



# News of Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
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A Newsletter of Bethany Presbyterian Church

September, 2009

## September News and Events

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**September 6, 2009**  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Worship at 10:30am  
 Text: John 6:56-69  
 Message: The Bread of Life. Had Enough

**September 13, 2009**  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday on Ordinary Time  
 Worship at 9:00 am  
 Text: James 3:1-12  
 Message: "Speaking the Truth in Love"  
 Special Focus: Christian Educators Commissioning

**September 20, 2009**  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Worship at 9:00 am  
 Text: Psalm 124  
 Message: "A Church of Hope"  
 Special Focus: Evangelism Sunday

**September 27, 2009**  
26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Worship at 9:00 am  
 Text: James 5:13-20  
 Message: "Any Among You Sick"  
 Special Focus: Service of Healing & Wholeness



We return to our 10:30 worship time  
 on Sunday, September 6, 2009  
 Sunday School for all ages resumes  
 Sunday, September 13, 2009 at  
 9:00am

### OUR MISSION

Bethany Presbyterian Church is a church making  
 an impact on the lives of all people through the  
 love of Jesus Christ

**October 4, 2009 World  
 Communion Sunday.**  
 Bethany and Dromoo will worship  
 together at a time yet to be determined

## PASTORS TIME

Bats. The Kelsey family hates bats. Normally, I don't mind bats that much, especially when they are where they are supposed to be. What I don't like is when they are dive-bombing me in my living room. I am not some insect to be eaten. I much prefer those bats that hang kindly from the drapes or the mirror, not the ones that will not rest but continue to be so insanely afraid that they will not stop circling. That was the kind of bat we had in our house on August 13th.

And as it was taking lower and lower swoops toward me, and I was screaming with each one, I thought about fear. I thought about when Jesus talked about the many things we worry about. Many times our fears are REAL fears -- a member of our families are very sick, we are in danger of losing our jobs, the credit card bills seem to just get higher and higher, and food prices seem hover higher than we can afford. Some of our fears are for the maybe's in life - the *what if's* and *and's* of life. (As my grandma Faussett would say: "If if's and and's were pots and pans, there wouldn't be any if's and and's.") And others are those small moments and when they were done where not all that severe when looking back, I mean back.

As we return from a beautiful summer of fun at the mountains and the shore, we return to the many fears of life. Yet we also return with the words of Psalms 27:1 -- The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?"

Let us, in the midst of those moments that bring concern to us, remember the one who walks that path besides us, that provides for our needs and mediates on our behalf. Let us recall the times when we have been comforted in our illness, in our despair, in our grief. Let us also recall when God celebrated with us in our jubilation, in our excitement, and in those moments of blessing.

We know that life is not perfect, but the imperfections help us really appreciate the great joys brought through living in relationships with others and with our God and the true joys that life brings to our souls.

As we begin another fall season in the church, let us find new ways of celebration and in the face of fear to remember the one who walks through life with us -- Jesus Christ.

Many Blessings,

The Rev. Laura C. Kelsey



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND CHANCEL FLOWERS



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### GREETERS/USHERS

6 - Susan L. Fetterman, TBA  
13 - Richard B. Duncan, TBA  
20 - Judith L. Maier, TBA  
26 - Larry Doyle, TBA

### USHERS

6 - TBA  
13 - TBA  
20 - TBA  
26 - TBA

### LITURGISTS

6 - Dick Duncan  
13 - Barbra A. McCrary  
20 - Betty Duncan  
26 - Robert Miller

### SEPTEMBER CHANCEL FLOWERS

6 - Barbra A. McCrary.  
13 - Phyllis & Bob Miller  
20 - Michelle DeBord  
-Harriet Conner



09/02 Ms. Nancy Hedges  
09/03 Mr. Brett Cole  
09/05 Mr. Pete Paxson  
09/06 Mr. Brian Ashba  
09/09 Ms. Nellie Lewis  
09/09 Mr. Tadd Piefer

09/11 Mr. John MacAlarney  
09/17 Ms. Pat Witmer  
09/20 Mr. John Weibley  
09/22 Mr. Richard Creswell  
09/23 Ms. Phyllis Miller  
09/28 Mr. J. Clifford Gehman, Jr

## NEWS, CONCERNS, AND NOTES

Gloria Feldser joined the church triumphant on June 25, 2009. Gloria's service was held on June 30, 2009. She was a member of Bethany for 54 years

Charlotte Angevine joined the church triumphant on July 16, 2009. Charlotte's service was held on July 25, 2009. She was a member of Bethany for 67 years

Harry Kraft joined the Church triumphant on August 17, 2009

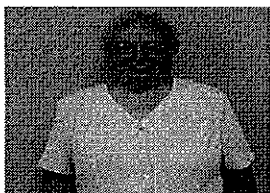


*Kaelyn Ann Eckman  
July 21, 2009*

*Kaelyn Ann Eckman. She was born on July 21, 2009. 9 pounds 14 oz. To Lynda & Keith Eckman. Grandparents are Bob & Jean Schwartz*

# DEACONS MINISTRIES AND PRAYER FAMILY

## PRAYER FAMILY FOR SEPTEMBER



Our Prayer Family for September 2009 is Judy Maier. Judy lives at 4 Candlewyck Court in Willow Street. Judy just recently moved into her new home!

