

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

### JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 1 – Worship in Parlor, 10:30 AM  
Jan. 8 – Epiphany, Fellowship Dinner  
Jan. 14 – After Christmas Flop @ von Behren's  
Jan. 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday & **TEAM SUNDAY**  
Jan. 22 – 2012 Yard Sale Organizational Mtg. after Worship  
Jan. 29 – Congregational Meeting after Worship

# 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

My dear friends and members of Bethany Church:

Bethany is getting a reputation. Word is, out on the street, that we will not only pray for our own, but that we actually care about others beyond our circle. What I heard was: "Bethany will pray for anybody." I took it as a compliment!

Did you know that a lot of folks out there think of local churches as being exclusive clubs for people who feel like they are "holier than thou"? Did you know that?

What a blessing to make a dent in that misconception! And it's all because of Ellen Whitehead's idea to put out a Prayer Box and invite those who pass by our church to leave prayer requests.

The main request we get is for prayers for employment. We sometimes forget just how many people there are out there who are still unemployed or under-employed. We must remember to pray for those continuing to suffer economic, psychological and spiritual pain because of the seemingly never ending recession.

Sometimes, people don't leave a message but instead send us anonymous snail mail letters for prayer requests. Recently we received a snail mail letter from a lady who wanted to share "the depth of sorrow" for the truly lonely. "Pray for those of us who have no one and are spending most of our time alone. It is terrifying to know that there will be no friend who will be there in time of crisis." She didn't make herself known. Nevertheless, please pray for her and for all those anonymous people around us for whom she speaks.

How fortunate we are to have a loving, caring Christian community who truly take to heart Jesus' last commandment: "If you love me, feed my sheep." Well, the sheep are bleating all around us.

There are a lot of hurting people all around us who need to feel the embrace of the church and the healing presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. You can pray for these people. Will you?

And, you can be sensitive to the whispers of the Holy Spirit when suddenly a holy moment is upon you, and you can make a difference immediately by saying something positive or encouraging; or by giving a hug; or by lending a hand; or by being a good listener; or by offering some food; or by comforting the sad, depressed, and hurting souls that cross your paths.

I am making holy commitments to pray every day for the anonymous hurting souls all around me; and, to be continually sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit that open up holy moments when I can act as God's person on the scene. Won't you join me?



### Sermons & Scripture January, 2012

#### January 1 – COMMUNION SUNDAY; NEW YEARS DAY

Theme: There are two ways to be born.  
Scripture: Revelation 21:5a; II Corinthians 5:17;  
John 3:1-6  
Sermon: "New . . . Every Day!"

#### January 8 – EPIPHANY; FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Theme: Walking in the light of God's truth is the best way to live.  
Scripture: John 3:19-21; I John 1:5-10;  
I John 2:9-11  
Sermon: "God's GPS System"

#### January 15 – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY & TEAM SUNDAY

Theme: Using what you are passionate about, with others, is teamwork.  
Scripture: I Corinthians 3:5-7; Colossians 3:23;  
Jonah 1  
Sermon: "Are You Plugging Your Passion in for Jesus?"

#### January 22 – JOURNEY SUNDAY

Theme: There is no hiding from God.  
Scripture: Jonah 2  
Sermon: "What Are You Doing Down Here?"

#### January 29 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Theme: God calls Us to be FAITHFUL.  
Scripture: II Timothy 2:1-14; Jonah 3  
Sermon: "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go"

### NEW YEARS DAY WORSHIP

We will have a worship service on **January 1**, at **10:30 AM** in the Church Parlor. We will have singing, sharing, communion, and most importantly . . . **coffee!** Ryan Talbot will join me in delivering a sermon entitled: "New . . . Every Day!"

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM CHANGE

Beginning **January 4**, we are changing the time of the Wednesday Night activities. The children who meet for "Dessert with Jesus" & the Bethany Youth Group will meet at the same time: **6:30 – 8:00 PM**.

- "Dessert with Jesus" (children Pre-School thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) – Sunday School Room.
- "Dessert with Jesus" (children 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade) – Pastor's Office.
- Bethany Youth Group (youth 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade) – Fellowship Hall.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning **Sunday, January 8** and continuing each Sunday during the month of January, you are invited to a set of four classes . . . on "The Wisdom in the book of **Proverbs**." The sessions will be led by Pastor James. The group will meet promptly at **9:30 AM**. Coffee is available.

