

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church
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January 2011



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Jonathan Edwards' Resolutions for the New Year

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) was one of America's greatest theologians and preachers. He played a central role in the First Great Awakening. Here are his resolutions:

- Resolved:** Never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.
- Resolved:** To examine carefully and constantly what that one thing in me is which causes me in the least to doubt of the love of God and to direct all my forces against it.
- Resolved:** Never to give over nor in the least to slacken my fight with my corruptions, however unsuccessful I may be.
- Resolved:** After afflictions to inquire, "What I am the better for them? What good have I got by them?"
- Resolved:** Never to suffer the least motions of anger toward irrational beings.
- Resolved:** Never to speak evil of anyone, so that it shall tend to dishonor, more or less, upon no account except for some real good.
- Resolved:** To endeavor to my utmost so to act as I can think I should do, if I had already seen the happiness of heaven and torments of hell.

(from Christian Clippings, 1st Quarter, 2011)

Communion will be held on January 2, 2011.

Ordination and Installation of Officers - On January 2, Bethel will ordain and install 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. If you are an officer and are unable to attend, please let Joel know as soon as possible. Thank you.

A Congregational Meeting is called by the Session to be held on Sunday, January 9, immediately following worship. The meeting will review the approved 2011 budget and the pastor's terms of call.

Mailboxes - If you have a mailbox in Memorial Hall, please clean it out by January 2. Please discard information you do not need. Remember to check your mailbox periodically for updates, church information, and mail.

Annual Reports Deadline - The deadline for 2010 Annual Reports is January 31. If you were a committee chair for 2010, please deliver your report and statement to the church office. Thank you!

Weather Cancellation - In the event of bad weather on Sunday mornings, please tune into WHSV - TV3 (Harrisonburg) or log onto their website (www.whsv.com) for information on cancellations. Thank you!

The Church Office will be closed Friday December 31. The staff of Bethel wishes you a safe and Happy New Year!

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 17 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Kroger Benefit Grocery Cards are available from Joyce Miller (337-0828).

Bethel Cookbooks - Remaining 2009 *Taste of Heaven* cookbooks, \$15 each, are available in Memorial Hall. Please leave a check for the Presbyterian Women in the PW mailbox. Thank you!

Speaker at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church - Gail Smith, who has been in Central Asia for the last year and a half, has had many exciting and unique experiences. She will speak about them at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church on January 16th at 3 pm. I think most of you remember Gail, so this will be a wonderful time to catch up and to hear the wonderful stories she has to tell!

Communion Dates - 2011

January 2	New Year/Ordination/Quarterly Communion
March 13	1st Sunday of Lent
April 17	Palm Sunday
April 21	Maundy Thursday
June 12	Pentecost Sunday
August 28	Quarterly Communion
October 2	World Communion Sunday
November 27	1st Sunday of Advent
January 8, 2012	New Year / Ordination / Quarterly Communion

The Witness Committee will meet Sunday, January 16, immediately following worship. If you would like to be a member please attend this meeting or contact Peggy Smith at 886-4653.

MISSION FUNDRAISER! **HOMEMADE PIZZA-PIZZA-PIZZA!**

The Folsom family (with help from the youth and congregation) is hosting an evening of homemade pizza and fun on January 23rd from 4 pm until 8 pm. A free will offering will be collected. Reservations are requested and should be made by Sunday, January 16th. Please call Keith or Tish Folsom (337-0725) or the Church Office (886-6041) to make reservations. There will also be a Silent Auction held that evening. Donations of any homemade, new or slightly used items will be accepted. Clean out that closet or bring unwanted Christmas presents to benefit the mission fund. Please give donations to the Folsoms or leave them in the Church Office with a note specifying it is for the Silent Auction. Donations accepted until the day of the auction.

Mission Trip - Registration for the "Baja Mission Trip" is open. If you are interested in participating please contact Derek Almarode, Keith Folsom, Peggy Smith, or Kathy Swisher. Registration is open until February 1, 2011. Registration for the trip will not be accepted after this deadline. An informational meeting will be scheduled in January shortly after the holidays to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to call or email Derek Almarode (337-9010; almarodes@verizon.net) if you have any questions in regards to this mission trip. Thank you!

Presbyterian Women – The January Emphasis is the Witness Season.

Afternoon Circle will meet at the church January 11 at 2:30 pm.

Evening Circle will meet at the church January 11 at 7:00 pm.

PWCT Meeting - January 2

PWCT Meeting - January 30

Youth News

Souper Bowl Planning: The Middle and High School Youth will meet Sunday, January 16 at 6 pm to discuss Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday and the local Kingsway ministry. After we share a snack, we will work on a craft project that will result in a service to our congregation.

