



Bethel Messenger

News of Bethel United Methodist Church, Lower Burrell, PA (724) 339-2420

Endowment Fund provides money for parsonage renovation

What a blessing our Endowment Fund has been this summer as we have utilized \$16,000 of growth and interest to pay for Capital Improvements at the parsonage. This is the first time we have utilized the Endowment which was founded in 2001 following an anonymous gift of Alcoa stock. We have had several small gifts to the fund since then as well as a substantial boost from the Mort and Marcella Gray Estate.

The timing was sweet for this first disbursement as we had need to update the parsonage and stock prices were at all-time highs following many years of minimal growth.

Webster defines Endowment as “the act or process of furnishing with an income.” If the church is to remain on the frontier, it must plan for future as well as present mission and ministry; but unless these plans include ways of funding this mission and ministry, they may be only empty dreams. The concept of endowment funding says to the church and to the community that the church is here to stay...that it is both planning and funding for the future.

One thoughtful church member reasoned, “Those persons who preceded me in this church left a rich heritage. What will I leave as a heritage for future generations?” Is it possible that a part of that answer might be found in a carefully thought-out and designed funding plan that will address the future as well as present needs and opportunities of the church?

Endowment funds are a good way for our church to say:

- We believe in the future of this church.
- We want to be guided in our stewardship by the belief that all we have is a trust from God.
- We want to build a sense of permanence in what we do.
- We want to be good stewards as a “church family” even as we expect each member to be a good steward.

We want to “go the extra mile” in providing services and programs that formerly (due to budget constraints) were only dreams.

- We want to create a heritage that future generations can celebrate as joyfully as we celebrate our rich heritage today.

Endowments have provided a major source of funding for many institutions in our society for years, helping to ensure present and future financial stability. Our Endowment Fund was established to provide money for Capital Improvements and Scholarship for full-time Christian ministry.

Have you considered leaving money to the church in your will? Of course, you can leave your entire estate, but you can also designate a dollar figure or leave a percentage. This is an opportunity to tithe your net worth, still

leaving plenty to your heirs.

If you have questions or would like more information about funding ministry into the future, contact the office. We can put you in touch with experts from the United Methodist Foundation who can answer your questions and provide personal, confidential guidance.

Endowment Fund



Return to fall schedule September 7

On September 7, Bethel returns to our fall schedule with Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 and worship at 11:00 a.m. The choir will be back after their summer hiatus and our big screen provides enhancements to the service in ever increasing ways.

Our Sunday School program continues to improve each year thanks to volunteers who are infusing weekly lessons with creative events.

September 7 – First day of Sunday School!! As always, everyone and anyone is welcome to attend classes for all ages. The teachers are very excited to be reunited with the children and to kick off an exciting year of Sunday school! And to make it even better – Brad McAninch and the Methodist Men’s group will be hosting a FREE pancake and sausage breakfast in Friendship hall starting at 9:30!!

September 14th – The Sunday school children will be tracing their hands. In the following week, you will see these hands hanging all over the church. Please take one home and pray for that child throughout the year! Put your hand on the frig, use it for a bookmark, or place it anywhere that will remind you to pray.

October 19th – Harvest Party – it’s the first party of the year!! All children are welcome!! Please join us for games, pumpkin decorating, snacks and more. Help is needed to coordinate and plan the parties.



Please see Janette Sterlitz if you are willing to help.

Church Nursery News

Wow, it is hard to believe it's going to be September. Where did the summer go?

Sunday school is going to start back up and I need your help . I need help with Sunday school and church service.

Please sign up. The schedule is on the bulletin board or contact me (724.882.1638 or Email me at kathygaydosik@gmail.com) There are a lot of dates available. Your service is greatly appreciated!

Blessings to all
Kathy Gaydosik
Nursery coordinator

Memorial established for Loretta

Next to her relationship with God, nothing was more important to our beloved Loretta Taylor than the love of learning, whether it be with her Spanish students, her children and other family members or with her Sunday School class.

To honor Loretta’s passion for Christ and leading her students to deeper faith, Pastor Paul has created the “Loretta E. Taylor Sunday School Memorial Funfund” for children and youth Sunday School Activities.

The purpose of the fund is to fund "fun" activities and celebrations of the children/youth Sunday School September through May, such as

the September start-up (excluding the costs of the usual breakfast), October Harvest Party, November Bible Sunday celebration, Christmas party, Bible Bowl competition refreshments, nursing home Valentine's Day cards and celebration/party, Resurrection Egg Hunt, Youth Volunteer Day registration/participation fee, Scavenger Hunt, and end of year celebration.

