



Senior Pastor *The Rev. Dr. John G. Hamilton*

**Sunday  
 Morning  
 Worship**  
 8:15 a.m.  
 10:45 a.m.

## “The Missing ‘Mary’”

That was the news reported to me as I arrived at the office on a Thursday morning in December. Mary, as in the life-sized Mary in our outdoor crèche at the front of the church along Washington Avenue. During the night or early morning someone had stolen our Mary.

Soon a police officer arrived to get the details. Polite and very understanding, the young man listened, asking questions as needed as our folks described the crime. I slipped out to go to my study, so I have the advantage of imagining how the conversation went:

-“Now please tell me what is missing.”  
 “Mary...you know, the mother of Jesus.”  
 -“Could you describe her for me?”

“She’s about five and a half feet tall, dressed in a simple woman’s robe and covering with a scarf draped over her head. The weather has been cold and rainy, so mud is caked on her clothes and even smudged on her face. And she is banged up and bruised from the hard journey (from storage).”

-“Tell me about her face.”  
 “Oh, she has the most beautiful expression on her face. It is a look of exhaustion and exhilaration, pondering and peace, worry and wonder. And did I tell you about the joy? On her face is the look of indescribable joy, as if she knows she is part of something divinely and eternally special.”

-“That gives me enough to go on. Thanks.”

“Oh, officer! Wait. A wise man is missing, too.”

The policeman looks down the hall in my direction. “I will find him for you,” he answers confidently.

“No, we mean one of the wise men at the manger. He is a little taller than Mary, older and darker in complexion- from the east, you know. He also is beaten and banged up from an even longer journey (in storage). But, oh, the look on his face, you can’t miss it...like he has arrived at his life’s goal, his fondest dream. There is a glow on his face, a glow of joy and peace and satisfaction. And in his hands is a gift - gold - from a king for a king; for he recognizes royalty.”

-“I’m on it,” the officer answers, and he disappears out the door on his mission to find the missing Mary and wise man.

As of the writing of this article, they still have not been found. That is where you come into the picture. We need you. That’s right, we need you to be Mary, the one who ponders the meaning of Jesus, obeys the call of God, gives and lives sacrificially, and loves with the heart of her son, Jesus. We need you to be a wise man (or a wise woman), determined to see the Savior, joyfully generous with your gifts, and worshipping the One who is the true king of all creation.

The wise men journeyed back home changed – going by another way. Mary loved and followed her son all the way to the cross...and to the empty tomb. Would you do the same in this new year?

Mary is missing...but then, maybe not.

See you on Sunday, John Hamilton

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FROM THE INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

THE REV. MELANY HAMILTON

“Because of our God’s merciful compassion, the Dawn from on high will visit us to shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”  
 Luke 1:78-79

On Sunday morning, December. 4, John and I lit the Bethlehem Candle of Mercy. A few minutes later we sat in the second pew, relaxed, and received the blessing of Scripture, and the music of our choir and orchestra. I felt God’s mercy rolling over us, again and again. The mercy of the Incarnation...God with us, now and forever. The mercy of Jesus coming to bring light into our darkness, to forgive our sins, to show us the way of life and grace. Mercy. I have been thinking about mercy ever since.

2011 was a wonderful, blessing-filled year for us in so many ways. But it was also a year of great pain. Like so many of you, the Hamilton’s faced hurts and fears and unexpected illness within our family. I will never forget the night we discovered the cause of our son’s headaches was a golf ball sized tumor in the middle of his brain. Unexpected. Terrifying. But God was merciful...incredibly, overwhelmingly merciful. His mercy was in the hands of a brilliant surgeon. His mercy was in the voices of Steve’s best friend’s parents, who offered Steve a place in their home to rest and recover from the surgery. God’s mercy was in the beautiful (inside and out!) young woman who flew from Germany to be with Steve until he was strong enough to return. God’s mercy was in our family and friends far and wide who prayed without ceasing.

And God’s mercy came to us through you, our precious family of faith in Bethany Church. There were times when I felt the loving power of your prayers wash over me as clearly as the music of faith washed over me on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The notes, emails, texts, and calls were like a life-line. The unexpected and generous gifts you sent that helped us with travel and early medical expenses were a huge blessing. Our Bethany family looked out for our pets, had our house cleaned, and gave John good meals and extra attention while I was still in Illinois with Steve. Mercy. Mercy. Mercy.

As Christmas approaches and 2011 draws near to an end, our son is healthy and strong, teaching his classes at the university in Erlangen, and preparing to resume his PhD studies in spring. Other family crises have settled into more peaceful, hopeful situations. The merciful compassion of our Savior takes my breath away.

I know that in years to come, when I see the candle lit and hear the words, “the Bethlehem candle of Mercy”, I will remember 2011. And I will remember you...the merciful people of our merciful God.