On Sunday, February 6, the Bethel Youth will join youth from all over the United States to collect money for Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Your donations will go to help support Kingsway. The Youth would like to thank you in advance for your generosity!





Flower Schedule

January 2 Libby Smith / Communion
 January 9 –30 Libby Smith

Deacon's Offering Schedule - January

Jon Bush
 Tabby Moore
 Tim Turner
 Mac Williams

Nursery Schedule - January

January 2 Bruce and Linda
 Lamond
 January 9 Katie Williams; Mac
 Williams
 January 16 Karen Koogler,
 Kelley Tuennermann
 January 23 Libby Smith; Evelyn
 LaPorte
 January 30 Joe and Sally
 Williams



January Greeter: Hugh Ralston

Financial Stewardship

Pledges 2011: To date 37 pledges have been received for a total of \$92,240.00. Thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2011 - 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 2011: Numbered offering envelopes are now available in the church vestibule. If you used numbered envelopes in 2010 you will have the same number reserved for 2011. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to, please contact the church office with your request.



SESSION NEWS

The Session met Sunday, December 12th. This was our annual meeting with the Diaconate. Those present were 11 elders, 13 deacons, our 2 treasurers, the moderator and newly-elected officers for the class of 2013.

Ken Miller, Chairman of the Diaconate, gave their annual report.

After discussion of church matters, the two groups each conducted their regular monthly meeting.

The new officers were approved and will be ordained and installed on January 2nd, 2011, at the morning service.

Communion dates for the year 2011 were approved.

A visitation committee was approved and will be available to assist Joel with visiting our members.

Plans have been made to print less copies of the Annual Report in an effort to save on printing expense. Copies will be available in the Church Office this spring if you care to have one.

A meeting of the congregation will be January 9th, 2011, to approve the 2011 budget.

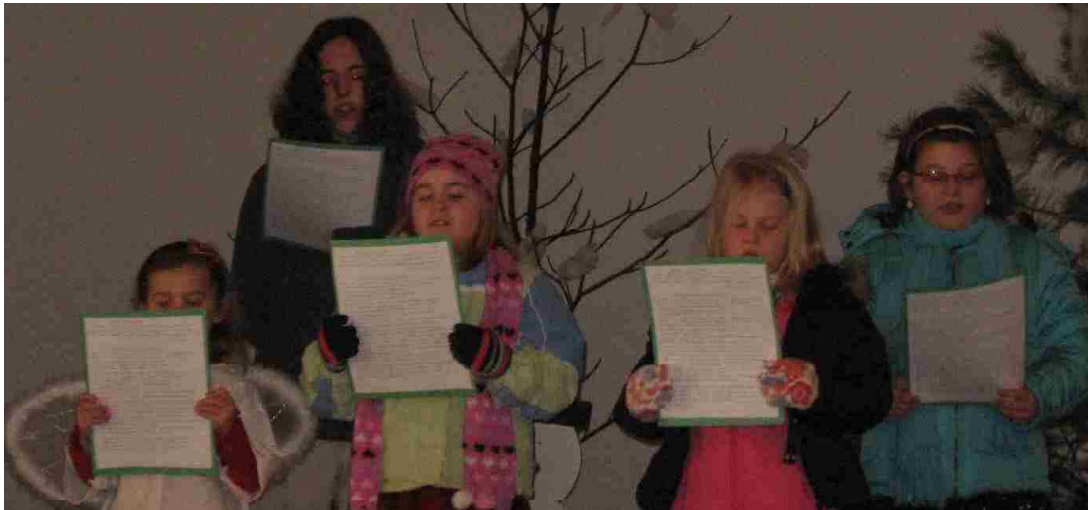


It's a Girl! Carrie and Chris Collins were graced with a baby girl, Kelly Ann, on Tuesday, November 23rd. Bruce and Linda Lamond are the proud grandparents. Kelly weighed 6 lbs, 13 oz and has been blessed with good health. Congratulations on this new

Schooley - Bethel was blessed on December 19th, 2010, with the baptism of Edward Graham Schooley. Edward was born on August 10th, 2010, and is the son of Chris and Therese Schooley.



Kingsway continues to need all types of non-perishable food: cereal, peanut butter, canned goods, dried beans, etc. They also are requesting donations of large men's clothes and household goods. Please place your donations in the designated basket in Memorial Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



Deacon's Notes – December 2010

The Diaconate welcomes our new officers who were installed at the December 12th Joint Meeting of the Session and Diaconate. We look forward to working with you. Bethel is poised to make good things happen in 2011.

