

July - August 2009

BETHEL MESSENGER



Bethel UCC, W4225 County Line Road, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
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Dear Friends,

Well, Summer has finally arrived here in Wisconsin, and it has arrived in a BIG way!! How can I tell, you might ask. Let me give you the clues...

- ↪ The temperature is climbing higher and higher each day.
- ↪ The kids are out of school and enjoying their Summer vacation.
- ↪ The crops in the fields seem to be growing in leaps and bounds.
- ↪ Church attendance is dropping!!

When I was in seminary, I vowed I would not be one of those ministers who would write a "don't forget to come to church" article in the summer newsletter, but times change and so have I, so here's my article.

Vacation time is always a difficult time for attendance at church, and I understand that traveling and visiting friends and relatives might preclude your attendance a few Sundays in the Summer. But your presence is missed when you are gone for what ever reason, and since we are all part of the Body of Christ that we know as the church, when you are gone the body is not whole.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

Let me give you a few good reasons for being in church on a regular basis:

- If you're gone from 'your' pew, someone else might move in.
- You might miss one of the rare times we sing your most favorite hymn or song.
- Yes, the church still needs to pay bills during the summer. We need your offering.

God doesn't take a vacation from your life, and your church needs your presence as often as possible as we worship together and give thanks. See you on Sunday!

Pastor Greg

Random Thoughts...

-- Prayers arise for the Search Committee as they continue their important work

--Interested in becoming a member of Bethel United Church of Christ? There will be a "New Member Discovery Session" following the service on Sunday, July 12th. Please join us for a brief information session about our church and our denomination. Contact Pastor Greg or Consistory President Jim Raquet if you are able to join us.

Consistory Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 7:00PM

Opening Prayer and Devotions – were led by Pastor Greg

Members Present – Jim Raquet, Judy Zimmermann, Faye Spindler, and Pastor Greg.

Secretary Minutes – were reviewed by Judy

Report of Receipts - Judy handed out a report of March Income.

Report of Expenses - Faye handed out her report.

Discussion:

Try to figure out a way to make fewer copies to reduce our cost to Ross Copier.



Memorial Fund Treasurer –

Discussion:

Money was transferred to the building fund to pay off bricks.

Building Fund Treasurer -

Discussion:

The last 2 brick accounts were paid off.

Correspondence - Jim handed out mail he has received to share with consistory.

1. Cindy Meyer to have surgery. Faye will take care of the mail until Cindy is again able.
2. Cary Knier will be our second delegate along with Chuck, to attend UCC Annual Meeting in June.

Pastor's Report –

Three baptisms are being scheduled: Ava Rose Schueller on May 3rd, Kamryn Voss on May 17th and Amelia Knier June 21st.

Considering not using pre-printed bulletins and replacing with our own one page with no inserts.

Would like to rearrange the front of the sanctuary to create more room to move around, especially for communion services. Pastor went with

Audrey to visit Hilda Kraemer. (no Easter caroling is scheduled this year) (Jim and Pam will visit shut-ins on Easter Sunday).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Old Items

Old business –

- A) Review of Membership – Jim contacted 2 inactive members.
- B) Spring Cleaning Date/Plan – Schedule for Saturday, April 18th- 9:00 a.m. (a rain date is April 25th).

Discussion; outside only, garage included if time allows.

New Items

1. **Long Range Plan** – tabled
2. **Lawn Care** Schedule is in the narthex

Discussion - Building and Grounds (B & G) Committee report was received and work priorities should be reviewed next month.

3. **Evangelism Committee** Report by Janet Wesley. Janet is alone and needs more members on her committee. Goal is to make handouts to give to visitors explaining some facts about Bethel.

Some Bethel signs need to be replaced or fixed up. (contact Brian Dunton for help with this) Cover up Sara's name on Big Sign and replace with Pastor Greg's.

4. Main Stay Investment report by **Brian Ruh** – Investment analyst Brian Ruh presented a report on our bond investments and explained to the consistory how corporate bond funds work.

5. **Search committee** requested the 2003 annual report – Jim to provide along with salaries for former pastors.

6. Discussion on communion cups tabled till next month.

E-mail Items

1. \$50 approved for SCIO spring luncheon theme basket – Karen Regan to handle.
2. \$100 approved for additional mulch on landscaped areas around church – Woelfel Nursery to handle.

Adjournment – Jim made a motion for adjourning and Faye seconded. Motion carried.

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: May 5th, 2009

Consistory Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 7:00PM



Opening Prayer and Devotions – were led by Pastor Greg

Members Present – Ken Matzdorf, Jim Raquet, Judy Zimmermann, Faye Spindler, Chuck Grubisic and Pastor Greg.

Secretary Minutes – were reviewed by Ken.

Discussion: Business conducted via e-mail will be added to the minutes before approval the following month.

Faye made a motion to approve the April and March minutes. Judy seconded it. The motion was approved.

Report of Receipts - Judy handed out a report of April Income.

Chuck made a motion to approve the April and March receipts. Faye seconded. The motion was approved.

Report of Expenses - Faye handed out her report.

Overview: Major expenses were pastoral support, insurance, and Web Pro (gas).

Discussion: Need to watch income for any further declines.

Ken made a motion to approve the April and March Treasurers Reports. Chuck seconded. The motion was approved.

Memorial Fund Treasurer - Eric e-mailed us his report.

