

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

Return Service Requested

Volume 48, Issue 7
.....
July 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
is a monthly publication of
Bethel United Methodist Church.

Contact Information:

Church Office (260)489-3651
Fax (260)489-6456
Email bethelchurch@myfrontiermail.com
Bethel Preschool (260)489-3651
bethelpreschool@frontier.com
Bethel Daycare (260)489-3650
betheldaycarekids@gmail.com

Summer Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8am - 3pm
Friday CLOSED

Summer Worship Service:

Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 10:30am

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #768
Fort Wayne IN

.....
Bethel Church Staff
.....

- Brian Campbell**, Pastor
Brandi Williams, Office Manager
Rachel Campbell, Christian Education Director
Melinda Bird, Youth Director
Shelby Naibauer, Children's Ministry Director
Kelli Moody, Daycare Director
Sarah Davidson, Preschool Director
Dawn Roberts, Treasurer
Bob Menefee, Maintenance Director

Answer: B (See Numbers 13:6, 8, 16, 30; 14:6-8.)



...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
.....

VBS a Roaring success

Weird Animals - *Where Jesus' Love is one of a kind!*

At this year's VBS our kids learned that Jesus love is one of kind! A new unique Bible buddy was presented each night to help the kids learn and understand that even though you may Feel Left Out, Feel Different, May Not Understand, Do Wrong, or Feel Afraid JESUS LOVES YOU!! Bible Stories, Videos, Games, Crafts and even Science experiments all were part of the fun and helped to re-inforce our message.

Our Mission Project for the week was Water is Life, a program started by Hannah Foust that provides clean water wells for kids in Burkina Fasa, Africa where there is very little water. Our kids were really engaged in helping those to have clean water. We raised 202.28 which provides clean water to 101 people of this area. This was an awesome success!

A BIG Thankyou from the VBS team to all those who provided much needed donations, provided food and served meals for the kids, Adult and Youth volunteers who helped as Crew Leaders, Station Leaders, Music, Pictures, and most of all for all the prayers from so many for the program. With your help, we were able to spread the love of Jesus to 35-40 kids each night. Laughter and Love poured from the sanctuary and we appreciate the Bethel Family coming together to make the program a success!!



.....
Volume 48, Issue 7
.....
July 2015

-
Special points of interest:
- *Jesus Is Freedom!*
 - **Awana Volunteers**
 - **Last Destination Unknown**
 - **Caribbean Luau**
 - **"What Are You Gonna Do?"**
 - **Summer Fun**
 - **Funeral Ministry**
 - **Working Directory**
 - **Out Of The Office**
 - **Bethel True-isms**
 - **Grace is a gift**
 - **Enjoy you freedom**
-

Inside this

Pastoral Ponderings	2
Children's Ministries	4
Youth Ministry	6
Sunday School	8
E-Pistle	9
Daycare & Preschool	10
Miscellaneous News	11
Prayer List	13
Bethel Happenings	14
Just For Fun	15



Jesus Is Freedom!

July is upon us and with this month comes thoughts of fireworks and picnics and all the fun things summer brings! We begin the month with a celebration of our American Independence and the freedoms we enjoy.



Pastor Brian at VBS

Over the last few Sundays we have been exploring the thought “Jesus is _____?” and I have asked all of us to consider how we fill in the blank. One of the great things about being an American is that we have the freedom to fill in this blank any way we chose, without too much worry over someone telling us, “No, you are wrong; you have to fill in the blank this way!” Oh sure, there are those who would like to do that and they may even try, but we get to make the choice on HOW we fill in the blank, IF we fill in the blank, or if we simply IGNORE the blank.

Now we all know there are quite a variety of ways this blank gets filled in by those of us who identify ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ and there are even more creative answers to this question given by those who follow from afar, or do not chose to follow at all. And that has to be okay too, because again, we are free to make that decision for ourselves.

Freedom is often a funny thing, a strange concept, a desire implanted in the hearts of most people who really have no true idea exactly how to live it out. Freedom can be messy. Freedom can be a great responsibility. Freedom improperly employed can actually impinge upon another person’s freedom.

