



The Bethel Beacon

Bethel United Methodist Church

September 2011



"Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice!"

(Philippians 4:4)

Peace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that this edition of the *Beacon* finds you in good health and good spirits. And I pray that whatever struggles you may be experiencing, that you would find comfort in God's eternal presence. Many of us have faced sorrow and trial in recent days. We mourn the passing of Estelle Rudd, grandmother of Diane Kasprowitz, and Bertha Eagle, Wally's wife. Please keep these families in your prayers.

Nature has also given us some challenges. We experienced the tremor of a mild earthquake on August 21st, and the more devastating impact of Hurricane Irene on August 27th – 28th. We can all thank our Lord that none of us (to my knowledge) experienced any great loss – some were without electricity, some had some minor flooding in their basements – and the city as a whole escaped any major damage. Nonetheless our prayers go out to our neighbors who lost so much during and after the storm.

On a more joyous note, we have had cause to celebrate over the past two months. Jason Keith Ciarlante Jr. was baptized on July 17th, Annika Noelle Harkin on July 24th, and Devon Ohara Rumolo on August 22nd. We also celebrated the admission of five adult members to our family; Dorothy and Larry Ambrosino, Lori Harkin, and Michael and Rose Rumolo. We pray that God would bind us together in holy love and continue to bless us as we worship and serve Christ together.

On July 22nd, Ken and Shannon Quick hosted the second annual TnT barbecue at their home in Annadale. Those in attendance also got to test their new pool! J.J. Ciarlante proved himself a natural swimmer. There was plenty of food and lots of good fellowship. We look forward to our third annual barbecue next summer!

Bethel held Vacation Bible School from August 8th – 12th. We were blessed with twenty-three great children who sang and danced and played and splashed and made snacks and built projects and (most importantly) learned about Jesus Christ. The staff had a great time as well. We had a visit from the NYC Fire Department to show the children the inside of a fire truck and to teach them about fire safety. The children put on a show for their families and friends on the final day. For pictures of all the fun, visit our website at www.bethelumcsi.com and click the "gallery" link.

I had the pleasure of seeing so many members dressed up for their family portraits which were taken on August 21st and 22nd. We are long past due for a new church directory, so I was glad that so many of you were able to oblige. If you weren't able to make the photo shoot, you can attend another session in the area. I will contact you with those venues as the information becomes available.

Spanish class began in earnest on August 29th as Jorge and Carlyne Vargas led a class of eight enthusiastic learners. We thank Jorge and Carlyne for this wonderful ministry and look forward to conversing (or at least *communicating*) with our Spanish-speaking neighbors as we progress in our studies.

Summer is practically over, and so many exciting events are on the horizon. Repair work on the front of the church begins on September 6th. Judo classes begin on September 13th. A women's book club is scheduled to start meeting at the end of the month. Charge conference is October 9th. Before you know it, the Cranberry Festival will be in full swing. Further down the road, we have a revival and a Track & Field day in the plans.

But what makes life at Bethel so special to me is worshiping with all of you! I look forward to celebrating with all of you on Sundays (and/or on Saturdays) each week, and pray that Bethel may continue to grow in Christ.

Joyfully yours,

Our Covenant:

To faithfully share our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, our witness.

Our Prayers

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” (Romans 12:12)

Prayer is an expression of our faith, faith in God’s steadfast love and in His ability to affect change. Please keep the following people in your prayers: The families of Estelle Rudd and Bertha Eagle, those who are suffering from hunger in eastern Africa, Ruth Knott, Paul Geidel, George Jensen, Ann Linkh, Mary Dyer, Gladys Dahlquist, Joyce and Janet, Jim Secola, Danny, Tracy, Barbara Curcio, the Sterner family, Donna Bergrin, Rudy Geiger, Leslie Alleyne, Hector Ortiz, Seth, John Schaeffer, the family of Evelyn Salerno, Diane Gerardi, James Cambareri, Paul Lol Norden, Valerie Espinoza, Naz Sael, Jerry, Lucas, Tracy, Hilj VanPelt, the family of Mary and James Regan, Cathy Kasza, the family of Woody Smith, Danielle, Nicole Jensen, Carole Passarini, Shirley Blauth, the Shiekas family, the Ward family, Frankie Filapazzo and family, Anula, Donald, Triveni, and Dinu Perera, Alex Yates, Richard, Jimmy Hills, Dorothy Dolan, Carol Josey, the family of Jessica Moore, Celia Perla, Mary Lake, Adrian, Elise Weiser, Peter Rocchio, Robert Helbig, Nancy Aaman, Pearl Ameduri, John Gelles, Bill Cameron, Mildred Ekstrand, Caroline Hockins, Marion Iatauro, Irene Olsen, Carol Plumb, Ann Reimenschneider, Isabel Taylor, Samila, Brittany, Al Gundersheimer, the people of Haiti, the people who are struggling for human rights across the world, those who are seeking employment, our service members, veterans, and their families.

