

Christmas Cont'd.



**HANGING OF THE GREENS** - Will take place on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. This is the time that we decorate the church for the Christmas season. We will need lots of volunteers to help to perform this task. It's a great time of fun and fellowships for everyone involved. So please consider lending a hand to help decorate the sanctuary this season.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** - Come join us. This year we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with a service at 7:00 p.m. Please come worship with us during this joyous Christmas Season.

**CHRISTMAS FAMILIES - Helping those in need** - Each year Bethany chooses a local family in need and buys gifts to help them while they are going through a difficult time. This year we will be helping two families. On November 1<sup>st</sup> the Christmas tree for our Christmas families will be in the Narthex. Hanging from the branches will be paper ornaments for each person receiving gifts. If you would like to buy a present, please take an ornament, purchase the gift, wrap it, and tape the paper ornament to it so that it can be properly identified. Please bring it back to the church before December 6<sup>th</sup> and place it by the tree. Thank you for helping to spread the Christmas Joy!

## IMMEASURABLE LOVE

See the snow falling on a cold winter's day  
Floating softly, gently, each flake one by one  
Covering the earth in purest white  
A beautiful display has begun

Like the snow, God's love blankets our sin filled soul  
Making it pure and clean  
Just like the beauty of this new fallen grace  
The glory of His salvation can clearly be seen

Won't you let this gift of love  
Cover your dark and sinful soul  
Making it the purest white  
And your life complete and whole

As each flake falls freely from the sky  
So, too, God's love unto us is given  
To release you from death's darkened hold  
To live with Him eternally in heaven

So reach out and accept this wonderful gift  
That He has waiting for you  
Won't you accept His immeasurable love  
To make your heart brand new

Don't forget to get out there and vote on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and make your voice be heard!



Join Us For

Trunk or Treat

October 29<sup>th</sup>

6 to 8 pm

In the church parking lot

Happy Veterans Day to all our Veterans

There are not words big enough.  
There is not a hug strong enough.  
There is not a smile wide enough.  
All I can offer is thank you.  
You are my hero.  
You are in my thoughts.  
You are in my prayers.  
For all you've done, "Thank you!"

**DATES to REMEMBER**

Trunk or Treat .....	October 29 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
All Saints Service .....	November 1 <sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
Chicken 'n Biscuit Dinner & Fall Bazaar.....	November 7 <sup>th</sup> - 4p.m. to 7 p.m.
Ladies Fellowship Covered Dish .....	November 16 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving Service .....	November 25 <sup>th</sup> at 7p.m.
Hanging of the Greens .....	November 28 <sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
Caroling & Round the Table Carol Sing .....	December 20 <sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 p.m.
Winter Soltis / Blue Christmas Service .....	December 21 <sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service .....	December 24 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



**LOVE TREE - Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** - Every year our Church has the opportunity to help the United Methodist Human Services by giving a few hours of time at the Love Tree at the mall. U.M.H.S. does a tremendous mission with helping local families with heating bills, supporting our local food pantry, and general needs as well as giving to Project Shoes to buy shoes and boots for local school kids. Please consider giving a helping hand for this worthwhile cause. Contact person is Kit Miller.



**ROUND THE TABLE / CAROLING** - Every Christmas season here at Bethany, we have a beautiful service in the fellowship hall to celebrate the joy of Christmas. Hosts or Hostesses volunteer to decorate a table with festive decorations and we have a dessert buffet to enjoy. If you'd like to host a table, please talk to Carol Peretin. This year's event will be held on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> following Christmas Caroling around the neighborhood. Caroling will begin at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for a very meaningful celebration.

**NEW DAY GIFT WRAP** - Attention all gift wrappers! - We're going to need your help at the Galleria again this year to help "New Day" with wrapping gifts for the shoppers. This is their big fund raiser to help with their programs for the youth. New Day, Inc. is a Christian ministry to help at-risk children, youth, marriages, and families. New Day provides a wide variety of programs to minister to the needs of the total family unit. New Day began back in the late 70's with Pastor Noah Martin taking a sincere interest in helping the young people of the Johnstown area. They have a wonderful outreach and this is our chance to help them continue their services. Kris Manges will be making arrangements for house to help serve.

