

January 2010

# THE TOWER

January 2010

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

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Calendar - see website



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

*"...but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 12:13b-14*



It is an old custom in parts of Italy that, on New Years Eve, the streets of the villages are completely abandoned and quiet...until the stroke of midnight. When the New Year officially comes, the windows and doors are thrown open with a cheer and with song as each family throws out into the street items that remind them of negative times during the past year. They are, in both a real and symbolic way, throwing out the old to get on with the new.

In Scripture, we, too, are reminded to keep our eyes on "the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" and to let the past, as it hinders that goal, stay in the past. Quit dragging out that old hurt to dust it off for continued use in the New Year. Quit breathing fresh life into that old emotional wound that keeps hobbling your progress. Quit dredging that pond of past memories so that the ghosts of the past keep surfacing to haunt the present. As Paul did, let us do...put those things behind in this New Year and let us press on toward the goal of our high calling in Christ! Then, we really can have a "Happy New Year"!

**Communion** will be held on January 3.

**New Officers** - On January 3 Bethel will ordain and install our newly elected, trained, examined, and approved officers in a special Sunday morning worship service. Come and be a part of this important and moving moment in the life of the church.

**Officer Installation** - New officers will be installed during the worship service on January 3. If you are an officer and will be unable to be at the service please let Joel know as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Congregational Meeting on Budget and Pastor's Terms of Call** - On Sunday, January 10, the Session has called for a congregational meeting following (and, indeed, as a part of) the Sunday morning worship service.



**Sara Ann Miller Lamb** is pictured at left conducting the acceptance test for the Bethel organ renovation. Sara Ann is a lifetime member of Bethel and she has been our organist for 56 years.

**Mailboxes in Memorial Hall** - If you have a mailbox in Memorial Hall, please clean it out by January 3. Please discard information that you do not need. Remember to check your mailbox periodically for updates, church information, and mail. Thanks!

**Annual Reports Due** - The deadline for 2009 Annual Reports is January 31. If you were a chair of a committee for 2009, please have your report and statement to the church office by the above date. This allows to organize and print the reports before the Congregational Meeting in March. Thanks!

**Communion Dates - 2010**

January 3	New Year/Ordination/Quarterly
February 21	1st Sunday of Lent
March 28	Palm Sunday
April 1	Maundy Thursday
May 2	Pentecost Sunday / Confirmation Sunday
June 27	Quarterly Communion
August 29	1st Sunday, Regular Season
October 3	World Communion Sunday
November 28	1st Sunday of Advent
January 2, 2011	New Year/Ordination / Quarterly

**Church Office Closed** - December 31, 2009, and January 1, 2010. The staff of Bethel wishes you a safe and Happy New Year!

**Church Office Closed** - Monday, January 18 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

**Bad Weather Alerts** - In the event of bad weather on Sunday mornings, please tune into WHSV - TV3 (Harrisonburg) or log onto their website ([www.whsv.com](http://www.whsv.com)) for information on church cancellations. Thank you

**Church Directory Updates** - Please check the directory address, phone number, cell phone number, and email addresses for you and your family members is up to date and correct. If you have a cell phone and/or email address and would not mind those being listed by the church, please give us that information as well. Communication is an essential element of church life, and if it is difficult to get in touch with you, then communication suffers as does our church life together.

**Shepherd Lists** – Church Officers who are Shepherds are requested to contact all members on your Shepherd Lists and verify current phone numbers, cell phone numbers, and email addresses. Please provide updates and corrections to Joel by January 31, either directly, in the mailbox in Memorial Hall, email at [standanddeclare@gmail.com](mailto:standanddeclare@gmail.com) or phone at 540-886-2944. Thank you!

**MISSION FUNDRAISER!**

**HOMEMADE PIZZA-PIZZA-PIZZA!**

Our very own Fabulous Folsoms (and friends) will host (in the Fellowship Hall) an evening of homemade pizzas and fun on January 24th. The dinner will be from 4 pm until 8 pm.

Reservations are required by Sunday, January 17. Please call Keith or Tish Folsom (337-0725) or the church office (886-6041) to make reservations. The cost will be \$15.00 per person. If you choose to pay ahead of time, please leave checks (payable to Bethel) in Tish Folsom's mailbox in Memorial Hall.

There will also be a Silent Auction held that evening. We are asking for donations for the Silent Auction. Any items (homemade, new or slightly used) would be appreciated. Please give donations to the Folsoms or leave them in the church office with a note specifying it is for the Silent Auction. Please turn donations in by Sunday, January 17.

