



Bethel Messenger

www.bethelmethodistcolumbia.com

December 2014 Edition

“ Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:27

Staff

Rev. Todd Davis, Pastor

Mrs. Carol Barnett
Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Michelle Keiffer
*Director of Education
& Family Ministries*

Ms. Jenny Curran
Church Treasurer

Mrs. Marian Scullion
Director of Music Ministries

Mr. Bill Webb, Organist

Mrs. Sylvia Hulbert
Handbell Director

Mrs. Carol Burger
Director of Preschool

Our Missionaries

Rev. & Mrs. Monty Taylor
Budapest, Hungary

Jim Hynds & Family
Campus Crusade for Christ

Sunday Schedule

Join us for

Reach! Contemporary 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship 11:00 am

Nursery 9-12 am

Children's Church 11:30 am

God's Christmas Card

The season of Advent is upon us! Most of the time, we don't think of the season of Advent as "the season of expectantly waiting for the Christ-child to come into the world." We usually refer to the time of Advent as "The Christmas Season." And, the Christmas Season means sending and receiving Christmas cards!

Do you like to get mail? Well, it probably depends on the kind of mail you are receiving, right? Sometimes the mail we receive has been sent because someone wants to send us a special or important message.

I received a few Christmas cards in the mail recently. These cards, of course, were sent to wish me a Merry Christmas. But, some of these cards also had a very special message written in them. Can you guess what that message was? The person who sent the card wrote me a note which said ***"I love you!"*** Now that's a special message isn't it, because we all want to know that we are loved by someone, right?!

In the Bible, there is a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to all the Christian believers who lived in Rome, and this letter became the "Book of Romans" in the Bible. The people that Paul wrote this letter to were worshiping and serving Jesus. In his letter, Paul reminded them that God loves them very much, and that they would have life forever with God if they continued to trust Jesus. Today, the same is true for all who trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. God loves us and we will have life forever with God by continuing to trust in Jesus!

The Bible is God's special Christmas Card, reminding us of just how much God loves us – and, we can read it any time we want to! Be sure to thank God often for his special message of love to you – God's Word, the Bible.

May God bless you! Pastor Todd

KNOWING, LOVING, SERVING

. . . so the world will experience Christ's love!

Upcoming Dates to Remember!

Thanksgiving Holidays	Nov. 27 & 28
Decorate Chrismon Tree	Nov. 29
1st Sunday in Advent	Nov. 30
KONGA	Dec. 5
Parent's Morning Out	Dec. 6
Youth Ugly Sweater	Dec. 7
Christmas Party	
UMW Installation of	Dec. 14
Officers (11:00 worship)	
Congregational Christmas	Dec. 14
Dinner	
Christmas Cantata (11:00)	Dec. 21
Choir Christmas Party	Dec. 21
Christmas Eve Candlelight	Dec. 24
Service @ 6 pm	
Christmas Holidays	Dec. 24 & 25
New Year's Holiday	Jan. 1
Epiphany Sunday	Jan. 4

Good News on Bethel's New Sanctuary Roof

On Sunday, November 16, 2014 Bethel United Methodist Church dedicated its new Sanctuary Roof to the glory of Almighty God, and for service to all God's people in this church. We thank God for his faithfulness in helping us to be able to complete this project, and we pray for God's continued faithfulness as we pay down the debt we have incurred to be blessed with this new Sanctuary Roof. Last fall, the Columbia District on Congregational Development presented Bethel UMC with a check for \$1,500.00 to put toward the expense of the roof. This past week, Bethel received notice that the Columbia District on Congregational Development will be sending Bethel an additional \$3000.00 in December. Thank God for this blessing, and may God continue to bless His church.

Sanctuary Flowers

Our Sunday flower schedule for 2015 is wide open. If you would like to dedicate/ donate the flowers for the traditional worship service most dates are still available. The cost is \$54 for a standard arrangement. You may reserve by contacting Rebecca Bennett at pineapplerebecca@yahoo.com or call 261-3331.



Children's Music Notes



We have been having fun singing this Fall! We continue to sing each Sunday at the beginning of the Sunday School hour (9:45).

Our children will sing "Away in a Manger" during the traditional service on December 21st. This will be part of our Christmas Cantata. I hope that all of you will be able to join us for this special time!

We'll be practicing for the 21st over the next few weeks and will plan another time to sing for you in the new year.

Marian Scullion, Director

New in Bethel's Library!

Check out "God's Not Dead" a recent DVD release where a college student boldly stands up and defends his faith to his atheist philosophy professor.

**GOD'S
NOT
DEAD**

Support of Heifer Project

Heifer International was again on our Christmas list this year! Bethel sponsored a "flock of chickens" in honor of our current college students. Each student was sent a handmade Christmas card acknowledgement to let them know they are remembered and thought of often.





