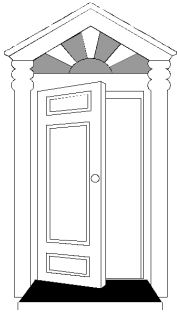


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Volume 7 Number 8

August 2011

Editor: Diana Camden

Bethel UMC - a Healthy Church

For many at Bethel Church, the prescription from the Healthy Church Initiative wasn't a prominent feature in the Bethel Church experience. For others, it meant much hard work. We are now 18 months into the program. Sunday afternoon, the 24th of July, all connected with Bethel, whether members or regular attendees, were invited to attend a meeting for the wrap-up of the Conference's portion of the initiative. Our coach, Rev. Jim Blue from Sunrise United Methodist Church was there to hear from Bethel.

The HCI has been admired by other conferences in the United Methodist connection. Several are using ours as a model for their conference churches. Rev. Bob Farr has been a desired speaker at several conference sessions outside of Missouri. His book, *Renovate or Die*, has been widely accepted. Much of what he describes in his book are details he learned while guiding the Missouri Conference into the Healthy Church Initiative.

Bethel Church was one of the early churches to experience HCI. Many other churches in our conference are either just beginning or haven't started. The program was never meant to turn around churches that were in trouble. The vision is to take healthy churches and make them better. The concept of good to great is seen in the program.

Bethel's wrap-up meeting was a chance for people to share the experience. We were asked what we would celebrate and what would we change. We were asked how the prescription seemed to be working at Bethel.

In the beginning, one consistent theme the conference found in speaking with the leaders at Bethel was the lack of a common vision. Our mission, *Making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world*, is the common mission of the United Methodist Church. Bethel's prescription called for a team to formulate a vision that would take us to that mission. Our vision is to be reviewed and restated every year. The current vision is to *Connect families with God*. Every ministry in the church is to be focused on that vision. We were also to investigate several other United Methodist churches that have developed a mission supportive structure. The prescription named a team to work on that and the result is a new structure at Bethel that was voted and approved by the congregation in a Church/Charge Conference. The new structure is result oriented and is accountable to the agreed upon vision. The prescription called for new ventures in faith formation at Bethel. New opportunities to study the Word did emerge at Bethel. The Governing Board begins meetings by each member giving testimony to how they, as leaders, are personally involved in faith formation.

The prescription also had us form a team called "Good to Great." That team looked at various aspects of our Sunday worship to see if we could move the experience from good to great.

A day set apart for dreaming about youth activities at Bethel was also prescribed. Youth play a large part in the activities around Bethel Church. The Boy Scout troop that meets at Bethel boasts over 70 boys. We have a den from the Cub Scout pack that meets at Bethel also. This spring our youth organized a wiffle ball league which brought many youth to Bethel on Friday nights. Our Zone continues to be a safe gathering spot for our youth on Friday nights. The Missouri United Methodist Foundation awarded a grant to Bethel's youth to help purchase equipment for the Zone to be used for a Sunday gathering at 10:30 around Christian Music. Much is happening with our young people. If you're not involved with that, you can be.

Our time with our coach and the Conference portion of HCI at Bethel has come to a close. With any prescription, one should evaluate the results to determine if the prescription needs to be renewed. At Bethel we have an excellent groundwork laid before us. However, challenges remain. Now is not the time to be complacent about Bethel's future. I believe that Bethel's heyday is yet to be. Our best times are ahead of us.

I encourage you to find your place in the vision! God's blessings,

Pastor Len

THROUGH THE SANCTUARY DOORS . . .

August 7 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Innocent suffering

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Message: You Got Me Into this, Now Get Me Out!

WORSHIP

SERVICE:	9 AM	10:30 AM
LITURGIST:	—	Gordon Gilliatt
GREETERS:		
USHERS:	Bob Morice	
AV TECHNICIAN:	<OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE>	Carla DeSalme

SUNDAY SCHOOL

TRANSPORTATION & FELLOWSHIP

Nursery & Preschool	Ginger Doherty
K-3:	Connie Pautz
4-8:	Carla DeSalme
Adult Bible Study	G. Gaehle, Leader
Contemporary Issues	Various Leaders

Bus Driver	Mike Lantz
Minivan	—
Breakfast	Alison Verbeck & Carla DeSalme
1st Fellowship	Inviting Ministries
2nd Fellowship	Inviting Ministries

August 14 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: When Jesus doesn't seem to answer

Scripture: Matthew 15:21–28

Message: Can Your Faith Take It?

