

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

Return Service Requested

Volume 48, Issue 6
June 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.

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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

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U.S. Postage
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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



...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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Register Today!
Sunday, June 14th - Thursday, June 18th
6:00pm - 8:00pm

VBS is for children grades pre-k (3yrs) thru 6th grade and is open to anyone. Spread the word!! Tell your friends, neighbors, family!
Information and the registration form can be found on the Children’s Ministry Page at bethelchurchfw.com. We will be planning to have a light dinner from 5:30-6:00 for the kids.

There are a few items still needed, please check the Children’s Ministry bulletin board if you would still like to donate.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions please see Traci King, Kristi Miller, or Nicole Burt.



Volume 48, Issue 6
June 2015

- Special points of interest:
- Top 10 reasons to share your faith story
 - Super Heroes
 - Revive 2015
 - Bishop Coyner’s latest E-Pistle
 - Silent Auction A Huge Success!
 - Habitat for Humanity’s Drive for \$5
 - Quilts for Veterans
 - Memories
 - On vocation? Use GPS!

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In case you missed it and may be unaware, Indiana native and comedy legend David Letterman closed out his illustrious, Emmy Award-Winning, 33 year career, as a late-night television talk show host on May 20th. While Dave's brand of humor may not be for you, almost everyone has heard of his famous "Top Ten List" routine that became a staple of his program throughout the years.

Well, in honor of Dave's retirement (not to mention our own D.S., the Rev. David Michel's retirement) and in prayerful consideration of our 2015 Annual Conference, I would like to share the following from our Indiana Conference website:

The Top Ten Reasons to Share Your Faith Story

The theme for the 2015 Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is **"Transform the World: Share Your Story," based on Joel 1:3 ESV. "Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation."**

So, here is the count-down on the Top Ten Reasons to "Share Your Story"

10. Reveal truth to a confused person. So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free." — John 8:31-32 ESV
9. Validate the person in the eyes of God. "God created humanity in God's own image in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them." — Genesis 1:27 CEB
8. Speak peace into a troubled person. "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." — John 14:27 ESV
7. Give hope to a hurting person. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." — Romans 15:13 ESV
6. Demonstrate the voice of God to speak wisdom, prophecy, or conviction. — Jeremiah 29:11 NIV
5. Exhibit your faith to relate and encourage another person struggling... that is, "that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." — Romans 1:12 ESV

JUST FOR FUN!

~On vocation? Use GPS!

Many vacationers rely on a global positioning system to get them easily to a destination. But in every season of life, God sends us on vocation — following his call to both feed our passions and serve others. Our "calling," Frederick Buechner said, is "where [our] deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

But is there a GPS for vocation? It's not as detailed or predictive as we'd like. It doesn't name our destination at the outset, and it offers general instructions rather than specific directions. And we may end up "recalculating" our life route more often than our vehicle GPS recalculates our vacation route.

Even so, we travel in safety. This "GPS" might stand for God's Peace and Strength, or Gospel Promises Sustain, God Provides Salvation or Go! Proclaim! Serve! The GPS guiding our vocation speaks to us through Scripture, worship, trusted Christian friends, life events and the silence of our heart. Listening, we hear our Guide's calm voice and continue on vocation. —Heidi Mann

~What is a dad?

A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again.

A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt.

A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail. —Unknown

Bible Trivia Question #1

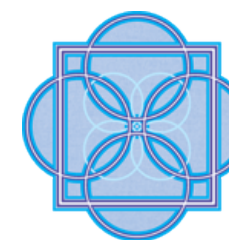
Which of the following is an accurate husband-wife match from Scripture?



- A. Abram and Ruth
- B. Boaz and Ruth
- C. Hosea and Ruth
- D. Ananias and Ruth

Check your answers at the bottom of page 16

+Christian Symbol+ Quatrefoil



The word quatrefoil comes from the Latin for "four leaves." A quatrefoil in art or architecture is the outline of four partially overlapping circles of the same diameter. In Christian tradition, it represents the writers of the four gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John — which overlap one another partially but not entirely, and are equally important to our understanding of Jesus.

