

Come to .. Bethel United Presbyterian Church
418 Beatty Road
Monroeville, PA 15146-1332
"THE FRIENDSHIP FAMILY"



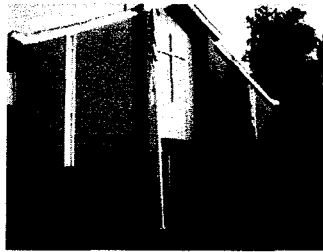
THE BEACON



2010

January

BETHEL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
418 BEATTY ROAD, MONROEVILLE, PA 15146



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
EVERY SUNDAY

9:45 AM - CHURCH SCHOOL
11:00 AM - WORSHIP SERVICE
11:15 AM - SECOND HELPING (w/JUNIOR SERMON)
12 NOON - COFFEE/TEA TIME



Bethel United Presbyterian Church
418 Beatty Road, Monroeville, PA 15146

Bethel Beacon

Pastor's Pen / January 2010

412-372-4716

The ball has dropped, the streamers have unfurled, the confetti has fluttered, so that must mean it is 'Happy New Year'....right? Ah, if 'happy' were only that simple! But, as we clean up after all the New Year's Eve festivities; scraping plates of half-eaten hors 'd oeuvres, emptying out the remains of fizzy liquids gone flat, and tossing silent noisemakers back in a drawer, we might wonder, what exactly it is we are celebrating? I think New Year's is really about celebrating *possibility*. The clean slate of a new beginning is both a relief and a challenge, as we face the opportunity to do things differently. But, no matter how much we might *want* things to be 'better'—our life, our job, our finances, or our health, these things don't automatically come to us when the countdown hits zero. A life of faith is all about new beginnings; it is about God gradually recreating us. God does this gradually; working through the pains, struggles, and joys of life to mold and shape us. Scripture cautions us, that to follow in the footsteps of Christ is a difficult journey, we must count the cost.

Taking the tree down, sweeping up the needles, opening the Visa bill, even stepping on the scale to see the damage done by eggnog and pumpkin pie, can be a sobering reminder that festivity doesn't come cheap. Well, neither does change. Oftentimes, the change we envision in our lives is like a beautiful mountain; it is easier to take pictures, than to climb. We look at the way things have been, and the way things are, and we wistfully imagine how different things *could* be. But, too often, our resolutions are more wishful thinking, than true intention. We try. We make lists, we sketch out a plan, we promise, we propose, we even threaten ourselves in the mirror, that **THIS YEAR**, things will be better, different, new and improved! This time, *we mean it*, we are going to start our diet, stick to our budget, read our Bibles, watch less TV, get along better with our co-workers, spend more time with family, whatever it is that is nagging at our conscience. We rub out hands briskly together, we have a plan, and the milestone of the New Year is the starting gun that signals us to get started, "*Ready, set, go!*"

And yet, in the back of our mind, we hear that still, small voice. No, *not* the one from God, the *other one*. We've heard it before, that tone that *seems* both sympathetic and practical, and yet slowly begins to eat away at our resolve. It quietly whispers nagging doubts into our thoughts, oh, you may not be tired or discouraged, *yet*, but in a few weeks you will be. Come on now, you know come Feb 1st, you won't really get up early to get on the treadmill or go to that brand new health club. You'll soon be back to sneaking Oreos from the bag when no one is watching. You won't stick to that 'reasonable' budget you worked out on paper, because it is way too restrictive. You won't read through the whole Bible, you'll get halfway through Genesis and give up like you always do. Discouraged, we ruefully decide to just turn on the TV and be done with it. Sigh.

We shouldn't be surprised. After all, we all know the pattern, we want change, we get excited, we have a plan, and then, well, reality kind of bogs us down and we get off track and give up. We may not want to face the truth, but the truth is, *the truth IS*. No amount of wishing it away will make it disappear, at least *not for very long*. And the 'truth' is, failure is inevitable; we aren't going to be perfect, so why try? Given these 'facts' it makes sense to abandon the whole idea of change and give up before we even start. But, that is *just* how the enemy deceives us! By making us believe 'the truth' that we can't change, by reminding us of our failures, and playing upon our insecurities. But, as people of faith, we are in the business of the truth, the *whole truth*, and nothing but the truth, *so help us God!* But, that's just it! God wants to help us. We *aren't* in it alone and we can do ALL THINGS through Him who strengthens us! Remember, God is in the very business of recreating us, but in *His* Way, in *His* time, according to *His* will. Oh, the energy we expend wishing, imagining, striving, trying to become 'better,' trying to 'get there' on our own (wherever *that* is), instead of asking God to meet us *where we are* and show us *His* plan; the Way for our lives that He has in mind!