The Apostle Paul explained that *“Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial!”* He reminds us in *Galatians 5:1, 13-14*, *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. ¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

George Bernard Shaw, famous Irish author, playwright and co-founder of the London School of Economics (also the only person who has won both an Academy Award and a Nobel Prize), once said:

“This is the true joy in life - being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature, instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

JUST FOR FUN!

Grace is a gift

When we work an eight-hour day and receive eight hours' pay for our efforts, that is a WAGE. When we compete with an opponent and receive a trophy for our superior performance, that is a PRIZE. When we receive something in recognition for our service or achievement, that is an AWARD. But when we can earn no wage, can win no prize and deserve no award — yet we receive such a gift — that is unmerited favor. That is undeserved kindness. That is **GRACE**.

Enjoy your freedom

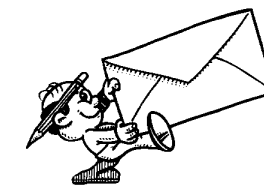
Because many Americans have never known other circumstances, it’s easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites knew firsthand the oppression of slavery. Yet when God finally led them out of Egypt, they had problems adjusting to their newfound freedom. Fearful and rebellious, the Israelites grumbled against their leaders, Moses and Aaron, saying they would’ve been better off as slaves in Egypt.

Our freedom as Christians cost Jesus his life. But we, too, often find it easier to fall back into sinful habits. In Galatians 5:1, Paul offers this encouragement: “For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (NRSV).

We’re no longer bound by sin and death. That “independence” is worth celebrating every day!

Bethel True-isms

Be like a postage stamp, stick to one thing until you get there.



Bible Trivia Question

Which two spies urged the Israelites to move into Canaan, opposing the other 10 who were afraid? (Hint: We know one of the two willing spies by the new name Moses gave him.)



- A. Shaphat and Igal
- B. Hoshea and Caleb
- C. Gaddi and Gaddiel
- D. Shammua and Nahbi

Check your answers at the bottom of page 16

+Christian Symbol+ Wedding Rings



The exchange of wedding rings isn't found in Scripture. It came into practice among Christians in the late ninth century. The unending circle profoundly symbolizes a couple's mutual promises of ongoing love and commitment, as well as God's promise of eternal love that surrounds all — including each couple and marriage.

THANK YOU’S

~ To my wonderful Bethel Family, **thank you** for your prayers, phone calls, and beautiful cards. To Pastor Brian, thank you for watching the Yankees ball game with me and for your prayers at the hospital and over the phone. Another big thank you, to Jim & Dee McCrea and Max & Donna Wakeland for visiting me at the hospital and for your spoken prayers. Last but not least, a huge thanks to Minerva Belote for taking me and helping me at the doctor’s office. I could not have done this without you. Love to my Bethel Family & Friends. God bless, Phyllis Itt

~ I would like to **thank** so many people for the cards, visits, and prayers. I should finish with more rehab in a couple of months. I’m truly blessed being here at Bethel. Love, Marge Myers

Office Manager Out Of The Office

Brandi will be out of the office, on vacation, from Monday, July 20th through Friday, July 31st. Shelby Naibauer will cover the office in her absence. However, these hours will be limited. If you have any questions regarding this temporary change or need assistance with anything during this time, Shelby will be happy to help you.

Also, it is **EXTREMELY** important that all Bethel Flame articles be turned in **ONTIME** this month so that Brandi can have it finish before leaving on vacation. (and have less craziness for Shelby) 😊 The deadline for this is July 15th.

BETHEL HAPPENINGS...



July Meetings

Tuesday, July 7th
7:00pm Finance Meeting


Thursday, July 9th
9:30am Church Staff Meeting

Tuesday, July 21st
6:00 pm Staff Parish Meeting
7:00 pm Ad Council

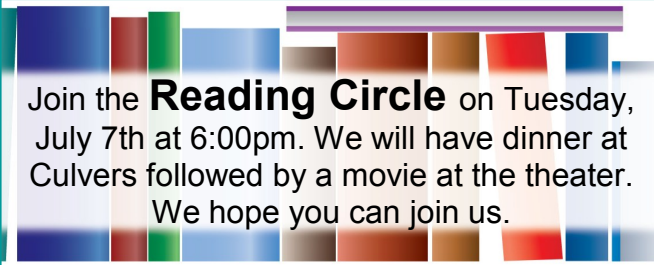
Thursday, July 23rd
7:00pm Trustee Meeting

Saturday, July 25th
9:30am Cluster Churches Meeting

There will be no Men’s Prayers Breakfast due to the July 4th holiday.



