

Bethel United Methodist Church

8405 Lima Road

Fort Wayne, IN 46818

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Volume 48, Issue 1
January 2015

THE BETHEL FLAME ON THE WEB

Have you looked for THE BETHEL FLAME on the Web? Have you listened to Pastor Brian’s sermons? Check us out online at...
www.bethelchurchfw.com

THE BETHEL FLAME
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Monday through Thursday 8am - 3pm
Friday 8am - 12pm

Worship Services:
Traditional Service 8:30am
Sunday School 9:30am
Praise Service 10:30am

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- Sarah Davidson, Preschool Director
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...I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...2 Timothy 1:6b
Bethel United Methodist Church ~ 8405 Lima Road ~ Fort Wayne IN ~ 46818 ~ 260-489-3651



“Don’t Fear the New Year!”

As hard as it is to believe, by the time you read this, 2014 will be history! Some may feel sad to see 2014 go because it has been a wonderful year and there is a fear that 2015 will not be as good. Some most likely will say “Good Riddance, 2014!” This sentiment comes because it has been one “One of those years!” and there is a sincere hope that 2015 will be better. The problem is that we really just don’t know what the New Year holds, do we? There may be some fear associated with this truth for many, many people. The question is...What are you afraid of???

Since it is the New Year and we love those lists they come out with, and since Dave Letterman is retiring in 2015 (I was afraid that was going to happen!), I thought we could take a look at the *Top 10 Strong Human Fears*, based on an article written by Caty Medrano. These are the top fears shared by people everywhere and the list in many ways is self-explanatory. Here is the list from bottom to top: 10. Losing Your Freedom 9. The Unknown 8. Pain 7. Disappointment 6. Misery 5. Loneliness 4. Ridicule 3. Rejection 2. Death and the **#1 fear is Failure!**

Many of these fears are tied together, such as death and the unknown, rejection and ridicule, pain and misery, and failure and loneliness. “We can also observe that these are mostly existential fears that describe an inner condition of the heart.” That is, these are tied to deep seated feelings and emotions, but they are not fears of necessarily specific things.

If you want a more specific list, I ran across a Gallup Poll answering the question, “What Scares Americans Most?” In order, the answers are as follows: 1. Snakes 2. Public Speaking 3. Heights 4. Being closed in a small space 5. Spiders 6. Needles and getting shots 7. Mice 8. Flying on an airplane 9. Dogs 10. Thunder and lightning (Two bonus fears) 11. Going to the doctor 12. The dark.

Continued on page 2.

- Volume 48, Issue 1
January 2015
- Special points of interest:
- ALL 4 HIM Youth concert
 - Bishop's Youth Rally
 - New Sunday School class Coming in January.
 - New Study for Small Groups titled *Gods at War* by Kyle Idleman
 - CALLING ALL MEN!
 - Church office Closings

Inside this issue:

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Pastoral Ponderings

By Pastor Brian

Continued from page 1.

This is obviously a much more concrete list and I can identify with #2 the most. I've grown in this area though, while I do still get nervous sometimes, I don't "fear" public speaking as much as in the past (for obvious reasons). Also, I have no clue how dogs could possibly make the list because I can't imagine why anyone would be afraid of our poodle Rusty! ;)

Well, we all have our fears, don't we? Cady Medrano says, "Fear is such a basic human emotion that many of us constantly live in the grip of fear, worry and anxiety." This is why I chose **"Don't Fear the New Year!"** as our theme to start out 2015. If we call ourselves Christians, somewhere in all of our thinking God has to figure into the equation. God's answer to our fears is found in *2nd Timothy 1:7*, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (NKJV)

The Bible tells us (in various ways and in various places) to **"Fear Not"** hundreds of times. God told us to "fear not" because He knew that we would all wrestle with fear sooner or later. This is why when the angel first came to Mary, to Joseph, and to the shepherds they were told not to be afraid. This is why Jesus, the Prince of Peace, told the Disciples over and over again to not be afraid. In fact, He said in *John 16:33*, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (NIV)

Are there things happening in our world, in your personal life, which causes you to be fearful, concerned, or even anxious about the coming year? To be sure, much of the world is in chaos, there are "wars and rumors of wars," people are still hungry and homeless, our government doesn't seem to have many answers (and is often a big part of the problem), and the list goes on and on. However, Jesus has already overcome this world with all of our problems, all of our sins, and all of our fears though His life, death, and resurrection! God, our God, the God who created the heavens and the earth, the God who sent His Son to bring light to our dark world and commune with us personally, says **"Fear Not!"**

In closing, just as a final reminder in case the message has not gotten through yet, *Philippians 4:6-7* reaffirms God's message to us, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (NKJV)

Don't Fear the New Year...IN CHRIST, We Have NOTHING to Fear!!!