Judy has been a member of Bethany for 6 and ½ years. She currently serves on Session and Chairs both the Personnel and Mission Committees. Judy also served previously on Session. Judy has been and is involved in many other capacities at Bethany. These include being Co-Chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), Mission Study Task Force Committee Member, Adult Bible Study, Greeter, Usher, Liturgist, Counter and VBS Volunteer.

Before Judy's retirement she was the Commissioner of Human Services in New York State for 10 years. Overall, Judy served as a Senior Administrator in New York State for 15 years. Before that, she was employed in Children's Services For 6 years. Judy was a Social Worker for LGH Family Health Services for 4 and ½ years. Judy has Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and Master's Degree in Secondary Education, as well as a Masters in Social Work (MSW).

Judy has two children, a son and daughter. She has three grandchildren, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Judy enjoys traveling and has been to Egypt and China. She also enjoys reading, volunteer work and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Judy asks that we pray for all those who face domestic violence challenges. She also asks that we pray for Bethany at a time when we face many present and future challenges, both individually and as a church family.

Doug Smith, Moderator, Board of Deacons

## DEACON MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT COMPASSION MINISTRY

**DEACON MINISTRY-USHERING AT BETHANY**  
The Deacons at Bethany have been responsible for obtaining Ushers for the Sunday service for many years. Each of the 12 Deacons are responsible for one month of the Year to ask church members to volunteer for their month. Until recently, Deacons would need to find 4 volunteers to be Ushers every week for their month. Now, with an approved change in church By Laws, Deacons are required to obtain 2 Ushers each week for the Service.

The following gives an overview of what Deacons do on their Ushering day at the Sunday service.

1. Arrive at 10:10 a.m. Put label on.
2. Distribute bulletins and children's tags found in the cupboard in the back of the church on the right.
3. Provide hearing aids to individuals who request them.
4. Usher late comers to pews during hymn singing.
5. Collect offering. Count all children, Choir, Clergy, and people seated.
6. Collect used bulletins, ritual of friendship and ministry opportunity pages. Take to office.
7. Straighten hymnals and Bibles in pews after worship.
8. Fill out attendance forms and leave in office. Enter attendance number in black book in cupboard in Narthex.
9. COMMUNION- Ushers assist Elders in Communion Service. Take elements to Nursery and Preschool. Deacons can now serve Communion. Worship Committee will ask Deacons if they would like to volunteer to serve Communion.

The Deacons would like to thank everyone at Bethany for all your wonderful support of our Ushering Ministry. It is so greatly appreciated!

Doug Smith, Moderator Board of Deacons

# BETHANY MISSION CORNER

## SANCTUARY CARPET

### FUNDRAISING EFFORT BEGINS

They July-August News of Bethany included an article describing the conditions of the sanctuary carpet and fundraising efforts of the Sanctuary carpet.

During the past month and a half the carpet has continued to deteriorate and will do so into the future. Trying to repair the raised areas has not proven to be very effective. The deterioration is causing a safety hazard while walking in the Sanctuary. It was reported that fundraising efforts through June yielded \$1,482. Since June we have received an additional \$76.00 for a total of \$1,558 available. The total amount needed is \$12,000.

The building/property committee is asking the congregation to consider increasing giving to this project. This can be done by using the envelopes in the pew packs. During September our Cub Scout Pack and the Church will hold a sub sale to raise Carpet repair money. The congregation will be asked to help with this sale by both buying and selling subs. In the coming months more information will be available concerning additional fundraising events for the Carpet Project.

## SESSION MISSION COMMITTEE

As we all know Bethany has a long tradition of missions to children in the community. Once again we have been offered an opportunity to share our love with children of the community. Bethany has been approached by a parent who successfully home-schools her 8 children. She is seeking a church location to hold extended curricula activities with other parents and home schooled children so they may experience the arts, languages (Japanese) as a learning community. Members of Session and Building and Grounds had an in-dept discussion with her and have agreed to allow her to use the downstairs room twice per

month to accomplish these goals. It is an exciting prospect to once again have a school making use of our church property.

Please bring a Christian welcome these youngsters and their parents if you run into them in the church.

## SHARING AND CARING THROUGH PRAYER

Team members met for four weeks to study and discuss "Unbinding of the Gospel" with Nan Best. Our goal was to determine how this information could be used for the good of Bethany to help us with our relationships with God.

The members of the Sharing and Caring Through Prayer group, along with several members of our congregation, shared a meal at Pastor Laura's house on June 1<sup>st</sup> to enjoy good fellowship with emphasis on sharing prayer, scripture, and personal faith journeys.

Our next step is to invite YOU to be part of a group fellowship, learn different ways to pray for yourself, others, and groups. You will also be encouraged to share God moments, and journeys of your faith.

