

# Bethany Beacon

## Special Interest Articles:

- Men's Turkey Dinner
- Christmas Calendar
- Olson Family
- Mission Activity

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## E-Mail – A Good Meal *By Pastor Eric*

This past summer I had some brown patches in my lawn. Actually, that's a little misleading, I had some dead patches, that would imply there was dead grass. And that would imply grass. What I had was dirt patches as a result of abusing the lawn while carrying out a few outdoor projects. I needed to transform those dirt patches back into the lush grass it used to be.

About a month ago I built a garden box in the corner of our yard. That garden box was going to replace an area where the grass was green and healthy. Before building that box, I removed strips of sod and re-planted them on the bare patches. I don't know a lot about keeping grass alive but I've learned one thing, re-planted sod needs water... and lots of it.

Three times a day I watered those areas. Still the grass

turned brown. But I knew that was normal so I kept the faith. Replanting sod needs time to adjust. It needs to be fed. It needs water.

Have you ever been replanted? New school, new job, new relationship, new home, new city? Sooner or later we are all replanted. When that time comes, we need our nourishment. We need to be watered.

With what do you water yourself? How do you receive your nourishment? Because what you nourish yourself with will determine your health. It may even be the difference between being dried out versus being vibrant and full of life.

When Jesus met a woman at a well, he asked her for a drink of water. At the same time, Jesus offered her living water. He said, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those

who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty." (John 4:13-14)

Are you thirsty? Do you thirst for something greater in life? How do you satisfy an unquenched thirst? As we enter into the holiday season this year, we'll be filling ourselves with lots of food and drink. But as the season progresses, think about the reason for the season. Think about the God who comes to us to transform us and nourish us. Think about how you can truly feed your soul. Think about feeding it with Living Water.

By the way, that sod is thick and green now. Because I transplanted it for a purpose and fed it to fulfill that purpose. Trust that wherever or however God has replanted you, that He has a purpose and will nourish you in order to fulfill it.

## Christmas Choir!

We are recruiting any joyful voices to sing for the season! Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays beginning mid-November. Any questions? Talk to Tim 815-508-0800, or Marlys.



## 64th Annual Men's Turkey Dinner

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Place: Bethany Presbyterian Church  
5403 N. Second St., Loves Park  
[www.bethpc.org](http://www.bethpc.org)

Serving at: 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.  
Love Offering: \$9 Adults—\$7 for 5-12 Yrs.  
**Call 815-877-8001 for Reservations**

## Kids Korner

Submitted by Joan Keener

### P is for Peacock

We admire the male peacock because of his beautiful back feathers which he spreads out from time to time. But his behavior is bad. He is very noisy and is quick to fight. That makes him a hard bird to raise.

God's Word says:  
1 Samuel 16:7b

*People judge others by what they look like but I (God) judge people by what is in their hearts.*

Oh, I am so glad that God judges us by what is in our hearts. And He loves each and every one of us, just as we are!

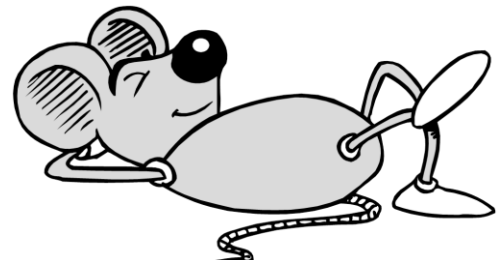


Did you know?  
11/11/11 only  
happens every 100  
years! Do something  
special on this  
November 11<sup>th</sup>!



Deacon Church Mouse Sez:  
If you don't hold your tongue, you  
may have to eat your words.

Granny Church Mouse sez:  
If you have a lot of tension, and  
you get a headache, do what it  
says on the aspirin bottle:  
Take 2 and keep away from  
children.



## Advent Celebration

Submitted by Tim Krug

As we do our regular shopping, we can't help but get visually bombarded with Christmas decorations on the shelves. Christmas trees; garland; lights of all sizes, colors, and blinking effects. This visual reminder is forcing the anticipation on us all, but only for commercial purposes - "Buy our stuff...it's practically Christmas!"

