Heard through The OPEN DOOR

A monthly publication of

Bethel
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Come Home to Bethel • Since 1858

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Volume 7 Number 3
March 2011
Editor: Diana Camden

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.[4] *He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.* 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit inspired Saint Paul to write those words. I don't think Paul would have known about Bethel Church but the Holy Spirit does. I can't help but think of the Bethel family when I hear these words of comfort. As a congregation you have shown comfort and love to many people. You minister to each other and to your pastor. I give thanks to God for each of you.

Recent events in our church family have given us opportunity to comfort one another. As you came together to pray for peace you comforted many. It was a blessing to see the church come together in a prayer vigil. Every hour from noon to midnight was covered with prayer warriors in the sanctuary asking for God's peace and healing hand to come to those in need. For many who weren't able to come to the church the prayer vigil continued in their homes. The prayers were joined with the prayers of the Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church in Louisville, KY, the State Street United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, KY, the St. James United Methodist Church in St. James, MO, First Lutheran Church in Clearwater , FL, Zion United Methodist Church in south St Louis, Emmanuel Church in Mountain Home, AR. Those are the ones I know of. There are many others. There is power in agreement.

Being there for each other is the way we follow God's command to love one another. The Apostle John, who was with Jesus, felt Christ's love in a very real and special way. John heard Jesus tell him that Jesus' followers should love one another. John repeats that command four times in his gospel and six times in his letters. Each time the word for love means making a decision to love regardless of the other person. John knew that the real blessing came when he loved the way Jesus loved him—unconditionally. One way to show that love is to comfort each other.

Loving and comforting one another makes a difference in our community as we invite those around us into such a loving relationship. This is how we can connect families with God and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. So we can encourage ourselves by repeating the command once again, "Love one another as Christ has loved you."

God's blessings to each,

Pastor Len

THROUGH THE SANCTUARY DOORS . . .

March 6 Transfiguration Sunday

Theme: An Experience with God **Scripture:** Matthew 17:1-9

Message: "Close Encounters of the Awe-Filled Kind"

WORSHIP

SERVICE:	9 AM	10:30 AM
LITURGIST:	—	Gordon Gilliatt
GREETERS:	Sue Easterby & Diana Camden	
USHERS:	Bob Morice	John Snider & Bert Foster
AV TECHNICIAN:	Steve Pautz	Carla DeSalme

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TRANSPORTATION & FELLOWSHIP

Bus Driver	Tom Koonce
Minivan	—
Breakfast	Dave Strickland & Larry Blair
1st Fellowship	Diana Camden
2nd Fellowship	

March 9 Ash Wednesday

Theme: Repentance **Scripture:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Message: "To Dust You Shall Return" (Imposition of Ashes)

WORSHIP

SERVICE:	
LITURGIST:	—
GREETERS:	
USHERS:	
AV TECHNICIAN:	

Please call the office if you can help during any of this month's services!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery & Preschool	Ginger Doherty
K-3:	N/A
4-8:	N/A
Adult Bible Study	N/A
Contemporary Issues	N/A

TRANSPORTATION & FELLOWSHIP

Bus Driver	
Minivan	—
Breakfast	N/A
1st Fellowship	N/A
2nd Fellowship	N/A

THROUGH THE SANCTUARY DOORS . . .

March 13 1st Sunday in Lent

Theme: The Problem of Sin **Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11

Message: "Close Encounters with Satan: Victory"

WORSHIP

SERVICE:	9 AM	10:30 AM
LITURGIST:	—	Dale Reed
GREETERS:	Sue Easterby	Ruth Anne Krueger
USHERS:	Bob Morice	John Snider & Bert Foster
AV TECHNICIAN:	Gary Hayes	Keith Coleman

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TRANSPORTATION & FELLOWSHIP

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

March 20 2nd Sunday in Lent

Theme: The power of faith **Scripture:** John 3:1-17

Message: "Close Encounters with a Professor: New Birth"

WORSHIP

SERVICE:	9 AM	10:30 AM
LITURGIST:	—	Jeff Fothergill
GREETERS:	Sue Easterby & Diana Camden	
USHERS:	Bob Morice	John Snider & Bert Foster
AV TECHNICIAN:		

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TRANSPORTATION & FELLOWSHIP

Bus Driver	Sue Love
Minivan	—
Breakfast	Alison Verbeck & Carla DeSalme
1st Fellowship	
2nd Fellowship	

THROUGH THE SANCTUARY DOORS . . .