## BREAKFAST WITH THE BIBLE

Every Sunday, we are having Breakfast with the Bible. Children may gather at 9:30 AM for a Bible Story, Crafts, Singing, and breakfast. We now have Breakfast with the Bible for two groups: Pre-school to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (taught by **Cathy Haynes, Rodger Zeller, & Joann Shulte**); and, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (taught by **Jenny Upleger**). The two groups will meet together at 9:30 AM and then split up after getting started.

## 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**.

## ANNUAL BOOK OF REPORTS DEADLINE

If you are an Officer, Team Leader, or Committee Chair, you are requested to have a one page report of activities for 2011 into the church office by **January 8, 11:59 PM**. Please use Ariel font, size 12.

## 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)

## EPIPHANY – January 8

On Sunday, **January 8**, we will observe the Christian feast of **Epiphany**, celebrating the coming of the **light** into our world through Jesus Christ. You will see an Epiphany skit, hear the story of the stars and the Magi, and hear a trio of men singing "We Three Kings of Orient Are." Don't miss out on the fun of Epiphany. We will be looking for the light of Jesus . . . everywhere!



## "UN" HANGING OF THE GREENS – January 14

On **Saturday, January 14**, beginning at **9 AM**, you are invited to help with the "Un" hanging of the Greens. We need help un-decorating the church and putting things away in the garage. There will be donuts, fruit, juice, and coffee waiting for everyone who comes. All ages are invited!

## 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



Name Tags  
A Good Flashlight

Reams of colored copy paper (8 1/2 x 11)  
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.

## AFTER CHRISTMAS FLOP – January 14

One of Bethany's great annual traditions is the "After-Christmas-Flop." This year's Flop will take place on **Saturday, January 14 at 6:00 PM** at the home of **Dave & Andrea von Behren, 2207 Carpathian, West Bloomfield, MI 48324**. Adults of all ages, new or long-time members, are all urged to attend. Bring a White Elephant gift (a wrapped, unmarked gag gift) to exchange. The White Elephant gift exchange will be a hilarious conclusion to a great night of food and fellowship. Dave is coordinating the food. Call him at **248-891-1734** to talk about what to bring.

## TEAM SUNDAY – January 15

On Sunday, **January 15** our 13 ministry teams will shine! During worship, we will talk about how it is exactly that the church is the Body of Christ. After worship, you will be invited to explore the team displays which will show you what each team does. This is important because, here at Bethany, anyone can join any ministry team. (Only Team Leaders are elected by the congregation.) Members and friends of Bethany are encouraged to discover which team matches their passion for service. Then, all you have to do is join your dream team and be a part of the Bethany ministry. So, come find out about how we use teams to do the work of the Body of Christ at Bethany. Remember, “there is one body, and you are all members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).



## CHRISTMAS CAROL CONTEST: RESULTS by Rodger Zeller

A total of 33 people nominated 29 different Christmas carols/hymns for our contest. 15 different carols received a first place vote. Each person's list was given 5 points for their first place selection down to 1 point for their 5th place selection.

The results were as follows:

1. Silent Night: 23 votes for 91 points
2. O Holy Night: 20 votes for 75 points
3. Joy To The World: 15 votes for 44 points
4. Away In A Manger: 11 votes for 31 points
5. Hark The Herald Angels Sing: 11 votes for 29 points
6. What Child Is This: 9 votes for 27 points
7. O Come All Ye Faithful: 9 votes for 22 points
8. Lo How A Rose 'Ere Blooming: 6 votes for 20 points
9. Go Tell It On The Mountain: 6 votes for 17 points
10. Angels We Have Heard On High: 6 votes for 15 points
11. We Three Kings: 4 votes for 14 points

## 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. January 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

## SHOW YOUR TEAM SPIRIT – January 15

No, it's not for the Lions, Red Wings or your alma mater. It's for our Bethany Teams – all thirteen of them.

Mark your calendars and plan to be at Bethany after worship on **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Each team will have a display explaining their mission and activities.

Current team members will be on hand to answer questions. There will also be some handouts and team treats.



