

Bethel Messenger

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



Bethel welcomes Pastor Nancy and husband Rich!

As of July 1, Bethel has a new pastor! Rev. Nancy Shute and her husband Rich have already moved into our newly renovated parsonage along with their four “fur babies” – 2 year old Bella (Rottweiler mix), 11 month old Jolene (dachshund) and 2 cats, Micah and Suki. “They’ve all been PP’s, Parsonage Pets, their entire lives,” Pastor Nancy laughs.

Rich is a Project Coordinator for Plastikoil of Pennsylvania located in Cranberry. The company binds commercial printing products. In their visit to the parsonage to meet with the Trustees, Rich has already gotten some good advice on the best ways and back roads to get to work!

Nancy and Rich have three children. Heidi Slack, the oldest of their three children, lives in Hummelstown, past Harrisburg. Grandchildren Grayson (age 16) and Violet (age 10) never get to visit often enough!

Middle daughter Leah Volpe lives in Brockway. Her son Desmond just graduated from high school as Valedictorian of his class and Grandma and Oompa couldn’t be prouder.

Blain, their youngest child, was killed along with his fiancé in a 4 wheeler accident on June 17, 2005. Nancy’s call to ordained ministry came the night of his death. She promises to share her powerful story of God’s love and grace sometime this summer.

Pastor Nancy is a second career pastor after raising a family and working in the field of Architectural Design. She comes to us from a two-point charge in New Castle, the Croton Avenue and Wesley UMCs.

In 2001, Nancy was assigned to Edeburn and Donahey UMCs in Cook’s Forest as a lay person in the seeking process. The following year she became a Local Licensed Pastor and was assigned to another two point charge in Warren. During her four years there, a shared ministry was formed between four churches.

After her call to ministry in 2005, Nancy went back to Slippery Rock to earn her Bachelor’s Degree in Professional Studies with a concentration in Management. Then started an exciting but grueling four years as she commuted weekly to Methesco Seminary in Delaware, OH, nearly four hours away. During this time she pastored the Connoquenessing UMC in the town of the same name. If that wasn’t enough pressure, she and Rich also moved during this time!

The journey to Ordained Elder was completed at Annual Conference this year as Nancy was Ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church.

Nancy and Rich have a camp in Brockway where they like to escape every once in a while. At home they enjoy sitting outside by the fire pit in the evenings to unwind. They are both learning to play golf and Nancy has a camera that has been put away for a while, and she is eager to learn photography basics and practice her skill now that she is done with school.

Nancy describes herself as very task oriented. “That means I may forget pleasantries as I seek information or action. You may have to forgive my focus sometimes!” she says. Pastor Nancy also warns that there are never any short answers to theological questions. “Welllll, that’s not just a simple yes or no,” she might say.. “Back when the nation of Israel was living in captivity...”

Pastor Nancy intends to challenge our faith and help us to grow spiritually. “I’m excited about coming to Bethel, getting to know all of you and beginning a new ministry here.” We welcome her to Bethel!



VBS begins July 14

God loves even you! That's the message of this year's Weir Animal Vacation Bible School curriculum. God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures...including each of us! When kids feel weird, different, or lost in a crowd—nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus.

Bible school is just around the corner. "We are still looking for some group leaders who walk the crews to each station, says Director Diane Moran. "The Untamed Games leader and helper are needed, as well. All supplies are ready so all you need is a willingness to have fun."

"If you cannot commit to all week, you can sign up for whatever day(s) you are available because we always need substitutes or extra hands. There is a skit on Tuesday that needs a "Woman at the Well" and on Friday we need a man to play Saul."

If you have young children and are willing to help, a nursery will be available for the workers. There will be an organizational meeting Thursday, July 10th at 6:30 P.M. at the church for anyone willing to help. If you've got kids who want to come, get registrations in as soon as possible so we can plan the week.

School kits for missions

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



With school supplies going on sale soon, we've included a list of things we need.

We hope to fill 20 bags.

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

- pair blunt scissors—round tip only, no plastic
- 3 pads of paper—spiral or top bound pads, 150 sheets or less
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 1 30 centimeter rule—cartoon characters are acceptable, no advertisements
- 6 unsharpened pencils—cartoon characters are acceptable, no advertisements
- 2 inch or larger eraser
- 1 box of 24 crayons

We'd loke to have them filled by the end of September. We will have a box under the mailbox for collection.

What a Party!

