

# THE TOWER

February 2010

**Bethel Presbyterian Church**  
**Joel Thornton, Pastor**

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Calendar - see website



## **From the Pastor's Desk . . .**

*“God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes...for the former things  
are passed away.”*

*Rev. 21:4*

A visiting pastor at the Winona Lake Church of the Brethren recalled the terrible car sickness from which he suffered as a child whenever he was forced to travel for more than 20 miles at a time. He would always grow sick with inevitable results. He was constantly embarrassed as his parents would have to apologize for the situation to anyone they ended up having to take on a ride with them anywhere.

The pastor remembered that the hardest trips were the ones to see his grandmother on her farm, which was located about 100 miles away. Yet, once he got there, the sickness would pass, and he would roam the beautiful countryside as he breathed in the clean, pure air. His grandmother would always have baked a delicious cake, and she seldom seemed to say anything but “yes” to whatever adventure he sought out. They were such wonderful times that he was able to bear the car sickness knowing what was coming.

The pastor then preached about God wiping away our tears when we get to heaven after having to bear the troubles of this earth. His smiling, loving grandmother had given him a view as to how wonderful that would be!

**Super Bowl Sunday - Souper Bowl of Caring.** Bethel youth will accept an offering for the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 7. Money and/or canned goods will be accepted. The proceeds will go to Kingsway. There will be youth stationed outside the church doors after the worship service to collect your gifts. We appreciate your help in making this a successful endeavor to raise funds and food for a worthwhile cause.

**Lenten Season** begins with Ash Wednesday service on February 17th. More details later.

**Confirmation Classes** will be held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour March 14th through May 16th. Confirmation Sunday will be on May 23. If you have a youth or are a youth that would like to take the class, please contact Joel. Make plans to attend Confirmation Sunday on May 23rd!



*Tish Folsom hosting Pizza Dinner*

**Weather Announcements.** In the event of bad weather on Sunday mornings, please tune into WHSV - TV3 (Harrisonburg) for information on whether church has been cancelled. Thank you!

**Boy Scout Sunday** will be Sunday, February 7. During the worship service, the Boy Scouts will be recognized for their contribution to the community and to Bethel. All are invited to this special service!

**Communion** will be held on February 21, the 1st Sunday in Lent.

**Witness Committee** will meet following the worship service on February 21. All members should contact Peggy Smith (886-4653) if they are unable to attend the meeting.

**Mission Trips.** Everyone planning to participate in 2010 mission trips is asked to help with every fundraiser, if possible. Contact Peggy Smith or Derek Almarode with questions or for more information.

**Mission Trip Deadlines!!!**

Greater Augusta Relief -	Registration is Open
Appalachian Service Project (ASP) -	Registration is Closed
Baja, Mexico - Registration is Open -	DEADLINE February 7
15 person limit - 14 people already signed up and submitted paperwork	

To register and/or if you have questions please contact Peggy Smith or Derek Almarode.



*Busy times in the Nursery*

**PRIME RIB MEAL & DESSERT AUCTION**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010**

(Snow Date - March 7th, 2010)

**5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

**Primetime Catering (Mike Carpenter) Will Provide the Meal**

**MENU**

Prime Rib

Garlic Roasted Potatoes

Mixed Vegetables

Tossed Salad

Rolls

**Dessert Auction will follow.**

A free will offering will be taken for the meal. All proceeds will go to the 2010 Bethel Mission projects.

**Dessert Auction.** ALL BETHEL CHEFS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE DONATE THEIR BEST DESSERT YET! The dessert auction will follow the Prime Rib meal on Sunday, February 28, at 6:30 pm. We know Bethel Chefs are the best and their desserts are the best and have become widely known! We would like to have at least 25 irresistible and taste tempting homemade desserts to auction that evening. Let's put together the best dessert auction yet this year. All proceeds go to Bethel's Mission Fund. If you would like to provide a desert please contact Peggy Smith (540-886-4653) or Derek Almarode (540-337-9010).

**Make plans now to attend for great food and a lot of fun!!**



*Barbara gets to hold  
Jonah*



*Girls at Pizza Dinner*

## **Bethel Presbyterian Women Mission Project - Sewing For Missions**

**February-March 2010**

Listed below are the items being collected by the Bethel PWCT to be sent to Service Centers where the supplies can be sent to where disasters occur and there are critical needs.

1. \*NEW sheets (twin flat sheets are preferred)
2. \*NEW blankets (twin or double thermal blankets)
3. Baby Gowns (small sizes are appropriate)
4. Baby Blankets (may be purchased or made from flannel; approximate size 36"x45")
5. Baby Caps (purchased or made from your own pattern, or from the pattern on page 5)

All Sewing for Mission items must be turned in by April 1st, 2010. A collection bin will be placed in Memorial Hall. Please call Lee Ann Heizer (886-8174) if you have any questions.