Youth Spotlight

FAMILY ministry

At Bethel, we seek to honor God by providing opportunities for all ages to fulfill our mission of *Knowing, Loving, Serving... so the World will experience Christ's love!*
We hope you will join us.

Congratulations to senior Brian Burger on his acceptance to Clemson! We are proud of you & excited for you ... Go Tigers!



Make
A
Difference
Day

86 Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child + homemade cards for active duty US military + Family Promise Giving Tree + Missional Cookie Exchange (benefitting Forest Pines & Columbia Fire Station Engine 33) + food drive

collecting 288 pounds of food and a chili cook-off raising nearly \$20= a ***GREAT*** day of fun & fellowship at Bethel UMC!

Congratulations, Louise, this year's ***Golden Ladle*** winner!



Thank you to everyone who participated! Special thanks to David Wood & Philip Keiffer for cleaning up and prepping the PAB for worship the next morning and to Bethel Youth for loading the food to be delivered to Harvest Hope.

Christmas KONGA!

Friday, December 5th 6-8pm
Pool Activities Building



- Pizza Dinner, Crafts, Sing-A-Longs & More!
- Potty Trained—5th Grades
- \$3.00 per child
- Contact 787-3058 ASAP to reserve spot!

Mark Your Calendar!

December 5th—KONGA

December 6th—Parent's Morning Out

December 7th—Youth Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

December 14th—Bethel Christmas Dinner with Youth Video

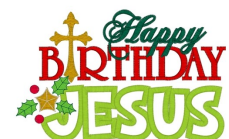
December 21st—Kids Sing in Worship

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service

December 30—NO YOUTH!

Advent Study

During the Sundays of Advent, Bethel Sr High Sunday School is doing the Advent study, *A Different Kind of Christmas*. All Youth 8th grade & up (and any college students home on break!) are invited to join this study in the Youth Zone on Sundays from 9:45-10:45am.



BETHEL HOSTING FAMILY PROMISE JANUARY 11-18, 2015!!!

We are so excited to finally have a hosting date....and our week will be here before you know it!!! We will welcome families on Bethel's campus Sunday, January 11 approximately 5:30 p.m. and help them get settled into their rooms (upstairs SS classrooms) and have an orientation session. Dinner and fellowship time with guests and our Evening Hosts will be at 6:30. Guests will prepare bag lunches for the next day and spend time with their families in the family living area (Youth Zone) until 8:30 when our Overnight Hosts arrive. Children will have suggested bedtimes and 11 p.m. will be lights out for all. The next morning, guests will wake up at 6 a.m., have breakfast at 6:30, FP bus will pick them up at 7 a.m. and take them to the Day Center.

This schedule will repeat itself each day. Sunday, January 18, guests will need to be packed and out of their rooms by 7 a.m. so that the beds can be moved out and the rooms put back together for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

How is all this going to happen? MANY volunteers!!! Last October we had an initial sign up for volunteers. Now that we have a definite start date, we are making a BIG plea for more!! Please look over the different ways that you can help us "*share hospitality with excellence*". And, then, please call one of the Team Coordinators and put words into action by actively participating as Bethel reaches out to families in need!!



Food Team: Help with cooking, and serving, and/or clean up (Coordinators: Arnette Jordan @ 788-0287 or 730-8026; Bill Hulbert @ 787-2077)

Property/Facilities: Rearrange classrooms/store furniture, make room for beds; unload/load beds upon arrival (Sunday afternoon) and departure (the following Sunday at 7 a.m.) (Coordinators: Mike Hellams @ 319-8171; John Scullion @ 466-3867)

Evening Hosts: Dine & fellowship with guests 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Safe Sanctuary training) (Coordinator: Martie Walker @ 212-8256)

Overnight Hosts: Fellowship and sleep, facilitate breakfast the next morning 8:30 p.m.-6:00 a.m. (Safe Sanctuary training). Need two per night (man and woman, not necessarily married as separate bedrooms are provided, or it can be a family) (Coordinator: Martie Walker @ 212-8256)

Thank you for helping to make Family Promise of the Midlands successful !!!

BUMS Group Enjoys "Road Trip" to Edgefield, South Carolina

On Nov. 20th, BUMS toured the Edgefield County Museum, lunched at Old Edgefield Inn and enjoyed a pottery demonstration at a local pottery shop.



Pictured left at the pottery shop: Cheryl Johnson, Margaret Hinze, Jill King, Walt and Bonnie Speas, Julian Jones, Iva Dell Griffin and Lucy and Ron Gordon.

Lovely
S.C.
Pottery!!!