**Bethany's Church Conference** will be held this year at Roxbury's St. Paul's United Methodist Church on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will be clustered with other local congregations from our area. All members are urged to attend this important event. We will be carpooling from our parking lot at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.



 A 'big' thank you goes out to Carol Peretin and her family for the beautiful job they did with Vacation Bible School this past summer. As usual, the children loved every minute of it. We challenged the girls against the boys to see who could bring in the most money to help purchase bibles for the kids in Thailand. The winning side would be able to dump ice water on Pastor Larry. The boys won the contest and thoroughly doused Pastor Larry with the coldest water ever. He probably shivers when he thinks about it. But the challenge brought in enough money to buy 140 bibles. What a great blessing for everybody. Also, thank you to all the helpers, teachers, and volunteers.

 Thanks to the efforts of the Trustees, especially Carol Peretin. We were able to purchase 13 new lightweight tables for our fellowship hall. If you've ever tried moving our older tables, this is certainly something to celebrate. Thank you to all who donated monies for this project. If you'd like one of the older tables, please let a Trustee know of your request. Thank you.

 This year our church was involved with the St. Michael Festival with a booth selling homemade chili and cornbread. So many people were involved in the process that we can't thank each one individually, but you know who you are. Everyone did a great job, especially Carol Peretin and her family. It's a lot of hard work but well worth it. Next year we'll probably be doing the same thing, so stay tuned.

 A great big Thank You goes out to everyone who provided special music over the summer. Everyone did a tremendous job. The choir was back in session beginning the first of September and is always looking for new voices to help enhance the worship experience. Practice for the Christmas Cantata "Angels of Christmas" is well under way and will be presented by the choir on December 13<sup>th</sup> during morning worship. Interested individuals, please contact Jena Tully or come to practice on Wednesday evening at seven. Also, the Children's Choir, "Angel Voices", practices from 6:30 until 7:00 p.m. ages three years and up.

 Thank you to Nate Manges for the completion of our beautiful hand laid stone Marquee with cross & flame. Thank you to Frank Ashbridge for his 'generous' donations and Joseph Maintenson, Hesbon, PA (near Blairsville) for donating the use of their equipment and manpower needed to cut the aluminum flame. Bethany church has been blessed immensely with persons that have such amazing gifts and Nate is definitely one of those persons. Thank you Nate for all of your time and talents given for the Glory of God to Bethany Church. Your design and handiwork is one of a kind!

 The kitchen has been blessed with a few new and used items. We've purchased two stainless steel coffee urns and another one was donated. We have a newer microwave given by Joel and Stacy Shumaker, and much needed supplies. Thanks to all contributors, everything will get it's use.



Counseling services are offered at Bethany through Christian Counseling Associates of Western PA. providing faith based strategies to resolve emotional problems or life issue such as anxiety, depression, anger mgmt., and marital or work problems. They provide a full range of services to those who need counseling for any individual, marital or family concern. Sessions are flexible and individually scheduled. When scheduling an appt., you can expect a confidential, comfortable environment. You can go to their website [www.ChristianCounselingWPA.com](http://www.ChristianCounselingWPA.com) or call their main office at (724) 396-1510.



Congratulations to Pastor Larry for being asked to serve on the board of UPJ Protestant Campus Ministries. We are working to improve our relationship with the students to let them know that they are welcome at Bethany Church.

## NEW MEMBERS

We'd like to welcome our new members who became part of our congregation on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Welcome :

- \*Susie Crist
- \* Tom and Fiona Spessard
- \*Judd & Heather Hultman
- \*Hyunshik Chang & Jaehee Kiim
- \*Ryan & Rhonda Eash
- \*Mike Shaffer.

Please become acquainted with these new members and let them know that we are so glad to have them become part of our congregation.

**LET US KNOW** - Some church members have expressed interest in having a pavilion constructed close to the children's playground on the front lawn. If you would like to make this possible, please contact a trustee and let them know your desire. This could be used for outdoor activities, concerts, games, vacation bible school, and so much more. Thank you for your input!

**Acolytes Needed** - If you know someone that might be interested in serving as an Acolyte to light the candles for our worship service, please contact the church office. The only requirement is that you are tall enough to reach the candles.

