

# Milton's Good News

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## November – "At a Glance"

November a time for remembering those who went with the Lord (All Saints Day); a time for honoring our Veterans; Hanging of the Greens, which began with a fellowship meal and then the decorating of the church to prepare for this Advent/Christmas Season; Feed-A-Friend of a time of giving of food to help feed the hungry; Thanksgiving Service for a time for giving thanks to God and family for the blessings we do have.

"Be joyful in **hope**, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12(NIV)

- Cheri Buss

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from your Staff...

Pastor Bill McNeal  
Janet McNeal  
Roderic Moore  
Cheri Buss



Megan Snyder  
Amy Snyder  
Shelly Sholley  
Karen Heimbach  
Jack Stockdale

## Cookie/Candy Sale

Bethany UMC will have a Cookie/Candy Sale on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – Noon. Proceeds will benefit Vacation Bible School Program. Also some Christmas decorations, as well, for sale. These make great Christmas gifts for your loved ones.

Please sign up to make some cookies/candy and to help volunteer for set-up & the day of the sale. We thank you in advance!



## Be an Angel to Someone for Christmas: Angel Tree



This Christmas season we will have an Angel Tree, names of those who we need to bring a little Christmas cheer and a special touch to our members that are home bound.

Pick a tag and bring gifts into the office by the December 17<sup>th</sup>.



## From Pastor Bill's Study

Greetings to all,

During our Bible study time, one of the questions raised is "Are you having fun yet". In preparation for the month of December, I at times can be overwhelmed by all that needs to be done. Both in the church and at home.

Advent season brings on more demands from the church with preparation for the season and all that is taking place. Preparation of decorations for the sanctuaries and the sermon series that will take place. The home life takes a hit with the busyness of the church.

At home, the decoration and shopping that needs to take place and all of this happens in the middle of hunting season and my being away from home.

All in all, if you let it get to you Christmas is a very stressful time. For many, this will be the first Christmas without a loved one and the loneliness can be a time of grief and not of great joy.

This year I am going to be doing a sermon series on the book "*The Journey*". This book looks at the people involved in the story of Christ's birth. I can only imagine the stress that the census caused and the travel that Mary and Joseph went through.

All of the pain and uncertainty of all that was happening to them would at times be more than they could endure but they had joy. The new birth and all that had been foretold was about to come true.

As Christians, we should also not let the everyday weight us down to the point that we lose our hope and joy as well. The birth of the baby Jesus has provided the catalyst for our lives to be transformed into one of enjoyment and fun.

I pray that as we go thru this Advent (Christmas) season we will remember the joy that was announced to the shepherds when the angels spoke to them and aid I bring to you news of great joy, for today a savior has been born! That news is just as relevant today and even more so with the life that Jesus lived and gave as a payment for our sins.

Enjoy the new birth of Christ as we wait for his return and our joy to be complete. Have fun proclaiming the good news of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection. In other words, have fun as we spread the evangelical message that a savior has been born and now lives within us so we can share with others.

Enjoy life, share Christ, have fun!

Luke 2: 10

Know hope, know joy, know fun,

*Pastor Bill*

## Special Thank You.....

A big thank you to Janet McNeal for the beautiful Visual Worship displays and banners she's done the past few months in both of our sanctuaries. What a beautiful new ministry this is for Bethany to behold!

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## Worship Team “Gathering of the Family of God” Report

The following is the work of the Worship Team which met on Tuesday, November 7th. Here are December's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. To reach out to the unchurched the Traditional Worship Service will now be referred to as: Gathering of the Family of God.