Prayer is not just about asking God to do something; prayer is also about being *in God’s presence*. Maintaining a discipline of prayer allows Christ’s healing to work within you, his Word to teach you, his grace to restore you, and his love to embrace you. Put God on your schedule, and through prayer and meditation on scripture, hear what He has to share with you.

Our Presence

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14)

As Christians, we bring Christ’s presence to a world in great need. Every day brings countless opportunities to shine God’s light in the darkness. And God’s light is not selective; “He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good.” (Matthew 4:45). Whether it be welcoming visitors to our church or checking out at the supermarket, the people we meet need to know God’s infinite love.

Our Gifts

“...let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.” (Psalm 107:22)

Our monetary gifts are indeed sacrifices in the sense that we sacrifice what we could have bought for ourselves and give that money to God instead. Our love for God, like our love for our neighbor, can be measured by how much we are willing to sacrifice, just as we witness God’s love most completely in the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. Considering what God has given to us, what can we not afford to give Him?

Our Service

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these my brothers or sisters, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

It’s tempting to limit our love to Jesus and withhold it from others, but what does that tell us about our love? Is it really love at all? It’s certainly not *God’s* love. Jesus made it clear that we must love “the least of these” as we would love him. Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy kingdom come,” and each of us has a part to play in establishing God’s kingdom “on earth, as it is in heaven.” Let our service to our fellow human beings be motivated by our vision of God’s coming reign.


Our Witness

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

God has created us anew through Christ – our lives bear witness to this. The world has a need to know from whence salvation comes, and as Christians, we offer the world the answer. In concert with our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service, we direct the world to Christ himself as Lord and Savior. The Gospel message is pure, simple, and liberating. It must not be distorted. It need not be embellished with complicated logic. It is the best news that anyone can ever hear. But people who live in fear and despair may never know the Good News unless we share it with them. Freely you have received; freely give to others.

WORSHIP NEWS

What's Happening in September

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | 1 6 a.m. prayers | 2 6 a.m. prayers | 3 6 a.m. prayers Worship 5:30 p.m. Church Movie Night 7 p.m. Church |
| 4 6 a.m. prayers Worship 11 a.m. Sunday School planning meeting 1 p.m. | 5 LABOR DAY  6 a.m. prayers | 6 6 a.m. prayers Bible Study 7 p.m. Parsonage | 7 6 a.m. prayers Leadership Training 7 p.m. 87 Nashville St. | 8 6 a.m. prayers | 9 6 a.m. prayers | 10 6 a.m. prayers Worship 5:30 p.m. Church |
| 11 GRANDPARENT'S DAY 6 a.m. prayers Team Bethel 9:30 Worship 11 a.m. Ribbons of Hope brought to Battery Park After Social Hour | 12 6 a.m. prayers Spanish class 7:30 p.m. Church | 13 6 a.m. prayers Trustees Meeting 3:30 p.m. Church Bible Study 7 p.m. Parsonage | 14 6 a.m. prayers Council Meeting 7:30 p.m. Church | 15 6 a.m. prayers | 16 6 a.m. prayers Project Hospitality | 17 6 a.m. prayers Worship 5:30 p.m. Church |
| 18 6 a.m. prayers Team Bethel 9:30 Worship 11 a.m. Sunday School Begins! | 19 6 a.m. prayers Spanish class 7:30 p.m. Church | 20 6 a.m. prayers Bible Study 7 p.m. Parsonage | 21 6 a.m. prayers | 22 6 a.m. prayers | 23 6 a.m. prayers 1 st day of Autumn | 24 6 a.m. prayers Worship 5:30 p.m. Church |
| 5 6 a.m. prayers Team Bethel 9:30 Worship 11 a.m. | 26 6 a.m. prayers Spanish class 7:30 p.m. Church | 27 6 a.m. prayers Bible Study 7 p.m. Parsonage | 28 6 a.m. prayers | 29 6 a.m. prayers Rosh Hashanah | 30 6 a.m. prayers | |