\* Please note change. Only NEW sheets and blankets accepted; used ones will no longer be accepted

### **BETHEL PWCT SEWING FOR MISSION PROJECT -INSTRUCTIONS FOR KNITTED BABY CAPS**

Use sport weight yarn, and size 6 needles.

Cast on 72 stitches.

Knit 2, purl 2, to end of row.

Continue this pattern for 6 1/2 inches.

Next Row: Knit 2 together; purl 2 together, across the row.

Next Row: Purl

Next Row: Knit 2 together across the row.

Next Row: Purl

Next Row: Knit 2 together across the row.

Thread a darning needle with yarn and sew through stitches remaining on the knitting needle. Carefully pull the top tight. Tie off and sew back edges of cap together.

**Pom-Pom** Take a 2-inch wide piece of cardboard and wind yarn around it at least 40 times. Slide yarn off cardboard carefully; tie in the middle, and cut edges of yarn to make separate strands. Trim loose ends. Use yarn to sew pom pom on cap.

**Presbyterian Women - February 2010**  
**Emphasis:: Witness Season, Lent**

The Afternoon Circle will meet at the church on February 9th at 2:30 pm.  
The Evening Circle will meet at the church on February 9th at 7:00 pm.

**Flower Schedule**

February 7	Sarah Frances Ralston
February 14	Jill Webb - Memorial
February 21	Jessie Earhart – Memorial, Communion, 1st Sunday Lent
February 28	Ginny Gano

**Offering Schedule - February 2010**

Keith Bosserman  
Steve Hord  
Josh Smith  
Wayne Swisher

**Nursery Schedule**

February 7	Luanne Leonard, Jake Leonard
February 14	Barbara Gough, Judy Olson
February 21	Bruce and Linda Lamond
February 28	Katie Williams, Mac Williams



*Keith Folsom - Pizza  
Chef*



*Emily at  
Nursery*

## Youth News

**The Youth Committee** will meet following the worship service on February 14th. If you will be unable to attend this meeting please contact Peggy Smith at 886-4653.

**Visiting on Valentine's Day!** On Sunday, February 14th, all ages of youth (and any adults that would like to!) will meet after church to visit our shut-ins. We will have a light lunch and then take valentines and cookies or fruit to our shut-ins. If you would be willing to provide cookies or fruit or if you would like to go with us to visit the shut-ins please contact Susan Smith (540-580-3315).



*This way? No, that way.*

**Souper Bowl!** The youth will participate in the “Souper Bowl of Caring” on Sunday, February 7th. We will collect monetary donations and nonperishable food items following the worship service. All donations will be given to Kingsway. Thank you in advance for your generosity with this project!

### **Winter Jam 2010**

All ages of youth and college age young adults are invited to go to Winter Jam 2010. This year Winter Jam is at the John Paul Jones Arena in Charlottesville, on Saturday, February 20th, at 6 pm. We will meet at Bethel to carpool at 3 pm.

Performers include Third Day, Newsboys, Newsong, Tenth Avenue North, Fireflight, Sidewalk Prophets, Revive and Robert Pierre. The

guest speaker will be Tony Nolan. For more information you can check out the post on the Youth Bulletin Board, or go to [www.jamtour.com](http://www.jamtour.com).

The Youth Fund will cover the cost of the ticket. If you would like to attend, please notify Susan Smith (540-580-3315) by Sunday, February 14th.

**Please Note:** Youth attending the concert without a parent will need a permission slip signed and emergency contact information given to the Youth Leaders.



*In line for pizza*



*Mary Ann and Margaret*

**Congratulations to the Smith family** on the birth of Crue Alexander Smith! Crue was born on Wednesday, January 6th, 2010 and is the son of Brittany Hoover and Corbett Smith. He is the grandson of Susan McCutchen-Smith and Richard Smith. Congratulations on this new addition to your family!

**Note from Charlotte!** To My Bethel Friends: Many thanks to you all for the cards, greetings, and phone calls while I am visiting in Florida. - Charlotte Swortzel

**Sympathies to the Bosserman Family.** We offer our sympathies and condolences to Keith Bosserman and his family on the passing of his mother in January.

**Bethel Presbyterian Church Library.** The Bethel Library is a good source of information for Bible Study, philosophy, inspiration, history, and more. This year, in the Tower, we hope to feature library book reviews submitted by Bethel members. Please get in touch with Joyce Miller if you would like to share your ideas about a specific book. The library computer has a partial listing of the books available. If you would like to help enter more books into the listing, please notify Joyce Miller (540-337-0828 or rimcorp@msn.com).



*Lee Ann and Eloise*

## SESSION NEWS

The Session met January 10th, 2010 for a stated meeting with nine members present.

Sessional committees were appointed for 2010 and the committee lists are available from the church office.

Bill Brubeck was appointed Clerk of Session.

The following treasurers were appointed: Sarah Frances Ralston - Treasurer of the Scholarship-Loan Committee, Ken Wilkinson - Receiving Treasurer and Tish Folsom - Disbursing Treasurer.