"Prayer involves effort, habit, and focus, but it results in lightness and energy and excitement." Martha Grace Reese

**This first group meeting will take place on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Sue Fetterman. Dessert will be served. Please RSVP @ 871-0998. Hope to see you there.**

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is actively engaged in seeking a new Music Director. The position has been advertised and we are hopeful of finding just the right person in the near future.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Christian Education Rally Day to Start Up Fall Programs Sunday, September 13, 2009 -- 9:00 a.m.

#### **For Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Sundays 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month

Sunday School using Computers  
Totally Awesome Wednesdays, 6 – 8 p.m.

#### **For 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Sundays 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
Sundays 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month

Sunday School/Confirmation  
Youth Fellowship, grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>  
Totally Awesome Wednesdays, 6 – 8 p.m.  
Youth Activities Night, 6 – 8 p.m.

#### **For Adults**

Sundays 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month, 1 p.m.

Sunday School –In-Depth Study of Romans  
Presbyterian Women's Bible Study,  
which meets at Harriett Conner's home

## STEWARDSHIP FOR 2010 AT BETHANY

Time moves swiftly these days and, yes, stewardship time is approaching. We pray that all members will embrace the love we have for Bethany and pledge with those kind and gentle hearts.

Pledge cards will be mailed in early November, with the intention that they be returned to the church on or before Sunday, November 22, 2009. That Sunday will be designated as "Pledge Sunday".

The Bethany family has certainly stepped up in 2009 and made a tremendous effort to get us back to a position where we can see the light. However, with that said, we are far from the end of the tunnel. We must continue with this concerted effort into 2010. The Session thanks the entire congregation for 2009 and hopefully looks to yet a brighter future in 2010.

Kindly look deep in your hearts and make every effort to increase your pledge for 2010. We all want Bethany to continue serving the community and giving us the solid base of a friendly church which we have had for many, many years. Don't let the Bethany tradition lapse during difficult times.

Gary L. Peters  
Stewardship Chairperson

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST 4, 2009

**Clerks Report: Larry J. Doyle**

The Clerk reported of the death of Paul Colin. His death was researched at the library going back two years. His obituary was not reported in the newspaper; therefore, his death will be registered as dying in 2007

The Clerk reported on the death of Gloria F. Feldser. Date of death was June 25, 2009. She was a member for 54 years her funeral service was held at Bethany on June 30, 2009 at 11:00am

The clerk reported on the death of Charlotte M Angevine. Date of death was July 16, 2009. She was a member for 67 years. Memorial service was held at Bethany on July 25, 2009 at 11:00am.

The Clerk read a letter form Hillsboro United Methodist Church, Hillsboro, New Hampshire requesting a Letter of Transfer for Carol Jean Dunbar. Motion to issues a letter if Transfer for Carol Jean Dunbar. Motion carried.

The Clerk read a letter from Ed Martin, Chair of the Committee on Nomination for the Presbytery of Donegal requesting names of person who would be willing to serve on the various committees of Presbytery.

The Clerk reported there were 56 communicants at the July 12, 2009 communion service.

The Clerk reported Donegal Presbytery has approved an additional \$1000.00 to Bethany for our use in the "Deep Shift" program.

**Christian Education Ministry: Elder Brian J. Ashba**

Elder Ashba reported that VBS went very well. Ages ranged from 11 years to 17 years. There were a very few of grades 1 to 2. A total of 40 children participated. There were 20-22 adults.

**Nominating Committee: Elder Barbara A. McCrary**

Motion to call for Special Congregational Meeting on August 23, 2009, for the express purpose of

electing a member for the Nominating Committee. Motion Carried

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Elaine Bornstein and Gary Peters from the congregation, Susan Paxson, Deacon Representative, Barbara McCrary, Elder Representative, and Rev. Laura Kelsey, Moderator, has begun gathering recommendations for the 2012 classes of Elders and Deacons. Nominations are welcome from members of the congregation, but please obtain consent before you submit it to any member of the committee.

Following the worship service on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, an additional representative will be elected. This person will fill the vacancy of Betty Gingrich who has asked to be relieved of this commitment

**Mission Committee: Elder Judith L. Maier**  
Elder Maier reported the committee sent 46.5lbs of denim off on mission for the insulation project

**Property: Elders Landon M. Proffitt and Paul L. Siegler**

A cleaning supplies contract to provide all the necessary supplies for the basement area has been issued and we will try it for six months. If it works, we will include it with the upper level.

The carpet fund has \$1500.00 to date. The carpet is deteriorating fast and we need to increase receipts for this fund.

The new sound system has been installed and is working well.

## **Financials**

Income & expenses to date - as of 31-July-2009  
All Funds

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Income	101,801.00	114,111.82	12,310.82
Expenses	101,801.00	105,046.51	3,245.51
<b>Total</b>		<b>219,158.33</b>	<b>15,556.33</b>
<b>Net Worth:</b>			
Operating			13,312.43
Building/ Music/Memorial			13,981.51
<b>Total</b>			<b>27,293.94</b>