



BPC REVIEW

Bethel Presbyterian Church Newsletter

October 2017



For those of us who would be followers of Christ, the most basic question we need to ask ourselves is "What is a Christian?" We are living in a world where there is now virtually a "Christian" everything. Look around you. There are Christian counseling centers, Christian comedy clubs, Christian dance clubs, Christian athletic organizations, Christian coalitions, and Christian bookstores. In the Christian yellow pages, you can find Christian schools, Christian plumbers, Christian doctors, Christian bakers, Christian bankers, even Christian lawyers.

The church is no different. We have, Christian Pentecostals, Christian evangelicals, Christian Liberals, Christian Conservatives, Mainstream Christians, Christian Charismatics, and the list can go on and on. The word has been so watered down that some believers now describe themselves as Christ followers and encourage others to do the same.

Since I have been in Ministry I have been confronted by those who have examined my theology and called it too evangelical, I have had others look at that same theology and call it too liberal. How can one simple word become so confusing?

The problem is we have made the word Christian an adjective. What do adjectives do? They modify nouns. Adjectives modify things that are larger and more important than they are. Adjectives are ornaments and lights you hang on nouns so that nouns become more alive and meaningful.

The word "Christian" began as a noun, not as an adjective. The word, used three times in the New Testament, means literally "disciple of Christ."

It used to be that when politicians like Mitch McConnell, Ted Kennedy, Barry Goldwater, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon, regularly debated issues by flying in the same planes, staying in the same hotels, eating at the same tables and in the same restaurants. Try getting that kind of comradery among modern politicians you would be hard pressed to find it.

Sadly, the same is true among those who call themselves Christian. Try to get a Christian liberal and conservative to come together in fellowship with comradery and you will find yourself fighting an up-hill battle. Why? Because when we make our faith an adjective it becomes very easy to make the dangerous step of beginning to believe that our brand of the faith is the only valid flavor.

The truth is we are not Christian Pentecostals, we are not Christian evangelicals, we are not Christian liberals, we are not Christian conservatives, we are not mainstream Christians, we are not Christian charismatics, we are not Christian men or women, we are not Christian scholars, we are not Christian parents, we are not Christian patriots, we are Christians. Period!

Food for thought ... Pastor Todd

Operation Christmas Child



**Program will
begin in
October**

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- A Word from the Pastor
- October Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Prayer Chain and Thank You Notes
- Celebrating John and Sandy Louderback
- Church Groups
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- Community Events
- October Calendar



Patricia Kirchner ~ 10/01

Ann Ragonese ~ 10/02

Larry Kastner ~ 10/03

Sue Hinkley ~ 10/05

Hannah Burgess ~ 10/06

Karen Nystrom ~ 10/06

Dorothy Goldstein ~ 10/08

Nancy Alexander ~ 10/09

Garry Smithson ~ 10/09

Rev. Todd Smith ~ 10/12

Eric Benson ~ 10/15

Janet Henderson ~ 10/15

Martha Smithson ~ 10/15

Rebecca Burgess ~ 10/16

Bill Gross ~ 10/17

Angela Kirchner ~ 10/17

Ada Koepper ~ 10/20

Brian Calary ~ 10/23

Samantha Fielder ~ 10/24

Savannah Shaul ~ 10/24

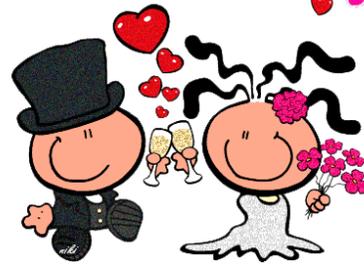
Douglas Smith, III ~ 10/24

Joe Ostrowski ~ 10/25

Tom Nystrom ~ 10/29

Marianna Putnam ~ 10/30

Happy Anniversary



Robert & Sarah Scott
October 3rd

W. Davison & Tracey Pullen
October 5th

Sean & Jennifer Dietz
October 6th

James & Karen Nystrom
October 14th

Ed & Debbie Calary
October 18th

Gary & Mary Kane
October 18th

John & Marcanne Saneman
October 19th



We would like to
Welcome Back
The Bethel Chancel Choir
We look forward to hearing
the joyful sounds of your
voices each Sunday

DEACON'S UPDATE

We uphold the following members, relatives and friends in our prayers and pray God's healing upon them:

Ongoing Prayers:

Gretchen Shanklin, Billy Gross, Bruce Young, Ted Schmidt, Leonora Rose, Jason Rowley, Nancy Sacks, Bill Pullen, Nelson Berigold, Tom Swift, Betty Saneman, Frank Hughes and Vi Smith.