With love and gratitude,  
 Melany



### From the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

On Sunday, December 18, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee announced that they have a candidate to present for congregational approval as our next Associate Pastor. His name is Robbie Ytterberg, a recent graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary in Seattle, Washington. Robbie is a thirty-one year old husband and father. His wife is Abby and there children are Wesley and Ella.

A letter is enclosed giving more information and the next steps in the calling process.

*Annual Reports are due in the church office no later than January 23, 2012 for the year 2011. Please submit reports in Microsoft Word to marlett@bethanypresby.org.*

*The Annual Dinner and Reports Meeting will be held Sunday, February 12th in the Great Room. Plan to attend and see and hear what has been happening at Bethany and look forward to what is coming in 2012. Watch for further details.*



### **Upward Basketball and Cheerleading 2011-2012!!!!**

We will be holding our fourth season of Upward Basketball and Cheerleading here at Bethany through March. Once again we will be having divisions for Kindergartners through 8th graders. Please keep the following dates in mind:

Practice begins the week of Jan 9

Games are on Saturdays beginning Jan 28

Year End Celebration March 26

For more information visit the church website or email upward@bethanypreby.org.

### **Upward Volunteers Needed!!!!**

Don't know anything about basketball or cheerleading, but still want to be a part of this exciting ministry? There are plenty of opportunities to be involved!!! We will need people to help in the kitchen and at the concession stand during Game-Days. We will need ushers, set-up/clean-up people and we can always use some friendly Bethany faces to smile and say hello to all of our Upward friends.

For more information visit the church website or email upward@bethanypresby.org.

Matt Fricker, Youth Director

Bethany Youth Group (BYG)

Alright we are officially in the year 2012, and what a great year to be a youth in the church. This is the year that the junior high is going on a mission trip to Kentucky and the senior high is going on a mission trip to Puerto Rico! It is not too late to go on either of these trips so please contact me if you are interested. Of course there is so much more going on including games, bible studies, scavenger hunts, ninja training, learning to speak Portuguese, and our end of the year senior high retreat extravaganza (may exclude Portuguese and ninja activities). Seriously I am so excited I don't know what to do with myself.

I am also personally declaring 2012 the year of the prayer! That is right, this is the year we dedicate ourselves to pray every day. We will pray for everything and everyone. We will take out time each day to sincerely pray for those in need. We will pray for our enemies. We will pray to God and thank him for his grace and love. The point is we will pray because we know that God hears our prayers. We also know that we are busy and sometimes don't leave time for prayer each day. Lucky for us it is now 2012 "the year of the prayer". Please stay motivated and strong to pray each day, I will be praying that you do!

Prayer purifies. It is a self-preached sermon. - Jean Paul Richter





**Musical Notes**  
by  
*John Henninger*



**Some Musical Resolutions...**

Another New Year, how do these keep coming around so quickly?

With another New Year come new challenges and opportunities that can challenge us to new study and new endeavors.

I thought in this January newsletter article I might offer a few musical opportunities or possible musical resolutions...

**Resolve to join the Music Ministry.**

Is the Lord calling you to new ministry endeavors in 2012?

The Adult Choir is always eager to welcome new members and this does not have to be only in September!

Maybe this will be the year that you join the Adult Choir in the Advent presentation with orchestra.

We had 5 extra voices in this year's presentation on December 4!

Perhaps you can resolve to share an instrumental talent in Worship during 2012.

The Bethany Youth Ringers welcomed 4 new members in 2011 – what a blessing that was.

Maybe a few extra youths will resolve to join us in 2012

**Resolve to sing with gusto!**

Are you intimidated to sing out in Church? Do you fear someone might hear you sing a little out of tune? Do you prefer to keep the hymnal closed and listen to others sing? Perhaps 2012 can be the year you resolve to sing out a little more in worship. Lift your voice to the Lord – God won't mind if you don't have singing experience.

**Do you have a musical resolution for 2012?**

I'd love to hear about it!

**EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT MISSIONS AT BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Scrip.** Stop by the Scrip table on Sundays, pick up and order from a list of retailers, or stop by during the week to purchase cards. Proceeds from Scrip benefits the Adult Mission Team and it is the easiest fundraiser you will ever do, because it does not cost you anymore than you are already spending! There are many gift cards available.

**Pop Tabs.** Yes, we collect pop tabs! Please put your pop tabs next to the pop machine at the bottom of the steps going to the Great Room. We turn these in for cash to benefit the Young Adults who want to continue their passion of doing mission work.

**Loose Change.** Deposit your loose change in the church bank located at the Welcome Center. The monies from the church is used for the Junior & Senior High Youth Groups 'Monday Mission Madness' which helps various missions in Pittsburgh.

