

July - August 2010

# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel UCC, W4225 County Line Road, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020  
[www.bethelucc-ada.org](http://www.bethelucc-ada.org) (920) 565-2977

## From The Pastor

It was a pleasant couple of months for Betty and me. We have been spending Thursdays (our date day) and some Saturdays visiting some points of local interest. We have seen the Ice Age Museum and gone for several nature walks. We've climbed two different observation towers in the area. We caught a couple of local stage productions in schools in the greater Sheboygan area.

We have also had a chance to watch some of Bethel's children in various activities. We have watched a few of Alfred's baseball games. We heard Brianna, Erin and Nick's piano recital and even heard Erin and Nick perform at the Stephanie Weill Center in Sheboygan.

I have been assisting Karen R. with the Bethel volleyball team. We have seen significant improvement, especially in those youth that have never played volleyball before.

Betty and I would like to invite the whole congregation to a "Celebrate Wisconsin-Pennsylvania" party at our house on Sunday, July 18, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Just so you know, our parties are not the sit around and talk type of party. There will be quizzes, games and other activities. All ages are invited. Wear something that personifies Wisconsin or Pennsylvania (or both).

During July I will continue my series on Gideon and how to know God's will for your life. I will interrupt this series on July 4<sup>th</sup> to preach a sermon of God, Nation and Freedom. For August, I asked for sermon suggestions from the congregation. I only got one request. This was it: "Joseph was such a forgiving guy after his brothers were mean. He did the right thing in the end, but was he so forgiving while in prison etc." Since that is a fairly big request, and the only one I got. I will be preaching a few sermons on Joseph and his brothers.

Then, after two and a half months with the primary scripture taken from the Old Testament, I will begin a series of sermons based on the First Thessalonians. Sermons and Scripture for July and August include:

- July 4 "God, Nation, and Freedom"  
I Timothy 2:1-7; Romans 6:1-19;
- July 11 "God is Still Speaking – God and Gideon Deal with Fear"  
Judges 7:9-25; Mark 3:1-6
- July 18 "God is Still Speaking - Troubles with Victory"  
Judges 8:1-21; Mark 2:14-17
- July 25 "God is Still Speaking – Gideon and the Subtlety of Sin"  
Judges 8:22-28; Mark 2:1-13
- August 1 "Joseph and His Brothers – Dreams and Exile"  
Genesis 37:5-28; Matthew 18:15-20

Continued →

- August 8 "Reuben – The Legacy of Sin"  
 Selections from Genesis (Genesis 37:29-35; 42:36-38; 49:1-4); Matthew 18:21-22
- August 15 "Joseph and His Brothers  
 Forgiveness and Salvation"  
 Genesis 50:15-21; Matthew 18: 23-35
- August 22 "Paul's Letter to a Good Church"  
 I Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 5:1-12
- August 29 "Paul and the Early Church"  
 I Thessalonians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-16

## Interested in doing comedy?

An improv comedy workshop will be starting on Tuesday evenings beginning July 13. We hope to form a performing troupe to provide family-oriented, G-rated entertainment for churches in the area. If interested see Jim or Betty Liddle or call them at (920) 565-3149.

## The Bethel Library Is Now Open!!

Stop in and check out the perfect book to read at the beach, under a big shade tree or in the car on a road trip. We have mystery, romance and great books of inspiration. Thanks to all of you who have donated items so far. We are still accepting books, audio books and videos for the library. Please put your name with the items you drop off or let me know you have brought books. We are keeping track of all donations.  
 Carol Matzdorf



## Consistory Meeting

**Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:00PM**

**Opening Prayer** – led by Rev. Jim Liddle

Members Present – Jim Raquet, Ken Matzdorf, Diane Rietbrock, Tina Nohl, Judy Zimmermann, and Chuck Grubisic.

**Secretary Minutes** – were reviewed by Ken.

Chuck made a motion to approve the April minutes. Diane seconded it. The motion was approved.

**Report of Receipts** - Judy e-mailed her report.

Overview: Income was down for April, compared to last year an 8% decrease.

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

**Report of Expenses** – Tina e-mailed her report.

Overview: Major expenses were salary, insurance, and web-pro

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

**Memorial Fund Treasurer** - Diane e-mailed her report.

Discussion: Endowment Funds were split into Fund A and Fund B; Diane will call agent to see why this was done.

Chuck made a motion to approve the Memorial Fund reports. Judy seconded. The motion was approved.

**Building Fund Treasurer** – Chuck reviewed his report.

Discussion: The pledges received to date for the capital fund drive show a 45% response from members to this point to go to the audio-video fund.

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

**Correspondence** – Jim R. reviewed mail that was received to share with consistory.

1. Lawn mower class action suit – Ken to follow up
2. Water test came back with approval for another year
3. UCC conference books – given to Pastor Jim and set out for people to see.
4. Heifer International request to be put on bulletin board.