Eve Circle will meet on Thurs., July 16th at 6:00pm for our annual picnic at the home of Peg Cussen.



Join the **Reading Circle** on Tuesday, July 7th at 6:00pm. We will have dinner at Culvers followed by a movie at the theater. We hope you can join us.

General Operating Report - May	
5/01/15 Beginning Balance	-22,413.10
INCOME	25,122.18
EXPENSES	25,449.17
5/31/15 Ending Balance	-22740.09

July Greeters	
July 5	Barb Hontz
July 12	Dick Fruit
July 19	Max & Donna Wakeland
July 26	Don & Carol Borches

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die.

For the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It’s a sort of splendid torch which I’ve got to hold up for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.”

There is nothing worse in this life, whether we call ourselves Christian or otherwise, than to be doomed to focus only on ourselves. The more we do that, the more miserable we will become. The more we will become that *“feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.”*

Do you know what most people need more than anything else? We need to stop moaning about our problems and go out and help somebody else. That doesn’t sound very pastoral does it? Pastors are supposed to say, *“What you need is unconditional love. What you need is some me-time to focus on your needs.”* Sometimes these things are true. But in talking to many other pastors, counselors, teachers and the like, I have learned that what we need most of the time, for most of our problems, is some encouragement and maybe even a good kick in the pants now and again.

Now how un-Christian is that? Not as much as you might think. Sometimes we need to go over and over our problems. Sometimes we need to talk through our unhappiness. Sometimes we need to whine for a little while. But a time comes when we need to be finished whining. Isn’t that in the Bible?

“A time to be born and a time to die. A time to whine, and a time to be done with whining. A time to complain about our lives and a time to get a life.”

Okay, that’s not exactly there in that way, but hey, I have freedom right? Honestly, after the whining is done, after the pastor or counselor or encourager has had his/her words and we have had ours and the talking is ended...It is time to stop talking and start doing. It’s time to make something happen. It’s time to get a life. Our touchy-feely, therapeutic, blame it on the way we were raised society isn’t doing us any favors. We pursue freedom, peace, and happiness because we think they are something we can pursue. We don’t realize that freedom, peace, and happiness, rather than being something we can pursue, are instead by-products that come when we get a life – when we step out of ourselves and embrace life that goes beyond our own, life that Jesus wants for us, life that Jesus died for, life that is abundant and free! Jesus is Freedom!



CHILDREN'S

Thank you

- Mike & Shelby Naibauer and Les & Lin Walters for leading the Squires & Kids Kingdom classes in June.
- Nicole Burt for leading the Knights class in June.
- Traci King & Kristi Miller for planning a great week of Vacation Bible School. We had about 50 kids and it was an awesome week!

Awana Volunteers

It's time to start thinking about Awana for next year. If you are interested in volunteering in ANY capacity, please see our webpage (<http://www.bethelchurchfw.com/volunteer-opportunities.html>) or contact Shelby Naibauer.

Leaders

- Junior Leaders help Large Group Leaders during their individual group meetings. Junior Leaders may also be assigned miscellaneous tasks such as cleaning, listening, etc... (2 hrs)
- Group Leaders teach children age-appropriate Bible lessons in a classroom setting. Group Leaders will also prepare games and activities for the children. (2 hrs)
- Song Leaders lead the children in singing. (20 min)
- Pre-Club Activity Leaders entertain our volunteer's children while they setup for clubs. Play games, play on the playground and/or watch movies!!! (30 min)

Listeners

- Listeners support the leaders by listening to kids recite memory verses during Handbook Time. Listeners will record the section and date that the memory verse is completed. (1 hr)

Servers

- Servers help prepare and serve food to the children during Meal Time. Servers will also clean up the dining area and the dishes when the children are done eating. (1 hr)

Run the Awana Store

- This year we would like to have an Awana Store where children can pick out their Coin Collection and Birthday prizes either before or after clubs. (20 minutes before clubs and/or 20 minutes after clubs)