**Soup n Sandwich:** Homemade delicious chicken noodle, green pepper soup, chicken salad and ham salad sandwiches will be available after both services on Sunday, January 22nd. Any adult interested in serving on the WV or Tapestries of Life mission trips is invited to help prepare the food on Friday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for supporting the mission work of the church through these programs.

## Communion dates for 2012



January 8 (Memorial Communion)  
 February 26 (1st Sunday in Lent)  
 April 5 (Maundy Thursday)  
 May 6                      June 25                      August 5  
 September 9 (Fall schedule begins)  
 October 7 (World Communion)  
 December 2 (1st Sunday of Advent)  
 Please call 412-221-5132 and speak to the pastor  
 regarding children receiving Communion.

## Baptism dates for 2012



January 29                      March 22  
 May 22 (Pentecost Sunday)                      July 29  
 September 30                      November 25

Please call the Church Office at 412-221-5132 and speak with Janet regarding dates for Baptism. Information will then be passed on the pastor.

### Help Spread the Word...

Get your meetings, activities, fund raisers, etc. on the church calendar between January 1st and June 30th. We need to have these on the calendar so we don't run into conflicts in scheduling outside events or in house events. Call Janet at 412-221-5132 or email her at [marlett@bethanypresby.org](mailto:marlett@bethanypresby.org).

Please do not assume that we know what your schedules are. Thank you.

#### Food Bank—Thank you

The Food Bank had a very successful Christmas distribution with food for a nice Christmas dinner and gifts donated by local churches for children who were registered with the Food Bank. Not only did you give them food and gifts but you gave them love. Read Matthew 25 about the sheep and the goats.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:35 thru 40.

### Chancel Flowers

**Please call 412-221-5132 now  
 to verify standing orders for 2012 or  
 to place your order.**

Flowers are purchased from the South Fayette Shop 'n Save through the church office. Flowers are currently \$25 a vase, \$50 for two vases or \$35 for a centerpiece. (An outside florist can be used as long as that purchase is coordinated through the church office.) Any order not verified and payment not received will not be listed in the bulletin. Two or more people wanting flowers on the same Sunday must come from the same florist.

## RESPIRE CARE

In this day and age of working and scattered families there should be someone you and your family can turn to for help when family is not available. You can turn to your church family. We can cook a meal, shop, drive or just visit for a few hours to give your family or caregiver a break. We're not a permanent or long term solution but we can help.

For more information, or questions about how we can help please call Margie Smith at 412-221-

Prayer—any prayer—always soothes the soul.

Exercise daily, walk with the Lord.

## Worship at Bethany 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

### Sunday, January 1

One service at 10:00 a.m.  
Matt Fricker, Youth Director, will bring the morning message.

Sunday, January 8: *New Year's Communion*  
Rev. Melany Hamilton preaching

Sunday, January 15: *Ordination / Installation*  
Rev. John Hamilton preaching

Sunday, January 22:  
To be announced.

Sunday, January 29: *Baptism*  
Rev. John Hamilton preaching

*Come and join us in worship!  
Remember to keep the Sabbath.*

## SUNDAY MORNINGS AT BETHANY

Come One, Come All on Sunday, January 8th to the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. as we begin our Sunday School programs for the New Year. Children ages 2 thru adults will gather to pray, sing and see their teachers. Child care will be available for children under the age of 2.

Come, be part of an Acts 2 church through 'education'. What a wonderful way to begin a new year!



January 8th at 9:30 a.m.

## Weekly Message

Rev. John does an email message most weeks for those who are receiving their newsletter by email. The title of his message is "Glimpses of Grace."

If you receive your newsletter by mail and would like to receive the "Weekly" email message please send or call us with your email address. You will still receive your newsletter by mail.

Send it to [office@bethanypresby.org](mailto:office@bethanypresby.org) or call 412-221-5132.

### **Communion date:**

January 8 (New Year's Communion)

Children wanting to receive Communion must first talk with the pastors. Call the pastor to make an appointment.

### 8:15 Worship Hour

Child care up to  
5 year olds  
is available with supervision

### 10:45 Worship Hour

► **Child care for Infants up to 2 years of age** in the Nursery located in the Welcome Center. The nursery is supervised by Jenny Smith.

► **Children two, three and four years of age** can be dropped off before the service in Room #149.

► **Children Worship and Wonder** is for children **4 years old through Second Grade**. This multi-sensory worship designed for children is located in the Worship Center, Room #144. The children leave the Sanctuary following the Children's Message for a time of interactive worship.

