

THE BETHEL Bell Tower

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WORSHIP

"Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing." Psalm 100:2

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Who Are We?

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

~ Psalm 8:3-4

I hope you have had a great summer! The Wilsons have been very busy this summer – even chaotic at times. We have been to several concerts; we got a puppy (Bingley Fromage Wilson); Caroline and I went to Confirmation Camp; I went on the Sawdust and Sandals servant trip; we went to Southport, NC, Frankenmuth & Saginaw, MI; and spent a few days camping at Big Meadows in the Shenandoah National Park. Whew! I'm almost afraid to say this, but I'm looking forward to the routine that the school year brings.

Vicki and I sat down recently to look at our family calendar through December. It's overwhelming when we add all of the activities for church, Vicki's work, Caroline's school, and the stuff we do for fun. I hear people talk about how busy they are, so I know I'm not alone as I see it in my own life. I hear some people in the church asking for more programs or more events. These are good things that would likely add to our ministry. I also hear people say that maybe we do too much as a congregation. Are we, as a church, adding to the stress and stretched thin-ness of the people in our congregation? Should congregations simply not offer programs and activities because of other activities outside the church?

How are the answers to these questions impacted by Christ's commands to love the Lord with all your heart, and to love our neighbors as ourselves?

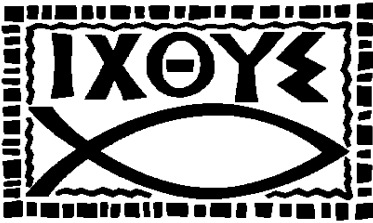
Vicki and I found ourselves stepping back from everything written on the calendar and asking "Who are we?" "What are *our* values as a family?" "Where is God calling us to put our time, talent and treasure?"

You may be asking the same questions in your family. Bethel asks and should ask these same kinds of questions as a Christian family. All of us, Bethel included, are in the position of having to decide what we will and won't do. The three questions in the paragraph above with prayer can lead us as we answer these decisions.

With this *Bell Tower*, you will see a lot of information about the ministries of Bethel. For these ministries and for those who lead and support them, we give thanks to God. As you read through them and participate in the Ministry Fair this fall, pray. Everyone in our con-
(cont. on page 2)

Important Dates

- September 2**
ESL Registration
- September 6**
Church Office Closed
- September 9 & 10**
Preschool Orientation
- September 12**
10:00 a.m. Worship/
Rally Day/Church Pic-
nic
- September 13**
Preschool Classes Start
- September 16**
ESL Classes Begin
- September 18**
Worship Svc Training
- September 19**
Confirmation Informa-
tion Night
- September 29**
Confirmation Classes
Begin



DEFINING MISSION

Bethel makes disciples of Jesus Christ in our community using our God-given gifts.

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.” Psalm 100:2

WORSHIP

(cont. from page 1)

Mission Council 2010

Carol Blauvelt

Rod DeSmet (Treasurer)

Art Freas

Peter Grasis

Mary Hill (President)

Anna Improtta

Bob Schilpp

Anita Waggy
(Secretary)

Joe Weller

Ken Weschler

Kevin Wilkens

gregation can play a role (great or small) in the support of the ministry. If you have a question about how your skills and interests can be put to use, give me a call ... we'll sit down and talk about it.

The goal of the ministries of this church is not to simply add more activities to our already busy calendars. Instead, through our ministries, we grow in our own faith and share the good message with others that there is a good, loving, and merciful God who cares for them and wants a good life for them – an everlasting life certainly, but also a life here and now, on this side of eternity, that is a daily experience of God's salvation (Psalm 27:13). This God wants a relationship with each of us.

As we face the challenges of the season, knowing that God loves us and wants what is best for us helps us set priorities for ourselves and our families. I know myself well enough to know that there will be many times throughout the year where I will try to do more than time allows and where I will not live up to my priorities. I also know God well enough to know that it is God's nature to love, to forgive, and to guide us.

Pray as we enter the fall, the beginning of the church's "program year". Pray for the ministries of our congregation. Pray for the ministry of your life and how you may participate in the church's ministry to spread this good message.

In these last weeks of summer, allow yourself time to pray thanking God for being part of your life and valuing you as His own. Ask God to lead and support you in all the seasons of your life.

In Christ,



BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASTOR JEFF WILSON, Senior Pastor
DEBBIE MULLINAX, Administrative Assistant
JASON LARGENT, Director of Music Ministries
PEGGY SCHILPP, Membership Information Specialist

CHARLENE SHEPARD, Preschool Director
JEANNE ENDRIKAT, Newsletter Editor
SARA JENS, Newsletter Layout**
**volunteer

The Bethel Bell Tower is a monthly publication of this congregation.
Please submit all articles to the church office or email to: bethelbelltower@gmail.com



How Does Bethel "Hear"



Interesting question, isn't it? We don't all hear in the same way. By that I mean children probably have the most acute ears, teen-agers might just have good hearing, but they also tend to tune out, young adults hear and focus pretty well, young marrieds hear pretty well, but are distracted often by their young children, the older adults and aging adults and even young hearing impaired children have hearing that is diminished by degrees and the aging process.