Shelby Naibauer
416-0752

bethelkidsmin@frontier.com
<http://www.bethelchurchfw.com/>

BETHEL PRAYER LIST

Bethel Family

Donna Belcher	Ray Owen	Bethel Preschool & Bethel
Andrew & Melinda Bird	Virginia Staley	Daycare
and family	Joy Stuckey	Bishop Coyner
Carol Borches	Russ Sunday	District Superintendent,
Bob Dorsey	Donna Wakeland	David Neckers
Maggie Eiffert	Gayle Westfall	Pastor Brian & Rachel
Diana Halter	Linda Wheaton	Campbell and family
Opal Herrberg	Those of our congregation	Kid's Kingdom
Phyllis Itt	who are job-hunting	Awana Clubs
Ann Kramer	Families in crisis – financial,	VBS
Marge Leininger	health, marriage	
Pastor Jerry & Liz Machgan	Bethel Staff & Volunteers	
Mike & Arline Miller	Bethel Church	
Marcia Moore		

Friends of Bethel

Dennis Arnold, Juanita	Ryan & Chole McIntyre,	Caz Strzynski
Arnold's son	relatives of Betty	Marscell Sloffer,
Ava Bower, child with	Failor	Charlotte Klerner's
Leukemia	Judy Miller, friend of Ron &	mother
Destiny, Robb & Diana	Phyllis Shappell	Niccole Snowden Willoughby
Bilderback's niece	Jim Overholt, friend of Bob	friend of Pastor Brian
Steve Getty, friend of	Moore	& Rachel Campbell
Pat Muncie	Beth Richardson, friend of	The President and Cabinet
Helen Goonen, Betty Failor's	Dave & Pat Muncie	(the government)
sister	Lane Rust, former Bethel	Pray for the schools,
Terri Gruver, friend of	Preschool student	children, teachers etc.
Dave Hord	The Saneta Family	
Richard Johnson, Jenny	Chris Shankelton, Linda	
Lemmon's father	Wheaton's cousin	
Mercedeas, Shugert's	Wayne Smith	
granddaughter	Shappell's son-in-law	

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE OF CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE TO THESE LISTS. WE THANK YOU FOR CARING ENOUGH TO PRAY FOR THEM.

Remember those of our church who are in healthcare, shut-in or in assisted living:

Juanita Arnold: Heritage Park
2001 Hobson Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46805; Room 108

Arlene Domer: Golden Years Homestead
8300 Maysville Road, Apt 2019, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Edna Doty: 2033 S. Lone Pine Rd, Columbia City, IN 46725

Maggie Eiffert: 7211 Red Haw Drive, Fort Wayne IN, 46825; 260-755-5789

Betty Failor: 4012 Captiva Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46815; 260-485-0205

Opal Herrberg: 1821 Gilmore Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Ronald Jones: 413 Columbia Drive, Apt #19, Columbia City, IN 46725

Marge Leininger: 3385 US Highway 33; Churubusco, IN 46723; 260-489-4822

Marcia Moore: 14409 Sunrise Court, Leo, IN 46765

Elizabeth Richards: Care of their son, Tom Richards
16203 Thunderbird Road, Huntertown, IN 46748

Rose Sadler: 1717 Maplecrest Road, Apt 142, Fort Wayne, IN 46815; 260-748-6604

Virginia Staley: 445 East Dupont Road, Fort Wayne IN, 46825; 260-637-1635

Rooney Stewart: P.O. Box 5194, Fort Wayne, IN 46895-5194

Russ Sunday: Arbor Glen Retirement Community
5202 Saint Joe Road, Apt# 203, Fort Wayne, IN 46835; 260-489-7620

Erna Troth: 7833 W. Jefferson Blvd., Apt 107, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

**PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW OF ANY CHANGES THAT
NEED TO BE MADE SUCH AS ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER.**

MINISTRIES

Wednesdays at Bethel

Awana Clubs

Awana Clubs are taking a break for the summer. Clubs will resume in the fall.

Thank you for your support during our 1st year of Awana!



Sundays at Bethel

Sunday School 9:30—10:30 AM

Squires of the Son Ages 2 - Grade 2

Location: Crib Room beside the kitchen.