For Relatives & Friends of Bethel Members:

Bruce Snyder, friend of The Louderbacks and Morrows.
Rev. Bruce and Barbara Barstow, the former pastor at Bethel and his wife.
Maurice "Mo" Howard.
Joseph Biondo, uncle of Gary Lowe.
Ed Sturtevant, friend of Bethel Church.
DiLiello Family, friends of Pastor Todd Smith.
Dan Kelleher, brother-in-law of Jack and Betty Rogers.
Diana Natnaparstek, friend of Nancy Mory and Nancy Cowman.
Gary Elser, friend of Bruce and Carolyn Mattheiss
Bill Hamer, friend of Bruce and Carolyn Mattheiss.
Jay and Martha Elliott's grandson, James Kennedy, friends of Dan & Mary Beth Scott.
Marsha Jones, friend of Laurie Falkner.
Lynn Kiniry, friend of Gail & Dave Thomas.
Lola Beigel, aunt of Carolyn Mattheiss.
Justin Comer, grandson of Allen & Janet Henderson and son of Keith & Kristin Comer.
Dan Garey, brother of Sandy Louderback.
Charles & Mary Rosseau, friends of The Thomas'

Into the Church Triumphant:

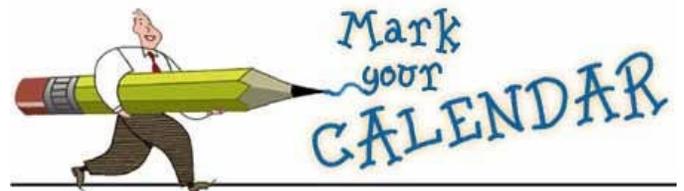
Sarah Jeane Gross
September 19, 2017

Gail Lowe will be updating the Prayer Concerns. If you would like to add someone or you feel someone can be removed from the list, please call Gail at 443-567-0150 or email her at gagalowe@aol.com



We had an unforgettable week at Young Life Camp. Thank you for supporting Young Life and helping to make this week possible.

~ Dave



The Board of Trustees will be having a

CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday ~ November 11th

(Rain Date ~ Saturday, November 18th)

We are looking for additional volunteers to help with clean-up jobs around the Church grounds or in any of the Bethel buildings that could include removal of branches and debris, removal of leaves, help with clearing off shelves in Church Office basement, etc.

Please contact **Gary Lowe** to volunteer.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping Bethel Church beautiful !!



Celebrating John & Sandy Louderback

John and Sandy Louderback worship regularly at Bethel. John has been singing in the Chancel Choir since becoming a member in 1973. He has served as Deacon, Clerk of Session, President of Trustees, and as a member of the Personnel Committee. For over 20 years he has been a member of the Counting Offerings Team at Bethel. John brewed many cups of coffee in our kitchen and shares his delicious baked goods with us. Check out some of his recipes found in our Bethel cook book.

Our community knows this pair of volunteers as well. John accumulated at least 3,700 volunteer hours at Upper Chesapeake and currently works in the Ambulatory Care Coffee Shop and is a member of the Jarrettsville Lions Club. Sandy's love for books and reading brings her to volunteer at the Jarrettsville Library where she also enjoys playing scrabble and pinochle once a week.

John and his 15 minute younger twin sister, Martha, with their older brother, Harvey, grew up in a West Virginian town called Nitro, a community built by the U.S. Government for the purpose of producing nitrogen. However, the end of World War I came and the town was never occupied by the Army.