Parents are asked to pick up their children after the Service has concluded. We rely on each family taking a turn several times throughout the year. Sign up with Barb Crawford by calling her at 412-221-5132 or emailing [crawford@bethanypresby.org](mailto:crawford@bethanypresby.org)

# January 2012

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Family Promise<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service   | <b>2</b> Family Promise<br>Offices closed<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Dartball Captains Meeting  | <b>3</b> Family Promise<br><b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting<br><b>7:30 PM</b> Senior High Bible Study  | <b>4</b> Family Promise<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Fellowship of Prayer<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Young Adults Bible Study<br><b>8:30 PM</b> Bethany Ringers                 | <b>5</b> Upward Coach Training<br><b>7:00 AM</b> Family Promise Leaves<br><b>9:15 AM</b> Quilting<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Thursday Knitters<br><b>6:15 PM</b> Girl Scout Troop 50096 Meeting<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Dartball<br><b>7:00 PM</b> MOMSnext<br><b>8:00 PM</b> Adult Basketball  | <b>6</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>1:00 PM</b> Friendship Bible Study  | <b>7</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> New Officer Training   |
| <b>8</b> Communion<br><b>8:15 AM</b> Worship<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School Rally Day<br><b>10:45 AM</b> Worship<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Junior High<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Senior High                  | <b>9</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Deacon Teams<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Session Teams<br><b>7:30 PM</b> Deacons Meeting     | <b>10</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting<br><b>5:00 PM</b> LOGOS -<br><b>7:30 PM</b> Senior High Bible Study   | <b>11</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Young Adults Bible Study<br><b>8:30 PM</b> Bethany Ringers  | <b>12</b> Upward Coach Training<br><b>9:00 AM</b> MOPS<br><b>9:15 AM</b> Quilting<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Thursday Knitters<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Dartball<br><b>8:00 PM</b> Adult Basketball  | <b>13</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Men's Luncheon at Kings<br><b>1:00 PM</b> Friendship Bible Study  | <b>14</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> PW Bible Study<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Saturday Knitters                                   |
| <b>15</b> Ordination and Installation Service<br><b>8:15 AM</b> Worship<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:45 AM</b> Worship<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Junior High<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Senior High | <b>16</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice   | <b>17</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting<br><b>5:00 PM</b> LOGOS -<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Bell Ringers<br><b>7:30 PM</b> Senior High Bible Study  | <b>18</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Young Adults Bible Study<br><b>8:30 PM</b> Bethany Ringers  | <b>19</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Quilting<br><b>10:30 AM</b> Golden Oldies Gathering<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Golden Oldies Lunch<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Thursday Knitters<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>6:15 PM</b> Girl Scout Troop 50096 Meeting<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Dartball<br><b>7:00 PM</b> MOMSnext & MOPS Community Event<br><b>8:00 PM</b> Adult Basketball | <b>20</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>1:00 PM</b> Friendship Bible Study<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Soup & Sandwich Prep                        | <b>21</b> <b>7:30 AM</b> Food Bank   |
| <b>22</b> Soup & Sandwich Take-outs<br><b>8:15 AM</b> Worship<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:45 AM</b> Worship<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Junior High<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Senior High           | <b>23</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Session Meeting                                 | <b>24</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting<br><b>5:00 PM</b> LOGOS -<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Bell Ringers<br><b>7:30 PM</b> Senior High Bible Study  | <b>25</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Young Adults Bible Study<br><b>8:30 PM</b> Bethany Ringers  | <b>26</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> MOPS<br><b>9:15 AM</b> Quilting<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Thursday Knitters<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Dartball<br><b>8:00 PM</b> Adult Basketball   | <b>27</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study on James<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Men's Luncheon at Kings<br><b>1:00 PM</b> Friendship Bible Study<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice | <b>28</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> PW Bible Study<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Upward Game Day<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Saturday Knitters |
| <b>29</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Worship<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:45 AM</b> Worship<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Junior High<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Senior High  | <b>30</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>9:30-11:00 AM</b> Preschool Registration for church members | <b>31</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting<br><b>5:00 PM</b> LOGOS -<br>Movie Night<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Bell Ringers<br><b>7:30 PM</b> Senior High Bible Study | <b>1</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Fellowship of Prayer<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Young Adults Bible Study<br><b>8:30 PM</b> Bethany Ringers | <b>2</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Quilting<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Thursday Knitters<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice<br><b>6:15 PM</b> Girl Scout Troop 50096 Meeting<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Dartball<br><b>7:00 PM</b> MOMSnext<br><b>8:00 PM</b> Adult Basketball   | <b>3</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool<br><b>9:30 AM</b> Women's Bible Study on James<br><b>1:00 PM</b> Friendship Bible Study<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Upward Practice                 | <b>4</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Upward Game Day  |