The present Pastoral Relations Committee was approved.

The Session will receive a quarterly treasurer's report rather than a monthly report in an effort to save paper.

Approval was given to the youth to attend a concert in Charlottesville.

The Riverheads Wrestling team was given permission to use the Fellowship Hall for a spaghetti supper to raise money. Linda Lamond will be in charge.

Joel gave an outline of activities planned for his sabbatical this summer.

### New Session Committee Chairs for 2010

Christian Education - Kathy Swisher; Billy Wade

Denominational Issues - Don Hall; Jill Webb; John Wooddell

Growth and Strengthening - Yvonne Goodson; Louise Hoy; Jane Law

Nominating - Mo Kyle; James Williams

Pastoral Relations - Kathy Swisher; Billy Wade

Personnel - Don Hall; Mo Kyle; James Williams

Scholarship/Loan - Bill Brubeck; Billy Wade; John Wooddell

Stewardship - Don Hall; James Williams

Witness - Peggy Smith; Kathy Swisher

Worship - Mo Kyle; Billy Wade; Jill Webb

Youth - Louise Hoy; Peggy Smith

## **Deacons Notes – February 2010**

At our January 3rd meeting, we discussed reports from the Treasurers and from Congregational Care, Buildings and Grounds, Manse, and Scouting and Property committees. All areas are in good order.

Ken Wilkinson reported good year-end contributions and adequate operating funds going into 2010. Total 2009 contributions were less than budget, reflecting a difficult financial environment and somewhat reduced membership. Expenses were close to budget. (See Treasurer's report in this Tower issue for details). Reserve funds were used throughout 2009, with approval of the Diaconate and Session, to complete two important long-term projects – organ renovation and new stained glass windows. On January 10th, the Congregation approved the 2010 budget as submitted by the Stewardship Committee. This budget is adjusted to expected conditions, with reduced expenses compared to 2009.

Also in the financial area, the Deacons supported the Trustees and Session in exploring endowment investment alternatives. Endowment funds are donated to Bethel to produce an ongoing income. Typically, endowment fund principal is preserved and the income applied to improvements, operating expenses, projects, or other applications designated by the contributor. Our endowment funds are invested in money market funds, certificates of deposit, and other instruments. An Endowment Committee is reviewing investment alternatives for an appropriate combination of increased earnings and safety.

In Congregational Care, the Deacons completed a review of active membership rolls and recommended minor changes to the Session. A draft of the 2010 Shepherding List was submitted to Session. Mary Jones is updating Congregation members' phone numbers, cell phone numbers, and email addresses. In the recent worship service cancellation because of snow, we were unable to contact some members because phone numbers had been disconnected, probably reflecting more use of cell phones. We would like to get as many cell phone numbers as we can, to help us make contact in emergencies. We communicate more by email as well, and encourage you to make sure the church office has your email address if you have one.

Shirley Heizer reported no recent activity with the Transportation Committee. If you need transportation to church functions, contact Shirley.

Keith Bosserman reported that the Building and Grounds Committee solicited bids to repair copper gutters damaged by snow and ice. Dean Caldwell will follow up to

determine if the damage is covered by our insurance policy. Other current maintenance activities were discussed.

Derek Almarode said the Manse Committee is following up on a moisture problem in the Manse carport ceiling.

Wayne Swisher announced that the Scout's Klondike winter campout will take place in January at Camp Shenandoah.

The Diaconate is here to serve Bethel's congregation, support activities, and maintain and improve physical property. To let you know what we are doing, we post the Deacon's minutes on the bulletin board near Fellowship Hall each month. Please contact any Deacon if you have recommendations or needs.

#### **Deacon's Prayer List**

Louale Almarode, Glenn Austen, Edith Beahm, Family of Jean Bosserman, Kelsey Bosserman, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Lorine Caldwell, Melissa Coffey, Jim Crosby, Jessie Earhart, Louis Fitzgerald, Dale Goodson, Nellie Hamilton, Wayne Hord, Flora Law, Lucy Miller, Judy Olson, Suzanne Perl, Les Prickett, Tom Small, Charlotte Swortzel, and David P. Turner.

#### **Receiving Treasurer Report**

**2009:** The total amount received for 2009 to the general fund for the budget was \$184,195. This was adequate to cover 2009 budget expenditures. Thanks to all for your continuing support.

**2010:** 45 pledges have been received for a total of \$98,236. Thanks to all who have pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2010. Cards are available at the church. Completed cards can be mailed to the church (Attn: Receiving Treasurer), placed in the Receiving Treasurer mailbox in Memorial Hall or placed in the offering plate any Sunday.

**Don't Forget!**

**February 2 - Groundhog Day**  
**February 7 - Super Bowl Sunday**  
**February 14 - Valentine's Day**  
**February 15 - Presidents' Day**

TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY FOR ALL WHO STAND IN NEED OF PRAYER



Cooking