When we enter the sanctuary what do we hear and how do we hear it?

Bethel has a sound system to help enhance our worship servers and our pastor's voices so that our congregation can better hear. Yet Bethel's current sound system with pulpit and lectern mikes and sanctuary speakers was purchased in approximately 1985, and the wireless system added in 1996 with a speaker in the nursery. Since that time, numerous repairs have been made to the original system, but basically what we use today was installed in 1985. A recorder was placed in the robing sacristy to record services shortly after the wireless system was added; that's 25 years of good hard use.

You may have noticed that during the last year we have stopped using the lectern mike and our lectors now read from the pulpit. Why? Many of you have been at services when mid-sermon, mid-song, or mid-silence a voice is heard over the sound system along with crackling and sputtering noises. This interference comes from systems used in nearby churches and radio stations which is carried over the lectern/pulpit system. We have increasing problems with recording and playback of tapes, some of which are related to the location of this system in the robing sacristy. Also, the equipment takes up room in the sacristy and thus makes it vulnerable to damage.

In consideration of the age of the sound system, the various patches and repairs to the system over these 25 years, and the desire for better management of the system and a better system, a team of Bethel people has been tasked by the Worship and Music team to look into the best approach to repairing, replacing, and enhancing our system. All who worship and attend events at Bethel should be able to hear well. Those who are unable to attend because of health and disability problems should be able to have recordings of services and events that help them be a part of worship in their church.

A three-tiered proposal has been worked up to include short term needs that are absolutely necessary such as replacing wiring and microphones, installation of equipment to aid the hearing impaired; near term needs which include replacement and additional equipment such as additional speakers and microphones; and long term visioning need to better enhance worship and events.

This team is in the process of obtaining estimates from three companies for repair, modification, and enhancement of Bethel's sound system. A forum to present and discuss the proposal and this vision will be held on the 10th of October during the Sunday School hour. Please try to attend so that you can be a part of this vision.

Connie Houtz, chair Worship and Music Ministry Team

Dikiosis, Bethel's sacred dance group, will resume practices on September 16 at 7:00 pm. Anyone who is 16 or older is welcome to join the group. Contact Tammy Warner at 703-361-0002 if you have questions.



ALTAR GUILD, WORSHIP AND COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, USHERS, LECTORS

Anyone who is interested in serving in or learning about serving or who is currently serving in any of the areas of worship is invited to attend a training session to be held on Saturday September 18th at 10am. Bethel uses a large core of volunteers to help in worship. Please consider participating in one or several of these areas. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Ushers Needed



Lianetta Ruetters has passed the torch - Wayne and Kathy Stewart will be the new Usher Coordinator's beginning in September. Thanks to Lianetta for serving in this position for a number of years!

Bethel has had some dedicated ladies and gentlemen, husbands and wives, dads and daughters, moms and sons, and just good ole friend usher teams! Many thanks to the regulars we have counted on being at the sanctuary door to greet us, gather our offering, and lead us to communion. And thanks to all of you who have agreed to continue on your regularly scheduled Sunday.

We have been pretty consistent in being able to line up in advance at least two ushers each Sunday, but having four people sure makes the process go more smoothly. Sunday mornings often someone is tapped on the shoulder asking if they can be the 3rd or 4th usher to help with offering collection. When intinction is the method for communion, two ushers work fine, but when communion is administered at the altar, it is nice to be able to have the 3rd & 4th ushers at the wings, kindly offering an arm to someone needing a little help descending the steps.

If ushering is a role you have considered, we would love to get you involved. Upcoming usher training is named elsewhere in this issue of the Bell Tower and we hope you will consider attending. Be assured, new ushers will always be paired with seasoned ushers.

If you are a parent of confirmation age children, consider ushering on a Sunday your child is serving as an acolyte or crucifer. Make it a family affair! Ushering is a great way to meet people while extending a kindness. Please give us a call or drop us an email if you'd like to consider ushering - we'd be happy to tell you more about it.

Wayne and Kathy Stewart 703.369.5366 or K9Thor424@msn.com



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SERVICE BOOKS AND PEW BIBLES

In July and August our congregation had the opportunity to hear a temple talk and participate in a forum about the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service Book and Hymnal. An article in the August Bell Tower reviewed the history of service books and hymnals used in Lutheran worship and how we got where we are today. The ELW was introduced into ELCA congregations in 2005. Bethel has been using the LBW settings intermixed with portions from the ELW for the last several years and most recently has been using liturgical settings from the ELW. It is now time to make the change to the ELW. On the recommendation of the Worship and Music ministry team, Bethel's Mission Council has approved the purchase of the ELWs by our congregation along with purchase of Bibles for the pews.

