

The Monthly Newsletter from your Family of Faith at Bethany

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

October 2 – “Power of a Whisper” series begins in Worship
October 2 – “Crop Walk for Worship Hunger”
October 9 – Fellowship Dinner
October 29 – Harvest Fest
October 30 – Halloween Eve (FAMILY SUNDAY)

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 friends and members of Bethany Church:

Loss! Deep, aching, powerful loss! I sense it in the lives of so many these days. Silent, heavy, hard!

A spouse dies and the survivor wonders how to carry on with a heart that feels ripped apart.

Parents die and suddenly those people who brought you into this world are no longer there . . . and you feel like an orphan.

Friends move away! Jobs are terminated! Homes become houses that one can no longer afford!

Children grow up and leave an empty nest that begs the question “now what?”

Loss! Deep, aching, powerful loss!

Following hard behind loss is the sadness of grief.

Memories and reminders trigger periodic and capricious waves of grief. How does one cope?

Some would say there is nothing you can do but come to terms with the unwanted companions of loss and grief.

Others say that positive and happy thoughts are the sure to turn the tide.

Still others would say that one must simply learn to live loss and grief by embracing them and accepting the pain they bring.

I turn to Jesus and he says, “feed my sheep.” The Apostle Peter was enduring the pain of loss, the funk of grief. Jesus told him, “feed my sheep.”

We are Peter, you and I. And I believe that **Jesus is telling us here to channel our grief into positive and helpful avenues of service.**

If your spouse has died, you can choose to comfort other widows.

If your parent dies, you can love and cherish an elderly person with no family.

If you lose your house, you can still save your family by making wherever you land a loving home.

If your children or grandchildren are not close by or not wanting to connect with you, there are many who would be happy recipients of your gifts of love and wisdom.

Do you see it? Can you feel it? Jesus teaches us to cope with our loss, our grief, by being of service to others. Sometimes we simply love our neighbor in spite of our sense of loss, our grieving souls. It is by caring for and loving others that our losses find meaning.

“For it is giving, that we receive,” said our dear Lord. **To receive solace for our souls, we must be of service to God.** To cope with loss, one must engage others who have lost as a comrade bringing comfort and compassion. Remember this in your deepest moments of loss or grief. **The best way to assuage the sufferings of the heart is to stand with others who have suffered loss with compassion, companionship, and comfort.**

Loss! Deep, aching, powerful loss! It’s counterintuitive I know, yet there it is, “feed my sheep.”

Dear Lord, transform the overwhelming sense of loss in me and in those who are willing, into motivation for service in Thy name. Amen.

“The Power of a WHISPER” Series Begins – October 2

Have you experienced nudges or promptings from God? Have you heard a “still, small voice” speak to your heart or conscience? Have you seen mysterious signs showing you the way forward? Come learn about this divine spiritual direction. Discover how you can tell whether or not a message or a prompting is really coming from God. Share in fellowship with others who are on a spiritual journey of discovering God’s will for their lives.

Beginning, October 2 and running for 4 weeks, our Sunday Worship will be focused on “The Power of a Whisper.”

You are encouraged to join one of several small groups that will meet weekly for 4 weeks to view a DVD presentation and have a discussion on this important topic. Hear others tell of the whispers they have heard from God and what it meant to them. You will be blessed by the fellowship and the spiritual discoveries in store for you in “The Power of a WHISPER.”

Groups include:

Sunday, October 2, @ 9:30 A.M. led by Susan Bolin & Nelson Haynes in the church Parlor.

Monday, October 3, @ 10:15 A.M. led by Bob Hunt in the church Parlor.

Tuesday, October 4, @ 7 P.M. led by Lottie Jespersen & Julie Patterson. The meetings will rotate between their two homes: Begin at Lottie’s at 8315 Fox Bay Drive, White Lake; then Julie’s at 4675 Eddystone Circle, Clarkston.

Wednesday, October 5, @ 7 P.M. led by James & Susan Bolin in the church Parlor.

Wednesday, October 5, @ 7:15 P.M. (for the Youth) led by Michelle McGregor in the church Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, October 8, @ 8:30 A.M. (a Men’s Group) led by and at the home of Bill Maxfield, 8164 Vanden Drive, White Lake (off Williams Lake Road).

