

# The Bethel Bugle

Newsletter

December 2010

Bethel United Methodist Church  
Pastor Marty Martin

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## UMW Christmas Meeting

*Saturday, December 4, 9:30 a.m.*

All women in the church are invited to join in the fun! The business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by a special program and potluck lunch. Everyone brings a dish to share and Santa may even be on hand to help us reveal our Secret Pals. If you have not attended before and do not have a Secret Pal please don't let that keep you away!! Just bring a small gift for a grab bag exchange! We have a great time!!

## Winter Peace Taize' Service

*Saturday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.*

We will have a "Winter Peace" Taize' worship service on December 4<sup>th</sup> in lieu of the Alive Now! Praise service. The Taize' service is quiet and meditative with lots of singing of repetitive songs and quiet prayer time. It will be a wonderful opportunity to start your Advent season with a sense of peace. If you are new to worship in the Taize' tradition, please come and give a try.

## Youth Group Offer Babysitting and Gift Wrapping Services as a Fundraiser

*Saturday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Church*

Love Offerings Accepted.

**Babysitting:** The youth will be babysitting so parents can have a few free hours to get their Christmas shopping done. Parents, please speak to one of the youth or the leaders if you plan to bring your children so activities can be planned. Each child should bring a sack lunch, activities will be provided.

**Gift wrapping:** Bring your gifts - labeled to whom they go and from whom - and have them wrapped for you! What a holiday timesaver! To help offset their expenses the youth will be most grateful if you have gift wrap, tags, tape, ribbon/bows that you might donate to this project.

Leader contacts: Tina and Matt Comfort, Earl Kemper and Robin Nida.

## Sunday Afternoon, December 19, 3:00 p.m.

### *Children's Christmas Pageant*

The children will be presenting a Christmas Pageant on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. They are preparing for it on Wonderful Wednesdays! If your child would like to participate, please come on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Contact: Rebecca Krauss or Joice Fredenburgh

### *Christmas Cantata*

The adult choir is preparing a cantata to be presented on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. We are looking for more participants. Would you like to sing with us? If you don't have time to sing all through the year, consider joining us for this event. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. We would love to have you sing with us! Contact: Gretchen Davis.

## Christmas Eve Services, December 24

There will be two Christmas Eve services at Bethel.

7:30 p.m. Annual Christmas Eve Family Service. Please bring your friends and family.

11 p.m. There will be a special candlelight service and Holy Communion.

Please join us for one or both!!

## Worship Service, Sunday, December 26

*There will be One Service Only on Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. There will be a "blessing of the toys" that morning so youngsters are encouraged to bring their favorite gift.*

## ***A Message from Pastor Marty***

Seasons Greetings!

Thanksgiving will be passed as you read this and we will be on our way to Christmas. I pray that your Thanksgiving was a time of reflection because you and I have many things for which we should be thankful to God. I live in a country in which freedom is valued. I have a beautiful home, a loving wife, two daughters who are growing into exceptional young ladies, and more stuff than anyone could ever want. But as I reflect on all that I have, none of it would be mine if it were not for God. So above all else I thank God for giving me and making me all that I am and have. And although I know those words do not make sense to all of you, I pray that they someday will.

So with Thanksgiving under our belt, so to speak, we are headed headlong into Christmas. We've got to shop till we drop, decorate until the electrical circuits can hold no more, and bake as though an army were coming to be with us for an extended period. But we are already busy so, this Christmas season will be harried, hassled and gone before we know it. If that describes what you see in your near future, STOP!

Thanksgiving is gone and it is time to make a choice which world you are going to be a citizen of - the world that clamors to us or the kingdom of God that comes as a whisper. We are entering the season of Advent. It is a time of waiting, preparing, and anticipating. It is not meant to be a time of high drama and fever pitch shopping. Advent is a time of reflection. It is not a time to look forward to the birth of the baby Jesus - that already happened. It is a time to celebrate the birth as we do any birthday and to ask ourselves what difference it has made in our lives. Christ has already come as savior and he is going to come again as judge. So, Advent is a time to prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of Christ into our hearts for the first time or anew. If we prepare, we will be ready and we can wait in eager anticipation of the second coming. If we are unwilling to prepare, if we continue to focus on life our own way, what is coming our way is a runaway train.