So, what *does* God have in mind? When God looks at us, He does not zero in on the cellulite on our thighs or the spare tire around our middle. He sees creatures beautifully and wonderfully made. He sees what we can become by looking at us *through Christ*. God wants us to become more like His Son, but the first step is not going on a diet. The first step is *discerning the truth*. What is *really* at the bottom of *the change* we want so desperately? Will losing 10 or 15 pounds really solve all our problems? Is our weight truly impacting our overall health, or just our oversized ego? Why *can't* we live within a reasonable budget? What is it we are really trying to 'buy' with our overspending? Are we seeking happiness, security, or self-worth? Unfortunately, we won't find those things at the Mall. Or, have we become *content* being perpetually disgruntled? Are we comfortable in the role of pointing out all that is wrong with the world, expecting 'it' to change so we don't have to? Like Christ's gentle rebuke to a harried and resentful Martha (have you noticed how close Martha is to Martyr?) we easily become obsessed by many things, when only ONE is needful!

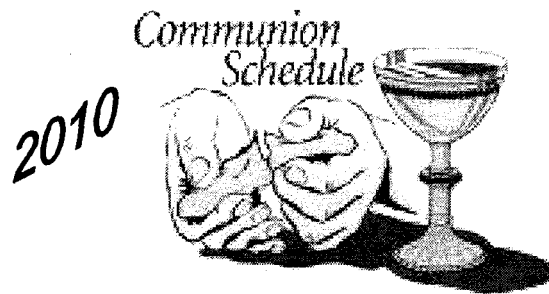
There isn't anything wrong with wanting things to be different. God wants things to be different! But, His brave new world starts not with

our hips, but our hearts! While there are certainly exceptions, what most of us need is not more will power, more money, or more time. What we need is the new attitude that comes to us when we shift our focus from griping to gratitude, from self-interest, to service. We need to accept the truth that we were each created to be unlike anyone else; we are works in progress and God isn't finished with any of us yet. If we submit to God's Will and seek to follow His Way, He will transform us--not all at once, and not according to the priorities *we set*, but according to what He wants us to become. Perhaps then, for the New Year, we can resolve, not to 'take control' of our lives, but to acknowledge that God is in control and to trust in His plan. That doesn't mean we give up on getting healthy, being financially responsible, or strengthening our relationships. But, the first step is putting our trust in God, and seeking to follow His will. As the hymn based on Matthew 6, says, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you, allelu, alleluia!"

It is the Year of Our Lord, 2010 and God is with us! So Happy New Year!

In Christ,

Pastor Nancy



January 3

February 7

March 7
(Third Sunday in Lent)

April 1
(Maundy Thursday)

April 4
(Easter Sunday)

May 2

June 6

July 4

August 1

September 5

October 3
(World Communion)

November 7

December 5
(Second Sunday in Advent)

People Places & Events

Do not underestimate the power of prayer!



TO: JAN.
Beulah Krusey 11
Marli McCullough 26

PRAYER MINISTRY:

Note: Names in bold below denote those who were added this week. Those underlined were added the previous week.

AT HOME: Beverly Kepple (12/09);
 Lucille Irwin (12/09); Jack Matheys (10/09);
 Chuck (8/09), Virginia Gregowich's brother;
 Father Cuthbert, Eleanor Jack's son (5/09);
 Cheryl (9/08), Dahlia Rising's daughter;
 Lloyd Boord (10/09), Alberta Horner's brother

CARE HOMES:

Hilda Buyok (Sunrise Assisted Living)
 Beulah (Dolly) Krusey (Redstone Highlands)
 June McGreevy (Golden Heights Personal Care Home)
 Dorothy Vogeley (Westminster Place)
 Orlando Tamburro (Seneca Place)

Please notify the church office of any changes, additions or renewals to this list. In order to maintain the accuracy of this list, names will be automatically removed after **8 WEEKS** unless otherwise requested.

NOTE: If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know so that we can share it with you.

Sunday,
 January 31st, 2010



Following the Worship Service
 A luncheon will be provided in Fellowship Hall before the meeting.



All committee reports are due in the Church Office on January 4th.

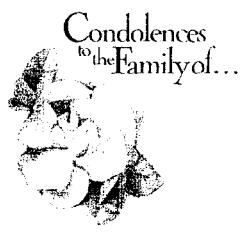
It is very important to have your report submitted on time!! The absolute deadline is January 15th. If this deadline is missed, it will be your responsibility to copy and distribute your report at the meeting.



Saturday, January 9th
 8:00 – 9:30 AM
 Fellowship Hall

WOMEN FOR CHRIST

The Women For Christ will meet on Tuesday, January 5th at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. The hostesses will be Virginia Gregowich and June Hayes. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back and hope some new people will join us.



Betty Brown
 and to the family of
 Daisy Beatty
 who passed away on
 December 14, 2009.

Dear Bethel Family,

I want to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to you all as a congregation for the many thoughtful words, gestures, and gifts of encouragement I have received as your pastor, throughout the year. From the kind and constructive feedback on sermons and Bible studies, to prayers for my family members suffering illness, to plates laden with such savories as deviled eggs, green bean casserole, pickled beets, and cookies that you've packed up for me to take home, to the smiles and handshakes and hugs you have offered to me and my family, all along the way. What a treat it was this Christmas to walk into my office and be greeted by many festive gift bags, cards, and brightly wrapped boxes (picture the surprised "O" of delight on my mouth!) Then, on top of all that, you presented me with a signed card and gift on Christmas Eve. What can I give you all in response except my assurance that it is a privilege to serve the Lord with you! I am truly humbled, not only by your generosity and thoughtfulness, but by the way you have welcomed me into your family.