We Bethelites sure know how to celebrate, even when we are saying "Good-bye" to a pastor who has meant so much to all of us over the past six years. Friendship Hall quite literally was "bursting at the seams" as over 150 folk came to celebrate Pastor Paul's ministry and give him a "right proper sendoff" on Sunday, 22 June.

Pastor Paul was truly overwhelmed, with the spontaneous appearance of purple balloon hearts during the service; the beautifully-decorated Friendship Hall; the special memory book and slide show with



photos and remembrances; and, most of all, time together with so many friends for good food and fellowship.

At a time when we are all sad to see Pastor Paul leave, the celebration was light-hearted and provided just the right opportunity for so many to pass along to him best wishes for the Journey that lies ahead, and thanks for his time with us.

It was truly a day to remember!

Many thanks to the following people who helped to make Pastor Paul's Celebration of Ministry a success:

Drew and Peggy Homko
Brad and Miranda McAninch
Joan Negley
John George
Janet and Molly Greiner
Claudia Montgomery and Kris Nemet
Trish and John Grubb
Paula and Kelly McManus
Patty and Bret Boyer along with Patty's niece
The Sterlitz Family
Kim Vivirito
Sharlene and Gary Alcorn
William and Evan McGinnis
Matthew and Nathan Danish
Marlin Preus
Linda Johnson
Perry Davis
Bethel's choir
Kevin Weeter (custodian)

"If you helped in any way during the celebration or cleanup, please know that it was appreciated," says Dee George, Transition Team Coordinator.

The event was paid for through our Giant Eagle gift certificate program, so to all of you who do your shopping using Giant Eagle gift cards, thanks for helping us to earn the extra money for a special occasion!

Bethel's Blessings

- ♥ The beautiful prayer quilt, cards, calls and general support to the Golembiesky family as Norma's MS has progressed to make her wheelchair bound.
- ♥ Pauline and Alan Critchlow for always delivering coupons early in the day to Pizza Hut for our fundraisers. They never forget!
- ♥ Special thanks to everyone at the church and especially Erin Jedlowski and family for leading Brad McAninch to serve at Jumonville. He had another spiritually recharging week in June. He couldn't be happier with his place in life right now!
- ♥ All of our Bethel children, youth and adults who are going to camp this year. We can't wait to hear of their experiences!
- ♥ Juli, William and Evan McGinnis and Debbie Tansimore for patching holes, spot-painting and cleaning the pastor's study to make it inviting for Pastor Nancy.
- ♥ Joy Weeter, wife of our custodian, for running a key to the church in a pinch. Thanks, Joy, for the kind gesture!
- ♥ Trish Grubb for organizing the Graduate Recognition Brunch and everyone who supported it by bringing food.
- ♥ Karen King for filling the pulpit on Pentecost Sunday when Pastor Paul was at Annual Conference.
- ♥ Carol Parsons for hosting the annual Book Club picnic as the group finished off their year. The group will resume in September.
- ♥ All the beautiful prayer quilts that were blessed on June 15. These beautiful hand-made quilts are available by request to Kathy Schall. May each one be a comfort to someone who is struggling.

Camp is not just for kids!

Jumonville is offering 4 specialty camps this fall. If you are interested in more information, see the office for a copy of the brochure or go online at www.jumonville.org and search the name of the retreat. There is some interest here in the Quilt Camp, so let Joan know if you might be, too!

M & M – Meaningful Memories

September 14-17

A fun-filled time of fellowship, worship and learning, where friendships are renewed and friendships are formed. Rev. Dwayne Meyer, Pastor of Christ Community Church in McKees Rocks and Sheraden UMC will be the featured speaker.

Quilt at the Cross

October 24-26

Whether you've been quilting forever or just want to learn beginner basics... Join us for an autumn weekend of sewing, sharing and devotions as we "Quilt at the Cross."

Heart to Heart... a Mother/ Daughter Retreat

November 7-9

Ages 8-10 and 11-14

Do your girls seem to be growing up too fast? Enjoy some fun, challenges, and the chance to be refreshed spiritually, emotionally and physically as you spend special time with your daughter.

Rock Solid... a Time for Married Couples

November 14-15

You've already made your commitment to each other. Now make your commitment come alive with new understandings of each others strengths and differences.

Campground preaching open to public



Pittsburgh-Tarentum Campmeeting Association continues their 165 year tradition of Sunday evening Preachers in the Park.

Every Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. beginning on July 6, there is a service at the campground located at 1451 Main Street, Natrona

Heights. Rev. Ken Faust from Grace Presbyterian is scheduled for July 6.

Pick up a gold brochure on the tables in the church for a full schedule.

Witnessing our faith and sharing God's love

as we live, learn, and grow as Christians!