Sunday School will now be referred to as: Lessons for Life.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent** – Have Thine Own Way, Lord (382); Fairest Lord Jesus (189); Change My Heart, O God (2152); Psalm 80:1-7 (801); Luke 1:26-38; “Mary”; **Communion**

**December 10<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent** – O God, Our Help in Ages Past (117); There's a Song in the Air (249); Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (196); Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (224); Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (806); Matthew 1:18-24; “Joseph”

**December 17<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent** – O Come, All Ye Faithful (234); Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (240); Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (160); Angels We have Heard on High (238); Psalm 126 (847); Luke 2:1-7; “Homeward”

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (10:30 am)** – Away in a Manger (217); It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (218); What Child Is This (219); Silent Night (239); Psalm 8 (743); Luke 2:8-20; “The Manger”

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – Candlelight Christmas Eve (7:00 pm)** – Christmas songs; Luke 2:1-20; “*Inn Keeper*”; **Communion**

**December 31<sup>st</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day** – Let All Things Now Living (2008); Joy to the World (246); I'll Fly Away (2282); Go, Tell It on the Mountain (251); Psalm 148 (861); Jeremiah 1:4-10, Jeremiah 29:11-13; “New Year”

## Worship Team “Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song” Report

The following is the work of the Worship Team which met on Tuesday, November 7th. Here are December's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles. To reach out to the unchurched the Contemporary Worship Service will now be referred to as: Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent** – Mary Did You Know; Just A Girl; When Love Was Born; How Deep a Father's Love; Luke 1:26-38; “Mary”; **Communion**

**December 10<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent** – Joseph's Lullaby; A Strange Way to Save the World; Joseph's Song; Holy Spirit; Matthew 1:18-24; “Joseph”

**December 17<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent** – Go Tell It on the Mountain; Beautiful Star; Christ Is Come; Oh What a Glorious Night; Luke 2:1-7; “Homeward”

**December 31<sup>st</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day** – Reason To Sing; Everything I Need; I Will Rise; All the People; Jeremiah 1:4-10, Jeremiah 29:11-13; “New Year”

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm** – Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at Bethany UMC (Communion will be offered)

Bethany UMC wants to invite you all to celebrate our Savior, Jesus Christ! Bring your family & friends.

(**Note:** There will not be a Worship in Praise Service on Dec 24th, instead we will have a candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm in the main sanctuary.)



## "Sharing the Table"



"Sharing the Table" 2017 Schedule (Sponsored by Mission/Outreach Ministries)

**"Sharing the Table"** is a way you can help those in need every month by bringing in canned goods and non-perishable food items for the local food bank.

The first Sunday of the every month during Communion Service we will be collecting food.

Next Food Collection Communion Dates: December 3<sup>rd</sup> / (2018) January 7<sup>th</sup>

## Missions/Outreach Committee...

### Milton Panther Packs Program (Mission: Monthly)

Bethany UMC will be in charge of providing 120 Fruit Cups, which equals ten donations of a 12 pack of fruit cup for each month. Please bring in your (12 pack) of Fruit Cup and place in the box located in the back of the sanctuary.

### Milton Community Dinner (Christ Evan Lutheran)

There will be a Community Dinner on a **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm**. Bethany UMC will be in charge of donating cranberry sauce & applesauce for this meal and help with setup at 3:00 pm. Sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary. Location: Christ Evan Lutheran Church. Community Dinners to feed low income people in need.

**Planning Meeting for the Community Dinners** will be held on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Christ Evan Lutheran Church on Mahoning St, Milton PA.

## Secret Prayer Pal

If you would like to be someone's secret prayer pal throughout the year of 2018; (to pray for them, send them encouraging notes & birthday cards in secret) here is how you can get involved.



End of December 2017, your Secret Prayer Pal will be revealed and for those who would like to take part in this next year for 2018, there will be a slip of paper in the back of the sanctuary to participate in, simply fill it out and place in basket. Watch for more information in the bulletin.

## Advent Offering Envelope

Dear Bethany Family,

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. This year Advent starts on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. This is a time for preparation, anticipation and hope. We find ourselves in preparation for the Christmas season with all of its traditions and meanings. We anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. And we look with hope for the second coming of Christ.

