



Bethesda Outlook

January 2012

HAPPY EPIPHANY!

& HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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WE ARE HERE TO
SERVE YOU! CALL US
FOR ANYTHING!

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined" Isaiah 9:2

Sometimes as Christians we call Epiphany "Little Christmas", which is why I believe it is important for us to celebrate Epiphany. For many in North America the Christmas season of greens and lights and tinsel ends on January 1st as the decorations come down and trees go out to the curb or get put back in the box for another year. It is interesting to me that this happens just as the winter is getting genuinely cold and dismal.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."
John 1:5

Epiphany, which is January 6th, is also a season of light in the dark seasonal days of our world. **We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday January 1st.** Throughout this season of light Jesus is revealed to us as repeatedly stepping beyond the accepted tribe, (those like us). The Epiphany season of the church year celebrates the discovery that **Someone** has come, sent by God. Come, to bring God's light into our lives, to make a difference in our lives and our community, to heal our brokenness and to reveal the unimaginable depth of God's love for you and I and **ALL** through this light of Christ.

Shine! Shine for all to see!!

May you find the Epiphany light of promise and hope! In this Epiphany season may the light of the star and the glory of God be revealed to you in new and unexpected ways! May you light candles and pray for the revealing of God's light in your darkness and for the ever widening of God's love, hope and compassion in your lives. May you share that Epiphany light with those far off from God in God's world!

Pastor Malcolm

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY 2011-2012

We would like to say “Thank You” for your participation in this year’s stewardship response program entitled “**MAKE IT SIMPLE**”. Over 50% of our congregation, at this writing, has responded. Based on the final assessment forms that you all graciously filled out, it appears that our congregation really grew in our understanding of what it means to be a faithful financial steward!

The assessment results are posted at the bottom of the stairs as you enter the Fellowship Hall. When you have a moment, take a look and compare where we were in September and where we are today!

Here are some responses from our congregation:

- “Thank you.”
- “I am a work in progress.”
- “I pray that God will send more young people to our church. We have a great church! I have been here from the beginning!”
- “Good job.”
- “Too much difficulty and hard times in our world and it is so hard to put all my faith in God.”
“God Bless this Congregation.” (2x!)

Let us be responsive to God’s abundance!

Stewardship- Winter 2012

Our focus for the Winter 2012 is on our **Spiritual Stewardship**. Can we adopt the following Stewardship practices as Bethesda’s New Year Resolutions?

1. **Strengthen personal relationships** with others by sharing faith stories and the joy of Christ.
2. **Identify, explore and nurture** the spiritual gifts of others to help them fulfill their calling and passions.
3. Develop an “**asset-based**” climate, using the assets of people rather than focusing on needs.
4. Provide a multitude of **service opportunities** to people of every generation.
5. **Understand what our vision and what Bethesda’s mission is.**

Please attend:

“Gifts of the Spirit Concert”

Saturday, February 11th

3:30 pm

Sanctuary

Sweets & Savories Potluck to follow in Fellowship Hall

Goodwill donation

Do you know how much God loves you? Read Luke 15:11-32

“And they began to have a wonderful time.”

Stewardship- Spring 2012

Our focus for Spring 2012 is on being good stewards of our earth. We hope all of you will help with this event in many different ways. We all have gifts to share....

Save the Date!

CARE OF CREATION AND PLANT SALE!

Saturday, May 5th

10 am – 3 pm

Bethesda Fellowship Hall and Lawn.

Join the fun! Invite your friends & neighbors! Volunteer! Watch for more information!

From Our Council President

~~***Happy New Year, Bethesda Family***~~

If you are among those who make spiritual New Year resolutions,
excellent guidelines for blessings can be found in

Matthew 5:3-9

~~**The Beatitudes**~~

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom in heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

~~***~~

The big ticket item in January is our annual budget. After Council approval, the budget will be presented for your vote at the Congregational meeting on January 22nd. Do plan to attend.

FAITH is not only knowing God can, but He will!