"Joy to the World, The Lord Has Come!"

PB



Three 50lb boxes, filled with 105 plastic school boxes, as well as student and teacher supplies, were shipped to Kenya the first week of December. The items will go to Green Hills Education Center, located in Kisii, Kenya. The education center is run and supported by our dear friend Senata Miako's brother Jared. Green Hills educates children whose ages range from three to twelve. Quite a few pupils attending the school are orphans. Jared is hoping to make Green Hills a boarding school in the near future. It is his dream to be able to house and feed every child in his village that is in need. Special thanks to: Dee McCrea and other members of Stitch and Chatter who organized and bought the school boxes and student supplies, Sarah Davidson and the preschool teachers and parents who also bought and donated student and teacher supplies, and all of you who generously gave to support this much needed project. May God bless you all abundantly. Jared is planning on taking pictures of the children receiving the boxes, so we will be sure to share the pictures.

Thanks again, Rachel Campbell

JUST FOR FUN!

Bible Trivia Question

1) Who rebuked people for bringing their children to Jesus?



- A. The religious leaders
- B. Jesus himself
- C. The disciples
- D. Roman soldiers

2) Which Jericho woman hid the two Israelite spies, and where did she hide them?



- A. Joanna, in her stable
- B. Bathsheba, at her neighbor's house
- C. Milkah, under a pile of blankets
- D. Rahab, on her roof

Check your answers at the bottom of page 16

+Christian Symbol+ Sand dollar



These pretty shells in shades of white, brown or purple are from sea urchins related to starfish and sea cucumbers. The shell's unique characteristics call to mind Christ's birth and death: the poinsettia- and lily-like images, holes representing the four nails and spear that pierced Jesus, small bones inside the shell resembling doves and thus symbolizing the Holy Spirit.

Scroll



A scroll may symbolize the writings of Scripture, particularly the Old Testament. In Luke 4, Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah in his home synagogue at Nazareth. A scroll may also symbolize the Day of Judgment, with the

names of the elect, or saved, written on it. In Revelation 5, the creatures and elders around God's throne sing to Christ the Lamb: "You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation" (v. 9, NIV).

BETHEL HAPPENINGS...



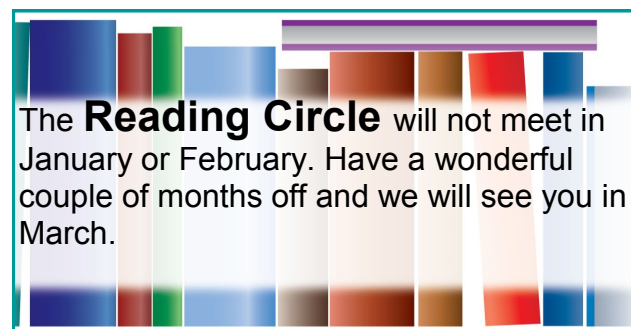
Been There Done That will not meet in January or February. Have a wonderful couple of months off and we will see you in March.



Eve Circle will not meet in January or February. Have a wonderful couple of months off and we will see you in March.

Care Corps Update

Join us on **Saturday, January 10th** for an informational meeting which includes several updates. Also, please join us if you would like to be a part of the Care Corps. We would love to have you.



The **Reading Circle** will not meet in January or February. Have a wonderful couple of months off and we will see you in March.



Thursday, January 8th

9:30am Church Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 20th

6:00pm Staff Parish Meeting

7:00pm Ad Council Meeting

Thursday, January 22nd

7:00 pm Trustee Meeting

January Greeters

Jan 4 Jim & Dee McCrea
Joshua & Kathryn Burt
Jan 11 Dallas & Pat Raypole
TBD
Jan 18 Kathy Smith
TBD
Jan 25 Ron & Phyllis Shappell
Robb & Diana Bilderback

The church office will be CLOSED at 12pm on Wednesday, December 31st, all offices are CLOSED on Thursday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day, and the church office will again be CLOSED at 12pm on Friday, January 2nd.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, January 3rd at 9am

General Operating Report - Nov.

9/01/14 Beginning Balance	-22,632.36
INCOME	24,616.72
EXPENSES	29,084.90
9/30/14 Ending Balance	-27,100.54

BETHEL DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL

Preschool Updates

Thank you for everyone who attended our Christmas Concert! We had a packed house again, which is something that we love! January will be a slow month for us. We hope to have a Restaurant Fundraiser sometime in January, but the date will be forthcoming.