The cost of the ELW is \$22.50 per copy. The pew Bible is \$13.99 per copy. Initially we would like to purchase 200 ELWs and 100 pew Bibles. See forms on page 15 which can be used for ordering. ELWs may be purchased for dedication to, in memory of, and in honor of. Dedicatory bookplates will be placed in the ELWs prior to dedication later this year. Forms are also available in the Narthex and on the Bethel web page.

Let us join together in raising our song and renewing our worship in a new treasury of worship, prayer, and song. In worship we receive God's grace, freely given to us in Christ. In worship we respond with praise and thanksgiving to that freely given gift. As you prepare to support our church's worship life through the gift of new worship resources, you are invited to respond with a grateful heart.

LEADERSHIP

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you...”

Hebrews 13:7

President’s Message

My family and I were recently on vacation in Charleston, SC. In jest, I asked my older son if he wanted to go to church at the local Lutheran church. To my surprise he said he would like to. Sunday morning arrived and we were waffling on whether or not to go. The allure of the beach just outside our door was beckoning, but so was the curiosity of experiencing a different congregation. In the end we did attend and it turned out to be one of the highlights of our vacation. As luck would have it, they were having a celebratory luncheon after the service, and Jack and I were fortunate enough to be invited. We dined on a true Southern dish known as Beauregard’s Stew: a mixture of corn, potatoes, spicy sausage and shrimp. It was delicious! But even more delicious was the hospitality and warmth that emanated from that congregation. By the end of the luncheon we felt as if we had known these people for years. It was a relatively small congregation so visitors stuck out like a sore thumb. Almost every single person in attendance made a special point of welcoming us, and one family took us under their wing and arranged



One of the reasons for sharing this story is that no matter how small a decision is it can change your attitude for a very long time. The decision to attend this church set the tone for the entire vacation for me personally, and I am truly grateful for that. I encourage each of you to look at decisions and opportunities, no matter how small or irrelevant, how they might affect you. Ask yourself: Is God trying to tell me something here? Is He trying to guide me to decide one way or another? Often we get so caught up in our own agendas we fail to remember that ultimately it is God’s agenda to which we need to adhere.

I have been thinking about the people we spent a few hours with since sharing a meal with them, and it is a tribute to their ministry that a brief moment in time could affect my attitude so profoundly. Think about your own decisions and actions: will they affect you in a positive way and bring you closer to God or will they work to put distance between you and your Savior?

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

“Now there are varieties of gifts,...but the same God activates them in everyone” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Tricia Ernst’s Mission

Friends in Christ,

I want to say a big thank you to my Bethel family for helping me raise funds for Young Adults in Global Mission! At my UK Dinner Fundraiser in July, I raised \$2,600, and have raised a total of \$3,900. I have reached my fundraising goal! I give God all the credit; I could not have reached this goal without him. Also, thank you to everyone who donated money and time, came to my event, and offered me prayers and words of encouragement. They were all a big help. I have YAGM orientation in Chicago from 18 August to 25 August, and I fly out to England 2 September. Please pray that I make a positive impact on the church and youth of Langham and Boxted, England, and that this year of service will further my spiritual growth and discernment. Follow my journey at www.triciaintheuk.blogspot.com and friend me on Facebook: Tricia Ernst.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Tricia



ESL TUTORS NEEDED

The fall session of Bethel’s ESL classes begins on September 16 and continues every Thursday night, 7 - 9 PM through December 9 (less Thanksgiving). We held two registration nights, and the students are ready. BUT - WE NEED HELP! No experience required. If you speak English, and want to help someone else improve their English language skills, you can make a difference. Volunteer with a friend; tutor teams are a great way to go, making it fun for both the students and tutors. Don’t wait; do it now! Please!

Want to know more? Ask any of our recent tutors: Jim Zech, Joan Appleton Costanza, Ruth Passarge, Jeanne Endrikat, Megan Pomfret, Jen Mayes, or contact Charlotte Cochard at 703-330-6960 or cjcochard@comcast.net.

OUR RESPONSE TO NEED

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” James 1:22

News from SERVE

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education. ~Mark Twain

It's Finally Here!! The new refrigeration unit has arrived, been installed and is up and running! It's huge, with separate entrances for both the refrigeration freezer units. Thank you to **Everyone** who supported us this year in our campaign to make this possible! Stop by the Food Warehouse sometime so you can see the results of your support!

We already know September will be a busy month. On September 15, the Manassas and Bull Run Rotary Clubs will hold the annual **Lou Maroon Golf Tournament** in support of SERVE at the Piedmont Club in Haymarket. For more information on this event, please contact Stephanie Berning, Event Specialist, at 703-219-2120 or email sberning@nvfs.org.

On Saturday, September 25, SERVE will be hosting a **Kids Carnival** for the shelter children. Last year's event was a big success, with a donated moon bounce, bean bag toss, sack races and cookout for all to enjoy. The event will take place in SERVE's traffic circle from 12pm to 4pm on the 25th, and about 10 volunteers of all ages are needed to help set up, operate the games and clean up afterwards. Please contact me for more information and to sign up.