As Christians, it's pretty important to understand what the season of Advent is really intended for. The people in the land were extremely anxious and hopeful for Christ to come into the world. They were anticipating His birth because they knew that they would have a king to save them. They were excited, scared, and hopeful!

We will begin Advent in a special way this year - it all starts on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 27, 2011. It will be a worship service to involve, inspire, and include the elements of tradition and togetherness...as we all get excited about Jesus' coming into the world! So make plans now to invite your friends that don't normally worry about going to church - this will be a service to remember!

## CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Our Worship Schedule has been updated this year to be more accommodating to family and guests. Please note the time for our Kids Christmas service on December 18. We look forward celebrating Advent and Christmas with you this year.

**November 27:** First Sunday of Advent: Hanging of the Greens Service

**December 4:** Second Sunday of Advent: Add Hope

**December 11:** Third Sunday of Advent: Add Peace

**December 18:** Fourth Sunday of Advent: Add Love  
**Kids Christmas Service: 9:00 am**  
**Regular service at 10:15 am**

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 7pm

**December 25:** Christmas Morning Service: Add Joy  
 10:15 am

In Anticipation of Christmas,  
 The Worship Team

## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION CALENDAR 2012

Winter Warmth Lunches: (2) Soups; (2) Sandwiches;  
 Cake (Served 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after church in fellowship hall)

Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 11

Spring Brunch and Program (tentatively Joyce Winter)  
 Apr 14

Spring Bergner Days  
 Apr (TBA)

Mother Daughter Tea (program is TBA)  
 May 14

Fall Brunch and Business Meeting  
 Sept 22

Extraordinary Women's Conference  
 Nov 2,3

Bazaar at Bethany  
 Nov 10

Fall Bergner Days  
 Nov (TBA)

## The Bazaar at Bethany

Submitted by Ginny Falnes

Our annual bazaar is approaching quickly! Those of you who have attended in previous years, know what nice quality items are offered. If you haven't taken the opportunity to attend in the past, set aside Saturday, November 12. The time is from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There are beautifully decorated trees, woodcrafts, Christmas towels, jewelry, holiday and special occasion gifts, handmade cards, purses, afghans, floral arrangements, and so much more.

This is also a fund raiser for our Women's Association, so come, enjoy the fellowship, bring your friends, and even begin your Christmas shopping! See you there!

## Women's Association Update

Submitted by Marlys Marsh

**Did you know that only 37 women belong to the Bethany Women's Association?** Technically, all women of Bethany are members but of all the women at Bethany, only 37 have chosen to belong to the four circles of Bethany. Belonging to these circles allows these members to laugh, cry, sympathize, preach at each other, and chatter with other women once a month, as well as enjoy an organized Bible Study. Each circle chooses the study that is best for them and each is currently studying a different study series. In addition, there are two brunches, one in the spring and one in the fall. We have had fabulous speakers at our brunches this year. This spring, we had Joyce Winter and her Women at the Well and just this September, we had Nancy Stacy with her Thanks for the Memories. If you weren't there, you missed some very interesting speakers. The Bethany circles support their missions by a monthly offering and supporting the fund-raisers that are sponsored by the Association throughout the year. Through their offerings and fund-raisers, the Association has been able to maintain an annual budget of \$1940.00. The Association has accepted the responsibility for kitchen maintenance and in addition, they have a \$1400.00 budget item for missions. Just this last year, we have donated to the Joplin, MO. Tornado, contributed towards the pew Bibles, donated to the Youth Mission Fund, contributed to the new kitchen makeover, the Samaritan Purse, Carpenters Place and a security system for Bethany. But, we can't do this without you, so the next time you see someone walking around trying to sell a coupon booklet for Bergner Days, pull out that \$5.00 before they can ask and say "let me buy one of those booklets to help you support even more missions". We really appreciate all the support you give us. After all, the Women's Association was started over 90 years ago as a service organization and it is our hope and desire that we can continue to serve Bethany and the Loves Park area in that tradition for many more years to come.