Thank you to those who donated to our Bake Sale after the Concert! We raised \$175.00 toward updating our facilities. (Maybe a Life Center)

We hope to have our new security system installed before class starts back up January 5th, 2015.



Nov. Scrip Report:

Total Sold	\$7605.00
Parent %	\$71.52
School Profit	\$238.92



Words For The New Year

The New Year by Martha Snell Nicholson

Dear Lord, as this New Year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith what paths
I cannot understand.

Whatever coming days may bring
Of bitter loss, or gain,
Or every crown of happiness;
Should sorrow come, or pain,

Or, Lord, if all unknown to me
Thine angel hovers near
To bear me to that farther shore
Before another year,

It matters not—my hand in Thine,
Thy light upon my face,
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask, loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My guiding light upon the path
Till, blind no more, I see!

A New Year With The Lord by M.S.Lowndes

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace



CHILDREN'S

Thank you

- Rachel Campbell & Traci King for leading the Squires & Kids Kingdom classes in December.
- Everyone who has volunteered to help with Awana or donated toys, time or funds to Awana.
- All who donated clothes for the Awana Children's Resale.

Kids News

Awana Clubs:

- The Children's Clothing Resale was held the first weekend of December. We are still in the process of selling clothes through various other means.
- The next Awana event will be the Valentine Fun Day on Wednesday, February 11.

Sunday School & Kids Kingdom:

- The Children's Christmas program was held on Sunday, December 21. A huge thanks to Rachel Campbell and Traci King for putting this together. And thanks to the kids who participated in the Christmas program.

Current Volunteer Needs

Awana Clubs:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2 Puggles Leaders (ages 2—3) | Leading involves teaching a Bible lesson, |
| 1-2 Sparks Leaders (grades K-2) | leading games and/or leading a craft or science activity. |

Sunday School & Kids Kingdom:

- Squires and Kids Kingdom volunteers for May and July.
Knights volunteers for February, April, June and August.

If you are interested in being part of Children's Ministries please contact Shelby Naibauer.

BETHEL ADULT MINISTRY

Small Groups—Supporting and Sharing Life Together

Get connected! Join a small group.

Contact: Rachel Campbell 812/374-6564

We commit our time, energy, passion to so many things, some worthwhile and some just plain exhausting. In the end, what does God want us committed to? I wonder if our lives would look any different, if we allowed God room and permission to set up our schedules and prioritize our time. Small groups may not be for everyone, but if you are someone who is looking for a way to be challenged in your walk with God and/or you desire a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, small groups may be exactly what you are looking for and need.

Jesus was in a small group.



life change happens in small groups

Groups meet on the first and third Sunday evening of each month from 5:30-7:00 p.m. On Sunday, January 4th, we will start a new 6 week study called, Gods at War by Kyle Idleman. Here are the dates for this thought provoking, life changing study: January 4th and 18th, February 1st and 15th, and March 1st and 15th. This study will help believers recognize that there are “false gods at war within each one of us, and they battle for the place of glory and control in our lives . . . behind the sin you're struggling with, the discouragement you're dealing with, the lack of purpose you're living with is a false god that is winning the war for your heart.”

If you need more information or are interested in joining one of our small groups, please contact Rachel Campbell (Christian Education Coordinator) at 812-374-6564 or rrcampbell23@gmail.com. (Note: Child care provided for small group meeting at the Campbell's home.)



CALLING ALL MEN!

Something exciting is on its way! Lets make a different kind of New Year's Resolution! More details to come!

“Follow Me And I Will Make You Fishers of Men”

Matthew 4:18-22

BETHEL SUNDAY SCHOOL

A Look Into What's Coming In January For Sunday School



Christian Home Builders-(Room S6)- Leader-Barb Cross

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16b, NRSV

What better way to start the new year than to learn from Jesus' teaching how to pray. One of Jesus' disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." We also say, "Lord, teach us to pray." Everyone is welcome to join us as we begin Unit 2 in the Adult Bible Studies book, Learning to Pray.

Unit 2	Learning to Pray	
January 4	A Model of Prayer	Luke 11:1-13
January 11	Jesus Prays for the Disciples	John 17:1-26
January 18	Jesus Intercedes for Us	Hebrews 4:14--5:10
January 25	We Pray for One Another	James 5

Seekers of the Covenant (Room S5)- Leader- Jeff Cusick

No information submitted.