This Month's Crew:

Jenni Swanson & Mandy Odum and
Joshua & Kathryn Burt

Knights in Christ Grades 3 - 6

Location: Music Room beside the stage.

This Month's Crew: Nicole Burt



Children's Church 10:30—11:30 AM

Kids Kingdom Ages 2 - Grade 6

Location: The castle in Fellowship Hall

This Month's Kingdom Crew:

Jenni Swanson & Mandy Odum and
Joshua & Kathryn Burt

Kid News

Can Collection HELP— Do you have a truck or a trailer? Are you interested in helping out in Children's Ministries? We would like to put together a team of people to take the cans we collect at the church to the recycling center. If you are able to help, please contact Shelby.

Christmas Card Designs— Christmas card designs were due in May but if you need more time to work on them, please drop them off at the church office when they are finished.

We Collect Cans!

Children's Ministry collects pop cans for cash! Collection bins are located near the pop machine by the kitchen and inside the fence just outside the kitchen door.

Donations

Did you know we have a wish list for supplies? Check out the Children's Ministry website to see if there's anything we need that you want to get rid of. Visit our website, click on the Children & Youth menu and choose Children's Ministry (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Volunteers

Interested in working with Bethel's Children's Ministry? Check our website to see more details. bethelchurchfw.com/volunteer-opportunities.html

BETHEL YOUTH MINISTRY

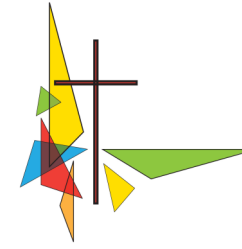
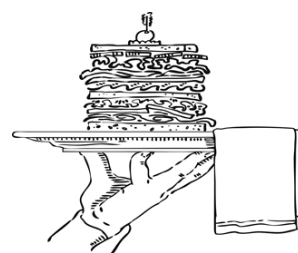
Revive - "Shine" 2015

This year at Revive 2015 the youth really did **SHINE** while *Serving Him In Neighborhoods Everywhere!* It was so encouraging to see around 60 young people from all different UMCs come together for the common purpose of being the hands and feet of Jesus to the community. Community Harvest was just one of the places the youth served during this three day outreach. They sorted items, moved items, and filled shelves with food. At the Charis House, they beautified the side of the house by pulling up weeds and laying gravel down. Lamplight Assisted Living was a favorite place for many youth. They enjoyed playing card games and talking to the people there. Other projects were serving a meal at the Rescue Mission, helping at the Franciscan Center, and working at the Associated Churches Food Bank. In the evenings, there was a time of worship. The band Live 4:1 did an amazing job of leading us in worship of our Lord! It was beautiful to see these teenagers worshipping the Lord through dance, praise, and hands lifted high. The speaker, Scott Mills challenged each to remember how special God made them and to use their lives to bring glory to God. It was a privilege to participate in this event with Derek and Katelyn.



Revive 2015 Sandwich Donations

A **BIG thank you** to all who donated items and money for the lunches for Revive. The items were used and appreciated! We had to go out the last day and buy 10 loaves of bread and fruit snacks as we had ran out. However, since there was money donated we had the funds to supply the need! Thank you for being a giving church and supporting the UMC Youth at Revive 2015!



Funeral Dinner Ministry

Over the years we have served many, many funeral dinners at Bethel. The families find this time to heal and reconnect following several days of emotional up and downs. We feel that this is an important mission that we don't want to give up. We are in need of some more persons to help on this ministry. If you would be willing to help with dinners either by making a food item, helping in the kitchen, serving, or cleaning up, you would be a great help to this ministry. We would like to have enough volunteers so we don't have to call the same ones every time.

If this is something you would consider helping with, please give Peg Cussen a call at 260-489-9638. If you have ever been on the receiving end of a dinner, you will understand why this is so important. I hope to hear from many of you. Help us be a blessing to others.

Thank you to all who have been faithful to this mission all these years. We appreciate your willingness to help. Feel free to call with any questions concerning this project.

Working Church Directory

We are in the process of updating and printing a new 2015/2016 Working Church Directory. If you have had a change in address, phone number, or e-mail etc. in the last 1 ½ years, please let Brandi know in the church office know by Friday, July 10th, even if you have already given it to me in the past. We want to cover all our bases and have the directory as up to date as possible. I would like to have these printed and ready for you in the third week of July.

