

# THE TOWER

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**December 2010**

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



*Gerald Ward tells about a legend concerning the three wise men (the magi) who followed the star to Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus. According to the legend, one of the magi was a young man, full of youthful idealism, who was looking for a King. As a gift fit for royalty, he carried gold. Another of the magi was a middle-aged man, and, to satisfy the deep questions that disturbed his maturing mind, he longed to find God. He carried frankincense with which to worship the God whom he hoped to find under the star. The third was an aged man, with many a sin-stained year behind him. He longed for a Savior. Feeling that such a Savior must also be one who would suffer, he took with him the gift of healing myrrh.*

**Our Annual Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service** will be held at 9 pm. The service is always a moving and beautiful experience as we hear the Good News both read and sung. Many talented local folks come to share their joyful seasonal music with us. Come and take part as we sing, as we pray, and as we praise God for the birth of our dear Savior!

**Joy Gift Program - December 19th, 2010.** Come and join us following the worship service on Sunday, December 19th for a covered dish meal and Joy Gift Program. Our young people will have the program, under the direction of Cindy Almarode and Donna Bush. Practice will be during the Sunday School hour on December 5th, 12th, and 19th.

### **What Is the Christmas Joy Gift Offering?**

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Gift Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The receipts for the Joy Gift Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to help support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.



**The Session and Board of Deacons** will have their annual joint meeting on Sunday, December 12th, at 6:30 pm. All Session and Diaconal members need to plan on attending this meeting. All newly elected officers (returning, ordained, or not yet ordained) will need to make plans to attend for examination by the Session following the joint meeting. If you will not be able to attend, please let Joel know.

**Joel will be on vacation** from December 26th until January 1st. If you have an emergency please contact the church office (during normal office hours) or leave a message on the church answering machine. The answering machine will be checked each day for messages. Thank you!

**The church office will be closed for the Christmas holiday season** from Friday, December 24th through Tuesday, December 28th and on Friday, December 31st, New Year's Eve.

### **Bethel Emergency Relief Fund (BERF)**

**The BERF Tree** is in the hallway between the Fellowship Hall and Memorial Hall. Please take gift tags so that the families we are helping will receive the Christmas that they have dreamed of and prayed about. Remember that gifts should be returned to the church by December 12th and wrapped with the tag attached. Also, don't forget that you can "team up" to buy gifts (especially expensive ones) if you want to. Thank you so much for your great generosity! Bethel's people can always be counted on to be a blessing!

### **Youth News**

**Christmas Caroling:** On Sunday, December 12th, the Bethel Youth will meet at 1:30 pm in Memorial Hall. We will then divide into groups to visit our shut-ins. This is a youth sponsored activity, but all members of the congregation are invited. Come join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship!!!



## Session News

The Session approved the purchase of some papers by Dr. McFarland that were being sold at auction. Cynthia Williams purchased these for us and they are now in the church office for anyone to see.

Ken Miller gave the report from the Deacons.