There’s an angel watching over you in good times, trouble or stress. He wraps his wings 'round you, whispering, “You are loved and blessed.”

~Author Unknown

Sermons & Scripture October, 2011

October 2 – COMMUNION SUNDAY; “The Power of a Whisper” Series

Theme: How to Know When You Are Hearing God.

Scripture: I Samuel 3:4-10

Sermon: “Are you Living a ‘Whisper Led’ Life?”

October 9 – FELLOWSHIP DINNER; “The Power of a Whisper” Series

Theme: There are 3 Kinds of Whispers from God.

Scripture: Isaiah 30:21; 41:10; & Acts 16:7

Sermon: “Divine Input for the Day-to-Day”

October 16 – “The Power of a Whisper” Series

Theme: If You Want to be “Good” at Something . . .
YOU GOTTA PRACTICE!

Scripture: Romans 8:28; John 15:1-17; Psalm 19:14; Philippians 4:8; James 1:5

Sermon: “Are You Practicing the Presence of God?”

October 23 – “The Power of a Whisper” Series

Theme: Prizing God’s Priorities.

Scripture: Isaiah 1:7; Mark 10:27; II Kings 6:15-17

Sermon: “Are You ‘Wide Open’ for Good?”

October 30 – HALLOWEEN EVE

Theme: Let’s talk about witches, vampires, demons, and Satan.

Scripture: I Peter 5:8

Sermon: “God is Bigger Than the Boogie Man”
James Bolin & Ryan Talbot - preaching

FELLOWSHIP DINNER – October 9

You are welcome and invited to join in on our Fellowship Dinner, Sunday, **October 9**, immediately after Worship. Bring a dish of food to share! For set-up, serving, & clean-up, we will rely on the Hospitality, Shepherd, & Small Group Teams to take the lead.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – October 8, 15, 22, 29

The Men's Breakfast group will meet 4 Saturdays in a row! Beginning, **October 8**, the group will meet for breakfast at the home of Bill & Nancy Maxfield, at 8:30 A.M. After a scrumptious breakfast, the men will be viewing "The Power of a WHISPER" DVD and having a discussion about ways that God speaks directly to our hearts. All men are invited.

GIRLFRIENDS UNLIMITED

We have many very talented women with great knowledge of canning at Bethany. Ruth Hanson, Joyce Hice and Louise Aebersold were a great help teaching eight of us how to can at the Tomato Pantry Delights workshop. We canned spaghetti sauce, salsa and tomatoes, which will certainly taste great once the cold weather sets upon us. Thank you, ladies, for all of your help!

The "Passport to Prayer" Bible study will be held on Wednesday at 1:00 on **October 5th** at Nancy's home and on **October 12th** at Nona's. This study has made us very aware of the needs of many of God's children around the world. You are most welcome to attend any or all of the remaining sessions.

Ladies, please circle your calendar and plan to attend our retreat "It's a Wonder Full World" **November 11 and 12**. More information will be coming.

It's Pasties Prep Time once again! We need your help the last two weeks of the month. Please sign up with Jan Rowe for as much time as you can possibly give. This is a really enjoyable experience - getting to know one another. Order forms for the pasties will be available starting Sunday, September 25th - see Nancy McPherson with your completed order and money. And remember, you probably didn't order enough last year. We all bemoan the day when we eat our last pasty - so plan ahead.


BETHANY BOOK CLUB

Our book for October is The Innocent Man by John Grisham. Bob Hunt recommended this book which is Grisham's first work of nonfiction. It tells the true story of a man who had great athletic promise, but suffers some serious life roadblocks. In addition to physical, mental and substance abuse problems, his downward spiral ended with his being accused and convicted with circumstantial evidence of capital murder.

If you believe that in America you are innocent until proven guilty, this book will shock you. If you believe in the death penalty, this book will disturb you. If you believe the criminal justice system is fair, this book will infuriate you. If you want a thoroughly good read, this book is for you.

You will want to read this riveting book, available at local libraries and in book stores, and join us for an interesting discussion on **October 14** at 9:15 a.m. in the church parlor. Coffee or hot tea and a refreshment will be served. Hope to see you there!