Also coming September 25 – **Yard Sale!** Stay tuned for more information!

In September, there will be one volunteer orientation, on Tuesday, September 14 at 5:30pm. New volunteers must attend an orientation prior to volunteering with SERVE. The program takes about 90 minutes, and includes a tour of the facility. Please contact me for more information or to sign up.

Reminder: SERVE's offices will be **Closed** on Monday, September 6 in observance of **Labor Day**. We will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, September 7. Have a great Labor Day holiday, everyone!

Jan Hawkins, Volunteer Coordinator,
703-367-6742, email jhawkins@nvfs.org

REMINDER: Even though SERVE collected school supplies at the mall in August, Bethel is still collecting school supplies through September.

FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY

“we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” 1 John 1:3

Bethel Rally Day Picnic

It is time for the Bethel Rally Day Picnic, September 12, 2010. Please look for the signup sheet in the Narthex as to what you would like to contribute. As always this is a wonderful way to kick off the Sunday School program, but also a chance to catch up with your church family members. It really does not need to be said, but it is also an opportunity to enjoy some of the best cooking in Northern Virginia! As always, I will be asking for assistance with setting up, clean-up, slicing tomatoes, preparing lettuce and last but not least the chopping of the onions. Thank you in advance for all the help this congregation can be depended upon to provide and I look forward to hearing from you regarding needed help.

Thanks,
Jennifer Lowe
kjgelowe@braemarnet.com
571-436-0163



Sr. High Retreat for 9th - 12th Graders

A Sr. High Retreat for 9th - 12th graders is being scheduled for November 2010 at Caroline Furnace. More details will be forthcoming in the October Bell Tower. Senior Highs can contact Tammy Warner at Tammywarner7@gmail.com if you are interested in going or need more information.

EDUCATION

*"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray."
Proverbs 22:6."*

Adult Education Forum



During August, the Adult Forum attendees participated in a 4-week study of "People of Faith" which included Adam, Abraham, Sarah, and Jacob, sub titled "A Gardener, Two Travelers, and A Cheat".

Other studies in this series the class will consider for fall and winter are Rachel, Joseph, Moses and Joshua; Ruth, Samuel, David, and Elijah; and Gomer, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Job.

Another possible study series is a Bible Introduction, "The Greatest Story" which covers the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation in which the class explores where they fit into this story and how these stories fit into our lives.

Special topics are often presented and during September and early October we will have a presentation and discussion on Ministry Team Structure and how the teams interact, a class on discovering our Spiritual Gifts, participate in and learn about our various ministries with a Ministry Fair and Fair Trade Fair, and have a presentation and opportunity for discussion of proposed changes and improvements to Bethel's sound system.

Join the Adult Forum as we join in study and lively discussion of our faith.

SCHEDULE - FALL 2010

Sept 5	- Labor Day weekend, no class
Sept 12	- Rally Day
Sept 19	- Forum on Ministry Team Structure and Interaction/ Lollipop Chart
Sept 25	- Spiritual Gifts Class
Oct 3	- Ministry Fair and Fair Trade
Oct 10	- Forum on Sound System Changes
Oct 17	- open
Oct 24	- open
Oct 31	- open
Nov 7	- Budget Forum
Nov 14	- open
Nov 21	- open
Nov 28	- 1st Sun Advent, begin Luther sermon series for Advent



PRESCHOOL

Important Dates:

September 9: 4's Orientation

September 10: 3's Orientation

September 13: 1st Day of Classes

The preschool is gearing up for its 38th year of preparing children for Kindergarten. September is an exciting month with new friends to meet and new things to learn.

There are still a limited number of openings in our 2-Day/wk. 3 year old class and our 5-Day/wk. 4 year old class. If you (or someone you know) have a child who will be 3 or 4 by Sept. 30, our preschool is a great place to begin their learning experience. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board next to the Church Nursery. For more information, please contact Charlene Shepard at 703-368-7125 (office) or 703-369-3448 (home).
(cont. on page 8)

EDUCATION

“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.”

Proverbs 22:6.”

Preschool Tidbits—Little known facts about Bethel Lutheran Preschool (BLP):

- Nancy Good’s mother was the founder of the program in 1972.
- Its original name was: Bethel Christian Nursery School.
- Four Bethel members have each been part of the governing Committee for over 20 years (Debra Clark, Denise Lindquist, Charlene Shepard, and Kathy Stewart). All of their children were Bethel preschool graduates and have now either graduated from college or are just entering college.
- The program is entirely self-sustaining, all income is generated through registration, tuition, and fundraising. Funds are designated to the church to offset expenses, and the preschool’s outreach to the community has brought new members to Bethel.
- The church playground was funded entirely by preschool fundraising efforts and various congregation member gifts, most notably the generous donation of Linda Hester in memory of her husband. (During the preschool’s early years, Linda directed and taught at the preschool. Both she and Tom’s daughters graduated from the preschool.)
- The preschool celebrates All Saints Day with a “Bible Hero Party.” Students and staff alike dress up as Bible characters or members of the animal kingdom. (Wiggle room is afforded certain characters, for example: *Ninja Turtles*.)
- Every December, Charlie Proctor visits the preschool in a red suit and white beard. Children LINE UP to sit in his lap and visit.
- It is not uncommon for all children in a family to attend the preschool. Just this year, a 4-year-old preschooler graduated whose sister is now in high school. (It’s really fun to see big kids in the Graduation audience.)
- Parent/teacher conferences are held in February to share the assessment of Kindergarten readiness. Prince William County’s Child-Find Office cooperates with BLP when a child needs extra help. This “early intervention” is key to the success of a student entering elementary school.