Just when I thought that the kindness, thoughtfulness, and appreciation of my Bethel Family could not be exceeded and there was no other way for you to affirm being on the journey with Loretta and me, you proved me wrong . . . again. You would think after six years I would have learned that you continue to surprise me.

Your wonderful, joyful celebration of Loretta's and my ministry with you and among you as we have journeyed together these last six years was, well simply, "off the hook!" The sea of purple heart-shaped balloons at the start of worship was a powerful image of love and caring.

Something as wonderful as was my farewell celebration does not happen without the dedication, help, and sacrifice of so many "front line" and "behind the scenes" people. I wish I knew everyone who helped so that I could personally express my gratitude to each of you. So I say "thank you" to all who helped, with special thanks for the Transition Team, Finance Committee, shoppers, decorators, chefs, and set-up, clean-up, and audio-visual teams who planned and cared for all the details.

It would not have been a celebration without the presence and fellowship of so many of you. Thank you for sharing the celebration with me. Loretta would have surely loved your overwhelming expression of love. She would have had the perfect words to express our love for you and heart-felt appreciation for your prayers, support, and encouragement through the years.

Your cards, photos, and gifts are very much appreciated. The Memory Book of pictures and sentiments of Loretta's and my time with you touches my heart. It is an absolutely wonderful, precious labor of love by those of you who offered photos and the artistic talents of Kim Vivirito. Thank you. I treasure and always will, the photographic and sentiment memories.

God has fashioned our journey together into something beautiful. I will always be grateful. What each of you were to Loretta, and are to me, will always be found in the quiet meadows of my mind, where memories of her are also tucked away . . . forever.

I will remain on the journey with you from a distance but with love and hope. I pray that Pastor Nancy will experience the transformative power of your

hospitality, love, grace, support, and encouragement as you begin your journey with her and Rich.

Grace, Peace, and Blessings,
Pastor Paul



Numbers 6:24-25

Memorial/ Honor Gifts received

In memory of Carolyn Boren
Barbara Saylor

In memory of Loretta Taylor
Barbara Saylor
Paula and Phil McManus
Asbury Heights



Serving this summer

Greeters

July

- 6 Jacque and Donna Curll
- 13 Garnet and Gene Howard
- 20 Kim and Drew Vivirito
- 27 Debbie Conwell
Brenda Reifschneider

August

- 3 Lois Acre and Sheila Brunner
- 10 Darcy McVay and Don McVay
- 17 June and Rev. Madison
Stringfellow
- 24 Brian and Janette Sterlitz
- 31 Kaye Crownover and Al Lucci

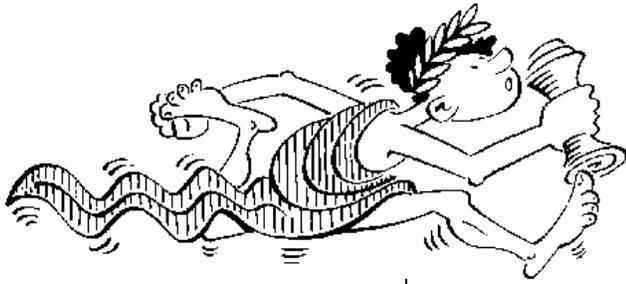
Offering Counters

July

- 6 Tom DeBolt
Erin Brenner
- 13 & 20 Gary Moran
Erin Brenner
- 27 Gary Moran
Karen King

August

- 3 Gary Moran
Karen King
- 10 & 17 Kaye Crownover
Karen King
- 24 & 31 Kaye Crownover
Todd Tansimore



On the Run (Tidbits and Reminders)

- Special worship music is needed for July and August. If you're willing to sing, to play the piano or other instrument or organize an ensemble to the glory of God, sign up on the hallway bulletin board. For questions or more information, see Karen King (castlekbk@aol.com or 724.339.3938).
- Pizza Hut Day is July 9 to benefit the Women's Retreat. It's a great excuse to not cook on a summer day! Pick up a

coupon at the church or ask

- your server for one.
- Men's Breakfasts at King's restaurant are scheduled for July 26 and August 30 at 10:00 a.m. All men are welcome to join this multi-church gathering. For more information contact Ed King (seeker613@aol.com or 724.339.3938).
- Mark your calendar for August 24, the date of the annual church picnic and the official "welcome" to Pastor Nancy and Rich. Watch the bulletins

and your email for more information.