Roger Bos
rbos@twmi.rr.com


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DEACONS OFFERING HEALING PRAYERS

On the 2nd & 4th 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 P.M. In October 10th & 24th.**

THE 4th SUNDAY of WHISPER

On the final Sunday of our "The Power of a WHISPER" series, we will hear a special message from the Team Leader of our Small Group & Spiritual Formation Team. **Julie Patterson** will bring the final message by sharing some of her personal journey and several helpful insights that she has gleaned. You will be blessed by her sermon. Learn how to make "being attentive" to the "whispers" of God a way of life that will daily bless your soul.


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YOUTH WHO ROCK

It is always great to brag about the youth from Bethany. They all are special, but I love to brag about those who take time to grow spiritually and serve God.

Here are the latest:

Matthew Nugent is the latest participant in Youth Leader Core (2011-2012), a year long Christian Leadership program through the American Baptist Association at Camp Lael. Keep him in your prayers as he begins this important journey.

Alison Upleger, Katie Crites and Matthew Nugent are members of the American Baptist High School Convention Cabinet. This group is responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing a fun, spiritual weekend retreat for over 150 high schoolers each November. Great job guys!

Alli Tuohy, Madison Carter, Connie Starick, Mackenna Thatcher, Faith Love, Hanah Newsome, Brady Morgan, Callie Crosley, Matthew Nugent, Michael Croff, Jared Behmlander, Dylan Love, and Caitlin Morgan served as leaders for this Summer's Vacation Bible School. Each night they arrived early ready to serve God and the children who needed to hear about God's love. You go guys!

DRIVE-THRU PRAYER BOX

At the west end of the parking lot, you will see our public "Prayer Box." It looks like a mail box, but has a little white cross on top. It is there for the general public to leave Prayer Requests for our Bethany Church family. Anyone, can drive up, take a Prayer Request Form, and write out a prayer request, and leave it in the box. Our Pastor's business cards are also available with the forms. We will then give the Prayer Requests to our Bethany Prayer Chain, our Deacons, and other Prayer Warriors. **You will be happy to know that in the past month, we have received a dozen anonymous Prayer Requests. Many also includes words of appreciation for this ministry!**

We FORGOT to include someone in last's month's acknowledgements. **Connie Starick** also helped with the project. Thank you Connie! You're the greatest!

Please pray that God will continue to bless this new ministry and that we will truly connect the Love of Christ with some of those who pass Bethany Church each day.

DEACONS MAKE A CHANGE!

Our Deacons are offering spiritual counseling & 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.**



WISH LIST

You know, 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



- Staplers
- 3 Hole Punch
- Name Tags
- Good Scissors
- Plungers (2)
- Good Flashlight
- New Electric Pencil Sharpener
- Old Fashioned Wall Pencil Sharpener
- New Brooms (3 needed)
- New Computer Printers (2)
- New or Used VHS player (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.

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



WORLD MISSION OFFERING
(October's Mission Concern)

International Ministries is a Christian mission organization connecting U.S. churches and individuals to holistic missions around the world. Organized in 1814, American Baptist International Ministries is the first Baptist mission agency formed in North America. They serve more than 1,800 short term and long-term missionaries annually, bringing U.S. and Puerto Rico churches together with partners in over 70 countries to tell the good news of Jesus Christ while meeting human needs.

Their mission is to glorify God in all the earth by crossing cultural boundaries to help people **come** to Christ, **grow** in Christ and **change** their worlds with Christ.

The 2011 Mission Offering theme:
Live the Word
Proclaim the Word
Be Transformed

It is nearly impossible for your mission team to tell you in this small space what a large impact your gift will have on furthering the ministry focus of evangelism theological education, human trafficking, health economic development, education, peace and refuge. Therefore we ask you to read the bulletin inserts, become better informed by visiting www.internationalministries.org, and then to prayerfully consider your gift and help us reach our Bethany 2011 goal of \$1,000.

When followers Live the Word and Proclaim the Word, others can be transformed.