Judy made a motion to approve the April and March Memorial Fund reports. Ken seconded. The motion was approved.

Building Fund Treasurer - Chuck discussed his handout.

Discussion: Need another \$100 for mulch in addition to the \$100 we already approved in April. Faye made a motion to approve the cost of mulch; Chuck seconded. Approved.

Ken made a motion to approve the April and March Building Fund reports. Faye seconded. The motion was approved.

Correspondence - Jim handed out mail he has received to share with consistory.

1. WI Conf. registration is here for Chuck and Cary to attend.
2. Ronald McDonald request for funds, Jim to give to Karen for penny pail sponsor.
3. OCWM request for our funds for 2009; Faye to respond.
4. Sheb. Co. Health sent a letter saying our water is safe to drink.
5. Letter from Jodi Milz to use chairs for Kay's graduation. Approved – Ken to respond

Pastor Greg's Report -

Asked about our thoughts on the front of the sanctuary, after the changes he made last week; he would like to know if any comments have surfaced.

Bulletin covers are costly and future orders have been stopped. We will use up the covers we have left and then go to a one page, self made bulletin.

Attended NE conference meeting, and wondered about shortening our mission statement to 7 words; can ours be shortened to this? Greg to work on this. Conference may be cutting back on Association ministers to save money.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Old Items

1. **Building and grounds report** – Ken read a list of items needing attention. Consistory authorized building and grounds to spend up to \$500 to finish the repairs listed on the report from Steve Blohm. Ken to get the list of disposable garage items to Cindy for bulletin. Any members wanting any of the items should pick them up by June 10th or they will be disposed of.

2. **Discussion on communion cups** –

How to collect cups after communion, use of basket passed to collect the empty cups will solve the issue of re-passing the large trays.

3. **Long Range Plan Quarterly Review Goal 1**

Evangelism team to work on signs with Brian Dunton to create a new template to replace the smaller road signs we have, to direct people to Bethel

Obj. 1

Pastor Greg to work on brochure to hand out to visitors New Goal under Obj. 1
e. Create a brochure to advertize Bethel and use as a handout for visitors.

Goal 2

Worship team to pursue contemporary worship ideas but run them by Pastor Greg before implementation.

Goal 5

Obj. 3 Purchase new hymnals for the church

Goal 6

Need to start a search for new youth leader, Jim and Pam are done after this year.

New Items

1. **Stewardship committee** report – e-mail from Dean Ziegler, Fred Kraemer has accepted the opening left with Jim's resignation.

Stewardship Committee is looking ahead at possible fundraisers which could help with the \$ needed for sound system initially and parking lot in the future.

2. **Summer Worship** starts on **May 24th** at 9:30 am with Dana substituting for Pastor Greg.



3. **Vacation bible school** dates are **Aug. 9 -13th** [to put on the church sign]

4. **Handy Bags for kids** to use during church services; could contain items that can be taken with them, not too small to get into the mouth.

5. **E-mail items:** It was decided not to work at Pizza Ranch again this year and to let Pizza Ranch know that we will call them if we want to participate in the future. Faye to handle.

Adjournment – Faye made a motion for adjourning and Ken seconded. Motion carried.

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: June 2nd, 2009

Youth Volleyball schedule for this

summer: (All games start @ 7:00 p.m.)

July 5th – Bye week for all teams

July 12th – Our Shepherd @ Bethel

July 19th – St. Johns @ Bethel

July 26th – St. Marks/St. James @ Bethel

August 2nd – **Tournament day** begins @
12:15 p.m. in Cleveland Park

Completing The Circle

As a part of the 'Completing the Circle' Sessions, an item that came up was the possibility of getting new hymnals to enhance the worship experience at Bethel. The consistory would like a new committee to research the need for new hymnals and make a recommendation to the congregation based on their findings. If you would like to be on this short term committee, please let a member of the consistory know of your interest.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and cards for my knee surgery.

These things really helped me and I appreciated them all. Hopefully, I will be dancing again soon.

Marilyn Spindler

**Thank You Letter**

Dear Bethel UCC:

On behalf of the individuals, children and families served through Sheboygan County Interfaith organization, we sincerely thank you for your donation of the Let's Go Out to Eat Basket valued at \$50.00, the luncheon was a great success and it could not have happened without your support.

Gifts to Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization provided no goods or services in consideration in whole or part for this contribution.

Your generosity will allow Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization to more fully carry out its mission to work for justice, dignity, and the improvement in the quality of life for all people, by bridging the gaps between community needs and resources.

Thank you for sharing your gift with the people who are helped by Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization.

With deepest gratitude,
Kristin d. Blanchard, Executive Director
Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

Bethel History

The numbers and the days of the weeks are the same for 2009 and 1936. For instance April 5, 2009 and April 5, 1936, were Palm Sunday and April 12, 2009 and April 12, 1936 were Easter Sunday and May 31, 2009 and May 31, 1936 was Pentecost.

April 5, 1936 was Palm Sunday and should have been confirmation, but Confirmation was postponed because the roads were closed. It was held May 31, 1936. 1936 was a very snowy and very below zero weather that winter. Federal Hwy 141 and St. Hwy 149 were closed for 6 weeks. The confirmation class of 1936 were: Hugo Valentin Hameister; Lester Edwin Dirks; Wm. Harvey Miller; Arnold Miller; Valeria Voss; Helen Seifert also confirmed sometime that year was Lewis Bub.

Audry Ertel