December BUMS



Christmas

Historical House Tour

(\$8 per person)

Lunch at Palmetto Club

(11:30 seating)

Thursday, December 11th

Dressy Attire

Coat & Tie Required for the Gentlemen

Meet at Church Parking Lot @ 9:30 a.m.

Tour begins at 10:00 a.m.

RSVP to Walt Speas at 736-3068

by Monday, December 8th

The NEW Bethel UMC Mugs are HERE!!

Bethel's Evangelism Team is selling these beautiful mugs with Bethel's new logo to help get the WORD out about Bethel! All proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to benefit Bethel's new Sanctuary Roof. The Holidays are coming and these 16 oz. (no handle) mugs will make a great gift for family, friends, and co-workers. November 30th is the last Sunday to purchase a mug before or after the worship services. Beyond that date they will be available in the church office. Cost is \$15 each. Thank you for your support!!

back

front



Knowing, Loving, Serving... So The World Will Experience Christ's Love

Bethel's Name, Address, Phone & website

For our loved ones . . .

In memory of **Robert Hester** by The Joy Sunday School Class, Charles Veach.

In honor of **Lucy and Brian Kelly** by Nancy D. Kelly.

CONGREGATIONAL LOVE AND SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO LINDA HOWELL ON THE DEATH OF HER MOTHER, LILA ROWELL, ON NOVEMBER 18TH IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Spring Confirmation Class Planned

All youth 6th grade and up are invited to participate in a series of studies (history of the church, meaning of sacraments, etc.) preparing them for membership. Please contact Michelle (michellekeiffer5@gmail.com) in the church office to express interest.



An Update from your missionaries *One Year Ago... One Year Later...*

One year ago on October 15 in Brooklyn Harbor, we walked down the gangplank from the Queen Mary II, breezed through customs, and stepped outside the big doors to— America.

One year ago from this very day October 31, we were staying in our church's guest house, our wonderful home away from home for the last decade. We had closed on a lovely little old house on Cherokee Lane. We were picking out colors. We had bought a car. All our belongings were on a freighter, coming across the Atlantic.

Today, one year later, we are simply thankful. God is transcendent and sovereign, He is immanent and good, He is personally active. And to this God, this only One, we belong. A psalm comes to heart as we reflect on a year of tremendous transition, of ups and downs, of journey and of finding ourselves at home.

Psalm 16:5-6 LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

This psalm intersects with real life this year, and we say amen. Our portion, our lot, assigned and secure. The boundary lines for us fall to a place where we experience shalom and pleasantness. We found that same "place" in the Czech Republic, and we find it here. This place is in Him. He is our God, our refuge. *Verse 1: "in YOU I take refuge."*

Psalm 16:7-9 I will praise the LORD... I have set the LORD always before me... Therefore my heart is glad...

Psalm 16:11 YOU have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in YOUR presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

There are many things Cindy and I would share about this year - about leaving, arriving, about transition, journey, saying goodbye well and making hellos last. And about home. But it would probably all boil down to this: it is a good thing to belong to Him.

We thank God for you and we hope all is well. As we approach this season of thanksgiving, we'd love to hear from you about your musings and encounters with Psalm 16. Your friendship, your prayers and your participation means the world to us.

Thank you! **Jim and Cindy Hynds**



PRAY during ADVENT!! Below is the “31 Days of Prayer” Guide that was passed out at the end of both worship services on Sunday, November 23rd. Part of our Stewardship commitment and vow when joining the church is PRAYER. All members are to be faithful in praying for our church and its ministries during the Advent season. You are also invited to the “Pray for Bethel!” Prayer Group which meets on Wednesdays at 2 pm in the Conference Room.

A MONTH OF PRAYERS FOR BETHEL

1 Pastor – Lord, I lift up my pastor to You. Thank-you for his servant’s heart. Keep him from losing heart when ministry gets tough. Help him prove faithful with the things you have entrusted to him. Teach him Your ways so that he knows You and finds favor with You as He leads us. Keep him open and honest before You and help him to represent the truth plainly. (2 Cor. 4:1; 1 Cor. 4:1-3 Ex. 33:13)

2 Church Council – Lord, I lift up my church council to You. Help us respect and honor them as they guide and direct the affairs of our church. May they wholeheartedly give their attention to prayer and ministry of the Word. Keep them above reproach, devoted to their families, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable and able to teach. May they be gentle and honest as they deal with people. (1 Tim. 5:17; Acts 6:4; 1 Tim. 3:1-2; Titus 1:7)

3 Ministry Teams – Lord, I lift up our ministry teams to You. May they walk worthy of respect with sincere hearts. Keep them from indulgence and greed. Help them keep hold of truth. May they keep short accounts with You so that their conscience is clear. Bless their households with peace and respect. Fill them with Your Spirit and let them operate in wisdom as they carry out their responsibilities. (1 Tim. 3:8-9, 12; Acts 6:3)