All proceeds from the pizza and silent auction will go to Bethel's mission fund. More information will be coming in the bulletins, so mark your calendar and be prepared to eat, eat, eat! Feel free to call the church office or Keith and Tish Folsom for more information as well!

**2010 Mission Projects** – The Session has approved Witness Committee requests to participate in the following mission projects for 2010:

- An international project in Baja, Mexico
- An Appalachian Service Project in Tennessee
- Two local Greater Augusta Mission Relief projects

Registrations are open for all mission projects until January 14. If you are interested in participating or helping with any of these mission projects please contact Derek Almarode by phone 337-9010 (home) or 280-4940 (cell) or by email at [almarodes@verizon.net](mailto:almarodes@verizon.net) . Thank you!

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**Youth News**

**Middle and High School Youth** will meet on Sunday, January 17 at 6:30 pm. A program on the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) will be presented. We will also have an activity and a snack. If you would like to be a part of the ASP mission trip, please be sure to attend this meeting. Any adult or youth (age 14 or over) are invited to attend this meeting. Come and join us to learn more about this mission opportunity!

**The Appalachian Service Project (ASP)** is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that addresses the housing needs of Central Appalachia. ASP uses volunteers and donations to repair homes in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. ASP is a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to serving God through service to God's children. ASP is not a government program.

**Bethel's Reserved Week** is June 13 - 19, 2010. We need 2 adults and 5 youth to make a team. You must be 14 years old and have completed the 8th grade to participate. If you would like to spend a week helping another family and getting to know others in your congregation, please contact Derek Almarode or Peggy Smith.

**Souper Bowl** - Bethel Youth will support the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 7th, 2010. More information will be given at a later date.

**Financial Stewardship**

**Pledges 2010:** To date 44 pledges have been received for a total of \$95,236.00. Thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2010 - it is not too late. A copy of the pledge card is included in the December Tower and cards are always available at the Church. Completed cards can be sent to the church office (Attn: Receiving Treasurer), put in the Receiving Treasurer mailbox in Memorial Hall or put in the offering plate any Sunday.

**Offering Envelopes 2010:** Numbered offering envelopes are now available in the church vestibule. If you used numbered envelopes in 2009 you will have the same number reserved for 2010. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to, please contact the church office with your request.

*January 2010*

**SESSION NEWS**

The Session met Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. with the Diaconate. All members of the Session were present along with 14 members of the Diaconate. Also present were the new officers for 2012 and the receiving and disbursing treasurers.

Joel thanked all members who are retiring this year for their service during their term of office.

All new officers, Elders and Deacons were approved for ordination and installation.

The Clerk reported he had read the Deacons' minutes for 2009 and found them to be in good order. The Worship Committee reported that communion was served as approved by the Session and required by the Book of Order.

Jane Law was newly appointed to the Memorials Committee.

A gift of \$200.00 was approved for the Middlebrook Fire Department for the annual canvass.

As Joel will be on sabbatical leave this summer, approval was established to have only one service during the summer months of 2010.

The annual Souper Bowl offering will be received February 7th, 2010.

A congregational meeting will be March 7th, 2010 to review the annual reports.

The confirmation class will be March 14th through May 16th, 2010 with confirmation on Pentecost Sunday.

The Bethel mission quilt was purchased by the Seekers Class and presented to the church and will remain at the church indefinitely.

A committee was appointed to look into the possibility of honoring Elders & Deacons with Emeritus status. The committee consists of Billy Wade, Joseph Williams and Jill Webb.

**January 2010**

**Confirmation classes** will start on March 14. If you or a young person you know are interested in this class, please let Joel know so that he can make plans and get enough materials for all. Thank you!

**Flower Schedule**

January 3	Libby Smith/Communion
January 10 – 24	Libby Smith
January 31	Sarah Frances Ralston

**Deacon's Offering Schedule**

Jon Bush	Mary Jones
Kyle Leonard	Tim Turner

**Nursery Schedule**

January 3	Stephanie Rivers; Jackie Law
January 10	Carla Robertson; Joyce Miller
January 17	Derek and Cindy Almarode
January 24	Eloise Moore; Barbara Damico
January 31	Josh and Meagan Smith

**January Greeter:** - John Wooddell

**Church Meeting on 2010 Mission Trips** - There will be an informational meeting on January 5, for everyone interested in participating in any of the mission trips/projects this year. If you are interested in participating in the Appalachian Service Project trip, the Baja, Mexico trip or the local mission projects through Greater Augusta Mission Relief you should make every effort to attend this meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. If you will be unable to attend the meeting but do want to participate in any of the above projects please contact Derek Almarode. Thank you!