The preschool staff is highly credentialed and first aid certified. Meet our staff:

Charlene Shepard, Director. Charlene is starting her 4th year as Director. She has taught and directed Vacation Bible School, taught Sunday School, substitute taught Preschool, and served in various positions on the Preschool Committee. Charlene managed her own Home Daycare for 12 years from infants to age 12 and has been our most successful Director at fundraising for the preschool. (Charlene is a member of Bethel.)

Michele Blue, 5 day 4-year-old teacher. Michele graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and completed an Elementary Education PK-6 Licensure Program at George Mason University. Michele has taught Kindergarten and first grade, and coaches volleyball and swimming at Osbourn Park High School. (Michele is a member of Bethel.)

Melanie Morton, 5 day 4-year-old teacher. Melanie graduated from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Family and Child Development. Prior to BLP, she taught for 6 years at Manassas Christian Academy. (Melanie is a member of Bethel.)

Kim Shaver, 3-year-old teacher. Kim has an Associates Degree from NVCC and has worked as a Teacher Assistant and Kindergarten Assistant in PWC schools.

Annette Peterson, Music Teacher. Annette has loved singing since *she* was a Kindergartner and loves sharing her love of music with our preschoolers. Annette also teaches soccer and is the Osbourn Park High School Band Booster President.

Cheryl Asturias, Preschool Aide. Cheryl has 3 daughters that all attended BLP. She is our floating aide/substitute teacher, happy to assist in the classrooms and in the preschool office.

As you can see, we are very proud of our preschool program at Bethel. We are pleased to provide employment to a number of Bethel members; and happy to teach both Bethel members’ children as well as children in the Manassas and Bristow communities. We have a diverse student population, serving several faiths as well as ethnicities – one class has fondly been referred to as The United Nations! Although a small program, one of our unique attributes in the community is our 10:1 student/teacher ratio. This is by design – nurturing little ones as if they were our own! Come see what we are all about!



The Glocal Mission Gathering (joining together “global” and “local”) brings together experts and resources on global and domestic ministry under one roof, for one week-end, in one convenient location so congregational leaders can build ministry skills, no matter where they serve. Your gifts, shared at this event, will strengthen us together to engage in God's mission everywhere.

Mission takes place everywhere in the world — including North America, where it influences our ministry every day. By understanding how God's activity is changing the world around us, we can build and develop skills that help us engage, serve, support, learn, and travel more faithfully, globally and domestically. These skills can help you be an effective part of God's mission.

The Glocal Mission Gathering for our area is at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, PA, Friday, November 12, 2010 2:00 PM - Saturday, November 13, 2010 5:30 PM. The cost is \$35 per person.

At this event, we will learn how to:

- Enhance our connections with the worldwide Lutheran family
- Gain practical skills for mission
- Give, receive, and serve more effectively
- Discover how changes in the world are transforming the way churches like the ELCA proclaim and serve
- Lead inviting worship that includes global voices

Travel internationally in a way that is effective, sustainable, respectful, and cross-culturally sensitive

To read more about these events, go to www.elca.org/glocal.



Emily Sullivan Cooks for Shelter Residents

A handful of church women were busy in the kitchen this morning to contribute to SERVE, Inc. in a new way that also strengthens church bonds between the “Near” mission team and confirmands. As the pilot-lunch for this outreach, the small crew headed by confirmand Emily Sullivan cooked an entire meal to serve 50 residents at the SERVE emergency shelter. Headed by Grace Shultz, Bethel’s “Near Team” then took the food over to SERVE to be, well, served. The menu consisted of lasagna, garlic bread, Caesar salad, mixed fruit, sweet tea and chocolate chip cookies. Hopefully, more confirmands will get involved in the cooking every third Sunday of the month.

Sawdust and Sandals Work Trip (August 2010) to Vineland NJ



On Sunday August 8, as part of the 2010 Sawdust and Sandals project, Bethel youth (8 teens) and 4 adults gathered at the church and in full anticipation loaded Bethel's bus for the trip to NJ. Arriving in the evening, we were met by our host leader, Neil Brown and his wife Meryl. Our group consisted of: Danny H. and his brother, Peter H., Alyssa G., Emmaleigh N., Olivia S., Jack H., Nick F., Ian Freas, Art Freas, Sharon Freas, Pastor Jeff Wilson and Jim Anderson. Ian also served as our resident EMT for minor cuts et al.

