October 2014 Volume 7, Issue 10

Bethany Beacon

Report from Session

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Our Mission: To equip people to be fully devoted to Jesus Christ through relevant and practical ministries.

St. Bridget Pantry Donations 1st Sunday of Every Month



October: Session

Volunteer to be a Greeter! Ask a Deacon!! We are nearing the time of year when nominations are being sought for officers at Bethany. The individuals being sought are those whom God has given a call to keep Bethany serving as a beacon in our community. If you feel the longing to share your talents as a member of Session or a Deacon, please talk to anyone on the Nominating Committee: Lori Mitchell, Jerry Hewitt, Donovan Wood, Carol Shearrow or Hope Fosler.

As we shared previously, we ask you to please continue to contact the individuals below if you have an area of concern.

Sunday Greeters – A Sign-Up Sheet will be on the Information Desk and dates will be assigned by the Deacons (We need you, please sign up!)

Seasonal Flowers –If you have a special occasion floral display to donate please call Cheryl Eickman (815-540-7076).

Weekly Worship Bulletins: Coordinated by Marlys Marsh and Tim Krug (If you have something for the Sunday Bulletin, please email Marlys at <u>mar4806@comcast.net</u>).

Beacon Newsletter – Coordinated by Lori Mitchell (Please email articles to Lori at <u>momm316@yahoo.com</u>) by the last week of each month.

Answering Machine will be utilized for incoming phone calls. However, if you have an emergency, please call Lori Mitchell at 815-494-2753 or Tom Smith at 815-988-9056.

Calendar: Will be maintained by Tami Munger (website as well) and Marlys Marsh.

As always, thank you for your tithes and offerings that keep Bethany serving as a vital ministry in our local communities. We also would like to remind you to continue to give to the Capital Improvement Fund (formerly the green envelopes) through your offering envelopes and mark it on the outside of the envelope.

Continuing to follow God's direction and pray for His leadership of Bethany. Members of Session – Lori, Tom, Dan, Jay, Tami, Art, Marlys, LaVerne and Jerry

a contemporary thing..

was established on a mission trip several years ago in the minds of the youth and the leaders. The excitement simmered in their minds until early summer, 2014, when it was decided to launch this service the 3rd Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. followed by fellowship in the hall downstairs. This service would be focused on praise and worship of our Lord, Jesus Christ, through music and testimonials.

On July 27th, 2014, "a contemporary thing.." was launched with a message by Don Hecox and praise music was led by Amanda McCormick.

On August 17th, a contemporary praise band, Fire at 4th and State, led our musical worship and the message was given by Melissa McCormick.

On Sept 21st, the Cherie Norquay Band, came. After an inspirational musical opening, Cherie shared a message about her own moment, when she found herself confronting who she was and what she believed. She shared the Good Samaritan story and related that she had been the priest and the Levite who crossed the road rather than assist the injured man. Her message was that we see but we don't REALLY see other people. So, her and her husband, John, began to go on mission trips to Africa where for the first time she really SAW other people and realized their conditions and the suffering they were undergoing and wondered how could she help. She picked up her music again after 22 years and began to use it as a way to evangelize the message of Jesus. As an example of how she saw but didn't see, she told the story of taking her child for a rather long walk on a park path. Off to the side, sat a beautiful bird. It didn't appear injured and was not afraid of her as she approached it. She talked to it and her child about how beautiful it was, other people began to observe her and smiled as they walked past. She then went home. The next morning, the bird was on her doorstep. How did it get there? She opened her door just enough to squeeze herself out (was she fearful the bird would fly inside? I don't know). Anyway, as she looked at the bird she saw it had a band on each leg. She put it in her cat carrier and called the number on the band. This was a racing homing pigeon. It was about 600 miles from home and had become disoriented and lost during a race. She saw the bird on the path but didn't SEE the bird until it showed up on her doorstep. It begs the question, how did it get to her home? And why? She compared The Bird Story to the Good Samaritan story of how she saw the bird but didn't help until it came to her door and then she SAW it and became the Good Samaritan and helped the bird back home.