March 27 3rd Sunday in Lent

Theme: The Source of Life **Scripture:** John 4:5-42

Message: "Close Encounters with a Loose Woman: Transformation"

WORSHIP

SERVICE:	9 AM	10:30 AM
LITURGIST:	—	Sheila Olive
GREETERS:	Sue Easterby	
USHERS:	Bob Morice	John Snider & Bert Foster
AV TECHNICIAN:	Carla DeSalme	Gary Hayes

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

TRANSPORTATION & FELLOWSHIP

Bus Driver	Dave Strickland
Minivan	—
Breakfast	Gary Hayes & Jeff Roberts
1st Fellowship	
2nd Fellowship	

Happy Anniversary!

Ray & Chylene Daub	3/05
Bill & Louella Phipps	3/03

Thanks to Helen Krudop who caught these ladies with her camera!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
(from left to right)

Betty Freese,
Shirley Thompson
& Hazel Davis

These three ladies joined our Bethel family on December 5, 2010.

Betty Freese and her husband Chester, who is deceased, raised six children (five boys and one girl). When asked what attracted her to Bethel, she said she liked the people and liked that the church was small but active. Betty likes hand quilting, reading, and taking care of the birds at Gambrill Gardens.

Shirley Thompson also resides at Gambrill Gardens. Shirley and her husband raised a boy and a girl. Shirley enjoys reading and attending exercise classes at Gambrill. In her previous church, Bethel United Church of Christ in Florrisant, she was involved in a prayer and share group. She would like to be involved in something like that here as well. She would also like to visit with shutins. Like Betty, Shirley was attracted to Bethel because it is a small, friendly church. She felt at home when she first visited. When asked about her faith walk, Shirley told us that God has guided her in every aspect of her life. He especially was with her during her husband's 11 years with Alzheimers. God helped her make decisions regarding his care and especially helped her with her life after he died. She is confident she is where she is supposed to be at this time of her life.

Hazel Davis and her husband, Rooney, raised one boy and two girls. Rooney has since passed away; however, their family tree has grown to six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. As she put it, during the "college years", she worked outside of the home to help cover tuition for her children. She sold real estate, and worked in sales at Famous-Barr and JC Penneys. Hazel loves quilting and doing crafts; however, her Parkinson's keeps her from doing the quality she expects of herself. When asked what she would like to be involved with at Bethel, Hazel said she would like to get involved with Bible Study; she has joined Pastor Len's first and third Thursday evening class when she has been able to line up transportation. Hazel started attending Bethel because a group of her friends attended here. She has stayed because she feels refreshed after Sunday service. She loves the music and singing in our traditional service; so many of the songs are familiar to her and truly touch her.

WELCOME LADIES!

An Inviting Ministry

2nd ANNUAL

BETHEL PET BLESSING AND FUN PET SHOW

May 14, 2011

11 am – 3 pm

Mark your calendar and tell your friends and neighbors! There will be fun for all - with a variety of exhibitors including Stray Rescue, Franklin County Humane Society, and Gateway Sled Dogs.

Donations of gently used blankets & towels, bleach, cleaning supplies, paper towels, etc. will be collected before and during the event. We will also be needing ambassadors for the day.

The Inviting Ministry team will be providing more information as we get a little closer to the date!

A Sending Ministry

"Helping Hands"

Sending Ministries is still in the process of determining how we can best help our first "Helping Hands" recipient due to the complexity of her living at Gambrill Gardens.

Several of the vital needs that she has are taken care of by Medicare & Insurance. However, she experiences severe depression due to the loneliness of not being able to physically walk to participate in the many activities at Gambrill Gardens. She uses a walker, but the distances are long from her apartment to the areas of participation. We are now in the process of checking with "The Scooter Store" for help in this area with a motorized chair or scooter.