Lord of Life (LOL) Lutheran Church in Tabernacle, NJ would be our host site (for eating, sleeping, showering) and also serving to host the "Fuller Center for Housing in the New Jersey Pines". Neil and Meryl Brown, as project leads from the Fuller Center, explained the work that we would be doing in Vineland about 30 mi south. The house would be renovated for use by "Family Promise" as a job training and counseling center. The 1860 house at "Trumpet Hill" is owned by and across the street from Redeemer Lutheran Church. Our role in the renovation required removing the plumbing, radiators, early 1900 electrical lines and two bathrooms, a side room and a rear porch. We were to parge the walls on the inside of the basement foundation (paring is mortar put on like stucco). All in four days! After the Neil's intro, we set up in a classroom with air mattresses and sleeping bags.

Monday after breakfast at LOL we drove to Vineland. We divided into four work teams, each with one adult and two teens, and began the removal of the inactive electrical lines and disconnecting the radiators. Then the fun began as the boys and girls each had a chance to smash or pry apart six radiators and throw the pieces out the window next to the dumpster for recycling. One team removed the interior walls in an upper room. At day's end, we packed up tools and returned to LOL. The team members showered, heated dinner, held a short devotion, and packed bag lunches for the next day. Team members rotated among the duties including breakfast, dinner, water person, and photographer. In the evening, we watched the *Men in Black* movie shown on the classroom wall. After a hard day it was easy to settle in to the sleeping bags. Prepared meals and supplies contributed by Bethel members were very much appreciated and made it easy for the team to focus on work at "Trumpet Hill". Your efforts were an essential part of this project.

Over the next three work days, we took down the walls of a bathroom and the teens smashed the toilet and sink into little pieces. More pine panel wall boards were removed upstairs. The back porch roof was pulled off using a rope tied to Neil's SUV. Sections of heating and plumbing pipes were sawed off in the basement. Two of the boys helped a church member haul the pipes and radiator parts to the recycler, resulting in 4000 lbs gone and \$700 returned.

We disassembled the side room walls. The side room roof was pulled down near the end of Thursday and lay on the ground ready for easy disassembly on Friday. All debris was placed in the second dumpster along with the room floor. The remaining bathroom was partially disassembled and the narrow back stairway removed. We cleaned the house, picked up tools and departed Friday afternoon.

Wednesday was a planned break day at Six Flags Amusement Park. Arriving in the park's bus parking area, we were greeted by a NJ DMV bus inspector, who misread the regulations and would not release the bus from Six Flags without a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) driver. After much scrambling, Neil found Teresa, a school bus driver, who rescued the group and returned them to LOL. The misread CDL requirement eventually was sorted out. (cont. on page 11)

STEWARDSHIP

“...it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Acts 20:35b

On Saturday, Neil wanted us to participate on a construction project where they are converting garage space into a handicap accessible bathroom. The kids removed a damaged front gutter and helped assemble and install a replacement. The team put into the room floor joists and built a wall on the driveway. Everyone carried the wall into the garage for installation. We returned to LOL cleaned ourselves, and cleaned the spaces as we packed and had lunch. Neil and Meryl awarded us "Fuller Center for Housing in the New Jersey Pines" tee shirts for a very successful work project by all. The teens and adults worked well together all week and learned several new skills along with a true sense of community Christian service. See pictures and the S&S group blog at www.sawdustandsandals.org and other Fuller Center work under way at www.fullercenter.org/newjerseypines.



Sawdust and Sandals Gather for a Picture (Vineland NJ)



COMMUNICATIONS & EVANGELISM

Why, you ask, have I chosen a centipede to represent the Communications portion of the *Bell Tower*? Because I imagine that, for centipedes, getting all those legs in synchronous motion is NOT the easiest thing to do. Sometimes I feel that way about church tasks; getting everyone going in the same direction with the same goal seems a miracle!



Once I learned how to get into the mailbox that I mentioned last month, (communications@bethelmanassas.net), I found that no one had contacted me about dreams for the website. I felt a little disappointed, but then realized that not everyone shares my vision for what it might be. You are still invited to contribute *whenever* your particular method of inspiration hits you.

We have some ideas on how to communicate the growing congregational structure to you. The first session is tentatively planned for September 19th. The schedule may not be soon enough for everyone, but we'll keep on the journey one step at a time.

As always, if you'd like to talk to me about communication-related issues, I can usually be reached at home (703-330-1992).

- Joan Appleton Costanza

The Season for Serving

By Pastor Mary Kieser

I'm saddened anticipating summer's end, but must admit like everyone else that I will surely appreciate the cooler fall temperatures! What I'll miss, however, is the slower pace of the season, highlighted by the beautiful flowers and succulent tomatoes, fruits and vegetables. Sometimes it seems that summer offers us more time to relish God's good creation.

