

## ***The Monthly Newsletter from your Family of Faith at Bethany***

### **DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**

December 4 – Annual Business Meeting after Worship  
December 7 – All Team Huddle, 6 PM  
December 10 – Angel Brunch, 10 AM – Noon  
December 11 – Fellowship Dinner; Living Nativity  
December 18 – Guest: St. Nicholas of Myra  
December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6 PM  
December 25 – Christmas Day Worship in Parlor, 10:30 AM

# LINC

**Life  
IN  
Christ**

***Our mission is to create the opportunity for all to make discipleship a way of life.***

### **A Message from Pastor James**

Dear members and friends of Bethany Church:

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, we received the resignation of **Michelle McGregor** as our Director of Children & Youth. It was effective that day. She had served in this capacity as paid staff for almost seven years. We acknowledge the work she did and her years of service with Bethany as a volunteer and then as paid staff.

My wife, **Susan Bolin**, will be filling in as Interim Youth Director/Chaplain until a new Youth Director is in place. She will not be compensated. Susan heard the cries of our youth that they wanted to stay together as a group. Subsequently, she received a Whisper from God to be a shepherd and a transitional adult leader with our Youth Group. She has a heart for this ministry. Susan is a certified Hospice Chaplain and a Grief Counselor. She has experience working with youth in court ordered programs and in the Methodist Church. Susan brings a loving, personal touch to bear that projects strength and compassion at the same time. She knows she cannot do this ministry without a lot of help. Thanks to all the parents who have stepped forward to help bring healing and hope to our precious young people. Much thanks goes out to other members of the congregation who have helped with this transition process.

***We plan to continue our tradition of providing a quality Youth Program that builds Disciples of Christ and Leaders for the Church.***

You might ask, "What can I do during this transition?"

1. Well, our children and youth are precious to all of us. Acknowledge them. Introduce yourselves to them. Learn their names.
2. Pray for our youth by name.
3. Pray for Susan and for the Christian Education Team and for the Family Team as they work to nurture faith and service within the hearts of our young people.
4. Look ahead to what God has in mind for our young people as Disciples of Jesus and Servants of Christ. Believe in them. Encourage them. Accept them as fellow travelers with us all on this marvelous journey we call life. Embrace them as full members of the Bethany family. ***Thank God our church is truly inter-generational.***
5. Continue to support their many efforts at mission work and their faith-building activities.

***Our Father in Heaven, guide Michelle toward the future You would wish for her. May she find new ways of being of service to You. Heal the hurts of our children and youth. Strengthen their hearts to walk by faith amid changing circumstances. Send the Holy Spirit into our midst so that we all will discern Your will for our next Youth Director. We give You glory and honor through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

## Sermons & Scripture December, 2011

### December 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT; COMMUNION; Advent with the Saints

Theme: The Nativity Scene tells us why Christmas is Important!

Scripture: Mathew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7

Sermon: "St. Francis Big Idea"

### December 11 – 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT; FELLOWSHIP DINNER; Advent with the Saints

Theme: A Living Nativity Anchors Our Faith.

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-15

Sermon: "St. Francis Big Idea . . . Come to Life!"

### December 18 – 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT; Advent with the Saints

Theme: St. Nicholas has much to teach us about LOVE.

Scripture: Hebrews 13:16; Matthew 25:35-40; John 15:12

Sermon: "Meet the Real St. Nicholas"

### December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP (bring some Christmas Cookies to share)

Theme: On Christmas Day we can See the Guiding Light of God.

Scripture: John 8:12; Matthew 5:16

Sermon: "Are You Energized by Vitamin D?"

## WISH LIST

There are certain things we are in need of at Bethany. Perhaps, you have some extra items at home and could afford to donate an item or two. Also, we have a wish-list of things we'd very much like to have in order to do our ministry better. Check out the list below. If you can help, please do so.

### WISH LIST



Boxes of Kleenex

Name Tags

A Good Flashlight

A New Electric Pencil Sharpener

An Old Fashioned Wall Pencil Sharpener

New Computer Printers (1)

**New 42" Flat Screen TV's with Wall Mounts (3)**

*(one for the Parlor & one for the Fellowship Hall & one for the big Sunday School room)*

Call 248-681-2130 for more information.

## ANNUAL MEETING – December 4

Members are urged to remain after Worship, on **December 4**, for the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will vote on the 2012 Budget and Nominating Committee Reports. Child care will be provided.

## PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The following changes are proposed for Bethany Church membership records, per Article IV, Section 2, and Article IV, Section 4.4.1 of the Bethany Baptist Church Constitution and Bylaws:

### ACTIVE TO INACTIVE: (2)

1. Bobby Swayne
2. Bob Wooster

### Removals

#### REMOVED FROM INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP/

#### DELETED FROM SERVANT KEEPER DATABASE: (5)

1. Eva Hall
2. Barbara Horton
3. Paula Rooney
4. Linda Wardach
5. Charlene Woods

This will be voted on at the **December 4**, 2011, Annual Business Meeting following the worship service.

Contact Co-Church Clerks Brittany Straith or Sue Puckett, or Pastor James with any questions.

## ALL TEAM HUDDLE – December 7

On Wednesday, **December 7**, we will hold our ALL TEAM HUDDLE at the home of Bob and Nancy McPherson, 8829 Eldorado, White Lake, MI 48386. All 2011 & 2012 church officers, team leaders, and team members are encouraged to attend. We will enjoy some fellowship and discuss goals for the upcoming year. Bring hors d'oeuvres or desserts to share. We will gather at **6 PM**.

## FELLOWSHIP DINNER – December 11

You are invited! Please join us for our monthly Fellowship Dinner, **Sunday, December 11**, immediately after Worship. Bring a dish of food to share! For set-up, serving, & clean-up, we will rely on the **Women, Worship, and Missions Teams** to take the lead with planning, set-up, and clean-up. Everyone is encouraged to join in the clean-up phase.

## DECEMBER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

by Lottie Jespersen



The Spirit of Christmas is not found under the tree - the Spirit of Christ is found in our hearts.

A list of giving opportunities follow:

### **Christmas Food Pantry Items (must be received by December 9)**

- Small Hams
- Fresh or Boxed Potatoes
- Onions
- Canned Vegetables
- Mushroom Soup
- Canned Yams
- Canned Fruit
- Cranberry Sauce
- Christmas Candy



**Hats, Mitten, Scarves** for our "Mitten Tree".

### **New Blankets** (suitable for use in shelters)

Our goal is traditionally set to match Pastor James' birthday. This year, that number is **60!**



**A Live Gift** – you can give a life-changing gift to Heifer International in honor of a friend or loved one. [www.heifer.org/catalog](http://www.heifer.org/catalog)

**Be a packer for the Christmas Food Items** at the Open Door on Saturday, **December 10 from 1 to 4 PM.** There is a sign-up sheet on the Mission Bulletin Board.



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## CHRISTMAS CAROL CONTEST

by Rodger Zeller

Several months ago, we had a favorite hymn contest. This fall we're having a favorite Christmas Carol contest. Send me a list of your five (5) favorite Christmas Carols. If you'd like you can also send me a list of your five (5) favorite non-religious Christmas songs.

The deadline will be **December 11**, so we will have time to include your favorites before Christmas arrives. You can hand me your list, mail it, or send an e-mail to [rodgerzeller@peoplepc.com](mailto:rodgerzeller@peoplepc.com).

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## DEACONS OFFERING HEALING PRAYERS

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month, the Pastor and Deacons will be available in the sanctuary to offer healing prayers for anyone who desires prayer for any reason. An anointing with oil will be available if desired. **12:30 PM. In December 12 & 26.**

## ADULT ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL

You are invited to come enjoy some fellowship and learning time during Advent. There will be a special series of classes at 9:30 AM in the Parlor, each Sunday during Advent.

**November 27** - Dr. Al Shulte will lead a class titled: [A Musical Celebration of the Christmas Season: Part I](#)

**December 4** - Dr. Al Shulte will lead a class titled: [A Musical Celebration of the Christmas Season: Part II](#)

**December 11** - Dave von Behren will lead a class titled: [Art meets Christmas: A Union Made in Heaven](#)

**December 18** - Joann Shulte will lead a class titled: [How to Really Enjoy Christmas using Christian Meditation](#)



## BETHANY BOOK CLUB

by Louise Aebersold

The Bethany Book Club will meet **December 16 at 9:30 AM at Nona Bos' home.** Nona suggested that this would be a great time to have everyone share a short review of their favorite Christmas book. If you want a good read in the spirit of the season, see Nona as she has quite a few books to share on this topic.