Calendar subject to change

*From your Interim CE Director . . . Barb Crawford*



Wow! We all say the same thing – “I can’t believe it is another new year and what happened to the old year”. But year after year it continues to happen! I personally try each year to spend more time with our Lord and also to be a better person in a multitude of ways, but I don’t do too well in making New Year’s resolutions. How about you? What is your thought process each New Year and how do you do? We have had an awesome year here at Bethany Presbyterian Church and I have been blessed once again to be part of that! Our church is so alive with activities and wonderment but I personally think I love the children the most – they are the future of this church and what a wonderful thought that is. What a genuine pleasure it is to watch them each week listening to the children’s message, to know they are taking part in our Sunday School classes, so many of them attend our LOGOS program, a multitude of boys and girls will be playing Upward basketball, and the activities and bible studies continue with the junior and senior high youth groups – the list goes on with many more happenings, in this, our church.

I would like to say “THANKS” to everyone who makes this all happen – the list is never-ending – there are more people involved with our children than you can ever imagine and the love and time they give is why Bethany is alive with the sounds of children everywhere. As we settle into the New Year, let’s remember to give thanks for the season that just passed and that glorious Christmas morning!

Our Sunday School “Rally Day” for the New Year is Sunday, January 8, 2012, starting at 9:30am in the Sanctuary! See you there

Happy New Year!

A Voice for Malawi, Africa written by: Lisa Jo Colwell

**Education.** Chigodi Women’s Training Center.



**Proverbs 1:5 Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.**

There is a place in Malawi, Africa, near Blantyre City, that is training women to develop their skills which will earn income for them to support their families. The Chigodi Women’s Training Center works with the Women’s Department of the Blantyre Synod, CCAP which is like working with our Pittsburgh Presbytery.

The program is 6 months in duration and teaches classes in sewing, tailoring, knitting, home economics, agriculture, health and sanitation which includes training on HIV/AIDS. Other studies include Bible training, English, business management, and leadership. It is for women who haven’t completed secondary school. Once this 6 month program is completed, the student is well equipped to manage her home properly, and start a business.

Scholarships are available for young ladies who cannot afford full tuition. The cost is \$250. for a commuter, and \$312.50 for a residential student, though they must provide their own food. It is required for one to pay whatever she can, to encourage a personal investment in the course. These are the costs of operation, not for making a profit of any kind for the school.

Many families sacrifice to pay a portion of this tuition. Scholarship funds from the U.S.A., as well as partners in Malawi contribute. Whatever is contributed goes directly and fully to scholarship support. This not only helps these young women and their families, but has a tremendous impact on the future in Malawi.

Please pray for the Chigodi Women’s Training Center to be successful.

If you would like to donate to this cause, please write Chigodi or Training Center / Malawi, in the memo line of your check, after your tithe check is written.

**Proverbs 31:13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.**

### NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you are interested in joining, or you would like more information, please fill out one of the red pew cards and place it in the offering plate. We would love to have you join the family of Bethany.

Next class in 2012

Please remember, the deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of each month.

### A Prayer for the New Year

Help me to live this day quietly, easily.  
To lean upon Thy great strength trustfully, restfully.  
To wait for the unfolding of Thy will patiently, serenely.  
To meet others peacefully, joyously.  
To face tomorrow confidently, courageously.

- Anonymous

### UPDATE on Women's Bible Studies

The Friday morning class will start on January 27, which will give us plenty of time to publicize the class and order materials. The Thursday evening class will start it as soon as they have finished *Breaking Free*. The study is called *James: Mercy Triumphs*.

The study book for students costs \$16.00.



Below are the names of those (known to us) involved in the armed services/reserves

Updated 08/11/11

Michael Avery  
Robin Aylor  
Heather Ayres Beattie  
Anthony Benini  
Bill Blosser  
Charles Buzzatto III  
Mark Cameron  
Aaron Cox  
Anthony Cersosimo  
Douglas Crabb  
Michael Daniels  
Jeff David  
Nicole David  
Justin Driskill  
Ryan Duffy  
Brian Ellis  
Kyle Ely  
Jason Fullmer  
Phil Gertz  
Joshua Griffin

Joel Harr  
Karen Weber Harr  
Michael Hayes  
Tim Heath  
Brian Irwin  
Dion Julian  
Bethany Kauffman  
Rich Kearns  
William N. Kennedy  
Krystina Litton  
Ryan Kelsey  
Richard Lawrence  
Justin Mack  
Michael Matthews  
Kelli Mitchell  
David Morgan  
Ian Murch  
Michael McFerron  
Thomas Olson  
John Petkovich