4 Adults – Lord, I lift up the adults in my congregation to You. May we live worthy of Your call on our lives. As we respond to that call, fulfill every purpose, every faith-filled act of service by Your power. May we be clothed in righteousness with hearts that sing for joy and delight greatly in You. We want to walk with You, Jesus, dressed in white, adorned with jewels. (Eph. 4:1; 2 Thes. 1:11; Ps. 132:9; Isa. 61:10; Rev. 3:4)

5 Children/Youth – Lord, I lift up the children and youth of Bethel to You. May the little ones remain humble examples of what we adults need to become in the kingdom. Let their conduct always be pure and right with reputations that show that they remember You, Creator God. Teach them to declare Your marvelous deeds. May they flee evil desires and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace. (Matt 18:3-4; Prov. 20:11; Eccl. 12:1; Ps. 71:17; 2 Tim. 2:22)

6 Seniors – Lord, I lift up the senior members of our congregation. Thank You for every gray hair attained by righteous living. We are blessed by their example and ability to train us. Help us to be humbly submissive as we benefit from their wisdom and understanding. Help them receive the strength and power You’ve promised to the weary and weak. May they put their hope in You and be renewed in the process. (Prov. 16:31; Titus 2:4; 1 Pet. 5:5; Job 12:12; Isa. 40:29, 31)

7 Lost Among Us – Lord, I lift up the lost members of our congregation. Let the gospel be presented to them not only through the sermon but also with power, the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. Teach us to make the most of every opportunity to share Your salvation. Help us to be the fragrance of Christ to them. We stand against the enemy and his attempts to keep them blind to Your truth. (1 Thes. 1:5; Col. 4:5; 2 Cor. 2:15; 2 Cor. 4:4)

8 Worship Leaders – Lord, I lift up our worship leaders. Appoint people to this position who understand the splendor of Your holiness and praise You out of that understanding. Help them lead us faithfully in thanks for Your enduring love. Use their praise to defeat the enemy. May they be the true worshipers You are looking for who worship in spirit and in truth. Let them glory only in You, Jesus, so that they put no confidence in their own flesh. (2 Chron. 20:21-22; Jn. 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3)

9 Speakers/Teachers – Lord, I lift up the speakers and teachers in our church. May everyone who holds that position—pastors, Sunday school teachers, small group leaders, guest speakers—rightly divide Your word of truth. Let them admonish and teach with wisdom. Reveal the mysteries of Your word to them and encourage them to speak those mysteries courageously and fearlessly. Let them speak with a spirit of faith that springs from their relationship with You. (2 Tim. 2:15; Col. 1:28; Dan. 2:47; Phil. 1:14; 2 Cor. 4:13)

10 Women’s Ministry (UMW) – Lord, I lift up our Women’s Ministry. Encourage our older women to train the younger in family issues. Teach our women to be virtuous—women with gentle and quiet spirits who put their hope in You. Let this ministry produce women who feel Your passion for them and who choose to spend time at Your feet. Train them to contend for the gospel side by side with the men. (Titus 2:4, 5; Pro. 31:10; 1 Pet. 3:4, 5; Ps. 45:11; Lk. 10:38-42; Phil. 4:3)

11 Men’s Ministry (UMM) – Lord, I lift up our Men’s Ministry to You. Use this ministry to build our men in their faith. Teach them to be in right relationship to You and each other, to love their wives sacrificially and to instruct their children with patience. Encourage them to hold each other accountable as they carry each other’s burdens. May they speak the truth in love to each other even when its hard. (Jude 1:20; Titus 2:2; 1 Tim. 5:1; Eph. 5:25, 6:4; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:15; Prov. 27:6)

12 Youth Workers – Lord, I lift up our Youth Workers. Let these young men and women set an example in their speech, life, love, faith and purity. Cause them to be strong, alive-in-the-Word overcomers. Help them to have discernment as they deal with the young people in our church. Help them to notice any youth who lacks judgment so they can teach them to value Your life-giving principles. Pour out Your Spirit on them. (1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Jn. 2:14; Prov. 3:21, 7:7; 7:2; Joel 2:28)

13 Behind-the-Scenes Workers – Lord, I lift up the people who work behind the scenes at our church. Thank You for every nursery worker, parking lot attendant, office volunteer, building janitor, etc. who has devoted themselves to the service of the saints. Bless them for the obedience and generosity they have displayed—may You receive praise as a result! Keep them in an attitude of humility that comes from wisdom and wholehearted service to You rather than to be noticed by others. (1 Cor. 16:15; 2 Cor. 9:12-13; Jas. 3:13; Eph. 6:7)

