

September 2009

BETHEL MESSENGER

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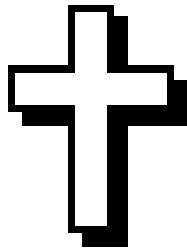
Dear Friends,

August 15th I completed my original contract with Bethel United Church of Christ as your interim pastor. As the search process is on-going, I have signed on for another six months or until your new pastor is called.

I'd like to pass along some reflections from my six months serving here.

• ***You are a faithful and faith-filled congregation.***

More than once I have been pleasantly surprised at the level of faith knowledge and faith action that occurs here at Bethel. Faith expressed in caring for our sisters and brothers in need... faith expressed in pitching in on projects large or small... faith expressed in supporting you church with your time, treasure, and talent.



• ***You have a beautiful facility***



I believe the beauty of this church speaks to your level of faithfulness I mentioned above. Through my years in ministry, it has become relatively easy to tell the physical difference between a church that is loved and one that is simply there. Here at Bethel I see many different folks reaching out in a variety of ways to care for this church with its beautiful blending of the old and the new.

• ***You have strong and capable lay leadership***

Due to time restraints, I have only experienced meetings of the Consistory and the Worship Committee.



In both these groups I have come in contact with loving, caring, thoughtful folks with the best interests of the church in their hearts and in their decisions.

• ***Your potential is great***

My affection and respect for this church and you the congregation has steadily grown over these past months. If I had to put my feelings into just two words, I would say "Spirit Filled".

There will be those that feel we have 'passed our prime', that the future is dim as we at times struggle to find our way in world. There will be those that will be unable to break the connection to past ways and past ministers and will forever recite the mantra, "We've always done it that way before." or "We've never done it that way before."

For Bethel United Church of Christ, I strongly believe your best days are ahead of you, not behind you. Stay strong as you continue your journey.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Greg

Consistory Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.



Opening Prayer – was 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. Chuck made a motion to approve the May minutes. Faye seconded it. The motion was approved.

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

Overview: YTD income is down about 20% from last year. Jim to report to congregation on Sunday.

Ken made a motion to approve the May receipts. Chuck seconded. The motion was approved.

Report of Expenses - Faye handed out her report.

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

Judy made a motion to approve the May Treasurers Report. Ken seconded. The motion was approved.

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

Faye made a motion to approve the May Memorial Fund reports once the 1st quarter addition to endowment fund is completed. Judy seconded. The motion was approved with conditions.

Building Fund Treasurer - Chuck discussed his handout.

Ken made a motion to approve the May Building Fund report. Faye seconded. The motion was approved.

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

1. Biloxi annual report - for bulletin board
2. SCIO – thank you for \$50 basket
3. Habitat request for funds
4. Peggy Hansen request for tables – Judy made a motion to approve, Chuck seconded; Approved – Ken to handle.

**Pastor Greg's Report -**

Worship variety seems to be going well. Three fold flier is being worked on (example passed around- more pictures will be added). Mission statement is very good but a 1-2 line statement to make it easy to remember is still being worked on. [Proposed a potential new member class on July 12th after worship]

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Search Committee Report** – Peggy gave Jim an e-mail update which said the profile will be sent to the association on Friday. Jim to follow up.
2. **Mission Team Report-** Jodi Voss reported. Their goal is 'Outreach through service'. Current projects include Salvation Army 'Emaeous meals', penny pail, fall cleanup for elderly. Would also like to do habitat for humanity work. Current active members are Karen Amwig, Mary Johnson, and Jodi Voss. (Consistory suggested adding SCIO contact

(Karen Regen) to Mission team.)
Currently the Mission Fund is in with the youth fellowship checkbook. Faye to help get supplies by using her Sam's Club card.

3. **PRC Letter – Completing the circle** – To-do list shows the children's room heat, the old hymnal replacement, and alter area improvements to be high on the list of changes recommended. (Jim suggested a committee to work on researching a new hymnal) Ken to put note in bulletin asking for volunteers to work on this committee. Alter area works much better with changes that were made to increase space to move around; rest of items to be tabled till new pastor arrives. Building and Grounds committee to silence the door to the children's room. Ken to respond to PRC.
4. Discuss options for **Administrative Assistant** - It was decided to ask Church Secretary and a member of the Worship Committee to come to the next meeting to discuss workloads and schedules.
5. **Closet for banners** – Carol Roethal has suggested that building and grounds make a closet for the banners she is using. Ken estimated materials at \$250. Deferred till September.

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

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: July 7th , 2009

Consistory Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer – was led by Pastor Greg
Members Present – Ken Matzdorf, Eric Raquet, Jim Raquet, Judy Zimmermann, Faye Spindler, Chuck Grubisic and Pastor Greg.

Secretary Minutes – were reviewed by Ken. Chuck made a motion to approve the June minutes. Faye seconded it. The motion was approved.

Report of Receipts - Judy e-mailed a report of June Income.

Overview: Forward in faith has met our total goal of \$10,000. YTD income is down from last year, which shows a 15% decrease. Faye made a motion to approve the June receipts. Eric seconded. The motion was approved.

Report of Expenses - Faye e-mailed out her report.

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

Discussion: Propane gas use was high with no pastor in building during the week. {Ken checked the thermostats and we are not heating or cooling during the day above or below the minimums of 60/80 degrees} We need a new Web Pro contract; New contract for next year is based on last years use. [price for next heating season is \$1.259] Dehumidifier is not in use because no one is here to empty it so the copy room is not dry enough to keep paper crisp. Suggest Cindy store copy paper in the conference room with doors open.



Judy made a motion to approve the June Treasurers Report. Chuck seconded. The motion was approved.

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

Ken made a motion to approve the June Memorial Fund reports. Faye seconded. The motion was approved.