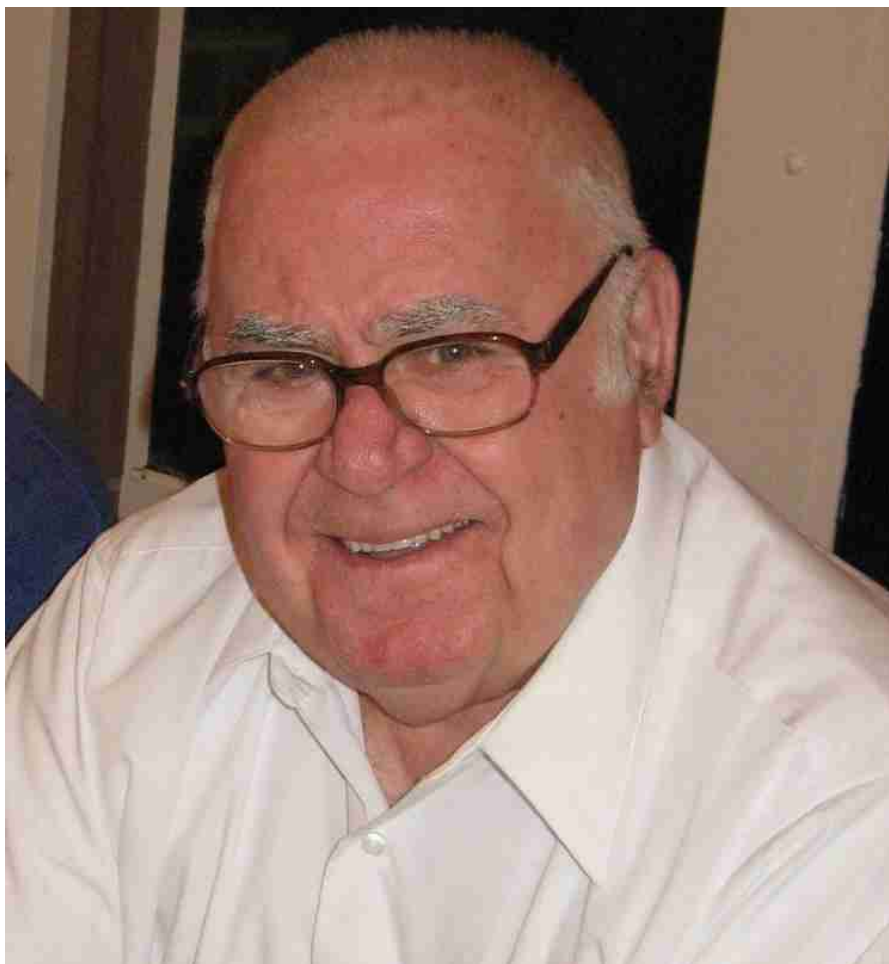
A contribution of \$200.00 to the Middlebrook Volunteer Fire Dept. was approved.

The Session approved the 2011 budget as presented by the Stewardship Committee.

A report of the November 9th, 2010 Presbytery meeting was given.

Joel will be on vacation from December 26th to January 1st, 2010.

The Session and Deacons will have their annual meeting December 12th, at 6:30 p.m.



## **Deacons Notes – November 2010**

Bethel members are actively harvesting firewood from the Bethel woods. The Deacons voted to extend firewood cutting indefinitely for Bethel members for personal or charitable use.

Wayne Swisher and the Scouts completed a picnic shelter and road improvements in the Bethel woods.

Mac Williams led a Fall Cleanup Day on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. We worked on the lawns and cut and delivered firewood to families who are unable to cut it themselves.

The Deacons acquired a snow blower in October.

**Deacons Prayer List November 2010** - Edith Beahm, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Lorine Caldwell, Jim Crosby, Aggie Dodson, Jessie Earhart, Nellie Hamilton, Family Of Jim Heizer, Anne Jones, Mo Kyle, Flora Law, Lucy Miller, Judy Olson, Roy Pilson, Les Prickett, Allen Quick, Tom Small, Richard Smith, Charlotte Swortzel, David Turner.



**Financial Stewardship**

**Offerings 2010:** It is requested that offerings for 2010 be made no later than Sunday, December 26th, 2010. Thank you for your continued support.

**Pledges 2011:** 33 pledges for a total of \$86,920 have been received. Thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2011 - it is not too late. A pledge card is included below and is also available at the church. Send completed card to the church (Attn: Receiving Treasurer), or put in the Receiving Treasurer mail box in Memorial Hall or in the offering plate any Sunday.

**Offering Envelopes 2011:** Beginning Sunday, December 12th, numbered offering envelopes will be available in the vestibule. If you received 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.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FOR 20\_\_\_\_\_**

Grateful for God's love in Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church through our congregation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week month other \_\_\_\_\_  
*(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)*

I (we) wish to receive information about giving through Estate Planning

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**Keep this portion as a record of your financial stewardship commitment for the year 20\_\_\_\_\_.**

My (our) financial stewardship commitment

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week month other \_\_\_\_\_  
*(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)*

## Poinsettia Order Form

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia (s) at \$10.00 each (tax included) to be placed in the church sanctuary during the month of December. Poinsettias will be purchased from Crosby Crest.