Abundant blessings to you and yours in 2012.

Mickey Schwald
Council Pres.

Sharing My Thoughts

Cliff Pearson

In (1 Kings 3:3-9) God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked Solomon, "What shall I give you"? Solomon could have asked for anything---

Riches, honor, fame or power. But he asked for none of these things.

He requested "An understanding heart" (wisdom, holiness and love).

At our council meeting when the Finance Committee reported that the giving of the congregation has not caught up with the disbursements over the pass year, the committee recommendation was to not increase the budget for 2012.

A comment from one of the council members (also a Finance Committee member),

... the finance committee had little faith.

Totaling up the years, members of the Finance Committee have given close to **200 years of faithful service to Bethesda** on this committee.

Making out the church budget each year is never an easy task.

I think the older members of Bethesda have wisdom from seeing the good and hard times through the years, the holiness to know that the Lord **has** and **will** continue to bless our church if we ask and walk in **HIS** will.

If you ask citizens who have lived in Mountlake Terrace for forty or fifty years, they will have stories that touched their life through our Sunday school, youth choir, summer picnics, weddings, funerals, Boy and Girl Scouts and all our different dinner fellowships we have had in the past.

Our Church has always been active in our community and shown Love to everyone who enters Bethesda.

Like Solomon, I think our Finance Committee and congregation have an "understanding heart."

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm 	2 <i>(office closed)</i> Ruth/Miriam Circle 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Facilities Committee 6:30pm @ J. Minnis' Girl Scouts - 6:45pm	3 Brownies 6:30pm	4 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	5 Brownies 6:30pm	6 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	7 Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 10:00am
8 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	9 More Than Membership 10:00 am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm WAM Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm	10	11 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	12 Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm	13 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	14
15 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	16 Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	17 Brownies 6:30pm <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u>	18 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	19 Brownies 6:30pm	20 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	21 Family Movie Night 5:30pm
22 Worship - 10:15am <i>Bi-Annual Congregational meeting</i> All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	23 Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm	24	25 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	26 Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm	27 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	28 Men's Fellowship 8:00am
29 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	30 Community Dinner 5:30pm	31				



THIS MONTH'S
Birthdays

2 - Kathie Murphy	13 - Dylan Olson	22 - Spencer Bueing
Derald Porter	15 - Lillian Cunningham	24 - Zackery Goldsmith
Garry Swierenga	19 - Anny Glebe	28 - Walter Smith
4 - Marie Fay	20 - Laurie Olson	30 - Joan Minnis
8 - Sue Rasmussen	(Pearson)	
11 - Ray Rasmussen	21 - Audriana Hindman	

PROFILES OF SOME SPECIAL LADIES! *(answers on page 6)*

A) WHO AM I? *

I was born in Conrad, Montana on a sheep ranch. The date of my birth was August 14, 1935. My twin sisters died before I was born. But I was blessed with two other sisters, Judy & Linda. Last year, Judy died suddenly when a train ran into her car. I miss her so much.

A very exciting event happened for me when I was twelve years old. It was my first train ride to Colorado!

As I was born during the "Great Depression, it is just a memory for me. I am sure, if pressed, I could recall a story or two! I do remember that we lived on a farm. World War II was memorial only in that the Japanese surrendered on my 10th birthday.

I was married and had 4 children. My son, Skip, lives in Seattle. Bill lives near the Oregon border. Wes lives in Brier and Deb lives in Nevada near Las Vegas. My husband, Wilford, died on January 9th, 1996. He was a carpenter. Our two sons are also carpenters.

I moved to Mountlake Terrace in 1969 because we bought a house here! I first arrived at Bethesda in 1969 after our house purchase. I was a faithful steward until 1972. In 1980, I returned to BLC and am still alive and kickin'!

I became a banquet waitress in 1971. I retired from banquet service in the year 2000. My need to serve is still strong! I enjoy meal preparation for Senior Lunches despite the grumblings we hear.

I hope to continue to be useful in helping people and continue to be a service to God!