We thank those officers who are graduating this year for their good work and good fellowship.

We were reminded Sunday night that Bethel has succeeded and carried on for over 250 years, sometimes in spite of extreme hardships and changing times. Past congregations and past officers have seen it through thick and thin. It is our privilege to continue this long tradition of success.

The Diaconate serves our congregation's needs, cares for physical property, and ensures good communication throughout the congregation. To enhance communications, we work closely with the Session and Trustees, file Deacon's Notes each month, post meeting minutes, and welcome input from the congregation.

2010 was a very good year for Bethel. We are blessed with an outstanding pastor, a wonderful congregation, and fine officers and employees. Our facilities are beautiful, convenient, and a pleasure to use. Our work and administration flow smoothly. We have adapted well to the changing times of the past few years. We operated smoothly through Joel's Sabbatical, and gave him a standing ovation when he returned.

Here are some thoughts about 2010.

(Deacons Notes continued)

- Our buildings and grounds are in good shape, warm and dry. Some long-term building needs will be addressed in 2011.
- The Tower newsletter and church website are important communication tools. We continued to improve the electronic Tower that is sent to those members with email. We made extensive use of email instead of postage wherever possible, reducing office expenses and improving interaction. We hope everyone knows what's going on at Bethel.
- We awarded a competitive contract for lawn maintenance. We held a timber auction, bringing a significant price and opening our woodlands for recreation. The Scouts built a picnic shelter and improved the woods road. The shelter is available for church functions. (By the way, the Scouts again had a year of notable success and are an asset to the community). We are conducting a successful firewood program for church members, and have cut and delivered firewood to neighbors who need it.
- Bethel's income and expense budgets balanced through 2010. The officers instituted an endowment investment program, giving Bethel responsibility for managing its own funds for improved income and safety. We worked with the Women of the Church to establish a grocery card program that provides a new source of income.
- We worked with the Women of the Church to replace worn tables for Fellowship Hall.
- For the choir, we installed a ceiling fan in the choir room and a shading blind for the window over the choir section of the sanctuary.
- We repaired extensive snow and ice damage to the church and Manse, bought a snowblower, and upgraded the office answering machine.
- We did a lot of routine maintenance and repairs, there's always something going on.



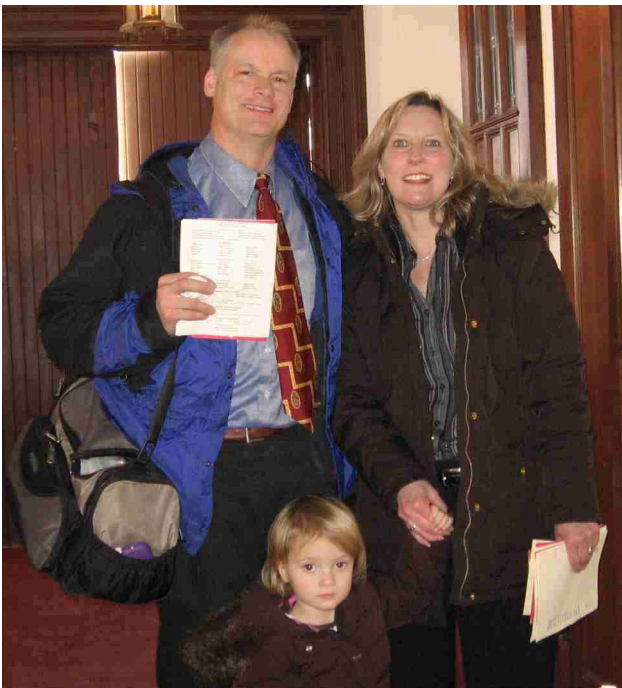
In 2011, let's remember that Bethel needs us all. Let's do our part for our church.

Thanks for a very good year.

Deacon's Prayer List - Edith Beahm, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Lorine Caldwell, Jim Crosby, Aggie Dodson, Jessie Earhart, Nellie Hamilton, Anne Jones, Flora Law, Lucy Miller, Judy Olson, Roy Pilson, Les Prickett, Tom Small, Richard Smith, Charlotte Swartzel, and David Turner.

BERF Christmas Project - Blessings to all who participated in the BETHEL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (BERF) CHRISTMAS PROJECT. Because of you, local families had 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



Bethel Website - If you cannot attend church one Sunday and would like to see the bulletin you can visit the Bethel website at <http://www.bethel-pc.com>. You can view current and past bulletins, announcements, and Towers. There is also an online church calendar that is updated each month with church events.

Don't Forget!!

January 1st - New Year's Day
January 17th - Martin Luther King, Jr.'s

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