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is attached.

Please make check payable to *Bethel Presbyterian Church* and specify “for Poinsettia(s)”. Please return this form and your payment to the Church Office or to Mrs. Libby Smith.

**Deadline for Orders: Tuesday, December 14th at 3 pm**

*Poinsettias will be on display in church on December 19th.*

*\*\*Remember to pick- up Poinsettia(s) following the Christmas Eve Service or on Sunday, December 26th, following the worship service.*



## Witness Committee Report

**The following WITNESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2011 were approved by the Session in October:**

### ***Mission Projects:***

Baja Mexico Trip

Greater Augusta Rebuilding Together, spring and fall project

Nehemiah Project (week long for all ages) with Rebuilding Together Greater Augusta

### ***Fundraisers:***

January

Meal and Silent Auction

February

Meal and Dessert Auction

March

Meal

May, June, July

Yard Sale, Car Wash, Bake Sale

August or September

Team shares with congregation

October/April

Food booth

November

Meal and slide presentation

Mission Tree

Year round in vestibule

### ***Guidelines:***

No amounts will be set for meals.

All persons going on mission trips may be expected to pay full amount of trip.

The money from the fundraisers will be divided between the mission trips and projects.

All persons will be expected to attend and help with all fundraisers.

Deadlines for mission events will be set and strictly adhered to.

For fundraisers the sponsors will have the right to take the cost of their expenses out of the project proceeds.

Each person participating in a trip will be expected to raise money through sponsorships.



## **Presbyterian Women, December Meetings**

Afternoon Circle - Tuesday December 14 at 2:30 pm.

Evening Circle - Tuesday, December 14th at 6:00 pm. We will have a covered dish meal and everyone is asked to bring a gift to exchange (\$10 limit).



## **Cookie Exchange Party!!**

All women of Bethel are invited to a Cookie Exchange Party hosted by Denise Thornton on Sunday, December 12th at 12:30 pm. Lunch will be served. Please bake six dozen cookies, package and label what type of cookie each dozen is. Also, please bring six extra cookies that can be put out for dessert. If you would like to participate please have your cookies in the Church Kitchen by 12 pm on Saturday, December 11th.

Please be so kind to RSVP for the Cookie Exchange Party, so that I may know how much food to prepare for lunch. Also, if you will need a ride home after the party, transportation will be provided. This party is for all women of the church, not just circle members! Please give me the form below or email me at [dythornton@hotmail.com](mailto:dythornton@hotmail.com) by December 1st.

Thank you,  
Denise Thornton

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Need transportation home after the party \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

(You will only need to fill out this form if you will be attending the party; I hope to see everyone there!)

Kingsway continues to need all types of non-perishable food: cereal, peanut butter, canned goods, dried beans, etc. Please place your donations in the designated basket in Memorial Hall. Thank you for your generosity!

**Shenandoah Presbytery** - If you would like information about events going on within the Shenandoah Presbytery log on to the Presbytery's website at: <http://www.shenpres.org> . To keep up with current news and projects within the denomination log on to the PCUSA website at <http://www.pcusa.org> .

### **Nursery Schedule:**

|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| December 5th -  | Joyce Miller; JoAnna Nichols |
| December 12th - | Josh and Meagan Smith        |
| December 19th - | Luanne Leonard; Jake Leonard |
| December 26th - | Barbara Gough; Judy Olson    |

**Deacon's Offering Schedule: December 2010**

Derek Almarode  
Dean Caldwell  
Susan McCutchen-Smith  
Mac Williams

**Flower Schedule:**

December 5th - Bettie Swisher  
December 12th - Bettie Swisher  
December 19th - December 26th - Christmas Poinsettias

**Our sympathies and condolences** to Angeline Mish Bundy and her family on the passing of her son, John Bundy on November 7th, 2010.

**A special thank you to Bethel** for all the prayers, cards, calls, food, and concern you showed during Jim's passing. Special thanks to Joel for all his prayers and visits.