WORSHIP

SERVICE:	9 AM	10:30 AM
LITURGIST:	—	Sheila Olive
GREETERS:		
USHERS:	Bob Morice	
AV TECHNICIAN:	Gary Hayes	Keith Coleman

SUNDAY SCHOOL

TRANSPORTATION & FELLOWSHIP

Nursery & Preschool	Ginger Doherty
K-3:	
4-8:	
Adult Bible Study	G. Gaehle, Leader
Contemporary Issues	Various Leaders

Bus Driver	Karl Schoenefeld
Minivan	—
Breakfast	Gary Hayes & Jeff Roberts
1st Fellowship	Inviting Ministries
2nd Fellowship	Inviting Ministries

THROUGH THE SANCTUARY DOORS . . .

August 21 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Who Is Jesus?

Scripture: Matthew 16:13–20

Message: Who Is Jesus?

WORSHIP

SERVICE:	9 AM	10:30 AM
LITURGIST:	—	Carla DeSalme
GREETERS:		
USHERS:	Bob Morice	
AV TECHNICIAN:	Shaan Muthukumar	<OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery & Preschool	Ginger Doherty
K-3:	
4-8:	
Adult Bible Study	G. Gaehle, Leader
Contemporary Issues	Various Leaders

TRANSPORTATION & FELLOWSHIP

Bus Driver	Dave Strickland
Minivan	—
Breakfast	Steve Pautz & Evan Pautz
1st Fellowship	Inviting Ministries
2nd Fellowship	Inviting Ministries

August 28 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: The Christian way of life

Scripture: Matthew 16:21–28

Message: The Cross Way of Life

WORSHIP

SERVICE:	9 AM	10:30 AM
LITURGIST:	—	<OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE>
GREETERS:		
USHERS:	Bob Morice	
AV TECHNICIAN:	Carla DeSalme	Gary Hayes

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery & Preschool	Ginger Doherty
K-3:	
4-8:	
Adult Bible Study	G. Gaehle, Leader
Contemporary Issues	Various Leaders

TRANSPORTATION & FELLOWSHIP

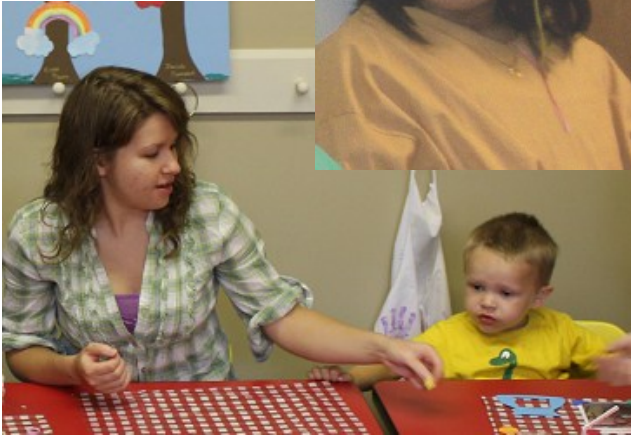
Bus Driver	Karen Fincher
Minivan	—
Breakfast	Nina Lantz
1st Fellowship	Inviting Ministries
2nd Fellowship	Inviting Ministries

Some of Our Bethel Youth—In Action!

Giving of themselves to VBS...



The disciples in our VBS shadow play were Evan Pautz and Sam Fincher.



...and running a lemonade/water stand and giving the proceeds to our bucket challenge. \$71.51 went to Mozambique!

THANK YOU BETHEL YOUTH!

Happy Anniversary!



Harry & Leota Atwell	August 23
Bill & Marla Easterby	August 20
George & Arlene Gaehle	August 23
Tom & Diane Koonce	August 15
Greg & Barb Kraus	August 22
Bob & Do Morice	August 4
Dave & Linnie Strickland	August 27
Merle & Sue Wilson	August 7

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Bill Allerdissen	August 11
Willeyne Berger	August 29
Bill Brown	August 17
Judy Curry	August 18
Carol Fothergill	August 21
Betty Freese	August 13
Ron Guentz	August 16
Julie Kesselring	August 26
Sheri Krudop	August 7
Meg Love	August 14
Do Morice	August 9
Bob Morice	August 31
Jan Ossenfort	August 22
Steve Pautz	August 28
Bill Phipps	August 17
Jason Plank	August 11


Paige Rudd	August 15
Alice Schneidewind	August 4
Diane Schoenefeld	August 16
J C Sowers	August 2
Julie Starck	August 20
Norma Jean Stovall	August 23
Dave Strickland	August 15
Hardy Warren	August 10
Herb Wiegand	August 13

UMCOR sends thanks for the 6/17/11 gift of \$100.00; 100% of the gift is providing emergency relief and long-term recovery support for disaster-affected communities.