In preparation for the Christmas season, many of us try to find the perfect gift in order to give to someone. This giving of gifts has become part of the season's tradition, much like the wise men bringing gifts for the Christ child. The joy of giving brings feelings of peace and comfort. Your Finance Committee would like you to prayerfully consider giving a gift to your Church. Your Advent offering can help ease our current expense needs and routine costs. Please use the enclosed Advent envelope to bring your gift to your church on, or before, Christmas Sunday, or mail it to Bethany United Methodist Church, Attn: Shelly Sholley, 18 Center Street, Milton, PA 17847.

We thank you in advance for your continued financial support.

May Hope, Joy and Peace be with you and your loved ones during this beautiful time of year. And may we continue to pray for God's love to warm the hearts and lives of all humankind.

Sincerely,  
Your Finance Committee

## Ad Board Report

The Pastor has suggested a new mission / vision statement for Bethany, which would become effective at the start of 2018. From a choice of two similar versions, the Board voted to approve the following – “Renewing the church to change the world.”

The slow but steady decline in the number of Bethany members available to conduct the official work of the church is leading the Board to reconsider an alternative minimum structure that would streamline governance. A class is soon to be offered on how that system works. And it must be noted that recent rulings have made it mandatory that church leadership attend such a class before it can switch to such a method of operations.

The Pastor is involved in the Wesley Covenant Association, which is a nation-wide group of Methodist pastors who are trying to focus on future direction with special regard to both the primacy of the Bible and the rules and regulations of the Book of Discipline. It's intended to provide churches with options in the wake of the decisions to come from General Conference in the next few years with regard to sexual orientation vis-à-vis individual church standings on such matters. Our choices will turn on what church we want to be in the future in terms of our stances on gay marriage, LGBTQ membership / leadership, and the like. The Board is asked to consider whether it wants more information on this initiative.

Rod Moore

## Lay Leader's Report

I conducted the full Sunday morning Traditional service on November 12, as Pastor Bill took some vacation, and I led that evening's Contemporary service when Dave Gehrum of Watsontown UMC gave the Scripture and sermon. And on November 19 we had another fine presentation by the Gideon Society.

Bethany's response to the HandUp Foundation's Feed-A-Friend efforts for Thanksgiving was excellent, and on November 20 the Foundation gratefully received our special collection of non-perishable holiday food items and our donations toward turkey purchases for needful families in this area.

Our Coat Giveaway continued well past its October dates as several people were provided warm clothing through sign-ups for specific items. Thanks to Shelly for her astute and thoughtful leadership of that mission.

101717-112017

Rod Moore

## Trustees' Report.....

Since the last newsletter, the new kitchen in the church has been inspected and approved by the Department of Agriculture and the heating systems in the church, Parish House, and the parsonage have been cleaned, inspected and tested to make sure they were operating well before the winter heating season.

After receiving and reviewing four proposals for draperies and/or blinds for the Parish House, the Trustees approved the proposal from The Barn Fabric Center in Williamsport. The chosen proposal was for drapes and sheers for all windows with simple tiebacks to keep them open when desired. Due to the seamstress' other commitments, the new drapes probably won't be installed until after the holidays.

As the McNeals settled into the parsonage, they made note of some changes to the electrical system, which they felt would make the house more comfortable and safe for them. Among the requests was additional exterior lighting and some changes to the lighting in the basement. At a recent meeting, the Trustees approved a proposal from T-Ross Brothers to complete the work. Hopefully the project will be completed before the holidays.