Sean Pepper  
Joey Puharic  
Robert P. Rahr, Jr.  
Matt Read  
Scott Reese  
John J. Ross  
Beatriz Sachek  
Nicholas Sachek  
Kyle Schaffner  
Charlie Sears  
David Semgrad  
Ryan Squires  
Scott Squires  
Linden St. Clair  
Evan Steckle  
Ben Stern, Jr.  
Stanley Taylor  
Scott Vokoun  
Matt Weber

LOGOS is back Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Yes, on January 10<sup>th</sup> we're back for a cup-stomping, spoon-hanging, gopher-running, Spirit filled good time on Tuesdays! Please register for the winter session of LOGOS from 4:30—5:00 in the Narthex on January 10<sup>th</sup>. If you attended in the fall you will not need to fill out the paperwork, but there will be a small fee, \$10 per child or \$15 per family, to go toward the cost of dinners and supplies. If you weren't able to participate this fall, come see what LOGOS is all about!



LOGOS is a long running program for kids ages 4 years old - 5th Grade that is aimed at helping children discover their faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with other children and volunteers in a fun, friendly environment. We meet from mid-September through mid-April on Tuesdays from 5-7pm. The program each week consists of bible lessons, music, crafts and recreation followed by a dinner hour of family style dinner and games. We hope to see you there!

*We can always use more adult and teen volunteers! Would you like to help out in a classroom or the kitchen, with crafts or table games, or are you able to come fellowship with the LOGOS youth during the dinner hour? If you are interested in finding out more about helping with LOGOS, please contact Karen Verduci at 412-221-3209 or [jkverduci@juno.com](mailto:jkverduci@juno.com).*

## Bethany Golden Oldies – A gathering place

The sound of friends laughing warmed the heart of Jesus. What fun everyone had at the December Golden Oldies meeting. And wow what a crowd we had! Joy and Al Heaps and Rev. John provided beautiful music and everyone left with a full tummy. God continues to bless our group as we grow in numbers. My heartfelt thank you to each and everyone who has been coming each month, to those who have recently joined us and to those who are looking for a place to celebrate God's blessings with fun loving friends.

As our numbers continue to increase and more folks are coming from neighboring churches, keeping in touch with everyone has become a challenge. How do we solve this dilemma? Answer, by asking everyone who comes to join our group for a small sum of \$10 a year. So what do you get in return? Twelve meals, a monthly phone call and/or a postcard which will keep you informed of what we are doing and when, and at least 24 hours of time spent with friends and fellowship.

The GO board has decided that we could use a little help each month. Several folks have already agreed to call our members, we would like some help setting the tables, maybe provide a dessert once in a while, help with a program or maybe even be the contact person for a small outing. Do you have to help every month and is this required? Absolutely not! Everyone is always welcome and wanted.

One constant for this coming year will be that we are going to meet every month on the third Thursday. Any activities or trips will happen on a day that is not a meeting day. This will provide a place for everyone to gather each month since many are not always interested or able to participate in other planned activities.

So as you can see folks, there are lots of things to think about, new faces to add to our group and fun activities to be planned. Nikki and Jack are providing their delicious chili for our January meal and Carrie Emerson is planning the menu for February. Stay warm, stay healthy. God has blessed us in so many ways and continues to do so each and every day. And remember we do one day at a time. . .

God's blessings and loving others with the heart of Jesus,

Judy

At 7:00 P.M. on Monday, Dec 5, 2011 the Session and Deacons gathered in Fellowship Hall for a time of food, fellowship, and worship and to hear the Deacon's Annual report. We were reminded of what a tremendous group of Deacons we have. They "loved with the heart of Jesus, fed the hungry, gave to the needs of others, and showed God's light" throughout 2011 and are anxious to continue their good works in 2012.

The joint meeting was adjourned -- the Deacons went off to finish their Christmas preparations and the Session reconvened in the Bethany Room for a short business meeting and for a time of prayer and affirmation for those who will leaving Session at the end of the year.

There are 6 Elders (Dave Oliver, Kelly Barish, Alice Sherwin, Charles Edwards, John Ley and Bob Pulice) who have completed their service on the Session and 5 Deacons (Mike Segeleon, Jackie Nixon, Domenic Poiche, Sherri Jackson, and JR Evans) and we want all to know how gifted these people are and how faithful they have been. Bethany is truly blessed to have such good people serving our church and our Lord. Please offer words of thanks to these 11 next you see them!

At 9:00 P.M. on Monday, December 5, 2011, the Session of Bethany adjourned for the last time in 2011. The business of the church for the year was complete. We spent the month of December with our families, in worship, and in preparation for the birth of our Lord. We hope that you will joined us in the celebration of Advent and worship and were blessed throughout the Christmas Season!