The fund has been privately funded by Pastor Paul with the intention of replenishing the money used each year. Any fund-raising activities, such as the Pumpkin Roll sale will be added to the fund, but Pastor Paul has requested that any other memorial donations be deposited in the general church Memorial Fund for use at the discretion of the Memorial Committee.

During her years at Bethel, Loretta made a huge impact on children and adults alike as she not only taught and shared her faith, but lived it through a very public health decline. Through this fund, her legacy lives on at Bethel for many years to come.

Memorial/ Honor Gifts received

In Memory of Loretta Taylor

Esther Circle
Carol, Anna and Adam Hines
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Perry and Lynda Davis

In memory of Erin Jedlowski

Jocelyn and Rob Sanders (directed to Erin’s Campership Fund)

In Memory of John Vlasic

Esther Circle
The Reimer Family
Gene and Garnet Howard
Mary Vlasic

Bethel's Blessings

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">♥ The impact of VBS on our kids. "It made my heart feel so good when Mackenzie came home from VBS telling me all of her Bible points each day. Makes me so proud to be part of Bethel!" says Norma Golembiesky.♥ Everyone who transported Mackenzie back and forth from VBS and for the continued cards, calls and prayers. Our beautiful Norma admits that it is hard being wheel-chair bound somedays, but the kindnesses remind her that God is good... all the time!♥ The UM ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) came to town in July and reached out to two of our parishioners who had submitted applications. The recipients couldn't have been more pleased with the help and enjoyed the youth and chaperones who came to the house.♥ Everyone who helped to move furniture in preparation for stripping and waxing of the floors. It's a mammoth undertaking each year, but the effort is worthwhile as the shiny floors make the building | <ul style="list-style-type: none">look bright and clean.♥ All of our special music this summer! Each week we enjoyed a new talent – soloists, ensembles and instrumentalists. Our worship was made more sacred through those who shared their gifts and talents.♥ Claudia Montgomery for pulling together a funeral dinner this summer and everyone who pitched in to make it happen when some of our "regulars" were unavailable. This beautiful ministry is always a last minute event by its nature. If you are sometimes available during the day and willing to help set-up, serve or clean up after a funeral dinner, please let the office know so that you can be put on the list to call.♥ Katy Wrona for sharing her call to missionary work after returning from training in the Philippines and before heading to Alabama for a two year stint in the United Methodist's Young Adult Missionary Program. We look forward to following her adventures in service as she lives out her service in Alabama. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">♥ Everyone who volunteered in the church nursery over the summer!♥ Erin Pattison, Jessica Brunner, Patty Boyer and Kim Vivirito for serving in the nursery when Kathy was on vacation. "I really appreciate your help," she says.♥ Each individual who took advantage of the opportunity to "Chat with the Pastor" this summer. It was a neat way for Pastor Nancy to get to know you, and for you to get to know her.♥ Lay Speaker Karen King for filling the pulpit during Pastor Nancy's vacation.♥ The birth of Charlotte Anna George, first child of Jackie and Nate George on July 17, 2014. Charlotte is also welcomed by grandparents, Dee and John George and Pia and George Trew.♥ The arrival of Cameron Allan Montgomery, born August 11, 2014 to Lance Montgomery and Sara Peza. Cameron is also welcomed by, siblings, Ashton and Payton and grandparents, Claudia and Alan Montgomery. |
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We're collecting items for School Kits for Missions

The Mission Committee is asking the congregation and Sunday school classes to help fill school kits for the Mission barn. We hope to fill 20 bags.

Each bag must contain these items exactly. Please do not get creative or add additional or bigger items.

- 1 pair blunt scissors--round tip only, no plastic
- 3 pads of paper--spiral or top bound pads, 150 sheets or less
- 1 30- centimeter ruler--cartoon characters are acceptable, no advertisements
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener

- 6 unsharpened pencils--cartoon characters are acceptable, no advertisements
- 2 inch or larger eraser
- 1 box of 24 crayons

Items will be collected until the end of September. There is a box under the mailbox for collection.

Sewers are asked to make the simple cloth bookbags that the items are distributed in. Find the pattern by googling UMCOR school bag pattern or stop in the office for a copy.

Don't Shute the Messenger!



Thoughts from Pastor Nancy

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under
heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Life is full of seasons. Just like the rhythms of God's amazing creation the seasons of our human lives move along with an ebb and flow of comings and goings. So it has been in our lives.