Sitting on a bench in a local park recently I noticed a mother with her child on her lap. After a short while the child, feeling secure, ventured forth to play, but encountered some difficulty. Another child had confronted him and then a different child took the shovel he'd been digging in the sandbox with, and then he fell off a swing and finally he ran back and climbed back into his mother's lap. After a time during which the child's parent comforted and nurtured him, he once again ventured forth onto the playground.

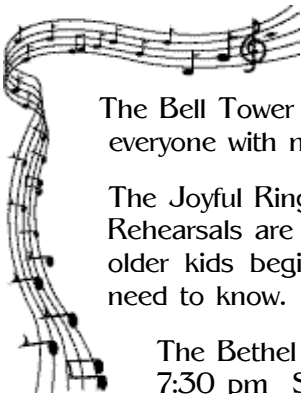
Such a scene is a metaphor for the experiences of the people of God. Each of us has been lovingly embraced in the arms of our gracious and merciful God. Then we have been encouraged to move out into the world to live in relationship with others in witness to God's presence. Sometimes we encounter difficulty.

Weekly worship is the means by which we return to our Holy Father, embrace our identity as children of God, are nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ, and are empowered by the Spirit to be Christ's faithful body in the world. Then, once again we are sent off to enter the world as missionaries of God.

This summer I've once again been privileged to witness the people of Bethel Lutheran Church reaching out to others with God's blessings, offering words of compassion, hope, forgiveness and mercy. Human predicaments have been faced with grace and peace. Support has been offered in the midst of life's realities. Encouragement has been extended and received.

God's transforming power can turn chaos into meaning, despair into hope, torment into peace, sorrow into joy, brokenness into wholeness, sickness into health and death into life. Faithful worship helps strengthen us to be God's voices, hands and feet carrying that good news into all the world – summer or fall, winter or spring. As we begin a new season of serving, may God bless all your efforts in His Holy Name!

MUSIC AT BETHEL!



The Bell Tower Ringers rehearse from 7:00-8:30 Monday nights beginning in September. It is open to everyone with no experience necessary. **BEGINNING 9/13!**

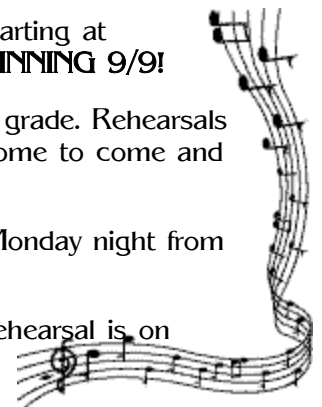
The Joyful Ringers I and II are hand bell groups for kids from 2nd grade through high school. Rehearsals are on Monday nights from 5:30-6:00 pm for the younger kids and from 6:00-6:40 for the older kids beginning in September. All are welcome regardless of ability. We will teach you all you need to know. **BEGINNING 9/13!**

The Bethel choir is an adult singing choir that rehearses Thursday nights starting at 7:30 pm September through June.. Everyone is welcome to attend. **BEGINNING 9/9!**

The Children's singing choir is open to children ranging from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Rehearsals will be on Monday nights from 6:00 to 6:40 p.m. during the school year. All are welcome to come and sing. **BEGINNING 9/13!**

The Youth singing choir is open to kids from 6th – 12th grades. Rehearsal will be on Monday night from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. during the school year. Come and join us. **BEGINNING 9/13!**

Dikiosis is a Sacred Dance group that performs throughout the year during service. Rehearsal is on Thursday nights starting at 7:00 pm beginning in September. All 16 years of age and older are welcome to come and join. **BEGINNING 9/16!**





September Celebrations



Birthdays

09/01	Donald Hosey
09/02	Ethan Carreiro, Mike Slough
09/03	Dave Warner
09/04	Vanessa Blaydes, Lori Mingione
09/05	Hunter Mullins, George Seitz
09/06	Brett Schrader
09/07	Arthur Song, Tammy Warner
09/09	Zach Bell, Kara Sidener
09/10	Trey Radican
09/11	Emily Brandt, Chris Fish, Noah Garzon, Evan Ogden, Heather Ogden
09/12	Connor Flebbe, Charlene Miller, Jeani Wiethop
09/13	Betty Griffith, Chris Sitzlar, Eric Stubler
09/14	Carmen DeSmet, Suzy Houtz
09/15	Nicole Hill, Kelly Krumm
09/16	Michael Lesnick, Becky McKenzie, Amanda Waggy
09/17	Kari Eggerling, Chassity Gheen, Jean Harrover
09/18	Lindsey James, Nicky Staunton
09/19	Alice Long
09/20	Mildred Mauck, Sarah Peets, Conrad Yaddof
09/21	Mike Dickson, Jan Gubrud, Ellen Riddoch, Shirley Saylor
09/22	Matthew Domin
09/23	Christine Noll, Gerald Noll, Evan Snyder
09/24	Jon Cintron, Fran Freely, Shirley Rice, Lianetta Ruettggers, Ken Weschler
09/25	Casey Jones, Mara Schleicher
09/27	Connie Houtz, Judy Miller
09/28	Julie Lange, Johnnie Stever
09/29	Judy Carter, Marianna Dickson, George Flebbe
09/30	David Fircetz, Jeremy Karls, Elizabeth Newcombe