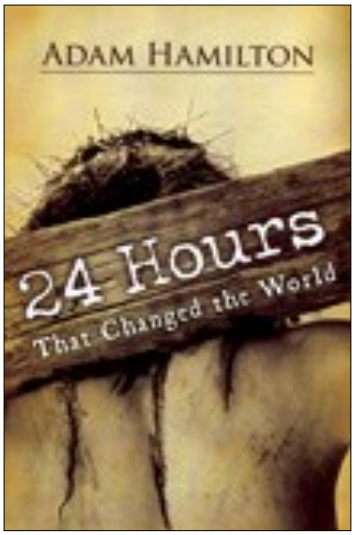
Sending Ministries has determined that Bethel can <u>immediately</u> help her in two ways:

1. Spend time visiting with her in her apartment. She is a joy to visit with and loves having company.
   Note: Please call Betty Lorance or Sherryl Roth and have one of them go with you on your first visit.

2. Take a home-cooked meal. She does some basic cooking, but eats frozen dinners as well. She has type 2 diabetes, so meals need to be prepared accordingly. We have a list of her favorite/acceptable foods that you can have upon request.

If you would like to participate in any way with "Helping Hands", please feel free to contact Sherryl Roth at 636-405-1588 or Betty Lorance at 636-386-0737.

Upcoming Bible Study Opportunities



RELIVE THE GREATEST DAY IN HISTORY

24 Hours That Changed The World

March 15 – April 26, 2011

TWO CLASSES TO CHOOSE FROM!

Tuesdays 10 am & 7 pm

No other day in human history has had more impact than the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

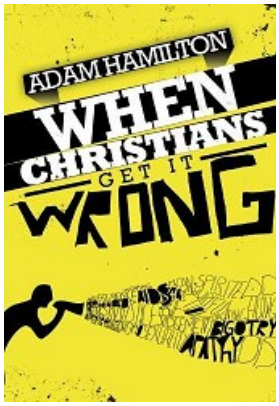
Lives will be changed as participants young and old experience and understand the significance of Jesus' final hours in ways they never have before.

Registration is required at the church office (636-458-2255) by Ash Wednesday, March 9th. A limited number of the books will be available through the church for $18. Or, you may acquire one yourself.

The Contemporary Issues Class Invites You to a new study….

"The Meaning of Christianity for People Today"

On February 27th, the Contemporary Issues class began studying a new series on how many people may be interpreting Christianity. The series is called "When Christians Get It Wrong" and is presented by Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor at the Church of the Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in Leawood, Kansas.



They will cover the following set of topics over 12 weeks:

1. When Christians are Unchristian
2. When Bad Things Happen
3. When Speaking of Other Religions
4. When in Conflict with Science or Married to Politics
5. Homosexuality in the Christian Church
6. When Christians Get It Right

They invite you to join them for any or all of these topics; the topics are presented and discussed in an enlightened and sensitive manner. For any questions, please contact Diane or Karl Schoenefeld at 636-458-2181. The Contemporary Issues class meets in the Christian Activity Center from 9-10 am each Sunday morning.

Byron Bender	3/28	Chris Lantz	3/27
Rick Camden	3/20	Betty Lorance	3/07
Shane Crum	3/31	Karl Schoenefeld	3/27
Derick DeSalme	3/22	Allie Seckinger	3/11
Joshua Ekstrom	3/19	Dodie Warren	3/21
Sarah Hotze-Smith	3/23	Chris Warren	3/12
Sharon Kesselring	3/14	Marilyn Weber	3/26
Barb Kraus	3/31	Shirley Zinser	3/07

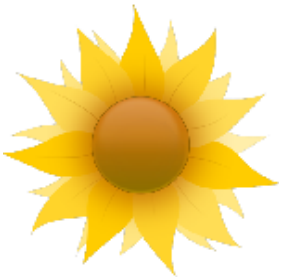
From the Gateway Central District……

Laity that would like to put their name in nomination for the 2012 General Conference must complete the online Laity Nominations Profiles found on the conference website: www.moumethodist.org.