### **Pastors Report –**

Received word that his ministerial standing is approved and we can now plan installation service,

Officiated at Bethel's first Holy Humor service,  
 Officiated at one infant baptism,  
 Officiated at one wedding,  
 Talked with another church member regarding upcoming wedding,  
 Arranged for and hosted missionary speaker,  
 Visited two members in supported living homes or nursing homes,  
 Visited one elderly member in his home,  
 Attended Kiel – New Holstein pastor's group,  
 Met with pastoral relations committee,  
 Attended Northeast Wisconsin Association meeting,  
 Attended New Clergy Conference.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### Old Items

1. Church Brochure Update – Chuck and Ken met to review images and noted which need replacing. Jim R. to send Chuck a new image with Biloxi mission group
2. Capital Campaign Update – Chuck reported that pledging members is at 45% and we still need \$5,100 to meet our goal and payback loan from Endowment Fund.
3. Sound system update – Ken & Chuck – working good and planning a show and tell time to promote and ask for more pledges. PPT people have been trained and we need to schedule a session for people wanting to use the new 'mix board'. It was suggested that we need a second headset for when special occasions require two pastors. Jim R. moved to purchase a second headset. Tina seconded. Motion carried.
4. Committee for Bethel's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Need to schedule a meeting with the volunteers to set goals, and objectives i.e. church directory, meal, service etc.; ex-pastors, confirmants. Perhaps several events throughout the year? Ken to set up first meeting.
5. First Communion Classes Update by Pastor Jim – not needed at this time.
6. Review of Team Action Items from April Meeting
  - a. Evangelism/Outreach team needs to get started with new volunteers – Pastor Jim to make some calls.
  - b. Christian Education team – currently only 1 Sunday School Class and we need at least 2 now and more as the need arises. Mardell needs help finding teachers and this will increase as young group of kids age. We will make a list of potential teachers that we can call: Tina to work with Pastor to get a list of candidates to call.

- c. Youth fellowship team – Contacts were made and Karen Regan will do volleyball coach this year. Pastor Jim will start with confirmation class and volleyball team to try and get this team active again.
  - d. Greeting and Welcoming team is inactive and we decided this team is not needed but consistory and congregation will need to do the welcoming as a “Bethel team”
  - e. Stewardship Team is back on track.
7. Dental Insurance for Betty – voted in during special meeting April 25 – see April minutes.
  8. Tina reported that Haiti relief money can be sent to UCC One Great Hour of Sharing with a direct designation to Haitian relief. Tina to send in our donations.

#### New Items

1. Installation of Rev. Jim - Special service on a Sunday afternoon with pastors from surrounding churches followed by a reception. Possible dates to work with include July last Sunday or August 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. Jim R. to contact hospitality committee. Pastor Jim to contact association.
2. Other business –  
Phone company contract to get faster speed on internet for 2 years and phone 1 year with long distance included. Chuck to review the contract carefully to see if it is the same as what he was told.

#### Tabled Items - [none]

Ken made a motion to adjourn and Tina seconded. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting scheduled: Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

## Volleyball Schedule

All games start at 7:00 p.m.

- July 4 - All teams have a bye
- July 11 - Saron at Bethel
- July 18 - Bethel at St. Johns
- July 25 - Bethlehem at Bethel



The tournament is August 1, at Cleveland Park at 12:15 p.m.

## Thank you!



The surgery went very well, and every day finds me feeling better and stronger. Thank you for all of the thoughts, prayers, phone calls, and visits. They have helped tremendously in my recovery. It truly is a blessing to have such wonderful support. Thanks,  
Tony Johannes

## Installation of Pastor Jim

Jim Little's installation as pastor of Bethel United Church of Christ will be on **Sunday, July 25, at 3:00** in the afternoon. A reception will follow the service.



## GOSPEL WORKSHOP



A Gospel Workshop, sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference UCC, is being held on Friday evening September 17 and Saturday, September 18 at Our Savior's UCC in Ripon, Wisconsin.

Two choirs-[the Westend Gospel Singers](#) of Eberswalde, Germany and The Gospellers of the Wisconsin Conference-invite you to join them in the joy of singing gospel music and experiencing choir fellowship. After touring Wisconsin in 2006, the German choir hosted The Gospellers in 2008. Now together they want to share with you what they

have come to rejoice.

These two choirs want to share songs. As workshop leader, with the help of five others, Robert Robinson, founder of the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir (see [www.robertrobinsonmusic.com](http://www.robertrobinsonmusic.com)), will teach you as he has taught them.

- **Sing and learn gospel songs.**
- **Hear about the gospel tradition.**
- **Attend clinics**  
for singers, directors, and accompanists.
- **Receive resources,**  
practice CDs and accompanist scores.

They want to share choir fellowship. As workshop participants (including members of The Gospellers), you will be invited to sing in concert the songs learned in the workshop as the Westend Gospel Singers tour Wisconsin during the last days of September.

**Cost: \$30**

Saturday lunch included.

Accommodation list provided.

There is more information on the bulletin board and/or you can see Betty Liddle for a registration form.

**Come! Rejoice and sing (and practice your German)!**