It has been seven weeks since Richard and I moved into the parsonage. For the most part we have unpacked the boxes. There are a few boxes remaining. They are filled with things that do not fit into the new space in the same way they did in the last parsonage. These boxes full of things confound me. They require me to view the items within in ways that are different.

For example: the challenge of the kitchen clock.

The bulkhead above the sink in the new kitchen is not tall enough for the clock to fit. Ever since I was a little girl the bulkhead over the kitchen sink was the place for the kitchen clock. Now that has changed. While I realize that this is not a monumental dilemma, in fact, it is not a problem at all. In the grand scheme of life on this

crazy blue marble we call Earth it is rather insignificant. However, I still have to make a decision about what to do about a kitchen clock and more immediately, what do I do with the clock that is calling for my attention from the pile atop the dining room table. Specifically, do I repurpose it or get rid of it? Change is hard...

It is like that with all kinds of things in life. Seasons, people, and things come into and move out of our lives. Life, especially a life of faith, is full of change...transformation. As Christ followers we are called to live a life of transformation in order to become more and more like Christ. The result is a repurposing of our lives. Faith inspired transformation calls us to view ourselves, our belongings,

our relationships, in new ways because of our relationship with Christ.

This fall we will begin a sermon series on Discipleship – the hows and whys of a life of continual spiritual renewal. I'm excited to see what God has in store for us in the

coming weeks and months. I hope you are too.

As for the clock? I think it will become an office clock...

As we journey together,
Pastor Nancy

**Witnessing our
faith and sharing
God's love**

as we live, learn, and grow
as Christians!



The youth will kick off another year of ministry together on Sunday, September 7 with a trip to the Merrick River Camp. The group will meet in the parking lot after church and head out for the afternoon. The camp is only about 20 minutes away in Leechburg. Information about what to bring will be sent via email. The group will enjoy an afternoon on the river and welcome the new 7th grade members to the group!

Youth 2015 takes place June 24-27, 2015 in Orlando, FL. All eligible youth learned about the trip at a meeting on August 21. The theme, "Go On" was presented as well as information about cost of the trip. Fundraising will begin now for this exciting trip! Watch for information in the bulletin on ways to help support the Youth 2015 fundraising efforts. This trip takes place every four years and has proven to be a true mountain-top experience for Bethel's youth. As you may recall, the *Let It Shine* blacklight ministry came about as a direct result of a previous conference. The youth look forward to sharing this experience with the congregation.

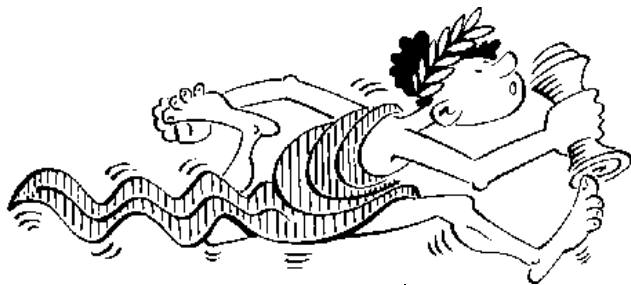
Important Youth Dates

Sunday, Sept. 7 – Youth Group
Kick-off 12 p.m. (Merrick
River Camp)

Sunday, Sept. 14 – Youth Group
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 21 – Youth Group
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 28 – Trip to
Gearhard Farms Corn Maze –
time TBD



On the Run (Tidbits and Reminders)

- Looks like several women are interested in attending the Quilters Weekend at Jumonville, October 24-26. Whether you've been quilting forever or just want to learn some beginner basics, the camp is based upon sewing, sharing and devotions. Cost is \$200 (includes some materials) with double occupancy. Scholarships may be available. If you are interested in more information, see Kim Jedlowski or Joan.
- We continue to sell Sunflower brand dishcloths in the office. These extra large, absorbent cloths are loved by many. They sell for \$1.50 each, and proceeds benefit youth ministries. There is a small, but loyal, following for these dishcloths. Stop by to see why!
- Orientations for Nursery School are held the week of August 25 and the first days of School are the week of September 2.
- Everyone is invited to the Free Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 7. The UMM will be serving between 9:30 and 10:15 a.m.
- Our annual Christmas party for mentally challenged adults will be on Thursday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. Be sure to get it on your calendar!
- The Fall Rummage Sale is scheduled for October 3-4. Start gathering your good, used winter clothing, books,