**Children's Fellowship** - Every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. there is Children's Fellowship in the room above the sanctuary for all children ages 3 and up. Fun activities along with a bible lesson are under the leadership of Kris Manges.

**Junior Church** - Is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month during the Worship service in the upstairs of the church.

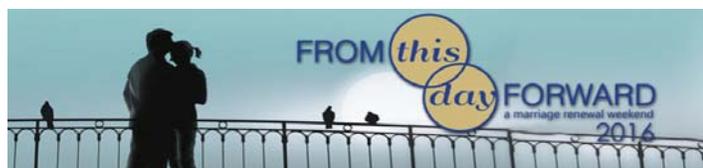
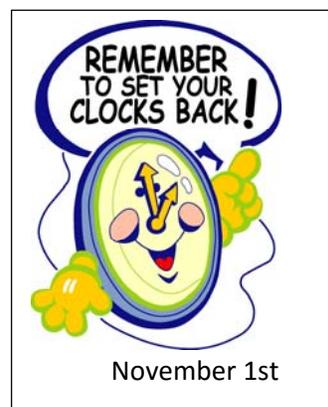


**\*Dustin Coval\*** Someone that puts a lot of work and effort into behind the scenes at Bethany is Dustin Coval. We don't always know what he does, but he always seems to have everything set up, sounds great, and his lighting is phenomenal. We had the most beautiful Mt. Everest at V.B.S. anyone could desire. Thanks so much Dustin, we appreciate everything you ...



Everyone is invited to our "Chicken and Biscuit Dinner" on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. This year the "Crafty Christians Group" will be hosting this favorite event. Tickets are available now for a donation of \$8.00 for anyone 14 years and above, \$4.00 for ages 7 through 13, and children under 6 eat free. Tickets will also be available at the door and take outs will be available.

This year the space in the fellowship hall will be shared with the "Fall Bazaar". There will be lots of handmade items, seasonal decorations, jams, jellies, home baked goodies, candies cookies, wooden items, and much more. So please come and join with us for a delicious meal, and possibly getting some Christmas gifts purchased. We'd love to see you, and don't forget to bring someone with you. Thanks so much!



Cultivate romance, practice healthy communication and enhance spiritual connection with your loved one. Gain the resources to *refuel, reconnect, and recommit* to a great marriage. Meet National Speaker Dan Seaborn, from

*Winning At Home*, and experience teaching from marriage and family experts at Christian Counseling Associates.

Whether you have a fantastic marriage, or your relationship is in need of a serious tune-up, this weekend will offer tools to grow your marriage and strengthen your faith.

Last year, over 1200 couples experienced this weekend getaway! **This event is quickly becoming the marriage enrichment weekend in Western PA!** This year is going to be the best yet! The event will be held at the Sheraton Inn of Station Square in Pittsburgh, February 19-21 2016. Early bird registration ends November 30<sup>th</sup>. For more information see CCA of Western PA at <http://www.christiancounselingwpa.com/marriageevent>.

Bethany

Bocce Ball & Golfing are a couple of fun activities for summer fun at Bethany. Approx. 20 people came to play Bocce Ball and had a really fun time. The Golf Fellowship Group met every Tuesday Eve and carpoled to Oakbrook Golf course. We hope to resume both next summer. We would love for you to plan to join us!

## SURVIVORS cont'd.

others attending such a service is the learning that comes to those who are not lonely, or poor, or in pain. With December 21<sup>st</sup> actually being "the longest day of the year - the first day of Winter - "Winter Solstice" the whole community (not just Soul Survivor members) is invited to attend this Winter Solstice service. **ALL** are welcome

