



BPC REVIEW

Bethel Presbyterian Church Newsletter

December 2017



A close look at Luke 2:8-20

What We Should Know First:

This story begins in the fields outside of Bethlehem. At this point, Mary and Joseph had already arrived in Bethlehem in order to take part in Emperor Augustus' census. Also, Jesus had just been born. Bethlehem was also the birthplace of King David, who himself was once a shepherd. The population of Bethlehem was probably around two to four hundred people at this time, and it is located very close to Jerusalem.

The Shepherds

These shepherds were among the lowest status of people in society. Like migrant laborers today, their work was essential to the economy, but they were looked down upon for doing necessary, physically demanding, and very dirty tasks. These shepherds outside of Bethlehem raised sheep that were used for sacrifice in the Jerusalem Temple, so their work was of particular religious and economic importance. Shepherds were not wealthy, they worked long and hard hours, they lived in the fields with the sheep, and they spent all of their time outdoors in all forms of weather. Although shepherds rarely owned the sheep they watched, they protected the sheep from wild animals and made sure the sheep had enough food and water to survive. Since shepherds were deemed so unworthy in their society, this story has ever greater power, because they were among the first people who heard the good news of Jesus' birth. For that reason, the shepherds expressed their shock that the good news was made know to them. The oddness of this fact was probably intensified when they found Jesus, the baby Savior, in one of Bethlehem's livestock pens.

Who does our society look down upon because of their profession, even when this profession fulfills a necessary function and isn't immoral?

Who might God be calling us to reach with Jesus' good news, even if society looks down upon these people?

"...on earth peace..."

The "heavenly host" is literally the "heavenly army". Therefore, God's army was the one declaring that there would be peace on Earth, which might first appear to add irony to the story. However, the original Greek word that is herein translated as "peace" does not mean the same thing as our normal understanding of peace. Whereas our society often defines peace as the absence of chaos and violence, this term means a type of serenity that comes from being joined or rejoined to someone else. This peace has to do with healing relationships that were previously broken and bringing together those who were previously separated. In other words, through the birth of Jesus, God and humanity would be united again, and humanity would find unity amongst itself. Since God's army brought this message, in essence it was declaring a peace treaty with humanity.

In what ways have you experienced God being at peace with you, and how has this changed your life?

*Food for Thought
Pastor Todd*

Christmas Eve Service Schedule



10:30 a.m. Worship Service

6:30 p.m. Christmas Concert

7:00 p.m. Early Service

10:30 p.m. Christmas Concert

11:00 p.m. Late Service

In This Issue

- A Word from the Pastor
- December Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Prayer Chain and Thank You Notes
- Church Groups
- Church Events
- Community Events
- December Calendar



2017 Per Capita

Please be sure to turn in your portion of this year's Per Capita fee of **\$34.15** before the end of the year ... thank you !

Sarah Scott ~ 12/01

John Cairnes ~ 12/03

Kristin Kirkwood ~ 12/03

Lisa Calary ~ 12/04

Sherry Kirchner ~ 12/05

William Scott ~ 12/05

George Denbow ~ 12/06

Richard Walker ~ 12/07

John Shaul ~ 12/08

Carolina Galliher ~ 12/09

Steve Saneman ~ 12/09

Tom O'Neill ~ 12/12

Heather Saneman ~ 12/14

Ann Edie ~ 12/15

Mo Howard ~ 12/15

Theresa Sachs ~ 12/15

Kristin Comer ~ 12/18

Joan Murrell ~ 12/18

Rita Taylor ~ 12/19

Abigail Lowe ~ 12/21

John Adair ~ 12/24

Susan Horn ~ 12/24

Lynda McRee ~ 12/30

Michael Alexander ~ 12/31



Dear Bethel Family and Friends,

Your loving care and support have uplifted me during my illness. Every card, phone call, visit, and preparation of food expresses what a strong family we have here at Bethel. Thank you Todd and Vi for visits at the hospital and home and to the Trustees for opening and closing the church when I could not take care of my assigned time.