Building Fund Treasurer - Chuck e-mailed us his report.

Judy made a motion to approve the June Building Fund report. Eric seconded. The motion was approved.

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

1. Back Bay Mission Celebration

Pastor Greg's Report - Three fold flyer was completed. Greg handed out a copy for approval and it was then set out in the narthex for the congregation to see.

[Proposed a potential new member class on July 12th after worship, however it may be changed because several new members cannot be here.]

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Old Items

1. Pastor Greg's Contract Extension – Jim to talk to Art Wille about extending the existing contract.
2. Hymnal Committee update- There was a request for committee members in the announcements 3 weeks. We potentially have Jodi Voss, Pastor Greg, Kelly Stone and Dana Raquet as willing to be on this committee so far.
3. **Worship Team Report-** Carol Matzdorf reviewed the worship team duties and noted some items that

might be assigned to others. (See handout of a list of items done by Worship team) Carol Eckart, Bonnie Ziegler, LuAnn Jeanty, Dana Raquet, Kelly Stone and Carol Matzdorf are on this committee.



- a. Bulletin info needs to come early, i.e. Wednesday to enable materials to get to people responsible by Friday as some only have email at work.
- b. Worship team was set up to help the pastor present special services and a/v presentations. (with no full time Pastor, other items were added to the plate)
- c. Scheduling is time consuming to get people to be litergy readers, power pointer presenters, and then get them the materials they need in a timely fashion.

Jim suggested they try to keep going as is until new pastor arrives. Pastor Greg will try to get the order of service to Worship team on Monday or Tuesday. Consistory to review issues with this team again in October.

New Items

1. **Search Committee Report** – Peggy Hansen discussed the 'Profile' which came back from Art Wille with comments that the profile was in good shape but a few inconsistencies existed. { i.e. long range planning 21 page 9} Also the conference guidelines on salary is not being met because housing allowance was raised instead of salary. Several changes were made to the profile as per consistory suggestions. i.e. all

debts have been paid off. Peggy will inform the congregation as to the progress of the search committee.

2. **SCRIP Report** – Dean Ziegler – Mid year scrip report \$771.15 – freight = \$706 income; Dean asked if we could get a church credit card to use for scrip purchases? Suggestion made that Bethel cancel its debit cards and get a credit card. Dean to report back on ideas for best card to get.
3. New Member Class – need to reschedule
4. Apple Pie Fund Raising – need a new coordinator
5. Youth Leader – need a new leader or leaders, Ken to put in announcements
6. Choir Director discussion – Jim to talk to Jodi and Dana for another year
7. Long Range Plan - deferred to next month

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

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: August 4th , 2009



Open House

Open House for Violet Raquet's 80th birthday

When: Sunday September 27, 2009

Where: Community room in the basement of the Howards Grove Village Hall

Time: 1pm - 4pm

All are welcome to come and help us celebrate Violet's birthday

Thanks
Kevin & Kris

Help Needed with Weeding the Flowerbeds

If you have any time to spare, consider calling a friend and head to church to pull a few weeds. The flower gardens around our church, need some work and if you don't do it, who will?



Bethel Youth Fellowship Leadership Position now Available

With a great year of volleyball [15 wins and only 3 loses] and the championship trophy to show it [beating Saron in round 1, Our Shepherd in round 2, and rival Bethlehem in the champion ship game], our youth are now in need of an adult coordinator for next year. They want to thank Jim and Pam Raquet for over twenty years of service. If you are 'feeling called' or have any questions about what is involved with this position, please contact Jim Raquet for further information.

Thank You to All Who Helped with VBS

With another very successful year of Vacation Bible School behind us, the students, parents and consistory would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all who helped plan, coordinate, teach and encourage our children this past month. Thanks kids, for your part in the service on the 16th.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated materials or helped serve a warm meal at the Salvation Army on Saturday, July 11th. We served 138 1st servings in addition to 81 2nd servings. The next emmaus meal will not be scheduled until the new year.

Supplies Needed

When preparing for the emmaus meals during the past two months it was noted that our kitchen could use a few items. If you have a spare set or would like to donate an item, please record your name and cross off the item on the list posted in the church kitchen. Thank you.

- 5-quart crock pot
- 3 - 5 paring knives
- 2 plastic or rubber spatulas
- knife sharpener OR new set of knives for chopping, etc.
- 10 ice-cream pails with lids



Apple Pie Time Is Coming Soon



It's that time of year again. It's time to get your orders for Apple Pies. You can use the enclosed form. More forms will be available at church or you can copy the form from our web site. Order forms should be turned in by September 20, 2009. Forms can be turned in to Carol Roethel or Faye Spindler, along with the money for your orders. Mark your calendars! Apple pie making day will be October 3. Sign up sheets will be posted in the narthex at church.

Bethel Sunday School News



SUNDAY SCHOOL
NEWS

It's time to get back into our studies. Sunday school classes begin Sunday, September 13th, at 8:45a.m. We welcome all children 4 years of age through the 6th grade. We will also be offering confirmation classes for 7th and 8th graders at the same time. We will be singing a song during the 10:00a.m. church service.

Vacation Bible school was an exiting time this year. We traveled to the bayou through the Crocodile Dock program. The children presented a wonderful program of skits, active songs and Bible verses for the enjoyment of all. Thank you to all who helped to make the service such a special event. Thank you to all the people who provided food following the service and the clean-up committee.

The Jr. Choir has entertained a number of times this year and always with a good response. I know everyone who hears them sing, enjoys their participation in the church service. We thank you, students.

Thank you to our teachers for the past school year: Lisa Grubisic, Janet Wesley and LuAnn Jeanty.

Sunday school super
Mardell Blohm