## QUILTERS -

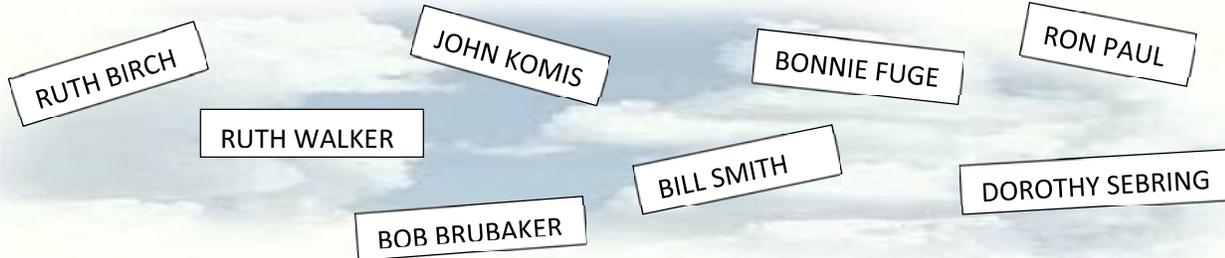
If you haven't had a chance to see some of the beautiful quilts being quilted, please take a minute and stop in for a peek The quilters group, that meets each Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m., has been increasing in numbers and they would definitely welcome more, even if you would just like to learn. We have a professional quilter, Mary Katherine Hershberger, that will give free lessons to anyone wanting to learn this dying art form.



Our church has an outreach program to help anyone that is in need of a helping hand. Randy and Becky Griffith have volunteered to take charge of this commitment. Kris Manges graciously gave

Of her time for many years working with this endeavor for which we are 'very' grateful. Any person in need a ride, in need of meals brought to their home, any small chores around the house, etc., please contact Randy or Becky at 539-5754 and they will contact the appropriate people to perform these duties. This outreach is here for you to use, so please don't hesitate to ask for help.

## OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF:



**REKINDLE - Contemporary Worship** - Come and worship with us in our newly organized contemporary worship which began October 13<sup>th</sup> and is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. This is open to anyone who would like to attend. The service begins at 7:00 p.m. This is a casual service presented in a contemporary style of worship. Please come join us and bring a friend with you!

*Welcome Jim McCoy to the staff here at Bethany. Jim is the new custodian. Please stop and greet him and offer him a warm welcome from our church family.*

**BLOOD SCREENING** - Bethany will be hosting a multiphasic blood screening on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$30 and includes 29 different blood tests. For an additional cost of \$20 you can get a PSA test, A1C, or Vitamin D, and for \$35 you can have your Vitamin D levels checked. You do not need a doctor's order, but you do need to make an appointment by calling Windber Hospital at (814) 467-3961. The testing requires that you fast for 12 to 14 hours. If you have any questions, please call Stacy Shumaker at (814) 487-07281. Thank you.



## FRANKLIN STREET FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

With the Feinstein Challenge being suspended for 2015, both food and cash donations are down. Please consider holding a food drive or donating the following items to your local pantry: peanut butter, cereal, soup and spaghetti sauce. Items for Franklin St. Food Pantry can be dropped off on Tuesday mornings between 9-11 a.m., or feel free to call the office at 539-2633 to schedule a time that better suites you. Thank you!

## Shut-In Ministry



If you know of someone who is a shut in and in need of a visit, please contact the church office. Debbie Dunn and few others have been trying to visit our shut-in's on a regular basis. She's been making a lot of new friends and our home bound members are being blessed by their visits.

## SATURDAY'S KITCHEN

November 8<sup>th</sup>, Bethany is scheduled to serve at Saturday's Kitchen, located on Bedford St. in Johnstown. If you'd like to help serve the people coming in to enjoy a good hot meal, please contact the church office (266-9588) or Becky Griffith.

# What's Happening

**NEW SCHEDULE / Services and Classes** - September 13<sup>th</sup> was the beginning of new service times for Christian Education at Bethany. The morning begins with a “meet and greet” in the fellowship hall with coffee, juice, and a small snack brought in by volunteers. If you would be willing to help with snacks, please talk to Debbie Dunn. We have classes beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. for all ages starting with Kris

Manges teaching three to six year old children upstairs in the nursery, Rene Luther has the room beside the quilting room for seven through ten year olds, Randy Griffith has kids above 11 years old in the room above the sanctuary, free spirits class (any age) with an open discussion format, meets in the room at the end of the hall upstairs, we have a class (any age) in the fellowship hall studying, “The Way”, format video and discussion. Also, a new member’s class was held in the library with Pastor Larry leading the course. Approximately 40 persons are attending these studies, so please join with us in any class, this is such an opportunity to develop your relationship with Christ and get acquainted with your fellow believers. Any questions please contact the church office. Our worship service begins at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

## Crafty Christian Group -

The Crafty Christians have changed their meeting time to Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the Library. We’ve been very busy with a variety of projects getting ready for the Fall Bazaar on November 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 7 p.m., coinciding with the Chicken ‘n Biscuit dinner. This year we will be set up in the back of the fellowship hall which will provide more space for our display. Anyone wishing to donate handmade items, jellies, candies, fall décor, or baked goods, please bring them to the church basement on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> with the items marked with the price, or call Rene Luther 262-8385 for pick-up. Our small group is open to anyone that would like to join us. We are always looking for new ideas. Thank you for your donations.