THANK YOU'S

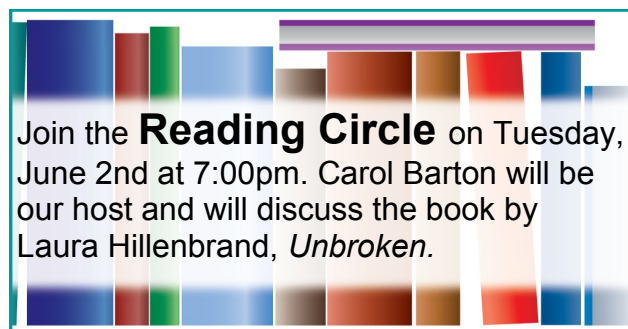
A heartfelt **thanks** to everyone who participated in the Fill the Ark Lenten mission giving. The total amount remitted to help families become self-reliant through Heifer International was \$181.04. May God use our gift to shine a rainbow of hope and healing. Thank you, Barb Cross

Thank you to all who helped, donated desserts, and those who dined at the Annual Fish Fry. It was a great success because of you! We netted \$1,647 to be divided by the UMW for missions, youth camps, and replacement of the stove. God bless all of you. Carol Barton, Fish Fry Coordinator

Thank you to the Bells of Praise director, Elaine Wheeler. We are unruly, easily distracted, and not very attentive but when we play for the congregation, we are GOOD. And it's all due to the leadership of Elaine. Thank you for your patience. Have a great summer Elaine.

Many **thanks** to all of the women who helped with the May Tea party. Thanks to all who attended. It was a fun, beautiful occasion. Over 70 women and girls attended the event. The decorations, food, and program were all extraordinary. We're already looking forward to the next Tea party in 2017. Also many thanks to Bob Menefee and Steve Krouse for setting up tables and chairs.

BETHEL HAPPENINGS...



Men's Prayers Breakfast
Saturday, June 6th at 9am



Wednesday, June 3rd
6:30pm Daycare/Preschool Board
Thursday, June 11th
9:30am Church Staff Meeting
Thursday, June 25th
7:00pm Trustee Meeting

EVE Circle will meet on
Thursday, June 18th at 7:00pm.
Phyllis Shappell will be our host.
We certainly hope that you can
join us.

June Greeters
June 7 Brian & Hollie Pease
June 14 David & Pat Muncie
June 21
June 28 Cheryl Nicolet

General Operating Report - April
4/01/15 Beginning Balance -20,848.05
INCOME 18,433.46
EXPENSES 19,998.51
4/30/15 Ending Balance -22,413.10

4. Example grace and mercy so a person can forgive others and be forgiven. "Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love." – 2 John 1:3 ESV
3. Win a heart and soul for Jesus. "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation.'" – Mark 16:15 ESV
2. Share unconditional love of the Trinity to all people. "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. – 1 Corinthians 13:13 ESV
And the number one reason to "Share Your Story" is...
1. You are commanded by Jesus to go into the world to share your faith story. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," – Matthew 28:19 ESV

Take time to recall several experiences in your life where you knew without a shadow of doubt that Jesus heard your prayers and your life was changed. Now, consider what keeps you from sharing your faith story? For Jesus' sake, and for the sake of those who do not yet know Him, you **MUST** share your faith story with someone.

Prayer

Oh, Creator God and Father, I bow before your throne to thank you for each inspiring event in my life. Empower me, through the Holy Spirit, to boldly share my faith with people along my journey who need to hear. If You blessed me, then You can bless them in a way they will understand that all good experiences are from heaven. Jesus, thank You for being real in my life and helping me use my voice to share my faith stories. Amen.