Resilient!

by Margie Muthukumar

re-sil-i-ence //  [ri-zil-yuh ns, -zil-ee-uh ns]; the power or ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched; elasticity; ability to recover readily from illness, depression, adversity, or the like; buoyancy.

I remember only one thing about that tragic accident on February 19, 2011. I was grabbing the shirt of a rescue worker asking for my daughter. "Where is my daughter? Where is Raina?" I then heard Jessica from the back of the van saying that Raina was outside and that she was alive ---- and that was it. The next time I opened my eyes was on February 27 when Raja was asking me to stick my tongue out to him. He was trying to get a positive response from me to make sure that I was completely out of a medically-induced coma. (You may wonder why not ask me to smile instead? I love sticking my tongue out to Raja when I don't like what he says or does. It's one of my childish habits that I have not completely given up.) Anyway, as much as Raja tried to update me on what had happened, nothing really stuck. Everything was a blur until I was transported to St John's Mercy Hospital on March 9 where I stayed until April 22 under the care of many health care professionals.

In June, the trauma surgeon was very pleased with my progress and used the word "resilient" repeatedly in our conversation. I did not know how to respond to his remark because- really - what did I do? I 'slept' for over 10 days and woke up all stitched up and healing. What I am is a testimony to God's grace and the healing power of prayers. Raina and Jessica had miraculously escaped more serious injuries. He had restored my health and renewed my strength in such a short time. He listened to the many prayers that were said on our behalf. More importantly, He had given me the wisdom to understand that this experience is another step to bringing me closer to God and to strengthen my faith.

2 Corinthians 12:9: ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.



..... guiding the way home

THE BRIDGE TO TRIUMPH!!!

(An evening of food, drink and fun to benefit The Bridge)

Monday, September 12, 2011 5:30—7:30 pm

The Moto Museum at the Triumph Grill

Thank the Lord for Air Conditioning

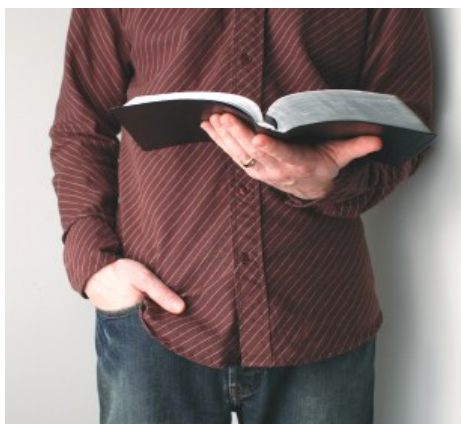


Not long ago while serving as the liturgist in Bethel's traditional service, Karl Schoenefeld reflected on the time when Bethel was without air-conditioning. The marvel of air-conditioning ranks pretty high in my book as one of our greatest inventions. Without it, much of what we've come to accept as normal wouldn't exist. Early computers wouldn't have worked without A/C. Look at what the computer has added in our daily lives. Our cars and appliances, even our watches have computers in them. A/C goes well beyond creature comforts. Health and comfort are prime considerations with A/C. That is certainly true with Bethel's bus and minivan. In this extreme heat, we have asked quite a lot from the air conditioners in those vehicles.

As it turns out, both vehicles have had to have some expensive repairs to their air-conditioners. The compressor in the minivan started leaking and had to be replaced. That by itself was about \$650. The larger bus has two air-conditioners, a front unit and a rear. The rear unit, which does the bulk of the work, stopped working and was repaired at a cost of about \$400.

These vehicles have brought much to Bethel. I can't imagine worshipping without the wonderful additions to our community that have been made possible with the bus and minivan. These repairs were not included in this year's budget. The repairs will be completed and the repair bills will be paid. If you can assist with the cost of the repairs it would be very much appreciated. Make your check payable to Bethel UMC and mark "Van Repair" on the memo line. You may place your check in the offering plate at church or use the convenient business reply envelope included with the Open Door. Thanks for your faithfulness.

10:30 Sunday Bible Study



At a recent contemporary worship service a very unscientific poll was taken regarding the desire to have a Bible study to be presented at 10:30 on Sunday morning during the traditional worship service. A surprising number of hands were raised. We want to make certain that need is met. When asked about interest in facilitating such a class, again several hands were raised. We've also had some discussion around a group that would meet at 10:30 that would focus on hands-on mission projects. Our youth are organizing a 10:30 group that would center on Contemporary Christian music. They would need adults to sit in with them.

