

THE OUTREACH

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From Pastor Paul-

I'll admit it. When I was a kid we had three choices for television channels, NBC, ABC, and CBS. All programs were in black and white. My favorite was Superman. I couldn't wait to get home from school to hear those famous words, "Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap over tall buildings with a single bound. Look up in the sky, it's a bird, it's a plane, no...it's Superman!" Choices were limited. In the short span of my life, I have witnessed such rapid changes that it sometimes is hard to believe they have happened.

In the last three decades we have *experienced* what some have called the "Information Age." In fact, according to James White, in his book, *Retinking the Church*, more information has been gathered

in the last three decades alone than in the previous five millennia. That's five thousand years folks! It could also be called the "Transformational Age." It represents more than simple change, it is a *rebirthing*. *Now we have more than enough choices, yet there is still one that everyone must make.* We must choose whether or not to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior and devote our life to being his disciple. We have just completed a wonderful Advent and Christmas season. We now face a brand new year. *Only* God knows what lies ahead for us in 2012. One thing we do know for sure, as the scripture tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same, today, yesterday and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) Our methods may change, but our message never does. The "how" of communication is not as important as

"the who" of our communication. As we continue to intentionally search for God's will, let's do so with enthusiastic expectation toward outreach and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. My prayer for the new year is that we join our hearts and hands together to do God's will, in God's way, and in God's time.

The Transition Team is working diligently to carry out their assignment. They are meeting twice in January and will be conducting a second town hall meeting on January 29. Thank you, Bethel Church Family, for the many generous ways you continue to show your support of our staff ministry team. I consider it a blessing to be able to serve as your Intentional Interim Pastor. To God be the glory.

2011 Missions Report from Frances

Beds for Kids- In January and February there will be a collection of new or gently used linens for twin beds or cribs. Please place these items in the boxes provided in each building.

CARITAS- In May the church will host about 33 women guests. A collection of food and toiletry items will start in March.

SUMMER MISSION EXPERIENCES-

1. Project with the Northumberland Habitat
2. Pillow collection for the Lakota Indians Fall- Workday at Gleaning for the World.

Operation Christmas Child- Shoeboxes in November

2011 Mission Accomplishments!!!

A huge thanks for the church's support of all the following projects:

- 33 women housed through CARITAS
- 13 Christmas Jars donated to senior Native Americans in Virginia
- Workday held at Gleaning
- Weekly ESL classes held for the first half of the year
- \$2500 raised for orphanage house building project
- Monthly support of Hannah (including \$300 raised through pie sales)

Thank you!

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Monthly Schedules & Announcements

Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00 pm in the People of Hope Center. This month's menus are:

Jan. 4- Pulled BBQ pork/buns, tater tots, slaw, pork 'n beans and dessert.

Jan. 11- Salisbury steak/gravy, steamed rice, broccoli casserole, biscuits and dessert.

Jan. 17- Ham, macaroni and cheese, steamed cabbage, warmed seasoned apples, biscuits and dessert.

Jan. 25- Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad bar, French bread, and dessert.

CHILD CARE

Our schedule of helpers for January is:

Jan. 1- Need volunteer

Jan. 8- Camden

Jan. 15- Chauncey

Jan. 22- Camden

Jan. 29- Brooks, Garland
(one service)

Thanks to all of our volunteers. Your service is extremely appreciated. Please be in the classroom 15 minutes before the service begins to receive the children.

We rejoice to welcome the following into our fellowship at Bethel:

Miss Deborah Jean Hess

Mr. Curtis Slayer

Library Notes

Let it snow, let it snow. Those words you will not hear from my lips. Now you may see a snowman in the library - he has a way of showing up in January.

I would like to thank Sissy Dance for letting the library use her Beautiful carolers for our Christmas

window.. So many church friends have helped us enhance the window with something special from their homes. Thank you.

We have a nice collection of winter books for our children. I am sure we will have some discussions about SNOW.

Happy New Year to all of you. The library staff wishes nothing but good things to come to you and your family.

Barbara Bell
Media/Library Director

THANK YOU'S-

Brenda and Nick Peck appreciate the many kind expressions of sympathy you extended after the death of Nick's father. "There is no substitute for the comfort that comes through caring friends."

Thank you to all of our old friends, and our new friends, at Bethel for the beautiful Christmas cards. May each of you have a Blessed New Year!
Cheryl and David Grubbs

The church staff thanks the Bethel congregation for the many gifts and cards we received at Christmas. You are truly a loving congregation.

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year! Thank you so very much for your gifts and cards, and for supporting us at Ci Ci's and Martins. If you haven't designated your Martins card yet, please do so ASAP. Every little bit we receive from a fundraiser is a big help to

Our Christmas party was enjoyed by our preschoolers, parents, grandparents, teachers, etc. The children sang for us and did a great job. Thank you to our terrific parents for sending in delicious refreshments and a big thank you to Bob Hansen

and Jimmy Morris for the extra cleaning.

We are having Chapel and our Ci Ci's fundraiser on January 9 and Parent/Teacher conferences on January 26. We will be closed on January 16th, 26th, and 30th. Our WEE meeting is on January 19 at 7:00.

Look on our preschool bulletin board for our cute 3 year old and preK class photos. We have to try again for the twos, and they wouldn't cooperate. But they have all adjusted so well to coming to preschool, and even got up and performed at our party!

-Martha Tanner