Bethany

loving with the heart of Jesus

December 25, 2011
10:00 o'clock

"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife."
– Matthew 1:24

Our Mission

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

WELCOME TO BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Enter this Church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May the blessings of God rest upon you, both in your coming in and your going out."

We are delighted to have you in worship. We ask that you please sign the Fellowship Pad at the end of the pew. For your convenience, we have a warm and loving nursery adjacent to the sanctuary, complete with an available paging system. We also have a Cry Room at the back of the Sanctuary (near the usher's table) on the pulpit side with a speaker so that you can see and hear the service. If you have any questions or need literature regarding the life of Bethany Presbyterian Church, please visit the Welcome Center, located next to the sanctuary.

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

WE GATHER BEFORE GOD

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

THE WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

THE PRELUDE "O Holy Night"
Michael Talerico

Please take time during the Prelude to meditate & prepare for worship.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*THE HYMN No. 189 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"
Vs. 1-3

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

WE GIVE TO GOD

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "Mary Did You Know?"
Michael Talerico

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER:

Please let us know if you are going into the hospital, having surgery or will be an outpatient and also when you return home.

In the Hospital as of December 23:

Tom Woodward – Lifecare Hospital of Pittsburgh (Betty's son)

Discharged

Eric Gregory Emily Brady

Jeffrey James Gabelhart, Jr. (Jim & Ruth's son)

Remember in Prayer:

Zach Noel (Shirley Ellis' grandson) Brandy Stevens

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Eisenbeis (Jean Roemer's parents)

Sympathy of the Congregation is extended to Lisa Jo, Bruce N, II and Jonathan Colwell, family and friends on the recent death of her mother.

The Blue Fellowship of Prayer Request Cards are for those having a prayer request, interested in being a part of this group, or wanting more information.

Respite Care: Did you know that your church family can cook a meal, shop, drive or just visit for a few hours to give your family or caregiver a break. We are not a permanent or long term solution but we can help. For information or to volunteer please call Margie Smith at 412-221-3730 or Beckie Price at 412-319-7913.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

January 1 – Worship at 10:00 a.m.—No Sunday School.
January 8 – Worship at 8:15 & 10:45 a.m. with Communion
Sunday School Rally in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.

Weekly Message… Rev. John does a "Glimpses of Grace" email message most weeks to the church. Please contact the church office by emailing marlett@bethanypresby.org or calling 412-221-5132 if you would like to receive this often fun, and always inspirational email.

The red poinsettias are donated to Bethany from Bruce N. Colwell II, Jonathan Colwell, and Lisa Jo Colwell in memory of Lisa Jo Colwell's mom, Eve Pozzi, who recently went home to be with God.

MOPS needs you! The second semester of Bethany MOPS (Moms of Pre-schoolers) is set to begin on January 12 and we are looking for empty laps and open arms that need to be filled. Enjoy reading to toddlers or snuggling infants? Then being a childcare volunteer at MOPS is the place for you. We are seeking loving volunteers to provide childcare during meetings which are held the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 9:00 - 11:00am. Even if you can only be there once a month, we'd love to have you. Childcare volunteers are the glue that hold MOPS together. Consistent, faithful volunteers allow the moms to relax knowing their children are safe and having fun. Please consider sharing your love of children with this group! Contact Jennifer Wallis at (412) 257-2263 for more information.
MOPS helps make better moms, and better moms make a better world!

The next New Members Class will be held next year. If you are interested in joining the Family of God here at Bethany please note this on the Fellowship Pad along with your name, address and phone number, fill in the red card in the pew and drop it in the offering plate or sign-up on line. We will notify you of the next class.

Update on Women's Bible Studies – Our next study will begin in January on the book of James. The study is called *James: Mercy Triumphs.* The study book for students costs $16.00. The Friday morning class will start on January 27, which will give us plenty of time to publicize the class and order materials

The Chrismons on the Trees, by the elevator and in the Welcome Center, have been designed and made by the 6th thru 8th grade girls who have been studying Church History. Chrismons were used to decorate many trees of Christians who wanted to share their faith with others. They are always made in white and gold and tell the story of our faith through symbols. Stop and look at the tree on your way in or out.

"Thank you" to everyone who participated in the "Presents for Patients" this year. The packages were delivered by Santa and several elves (church members) on Wednesday, December 21st to the delight of those living at Broadmore Assisted Living.

Thank you to the wonderful people of Bethany who bring 'goodies' to the office for us to enjoy.