~ Tom Swift



Dear Bethel Family and Friends,

May your kindness return to you in the same beautiful way it was offered. Thank you for all your prayers, meals and support. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

In Christ,
Vi

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, Tom Swift, Betty Saneman, Frank Hughes and Vi Smith.

For Relatives & Friends of Bethel Members:

Bruce Snyder, friend of the Morrrows and the Louderbacks.
Rev. Bruce and Barbara Barstow, former pastor at Bethel and his wife. Maurice "Mo" Howard.
Joseph Biondo, uncle of Gary Lowe.
Ed Sturtevant, friend of Bethel.
Dan Kelleher, brother-in-law of Jack and Betty Rogers.
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 and Mary Beth Scott.
Howard Eisner, brother-in-law of Carol Morrow.
Lola Beigel, aunt of Carolyn Mattheiss.
Justin Comer, grandson of Allen and Janet Henderson and son of Keith and Kirsten Comer.
Dan Garey, brother of Sandy Louderback.
Charles and Mary Rosseau, friends of David and Gail Thomas.

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 ggalowe@aol.com

Thank You 

The Board of Trustees would like to thank everyone for their help with the Clean-Up Day at Bethel Church. They greatly appreciate everyone's hard work and assistance with helping to keep Bethel looking beautiful.



The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone at Bethel Church for their generous donations of non-perishable food items that were given to the Mason Dixon Community Services for distribution to our community families in need of assistance.



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the patients and staff at the Perry Point VA Medical Center, I wish to express my appreciation for your recent contribution to the VA Maryland Health Care System. Your donation will help enhance the everyday lives of the Veterans in our care. Your gift will be utilized for recreational purposes for our patients.

Thank you again for your generous donation and for your interest in the welfare of our Veteran patients.

Sincerely,
Joyce Kuwae
Voluntary Service Specialist
Perry Point VA Medical Center

Church Groups

CHURCH FLOWERS

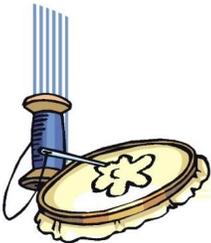
Interested in donating flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Sunday mornings? Please feel free to call Betty Rogers at 410-692-6579.

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 **December 6th and 20th 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 **December 12th** in the Foyer of the CE Building.



THE BREAKFAST BUNCH

The group will continue their series on Isaiah. They will meet on **December 7th and 21st at 7:00 a.m.** in the 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



CHANCEL CHOIR



Bethel Chancel Choir will have rehearsals every **Wednesday at 7:15 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. We would love to have you join our choir. Please feel free to attend rehearsal and lend your voice for our Worship Service each Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Kirsten Fitzsimmons, Music Director, via email at ... kirstenfitzsimmonsmusic@hotmail.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.



Thanksgiving Dinner & Movie Night

Sunday School Students, Youth Groups and their families enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner and Movie on Monday, November 20th. The Christian Education Committee would like to say thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated the wonderful meal we all were able to share together.



Operation Christmas Child

The Christian Education Committee would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to everyone for their donations for the Operation Christmas Child program. We were able to fill **58 BOXES** for needy children who otherwise would not have anything for Christmas. Your kindness, generosity, and love is in every box we were able to fill this year. We are so very proud to be able to participate in this worthwhile program each year with your help. Please enjoy the photos taken of the children filling the boxes.



Advent Luncheon

The Christian Education Committee would like to invite you to attend our Advent Luncheon on ...

Sunday ~ December 3rd

Immediately following Worship Service, join us for an afternoon of Caroling, Fellowship, and an Advent Devotion.

Please be sure to reserve your place at the luncheon by calling Melissa Dick in the Church Office at 410-692-5282 or email her at melissadick@bethel-md.org

Information forms can be found in your Sunday Bulletins



Christmas Poinsettias



The most wonderful time of the year is upon us and we invite you to share your memories with us by acknowledging a loved one or friend with a donation for the poinsettia decorations we provide each year to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas.

Please be sure to contact Melissa Dick in the Church Office at 410-692-5282 or email her at melissadick@bethel-md.org if you would like to make a donation.