It's your opportunity to find the team where you can best serve. You can even sign up that day if you are ready. Youth are welcome and encouraged to be involved.

If you can't make a full year commitment, many teams offer short term & specific tasks that might interest you.

Do you prefer to work alone? There will be a list of jobs, which are suitable for one or two people.

Even if you're not planning to join a Team, plan to stay and check out the exhibits so you'll have a better understanding of what our teams do in the life of our Bethany family.

“*Many hands make light work*” – This John Heywood Proverb\*\* makes sense! As we all lend a hand and do our part, our entire Bethany family will be richer. (And no one will need to be “burned out.”)

\*\* *John Heywood's Proverbs, first printed in 1546, is the earliest collection of English colloquial sayings.*



## USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Please donate your USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES to Bethany. **Josh Nelson** is able to turn these items into useful equipment and supplies for the church office, thus saving the church money. It's a small thing, but it makes a big difference.



## BETHANY RE-CYCLES



Bethany re-cycles *paper* to collection bins benefiting Waterford Schools. We also collect spent *batteries* which are re-cycled by **Ron Joyner**. Soon we will also have a plastic bins.

## WIGGLY CHAIRS

Good news! Our wiggly or out-of-commission padded blue chairs have ALL been strengthened and/or repaired. **Al Jespersen** came up with the idea of nailing them together with a pneumatic stapler. Thanks to his faithful assistants: **Tim Patterson, Gene Lewis, & Josh Nelson!** Way to go guys!



## MENS' BREAKFAST – January 21

The Men's Breakfast group will meet **Saturday, January 21** at the Green Apple Restaurant on Cooley Lake Road, **8:30 AM**. Bill Maxfield will lead in a devotional. Come join in the fellowship.

## BETHANY BOOK CLUB by Louise Aebersold



Stones from the River by Ursula Hegi is our January book, suggested by Lottie Jespersen. It is a daring, dramatic and complex novel of life in Germany between 1915 and 1951. It is set in a small fictional German town called Burgdorf. Trudi Montag is the main character. She is 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 part of her town's silent complicity during and after World War II.

Through Trudi's unblinking eyes, we witness the growing impact of Nazism on ordinary people as they are thrust on to a larger moral stage and forced to make choices that will forever mark their lives. As the town librarian and relentless collector of stories, Trudi reveals the truth about living through unspeakable times.

*The New York Times Book Review* called Stones from the River a rich and lively, moving novel that commands our compassion and respect for wisdom and courage found in unlikely places, in unlikely times.

Please join us for a wonderful discussion on **January 20** at 9:15 AM at Lottie Jespersen's home. This book is available in local libraries.



## THINK: YARD SALE

Our financial plans for 2012 include a Yard Sale. We are inviting those who can help with the planning and organization of this event to meet in the Parlor at **11:45 AM**, on **Sunday, January 22**. Please pray about this important Bethany event and listen for God's Whisper to be a part of the Yard Sale Committee.

## CELEBRATE & CONSECRATE – January 29

Immediately after worship on **Sunday, January 29**, we will convene as a congregation to receive the Annual Book of Reports for 2011 and celebrate God's blessings during 2011. We will also hear about some ministry plans for 2012 and consecrate those plans with a special prayer of blessing. Everyone is invited to participate. Child care will be provided.

## GUESS WHOSE JOB IT IS?

Do you like guessing games? Well, here is a game you have a chance at winning. Ready? Whose responsibility is it to lock doors, turn out lights, and properly set the security alarm at Bethany?

If your answer is Pastor James! You lose the game!

If you answered that it is a responsibility that belongs to ALL Bethany members . . . you win!

Please remember: the last one out the door for ANY church function MUST be sure all thermostats are set at 65 degrees; that all lights in the building are turned off (including those in the bathrooms); that all doors are securely locked; and that the alarm system has been properly armed! If you don't know the security code, call Pastor James, Susan, Al Jespersen, Bill Thatcher, etc. and they will give you a code to punch in.

There have been a number of break-ins in the neighborhood and we can't be too careful. Besides, we are stewards of the resources we have been given and must keep the heat turned down when no one is in the building. Your cooperation makes us all winners!



# 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 **February** LINC deadline is **Sunday, January 22**.

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:**

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*

May - *April 15*

September - *August 19*

#### **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!**