To express your interest in participating in a steering committee that would plan the format and location of these classes, contact the church office right away.

Like our traditional service and interested in attending Sunday School? Look no further than our 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study facilitated by George Gaehe.

Coming this Fall....

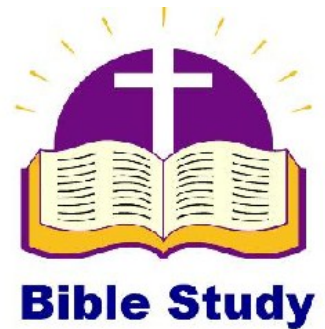
Teaching & Learning:

A Study of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

These eight lessons focus on human wisdom and lessons learned from experience and tradition. They are the words of a teacher to a student or a parent to a child, word of wisdom passed on from one generation to another.

Jesus Teaches Wisdom—Book of Matthew

These five lessons focus on what Jesus says to disciples about living, forgiving, loving and praying. The final lesson invites class members to hear anew Jesus' words about worry-free living.



An Update on Landon Weber

from his grandparents Chuck and Marilyn Weber

This has been so difficult to write, it has taken awhile to be able to put everything in words. As some of you know our grandson, Landon Weber – Jamie's son, has been on the Prayer List since he was born prematurely six years ago. After almost two years spent fighting Texas Child Protective Services on false charges of child abuse by Landon's parents (and us), we lost him. Apparently our lawyer along with the doctors who treated Landon, were misled by CPS. For some reason all four doctors answered yes to the question, "Do you believe she is guilty?" This was just the opposite of what they said in the "Show Cause Hearing" in 2009. Jamie and Jennifer were advised to allow friends in Florida to take custody of Landon after that couple went through interviews and home studies. On July 5, the couple received an email that on June 30 of this year Landon was adopted by a Texas couple. CPS never completed the process with the couple in Florida. Knowing how Texas CPS works, we doubt they ever intended giving Landon back to his family and already had someone in place to adopt Landon.



(The picture above was taken the last day Landon's parents and brothers saw him.)



Circle of Concern

A Sending Ministry



Pantry Needs:

Spaghetti Sauce

Cereal

Canned Pasta

Salad Dressing

Paper Towels

Pudding / Jell-O

Collection barrels are located outside of Fellowship Hall.

- ◆ Thank you for your donation of various items on June 28, 2011 to Circle of Concern's pantry!
- ◆ Thank you for your donation of \$75.00..dated 6-14-11, to Circle of Concern.



Sharing God's Gifts

Freely you have received, freely give.
Matthew 10:8 NIV

As United Methodists in Missouri, we have many opportunities to give freely: to help a hungry child, to encourage and support those called to the ministry, to welcome someone who speaks a different language, to enable clean water to flow in villages halfway across the world, to give hope after disaster strikes, to reach out our hands and share love in so many ways with so many people. We have many opportunities to share the gifts God has given us and to receive so much in return. We are able, as United Methodists working together, to do much more than we could alone.

The apportioned items approved for 2010 at Annual Conference session follow. They offer us many opportunities to make disciples who make a difference in our world and strengthen our local ministries as we help others.

Apportioned Funds General Church Support

World Service \$1,920,600

Bethel: \$3,595

This fund is the heart of our denomination-wide ministry, underwriting Christian mission and ministry worldwide. It supports all boards and agencies and:

- strengthens evangelism efforts
- stimulates church growth
- expands Bible studies, and
- enriches spiritual commitment.

Ministerial Education Fund \$657,474

Bethel: \$1,231

The United Methodist Church has 13 seminaries to train clergy. This fund provides assistance to those who are in seminary. A portion of the fund is used by the Board of Ordained Ministry for working with those preparing for ministry and for continuing education and other pastoral support for current clergy

Episcopal Fund \$528,281

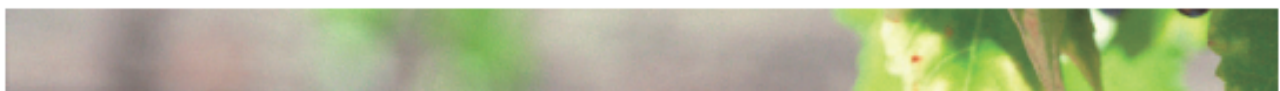
Bethel: \$989

Bishops serve the annual conferences and provide leadership to the entire denomination. This fund supports salaries, benefits and expenses. It is apportioned to the Missouri Conference from the General Conference. Bishops are an important connection among the annual conferences, central conferences, the general church and the world.