## Momints: Moderator Minutes

By Pastor Eric

### *From October Session Meeting* Topics Discussed:

- We discussed the Christmas Eve service acknowledging Worship Team is still working on it
- We discussed the growing Capital Improvement fund giving and the declining General Budget giving. We discussed the possibility of people beginning to give to the Capital Improvement fund by "dipping" into their general fund giving.

## Deacon Report

By Marilyn Buske

Nine members and Pastor Eric met October 17, 2011, for the monthly meeting.

We were reminded that those who are setting up for communion are also responsible for making sure that the candlesticks, which are on the altar, do not have wax dripped on them.

Personal needs committee reported that five families were scheduled to pick up supplies but only two came. We also discussed how would be the best way to keep the Paper Angel Closet running as smoothly as it is now since the Deacon's in charge will be retiring at the end of this year.

The Deacon's will be responsible for distributing 3 food baskets at Thanksgiving. The recipients will be chosen by Love, Inc. from this area. Money or canned goods may be donated to the Deacons.

The next meeting will be November 21, 2011.

- I reported that the window film for the Education Center doors windows has been ordered and is expected to be delivered and installed in the next few weeks.

### Action Taken:

- Session moved to discontinue our service agreement with the copier as we believe it will be a cost savings.
- Session moved to have leak in boiler room fixed at a cost of about \$400.

## Annual Reports

### Attention all Ministry Teams:

Please be working on your annual reports for 2011. Reports are due on Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> in order to prepare the Annual Report for the church. Please include your purpose statements on your reports. Thanks! Pastor Eric.

## Trustees/Buildings and Grounds: No Report

By Wallace Zipperer

## Presbyterian Heritage

Submitted by Joan Keener

The Presbyterian faith came to Southern Illinois to stay on October 24, 1819. Several other churches preceded the Golconda church, but since have ceased to exist. The First Presbyterian Church in Golconda (pop 726) is home to Illinois' oldest continuous Presbyterian congregation. Rev. Nathan B. Darrow was employed as the missionary for Connecticut, a state that was very interested in spreading the gospel to those in the sparsely settled portions of Indiana and Illinois. In his duty as a missionary he visited Golconda in the fall of 1819. How long he remained is not known but on October 23, 1819, a number of persons gathered in the old log courthouse for examination preparatory to the planting of a church in this place. Sixteen people gave in their names for members.

OCTOBER 24, 1819 - Congregation organized.

FALL OF 1869 — Cornerstone laid for present building.

JUNE, 1870 - Present building completed; the Rev. Solomon Cook, Pastor.

1881 - A collection was sent to Michigan Presbyterians who had suffered from a fire.

APRIL 9, 1888 - Present building (free from debt) was dedicated.

1899 — Elaborate program held celebrating 80th Anniversary.

OCTOBER 24 - 26, 1919 - Three-day centennial celebration held in church and community.

1937 - Sanctuary stacked with furniture from homes as a result of the flood - The church was closed for worship for the first time in 117 years. It is recorded in church history that in the year 1881 there was a great forest fire in the state of Michigan. The disaster so aroused the sympathy of the membership here at that time that a special collection was taken and sent for the relief of the stricken area. At an Easter service in the spring following the damaging 1937 flood, the Golconda church was presented with a gift of \$500 - sent by the Woodward Avenue Presbyterian Church of Detroit, Michigan.

## Meet the Olson Family

Submitted by Cheryl Olson

Ray and Cheryl met at the University of Wyoming in September of 1962. I was an excited freshman and Ray was a Sauvé upper classmen. He was busy getting me acquainted with the campus and just moved right into dating me. Two years later in June of 1964 we got married in Colorado (I am from Denver). Ray brought me to Rockford and he went into the family business and I taught second grade in Belvidere. Ray and I moved to Loves Park in August of 1968. I was pregnant with Tad and we started looking for a church home. We visited several churches and settled on Bethany. The congregation had called a new minister but it would be awhile before Pastor Carlson would arrive. Everyone was so friendly and they welcomed us into Bethany as our church home.