Information forms can be found in your Sunday Bulletins

Christmas Shoe Tree

We will “kick off” collecting money to purchase Payless Shoes Gift Cards for distribution through the Mason-Dixon Community Center. The shoe gift cards provide much needed support for growing families in our community. Ten dollars (\$10) buys one gift card. Look for the Shoe Tree in the Sanctuary. Deadline for donations will be ...

Sunday, December 31st.



All you have to do is remove an envelope from the tree, place your donation inside the envelope, and place the envelope in the offering plate or mail your donation to the Church Office. Make checks payable to **Bethel Presbyterian Church** and make the memo notation to “Shoe Tree”. Our mission is to match last year’s generous giving of over \$1,300. Won’t YOU share the blessings God has given you with those who are less fortunate?

Trim the Tree Festivities

We welcome you to help our
Sunday School Students and Youth Groups
Trim the Christmas Trees on ...

Sunday ~ December 10th

Please be sure to contact **Chrissie Galliher**
443-807-2367 or cgalliher24@gmail.com
if you have any questions





Breakfast

with Santa

Eagle Scout, Tyler Sambor, will be hosting this joyous event on ...

Saturday ~ December 16th

9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

We would greatly appreciate your support in helping Tyler complete his Eagle Scout project of the swing circle and firepit for our Youth Groups.

All proceeds will help fund this project.

If you would like make a reservation in advance, please feel free to email Tyler at ...

jsambor75@gmail.com



Cost of the Breakfast is as follows:

Adults 5-100 ... \$8

Children 2-4 ... \$4

Children under 2 are FREE



You can purchase tickets at the door on the day of the event

Come let us serve you a delicious pancakes & sausage breakfast with oranges and your choice of beverage

We hope you will stop in and spend some time with Santa !

Bethel Presbyterian Church Presents ...

Christmas Around the World



featuring former members of the Maryland Boychoir
and now men's chamber ensemble from Towson ...

Quorus

***Saturday ~ December 16th
at 7:00 p.m.***

We invite you to join us for an evening
of wonderful music and fellowship with a
light fare dinner to follow in our
Fellowship Hall

We will have a Free-Will offering
to help benefit Quorus

Christmas Puppet Service

Please join us for an exciting adventure with the Yadah Ministries Puppet Show on

Sunday ~ December 17th at 10:30 a.m.

We will have a Free-Will Offering to help support the Mission work Yadah Ministries do through the art of puppetry to teach the word of the Lord in our communities



Feel free to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to this joyous event.

We hope to see you there !



Christmas Caroling & Holiday Party

Please join us for Caroling at the homes Of our church members on ...

Sunday ~ December 17th at 2:45 p.m.

We will return to Bethel Church after our Caroling to have a Christmas Party.

Please be sure to contact [Chrissie Galliher](mailto:cgalliher24@gmail.com) 443-807-2367 or cgalliher24@gmail.com if you have any questions

We hope to see you there !





Christmas Tree Sale

Boy Scout Troop 265



What a wonderful way to support our community and get a fresh cut Christmas Tree at a convenient location



Southern Sol
4115 Norrisville Road
White Hall, MD 21161



Prepared. For Life.™

Scouting provides youth with an opportunity to try new things, provide service to others, build self-confidence, and reinforce ethical standards.

Sales begin November 24th and will run until all the trees are sold

Black Friday... 10:00 a.m. ~ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday ... 10:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.

Sunday ... 12:00 p.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.

Closed on MONDAYS

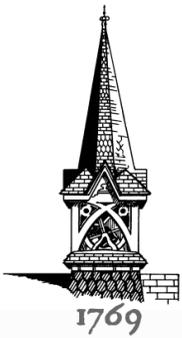
Wednesday thru Friday 5:00 p.m. ~ 7:00 p

6' – 8' Fraser Firs \$50

Table Top Trees \$20

Credit Card Purchase Surcharge of \$2





Bethel Presbyterian Church
4135 Norrisville Road
White Hall, Maryland 21161
410-692-5282
churchoffice@bethel-md.org

Dear Friends and Family of Bethel,

In just two years, Bethel Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 250th anniversary as a congregation. For two and a half centuries, we have served our congregation, community and our God with commitment, courage, and patience. For this we give thanks and praise to all who have kept the faith through the years.