B) WHO AM I? *

I was born in Stuttgart, Germany January 19th, 1927. I have one sister, Edie. As children, we were so excited about St. Nicolas's yearly visit!

The bombings of WWII were pretty devastating and we, as children, had to show our loyalty to the Fuhrer whether we liked it or not. We lived in constant fear. The air raids were pretty scary. Food was scarce. We mainly existed on potatoes.

continued on page 6

I got married to an American soldier in 1948. We had 5 children. Three of them live in Washington; one in Colorado and another child lives in California. My husband died in 2002. My husband loved to garden and I was very content to let him be God's earth keeper!

I moved to MLT in 2005. I worked as a R.N. in Monroe General Hospital for 13 years.

I love to read, knit a little, listen to classical music and attend classical concerts with Dena.

The satisfaction of helping others is very rewarding. I hope future generations can live in peace and be kind and helpful to each other.

C) WHO AM I? *

I was born in Stanford, Nebraska on April 16th, 1922. I had five brothers and five sisters. We lived on a farm and did a lot of things that may not be fun for young people today but we had fun! The "Great Depression" was very hard to understand. And then, WWII, added to the scarcity of everything. It was difficult to make ends meet with all the rationing and such.

We moved to the Seattle area in 1945. I had 4 children; one son, 66, who resides at Ocean Shores, one daughter, 61, in Stanwood, a daughter, 58, in Indiana and my youngest daughter, 51, resides with me.

We moved to MLT on November 25th, 1949 and I became a member of Bethesda in 1958.

I was a foster mother for 15 years the way fed of my life. I also had a day care center for 15 years. Now, I have been in the Senior Volunteer corps and at the church. I have worked and work with a lot of nice people.

Everyone needs help at times and I like to listen to him or her and help him or her if I can.

My wish for future generations is to help each other and love each other.

D) WHO AM I? *

I was born in Albion, Nebraska on November 25th, 1922. I had one brother and twin sisters. I remember attending a country school in St Helens, Oregon. It was a one-room school with only one teacher. It was 2 miles outside of the city limits.

During the Depression, we lived in the country. Times were hard but we were young. The sad thing was the death of my mother when I was twelve.

I didn't much pay attention to the war but I got married in Portland in 1940. I had two children. My son lives in North City and my daughter lives with me.

I got married again in 1950 and we moved to MLT. My husband worked for Jack Peterson. I have been a member of Bethesda since 1950.

I was a teacher for a Parent Cooperative Preschool for 41 years! Often, toddlers approach me that are now grandparents wanting to know if I remember them, their children and their children's children!

I traveled to Norway with my sister, her husband and my father. Only our cousins were still living at the time of our visit.

I think that serving others is very important and also that we love the Lord. I hope future generations will keep well and serve the Lord. Everyone is a Special Friend of the Lord.

My dream is for Bethesda to keep growing. It would be so wonderful to have our church full of young people again!

Thoughts For The Month

by *Jeanne Krahn*

Often you will hear someone saying “I am glad God changes the times and seasons, aren’t you? Without His colors of nature creating different scenes almost daily, wouldn’t life be dull without life’s changes, outdoors or within us?” I’ve wondered sometimes how people living in places such as Hawaii or Mexico decide if or how there are four seasons. For myself, each of the four seasons holds its own mysteries, plays its own music with sights, smells, feelings and fantasies—offering us a time to play or reflect on the seasons of our own lives. My days of skiing or snowshoeing are long gone (but I can still make angel wings in the snow), but winter seems to give me a season of quiet reverence, before spring’s punch for get up and go, one refreshing and renewal. Someone has written: *“We cannot tell what will happen to us in the strange medley of life. But we can decide what happens in us - how we can take it, what we do with it - and that is what really counts in the end. How to take the raw stuff of life and make it a thing of worth and beauty - that is the test of living. Life is an adventure of faith if we are to be victors over it, not the victims of it.”* Anon. Yes, it can be a time, now that “Christmas commercialism—before and after” has simmered down or hopefully away, for not only reflection but resolutions. Oh, that word! A jillion people promise themselves and family they are truly going to follow through on exercise, losing weight, visit friends, etc., etc. You name it, someone’s going to do it.