Your Mission Team,
Lottie Jespersen, Bob Hunt Sandy Lewis,
Josh Nelson, Mike and Pam Rooney



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VALET PARKING

We now offer Valet Parking every Sunday beginning at **10:00 A.M.** 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.

HAPPY NEWS ABOUT REV. AL

You may remember **Rev. Al Bendert** and his lovely wife **Diana**. Al served as an Intern at Bethany as part of his seminary education. He stayed on to serve for a spell as our Associate Pastor until a church called him as Pastor. He was eventually called to Cherry Hill Baptist Church in Dearborn Heights, MI. Only, Cherry Hill is a part-time church and Al felt a full-time calling.

We are happy to report that Al is now a full-time Pastor! He was recently called to be the full-time Pastor of Emmanuel Community Church of Palm Harbor, Florida. He begins his ministry there on November 1.

Our Bethany family will have an opportunity to congratulate Al & Diana personally on Sunday, **October 23**, when they will join us for worship. We will have a special "laying on hands" ceremony to send them off with our prayers and blessings into this new field of ministry as they serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CATS AWAY, THE MICE WILL PLAY

Pastor James and Susan will be visiting one of their grand-daughters on October 22 & 23. Should you need pastoral care in their absence, please call on one of our Deacons. In case of a true emergency, call Rev. Al Bendert @ (586) 764-2928.

NOTES OF THANKS & PRAISE



Dear Pastor Bolin,

On behalf of the volunteers, Board of Directors, and mostly those we serve, thanks so much to Bethany Baptist Church for your generous in-kind donation of food.

In these difficult economic times, your generous and thoughtful gift will allow us to continue serving families and individuals in crisis. In-kind donations help us to supplement our other resources, especially in the food pantry where donated food and personal care products help to keep expenditures lower. At the present time, we are serving an average of 750 families per month from the food pantries in Clarkston and Pontiac.

But LES is not just about lending a caring and compassionate ear to those in crisis – we also work with those we serve to help them develop the skills to be self-sufficient. Recently we have launched a series of classes devoted to this goal – one class teaches families tips on energy efficiency to lower their utility bills. A third class will soon begin that will teach families how to be good tenants to prevent unnecessary evictions.

We firmly believe these efforts make our community stronger. Thanks for helping us to make a difference!

Sincerely,

Thomas Stowell
Executive Director
Lighthouse Emergency Services



Many thanks for all the prayers, cards and condolences that I received in the passing of my dear husband Jack. They were deeply appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the luncheon after the service.

Sincerely, *Ruth McCulloch*



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thanks for the many prayers that went up in my name for healing that brought me home to my family.

Karen Carnes



I would like to thank everyone for all of your prayers. I am recovering well from both of my surgeries.

Vonda Starick

To Our Beloved Church Family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers and cards during my father's illness and his death. It was greatly appreciated.

Susan & James



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PEPPER ANDY PEPPER

Just in case you haven't heard, **Sue Pepper** came up with a terrific idea. Please jot a note on a card or letter to **Andy Pepper**. Tell a story, share a memory, tell him how much you appreciate him, etc. Then, send it to his daughter **Janet Mutz** at this address: 9520 Cedar Grave Road, Clarkston, MI 48348. We are hoping that your words of love and blessing will cheer him and warm his heart. Please send along something soon. Let's pepper Andy Pepper with our love. Thanks.

MR. WONDERFUL

Jack McCulloch, affectionately known to us as "Mr. Wonderful", went home to be with the Lord. Please wrap your hearts and arms around **Ruth McCulloch**. You may send condolences to Ruth McCulloch, 8141 Rene Court, White Lake, MI 48386.

CLIFF "THE CHEF" HANSEN

Cliff Hansen, beloved husband of **Ruth Hansen**, recently surrendered into God's loving embrace. Please give Ruth Christian friendship and compassion in the days ahead. Send condolences to: Ruth Hansen, 4728 Algonquin, West Bloomfield, MI 48324.

MEMORIALS

You are invited to give a special gift in memory of **Jack McCulloch** and/or **Cliff Hansen** (both of whom went home to be with the Lord this past month) to Bethany as a special way to honor their memories. Send checks to Bethany Church, 1375 Hiller Rd., Waterford, MI 48327.