Submitted by Jamie Aurand

**Note:** No regular scheduled Trustees meeting for December, if needed will schedule one.

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## Bethany UMC Current Expense (Oct): 2017

### ENVELOPE INCOME TO DATE---2017

		Current Exp	Benev	Reno	Total Weekly Amount	YTD
	8	\$840.00	\$10.00		\$850.00	\$30,177.00
	15	\$810.00	\$10.00		\$820.00	\$30,997.00
	22	\$741.00	\$10.00		\$751.00	\$31,748.00

### PLATE INCOME TO DATE---2017

		Current Exp	Benev	Reno	Total Weekly Amount	YTD
	8	\$93.00				\$3,889.57
	15	\$61.00				\$3,950.57
	22	\$56.00				\$4,006.57

### Sunday School Income To Date---2017

		Current Exp	Benev	Reno	Total Weekly Amount	YTD
October	1	\$10.00			\$10.00	\$328.95
	8	\$10.00			\$10.00	\$337.95
	15	\$13.00			\$13.00	\$350.95
	22	\$11.00			\$11.00	\$361.95
	29	\$10.00			\$10.00	\$371.95

### Bethany UMC Miscellaneous Contributions 2017

<b>IRS Fee Refund</b>
10/15/17---\$452.03
<b>Safe Sanctuaries Training Reimbursement</b>
10/22/17---\$15.00
<b>Our Daily Bread Contributions</b>
10/29/17---\$19.00

### Butler Trust Contributions 2017

January 8, 2017---\$2,625.00
April 9, 2017-- --\$2,625.00
July 9, 2017-----\$2,625.00
October 8, 2017---\$2,625.00
Total=\$10,500.00

## 2018 Changes....

### Altar Stewards

Starting in 2018 the Altar Stewards will take on the responsibilities & duties of the Communion Steward, due to the small amount of people. The Altar Steward would prepare for communion; bread & juice on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday's of each month.

### N.O.W. (Nurture, Outreach & Witness)

Starting in 2018 the Congregational Life, Christian Ed and Missions/Outreach will be all under a N.O.W. Committee (Nurture, Outreach & Witness). This committee will meet quarterly throughout the year.



## Fun Page



## Joy to the World



ADVENT  
ANGEL  
BETHLEHEM  
BIRTH  
BLESSINGS  
CAMELS  
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MAGI  
MANGER  
MARY  
MIRACLE

MYRRH  
NATIVITY  
REJOICE  
STABLE  
STAR  
THREE KINGS  
WISE MEN




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 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettias are \$6.50 each

Please give your order with money to Shelly Sholley

Deadline for ordering: **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**BETHANY UMC**

107 S. Front St.  
Milton, PA 17847  
(570) 742-9796

[miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com)

**Website:**

[bethanyumc-miltonpa.org](http://bethanyumc-miltonpa.org)

**Sunday Worship:**

Lessons for Life: 9:00 am  
Gathering of the Family of God: 10:30 am  
Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song: 6:00 pm

**PASTOR BILL**

670 Stamm Rd  
Milton, PA 17847  
717-968-3500 (Cell)  
570-246-5830 (Home)  
[pastorbill@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbill@gmail.com)

**Our Daily Bread – Now Available**

December, January, February  
(2017-2018)

**Announcements:**

**Dates to Remember:**

[Note: No regular Trustees Meeting for this month of December]

[Note: No Finance and Ad Board Meeting for this month of December]

Nov 26<sup>th</sup> – 11:45 am – Hanging of the Greens & Fellowship Pot Luck Meal

Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – Noon – Riverwoods Auxiliary Luncheon @ Riverwoods

Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – Community Meal Planning Meeting @ Christ Lutheran

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – 5:30 pm – Ross/Fetterolf Wedding Rehearsal

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2:30 pm – Ross/Fetterolf Wedding

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10:30 am – Gathering of the Family of God / “Sharing the Table” Communion

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Communion

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:00 pm –Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song / Communion

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm –Worship Teams Meeting @ Bethany

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am – Noon – Cookie/Candy Sale

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Evan. Lutheran

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Christian Ed Committee

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – PSPRC

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (Communion)

*Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday @ Rockwell.*

*Lessons for Life: 9:00 am every Sunday morning.*

*Gathering of the Family of God: 10:30 am every Sunday morning.*

*Worship in Praise, Prayer & Song: 6:00 pm every Sunday evening.*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!!*



BETHANY UMC OFFICE  
18 CENTER ST  
MILTON, PA 17847

Dec.  
2017