Lectionary Readings

September 4th

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalms 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 11th

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 18th

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 25th

Exodus 17:1-74

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

A Summer of Answered Prayers

Over the past year, leaders at Bethel have been praying for the “younger” members of our church. We envision a bright future of family ministry that includes an active Sunday School and activities for young parents. Of course, planning such a ministry would be futile lest we have young families actively worshipping with the rest of our Bethel family. God is good! He has blessed us over the past year by inspiring three young couples and their children to join Bethel. Add to these numbers the young folk who are already active in church and we have a burgeoning ministry. Stay tuned for announcements on upcoming activities including softball game (previously rained out) and a Spring Revival, and a Track & Field Day (in May). And please bring any unused toys to Bethel as we re-create our nursery!

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP ON SATURDAY NIGHTS.

Bethel holds a worship service on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. We invite you to join us on Saturdays at 5:30 pm for worship featuring contemporary Christian praise songs, preaching, prayer, and fellowship.



BETHEL NEWS & INFO

| WHAT'S HAPPENING? | WHERE? | WHEN? |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Trustees Meeting | Bethel | September 13 th , 3:30 p.m. |
| Church Council Meeting | Bethel | September 14 th , 7:30 p.m. |
| Project Hospitality Meal | Prepared at Bethel Served at Project Hospitality | September 16 th 4:00 p.m. |
| Charge Conference | Bethel | October 9 th , 12:45 p.m. |
| Cranberry Festival | Bethel | November 4 th (4 p.m. – 9 p.m.) November 5 th (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) |

Would you like to help with our Social Hour?

It's easy because we'll help you! Just sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board (in the entranceway), and let us know what you can bring (the pastor loves sweets!). We'll brew the coffee and bring in whatever else is needed!

HELP THE HUNGRY

Bethel Church collects non-perishable food items for the South Shore Food Pantry. Our collection basket is just inside the front door of the church. There is a growing need among families on the south shore. Please help others by bringing in your food items.

Toys Wanted!

We are collecting toys to stock our nursery. If you have any to donate, please bring them by the church, or we can arrange to pick them up from you. Please call (718) 984-1354!



Join us as we join others in hope



On September 11th, we will be going to Battery Park after Social Hour in order that we may join many others in commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9-11. Ribbons of Hope will be available on beginning on September 4th on which you may inscribe a message of hope and healing for New York City and the world. We will share our messages and prayers with people of all faiths as we add our ribbons to the Tapestry of Hope which remain on permanent display. To learn more about the Ribbons of Hope project, visit <http://prepareny.ning.com/ribbons>.



TEAM BETHEL WANTS YOU!



Do you like to sing?
Do you play a musical instrument?
Do you enjoy praising God?
Join **Team Bethel!**

Practices are 3 Sundays each month
from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

For more information, contact
Karen Jensen at (718) 967-9127

Judo & Aikido

For Youth, Teens, & Adults

with
Blackbelt Instructors:
Claire and Dave Dogery

Tuesdays 7-8 p.m.

Classes begin
September 13th

Only \$7 per lesson!

First lesson is free
for teens and youth!