FALL FUNDRAISERS

As you know, churches now need multiple sources of income to sustain their ministries. We depend on the tithes and offerings of members and friends. But we also have income from our SCRIP sales. Whenever we can, we rent out the Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary. And then, we must have fundraisers to bring in the rest of the income we need for the year.

Last year, our YARD SALE provided the bulk of our fundraising needs. But since we do the YARD SALE every other year, we had to come up with other fundraisers for the current year. We made good plans, but they did not succeed. This means, that we are going to be significantly short of our budgetary needs. However, the Stewardship Team has a couple of ideas on how we may still bring in the revenue we need.

Your Stewardship Team is considering a package of fundraisers that together have the potential of lifting us to success by the end of the year. The dominant proposal under consideration is a series of fundraisers that would include: a bake sale, a car wash, a spaghetti supper, a talent show, a cake walk, a taffy pulling contest, a slave auction, a rocking chair marathon, and a craft sale.

No one of these fundraisers could meet our needs, but together they just might put us where we will need to be. Of course, we will need you to commit countless volunteer hours to make this fundraising bundle succeed. So get ready for a flurry of fundraising frenzy.

Well, like I said, this is the pre-dominant plan at the moment. Come to Worship on Sunday, **October 16**, and sign up for at least three or four of the fundraisers in our bundle.

HE IS!

When you are the *neediest*, He is the most sufficient.
When you are *completely helpless*, He is the most helpful.
When you feel *totally dependent*, He is absolutely dependable.
When you are the *weakest*, He is the most able.
When you are the *most alone*, He is intimately present.
When you feel *you are the least*, He is the greatest!
When you feel the *most useless*, He is preparing you.
When it is *darkest*, He is the only Light you need.
When you feel the *least secure*, He is your Rock and Fortress.
When you are the *most humble*, He is most gracious.
When you say that *you cannot*, remember that He can!

~ Author Unknown

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL October 30, November 6, 13, 20

Sandy Lewis, is a retired educator with a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience about children that is truly astounding. She is gracing us with pearls of wisdom during four consecutive Adult Sunday School classes in order to give us insight and tools about . . . CHILDREN. Whether you are parent, grandparent, uncle, aunt, teacher, babysitter, or are just plain curious about these little creatures, YOU WILL BE BLESSED by what Sandy has to offer.

Mark Twain has a funny story about imagining how surprised Adam and Eve were when Cain arrived. After all, they had never seen a baby before. Twain has Adam asking Eve, "what is it and what are we supposed to do with it?" Twain jests. But Sandy Lewis will enlighten. Don't miss this. In the Parlor, beginning, **October 30!**



COMING IN NOVEMBER

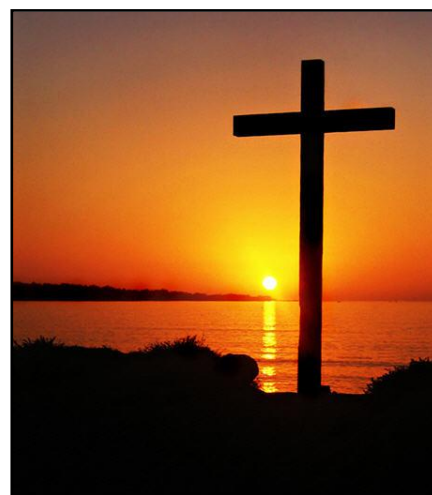
November 6 – Superintendentcy Sunday; Communion

November 13 – Tutelage Sunday; Fellowship Dinner

November 20 – Thanksgiving Sunday

November 26 – Hanging of the Greens

November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent



Bethany

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Website: www.bethanywaterford.org

(Copies of this newsletter are available on our website)

We welcome your contributions to the **LINC**. The **September** LINC deadline is **Sunday, October 23**.
Email articles to *Christine Keener* at BethanyLINC@hotmail.com or put them in the tray in the Church Office.
Please get articles in by the deadline. Thank you!

LINC Deadlines

Please note the following deadlines for the LINC for 2011:

November – *October 23*
December – *November 20*

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 or
- **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

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!**