pastor Diane

BUCC Sermon - December 26, 2010

God provides His word to us in the Bible and we may find we have our favorites:
Some like Luke’s quick perspective, some like Matthews, (**Matthews**)
But in all of them we find,
Something to encourage us when we think we’ve lost our minds.

If we have to hunt for God’s good gifts, What does this reflect of you?
I say go look at Walgreens, CVS... **well, Meijer** (Wellemeier) has is too...

God provides for us, we know it’s true, in many, many ways;
Through giving us life and breath, and strength throughout our days.
And in addition, we can thank, our dear Lord for our food;
And for all the other things like clothes and hats, and **shoes** (Shews) - - -

God is here to calm our fears, as one night, Jess’ sister found.
For Nell came running in the room after hearing a strange sound.
“I heard a thud and **hud**,” **Nell** (Hudnell) said. “Don’t be afraid,” Jess replied.
After the customary check of the things, they fond Whiskers the cat inside.
The cat’s big landing on the floor, caused the noise that stir-ed Nell’
So upset were Nell and Jess they told the cat to go to - - - the basement.

A joy is found in creation too, As God created it in pride,
The porcupine, for instance, with his **stickley**, (Stickley) prickly hide.

Even creatures great and small gives God pleasure too...
Squirrels, and voles and birds in trees and hippopotamuses too...
Things that fly and things that crawl and
Even the handsome flying BUZZARD —
But don’t forget in gay Paree that it is called “**bus-sard**”! (Bussard)

One day while travelling in **Austin** (Austin)
I had to wet my whistle
So I went into a restaurant
And ordered me a pilsner.
By the time the waiter brought my drink
It couldn’t have tasted better;
And I was told that their home brew
Was bottled by Matt **Milner**. (No relation to Rita!)

Our four footed friends cause real joy;
In our homes we find it clicks,
Like my two lil’ dachshunds, Elwood and Jake
When they can do **pet tricks**. (Petriks)

We can see the wonders of God’s creation
Everywhere we look; in the fields — the flowers,
Birds in the, and even in the **barn, a bee**. (Barnaby)

Jesus came on Christmas **Eve**, (Eve) so God could with us dwell
As we accept his offer of love, our world will be made well.

Jesus stands at the door of our hearts and knocks
Wanting to come in
And if any one will open it
He will gladly abide with them. (Jesus, really, did you **say knock?**) (Sanok)

We are called as all God's children
From **Collinses to Davis**, (Collins and Davis)
To bring joy to our Creator,
And in this way God won't leave us!

We're also called to take God's love
Not to keep it but to carry it,
And then go in to all the world and
Joyfully to **share it**. (Sherrit)

In the summer months we can enjoy outdoors sports aplenty...

Having fun with your spouse, in the summer, outside
Going golfing or playing tennis
Did you ever try playing hopscotch...
...then try stealing a 'lil **hot kiss?** (Hotchkiss)

Baseball is thrilling, sometimes, soccer too - and even track and field.
But golf is one that takes it toll when patience starts to yield.
But the Grace of God we're quick to find, when we and our friends decide,
to take a **Milligan** (Milligan) - no, that's a mulligan - when in sand traps we abide.

One day on the course, to my surprise I saw a man who
Wore his knickers, like some, almost down to his knees;
And when I asked please, pray tell...?,
He said that he was doing well.
"How can you play in such a thing?
Does it mean you must play slow?"
"Why no" he said in formal Brit
"Tis all the rage to wear your **knicks low.**" (Knicklow)

We can see God in our parenting, a job some are called to do;
And tho' we try, we cannot make our tactics shiny-do.
At times we know our humanness can break through in a flash,
and make our modeling of God, something of a laugh.
Just as a father, to his kids, had on day loudly shouted,
"Cut out all that **Halabarakos** (Halabarakos) — or you will be time-outed!"

AMEN!!!!

Happy New Year!

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

January 17th will be one year since my family and I first came to Bethel. I just felt led to write a little note to express our hearts. On that first day, when we pulled into the parking lot of Bethel, we sat in the van watching everyone walk into the church. The kids said, "Mom, where are all the kids?, we don't see any kids!" To which I replied. "Maybe their already inside. Let's go in and see how it goes. If you don't like it here we can try another church next Sunday." We came in and received the warmest, friendliest, most joyful reception. I know my heart was full that Sunday. The kids and I could not wait to return the following Sunday. When we did, we again received the same warm reception as the week before only with hugs for us all. WOW! Since those first few visits, our family has settled in nicely at Bethel. I just want to say, Thank-You, for taking us in and making us a part of your family. You truly do imitate Christ. We are so blessed to have been led here to Bethel. Isn't it amazing how God works? I have to chuckle. He brought this family here, where there were no other children, (and knowing my children, usually that is an important factor.) And yet my children, as well as the rest of us, truly love it here, and all of you. You know, from the road, to some, Bethel looks like your average little church. But inside the doors is a truly amazing family of God! We have never been happier! We love you all! God bless!

— The Eve family

JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY JAN. 10TH
6:00 PM
ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

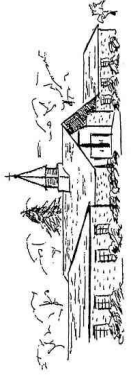
The January ladies luncheon is being hosted by Teri Barnaby at:
Buddy's Pizza
(Squirrel road and Walton)

Please pick a month and sign up to host a ladies luncheon.
There are a lot of unfilled months.
Thank You!

Saturday, January 8th
Come to the Un-hanging of the Greens! What sounds like work always ends up fun fellowship here at Bethel!
We will be having a Yummy homemade lunch!

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

January 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Years Day
2 BP Sunday Choir practice 9:30	3	4 QQ 9 -1 pm	5	6 Epiphany	7	8 Un-hanging of the greens 9am
9 Choir practice 9:30	10 Council Meeting 6 pm	11 QQ 9 -1 pm	12	13	14	15
16 Choir practice 9:30	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 QQ 9 -1 pm	19	20 Ladies Luncheon 12:30	21	22
23 Choir practice 9:30	24	25 QQ 9 -1 pm	26	27	28 ADULT FELLOWSHIP DINNER 6 PM	29
30 souper sun. Choir practice 9:30	31				**Location to be Announced	