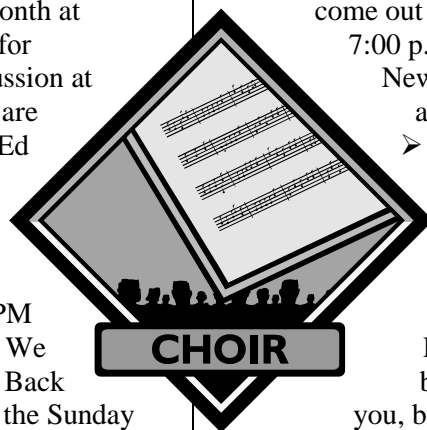


toys and small household items. Set up will take place all through the week, beginning Monday morning, September 29, so be sure to block off some time to come out and help. We especially need help with clean up on Saturday, October 4 so the Hall can look good for Sunday morning!

- The Bethel Book Club starts back up on Monday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. with Barbara Herrick's *The Blackberry Tea Club*. Copies will soon be available from the library, so if you are interested, let Joan or Paula know to put you in the rotation. New members are always welcome to join the group for discussion and dessert!
- Local men from various United Methodist Churches continue to meet on the 4th Sunday of every month at King's Restaurant for breakfast and discussion at 9:30 a.m. All guys are welcome. Contact Ed King for more information.
- Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday September 3, at 7 PM in Friendship Hall. We will be assembling Back to School Bags for the Sunday School classes and look forward to other fall plans. In October, Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday October 1, to set up for the Rummage Sale. We will work on the Sale at 6 PM and break at 7 PM for a short business meeting. All women of the church are always

welcome for fellowship and service!

- We continue to sell Sheetz Coupon books to benefit the Erin's Campership Fund. Each book sells for \$10 and contains free and buy one/get one items. This is a great "pick-me-up" for a new college student or anyone who likes the convenience and food at Sheetz. Stop in the office to support this wonderful cause.
- Thanks to our business and our persistent requests, the Pizza Hut buffet is returning on Wednesday's this fall! Our Bethel day is September 10. Pick up a coupon on the hall tables or ask the waitress for one. When you dine-in, take-out or order delivery, we get a percentage of your total purchase.
- Choir practice is back in session. If you love to sing, come out on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for practice. New members are always welcome!
- Joan and Paula will both be out of the office the week of September 8. Pastor Nancy will be here to serve you, but please hold any "normal business" until the following week.
- Pumpkins are coming soon! The youth's annual Pumpkin Patch will open sometime in early October. Watch emails and the bulletin for the unloading party!



Camping experience is transformational!

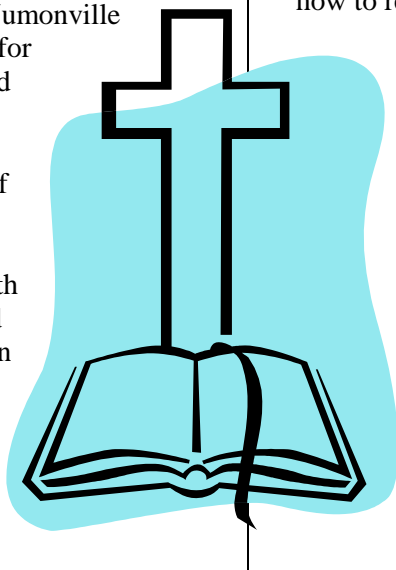
Nathan Daily is not your average camper, especially at Adventure Mini-Camp! Though young-at-heart, Nathan's parental status makes him quite a bit older than the 8-10 year old participants.

Nathan has completed his second year as a Volunteer Camp Counselor. He had so much fun last year that he couldn't wait to do it again. Actually, he's hoping to direct the camp next year, as the current leadership is changing.

What's it like to go to camp with your own kid? "From my perspective, the opportunity to share this experience with Gabriel is simply glorious. Not only is our relationship better, but our relationship with God is better. Sharing this time together helps us to openly share our faith with one another," Nathan says.

His favorite adventure is the King Swing. Campers have to pull the rip cord on the king swing to let go before they begin to fall backward from 40 feet high. "All the kids can do it and they truly have to put faith in God to bring them down from great height safely."

Spending time at Jumonville gives opportunity for young children and youth to openly express their faith without any fear of resistance or rejection. "During summer camp, faith is freely expressed all day, but early in the morning and late in the evening we always do a lesson which



encourages questions and conversation, not only with the counselors but also with one another. It's a comfortable environment to learn, express, and affirm their beliefs," says Nathan.