CHILDREN'S

Thank you

- Rachel Campbell, Shelby Naibauer & Traci King for leading the Squires & Kids Kingdom classes in May.
- Traci King for leading the Knights class in May.
- Thanks to all who attended the Kingdom Crews Kick-off meeting. If you were unable to attend but are interested in learning more, please contact Shelby.

Vacation Bible School - June 14—18, 5:30—8:00 PM

At Weird Animals VBS, kids discover that Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind. Weird Animals is a habitat filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear and touch. Meal time interaction, team building games and cool Bible songs are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real lives.

Children's Ministry Fundraisers—June & July

Dates have not been set yet but there will be a Yo-Yo's Fundraiser night and a Tokens n Tickets Fundraiser night in June and July. Check the website and postings around the church for more information.

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.

Shelby Naibauer
416-0752

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

BETHEL PRAYER LIST

Bethel Family

Donna Belcher
Andrew & Melinda Bird
and family
Carol Borches
Bob Dorsey
Maggie Eiffert
Diana Halter
Opal Herrberg
Phyllis Itt
Ann Kramer
Marge Leininger
Pastor Jerry & Liz Machgan
Mike & Arline Miller
Marcia Moore

Ray Owen
Virginia Staley
Joy Stuckey
Russ Sunday
Donna Wakeland
Gayle Westfall
Linda Wheaton
Those of our congregation
who are job-hunting
Families in crisis – financial,
health, marriage
Bethel Staff & Volunteers
Bethel Church

Bethel Preschool & Bethel
Daycare
Bishop Coyner
District Superintendent,
Dave Michel
Pastor Brian & Rachel
Campbell and family
Kid's Kingdom
Awana Clubs
VBS

Friends of Bethel

Dennis Arnold, Juanita
Arnold's son
Ava Bower, child with
Leukemia
Destiny, Robb & Diana
Bilderback's niece
Steve Getty, friend of
Pat Muncie
Helen Goonen, Betty Failor's
sister
Terri Gruver, friend of
Dave Hord
Richard Johnson, Jenny
Lemmon's father
Cal Marker, Lin Walters'
brother-in-law
Mercedees, Shugert's
granddaughter

Ryan & Chole McIntyre,
relatives of Betty
Failor
Judy Miller, friend of Ron &
Phyllis Shappell
Jim Overholt, friend of Bob
Moore
Beth Richardson, friend of
Dave & Pat Muncie
Chris Shankelton, Linda
Wheaton's cousin
Wayne Smith
Shappell's son-in-law
Caz Strzynski
Marscell Sloffer,
Charlotte Klerner's
mother

The President and Cabinet
(the government)
Pray for the schools,
children, teachers etc.

**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:**

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

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

Rose Sadler: 1717 Maplecrest Drive, 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

John W. Wearly: 2601 Covington Commons Drive, #51, Fort Wayne, IN 46804;
260-436-0791

**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: Les & Lin Walters

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: Les & Lin Walters

Vacation Bible School at Bethel

Weird Animals VBS

Sunday, June 14 - Thursday, June 18

Light Dinner 5:30—6:00 PM
VBS 6:00—8:00 PM

Please join us at **7:30 PM** for the **Tail End** Friend's session.

If you would like to be part of the VBS Team, please contact Traci King or Kristi Miller.



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

Super Heroes at SonRise Camp by Andrew Bird

In April, three of the youth, Melinda and I attended the Holy Cross Bible Study for adults with disabilities. We did this in preparation for attending SonRise Camp where we will serve people with cognitive impairments and developmental disabilities. This experience will radically change the mindset of those attending.

What is the difference between an individual with mental retardation or developmental disabilities? Is it that people with mental retardation are partial people? Is it that people who look quite different due to malformations are somehow lower class citizens? The answer to these questions is a resounding "No!!" The difference resides merely in the uniqueness of each individual. God created all of us unique and in HIS IMAGE. Sin destroyed both our perfection as individuals and our perspective of each others worth and value. We were created by God to worship Him and enjoy Him forever. The imperfections in body and brain development found in the developmentally disabled sector of the world pales in comparison to the perfection of their spirit. The trials that many of them have faced have helped to shape them into people who love more and hate less.