Black College Fund \$262,292

Bethel: \$491

United Methodism supports 10 black colleges and a medical school that maintain an ongoing relationship with the denomination. It helps to provide well-equipped buildings, solid academic programs, strong faculties, a nurturing environment to encourage students in each new generation and to affirm and celebrate African-American heritage and culture



General Administration Fund

\$208,099

Bethel: \$389

The General Administration Fund pays administrative expenses of GCFA, which underwrites the legislative work of General Conference, funds the work of the Judicial Council to adjudicate questions of church law and maintains United Methodism's official documents and historical artifacts.

Africa University Fund

\$58,703

Bethel: \$110

This United Methodist university is the first nongovernment-institution of higher education in Africa. It was established to serve the entire continent of Africa, to offer post-secondary education for students from all of Africa, to specialize in education in schools of agriculture, theology and management and business.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

\$51,170

Bethel: \$96

This fund provides our share of the basic budgets of organizations that relate to the ecumenical responsibilities of the Council of Bishops and of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

Jurisdictional Fund

\$125,139

Bethel: \$234

The Jurisdictional Fund includes the jurisdictional administration fund and supports the work of our South Central Jurisdiction. This fund includes: Lydia Patterson, Mt. Sequoyah, and SMU Campus Ministry.

APPORTIONED FUNDS

Conference Support

Congregational Excellence

\$2,030,790

Bethel: \$3,801

This fund helps support the Congregational Development Team, New Church Starts, the Commission on Higher Education and Hispanic Ministry.

Pastoral Excellence

\$252,141

Bethel: \$472

This fund helps support educational opportunities for pastors, Conference Leadership Development Committee, Lay Missioner Training and Learning and Leadership.

Ordained Ministry Team

\$270,300

Bethel: \$506

The fund helps the Ordained Ministry Team with Pastoral Counseling, processing new pastors and Student Aid.

District Superintendent Fund

\$1,808,940

Bethel: \$3,386

The fund covers salaries, utilities, travel, professional expenses and continuing education for the 12 district superintendents who serve this conference. The superintendents provide assistance and resources to local churches, districts and annual conference, the bishop (in appointing pastors) and clergy (pastoral care).

Clergy Support

\$2,394,142

Bethel: \$4,481

This fund supports health insurance for retirees and their families, equitable compensation and retiree moving grants.

Connectional Ministries

\$1,986,146

Bethel: \$3,717

This fund is comprised of Camping & Retreat Ministries, Central Methodist University, Youth Council, Communications Commission, Safe Sanctuaries, Conference Staff and Congregational Ministries Team. It also provides funds for Annual Conference.

Mission, Service & Justice Ministries

\$456,518

Bethel: \$854

This fund helps with the Global Connections Team, Office of Creative Ministries, Mozambique Initiative, Social Justice Team and the Values Team.

Conference Administration

\$733,089

Bethel: \$1,372

This fund helps the Conference provide services to local churches across the state. It includes funds for Conference Trustees, Episcopal office support, Conference Treasurer's Office and other items.

AUGUST 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 2:30 PM Price Memorial Worship	3	4 2:30 PM Marymount Manor Worship	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 12:00 PM Sending Ministries Meeting	15	16	17	18	19	20 9:00 AM Spiritual Exercise @ Harmony UMC (registration required)
21 12:00 PM Connecting Ministries Meeting	22	23 6:30 PM Gambrell LIFE Group	24	25	26	27 10:30 AM Bethesda Meadow Worship
28	29	30	31	Regularly Scheduled Opportunities: Monday & Thursday: 9-10 am— Bethel Fitness Tuesday: 10 am- Quilters, Wednesday: 6 pm—Praise Team Practice Thursday: 9 am—3 pm Crafters		

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES:

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Fellowship following both Worship service
- Quality Childcare and Preschool Education all morning!



Bethel United Methodist Church
17500 Manchester Road
Wildwood, MO 63038-1907

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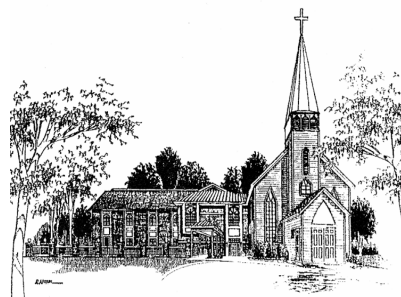
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**Bethel United
Methodist Church**

Experience It!

8:30 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Service
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship
10:30 a.m. - Traditional Service
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship
Quality Nursery Care all morning

12