Our God is indeed an awesome God! May we continue to praise His Name and do His will, together!

In the Love of Christ,
 Pastor Nancy




JANUARY



BETHEL BEACON
 Bethel United Presbyterian Church
 418 Beatty Road – Monroeville, PA 15146
 (412) 372-4716

2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COME, WORSHIP THE LORD					1/ <i>Church Office Closed</i> New Year's Day	2/ 7:00 pm AA Mtg.
3/ <u>Epiphany of the Lord</u> 9:45 - C. School 11:00 - Worship 11:15 - '2 nd Help' 12:00 - Coffee/Tea Time  COMMUNION	4/ 10:00 am Lit. Class 7:00 pm Lit. Class	5/ 12 Noon WFC Luncheon & Circle Meeting	6/ 7:00 pm Lit. Class	7/ 10:00 am Lit. Class	8/	9/ 8 - 9:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 pm AA Mtg.
10/ <u>Baptism of the Lord</u> 9:45 - C. School 11:00 - Worship 11:15 - '2 nd Help' 12:00 - Coffee/Tea Time PANTRY DAY 	11/ 10:00 am Lit. Class 7:00 pm Session Mtg. 7:00 pm Lit. Class 7:30 Monroe. Chorus	12/	13/ 7:00 pm Lit. Class	14/ 10:00 am Lit. Class	15/	16/ 7:00 pm AA Mtg.
17/ <u>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> 9:45 - C. School 11:00 - Worship 11:15 - '2 nd Help' 12:00 - Coffee/Tea Time	18/ 10:00 am Lit. Class 7:00 pm Lit. Class  Church Office Closed	19/ FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20/ 7:00 pm Lit. Class	21/ 10:00 am Lit. Class	22/	23/ 7:00 pm AA Mtg.
24/ <u>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> 9:45 - C. School 11:00 - Worship 11:15 - '2 nd Help' 12:00 - Coffee/Tea Time	25/ 10:00 am Lit. Class 7:00 pm Lit. Class 7:30 Monroe. Chorus	26/ 7:00 pm - All Committees Mtg.	27/ 7:00 pm Lit. Class	28/ 10:00 am Lit. Class	29/	30/ 7:00 pm AA Mtg.
31/ <u>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> 9:45 - C. School 11:00 - Worship 11:15 - '2 nd Help' 12:00 - Annual Meeting & Luncheon						

[JAN. 10]

N E X T

BOARD OF SESSION MEETING

Monday, January 11th, 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEES

- ❖ Christian Nurture – Nancy Dalverny, Chair
- ❖ Congregational Care & Fellowship – Cathy Montecupo, Chair
- ❖ Memorial – Lois Johnson, Chair
- ❖ Mission Interpretation, Community Outreach and Stewardship – Douglas Kitchener, Chair
- ❖ Personnel – Gordon Sauers, Chair
- ❖ Property & Finance – Ed Culbertson
Douglas Kitchener
- ❖ Nominating – Ed Culbertson, Chair
- ❖ Vision – Debra Tamburro, Chair
- ❖ Worship – Holly McCullough, Chair

CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH IS EVERY MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY – BE PART OF 'THE FRIENDSHIP FAMILY'—
INVITE A FRIEND!

There is room for you on a committee.
Talk to your pastor or a member of session about how you can be more involved.



The 2010 Flower Calendar is posted in the back of the sanctuary. Please sign up one Sunday. Fresh flowers are \$30. If two families would like to share on Sunday, the cost will be \$15 per person for fresh flowers. A memorial donation can be made to the church instead of using fresh flowers. Artificial arrangements will be provided. (Please mark "artificial" on the flower calendar and your check.)

COFFEE TIME

ATTENTION

BETHEL FAMILY MEMBERS

January Hosts for after worship social times are:

- 3 - The Kitcheners
- 10 - _____
- 17 - _____
- 24 - _____
- 31 - Annual Congregational Meeting

SIGN-UP ON THE CALENDAR

On the MISSION BOARD at the rear of the sanctuary.

DECEMBER 2009

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>
11/27	52	\$2,519.00
12/6	48	\$2,394.18
12/13	(cancelled)	\$ 475.00
12/20	53	\$2,997.20
12/24	107	\$1,050.00
12/27	59	\$2,302.30

STATISTICS

Bethel Membership Total	90
\$\$\$ Need Weekly	\$2,250.00

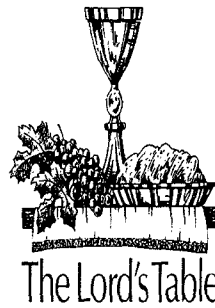
Give thanks to the Lord with a grateful heart.

ELDERS AT YOUR SERVICE

GREETERS / COUNTERS JANUARY



Cathy Montecupo (Head Usher),
Virginia Gregowich, June Hayes



Services of Communion:

January 3, 2010

11:00 AM

February 7, 2010

11:00 AM