The Gateway Central District will hold an advanced Lay Speaker training class on Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3, at Webster Hills UMC. For more information and to register, visit the district website (www.gatewaydistricts.org) and click on "GC Lay Speaker Tng" in the Calendar section on the right side of the home page. The course is "Grow Spiritually through Daily Discipline" and will be taught by Bill Ward. Course fee is $20.00.

If you are interested in the course but do not have Internet access, contact the Bethel church office and we will assist you.

Spring Plant Sale



Recently, we got our first hint of spring! It was brief, but a welcome thaw with temperatures in the sixties. With winter still upon us, it's hard to believe that our plant sale is less than two months away!

With that in mind, it is important that we know ahead of time just what will be coming in. If you are growing plants or plan on dividing some, please let us know the type and amount so that we can get labels made.

It's not too early to start collecting boxes and trays for carryout. This is also a good time to explore garage sales for pots and planters, and maybe even a plant or two.

Should there be something special that you would like to see offered at the sale, let us know and we'll try to accommodate you.

If you have ideas for the sale, would like to help with the planning, or would like more information, contact Barb Jacobs (636 451-0526) or Linda Knip (636 273-6960).

Circle of Concern

A Sending Ministry

Pantry Needs:

Spaghetti Sauce Dry Pasta Muffin Mix

Salad Dressing Paper Towels Pudding/Jell-O Toilet Paper

Collection barrels are located outside of Fellowship Hall.

Glenn Koenen, Executive Director of Circle of Concern sends thanks for:

- $50.00 donation made in January
- Donation of food items in January
- $50.00 donation made in February

Gift Card Update

Ever wonder just how much you help in Bethel's fundraising efforts when you purchase your gift cards through Bethel or use your e-Script card at Schnucks? **This program has raised $9,435 (as of 12-31-2010).** Since it's inception in 2006, the program has:

✞ returned to Bethel the $2,000 in seed money needed to get this program started

✞ contributed a total of $6,000 toward the apportionments for 2007-2010

✞ retained a $1,435 balance in the bank account to keep the fundraising going into 2011!

Thank you for your continued support of the "Gift Card" fund- raiser! Please continue to:

1. Purchase Dierberg's and Shop n Save gift cards in denominations of $25.00 & $100.00. They are available every Sunday in fellowship hall. You may purchase with cash or personal check.
2. Order "Special Gift Cards". The list of over 70 merchants is available in fellowship hall. You can place your order on Sunday and pick up the following Sunday. Or, take the list home to complete and bring it back the following Sunday. We accept cash or personal check with your order.
3. Schnucks' e-Script Card. Pick up your personal card(s) in fellowship hall on Sunday. It just takes a call (toll-free number on card) to activate your card. You will be asked:
   - Name of organization - (Bethel UMC - Group ID 164502276)
   - Your name - (Your name will be registered with the code number on the back of card)
   - Your address - (In case you would need to be notified-probably never!)

   Give your eScript Card to the cashier at Schnucks before checking out your groceries and prescriptions. The earnings from your purchases go right into Bethel's checking account.

If you have any questions about Bethel's "Gift Card" Fundraiser, please let Sheila Olive or Betty Lorance know. You'll find one of them selling the cards in Fellowship Hall every Sunday during Fellowship.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) thanks Bethel for its recent gifts:

$20 toward Haiti Emergency $110 toward United Methodist NOMADS

NOMADS, a mission outreach program mainly for persons with RVs, assists local churches, mission agencies, camps, children's homes and in disaster response. They sent their thanks for the donation as well.

To my friends at Bethel,

I want to simply say thank you for the wonderful going away party that you held for Trish and me in February. Although Trish could not be there, I certainly appreciate all of your efforts and thank everyone for being there, and bringing food, and breaking bread together one last time. Your gifts of the artwork of the church will be added to our collection and the thoughtfulness of the boy and his dog statue will be enjoyed for many years to come. Your acts of kindness and hospitality will always be fondly remembered.