If you are not currently in the working directory and would to be, please turn in all your information into the church office. Thank you in advance for your help.

*This is not a pictorial directory



Summer Worship & Church Office Hours

The summer months are here! Just a reminder, that beginning Sunday, June 7th through Sunday, August 30th we will go to one worship service at 10:30am with Sunday School at 9:30am. Also, beginning the week of June 8th the through August summer church office hours are as follows.

MONDAY through THURSDAY ~ 8am – 3pm FRIDAY ~ CLOSED

Due to this change, please have all bulletin announcements or inserts to the office by Thursday mornings in order to be sure it is printed in time. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 260-489-3651.

BETHEL DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL

Summer Fun at Daycare

Well it is that time of year again...SUMMER! Summer is always so laid back and tons of fun at Bethel. This summer Bethel Daycare Ministry has many fun activities going on. The School Age class have many fieldtrips to attend. For example: Embassy Theatre, Buchner Playground, Science Central, Rural King, Pet Smart... All children attending our summer care program are asked to bring sunscreen (non-spray), swim suit and towel as we play in the water out by the playground. We are so blessed and thankful to have a great group of kids and loving staff!

New Garden

Bethel Daycare Ministry has a new garden growing. You will find Milkweed, Sunflowers, Lemon Balm and Oregano growing. We are thankful that we can grow a garden to promote the butterfly population!

Mulch for the Playground

The Daycare and Preschool will be adding a layer of mulch to the playground as it has settled a bit. Anyone that is good with a shovel, rake and wheelbarrow please come and join us! Just give Kelli or Sarah a call. We will try to work on it between the rain and storms.

Preschool Registration

Registration for this Fall is going well. We have 8 spots left in the 3 turning 4 half day classes. If you are interested, please contact the preschool.

Out Of The Office

Sarah Davidson will be out of the office July 17th – August 2nd . Mrs. Pequignot will be available during these two weeks. If you need to speak with her, please leave a message or email her at bethelpreschool@frontier.com.

Summer Preschool Office Contact Info

Sarah Davidson will be in and out of the office all summer. If you need to speak with her, please leave a message at 260-489-3651 or email her at bethelpreschool@frontier.com.



Friday, July 3rd, the Daycare will be CLOSED in observance of Independence Day! Have a fun and safe holiday!

May Scrip Report:	
Total Sold	\$4285.00
Parent %	\$83.84
School %	\$136.81

BETHEL YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

During the month of July we will look at what it means to be raised in the church, and how to think and live biblically. We will study the Bible and examine the book *Growing Up Christian: Have You Taken Over Ownership of Your Relationship with God?* By Karl Graustein and Mark Jacobsen. Come on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am to discuss the blessings and dangers of growing up Christian.

MYSTERY TRIP

Last Destination Unknown

When: Sunday, July 12
Time: 5-7 pm
Where to Meet: In the Loft at church
Cost: \$6
What to bring: Old athletic shoes, hat, sun glasses, water

Caribbean Luau

Everyone is invited to a *Caribbean Luau* at Bethel on *Sunday, July 26*. The *Luau* will be from 5pm to 7pm. We will eat, play games, and have a good time of fellowship. The church will provide the meat. Everyone is requested to **bring a side dish to share**. This event will be the wrap up for the youth this school year and a good bye to the Birds. Please mark your calendars for *July 26* and join our *Caribbean Luau* !



July Youth Calendar		
Date	Day	Event
July 12	Sun	Last Destination Unknown
July 26	Sun	Caribbean Luau / Last Youth Event with the Birds
For more information about the Bethel Youth contact: Melinda and Andrew Bird, Youth Directors Home Phone: 260-220-3898 Email: bethelyouth@frontier.com		

BETHEL SUNDAY SCHOOL

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



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

“He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.”
Micah 5:4-5 NIV

What will we do with our salvation as we are being formed into the image of God? Will we as the church be a means of blessing for the families of the earth? Will we live in the image of the one who called us to put ourselves last instead of first? The prophets, like Micah, were called by God to speak to the people to disturb and thereby to open the hearts of the people to God. Thankfully, our God is a God of judgment and mercy. Join us singing praises to His Name!