14 Children’s Ministries – Lord, I lift up our children’s ministries to You. Create an atmosphere here that encourages our children to find You. Let the teachers be careful to remind each child of the marvelous things You have done. Cause everything they learn about You to become a part of them forever. May they consistently choose life and blessing each day because of the training they receive in our church. Keep them walking in the truth. (Mk 10:14; Dt. 4:9; 29:29; 30:19; Prov 22:6; 3 Jn 1:4)

15 Prayer Focus – Lord, I lift up the prayer focus in Bethel. Make us into a house of prayer. We desire to be clear-minded and self-controlled so that we can pray first, always, continually and thankfully. May everyone recognize that this is Your desire for all and not just a few. Use us to stand in the gap for others. Let there be prayer ministry among us that is powerful and effective. (Mk. 11:17; 1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Tim. 2:1; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thes. 5:17; Phil. 4:6; Ps. 32:6; Ezk. 22:30; Jas. 5:16)

16 Spiritual Level – Lord, I lift up the spiritual temperature of Bethel. Revive us! Refine us so we burn hot for You. Give us singleness of heart and action so that we always fear You and follow Your precepts. Pour out a spirit of Josiah on us so that we turn to You heart, soul and strength. Open our minds to understand Your Word so that our hearts burn within us. (Ps. 85:6; Rev. 3:14-18; Jer. 32:39; Ps. 111:10; 2 Ki. 23:25; Lk. 24:45, 32)

17 Spirit-Led – Lord, I lift up the issue of our willingness to be led by Your Spirit. Holy Spirit, show us any way we are grieving, quenching or resisting You. Convict us and lead us to level ground. Help us keep in step with You as we live by You. Reign in us so that we experience Your freedom. Lead us into grace, life and peace. (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thes. 5:19; Acts 7:51; Jn. 16:8; Ps. 143:10; Gal. 5:25; 2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 5:18; Ro. 8:6)

18 Spiritual Gifts – Lord, I lift up the use of spiritual gifts in our church. We eagerly desire spiritual gifts that You've given for our common good. Help us understand the various gifts and how they work. Teach us to use what we've received to serve others and faithfully administer Your grace—whatever form that takes. Help us exercise our gifts in love. Remind us to keep fanning into flame the gifts You've entrusted to us. (1 Cor. 14:1, 12:4-7; 1 Pet. 4:10; 2 Tim. 1:6)

19 Love/Unity – Lord, I lift up our love for one another as a body. Help us purify ourselves by obeying the truth so that our love for each other will be sincere, deep and from the heart. May our love for one another prove that we are Your disciples. Give us a spirit of unity so that we may glorify You with one heart and voice. Help us accept one another as we clothe ourselves in love. (1 Pet. 1:22; Jn. 13:34-35; Ro. 15:5-7; Col. 3:14)

20 Finances – Lord, I lift up our church finances. May we sow generously into our church without reluctance or compulsion. Make all grace abound so we have all we need for every good work You've assigned us. Make us rich in ways that result in generosity on our part so You will be praised. Keep reminding us of your promise to throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out blessing on all who bring the whole tithe into Your house. (2 Cor. 9:6-11; Mal. 3:10)

21 Outreach/Missions Projects – Lord, I lift up our outreach programs. Remind us to do good and share with others as a pleasing sacrifice to You. Keep us outwardly focused so we don't become self-absorbed. Help us teach one another to be faithful ministers of Your Son. Enable us to meet people wherever they have a need. Help us minister faithfully as we proclaim the gospel so that the ones we reach might become an acceptable offering to You. (Heb. 13:16; Phil. 2:4; Col. 1:7; Jude 1:23)

22 Single Parents – Lord, I lift up the single parents in our church. May they know You as father to the fatherless and defender of widows! Let us be a real family to them when they are lonely. Show us ways to include them and minister grace to them. Stir up practical ideas in us that show Your love and care. Help them relax in Your grace and provision which is more than enough for every weakness and need. (Ps. 68:5, 6; 25:16; Matt. 25:35-40; 2 Cor. 12:9; Phil. 4:19)

23 Help for the Hurting – Lord, I lift up those who are hurting right now. May they come to know You as El Roi, the God who sees them. For every situation of rejection, help them feel sonship. Bind up the brokenhearted! In every area of bondage, set the captives free; in every case of mourning, replace it with Your oil of gladness. Comfort them so that they will have a ministry of comfort to others. (Gen. 16:13; Ro. 8:15; Isa. 61:1-3; 2 Cor. 1:3-4)

24 Freedom from Sins – Lord, I lift up every one of us who struggle with sin issues. Keep us from the enemy's scheme of condemnation. Grant us repentance so that we can escape the trap of the evil one. Thank You that sin was done away with on the cross and that we are no longer slaves to it. Help us to throw off everything that entangles—help us run the race with perseverance. (Ro. 8:1; 2 Tim. 2:25, 26; Ro. 6:6; Heb. 12:1)