Thank you so much to the ladies from Presbyterian Women who were so kind to leave a box of homemade cookies in my mail slot in the work room. They were yummy and very much appreciated!! Barb

Food Bank Update – at the December 17th distribution we helped 153 families (a new record), which included 100 children, 207 adults and 59 elderly. Thank you for making Christmas special for these families.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Sunday, December 25 (Luke 2:1-20) *Christmas Day*
Pray for Mike, Connie & Victoria Segeleon
10:00 A.M. – Worship – Sanctuary
NO Sunday School or Second Hour

Monday, December 26 (Psalm 32:1-11) *Offices Closed*
Pray for Jamie, Logan & Tyler Sharp

Tuesday, December 27 (Psalm 33:1-22) *Offices Closed*
Pray for Sharon, Gabrielle, Kyle, Isabella & Ian Sharp

Wednesday, December 28 (Psalm 34:1-22)
Pray for Alice Sherwin

Thursday, December 29 (Psalm 35:1-28)
Pray for Kevin, Lora, Michael, Megan & Melina Shildt
9:15 A.M. – Quilting – Room 144
12:00 P.M. – Thursday Knitters – Room 224

Friday, December 30 (Psalm 36:1-12)
Pray for John, Sage & Sierra Sienerth

Saturday, December 31 (Psalm 37:1-40)
Pray for Ed & Virginia Silassy
10:00 A.M. – Saturday Knitters – Room 224

Sunday, January 1 (Psalm 38:1-22) *New Year's Day*
Pray for Gloria Sinkovitz
10:00 A.M. – Worship – Sanctuary
NO Sunday School or Second Hour

Monday, January 2 (Psalm 39:1-13) *Offices Closed*
Pray for Carl & Shirley Skerl

FROM THE BETHANY CHURCH OFFICE

Finance Report as of December 18, 2011

2011 Budget	$733,124
Year to date Budget	$706,255
Year to date Income	$701,559

Attendance for Sunday, December 18: 8:15 – 123 10:45 – 252

THANKS TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING THE LORD…

Lay Reader: Lisa Jo Colwell.

Ushers: Jack & Nikki O'Brien, Domenic & Caroline Poiche.

Good News Greeters – Tom & Peggy Patterson.

In the Nursery – Matt Fricker.

Flowers for 2012 – it is time to place your order for Chancel flowers. Call the office or email marlett@bethanypresby.org to verify your standing order and to place new orders.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. John Hamilton, Senior Pastor	hamilton@bethanypresby.org
Rev. Melany Hamilton, Interim Associate	mhamilton@bethanypresby.org
John Henninger, Director of Music	henninger@bethanypresby.org
Kim McCann. Financial Accountant	finance@bethanypresby.org
Barb Crawford, Interim CE Director	crawford@bethanypresby.org
Matt Fricker, Youth Director	fricker@bethanypresby.org
Janet Marlett, Secretary	marlett@bethanypresby.org
Bill Stephan, Custodian	custodian@bethanypresby.org
Tim Michel, Custodian	custodian@bethanypresby.org

Jenny Smith, Sunday School / Worship Nursery Coordinator
Patty Johnson, Week-day Pre-School director 412-206-0166
Web site – www.bethanypresby.org Church Phone – 412-221-5132
Fax Number – 412-220-9107

*THE RESPONSE (All sing together)

O glorious God, your praise we sing
And give our lives as offering;
Bring peace on Earth, and with us dwell;
Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*THE HYMN No. 237 "The Hands That First Held Mary's Child"
Vs. 1-2

THE CHRISTMAS PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS: Lay Reader

Old Testament: Isaiah 7:13-14 Page 1070 in pew Bible
New Testament: Matthew 1:18-25 Page 1497 in pew Bible
Matthew 2:13-15 Page 1498 in pew Bible

L: *"The word of the Lord"* **P: *"Thanks be to God"***

*THE SONG "Labor of Love"
Kaitlyn & Ryan Black

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION Rev. Melany Hamilton

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*****THE CHRISTMAS STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison reading)

I believe in the meaning of Christmas, and the importance of celebrating it in the church. I believe in the God at the center of Christmas, whose hope for the world was dreamed by seers and told by prophets. I believe in the messengers of God, who speak to human beings in quiet moments and in dreams. I believe in the pondering spirit of Mary, who knew God was involved in the birth of her child, and in the trust and faithfulness of Joseph. I believe in the beauty of the manger,

transformed by the coming of Jesus, and in the manger within each heart that would receive him. I believe in the shepherds, that they often hear songs of grace and glory not heard by those who lead busier, noisier lives. I believe in gold, frankincense and myrrh, and less expensive gifts as well, when they are gifts of the heart and not merely tokens of duty or obligation. But above all I believe in Jesus, without whom there would be no Christmas, and in using this day to discover again my relationship to him, so that for me it will not be just an ordinary Christmas, but a time of great joy that will change my life. I too would be born in the manger.

*THE HYMN No. 198 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Vs. 1-2

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE J. Pachebel

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

*All who are able and willing, please stand