



The Bethlehem Star



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Bethlehem United Methodist Church

August 11, 2010

Our Mission

*Growing as Christians,
Reaching out to others*

Our Vision

We seek to be a passionate, serving church to the community and beyond. We are inspired through our worship of Jesus Christ: a home for learning where all are empowered, where children, youth and adults grow spiritually and are in ministry to the community and the world; a sanctuary for all.

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Ryan Bennett

Children & Adult Ministries

Rebecca Little, Director

Music & Arts

Harry Robinson, Director
Bryan Ward, Associate Director

Youth Ministries

Jason Sansbury, Director

Executive Administrative

Assistant

Pat Smith

Bookkeeper

Marcia Rudd

Maintenance

Carl Wolhaupter

Bethlehem Preschool

Sissie Hargreaves, Director

Sunday Worship Times

8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.



Thoughts . . .

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, "We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!" The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?"

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?" Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, "WHERE IS GOD?"

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it."

Let me tell you the Good News, God is not missing! In fact, God is active and present in our lives. After Jesus was resurrected before he ascended to heaven, he spoke to the Disciples and reminded them, "I am with you always, even to the end of time." God has always been and will always be with you. That is what is so comforting in those familiar words of Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for THOU ART WITH ME!"

That is Good News!

Peace!

Ryan

New Sermon Series Begins August 15

We will be beginning a new sermon series on August 15 entitled, "Back to School." As our kids gear up for another school year, it will be a great time for us all to go back to school. We will look at some of our favorite (and perhaps not so favorite) subjects in unique ways.

- ◆ August 15 – Science
- ◆ August 22 – Math
- ◆ August 29 – Recess (Church-wide Retreat)
- ◆ September 5 – History
- ◆ September 12 – Heading off to College/Finding a Major

Come join us and go Back to School!



Friends of Bill W Needs Your Help

The friends of Bill W. will be meeting with Pastor Ryan on **Wednesday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room beside his office. He needs your help!

Kathy's Backpack Update



This year we were able to reach our goal of providing 350 backpacks to students who might not have had all the supplies the first day of school. We filled and distributed the backpacks to various schools and agencies in Williamson County. We reached our goal all because of the care and sharing of this congregation.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this mission event a success!

Fish Fry Results

Everyone wants to know how we did with Fish Fry this year especially considering the weather interruption. Preliminary financial results show that we had a total of about 850 less tickets sold overall (more pre-sales, less during the event); final profit is in the neighborhood of \$27,000 as compared to about \$31,000 in 2009; \$29,000 in 2008 and \$31,000 in 2007.



Regardless of the financial profit, the one thing this year did prove is that we don't panic when the weather gets unpleasant and that we all pulled together to make our guests feel welcome. You can be proud of the overall day and event.

Thank You!



Thank you for all the calls, cards, notes, visits and flowers during my surgery and recent rehab.

*Thanks again,
Shirley Homler*

Lost and Found

Are you missing items that you may have had at church? Check the Lost and Found box in the church office. There are clothes, umbrellas, jewelry and lots of other interesting items in the Lost and Found.



Behind the Scenes

Did you know that there are lots of jobs done for the church that are "Behind the Scenes"? Without the help of these "angels" many jobs would not be done because there's not enough hours in the week for staff to do them, or they get done after hours. Each newsletter we will thank someone for being this edition's "Behind the Scenes" person(s).



This newsletter we want to thank **Melody Green** for all the time and effort she has spent making sure everything was running smoothly for the recent funerals. Next time you see Melody, tell her "thanks" for all she has done "behind the scenes."

Children's News

Rebecca Little, Director of Children's Ministries



At the 8:15 service on August 8, we presented Bibles to six of our third graders — **Jacob Hepler, Megan Hepler, Sarah Hepler, Kathryn Coughenour, Alex Dunavant and Matthew Hawkins.** This Sunday (August 15) we will give Bibles to **Zach Whitler, John Kirkpatrick and Molly Beth O'Neal.** Ryan and I have included a special Bible verse beside our signatures and encouraged these new Bible owners to ask others to sign their Bibles too. What scripture verse will you choose if a third grader asks you?



If you don't know many of Bethlehem's children, but would like too — this is a good time to start. Our fall kick-off is Sunday, August 15 at 5:00 pm. The children will spend 30 minutes in their classes & the adults will spend 30 minutes learning about plans for this fall and how they can be a part of the fun. Then we will spend 30 minutes eating ice cream! Of all the ways you can invest your time, children's ministry is a great way to give of yourself for the future! See you in the Banquet Hall on Sunday!

Contact **Rebecca Little** rlittle@bethlehemumc.com or 794-6721 for more information.

Adult Ministries

Rebecca Little, Director of Adult Ministries

It is Back-to-School time and fall activities will begin again soon. Now is the time to ask yourself, "What am I going to do this year that will help me grow as a Christian?" One of the best ways is to join a small group. Acts 2:42 tells us, "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals and in prayer." We know small groups have met since the earliest days of the church — that's a pretty good track record. Sign up sheets for various groups are now in the Gathering Space. Look them over and see what study would meet your needs or suggest a new group.