25 Kingdom Focus/Priorities – Lord, I lift up our priorities as a congregation. Give us ears to hear what Your Spirit is saying to our church. Open our eyes to see things as You see them. Help us move beyond issues of immediate need to pursuing Kingdom issues. Bring us to a place where “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” is more than just words we say. (Rev. 3:22; 2 Ki. 6:17; Matt. 6:25, 33, 10)

26 Growth through Evangelism – Lord, I lift up our church growth to You. Add to our number daily through new converts. Birth spiritual children through us. Let our actions win people over without words. Use us as Your agents to rescue people from darkness and bring them into Your Son's kingdom. We long to be worthy ambassadors in this ministry You have entrusted to us: that of proclaiming Your message of reconciliation to a lost world. (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 4:15; 1 Pet. 3:1-2; Col. 1:13; 2 Cor 5:20)

27 Our Neighborhood – Lord, I lift up our community, especially the surrounding neighborhood. Let us love these people as we love ourselves. May our concern for their needs override other things that take our time and focus. Rebuild and restore areas that have been devastated. Renew our community—send Your peace and prosperity into this place where You've planted us. Bless each individual home and family. Build each house from the inside out; watch over our city. (Gal. 5:14; Prov. 3:28; Isa. 61:4; Jer. 29:7; Lk 10:5-6; Ps. 127:1)

28 Connectivity with the Church in our City – Lord, I lift up the Church in our city. Thank You for creating the body as one unit made up of many parts. Help us understand the value of each part as You have arranged them. We confess that we've minimized other parts. Forgive us, for we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body. Help us to work at being one: concerned about one another—suffering with and rejoicing with other congregations as appropriate. (1 Cor. 12:12-26)

29 Connectivity with the Church in our Nation – Lord, I lift up the Church in our nation. We humbly unite and confess as one people—one Church called by Your name—that we have sinned. We've operated out of acquired wealth thinking we could do it on our own—but we are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. We seek Your face, O God! Thank You for hearing and forgiving us. We wait on You for the healing of our land! (2 Chron. 7:14; Rev. 3:17)

30 Connectivity with the Church Around the World – Lord, I lift up the Church universal. Father, we claim the power of Your name over us so that we will be one, as You and Your Son are one. We want Your joy in full measure just as Your Son, Jesus, prayed for us. Help us live as though we are not of this world; sanctify us by Your word. May we be brought to complete unity so that the world will know the truth of the gospel. (Jn. 17:11-23)

31 Protection from the Enemy – Lord, I lift up our need for protection. Protect and deliver us from the evil one. Help us be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves as we deal with the wolves around us. Show us how to test every spirit to see if they are from You. Help us recognize the enemy's disguises and schemes so that he won't outwit us. (Jn. 17:15; Matt. 6:13; Matt. 10:14; 1 Jn. 4:1; 2 Cor. 11:14; 2:11)

Bethel United Methodist Church

4600 Daniel Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
803-787-3058

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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PERMIT #580

Church Office Hours

Monday 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Tuesday - Friday 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Publication Submission Deadlines

The deadline for the *Bulletin* is 9:00 am on the preceding **WEDNESDAY**.
The deadline for *The Messenger* is 9:00 am on the **25th** of each month.
Due to the holidays an early deadline of December 19th will apply for
the January *Messenger* and 12/28 *Bulletin*.

For addresses or contact information
(not listed in the church directory)
please call (787-3058) or email the
church office at
office@bethelmethodistcolumbia.com

Prayer Concerns

As a family of faith we are called to be in
prayer for one another. Contact the
church office or Iva Dell Griffin @
782.5032 to be added to the Prayer Chain.

Homebound Members

Fran Love	Philip Meek
Margie Dent	Sarah & Tom
Clyde Hasty	Walker
Betty Hulsey	Dot Miller
Lillian Haller	C. Lem Harper, Sr.
Irene Boyd	Marjorie Steadman

Members in Independent and Assisted Living Communities

Beverly Chandler — Wildewood Downs, Columbia, SC	Vickie Hill — The Waterford, Columbia, SC
Betty Harper — Summit Place, Daniel Is- land, SC	Margaret Campbell — Arden, NC
Harry & Sarah Parker — Still Hopes, West Columbia, SC	Elizabeth Christopher — Methodist Home, Orangeburg, SC
Betty Shuler — Morningside, Lexington, SC	Lois McNair — Beaufort, SC
Lawrence & Virginia Loveless — Presbyterian Home, Lexington, SC	Alma (Toddy) Atwater Frankie's @ Seaside, Mt. Pleasant, SC
Helen McDermott — The Waterford, Columbia, SC	Nettie Allen — Nashville, TN
Gladys Blackmon — Rock Hill, SC	Carmen & Dick Pool — Forest Pines, Columbia, SC
	Joyce Varn — Forest Pines, Columbia, SC
	Eva Mae Nobel — New York State

A Little Help from Our Friends



Sometimes we need a little help from our friends. Are you a Senior and need a little help...

getting rid of leaves in your yard?

getting ready for the holidays?

doing something that isn't listed here?