- Betty Heizer and Family

**A special thank you** to Ken Miller for emailing important Congregational News and Prayer Requests. Also, thanks to Ken for emailing the Tower out every month and formatting the Tower for the website. You make my job a million times easier!

- Adrienne Barker, Church Secretary

**A special thank you** to all the ladies who have helped me fold the Tower during 2010: Bettie Beard, Claudia Hall, Jackie Law, Evelyn LaPorte, Joyce Miller, and Denise Thornton. You ladies are absolutely wonderful and make my job so much easier! I could never get the Tower mailed without you! **Also a special thank you** to Ken Wilkinson who faithfully proofreads the Tower every month before publication. Thank you all!

- Adrienne Barker, Church Secretary

## The Witness Committee Thanks You!

**Thank you for help with the Food Booth** on October 29th and 30th.

Jug and Peggy Smith  
Bill and Sally Brubeck  
Kathy Swisher  
John Wooddell  
Sarah Frances Ralston  
Doris True  
Derek and Cindy Almarode  
Billy and Margaret Wade  
Jackie Law  
Barbara Gough  
Jennifer and Grant McDaniel  
Joyce Davis  
Evelyn LaPorte  
Barbara Damico  
Jill Webb

A special thank you to Kevin Dodson for providing the delicious pulled pork barbeque.

Thank you to all who provided the baked goods and canned goods for the sale.

Thank you to all who came and supported the Food Booth.

We made \$1,106.29 and our expenses were \$289.29, paid to The Meating Place. Our profit was \$817.

Thank you again to everyone for your support for this fundraiser.

**The fall project with the Rebuilding Together of Greater Augusta** - the second stage of work was completed on Wednesday, November 3rd and Friday, November 5th at a



home in Waynesboro. The kitchen floor was replaced by the following: Kevin Dodson, David Turner, Guy Brooks, Billy Wade, Kelly Freed, Maggie Freed, Kelsey Grimm and Peggy Smith. Thank you to everyone who helped with our two projects this year.

**The Witness Committee would like to thank Margaret Wade** for all her hard work and time that she gave to the Civil War Love Letter Quilt. Thank you for all the time and effort she gave to the 32 ladies that were willing to complete the squares. A big thank you to Cindy Almarode for being in charge of the ticket sales and for all her hard work to make sure everything was in order. Thank you Margaret and thank you Cindy! Thank you to Alex Nichols for drawing the winning tickets and thank you to Bill Brubeck for the use of the ticket drum. Thank you to everyone who made November 7th the last fundraiser of the year a great success. A special thank you to Wayne and Kathy Swisher for provided the meal on Sunday, November 7th. A special thank you to all who provided desserts for the meal on Sunday, November 7th.



**On Sunday, November 7th, we had another great fundraiser.** Wayne and Kathy Swisher provided the meal. All the desserts were provided by various members of the congregation. Rick Dellinger provided great music. The Civil War Love Letter Quilt Raffle Drawing was held and Alex Nichols drew the tickets for the three drawings. The winner of the quilt was Joyce Miller and the second place winner was Fred Hollen of Stuarts Draft. The meal donations were \$869.00 and the raffle total was \$3,241.00 and a love offering of \$150.00 was given to Rick Dellinger. Thank you to everyone for a job well done!



**The Witness Committee would like to thank everyone** who supported the various fundraisers this year. This is a very generous and caring congregation. Thank you all for the support and love that you show for all the activities that are sponsored by the Witness Committee.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes were delivered Monday, November 15th,** to Calvary Baptist Church. Thank you for your generous support of this project.  
- The Witness Committee

**Boy Scout Troop, Pack 13 and Wayne and Kathy Swisher** would like to thank everyone for supporting our October 2009 meal, which helped finance the picnic shelter. The Scouts have used the shelter three times since its completion in October 2010. We also thank everyone who helped clear the site, build the shelter and supplied equipment. We hope everyone at Bethel will also enjoy using the shelter

**Don't Forget!!**

December 21st - First Day of Winter  
December 24th - Christmas Eve  
December 25th - Christmas Day  
December 31st - New Year's Eve

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