- We have only 2 new people to recognize – Pastor Nancy and Rich. They have 200 or more names and faces to put together! Please help them out this summer by wearing the nametags provided on the tables in the hallway. If you still have the more permanent nametag that we've used in the past, please dust it off and put it to good use! Be patient and continually offer your name as we all get acquainted this summer.

Youth Missions

The youth have a summer mission opportunity right in our own backyard! The UM Army youth are coming to the Gibsonia/Butler area the week of July 6 to help with local home repairs and other projects. The group will be housed at Bakerstown UMC in Gibsonia. The youth have reached out to help by providing bread and salad for the end-of-week celebration.

Much like the youth experienced during their week with ASP in Kentucky last summer, the UM Army youth will invite their client-families to come and eat and worship on Thursday, July 10.

Even though Bethel youth are not planning a summer mission trip due to Youth 2015, this opportunity will enable them to be the hands and feet of Christ to other youth. We will be helping with the meal and staying for the slide show and worship that is planned. Any youth parents able to help drive to Bakerstown, please contact Debbie. We will share our experience in an upcoming newsletter.

Youth 2015

Planning is in full swing for Youth 2015, June 24-27, 2015 in Orlando, FL. We are working with a local trip coordinator to arrange for transportation to and from the Pittsburgh airport, flights, transportation in Orlando as well as planning a day at Universal Studios.



The actual Youth 2015 conference, including hotel and some meals is \$420/person. Once we have the estimated cost finalized (cost to the youth group AND what each youth will be asked to contribute), eligible youth and parents will be invited to a meeting in early August.

Fundraising for this event will include general events (benefit all) like the Pumpkin Patch,

Valentine's Day cookies, and Spiritual Stock as well as individual opportunities (using student accounts) like candy bars and hoagies. Watch e-mail and church bulletin for meeting date.

This is the first time since Youth '95 – Let's Rock! in Salt Lake City that the group has had to fly because of distance. The youth will need lots of support from the congregation to make it happen!

Thanks to all who helped with NK Community Days

The Bethel United Methodist Men sponsored a Pizza Booth at the New Kensington Community Days for the 9th straight year. This is the Men's main fund raiser for the year.

Ed King thanks everybody who helped make this another successful project.

John and Linda Johnson got the tent and other items to the park and along with Ed King and Gary Alcorn were able to set up the 10 X 20 and 10 X 10 tent.

Gary Alcorn, Gary Moran and Ed King did the shopping for the pizza and other supplied from Sam's Club.

Johnny Merrick picked up all of the pop from the Restaurant Depot and using his newly purchased ice machine was able to get all of it on ice.

We also used John's truck and trailer to get all of the items down to the park on Thursday and also back to the church on Sunday.

Thanks to all of the people who signed up to work a shift or two and I hope you all had a good time.

Parsonage renovations completed

Thanks to a whole lot of work by the Trustees and a few others who pitched in, Pastor Nancy and Rich arrived to a newly renovated parsonage.

Knowing that every bit of time was not documented, and doing a quick calculation from the sign-in sheet,

over 300 hours were spent in renovating the parsonage.

Using growth (interest and appreciation) from our Permanent Endowment Fund, we were able to update the original kitchen with beautiful cabinetry and new appliances. Gary Moran, who works at Style Rite Kitchens, designed the kitchen and added more counter top and cabinet space and helped us to get the best prices and bang for our buck.

Rick Parr did the installation of the kitchen cabinets and counter tops and was able to get it completely installed in two days. Even though Rick was paid to do the installation he was kind enough to donate some of this money back to Bethel.

Thanks to John Merrick III's career in flooring, we replaced all the downstairs carpeting with engineered hardwood and laid a new vinyl floor in the kitchen. J-3, as he is affectionately known, was able to get us contractor's pricing and donated his labor to make that project affordable.

Tyler Merrick worked with his dad almost every day and learned a valuable skill and work ethic.

Ed and Karen King did all the leg work on new appliances. Not only did they get phenomenal prices by taking advantage of sales and bundling discounts, Ed went to the trouble to obtain Giant Eagle gift cards from the office. He used them to purchase Sears gift cards, netting the church an extra 5% profit in the Giant Eagle program!

Ed King arranged for his brother-in law Bob Thompson, who is a pipe fitter by trade, to come in at the last minute to install the gas line for the new gas

stove. Bob donated his time, talent and material for the job.

Jim Brenner took the lead on the painting project and with Marlin Preus's help painted 6 rooms.

Ed King used a "buy one get one free" sale at Ace Hardware on Clark Kensington paint to purchase quite a few gallons of paint.

Marlin Preus spent long hours this last week doing a myriad of "handyman" repairs and upgrades.