Simply contact Nancy Maxfield: happyfeetincola@gmail.com, 803-834-9061. Nancy will put you in contact with a Bethel UMC volunteer who is ready and willing to help. **Helping Hands** volunteers can also transport you to church! We look forward to serving you in the future.

Pastor Vacation—Rev. Davis and his family will be on vacation December 25, 2014 – January 3, 2015. If you have a pastoral care emergency, please contact Rev. Doug Benton, pastor of Rehoboth UMC at 803-543-0082. Thank you for this time away to rest and renew. May God bless you!

December Birthdays

12-01 Kay Pearce
12-02 Brooklyn Sims
12-02 Jan Jackson
12-05 Philip Meek
12-06 Paul Giametta
12-08 Sterling Davis
12-10 Herman Berry
12-13 Carol Burger
12-14 Frances May
12-15 Chris Sims
12-18 John Califf
12-19 Margaret Campbell
12-19 Jenny Curran
12-22 Rusty Onley
12-25 Christian Davis
12-31 Helen McDermott
12-31 Sylvia Hulbert

December Anniversaries

12-19 Martie & David Walker
12-20 Laura & Scott Wilhelm

Serving the Congregation in December

Greeters/Set-Up Volunteers (REACH!)

December 7 Diane Roddey, Frankie Grimm/Diane Roddey
December 14 Diane Roddey, Frankie Grimm/Nancy Maxfield
December 21 Velma Neeley, David Walker/Brenda Harper
December 28 Velma Neeley, David Walker/Nancy Maxfield

Greeters

December 7 Anne & John Mathis, Iva Dell Griffin
December 14 Lucy & Ron Gordon, Adelyn Price
December 21 Debbie Carter, Jean Smith, Paulette Price
December 24 Diane Roddey, Sue & Chuck Ward
December 28 Bonnie Speas, Diane Porter, Frances Cox

Sound System Operator/Backup/Trainee

December 7 Joe Weir/David Walker/Brian Kelly
December 14 David Walker/Abbie Bowman/Brian Kelly
December 21 Abbie Bowman/Joe Weir/Brian Kelly
December 24 Abbie Bowman/Joe Weir
December 28 Brian Kelly/Abbie Bowman

Acolyte/Crucifer

December 7 Christopher Walker/Wilhelm Elliott
December 14 Jordan Davis
December 21 Wilhelm Elliott
December 24 Christopher Keiffer/Ashton Keiffer
December 28 Mary Sydney George

Ushers

December 7 Tom Elliott, Jim Wilson, Ron Jordan, Furman Porter
December 14 Chuck Ward, Sally & Frank Hafner, Brenda Shealy
December 21 Larry Cope, John Scullion, Sarita & Dan Toma
December 24 Jim Wilson, Furman Porter
December 28 Mike Hellams, Sid George, Linda & William Stewart

Children's Moment

December 7 Holy Communion—No Moment
December 14 Todd Davis
December 21 Marian Scullion
December 28 Lucy Kelly

Children's Church

December 7 Holy Communion—No Children's Church
December 14 Martie Walker/Louise Smith
December 21 Martie Walker/Louise Smith
December 28 Martie Walker/Louise Smith

Offering Counters

December 7 Frank Hafner, Debbie Carter
December 14 Al Carter, Arnette Jordan
December 21 Diane Roddey, Ron Jordan
December 28 Dianna Elliott, Cappy George

Sanctuary Preparation

December 1-14 Karen Stewart & Dave Barnes
December 15-31 Kate & Fred Brown

December Calendar of Events



Monday, December 1

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 1:30 BUMS Meeting (CR)
- 6:00 Evangelism Team (CR)
- 6:00 Webelos II (Hut)
- 7:00 Boy Scouts (Hut)

Tuesday, December 2

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 1:15 Yoga (PAB)
- 6:00 Webelos I (Hut)
- 6:00 PPRC (CR)

Wednesday, December 3

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:30 Preschool Chapel (SAN)
- 10:00 Staff Meeting (CR)
- 2:00 Prayers for Bethel (CR)
- 6:00 Tigers (Hut)
- 7:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Thursday, December 4

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 1:15 Yoga (PAB)
- 6:00 Disciple I (EB-NLC)
- 6:00 Family Promise Food Team (CR)