## Ladies Fellowship

Dear Friends,

Our ladies fellowship will be meeting on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings will be covered dishes and will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Please bring a side dish or dessert. This fellowship is designed for all women of our church and community. If you are looking for an opportunity to laugh, share, and pray with other women, this is the group for you! May God Bless you!

In His  
Debbie  
412-601



The Bethany Preschool is thriving this school year. We have a three year old class on Tuesdays and Thursdays and new this year, have added a second class that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays. Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12 noon. Our four year old class is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. It’s never too early to sign up for classes for next year. Bethany, it’s teachers and staff have an outstanding preschool program!



## SOUL SURVIVORS

We are “Soul Survivors” ... women who have lost our spouse or significant other. Life does go on ... we are all looking to enjoy life, and for others to enjoy it with. We want to make new friends, find new interests, get back into living. Soul Survivors is a social group for friendship, fun, and good conversation with folks who “get it”. **Life is to be lived, not just endured!**

September was our anniversary month. One year ago we started with six of us meeting to see if there might be an interest in offering social activities to women (widows) who have walked down a similar path ... leaving us as SOUL SURVIVORS ... our group now has a total of 56 members. We meet monthly for a lunch and a dinner, along with offering various monthly activities. We have never had everyone at the same function, but in celebration of our one year anniversary 33 were able to attend our dinner

that was held at Morris’s in Sidman.

Some of the activities we offer include “game night, a Sunday movie matinee, a mystery dinner, numerous bus trips (Lodestar, McIlwaine, Epic Journey’s), shows at Mountain Playhouse, Arcadia and Pasquerilla Center at UPJ, theater shows in Pittsburgh, Pirate baseball games and Steeler Football games...to name a few. Sometimes only 3 or 4 participate, where other times maybe 20. Our intent is to offer these activities in hopes that you have someone else to go with, so that you don’t feel you need to just always sit by yourself at home.

On Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm, Rev. Larry Dunn has offered to have a Winter Solstice (Blue Christmas) ecumenical service for not only members of our group but also to include the whole community. Some have a difficult time with the holiday season as there is a constant refrain of family, of gathering, of celebration, of giving and affluence, of happiness, which can rub salt into the wounds that some people already bear. A significant benefit for (cont’d page 3)

# BRANCHING OUT

fresh ideas for growing faith



## *Pastoral Pondering*

How can it be that a year has gone by already? People like to say, *"how time flies when you're having fun."* Well, I would say that is exactly what is happening. We are in the middle of a transformation that I believe will result in a church that is more alive and able to serve than it ever has before.

We need everyone to be involved. If we are going to be the church that God wants us to be we all need to use the gifts we have been given to make sure we are firing on all cylinders. It will take effort and it will take patience and perseverance. If you have ever had a car that has had engine trouble you will know what it is like to try to get from one place to another. It is not what the car was designed to do. It is uncomfortable and wasteful. In the church, we are designed for a purpose and we need to understand the purpose and live that purpose every day.

In the book of James we read: *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* James 1:17 God has good things to do here in our area. Will it be easy? No, it will not. But then if it was easy it would not be nearly as rewarding. The difficult things in our lives are worth working for and will produce the greatest results.

This means we are looking for good things to come from God who will work through us to make sure we are producing fruit that aligns with the gifts God has placed among us with the people God has brought to Bethany. In the gospel of Matthew Jesus is recorded to have said, *"By their fruit you will recognize them."* Matthew 7:16 We are in the process of recognizing the fruit trees in God's garden planted here at Bethany.

We have some great times coming as we serve together and I know you will be blessed as we grow together in love working through the plan God has for all of us together.

God bless you as we journey together!

Pastor Larry



*\*\*We want to serve you. Please let us know of any births, deaths or any illnesses, hospital admissions etc. by calling the church office.*