John was a member of the marching band at Charleston High School, attended Morris Harvey College and graduated from Marshall University with a BBA degree where he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He served two years as an Army Medic, gained work experience as department store manager trainee, insurance underwriter with USF&G Insurance, working in the Corporate Human Resource Dept. at the time of his retirement after working 34 yrs. with the company. He also retired from Macy's in Bel Air and from Bel Air Auto Auction.

Sandy grew up in Ohio with older brothers, Dan and David. Many of her family experiences influenced the lessons she later taught her students. She would tell them that she hoped they would learn to love reading. It amazed them when she claimed to walk all the way from Ohio to the state of Indiana just to go to the library. (Later explaining that it was a distance of 4 blocks)

Sandy enjoyed many activities during high school, her favorite was being a majorette in the band. She earned a BA degree with a major in elementary education from Ohio Wesleyan University. She wrote spelling worksheets and coauthored a sixth grade English textbook for Silver Burdett Publishing Co. Ask Sandy how her 5year commitment to teach turned into 41 years of teaching experience.

Sandy's first teaching job was in Lakewood, Ohio where John happened to live at the time. They met at a singles group at Lakewood Presbyterian Church. Job promotions and experiences brought our couple east. They were married in June 1966 at Aisquith Presbyterian Church and three years later moved to Jarrettsville and became members of Bethel Presbyterian Church.

John and Sandy are members of the Madonna Chapter of AARP and hold chair positions in the organization. They enjoy traveling with the group especially to the Von Trapp Lodge in Vermont and to Ireland. Oh yes, they do share their home with "several" cats.

We love having John and Sandy as part of our Bethel Family.

Church Groups

CHURCH FLOWERS

Interested in donating flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Sunday mornings? Please feel free to call Betty Rogers at 410-692-6579.

Let her know if the donation is in memory of a loved one or in celebration of birthdays or anniversaries.



BETHEL CROSS STITCHERS

The Bethel Cross Stitchers will be meeting on **October 4th and 18th at 9:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

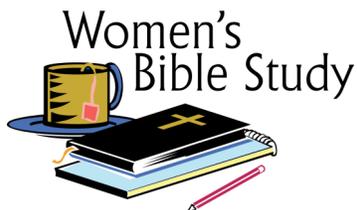


If you would like to enjoy the fellowship of other Christian women while learning a craft, we welcome you join in on the fun.

MARY'S CIRCLE

Women of Bethel, come and expand your knowledge of the Bible. This Woman's Bible Study Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

If you would like to feel the love of other Christian women, you are cordially invited to attend their next meeting on **October 10th** in the Foyer of the CE Building.



THE BREAKFAST BUNCH

The Breakfast Bunch will be starting a new series on Isaiah. We will meet on **October 5th and 19th at 7:00 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. A continental breakfast will be available. The lesson will end at 8:00 a.m. If you would like more information, please call Bob Horn at 443-807-0563, or send an email to hornsrb@aol.com



BETHEL'S REFUGE



A small group of women whose goal is to support, encourage and comfort those who are hurting. This support group meets every

Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the Church Office. Light refreshments are served. Join us in this safe environment where you can rediscover your own voice. To learn more, please contact Rita Taylor at 443-243-7225 or email her at ritataylorrealtor@gmail.com

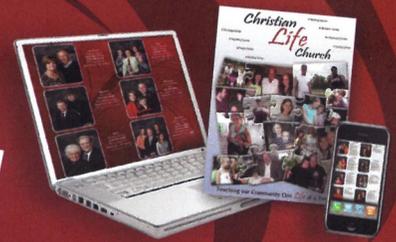
HOME VISITS

If you need a little extra support and guidance, are having an upcoming surgery, or you need some one-on-one time with Pastor Todd, please feel free to call Melissa Dick in the Church Office at 410-692-5282 or you can email her at melissadick@bethel-md.org to schedule a Home Visit.

Your spiritual well being is as important as your physical well being.



Dear Church *family,*
It's time for a New Directory!