Friday, December 5

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 5:00 KONGA (PAB)
- 6:30 Bears (Hut)

Saturday, December 6

- 8:00 Upper Room Prayer (CR)
- 9:00 Parents Morning Out (PAB)
(Youth Hosted)

Sunday, December 7

- 9:00 Reach! Service (PAB)
- 9:00 Nursery (EB-108)
- 9:45 Children's Music (EB-101)
- 9:45 Sunday School (EB)
- 9:45 Reach! Band Practice (PAB)
- 11:00 Worship w/Holy Communion
- 12:30 New Circle (PAB)
- 4:15 Handbell Rehearsal (CR)
- 5:00 Wolves (Hut)
- 6:00 Youth (Zone)

Monday, December 8

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 11:30 Lina Ott Circle Lunch (Offsite)
- 6:00 Trustees (CR)
- 6:00 Webelos II (Hut)
- 7:00 Boy Scouts (Hut)
- 7:00 Boy Scout Court of Honor (SAN)

Tuesday, December 9

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 11:30 Belle Dent Circle Lunch (Offsite)
- 6:00 Finance Committee (CR)
- 6:00 Webelos I (Hut)
- 7:00 Sylvia Hulsey Circle (PAB)

Wednesday, December 10

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:30 Preschool Chapel (SAN)

Wednesday, December 10 continued...

- 2:00 Prayers for Bethel
- 6:00 Tigers (Hut)
- 7:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Thursday, December 11

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 1:15 Yoga (PAB)
- 6:00 Disciple I (EB-NLC)
- 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Christmas Party (PAB)

Friday, December 12

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 10:00 Set-Up PAB for Christmas Dinner
- 6:30 Bears (Hut)
- 7:00 Holroyd Class Christmas Party (Home of Lucinda Miller)

Saturday, December 13

No programming scheduled

Sunday, December 14

- 8:00 UMM Breakfast (PAB)
- 9:00 Handbell Rehearsal (SAN)
- 9:00 Reach! Service (PAB)
- 9:00 Nursery (EB-108)
- 9:45 Children's Music (EB-101)
- 9:45 Sunday School (EB)
- 9:45 Reach! Band Practice (PAB)
- 11:00 Worship with Handbells playing (SAN)

11:00 UMW Installation of Officers by Erica Chalmers (SAN)

11:30 Children's Church (EB-101)

- 5:00 Wolves (Hut)
- 6:00 Congregational Christmas Dinner (PAB)
- 6:00 Youth Attend Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 15

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 6:00 Webelos II (Hut)
- 6:00 Boy Scout Christmas Party (PAB)
- 7:00 Boy Scouts (Hut)

Tuesday, December 16

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 1:15 Yoga (PAB)
- 6:00 Webelos I (Hut)

Wednesday, December 17

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:30 Preschool Chapel (SAN)
- 2:00 Prayers for Bethel (CR)
- 6:00 Tigers (Hut)
- 7:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Thursday, December 18

- 8:30 Preschool (EB)
- 9:30 Preschool Christmas Pageant (SAN)
- 1:15 Yoga (PAB)
- 2:30 Kitchen Committee (PAB)
- 6:00 Disciple I (EB-NLC)

Friday, December 19

Preschool Closed for Christmas Break thru January 4

- 6:30 Bears (Hut)

Saturday, December 20

- 10:00 Choir Cantata Rehearsal (SAN)

Sunday, December 21

- 9:00 Reach! Service (PAB)
- 9:00 Nursery (EB-108)
- 9:45 Children's Music (EB-101)
- 9:45 Sunday School (EB)
- 9:45 Reach! Band Practice (PAB)
- 11:00 Worship (SAN)
- 11:00 Christmas Cantata "Canticle of Joy" with children singing (SAN)
- 11:30 Children's Church (EB-101)
- 5:00 Wolves (Hut)
- 6:00 Youth Group (Zone)
- 6:00 Handbell & Adult Choir Christmas Party (Home of Scullions)

Monday, December 22

No programming scheduled

Tuesday, December 23

- 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve—Holiday—Church Office Closed

6:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service (SAN)

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day—Holiday—Church Office Closed

Friday, December 26

No Programming scheduled

Saturday, December 27

No programming scheduled

Sunday, December 28

- 9:00 Reach! Service (PAB)
- 9:00 Nursery (EB-108)
- 9:45 Children's Music (EB-101)
- 9:45 Sunday School (EB)
- 9:45 Reach! Band Practice (PAB)
- 11:00 Worship (SAN)
- 11:30 Children's Church (EB-101)

Monday, December 29

No Programming Scheduled

Tuesday, December 30

- 1:15 Yoga (PAB)
- 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve

No programming scheduled

Thursday, January 1, 2015

New Year's Day—Holiday—Church Office Closed