Nancy Preus was with Marlin on many days and along with helping him with the repairs, she also did a good cleaning job on all three of the bathrooms, vacuumed floors and did most of the running around to pick up parts and lunches that Marlin needed.

Alan Critchlow used his handyman skills to install all of the curtain rods for the windows.

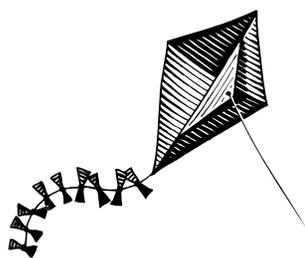
Karen Dananay came in early one day and stained all of the molding for the flooring, spruced up the landscaping and purchased a couple of flowers for the front of the parsonage.

Thanks to everyone who lent a hand on projects, cleaning and shopping! The parsonage looks beautiful.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Chuck Harriger
Erin Pattison
Grace Trew
- 3 Liz Sanders
- 5 Morgan Sarniak
- 7 Michael Dombroski
Hannah Miller
Joan Negley
- 9 Doug Gimbel
- 10 Alexis McHenry
- 11 Mason Brunner
Jacob Pattison
- 12 Gordon Schafer
- 15 Roman Vivirito
- 16 Darryl Jedlowski
Julie Lewis
Angie Murrin
- 17 Crystal Hulton
- 18 Catherine Buffton
Jacob Kalik
- 19 Betsy Pitsch
- 20 John Grubb
Alora Sanchez
- 21 Jackie Danish
- 25 Sue Buffton
Bob Danish
- 28 Perry Davis
Marissa Konrad
- 29 Irvin Hecker
- 30 George Trew
- 31 Lia Kloepping



SUMMER"

Oh! long happy days, when
'tis full of delight
To roam in the meadows from
morning till night!
Oh! summer, sweet summer!
glide slowly away,
For I love in your warmth and
your fragrance to stay.
—H.P. Nichols

AUG. BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Dominic Shevlin
Ashley Smith
- 7 John Johnson
- 8 Tracey Kalik
Bethany Pitsch
- 10 Addyson Orczyk
- 11 Carol Crowe Hines
William McGinnis
- 12 Philip Couch
- 13 Justin Balmer
Rosalee Bargerstock
Betty Boyer
- 14 Richard Acre, Sr.
- 15 Gwen Buffton
Ashton Ewing
Kathy Schall
- 16 LaurEtta Burtner
- 17 Jennifer Celo
- 18 Ryan Smith
- 19 Barbara Clark
- 20 Joe Kalik
Jeremy Maskas
John Parsons
- 21 Nathan Danish
Robert Reifschneider
- 22 Ethan Boyer
Avery Celo
- 23 Christi Alcorn
Kathaleen Weiss
- 25 Rylie Celo
- 26 John Resetar
- 27 John George
Erin Tansimore
- 29 Adam Hines
Arabella Ormesher
Diane Vescio
- 30 Matt George
Don Negley
- 31 Cooper Hess



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Jason and Susan McKruit (22)
- 6 Janet and Leonard Greiner (23)
- 8 George and Grace Trew (60)
- 10 Alan and Pauline Critchlow (50)
- 12 John and Dee George (39)
- 13 Ian and Emily Shane (1)
- 15 Jacque and Donna Curll (56)
Tom and Jennifer Halkias (19)
- 24 Tom and Marie Beers (31)
- 28 Ed and Karen King (41)
- 29 Gary and Sharlene Alcorn (47)

HOT AIR



Scientists have discovered that sound travels faster in the summer than in the winter. In hot summer air, sound travels at 1,266 feet per second. But in cold air, sound travels as slow as 1,066 feet per second. So that means sermons preached in the summer will naturally be shorter, right?

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Dave and Gina Sarniak (29)
- 5 John and Mary Vlastic (69)
- 7 Robert and Darci Koscianski (32)
Don and Joan Negley (38)
- 10 Sam and Sally Burkett (41)
- 12 James and Barbara Clark (53)
Brian and Kristen Speedy (26)
- 14 Mike and Claudia Ormesher (15)
- 18 John and Trish Grubb (41)
- 19 David & Melissa Shevlin (8)
- 20 Bryon & Kristeen Crawford (9)
Lindsay & Mark Kloepping (9)
- 22 Jeremy & Michelle Maskas (5)
- 24 Bill and Juli McGinnis (13)
- 26 Tom and Joanne DeBolt (35)
Greg and Michelle Schafer (25)
- 31 George and Pia Trew (7)