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- **Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.** If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- **Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!**
- **Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church!** You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



Photo Sign-Up Dates October 24th and 25th

2:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the Brick House Conference Room

Please contact Jennifer Calary to schedule your photo shoot

443-299-8331 or calaryjr@verizon.net



Concert Event at Bethel October 28th ~ 7:00 p.m. “Broadening Horizons”

Bethel Church is embarking on a new venture with having our first evening of sacred vocal works by Bach, Fauré, Franck, Bach-Gounod and American composer Paul Leavitt performed by Russian soprano *Yulia Petrachuk* accompanied by *Kirsten Fitzsimmons*.

Ticket costs will be \$35 per ticket for non-Bethel Church Members and \$25 per person for Bethel Church Members. If you have a business and would like to advertise in our program for this event, please contact Melissa Dick in the Church Office. The cost for advertising will be \$60 for a half page ad (dimensions 6¾” x 4¼”) and \$100 for a full page ad (dimensions 6¾” x 8¼”). Please mark your calendars for this extraordinary event.

Community Events



Salem Evangelical
Lutheran Church



Salem’s Annual Craft Fair will be held on **Saturday, October 7th** from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Stitchers and others have been working since January to prepare for this event. We will also have a flea market, activities for children, and of course our ever popular apple butter.

Please join us for a day of fun, food and shopping!

Session Summary

The Session held a regular meeting on September 21, 2017 at 7 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Todd, devotions led by Elder Carolyn Mattheiss, who also led us in prayer

CLERK'S REPORT

Approved August 17, 2017 session minutes with a wording correction.

Communion served Sept. 3, 2017 by intinction.

Moved and seconded to approve Julia Morrow to start a Low-Impact Yoga Class on Wed. evenings during the 6:00 to 8:00 time frame in Fellowship Hall. Cost of \$10. per person per class donating \$2 per person per class back to Bethel Church. Carries.

Moved and seconded to have Blue Ribbon 4-H Club's monthly meeting from September through June hosted by Jane Burgess to be held on second Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Hurricane Harvey Relief contributions as of Sept. 18, 2017 is \$2,220.00 and \$1,000.00 donation From Mission Committee. These monies will be split between Harvey and Irma.

Elder Nancy Alexander addressed with Session issues with the kitchen and the need for someone to be in charge.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Letter of agreement with Deer Creek Chorale. Pastor Todd, Melissa Dick and Patrick Dickerson, Pres. of Deer Creek Chorale met. They are in the process of drafting an agreement mutually accepted by both parties.

Free vendor space was drawn and Shirley Smith won the drawing to be used at the next flea market.

Pastor Todd will present a gift card from the congregation to Scott Knopp for his many years of teaching Adult Sunday School.

TRUSTEES – The Board will invite Dan Harner, representative from AARP, to next Trustees meeting.

DEACONS – A fall luncheon will be held Oct. 8th following worship service.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL N/R

WORSHIP & MUSIC – Upcoming events:

All Saint's Sunday	Nov. 5 th
Harvest Home Sunday	Nov. 12 th
Advent	Dec. 3 rd

Pastor Todd told of a group that does Christmas shows with puppetry, and would like to get them for worship service during Advent. Committee decided to have Lessons in Carols at regular 10:30 a.m. service, have usual 7 p.m. and 11 a.m. Christmas services.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP – N/R

EDUCATION – N/R

CARE & REACH OUT COMMITTEE

A Fall concert will be held Sat. Oct. 28, 2017. Sponsors will have ½ page ad for \$60. or a full page ad for \$100. The sponsorship will help offset the cost of hosting the concert at Bethel Church. More info. to follow.

A new church directory is being worked on. Photo dates are Tues. Oct. 24th and Wed. Oct. 25th, 2017. Call Jen Calary to schedule appointments for photograph(s) or call church office.

MISSION – The committee agreed to support the following:

\$500.	Hurricane Harvey through Presbytery
\$500.	Hurricane Irma through Presbytery
\$500.	Perry Point for recreational support for long-term patients

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – continuing to follow through with nominations for the offices of Elder, Deacon and Trustee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Todd.

Respectfully submitted,
Polly S. Winkowski, Clerk