Indeed, over my 9 years of experience working in the developmental disability field, I have rarely met anyone who has more patience and kindness or lack of holding records of wrongs than people with developmental disabilities. No singular group of individuals have impacted me more than those living with cognitive or developmental disabilities.

If I were to create a superhero film focusing on the characteristics of meekness (quiet power), perseverance, compassion, love, and courage, I would pick people with developmental disabilities to be the heroes. These heroes face great obstacles daily. They, like you and I, enjoy their independence yet because of physical or mental disabilities must overcome challenges to do everyday tasks that we take for granted. Some even must humble themselves and allow others to do certain things for them such as getting help with eating. Others can eat without assistance, but may face social trials due to the stigma placed on them.

When I began in the field, I knew I would learn a lot about caring for individuals with disabilities. I never knew, however, that those served would also be my teachers. I have learned that often people with a low intelligence quotient (IQ) have a high spirit quotient (SQ). I have learned that the more I know the less I tend to love. The more I know, the more I tend to judge. The more intelligence I have, the less I show kindness. The better memory I have, the more likely I am to hold records of wrongs. Most assuredly, I have learned to love from those I have served for so long. I hope and pray that those attending SonRise Camp will see it as a time to learn more from the experience than seeking to teach.

In the book of James, the youth have recently learned that "not many of you should become teachers for you will receive stricter judgment." This section goes on to talk about the tongue and its danger. I encourage anyone going on this trip to listen with all of their might to those we serve and to what God may be telling them. Many people listen with their ears, but every good listener knows (sometimes intuitively) that listening involves more than just the ears. Good listeners listen with the eyes. They infer what the other person is trying to communicate by watching the other person's motions, variance of speech, volume, tones, and gestures (high five, hand-shake, hug, elbow bump, etc.). So, lets go to SonRise with a willingness to learn, listen, and serve our super heroes while growing in our love, patience, kindness, and true forgiveness.



Habitat for Humanity Drive for Five

We would graciously ask that each member donate \$5 to help build Habitat's next home. There are specially labeled envelopes available on the gathering table.

Donations can be made each Sunday from May 24th through June 14th. Let's see what we can do to help!

Quilts for Veterans

Bethel UMC's Stitch n Chatter group has committed to making to at least one quilt for a veteran at the Shepherd's House. If you have any cotton material in blue or red (with or without print) and would be willing to donate it for this this project, please contact Carol Barton at 260-341-8294 or by email at carolsb2004@yahoo.com.



Memories of the "Been There, Done That" Group

Jack and I joined this little group in the nineties. It was called "The Seniors". We met at different restaurants for lunch, and went back to Bethel Church for devotions, chit-chat and dominoes or euchre. Marian and Earl Hanauer had started the group, date unknown. We took short trips together for fun times and lunch out of town. Yes, we filled the Church Bus. Jack built a step-stool for Alan so he could get on the bus. Lucille changed the name to "Been There, Done That" after a vote because she didn't feel like a Senior. I took over leadership after Marian, and Carol Brown after me. We just ran out of members due to age, and move away members. We hate to say "Goodbye". Thanks to Carol for the last years of leadership, and thanks to all who joined us through the years. We have such good memories and will no longer be able to continue. God's many blessings to all who shared time with us. It was a good thing. ~Shirley Birch

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

Trike A Thon

Our Annual Trike A Thon for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital took place here at Bethel on Friday May 22, 2015 @ 9:30 am in the Church parking lot. The weather was BEAUTIFUL and the children enjoyed riding their bikes and riding toys. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day fun for all!

Summer Daycare Session

Our Summer Session will begin on Monday June 8, 2015. The children will enjoy the playground, sprinklers, art, outdoor activities and some will go on Field Trips! Our Summer Session will end August 7, 2015.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this or Bethel Daycare please contact Kelli Moody, Daycare Director at 260-489-3650 or email bethel daycare kids@gamil.com. You can also visit our website bethel kids fw.com

Silent Auction A Huge Success!