**Bethel Cookbooks Are On The Way!!** The Bethel Cookbooks will tentatively arrive on December 21! Please make arrangements with Denise (886-2944; [dythornton@hotmail.com](mailto:dythornton@hotmail.com)) to pick up your cookbooks at the Manse. Please call ahead of time so she can get your order ready. Please contact Denise if you have any questions. Checks should be make payable to Bethel Women. Thank you!

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**Presbyterian Women**

**January Emphasis:** Witness Season

**Meeting Schedule**

Afternoon Circle at the church	January 12, 2:30 pm.
Evening Circle at the church	January 12, 7:00 pm.
PWCT	January 3
PWCT	January 31



Left. Evelyn LaPorte and John Pilson folding January 2010 Tower newsletters.

Below. Jackie Law and Evelyn LaPorte.



**Deacons Notes – December 2009**

As we end 2009, the Deacons wish you a blessed holiday season and thank you for your faithful support and good will. Bethel enjoyed warm fellowship, significant accomplishments, and smooth operations in 2009. We completed renovation of our historic organ and made significant repairs to the church building, Manse, and playground equipment. Things are in good order as we approach 2010.

The Deacons thank Joel Thornton for his support and guidance. Joel fosters close communications and working relationships between the Deacons and the Session, which serve us all well. We thank Ken Wilkinson for his continuing guidance on financial management, Secretary Adrienne Barker for improvements in office automation and for keeping us coordinated, and the church staff for their outstanding good work.

I want to thank the 2009 Deacons for their generous service and the 2009 Session for their support of the Deacon's requests and recommendations. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with all of you.

I especially recognize Kenny Olson as he graduates from 6 consecutive years as a Deacon. Kenny's exceptional know-how, responsiveness, and leadership on the Building and Grounds Committee are legendary and are a blessing to Bethel.

I also recognize Paul Law's lifelong friendship and his service as a Deacon. We miss Paul. He helped me a lot to learn my new job as chairman of the Deacons.

We are thankful for David Turner and his remarkable work again this year, including new stained glass windows, remodeled hallway, and other improvements.

The Deacons' recent activities include helping prepare the 2010 budget, contributing recommendations for endowment management, congregational care activities, and buildings and grounds maintenance.

The December 6th service was cancelled because of icy conditions. When the snow stopped falling at dark on December 5th, our contractor cleared the parking lot and Mac Williams and Keith Bosserman cleared the sidewalks. Young Jonah Williams was with us. Mac said someday Jonah could shovel the sidewalks. The snow was wet and the night was cold, so the service had to be called off anyway on Sunday morning. Cancellation was announced on television and Deacons called congregation members right away. We regret missing contact with at least one family; we hope we didn't miss others.

Continued next page

- Deacon's Notes continued

On December 10th, I got two calls that a chipmunk was in Memorial Hall and sanctuary and that it could disrupt Sunday services if not removed. Not realizing how big the problem was, I called our pest control contractor. He said he'd stop by later. Then I got a call that the creature was flying from room to room. I was still trying to picture that when Jon Bush reported he had herded a flying squirrel into an office and caught it in mid-air. Fortunately he was wearing gloves. He said the little guy was glad to be released from the church. Instead of running away from Jon, it ran to the snow for a drink and started eating what it could find on the ground.



Thank you and happy holidays - Kenneth Miller, Chairman

**Deacon's Prayer List** - Louale Almarode, Glenn Austen, Edith Beahm, Jean Bosserman, Kelsey Bosserman, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Family of Jim Bundy, Lorine Caldwell, Melissa Coffey, Jim Crosby, Jessie Earhart, Louis Fitzgerald, Dale Goodson, Nellie Hamilton, Wayne Hord, Flora Law, Lucy Miller, Suzanne Perl, Tom Small, Charlotte Swortzel, and David P. Turner.

**2010 Diaconate Officers**

Chair	Kenneth Miller
Co-Chair	Derek Almarode
Secretary	Josh Smith

**Committee Chairs**

Buildings and Grounds	Keith Bosserman
Transportation	Shirley Heizer
Congregational Care	Mary Jones
Manse	Derek Almarode
Scout Hut & Property	Wayne Swisher



Adrienne Barker and Bettie Beard folding the January Tower.

Blessings to all who participated in the **BETHEL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (BERF) CHRISTMAS PROJECT**. Because of you, local families will have a happier Christmas! You may make monetary donations to BERF at anytime during the year. Please make your check payable to BERF. You are a generous congregation, and you help us to help others.

- The BERF Committee

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**Our condolences and sympathy** to the family and friends of Dr. Bennie Clemmer who passed away on December 2, 2009.

**Don't Forget!!**

January 1st - New Year's Day

January 18th – Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.