Remember: December 16, 9:30 AM, Nona Bos' home, 1026 Oak Point, Waterford, MI 48327

You might want to ask Santa for our January book. We will be reading and discussing [Stones from the River](#) by Ursula Hegi recommended by Lottie Jespersen. [Stones from the River](#) is a daring, dramatic and complex novel of life in Germany. It is set in Burgdorf, a small fictional German town, between 1915 and 1951. The protagonist is Trudi Montag, a Zwerg -- the German word for dwarf woman. As a dwarf she is set apart, the outsider whose physical "otherness" has a corollary in her refusal to be a part of Burgdorf's silent complicity during and after World War II. Trudi establishes her status and power, not through beauty, marriage, or motherhood, but rather as the town's librarian and relentless collector of stories.

Jesus is the reason for the season!



## ADVENT IN DECEMBER

Advent devotional materials are available at Grand Central beginning. Our theme this year is: ADVENT WITH THE SAINTS. On the second Sunday of Advent, December 4<sup>th</sup>, we will hear from St. Francis. He will tell us about his "big idea" to illustrate God's love by creating a "living nativity." On the third Sunday of Advent, we will actually watch St. Francis assemble his Living Nativity. Members of the congregation will be asked to participate. On the final Sunday of Advent, we will have a very special guest: St. Nicholas of Myra, the beloved saint from the 4<sup>th</sup> century who became the inspiration for the modern Santa Claus. He will share with us about the importance of sharing and of doing good just because it pleases God. The saints will join us on our journey to Christmas this year. Don't miss a single Sunday of ADVENT WITH THE SAINTS. We worship every Sunday at **10:30 AM**.

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## JESUS'S GREAT COMMANDMENT by Rodger Zeller

Matthew 22:37-39 reads "And he (Jesus) said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

This month, I'm writing about the outward journey (your neighbor) and not the inward journey (love God).

Thanksgiving, which has just past, and Christmas, which is coming, is a good time to think about giving to others.

In October we had our World Mission Offering which helps to support American Baptist missionaries around the globe. This is how we spread God's love to those around the world. As great as their needs are, we also need to look after our neighbors here.

The Mission team provides great opportunities to help our neighbors locally. Bethany is sponsoring a blanket drive where we can help our needy neighbors keep warm especially during the winter months. Since Pastor is turning 60, we would like to collect 60 blankets. In addition to that, we collect gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves to share with those in need. Don't forget to continue to bring food and personal items which will be donated to Lighthouse and Friendship House (American Baptist Home Mission Outreach). Girl Friends Unlimited are also collecting items for Haven.

If we truly love God, we will want to find ways to love our neighbors. This Christmas season provides many special ways to do that.

## MENS' BREAKFAST – December 17

The Men's Breakfast group will meet **December 17** at the Green Apple Restaurant on Cooley Lake Road, **8:30 AM**. Bill Maxfield will lead in a devotional. Come join in the fellowship.

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## GIRLFRIENDS UNLIMITED by Nancy Maxfield

Thank you for your tremendous support with our recent pasty sale. We made a profit of over \$3,000! A very special thank you to the women (and Gene Lewis) and all the labor of love that went into each pasty. Our women's ministry team will have some great programs this next year.

Eighteen women attended a Wonder Full World retreat in November. Everyone who was there felt that it was well worth the time commitment they made. A special thank you to our tour director, Sandy Lewis, for getting the retreat organized.

Girlfriends Unlimited is encouraging everyone to bring an unwrapped gift for HAVEN to church by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Jan Rowe will have a designated area for you to put your gifts. If you choose to donate a gift card (and help our Script Program), please give the gift cards to Jan.

Need an idea for a teacher gift or your hairdresser? How about a cookbook for \$5. We found two full cases of our previous cookbooks and Marci Davis will be selling these after church.

On **December 18**, the New Horizon Band will be presenting a free Christmas Concert at Waterford Mott High School at 3:00 PM. We thought it would be fun for a group of ladies to attend together and then have dinner afterwards at the Lion Den. Let Louise Aebersold know if you to come.


Our Bible study will reconvene in January to study God's Guest List by Debbie Macomber. This will be on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 PM at Nancy Maxfield's.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

On Wednesday, **December 24, from 6 – 7:15 PM**, we will gather at Bethany for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. This will be a family friendly service featuring carols, skits, a living nativity, and candle lighting.

## PLEGDED GIVING BEHIND SCHEDULE

Are you caught up on your pledge to the Lord's work through Bethany for this year? It's not too late to catch up. Be sure we receive your gifts and offerings before **December 31**. Send to Bethany Church, 1375 Hiller Road, Waterford, MI 48327.