Spending time on the mountain has spurred Nathan's personal faith as well. "I did not specifically know what my place in the church community was until I started working at Jumonville. I've found my niche with youth and hope to continue that work into the future at camp and at Bethel. The more I can learn, the more I can grow in my own faith, the more I can assist in the kid's spiritual development," he says.

One of his favorite times of the day at Jumonville is the whole camp singing together after every meal. Talk about joyful noise! "This year's camping experience would not have been the same without Adam Hine's faith sharing. I also looked forward to Xander Vivirito's joyful greeting in the dining hall each day. It was fun to see Roman Vivirito making friends with lots of kids, too. I was not present when Riley Sterlitz broke her leg, but I know that the counselor response was professional and practiced," Nathan relates. Staff is trained in how to respond to an emergency.

Because of his love of the camping experience, Nathan has been hired as casual Adventure Staff at Jumonville. He is learning to oversee the ropes course and other adventures. Whether a volunteer or paid staff, Nathan appreciates the chance to give back to Jumonville's Campership Program. "If you need assistance

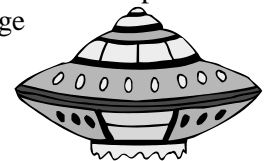
beyond our Erin's Camperships, apply to Jumonville directly. If you qualify, there is money available to help make camp affordable for all kids," he says. "Every child and youth should have a church camp adventure!"

"I love the Christian camping experience, and I can't wait to go again next year!" smiles Nathan.

Church Picnic was fun for all!

The weather couldn't have been more perfect for the 85 folks who attended the annual Church Picnic and the official welcome event for Pastor Nancy and Rich in the back parking lot.

As you pulled into church last Sunday, you couldn't help but notice the huge spaceship bounce house in the front yard of the parsonage. By all accounts, kids and parents, it was a HUGE hit!



Kris Nemet, who chaired the event, says "It's amazing how quickly an event can be put together with a lot of help."

Special thanks to:

- J3 for his ice and grill
- John and Linda Johnson for their tent and skill in setting it up
- Dan Alcorn for helping both Saturday and Sunday for set up and take down
- Melissa Shevlin for getting donations for some of the kids prizes
- Karen Dananay for decorations
- Everyone else who stayed and helped to clean up

Serving in September

Greeters

7 Mike and Penny Dombroski
14 Clair and Janet Snyder
21 John and Linda Johnson
28 Pat Reimer and Winnie Nale

Offering Counters

7 & 14 Alan Critchlow
Todd Tansimore
21 & 28 Alan Critchlow
Diane Moran

Liturgists

7 & 14 Deb Tansimore
21 & 28 Bill Salem

VBS taught kids love and acceptance

Director Diane Moran pulled together a great Vacation Bible School program with help from many folks.

This year's Weird Animals curriculum



focused on kindness, love and acceptance. Using stories such as the Woman at the well and Jesus heals the lepers, kids learned that no matter what, Jesus loves us always. In the same way, we are called to love and accept others.

Dr. Paws, the odd but loveable ornithologist of the daily skits, sent this update:

“Pookey (that weird animal cross between a tarantula and German Shepherd) found a new home in the San Fernando Zoo, close to the penguins.”

“There is also good news about the Stinkosaurus. I learned that he likes cold weather. The U.S. Coast Guard has agreed to drop the Stinkosaurus on a tiny island just

outside the Arctic Circle. She should find a plentiful supply of bush berries (her favorite!) I will be glad to get her out of my basement.”

Thank you, Dr. Paws!

New website to launch soon!

Our webmaster, Lindsay Kloepping, has been developing a new website for Bethel this summer. Working from her home in Virginia, she has created an updated, more secure and easier to use site to represent our church.

After a few more tweaks, the website will be launched at the same address, www.bethelumc.us, so current users will not have to change a thing!

Besides a clean, new look (the new Home Page is gray and blue), here are some of the highlights:

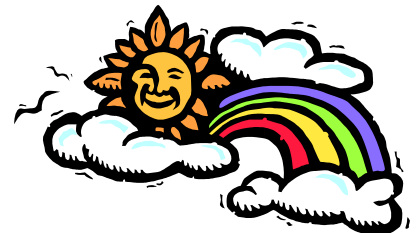
- Scrolling announcements of upcoming events at the top of the page.
- A Paypal button under “Want to Help?” This makes it easy for anyone who prefers to make donations with their credit card or Paypal account.
- Under the “Welcome” tab, the church calendar is available for viewing. By clicking on an event, any additional information will be available. Moving forward, the office will be more diligent with entering pertinent information about church events in the calendar program.
- In addition to the full calendar, the next 4 church events will show at the bottom of the Home Page. Again, clicking on an event

will show any additional information.