Koinonia (Room S7) Leader-Shared leadership between members

The Koinonia Class will be continuing with our study of Matthew by Kalas. It has proved to be a fascinating study shedding new light on the book of Matthew and how it is so very relevant to our lives today. This class always has great discussions as we struggle with the issues of today applying biblical truths to them that lead us into a closer relationship with Jesus.

Coming in January!

A new Sunday School class will be facilitated by Jenni Swanson, Diana Bilderback and Julie Cusick. Do you want to learn more about being the disciple maker Jesus commanded us to be in Matthew 28:19? He said. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," We will be going through "The Purple Book". What is "The Purple Book"? The Purple Book is a twelve-part Bible study keyed to the TNIV and designed to help new believers and longtime followers of Jesus stand firm and grow strong in the Christian life. Join us in Fellowship Hall for this class!

MINISTRIES



Children's Ministry on Wednesday

Awana Clubs **5:00—7:00 PM**
Runs from Sep 3, 2014 - May 20, 2015
Ages: 2yrs - Grade 6

Children's Ministries on Sunday

Sunday School 9:30—10:30 AM

Squires of the Son Ages 2 - Grade 2

Location: Sunday School room beside the kitchen.

This Month's Topic : Bible Truths

This Month's Crew: Pat Muncie, Shelby Naibauer

Knights in Christ Grades 3 - 6

Location: Sunday School room beside the stage.

This Month's Topic : Bible Truths

This Month's Crew: Traci King



Children's Church 10:30—11:30 AM

Kids Kingdom Ages 2 - Grade 6

Location: The castle in Fellowship Hall

This Month's Topic : Bible Truths

This Month's Kingdom Crew: Pat Muncie, Shelby Naibauer

Contact Information

Children's Ministry Director	Shelby Naibauer
Home Phone	416-0752
Email	shelbyspud@gmail.com
Website:	http://www.bethelchurchfw.com/

BETHEL YOUTH MINISTRY

All 4 Him Praise and Worship Youth Concert

all are welcome to come

January 11, 2015 ~ 5:45 - 7:45pm

*At Bethel United Methodist Church
8405 Lima Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818*

**A love offering will be taken for the Mike Lee Band.*

Christmas Blankets for the Charis House Children

What a joy it was to see God provide for the youth's fleece blanket project for the children of the Charis House. God took an idea from one of the youth, directed it to the right receivers, then provided the funds and volunteers to make it happen! We prayed for each of the 27 children that would receive the blankets and asked God to bless them this Christmas with a remind them of His love for them! Thank you to all who donated to this project! We couldn't have accomplished it without your help and support! Especial thank you to Jenny Lemmon and her family, Tiffany Utnage, Donna Belcher, Katie Robinson, and Carol Barton for all their help and guidance in this project. To the youth, thank you for giving of your time and energy to impact the lives of these children. God is going to use these blankets to bless them and keep them warm!



BETHEL YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Upcoming Youth Events



Coffee House Night ~

On January 25, we will have a coffee house night again from 5 to 7pm in the Bethel fellowship hall. We will play board games and drink hot chocolate, tea, flavored coffee etc. Rob Bilderback will share his testimony with us. All are welcomed to come play games with us.

Bishop's Youth Rally ~

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Bishop's Youth Rally on March 14, 2015. This youth rally is an all day event from 8:30-5pm, not including travel time. It will be held at St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis. The theme this year is Go and share the gospel. The cost is \$40 dollars per person which includes the conference, lunch, and gas. For more information on who the speakers and the bands are check out the Bishop's Youth Rally at www.inumc.org. Please let Melinda or Andrew know by if you are planning on attending by February 1 so we can get registered.

SonRise Camp ~

This June from the 22-27 the youth are planning on taking a mission's trip to Anderson, Indiana. There they will serve at SonRise Camp that is a part of Bethesda Lutheran Communities. Each one will be paired one-on-one with an adult with disabilities. They will be friends for the week and develop a close Christ-centered relationship as they go about doing all camp activities together. This mission's trip is an opportunity to serve others, learn how to relate to others who are different than us, develop Christian leadership, grow in faith, and be challenged go beyond one's comfort zone. An informational meeting for youth and their parents will be held on Sunday, February 8th at 5 pm in the Bethel Loft.

January Youth Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
1/04	Sun.	5-7pm	Youth Group
1/11	Sun.	5:45-7:45pm	All 4 Him Praise & Worship Concert at Bethel
1/18	Sun.	5-7pm	Youth Group
1/25	Sun.	5-7pm	Coffee House Night

For more information about upcoming events contact:
Youth Directors, Melinda and Andrew Bird at 260-220-3898 or melindaneon@yahoo.com