Questions? Contact **Rebecca Little** 794-6721 or rlittle@bethlehemumc.com.

Preschool Class Openings

Sissie Hargreaves, Director

Bethlehem Preschool currently has openings for this Fall in the Two Year Old class and the Three Year Old class. If you are interested in finding out more information, please contact **Sissie Hargreaves** at shargreaves@bethlehemumc.com or (615) 591-0501 (leave a message if no one is in the office when you call).



Youth News

Jason Sansbury, Director of Youth Ministries



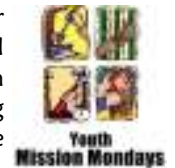
I am away from the church for a few days, recharging my batteries and sharing the Gospel with 7th through 9th graders at a camp in McGregor, MN, where you trade incredibly wonderful cool temperatures for mosquitoes that can sting you through your t-shirt. Here are some of the things I am reflecting on...



- * The experience of Youth Choir Tour, of seeing our students share Jesus through their songs (my favorite place was the Wesley Center in Savannah), overcoming my fear of whitewater rafting and the affirmation that happens on Senior Night.
- * Mission Week and seeing 4 great youth groups show what happens when the Body of Christ steps across all the lines that can divide us and works to reach people and heal the world in Jesus' name.
- * Vacation Bible School, where kids from our church and community get to hear about God's love and experience it too through the adults and youth who help make that experience happen.



- * BigStuf in Daytona Beach, where we heard some incredible and challenging speakers, stayed at the l'uxurious El Caribe Resort and just had a great time. It is now on the "Must Repeat" list and I am hoping to take some college students back with us next summer. (They haven't announced dates yet or they would be right here!)
- * All the Mission Mondays. When I hear people call teenagers selfish and apathetic, I think these people need to hang out with the ones I know and love. They do amazing things in the lives of huge varieties of people every Monday. It is fantastic!
- * The Scalfs (Ken and Vicki) and the Lucketts (Carla and Lindsay), who took in James and Carolyn respectively and loved them like their own. It made their internships such a better experience because they didn't just have a place to sleep; they had homes here.
- * "Greater things are still to be done in this city..." It is one of the lines of a favorite praise song in youth group right now and it reflects how I feel about where we are. God has done great things and as He leads us into new areas and ministries, there are greater things in front of us.



See you all at the Fall Kick-Off on **Sunday, August 15 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Banquet Hall. Lots to announce, pray and plan for!

Cub Scout Pack 298



Cub Scout Pack 298 will host a Round-up on Monday, August 23, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Banquet Hall. Cub Scouts are for boys in 1st through 5th grades. For questions, RSVP or more information, contact Cub Master **Broner McCoy** cubpack298@bellsouth.net

Church-Wide Retreat

If your fall calendar is filling up, you need to be sure to add one more thing. ADD something else? Absolutely. You need to register for the Sunday, **August 29** Bethlehem Church Retreat. It will be a Recess time for body, mind and spirit. Come to Camp Widjiwagin on Percy Priest Lake at 10:00 a.m. for a time of music and worship. After lunch, there will be time to swim, hike, canoe, play cards or board games. We will also have a prayer walk to help you recharge your spiritual battery. Michael Williams, a nationally known storyteller will be our afternoon speaker. The cost is \$30.00 per person, but that includes lunch, dinner and access to all the fun facilities at the camp.



Contact **Rebecca Little** (rlittle@bethlehemumc.com, 794-6721), **Patty Jarnagin** or **A B Hawkins** for more information. Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Space. Plan on attending!

Monthly Mission — September 12



The monthly mission for September will be **Sunday, September 12**. That day we will collect Beans and Rice. If you normally sit on the **pulpit side**, please bring **rice**. Those normally sitting on the **lectern side** should bring **beans**. Again, all items collected will be given to Feed America First.

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events



- August 12 • First Day of School for Williamson County School System
- August 15 • Children & Youth Fall Programming Kick-off
- August 29 • Church-wide Retreat
- September 6 • Church Office Closed for Labor Day
- September 8 • Wednesday Night Programming Resumes for Fall
- September 12 • Sunday Night Programming Resumes for Fall
- October 3 • Charge Conference (5:00 p.m.)

Stewardship as of August 8, 2010

	Worship Attendance	
	08/01/10	223
	08/08/10	289
	Sunday School Attendance	
	08/01/10	112
	08/08/10	100
Operating Weekly Offering		
08/01/10	\$	16,294.00
08/08/10	\$	16,718.60
2010 Weekly Operating Needs	\$	14,337.04
2010 YTD Operating Income	\$	405,275.90
2010 YTD Operating Budget Needs	\$	458,785.28
2010 YTD Building Fund Income	\$	62,739.20
2010 YTD Building Fund Expenses	\$	70,886.95

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

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