- The Prayer Site will be password protected to provide privacy when posting names and information. The password is simply “bethel150,” the church plus the numerical address. Once it is entered into your computer, you shouldn’t have to re-enter it every time you go to the site.
- Prayer request subscriptions have also been reactivated. (They have not been working for some time on the old site.) In the new format, once a day at 5:00 p.m., any requests will be sent to those who have subscribed. If there are no new requests, you will not receive an email.
- For all you who pray, there is a button on each request, “I prayed for you.” By clicking, you let the requester know that their concern was heard and lifted to God.

These are just the highlights of the new site. “It isn’t perfect, and it will continue to be a work in progress,” says Lindsay, “but I am excited to activate the site.”

The official launch will be advertised with an email blast. We believe you’ll enjoy poking around to see what’s new, and you might even learn a thing or two!



“Be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud.”

—Maya Angelou

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

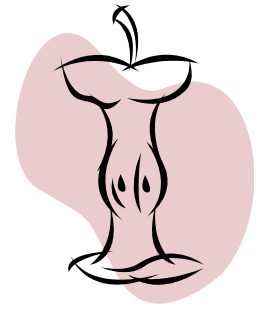
- 1 Elaine Johns
Matthew Pitsch
- 2 Michael Salem
Dylan Slahtovsky
- 4 Bryon Crawford
- 5 Natalie Schall
- 7 Pauline Critchlow
Elliott Litz
- 8 Walter Freehling
Elizabeth Gimbel
Linda Johnson
Matthew Pokusa
- 9 Pia Trew
- 11 Daniel Alcorn
- 12 Siena Crawford
Seth Johnson
Jena Mailki
- 13 Roger Milliron, Sr.
Gabiella Polaski
- 15 Bob Schall
Todd Tansimore
- 17 Lynne Paredes
- 18 Adrienne Bracken
- 19 Dave Sarniak
- 20 Landon Black
- 21 Michelle Maskas
- 22 Julie Drennan
- 23 Cruz Vivirito
- 24 Sean Burkett
Kali Hiles Fazzoni
- 26 Mitchell Hill
- 27 Jakob Schafer
- 28 Joshua Halkias
Bryan Jaskiewicz
Bill Jendrey
Jennifer Salem
- 29 Cooper Beck
Layla Beck
Tyler Merrick
- 30 Barry Berringer
Norma Golembiesky
Karen Hecker
Brenda Reifschneider
Riley Sterlitz



If your name does not appear, or if the listed information is incorrect, please contact the church office so that the records can be updated.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Gene & Garnet Howard (70)
- 10 Matthew & Betsy Pitsch (3)
- 12 Walt & Valjean Freehling
- 15 Bill & Mary Jendrey (41)
- 18 Fred & Tiffany Simmons (14)
String & June Stringfellow (60)
- 22 Irvin & Jean Hecker (52)
- 24 Robby & Kylee Black (9)
- 26 Todd & Debbie Tansimore (22)



AN ANCIENT STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Some Christians actively avoid church on Stewardship Sunday because giving is a private matter “between me and God.” New pastors are even sometimes advised never to preach about money, lest certain people get riled up. Yet Jesus talks frequently in the Gospels about giving and sharing our material goods — and he wasn’t the first in Scripture to do so.

A thousand years before Christ’s birth, King David prepared to hand over the kingdom to his son, gathering tons (literally!) of gold, silver and other materials for Solomon to use in building the temple. Revealing his take on stewardship, David prayed: “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand” (1 Chronicles 29:14, NIV).

A PRAYER FOR GRACE

Jesus, my Brother and Lord, I pray for the grace

to be truly poor before you,
to recognize and accept my weakness and humanness,
to forgo the indecent luxury of self-hatred,
to celebrate your mercy and trust in your power when I’m at my weakest,
to rely on your love no matter what I may do,
to seek no escapes from my innate poverty,
to accept loneliness when it comes instead of seeking substitutes,
to live peacefully without clarity or assurance,
to stop grandstanding and trying to get attention,
to do the truth quietly without display,
to let the dishonesties in my life fade away,
to belong no more to myself,
not to desert my post when I give the appearance of staying at it,
to cling to my humanity,
to accept the limitations and full responsibility of being a human being —
really human and really poor in Christ our Lord.

—Brennan Manning, Reflections for Ragamuffins