One service to our members and their families that has been provided from our beginning in 1769 is our beautiful and peaceful cemetery that surrounds the back of the sanctuary building. With the oldest marked grave dating to 1777, many generations rest in eternal peace, with their families knowing that the church is committed to perpetual care for their loved-ones.

As with all aspects of Bethel, this care is funded by the generosity of the members and friends of the church and the nominal cost of gravesites. With rising expenses for maintenance and very low interest rates on our dedicated cemetery funds, we are finding it increasingly difficult to meet our obligations without drawing down our reserved capital.

As one who has family and friends buried at Bethel, we are asking you to consider a fully tax-deductible gift to our cemetery fund. These gifts will remain in a dedicated fund for the maintenance and upkeep of our cemetery and will be conservatively invested. Checks in any amount will be greatly appreciated and should be made out to the *Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery Fund* and mailed to:

Bethel Presbyterian Church
4135 Norrisville Road
White Hall, MD 21161

So that we can acknowledge all gifts with a return letter for your records, please include your name and address.

Our cemetery remains open at all times for visits from family and friends. Gravesites remain available for sale for members of the congregation and their families, as we have reserved plenty of space for future generations. We thank you for your past support of Bethel and sincerely hope that you will consider this need as you plan your charitable giving. May God's blessings continue to support you and all your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Stephen Saneman
Chair, Bethel Cemetery Committee

Session Summary

Approved private baptism Oct. 15, 2017 for Ryleigh Nicole Crist, daughter of Dylan and Brianne Thorn Crist. Appd.

We welcomed Rev. Kimberly Secrist Ashby in the absence of Pastor Todd as our Moderator for November's Session meeting.

Guest speaker Howard Magness from Hope Alliance discussed the possibilities of Bethel Church becoming an Emergency Shelter during the winter. This was referred to Mission Committee for further review.

Concert with Yulia Petrachuk cancelled.

Motion and seconded for Eagle Scout Tyler Sambor to host a Breakfast with Santa to help defray expenses for his Boy Scout Project – Youth Fire Pit at Bethel. Breakfast will be held Sat. Dec. 16, 2017 – starting at 9 a.m. in the C.E. Building.

Approved Pastor Todd's vacation time – Nov. 23rd thru Dec. 4, as well as Dec. 26th thru Dec. 28th. 2017.

Pulpit supply on those two Sundays Rita Taylor, Nov. 26th and Mr. Ron Lee on Dec. 3rd, 2017. For this month only communion will be served Dec. 10, 2017.

Melissa will be switching days off during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Motion and second that AARP be allowed to use sanctuary until further notice. Appd.

Administration & Personnel – Nursery care discussed and the need for additional help during worship.

Moved and seconded that Bethel hire nursery assistant. Appd.

Discussion of safety in church and the need for a defibrillator, will be taken back to committee and bring back to Session.

Recommendation received from Personnel for salary adjustments, finalized by Session. Moved & seconded to give 3.5 % increase. Carries.

Moved and seconded to give Pastor Todd a salary raise in cash salary to be proposed to the congregation as Terms of Call. Carries.

Finance — Treasurer report

Operating Income – YTD (Oct):	\$193,441	+2255 vs bud
Includes Offerings and Other Income		Includes \$9022 special gift

Operating Expense – YTD (Sept):	\$204,376	-6619 vs bud
Includes Personnel, Programs, and Trustees		Education +1191
		Music & Wor -1150
		Mission -1250
		Office: -2943
		Session -7371
		Staff +1529

Total trustees: +2700

Operating Surplus (Deficit) (\$10,935) – excludes investment and restricted expenses

Note: YTD \$50,000 has been transferred from the Capital Fund, and \$14,659 from the Kinhart Fund to pay for the Kitchen Project. To cover the operating deficit, \$8,073 has been transferred from the General Fund.