In 2012, the Session is welcoming 7 new Elders (Domenic Poiche, Rich Ralston, Kathleen Bonosky, Kim Hartnett, Peggy Wolstoncroft, Ruth Doyle, and Dennis Bearman); and the Deacons are welcoming 5 newcomers to the Board (Karl Salvini, Sharon Salvini, Cindy Richards, Rhonda Blosser and Tim Underwood).

## January Birthday's



|       |                     |       |                   |       |                      |
|-------|---------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 01/03 | Ray Costain         | 01/13 | Diane DalBon      | 01/23 | David Krieger        |
| 01/03 | Christopher Gastgeb | 01/13 | Ryan Galosky      | 01/23 | Jordan Rupp          |
| 01/04 | David Garretson     | 01/13 | Madison Todd      | 01/24 | Terry Kohlmyer       |
| 01/04 | Martha DelConte     | 01/14 | Michael Ruehle    | 01/24 | Joe Findley          |
| 01/04 | Samantha Caun       | 01/14 | Jamie Casto       | 01/24 | Valerie Brendel      |
| 01/05 | Richard Radzik      | 01/15 | Joan Kerlin       | 01/25 | Cynthia Richards     |
| 01/05 | Jake Casto          | 01/15 | Marilyn Richards  | 01/25 | Joseph Verduci       |
| 01/06 | Sylvia Williard     | 01/15 | Nina Gibson       | 01/25 | Danielle Kirker      |
| 01/06 | Walter Jablonski    | 01/16 | Timothy Nagy      | 01/26 | Ronald Drugmand      |
| 01/06 | Tammy Dady          | 01/16 | Adam Jones        | 01/26 | Eric Gregory         |
| 01/06 | Courtney Rahr       | 01/16 | Erica Wilkerson   | 01/27 | Shalyn Muraco        |
| 01/06 | Nathaniel Goff      | 01/17 | Judi Wolstoncroft | 01/28 | Peggy Daube          |
| 01/07 | Dorothy Warnock     | 01/18 | Robert Fulton     | 01/28 | Lisa Schultz         |
| 01/07 | William Woods       | 01/18 | Dona Thrasher     | 01/28 | Richard Ralston      |
| 01/07 | Jane Venum          | 01/18 | Carolyn Manko     | 01/28 | Robert Bogdon        |
| 01/07 | Scott Miller        | 01/18 | Adam Mathias      | 01/28 | Scott Wallis         |
| 01/08 | Richard Tessmer     | 01/18 | Gunnar DeRoss     | 01/28 | Richelle Sommerfield |
| 01/08 | Lee Restich         | 01/19 | Brenna McGuire    | 01/28 | Alexander Just       |
| 01/08 | Kathryn Boehmer     | 01/21 | Lois Hart         | 01/28 | Marissa Kopach       |
| 01/09 | Evelyn David        | 01/21 | Patricia Chilton  | 01/29 | Matthew Knepp        |
| 01/10 | Randall Wilkerson   | 01/22 | Debby Hayes       | 01/29 | Manda Sanders        |
| 01/10 | Peter Makstutis     | 01/22 | Dee Wolfe         | 01/30 | Robert DalBon        |
| 01/11 | Eda Woodward        | 01/22 | Pam Postler       | 01/30 | Lisa Jo Colwell      |
| 01/11 | Michele Ley         | 01/22 | Jason Smith       | 01/30 | Kelli Cimarolli      |
| 01/11 | Shanon Goerdts      | 01/22 | Tyler Evans       | 01/30 | Kim Eater            |
| 01/11 | Austin Pitts        | 01/23 | Edward Schneider  | 01/30 | Philip Gossic        |
| 01/11 | Emma Karns          | 01/23 | Daniel Gillis     | 01/30 | Hudson Venum         |
| 01/12 | George Cox          | 01/23 | Dan Wolfe         | 01/31 | Edna Dressing        |
| 01/12 | Gladys Kennell      | 01/23 | Lorrie Just       | 01/31 | Barbara Mauslby      |
| 01/12 | John Breitigan      | 01/23 | Jerri Davis       |       |                      |
| 01/12 | Marcy Barzanty      | 01/23 | Lora Wilson       |       |                      |

**Bethany Presbyterian  
Church**

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**Bethany Church's Mission**

**To trust in Jesus...love like Jesus...grow in Jesus...bring others to Jesus.**

**MOPS and MOMSnext** - All moms are welcome to join us for the 2012 year! This year's theme is MomSense: Bold \* Loving \* Sensible. Registration is currently being accepted for MOPS (for moms with infants through Kindergarten) and MOMSnext (for moms with children in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

MOPS meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

MOMSnext meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Cost for either group is \$30 per semester (cost covers MOPS International membership, books and materials provided by MOPS). Registration forms and calendars are in the Welcome Center. You can mail your registration directly to the church (please mark MOPS or MOMSnext on envelope) or drop it in the offering plate. Please contact Jennifer Wallis (MOPS) at [412-257-2263](tel:412-257-2263) or Mandy Evans (MOMSnext) at [724-926-4049](tel:724-926-4049) with any questions. We are always on the look-out for individuals to care for the children during both meeting times. If you are interested, and you have time to spare and a heart to share, please contact Jennifer or Mandy. Check out [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org) for more MOPS and MOMSnext info!