This season can be a runaway train or it can be a blessing. I pray that you will stop long enough to make this Advent season a blessing for you and for all those you love dearly. Pat and I wish each you an insightful Advent, a very merry Christmas, and a joy filled, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Pastor Marty

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### **Welcome to our Newest Members**

Please welcome Pamela Kalinsky, and Sandy and Greg Nolff as the newest members of our Bethel Family. They were received into the Body of Christ on Sunday morning, November 21.

### **Congratulations to our Newlyweds!!**

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Ed Wagner and June Rinker who were joined in marriage Saturday afternoon, November 20 at Bethel UMC.

### ***Thank you***

Dear Bethel Family,  
I want to thank you for the love and care you poured out on my family during my dad's (Dale Keil) final illness. You blessed my dad (and us) in so many ways, from all the wonderful visits, dinners, delicious goodies, cards--and such a wonderful service of celebration of my dad's life! Thanks to all who attended, and to those who provided the wonderful meal following the memorial.  
My dad truly loved Bethel church, and considered you all his friends. Thank you each and all for making his four years in Virginia beautiful ones. In His Love, *Rebecca Krauss and family*

**United Methodist Women  
Our 2010 bazaar was a great  
success - thanks to all of you!!**

What a wonderful day. We have never had so many participants and contributors, and fellowship and friendship abounded as we worked side by side. Over \$6,200 was raised for our church projects and mission work. Again - thank you!!

**UMW Breakfast Tickets**

Want a great gift for a friend or neighbor?? Buy them a Gift Ticket for the Bethel UMW's famous All-You-Can Eat country breakfast, held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday morning of each month from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The tickets are available for \$8 for adults and \$3 for children ages 10 and under. They're a great idea for a stocking stuffer!! To purchase just ask Ava Lee, June Wagner, Dona Nagy-Sutton or Haldeen Wilson

**Youth Work Camp**

Any youth interested in participating in the Youth Work Camp next July, should be in contact with Ken & Martha Trexler right away. There are only a few vacancies left. Contact by e mail: [trexken@aol.com](mailto:trexken@aol.com)

**Bethel Family Christmas Tree**

This year we will have a Bethel Family Christmas Tree. Here's how it will work! Instead of buying and addressing a card to each member of our Bethel Family, we are asking you to bring one card from your family to your Bethel Family and tie it onto the lighted Christmas tree which will be located in the Social Hall. This way, we will all see and appreciate your family card while providing you an opportunity to use the money you would spend on cards and the time you would spend addressing them in other worthwhile ways - perhaps shopping for a person on the angel tree. We do ask that you continue to send cards to those in our Bethel Family who are not able to join us for church services.

Each Sunday in December, there will be someone at the Tree to help tie on the family cards. If you have family photo cards, bring those in too. We think it will be fun to have our individual cards on a collective Family Tree.

***Thank You for Your Pledges***

The Finance and Stewardship Committees would like to thank each of you who pledged on Commitment Sunday, October 31st to the church's operating budget for the coming year. If you have not had a chance yet to pledge, cards are available at the church and may be placed in the offering plate. Also, thanks to all of you who have turned in a "Sharing my Gifts" sheet. . If you have not yet filled out the form please do so. Making your talents and interests known to the committee leaders is extremely helpful when planning services and events throughout the year!

***Wonderful Wednesdays!!***

Wonderful Wednesdays? What's this all about? Well, come see for yourself.

*Wednesday from 6:00 - 8:00.* Dinner, fellowship, fun for ALL AGES. Children, Youth, Adults. Special programs for kids - pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Youth Group, classes for adults. Everyone is welcome!

**Annual Angel Tree**

Again this year, we will have angels bearing the names of people with their Christmas "Wish List". The Bethel Youth Group is sponsoring the activity this year. The Angel tree will be in the Social Hall on Sunday, December 5.

We ask that you prayerfully consider taking one of the angels, purchasing the items on the lists, and returning them to the church by the deadline. The youth will ensure that they are delivered to the appropriate location.

At this holy time of the year, may we willingly share our blessings and boundless love with those who are less fortunate than we!

**Bethel United Methodist Church Newsletter**

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