Tad was born the following March (1969), he was baptized and we began getting involved in all the church activities. Two years and nine months later (Jan 1972) Jerry was born and he was baptized. By

then I was helping in the Sunday School Program. Pastor Carlson asked us if we were interested in taking the new members class, we did and became members of Bethany. It was a fun class and Ray was so impressed with Diane and Kirk Johnson and the other young people in the class. Our faith deepened under the leadership of the church as the years passed. We became involved in the church boards and I was active in the Sunday School Program and VBS. We were challenged and encouraged to read the Bible daily. Over the years we have met so many people who are caring, faithful and strong prayer warriors.

Tad and Jerry learned the importance of Christ in their life through the Christian Education at Bethany. When Tad was in his late two's he came home from Polly Smith's class and said our family is in the Bible; that got me interested in reading the Bible. Through all the grades the boys anxiously came home with information and at

the end of their two year confirmation class they were so pleased to show what they had learned. They looked forward to folding the palm bows into crosses and handing them to the congregation on Palm Sunday. Tad married Angela in 1993 and they have four children; Carter (15), Cassandra (12), Cole (10), and Cody (8). They continue to worship at Bethany and the children are anxious to see their friends on Sunday in the Sunday School Classes. Ray has left the family business in the capable hands of Tad who is doing a wonderful job allowing us to travel in our retirement.

Our Bethany family has supported us over the years. They are great prayer warriors through all of Jerry's health issues. Jerry has had two liver transplants and this past May he almost died of liver rejection. Through it all it has been wonderful for us to lean on the Christian support of our Bethany family. God is good!



### God is Good for Nothing: A Get "ON" with it story

Submitted by Pastor Eric

When I am good, I want to be rewarded. Don't you? Work extra hours at the office? Then you deserve a raise or an extra day off. Work long hours on that essay? Then you should get a good grade for trying so hard. Take good care of your yard? Those neighbors ought to notice and say how nice it looks! Find a bag full of money and return it to the rightful owner? You should be rewarded for being so honorable and selfless.

That's just what happened to Berl Cox, Chad Millburn and Nealyn Buckingham, city workers of Tulsa, OK. They were working on a... *finish this story at [www.bethpc.org](http://www.bethpc.org)*

## Mission Activity Around the Church

Submitted by Ginny Falnes and Marlys Marsh

### The mission for November is Carpenter's Place

Carpenter's Place has been a mission of Bethany for several years now and you may know what they do. But, if you need an update, just one of the things they do is operate a Day Room with an open door policy as the first step to engaging a street person in the process of improving their life situation. Any person who is homeless may come into the Day Room, as long as they are not violent or intoxicated, and receive a lunch ticket for 7 days. After 7 days they must meet with a case manager to continue receiving a lunch ticket. CP provides a comfortable common gathering area with tables and chairs, lunch, shower, a change of clothing, telephone for appropriate local calls, message service for appropriate messages, referrals, and positive conversation. By first meeting these most basic human needs, CP provides an atmosphere that allows the homeless person to focus on something other than moment-to-moment survival. That is just one of the many services that CP provides. Last year alone, they helped 319 homeless adults secure housing and 106 obtain employment. Future projects include long-term supported housing and a Recovery Farm. Carpenter's Place is alive and well in the Rockford/Loves Park area

helping the helpless among us.

**Don't Give a Dime Project** has been supported by Bethany for several years, dating back to the "Melany days". The premise is to collect your dimes and small change during a set period of time, usually November until Christmas and give to Carpenter's Place. An anonymous benefactor has stepped up in recent years to match all funds collected before the end of the year. So, in order to take advantage of this doubling of funds, we will begin collecting your dimes the first Sunday in November and end at Christmas so we can be sure our monies are counted and reported by the end of the year. This is a fun project that benefits a worthy charity so begin collecting now so when that first week of November comes, you and your family can bring your dimes to church to put in the container to jumpstart the project. Let's use the DGD project to really make a difference this year. Let this project be the Let's Make a Difference Month at Bethany.