Thank you to all who help with our Silent Auction this year! It was a huge success with more than 300 in attendance. God blessed us with a beautiful day, although maybe not for those brave enough to be in the dunk tank. The fellowship hall was decked out in its finest (I personally think)! And because of our many helpers and contributors from all over, we estimate our final total profit to be around \$5,000. Thank you again to those who donated and volunteered for this event! It was a Huge SUCCESS!!!

Have a great summer

BIG THANKYOU for a Great Year!!! Good luck to all our students and parents who are moving on to Kindergarten. Don't be a Stranger!!!
THANKYOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

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.



Preschool &
Daycare
parents,
please join
us in June
for VBS!
Look for
details on
the front
cover.

April Scrip Report:

Total Sold	\$5284.00
Parent %	\$62.27
School %	\$168.56

BETHEL YOUTH MINISTRY

Revive 2015

Now is the time to SHINE while Serving Him In Neighborhoods Everywhere! On June 9 we will meet at First Wayne Street UM Church at 9 am to embark on three days of service projects to our city. Our evenings will be filled with fun activities and worship times. Your parents will pick you up June 11 at 4pm at First Wayne Street UMC. The cost is \$40! Sign up on the youth bulletin board and online so we know you plan to come! If you don't have the online link please see Melinda Bird. After you register, a packet with more information will be given to you. A list of things to bring and the schedule will be included. Two things you need to bring are a box of cereal and a snack. Boys will bring a salty, prepackaged snack and girls are to bring a sweet, prepackaged snack to share with the group. So make sure you SIGN UP today!

Revive 2015 Sandwich Donations Needed

In support of Revive 2015, Bethel will be donating sandwich fixings for one of the lunches. We are in need of donations. All sandwich items are needed. For example, bread, cheese, lunch-meat, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, etc. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board so we can know what to expect. Then please bring your donations to the church by Sunday, June 7. Revive is June 9-11.

Youth Serving at VBS

VBS Weird Animals is almost here! The youth will help out at VBS from Sunday, June 14 to Thursday, June 18. Teens will need to be here at 5:30 to help with the meal and stay until 8pm when the evening ends. Each one will be given a task to do. Some will help with decorations and set up, while others assist at stations and help as junior crew leaders. This opportunity allows them to invest into the spiritual lives of younger students, be a role model to them, and help the adults where needed. Volunteering at VBS will be a rewarding time for the youth.

June Youth Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Other Info</u>
7	Sun.	5-7 pm	Youth Group	
9-11	Tues.- Thurs.		REVIVE - "Shine" 2015	
14-18	Sun. - Thurs.		Bethel's VBS	
22-27	Mon. - Sat.		Sonrise Camp Mission Trip 2015	

Mark your calendar for these upcoming July events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
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 June For Sunday School



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

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

Our Adult Bible Studies’ lessons for the Summer 2015 will focus on the word justice and challenge us to consider what God means when He says “justice.” We will read the messages of the Old Testament prophets who were spokespersons for God. All are welcome as we share in lively discussions and loving Christian fellowship.

God’s Prophets Demand Justice

Unit 1 Amos Rails Against Injustice

June 7	Judgment on Israel and Judah ~ Amos 2:4-8	Purpose To accept our special responsibility as those set apart to serve God.
June 14	God Is Not Fooled ~ Amos 5:14-15, 18-27	To confess that pride in our piety may hinder our ability to love our neighbor as ourselves.
June 21	Rebuked for Selfishness ~ Amos 6:2-8, 11-14	To assert that self-centeredness leads to our ruin.
June 28	God Will Never Forget ~ Amos 8:1-6, 9-10	To discover how to recognize God’s warnings and acknowledge the danger of being oblivious to them.