Wedding Anniversaries

09/01	Frank & Erna Grafton
09/03	John & Sara Jens Rob & Karen Rubrecht Jay & Marie Shaw
09/05	Jim & Marg Anderson Chris & Kim Devine
09/06	Dave & Judy Wood
09/08	Arthur & Eleanor Yost
09/12	Art & Sharon Freas
09/13	Charlie & Gerda Proctor Daniel & Charlene Toloso
09/14	Gary & Lee Ann Brown Brad & Sande Neeley
09/19	Chris & Debbie Donahue
09/24	Larry & Sandra Stever
09/26	Brad & Carolyn Jacobs Frank & Ruth Passarge
09/27	Fay & Roseann Henry



SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Frank and Erna Grafton celebrate 60 years on September 1

Jay and Marie Shaw celebrate 55 years on September 3

Arthur and Eleanor Yost celebrate 54 years on September 8

Charlie and Gerda Proctor celebrate 52 years on September 13

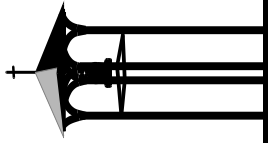
New Bethel Baby!

James William Carter, son of Jonathan and Hyun-Joo Carter, brother of Joey, and grandson of Jim and Hye-Seok Carter, was born on August 9.



SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

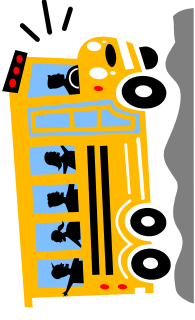
George Seitz turns 81 on September 5
Betty Griffith turns 82 on September 13
Mildred Mauck turns 89 on September 20
Elizabeth Newcombe turns 95 on September 30



September 2010

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8712 Plantation Lane Manassas, VA 20110 703-368-3943 www.bethelmannassas.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8 & 11:00 Worship 9:40 a.m. Adult Forum	6 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	7	8	9 9:00 a.m. CREW Meets Preschool 4's Orientation 7:00 p.m. Bethel Choir	10 Preschool 3's Orientation	11
12 RALLY DAY! Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Bethel Picnic!</i>	13 Preschool Classes Begin Today! 5:30—6:00 p.m. JR's I 5:30—6:00 p.m. Youth Choir 6:00—6:40 p.m. JR's II 6:00—6:40 p.m. Children's Choir 7:00 p.m. Adult Bells	14 7:30 p.m. Mission Council	15 Bell Tower Deadline 7:15 p.m. Worship & Music Team Meeting	16 7:00—9:00 p.m. ESL Classes 7:00 p.m. Dikiosis 7:00 p.m. Bethel Choir	17	18 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Training Session
19 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 8 & 11:00 Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Forum 12:15 p.m. Crafts for Christ 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Information Night/Acolyte & Crucifer Training	20 5:30—6:00 p.m. JR's I 5:30—6:00 p.m. Youth Choir 6:00—6:40 p.m. JR's II 6:00—6:40 p.m. Children's Choir 7:00 p.m. Adult Bells	21 7:15 p.m. Christian Ed Team Meeting	22	23 7:00—9:00 p.m. ESL Classes 7:00 p.m. Dikiosis 7:00 p.m. Bethel Choir	24	25 8:00 a.m. M.o.B. Breakfast
26 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8 & 11:00 Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Forum 12:15 p.m. New Member Class	27 2:30—7:30 p.m. Red Cross 5:30—6:00 p.m. JR's I 5:30—6:00 p.m. Youth Choir 6:00—6:40 p.m. JR's II 6:00—6:40 p.m. Children's Choir 7:00 p.m. Adult Bells	28	29 6:00—8:00 p.m. Confirmation Classes Begin Tonight	30 7:00—9:00 p.m. ESL Classes 7:00 p.m. Dikiosis 7:00 p.m. Bethel Choir	COMING IN OCTOBER: October 3—New Member Class / Ministry Fair	

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THE BETHEL BELL TOWER

SEPTEMBER 2010

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

8712 Plantation Lane

Manassas, VA 20110

(703) 368-3943

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Special Worship
TIME
10:00 A.M.

**DON'T FORGET...
WORSHIP ON SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12TH WILL
BE at 10:00 a.m.**

**CHURCH
PICNIC**



At this service, we'll commission our Sunday School teachers, Bethel Preschool teachers, and we'll bless backpacks. After the children's sermon, children will be dismissed to go to the Great Hall to create Special Blankets that will be used throughout the year during the Sunday School Opening. They will rejoin the worship service before Communion. After the service, we'll go outside to enjoy the Annual Church Picnic (see Jennifer's note on page 6 of the Bell Tower). It'll be a great day! Come...worship, enjoy the fellowship, and feel free to invite your friends.