		Roger Bos rbos@twmi.rr.com
<b>BOS TENT RENTAL, INC.</b> www.bostentrental.net		
44882 Lindbergh Novi, Michigan 48377	PHONE: 248.926.0296 FAX: 248.960.1945 CELL: 248.670.5405	

## DEACONS MAKE A CHANGE!

Our Deacons are offering spiritual counseling and prayer **each Sunday**, upon the conclusion of Worship. The Deacon of the Day will meet with anyone desiring personal prayer **IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY** (which is located at the west end of the building across from the Women's Restroom.) Our Deacons are: **Nona Bos, Bob Hunt, & Rodger Zeller.**

Phone 248-673-1213 Fax 248-673-1454	
<i>Donelson, Johns and Evans Funeral Home, Inc.</i>	
MICHAEL A. EVANS President	5391 Highland Road Waterford, Michigan 48327-1921

## VALET PARKING

We now offer Valet Parking every Sunday beginning at **10:00 AM**. Just drive up under the portico and honk your horn. A church member will come out and park your car for you. If you are interested in joining our team of valets, call **Susan Bolin** at 248-534-3799 or **Jan Rowe** at 248-338-0786. NOTE to MEMBERS: Please leave the parking spaces under the basketball hoop for valet parking.

## NOTES OF THANKS & PRAISE



Dear Bethany Friends,

Thank you so much for the cards, emails, prayers, and words of comfort on the recent passing of my mother. Thank you to Pastor James for the phone calls during the time of her illness. Church friends are the best friends!

Sincerely,  
Sue (and Tim) Pepper



Dear Bethany Family,

Thank you for the phone calls, get well cards, food and transportation. Still searching for an answer as to what my health problem is.

Deloris Fowler



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## CORRECTIONS?

On the enclosed birthday and anniversary lists, should you notice a correction that needs to be made, please contact Dorothy Maman at 248-681-2130 or by email [office@bethanywaterford.org](mailto:office@bethanywaterford.org)

## COMING IN JANUARY

- January 1 – Worship in Parlor, 10:30 AM
- January 4 – Wednesday Night Activities Resume
- January 8 – Epiphany, Fellowship Dinner
- January 14 – After Christmas Flop
- January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday and TEAM SUNDAY
- January 22 – 2012 Yard Sale Organizational Mtg. after Worship
- January 29 – Congregational Meeting after Worship



# Bethany

*Encounter God's Love!!*

An American Baptist Family Of Faith In  
The Heart Of  
Oakland County

1375 Hiller Road  
Waterford, MI  
48327



**Website:** [www.bethanywaterford.org](http://www.bethanywaterford.org)

(Copies of this newsletter are available on our website)

We welcome your contributions to the **LINC**. The **January LINC** deadline is **Sunday, December 18**.

Email articles to *Christine Keener* at [BethanyLINC@hotmail.com](mailto:BethanyLINC@hotmail.com) or put them in the tray in the Church Office.  
Please get articles in by the deadline. Thank you!

### LINC Deadlines for 2012:

January - December 18	May - April 15	September - August 19
February - January 22	June - May 20	October - September 16
March - February 19	July - June 17	November - October 14
April - March 18	August - July 15	December - November 18

### Bethany Prayer Chain

To activate the Bethany Prayer Chain, call one of the following individuals:

- ✝ **Joyce Hice:** (248) 335-9026
- ✝ **Joann Shulte:** (248) 682-1109
- ✝ **Anna McGregor:** (248) 673-8361
- ✝ **Church Office:** (248) 681-2130

### Outreach Matchmakers

If you need special assistance (housekeeping, meals, emergency childcare, etc.), call:

- ✝ **Susan Bolin:** (248) 534-3799
- ✝ **Jan Rowe:** (248) 338-0786
- ✝ **James Bolin:** (248) 722-4516

### Tender People for Tough Times

When you need Bethany's Pastoral Staff, for any reason at all, just call:

**Church Office:** (248) 681-2130  
**Fax:** (248) 681-9798  
**Email:** [Office@bethanywaterford.org](mailto:Office@bethanywaterford.org)

**Rev. James Bolin at home:** (248) 722-4516

**Deacon Nona Bos:** (248) 886-8615  
**Deacon Bob Hunt:** (248) 481-2960  
**Deacon Rodger Zeller:** (248) 789-5809

Being a family of faith means you don't  
have to go it alone. **CALL US!**