Oh, the decisions! Jot down your choices, ideas and images. Ask for opinions, you’ll get them from everywhere! Too many options! Read Earle McLeod’s book, *“Forget Perfect: Finding Joy, Meaning and Satisfaction in the Life You’ve Already Got and the You You Already Are”* - Perigee Books, \$13.95. Decisions when we live in an age of more choices for being, living, loving, caring, buying, etc. We’re in danger of constant “overload”. It hits me, definitely, every month on the day I need to write and deadline looms. Complaints about my choices with so much in the world to write about makes me wonder if I’m tough enough to “walk my talk”. It’s a mixed bag, that’s what I tell everyone how I choose what I write. It’s actually supposed to be stewardship of God’s resources but the ‘chief critique’ in the household (who?) infers it becomes my personal soapbox, and when asking son, Tim, if he’s read a certain article, replies, “Read it? I’ve lived it for thirty some years.” Don’t ask y’all to agree with me, just reflect on your own life and what we’re doing to ourselves, family and the world we live in—we all live in and on this one world together. We’ll hang in together.

Swarthmore College professor, Barry Schwartz, traversing store aisles found 285 varieties of cookies; 230 soup offerings; 40 options of toothpaste; 360 types of shampoos, conditioners, gels and mousse; 275 varieties of cereals; 90 different cold remedies and anti-congestants; 64 kinds of barbecue sauce (he’s never been to local D&D Meats); 175 types of tea bags and at least 15 assorted flavors of bottled water. His research into the choices we have and why we

make them question whether having so many choices is really a good thing after all. Having so much can create stress, disappointment and depression. “You can reach a point where you’ve so many choices that it produces paralysis rather than liberation”, he says. Research on anything, yes, but, as in your life, weigh at against your value system. What do you care about? What really matters to you? Intuition can be your inner compass. Avoid pressure from anyone you’ve asked or not when you’re told what to do. They’re not the ones who have to live with the consequences.

Need some Happy New Year’s resolutions for your life? What do I want to need from life? What am I willing to offer for my needs? What are the true pleasures of life in this world and how many thousands do they cost, or are they relatively low priced and abundant? Will I ever have the time I need to cover half of the things I want to get to (clean out the junk rooms and answer all my “snail mail” - no computer)? Am I sacrificing any small part of my mental or physical makeup for something that isn’t worth it, or is anything work such a sacrifice? How many things am I doing for profit? And how many things am I doing for fun? Many have pondered why, as we age, life becomes more complicated. Are we going too slow or too fast? Remember when starting school, big decision—what color do I use? Harry Chapin’s song “Flowers are Red” tells the story of a little boy’s first day in school when the teacher sees the colors he’s using, scolds him and tells him “flowers are red, young man, green leaves are green. There’s no need to see flowers any other way than they’ve always been seen.” Such happens in life. As we grow older, the world tells us how we should see it. If we draw “outside the lines” or choose other colors, we are judged, reprimanded or rejected. We have some wonderful, loving friends living in their beautiful yellow and blue home midst blocks of all the same, pale tan or brown houses. They were never afraid to do and say what they felt is the right choice for them. They were aware, having traveled much of our world, they needed to choose color fitting the picture of their lives and drew a new line or two. The world might resist, but our lives are our art.

‘Nuff heavy, heavy! Tidbits for now:

- Don’t throw out that leftover party wine. Freeze into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.
- Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian anymore than a garage makes you a car.
- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until they speak.
- Prayer is not a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble, but a steering wheel that directs the right path.
- Our memory is more like a duffel bag than a filing cabinet. (Wonder how it decides what we keep or what we throw away.)

“Nuf of mine wandering now, times up! Take good care of each other for a Happy New Year.

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