Please join us as often as you can for worship and other activities and events.

Call the Church Office at 412-221-5132 or  
visit the website at [www.bethanypresby.org](http://www.bethanypresby.org)

All are welcome!

December 18, 2011

The Bethany Presbyterian Church APNC has good news for you!

After reviewing over 50 PIF's (Personal Information Forms) from across the country, with diverse educational backgrounds, skills and gifts, the APNC (Associate Pastor Nominating Committee) unanimously felt called to present Robbie Ytterberg as the candidate for the Associate Pastor position.

Robbie is 31, and currently resides in Seattle, WA with his wife Abby and 2 children, Wesley who is 7 and Ella who is 4. Robbie's undergraduate degree is in Mechanical engineering. Shortly after graduation he felt the call for ministry and served several churches as a Director of College and Young Adult Ministries, Interim Youth Director, and in pastoral leadership tasks in a larger church. He graduated from Fuller Seminary in Seattle in August 2011.

His faith journey is one he will readily share and you will find compelling. Robbie has a real passion for serving the Lord. His "heart" for ministry was evident throughout his PIF, not only as a servant in ministry but also as a father and husband. In his PIF he states that

"My call to respond to God's grace and love by offering myself back to Him. This means I am to be the best husband and father I possibly can...any authority I have in leadership comes from the Lord and as such is delegated authority, I am first a follower of Jesus and as such my character, integrity and spiritual development are of utmost importance."

While Robbie has worked in Youth and Young Adult ministry he feels his gifts are more suited for an Associate Pastor position. Our committee agreed with his assessment. Robbie is comfortable in conversations. He has a warm and engaging personality, loves to laugh and has a gentle sense of humor. His visit to Pittsburgh with Abby solidified our opinion that his personality and core values were a fit for the Associate Pastor position and the Bethany Church family.

A Candidating Service will take place in January at which time Robbie will be preaching. A letter will be sent to the congregation in early January to confirm the date of the Candidating Service, with notice from Session of a Congregational meeting to be held after the service.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has had the privilege over the past 9 months to be serving Bethany and the Lord in discerning the pastor to call for the Associate Pastor position. Each meeting began with devotion and prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance. Members of the APNC are: Becky Yanak, Niki Ciaramella, Cathy Schulz, Mark Bonosky, Doug Bovard, Terry Kohlmyer, Cat Price, Tammie Suppo and Mike Segeleon.

In Christ's Love,

Becky Yanak, APNC Chairperson  
Session

Rev. John Hamilton, Pastor

Beckie Price, Clerk of

## MISSION NEWS

News from the WV Advocacy & Workcamps, Inc.

The West Virginia Mission Team has served with this organization for the past three years and is looking forward to the fourth year in the summer of 2012. Your support has made a difference for so many families. Please prayerfully consider joining your Bethany family to bless a neighbor in West Virginia next summer.

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices

Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices....\*

Thanksgiving seems the best time to share God stories from WVMMAW. We are

so thankful for TEN YEARS of getting to reach out beyond the walls of our churches and offer healing and hope to so many families around West Virginia.

We are so thankful for volunteers from all over the US who give their time, talents and funding to share their gifts with us. We are so thankful for families who allow us into their homes and into their hearts. We are so thankful for churches and individuals who send us financial support that allows us to continue to operate this ministry. We are so thankful for God's word that encourages us, strengthens us, and reminds us that mission is who we are in Christ.

The year 2011 will be remembered as one of marked disaster for many places in the US and beyond. As West Virginians we are thankful that we have been spared the spring and summer flooding that has been disaster for us for many years. We continue to reach out to families in need—hoping that by strengthening some homes they will withstand the disaster that is sure to come around again. Furthermore we work to bring a hand up to families in need: aging families with no way to get work done; special needs families who require handicap access for safety; children who need a home that is warm and safe and dry.



Before and After: A new porch for a family of four!

This year we have been able to serve over 125 families. We have been blessed with about 626 volunteers from 76 groups. These groups represent PA, IN, OH, NC, SC, NY, MD, VA, CT, GA, IA, IN, TX, MN, KY, TN, NJ, FL, DE and even WV. Based on \$20.85 per hour, volunteers worked 19,532 hours valued at \$407,242.

We are thankful for these numbers, but ministry is not about numbers.

...and what does the Lord require of you? To do justice, and to love

kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8