The next contemporary thing will be Oct 19th with Nick McCormick speaking. He is requesting we wear our favorite NFL team colors.

Dr. Digger's Diggings

In Genesis 12, we read how God told Abram to leave Ur of Caldes and to eventually travel to Canaan. Abram took all that he had and traveled this course.

Sceptics have said that this travel was impossible at that time.

However, Archeologists had found a clay tablet in Babylon. This clay tablet was a wagon rental contract. This clay tablet had the stipulation that the wagon renter could not take the wagon as far as the Mediterranean Coast. This implied that even wagon rental companies put limits on the renters at that time. It would seem that it was not unusual for people to travel that far!

Church Bulletin Bloopers

"The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday."

Bible Expressions

We have heard the expression "Cast the first stone"

This expression is found in the Bible in John 8:7 "So when they continued asking Him (Jesus), He lifted Himself up and said unto them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

Kids Korner

When I was a little girl, growing up in Chicago, during the Second World War, The "Rag Man" would ride through the alley with his horse and wagon. He would cry out "Rags, I buy rags." If we had any rags, we would run outside and give them to the Rag Man. He would then weigh them with a scale that he had and pay us for them. But he could not take any red rags. You see, when the rags were processed, the red coloring would go through all the other rags and ruin them. (these rags were used to make newspaper).

Isaiah 1:18 says, "---though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow---"

Isn't it wonderful that God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and shed His blood for our sins. Because of this, when we ask Jesus into our hearts, He takes our "red sins" and makes them "white" as snow.

Here is an interesting project that you can do.

The next time you go shopping at the grocery store, you can read the labels on red ice cream, red candy, red beverages, etc. The labels may list natural colorings called cochineal or carmine.

Guess what??? This coloring comes from female cochineal insects. These insects are raised on farms in the Canary Islands, Peru and Mexico, and then processed. for the red dye color.

Deacon Church Mouse sez:

You're writing a "gospel," a chapter each day,

By the deeds that you do, by the words that you say;

Men read what you write, whether faithless or true,

Say, what is the "gospel" according to you?

Granny Church Mouse sez:

People will listen to you carefully If they see you living faithfully.



October Happenings At Bethany

Every Sunday: Sunday School for Birth through Senior Adults – 9:00 a.m.

Every Sunday: Worship at 10:15 a.m.

Every Sunday: Fellowship after Church

First Sunday: Communion in Church and Delivered to Shut-ins

Third Sunday: Contemporary Service and Fellowship at 5:00 p.m.

October 26: Trunk or Treat at 5:00 p.m.

Candy Needed – Bring to Church by October 19.

PAPER ANGEL CLOSET



PAPER ANGEL CLOSET is always in need of detergent, bleach, cleaning supplies, hand soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, and shampoo. With cold season here, there is always a need for Kleenex and other paper products.

God bless each of you who faithfully remember PAC with needed items. This outreach continues because you are so willing to give to help those less fortunate in our community.

October Mission of the Month Rock House Kids

Rock House Kids reaches out to inner city youth, ages 4 through 18 who are at risk and in need, in Rockford's southeast inner city. It not only offers a safe, warm and nurturing environment, they serve hot meals and food bags to take with them, because many of them would otherwise have nothing to eat at home. They also provide after school tutoring and snacks, Bible classes, after basic life skills. They also provide basic clothing needs for children without shoes, socks, coats, scarves, hats and gloves, but most of all they provide them with real caring and love.

As we begin this fall season, may we think of the many blessings that God has given us and reach out to help children who cannot and do not have the means to help themselves. We have the opportunity to aid in helping these needy children. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and forbid them not, for such is the Kingdom of God.". May we show our love for them through this vital ministry.

Our Sunday Adult Class is beginning a study in the book of I John. If you are interested in refreshing and expanding the basis of your Christian faith and how to live it, this is a good place to do that. Though only five chapters, it is rich in Christ's teachings. Come join us each Sunday at 9:00 in the upper educational unit.