I also want to thank you for your love, support, and encouragement over the past three years. I appreciate how quickly the Bethel family accepted and welcomed me in 2008 under your mantle of "no one left behind." And to those hearty souls who ventured to Springfield for ordination in June 2009 and learned another life lesson from Len - thank you as well! But mostly, please know how much life affirming impact that you and Bethel have had on me.

Each one of you will be missed as we transition to Pittsburgh, but your thoughts and prayers will always be appreciated. May the love, peace, and grace of Jesus Christ be with you always.

In Christ,
Rev. J.C. Sowers, III

PATRON OF GINGHAM'S RESTAURANT?

Write "Bethel United Methodist Church" on your food bill and Gingham's will donate 10% of your bill to Bethel! Now, that's easy!

Living Word UMC invites the women of Bethel to

GOING BEYOND: LIFE INTERRUPTED SIMULCAST

April 1-2, 2011
Friday 7—9:30 pm, Saturday 9 am—12:30 pm

$32 per person

Using the life of Jonah as our guide, Priscilla Shirer will teach us how to turn our "life interruptions" into opportunities to encounter Christ, and serve Him from the center of His will. Buy tickets online at www.livingwordumc.org/priscillashirer.html (credit card or paypal payment).

More information available at www.livingwordumc.org/priscillashirer.html

Abitibi Bowater (aka the Paper Retreiver) thanks you for your participation in our recycling! Just a few reminders from their website:

Keep these items coming:
Newspaper and Inserts Magazines/catalogs Mail Office/School papers*

No, thanks to the following:
Cardboard Food boxes, fiberboard or chipboard
textbooks or hard cover books phone books

Abitibi Bowater recycles what can be used to create new newsprint and the items in the "No thanks" are either inferior for newsprint (i.e. phone books) or cost prohibitive (i.e. cardboard that requires bleaching).

We do apologize to those who pulled up to the bin to find it full to the brim. Please continue your recycling efforts—our Bethel Youth truly appreciate your efforts!

Shredded paper should be bagged. For more information, check out their website at www.paperretriever.com/default/WGITB/WGITB.pdf

2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUNDAY ACTIVITIES **8:30 a.m. Breakfast** **9 a.m. Praise & Gospel Worship, Sunday School** **10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship** **Fellowship following both Worship services** **Quality Childcare and** **Preschool Education all morning!**		1	2	3	4 **7:00 PM** Dartball @ Bethel **8:30 PM** Bethel A & Bethel B	5
6	7	8 **2:30 PM** Price Memorial Worship	9 Ash Wednesday	10 **2:30 PM** Marymount Manor Worship	11 **7:00 PM** Dartball @ Bethel (Div. Series) **8:30 PM** Bethel A & Bethel B	12 **5:00 PM** Crossroads
13	14	15 **10:00 AM** Bible Study: 24 Hours **7:00 PM** Bible Study: 24 Hours	16	17	18 **8:30 PM** Dartball @ Castlewood (Div.) - Bethel B	19
20	21	22 **10:00 AM** Bible Study: 24 Hours **6:30 PM** Gambrill LIFE Group **7:00 PM** Bible Study: 24 Hours	23	24 **7:30 PM** Boy Scout Troop Meeting	25 **7:00 PM** Dartball @ Castlewood (Div.) - Bethel A **8:30 PM** Dartball @ Castlewood (Div.) - Bethel B	26
27	28 **6:00 PM** Men's Club	29 **10:00 AM** Bible Study: 24 Hours **7:00 PM** Bible Study: 24 Hours	30	31	**Regularly Scheduled Opportunities:** **Monday & Thursday:** 9-10 am– Slimnastics **Tuesday:** 10 am- Quilters **Wednesday:** 6 pm—Praise Team Practice, 7 pm—Choir Practice	

Bethel United Methodist Church
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Wildwood, MO 63038-1907

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Bethel United Methodist Church

Experience It!

8:30 a.m.– Breakfast
9:00 a.m.- Praise & Gospel 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

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