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

The Seekers Sunday school class just finished our study on John Wesley and learned a lot about John Wesley's life and experiences that culminated in the start of the Methodist Church. On May 17th, we started a new study called Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White. This is another Adam Hamilton study that focuses on how our society is currently polarized on many important issues and unable to find common ground. We hope to discuss these issues and learn how, as Christians, we can draw on our faith and Methodist traditions to see both sides of some of today's important issues. We also hope to foster richer and thoughtful conversations on these issues. As usual, I'm sure our diverse group will offer many opinions and have very interesting discussions in the coming weeks. If this sounds interesting to you, please plan to join us for a fun and interesting session .

Koinonia (Room S7) Leader-Shared leadership between members

The Koinonia Class is continuing our study of a Hop, Skip, and a Jump Through the Bible by Kalas. Even though the Bible was written thousands of years ago by many authors, it still speaks to each of our hearts and situations today. How is that possible? We are learning that the Bible is a collection of books like no other: Inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is the living word of God that is still changing lives today by speaking to the Holy Spirit within us. We will be discussing the kings of Israel, the wisdom literature and the prophets in June. Feel free to join us for a thought –provoking and challenging study!

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

We are continuing our study of "The Purple Book-Biblical Foundations for Building Strong Disciples" So far, we've discussed sin and salvation, Lordship & obedience, repentance & baptism, and who the Holy Spirit is and the gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit. We have just started a 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. 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

"Giving Jesus a Bad Name"



To me the name Jesus is not just a good name, it is the “name above every other name” (Philippians 2:9-11). But too many Christians (or at least people who call themselves Christians) are giving Jesus a bad name. That is the conclusion of several recent studies and surveys. People in general are drawn to Jesus, but many of them are put off by the things some Christians do in the name of Jesus.

Jesus himself is a model of love, acceptance, forgiveness, peace and hope. Yet some people like to use/ misuse the name of Jesus to promote an agenda which is narrow, judgmental and off-putting to so many who might be attracted to a more fair expression of Jesus.

What I am describing is not about any particular theological perspective. I have seen narrow-minded, harsh, judgmental persons operate from both the “right” and the “left.” No, what I am describing is not really theological at all, it is about power and control. Some persons misuse the name of Jesus to support their own personal biases and agendas. Jesus is given a bad name by some people who abuse his good name for their own purposes.

I am reminded of a saying attributed to Gandhi who was asked, “Why are you not a Christian?” Supposedly he said (I have not been able to verify the actual quote), “I would be a Christian if more Christians would act like Jesus.”

We who claim the name of Jesus need to act like Jesus in these important ways:

- Within our church arguments and disputes, we need to model a spirit of humility and caring – rather than making our church arguments look like the typical political debates of our secular culture.
- In dealing with persons of other faiths, we need to listen to the faith lessons of others and then to share our Christian perspective with a gracious attitude.
- As we approach the political and societal issues of our day, we need to bring our Christian perspective in a way which attracts support and welcomes differing views.
- In all of our concerns and discussions, we need to have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) who did not grasp equality with God, but who humbled himself.
- In our efforts to share the Good News, we need first to BE the Good News that we proclaim. John 3:17 reminds us that God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that through him the world might be saved. Our message must never be one of condemnation, but of Good News and hope.

A few years ago I was home sick and had the TV on without any volume – just kind of mindlessly watching whatever showed up on the screen while I recovered from the flu. I fell asleep and then awoke to realize the TV was still on and the program was a TV evangelist. With the volume off, I just watched his face – and it was full of anger! His gestures were defiant, flailing against some perceived enemy, and he look like a boxer more than an evangelist. I don’t know what he was saying, but it certainly did not look like Good News – and it was certainly not very inviting. In a similar way, I have watched some pastors and people lead worship with a body language of apathy and depression – also not an inviting approach.

We who name the name of Jesus need to be careful that our life and our message reflects the true spirit of Jesus. Otherwise, we might give Jesus a bad name.