God’s Prophets Demand Justice

Unit 2 Micah Calls for Justice Among Unjust People

Purpose

July 5 No Rest for the Wicked
Micah 2:4-11

To recognize that our reluctance to accept criticism can interfere with our hearing God’s will for us.

July 12 No Tolerance for Corrupt Leaders and Prophets
Micah 3:5-12

To examine the temptation to use rather than to serve others.

July 19 Justice, Love, and Humility
Micah 6:3-8

To appreciate the importance of memory in an ongoing life of faith.

July 26 God Shows Clemency
Micah 7:14-20

To identify the role of prophets in the overall Biblical message of God’s faithful love.

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

No information submitted.

Koinonia (Room S7) Leader-Shared leadership between members

The Koinonia Sunday School class is starting an exciting new study called the Parables of Paul by *Ellsworth Kalas*. Actually, Paul did not tell parables like Jesus did, but he was masterful at metaphors or word pictures in his letters. This study looks at the familiar letters from a unique perspective giving us new insights and “aha!” moments making Paul’s teachings relevant to our daily lives. This study is a wonderful follow up for those of you watching “A.D. The Bible continues!”

The Purple Group (Fellowship Hall) Leader-Shared leadership between members

The Purple Group is continuing our study of *The Purple Book-Biblical Foundations for Building Strong Disciples*. We are still working on the chapter on spiritual hunger and God's Word, which focuses on how the Word is daily bread for our spirit man who lives inside us. We also veer off the path of study to address issues in our lives, offering biblical solutions and encouragement to each other. The book is set up that anyone can join at any time, don't feel like you can't join the Purple Group because you haven't been in class since the beginning. Feel free to join us if you don't currently have a class. Bring your bible, questions and be ready for a lively discussion.

Bishop Mike Coyner’s E-Pistle



"Pray for Charleston, and Pray for All of Us"

The shocking news about the shootings in Charleston, SC, has impacted all of us. We have dealt with tragic shootings in schools, in malls, and in homes, but to learn that a gunman murdered nine persons in the midst of a local church's prayer service – well, that was a shock. We have become too used to violence, guns, murders, and malicious hate in our country. We are almost vaccinated against noticing the nightly news with its parade of stories of more killing. Sadly we are no longer shocked by such stories.

But for most of us this was different – a church, a prayer service, in the midst of reading the Bible and praying for the people of their community – and yet, even there, violence erupted in a most heinous way.

In other parts of the world, sadly, Christians expect such dangers and have suffered such violence. But here in the U.S., we have always thought that some places were "sanctuaries" and "houses of God" where violence should not happen.

At this point, the suspect has been captured and arrested, but I have no idea what could have motivated such an evil act. Racism? It certainly seems like it. Hatred of God's people? Possibly. Mental derangement? Likely, but I hope that is not considered an excuse. Probably we will never know or fully understand what caused a young man to do such a thing.

Already we see amazing signs of grace as some of the families of those murdered have said to the alleged killer: "God forgives you and I forgive you." What a wonderful testimony of faith!

So what can we do? We can pray, pray for the people involved and their families, pray for the community of Charleston, and pray for all Christians everywhere who start out going to church but end up in harm's way. I would like to think that this will never happen again, but I fear that we have crossed some thresholds of hatred, racism, intolerance, and loss of civility in our nation which means violence will be our on-going pattern. I hope not, but it seems to be so.

At the root of it all? Seeing another person as anything less than a person. That is the evil which underlies racism, and pornography, and abuse of power, and sexual abuse, and just plain old poor manners. When we look at any other person and see something less than a real person, a child of God, a person of sacred worth – whenever we see any other person as an "it" or object – that is the underlying cause of all prejudice, division, discord, and ultimately violence. You can't shoot another person without "objectifying" them and seeing them as something less than a real person. It all starts at that most basic level.

So, let's pray for Charleston, pray for the victims and their families, and pray for an end of violence. But let's start by praying for ourselves this prayer: "O God, forgive me whenever I regard another person as anything less than the valuable human being you have created them to be. Forgive me whenever I look at another person through the filters of race, or class, or politics, or religious differences, or any other barriers. Forgive me, Lord, and help me to see the other as Your child. Amen."