For more info,
call Claire at (718) 984-3488
or Bethel Church at (718) 984-1277

HAPPENING AROUND BETHEL

| WHAT'S HAPPENING? | WHERE? | WHEN? |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| AARP Chapter Meeting | St. Paul's UMC | September 6 th 1:00 p.m. |
| Saint Mark's Rummage Sale | St. Mark's UMC, 6144 Amboy Rd. | September 30 th & October 1 st , 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. |
| S.I. Council of Churches Fall Assembly Dinner | Castleton Hill Moravian Church | October 6 th 6:30 p.m. |
| Harvest Festival | St. Paul's UMC | October 22 nd 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. |
| WUMC 240 th Anniversary Celebration | Woodrow UMC | November 12 th |

BETHEL'S MOST WANTED LIST

NO, WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT CRIMINALS; WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE **CRANBERRY FESTIVAL!** WE'RE MOVING INTO HIGH GEAR IN OUR PREPARATIONS, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP! INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER IS OUR MOST WANTED LIST, ITEMS WE NEED FOR THE FESTIVAL. DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED, BUT WE CAN REIMBURSE YOU FOR THE COST. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ARLENE SCHWEIKERT AT (718) 948-1350. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTER IS A **JOURNAL AD FORM.** PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE CHURCH BY PURCHASING AN AD OR MEMORIAL LISTING AND SENDING YOUR CHECK WITH THE FORM TO US AT 7033 AMBOY ROAD, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10307. YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED!

Spend Some Time in God's Word Daily

Visit

<http://www.upperroom.org/devotional>

Or just visit our website at

www.bethelumcsi.com

and click the link on the home page.

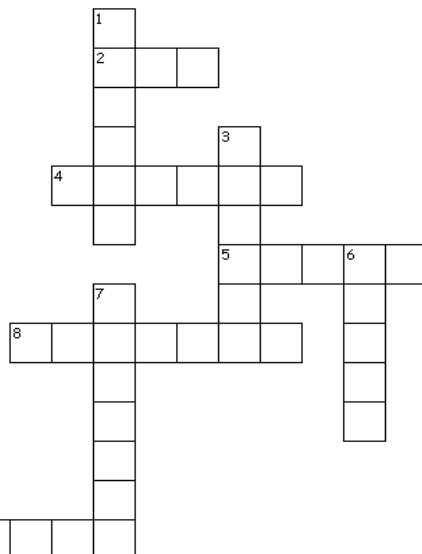
FREE DENTAL CARE ANYONE?

Dayna Kasprowitz is a member of Bethel UMZC and a dental hygiene student in her final semester at The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). As part of her requirements she needs to see multiple patients and will provide the following services for FREE under the supervision of dentists and faculty members: Dental x-rays, oral cancer exam, thorough cleaning, polishing and fluoride treatment.

Patients of any age are welcome. The following time slots are available: Tuesday morning from 10am-12:30 and Wednesday night 6pm-8:30 at the Scotch Plains Campus (Exit 135 on Garden State Parkway) and Thursday morning 10am-12:30 at the Newark Campus (Exit 143 on the parkway). Dayna is able to drive patients to and from the appointment. Due to the fact that it is a learning experience it may take 2-3 appointments per patient. If you have any questions or are interested please contact Dayna at 718-564-0823.

Exodus

The book of Exodus tells the exciting story of how God rescues the Hebrew people from slavery by calling his servant Moses. The first three chapters of Exodus describe Moses birth, his early life, and God's thrilling revelation to Moses. Read chapters 1-3 and see if you can complete the crossword puzzle. Then praise God and thank him for the way he has delivered you from slavery to sin and death through his son Jesus Christ!



Across

2. The name of God as it was given to Moses.
4. Where Moses' mother placed him to keep him afloat.
5. The mountain of God where Moses saw the burning bush.
8. Another word for "king."
9. Shiphrah's and Puah's occupation.

Down

1. The land to which Moses fled after killing a slave driver.
3. Moses' father-in-law.
6. The nation in which Moses was born.
7. Moses removed these before approaching the burning bush.

Bethel United Methodist Church
7033 Amboy Road
Tottenville, Staten Island, NY 10307
Pastor Matt Schaeffer

Bethel United Methodist Church

**7033 Amboy Road
Tottenville, NY 10307**

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Parsonage: (718) 984-1354
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Sunday Schedule

11:00 A.M.: Worship
11:15 A.M.: Sunday School (after Children's Sermon)
12:15 pm Social Hour

Saturday Worship: 5:30 P.M.

Tuesday Bible Study: 7:00 P.M. (at the parsonage)

Prayer Service: 6:00 – 7:00 A.M. daily

Family Movie Night: the first Saturday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Church office hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays by appointment