Moved and seconded that Session accept gift from the Cairnes family and create an investment account in the name of George and Evelyn Cairnes. It would be used for special project(s) and be approved by family. Carries.

Moved and seconded to give Vi a gift certificate from Madonna Seafood – thinking of you as you recuperate. Taken from the Session Discretionary Fund. Carries.

Website – templates have been provided, committee suggests we Go Live as soon as possible to take advantage of web site for the holiday period beginning with Thanksgiving-

Education – Will have Puppet Ministry on Sun. Dec. 17, 2017.

Christmas concert Sat. Dec. 16th - 7 p.m.

Advent luncheon – Dec. 3rd after worship

Caroling and Christmas Party on Dec. 17th, visiting shut-ins, party afterwards.

String quarter performance at both services Christmas Eve.

Mission - Visited Perry Point Medical Center on Oct. 4th. Thanksgiving boxes will be assembled at Christ Our King Church, Nov. 18, 2017.

Members agreed to support the following:

\$500. Harford Co. Hope for Homeless Alliance

Provide 10 sewing machines @ \$50. each to launch a business that mends, alters, and sells clothing.

Nominating – Slate of officers presented by committee:

Elders – Sherry Kirchner, Ruth Walker 2nd term Margie Fielder, Shirlee Nystrom

Deacons – Linda McRee, Barbara Shaul, 2nd term Jane Burgess, Jessica Sambor

Trustees – Brian Calary, 2nd term Jim Boyd, Dave Hinkley, Bill Pullen

Moved and seconded that the slate of nominees be accepted. Election was held Nov. 11, 2017 for the purpose of electing these officers. Appd. By voice vote.

Respectfully submitted, Polly S. Winskowski, Clerk

Community Events

Harford Vineyard & Winery



Christmas Arts & Crafts Show located at
1311 W. Jarrettsville Road

Saturday ~ December 2nd
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Deer Creek Chorale

An American Christmas Concert on ...

Sunday ~ December 3rd at 4:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church



Jarrettsville VFC



Craft Show on ...

Saturday ~ December 9th
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Norrisville UMC

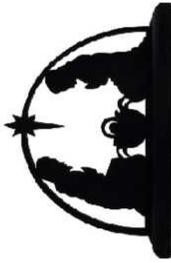
Christmas Breakfast on ...

Saturday ~ December 9th
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.



2017 DECEMBER

SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
Advent Luncheon 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 4:30 Scout Troop #265	7:00 Deacons 4:00 Mission Meeting 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	5:00 DCYC/DCC Rehearsals 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 Trustees Meeting	9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers 6:30 pm Cemetery Committee AARP Bus Trip - Cars in Lot	7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch		CE Committee 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Scout Crew #265 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 1:00 Trim the Tree 1:30 Scout Troop #609 6:00 Blue Ribbon 4-H Club	4:00 Mission Meeting 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	5:00 DCYC/DCC Rehearsals 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 Finance Committee Mtg.	9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers 7:00 Care and Reach Out Team 6:30 Bridge Group	7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 1:00 Trim the Tree 1:30 Scout Troop #609 6:00 Blue Ribbon 4-H Club	4:00 Mission Meeting 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	5:00 DCYC/DCC Rehearsals 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 Finance Committee Mtg.	9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers 7:00 Care and Reach Out Team 6:30 Bridge Group	7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch 7:00 pm Session Meeting NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TODAY		Breakfast with Santa 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Yadah Puppet Ministries 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 2:30 Caroling & Holiday Party	5:00 DCYC/DCC Rehearsals 6:30 Bridge Group 6:30 CE Meeting	5:00 DCYC/DCC Rehearsals 6:30 Bridge Group 6:30 CE Meeting	9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers	7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch 7:00 pm Session Meeting NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TODAY		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve Worship 10:30 am - Worship Service 7:00 pm - Early Service 11:00 pm - Late Service	Merry Christmas 	5:00 DCYC/DCC Rehearsals 6:30 Bridge Group Office Closed			Church Office Open Today	
31						
10:30 Worship Service						