Bethany Family Fund

BFF is a fund specifically for Bethany members who find themselves in an emergency financial need. If you find yourself or another member of our congregation in that position, please contact Marilyn Buske of our Deacons committee. All requests are kept within that committee to assure privacy for any

BETHANY'S BOILER UPDATE

To everyone that has given to the Boiler Fund, thank you for your continued, faithful support. After hitting the \$8,000 mark in Bethany's Boiler Fund, the go ahead was given to install the new boiler the week of September 21st. The fund is still around \$3,000 short of the goal, but Session will have until the end of December before the final payment for the boiler is due.

We will continue to accept money for the Boiler Fund until the end of the year. Any amount over the initial goal will be used to help cover the heating bills this winter.





Pastor Carlson and Jan are grateful for all who came before, during, or after and/or sent cards for Jan's 85th birthday celebration. It was a wonderful and unexpected surprise. Your phone calls and visits are deeply appreciated.

Rev. Peder and Jan Carlson



Thank You for your thoughtfulness and many prayers before, during and since Jonathan's colon surgery. It's very much appreciated. He is gradually feeling better, but has a long way to go. Please continue to remember him in your prayers. Again, many thanks!

Jonathan Reed, Edie Anderson and Family and the Buske's

Bethany Calendar – October 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|-----|
| | | | 1 Weekly Bulletin deadline 3:30pm: Julie Badowski 6pm: Praise Team 7pm: Chancel Choir | 2 7pm: Al-Ano | 3 4:30pm:Julie Badowski | 4 |
| 5 9am: Sunday School for All Ages 10:15am: Worship Celebration Communion Sunday 11:30am: Fellowship | 6 | 7 7pm: PNC 7pm: AA 7pm: Al-Anon 7pm: Al-Ateen | 8 Weekly Bulletin deadline 3:30pm: Julie Badowski 6pm: Praise Team 7pm: Chancel Choir | 9 6pm – Parent's Prayer Group 7pm: Al-Anon | 10 4:30pm:Julie Badowski | 11 |
| 12 9am: Adult Sunday School 10:15am: Worship Celebration 11:30am: Fellowship | 13 6pm Missions & Outreach 7:00 Sesson Meeting | 14 7pm: PNC 7pm Uriel Circle @ Bethany 7pm: AA 7pm: Al-Anon 7pm: Al-Ateen | 15 Weekly Bulletin deadline 12:30 pm HANNAH Circle 3:30pm: Julie Badowski 6pm: Praise Team 7pm: Chancel Choir | 16 9am BYKOTA Circle @ Beth 7pm: Al-Anon | 17 4:30pm:Julie Badowski | 18 |
| 19 9am: Primary, Youth & Adult Sunday Sch 10:15am: Worship Celebration 11:30am: Fellowship 5pm Contemporary Service & Fellowship | 20 5:45pm Paper Angel Closet 7pm: Christian Education | 21 7pm: PNC 7pm: AA 7pm: Al-Anon 7pm: Al-Ateen | 22 Weekly Bulletin deadline 3:30pm: Julie Badowski 6pm: Praise Team 7pm: Chancel Choir | 23 7pm: Al-Anon | 24 Beacon Articles Due 4:30pm:Julie Badowski | 25 |
| 26 9am: Primary, Youth & Adult Sunday Sch 10:15am: Worship Celebration 11:30am: Fellowship 5pm Trunk or Treat | 27 | 28 7pm: PNC 7pm: AA 7pm: Al-Anon 7pm: Al-Ateen | 29 Weekly Bulletin deadline 3:30pm: Julie Badowski 6pm: Praise Team 7pm: Chancel Choir | 30 7pm: Al-Anon | 31 4:30pm:Julie Badowski | |
| | | Contempo | r 19 - 5pm prary Service r NFL Colors | Candy and Treats are Needed for Trunk or Treat! Please Bring to Church by October 19. | | |