### **Paper Angel Closet**

Our closet is serving sometimes 3, 4 and up to 5 patrons through our summer months. It is our privilege to not only provide basic needs for those we serve, but is our opportunity to find out what particular circumstances bring

them to us, and then to pray with them for their specific needs. As Pastor Eric remarked, "we experience holy moments". You are all a part of that, as you share your gifts for these special needs. Items needed: laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, toilet tissue, kleenex, toilet bowl cleaner, dental floss, hand or body lotion, sanitary pads, tampons, all purpose cleaner, bandaids, bleach, razors, dishwashing detergent, shampoo, lip balm, q-tips, large garbage bags and hand sanitizer. Join with us and keep this ministry in your prayers. May we continue to hold the deep needs of these people before the Lord!

### **Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets**

We will again participate in sharing baskets with 3 families for both holidays. There will be more specific information in our Sunday bulletin as the time grows closer. This mission is yet another through a very active Love In the Name of Christ organization!

### **St. Bridget Pantry**

We are doing a little better remembering that the first Sunday of each month is set aside for sharing staple items for the food pantry. If each of us would bring at least 1 item on that Sunday, our box would more than overflow! May we give with overflowing and generous hearts!

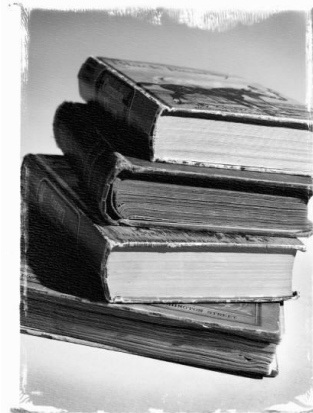
## Good Books in our Library!

Submitted by Ginny Falnes

### **Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan**

A must read for Christians, written while Bunyan was imprisoned for his faith, is an allegorical story of Christian's struggles and progresses in his walk with the Lord.

Take a few moments to browse and enjoy the many novels, autobiographies, study books and much more!



## November Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:30pm: Bethany night of prayer 6:30pm: Praise team practice 7:30pm: Chancel choir practice	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends 9:00am: Sunday School 10:15am: Worship Celebration 11:45am: Chime Choir	7 5:30pm: Worship 6:30pm: Buildings and Grounds	8 7pm: Uriel circle	9 Session reports due 6:30pm: Praise team practice 7:30pm: Chancel choir practice	10 9am: BYKOTA circle	11	12 Women's Association Bazaar
13 9:00am: Sunday School 10:15am: Worship Celebration 11:45am: Chime Choir	14 7pm: Session	15 Beacon articles due	16 12:30pm: Hannah circle 6:30pm: Praise team practice 7:30pm: Chancel choir practice	17 5:30pm: Turkey Dinner 7pm: M&M Circle	18	19
20 9:00am: Sunday School 10:15am: Worship Celebration 11:45am: Chime Choir 6pm Dinner and Rehearsal for Hanging of the Greens	21 7pm: Deacons Meeting	22	23 6:30pm: Praise team practice 7:30pm: Chancel choir practice	24 Happy Thanksgiving!	25	26
27 9:00am: Sunday School 10:15am: Worship Celebration 11:45am: Chime Choir	28 7pm: Christian Ed	29	30 6:30pm: Praise team practice 7:30pm: Chancel choir practice	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 20px; text-align: center;">                     The BYKOTA Circle will be meeting on November 10 at 9am at Hollywood Restaurant and then study at the church at 10am. This is a week earlier because of the Turkey Dinner. See Marilyn Buske for info.                 </div>		
						



**BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN**

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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

[www.bethpc.org](http://www.bethpc.org)

**Staff Directory**

Eric Keller, Senior Pastor  
Julie Peet, Office Administrator  
Peder Carlson, Pastor Emeritus  
Marlys Marsh, Pianist  
Tim Krug, Worship Director  
Jack Hoffman, Chime Choir Director  
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