



The Bethel Lighthouse

Season 1 - Episode 3 - May 2013

Shining the Light of Christ to a broken world.

From the Pastoral Staff

Youth Pastor Abe McWethy and his wife Lesley are getting ready to welcome a new little McWethy into their lives. They also have been able to move into a house that will fit the needs of their growing family. It was wonderful to have Lesley's mother visit here this month and a baby shower / house warming was held for Abe & Lesley on April 28th. Praise God for his blessings to Abe & Lesley.



Church Business Meeting

Annual Committee & Board reports were given at the meeting on May 19th. New officers and committee members were voted upon and approved. It was interesting to see how God has worked in the past year within our congregation, in outreach to the community and the world. Praise God for his blessings both spiritually and financially.

The Good Men of Bethel



Ezra Snyder

A recent guest speaker was Ezra Snyder from "Unbound Ministries". His message of personal freedom invited the brothers into greater freedom in Christ. The next series for the Men's group will be "Walking With God: Talk to Him. Hear from Him. Really." by John Eldredge. Wednesdays at 5:30.

Begins with dinner. Don't miss it!

The Women In Our Lives

Bethel women attended "Refresh", the Annual Women's Retreat at Warm Beach this month. The speaker was Karen Mains, a gifted author and communicator. She is also a former co-host with her husband David of the "Chapel Of The Air" radio series. Ladies from the retreat came back truly refreshed and ready to serve the Lord.



Karen Mains

Second Saturday Sewing continues to be a great time to come together and make gowns for hospice patients & then share in a delicious lunchtime meal. There is a special feeling that comes from helping these patients and families at a difficult time in their lives.

Also, don't forget the annual "Clear the Clutter" Rummage Sale on Memorial day. Monday May 27th.

Children's Ministry

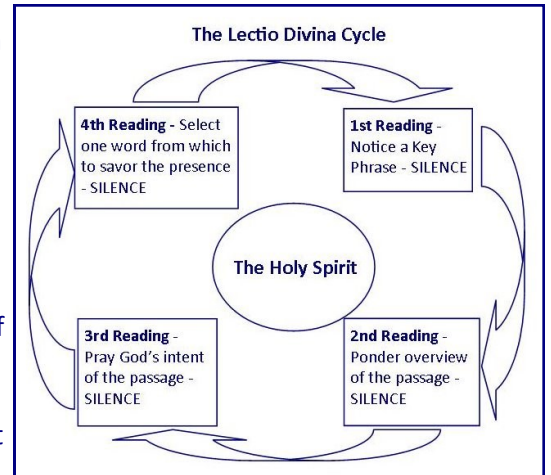
The kids in the Annex are going on a journey! During the Sunday School and Children's Church Hour, the students will spend time learning about our missionaries. Each child will have a notebook containing information about the countries where our missionaries serve. Included are missionaries supported by Bethel, our Family Missionaries and also Converge Worldwide missions. Each child will have a "passport" complete with their picture on it. Many thanks to Greg Kuper Sr. and the volunteers who support this work.



Congratulations to **Miss Alexis Horning** who was baptized on Sunday May 5th. She gave a very strong testimony of having received Jesus as her Savior and of how God has made her life much better. Many of her family and relatives were here to witness this joyous occasion. It was great to meet her new baby sister Nevaeh Grace too. The question is; "who's next?"

Awakenings Prayer Institute (API) & Retreats

What is Lectio Divina? It is a way you can experience the presence of God through the prayerful reading of His Word. There are four steps in praying this method. The goal is to pray back God's intent as he expressed it through his Spirit in the words of the text. This calls upon us to pray our consent as he reveals his intent. It is a movement not only into silence, but from silence to expression.



Several folks recently attended the Awakenings Prayer Retreat at the beautiful setting of Westminster Abbey in British Columbia, Canada. The theme was **Soul Friendship**.

Here are some thoughts from those who were at the retreat;

- I ended the retreat feeling joy and thankfulness.
- I want to remember how I felt at the Soul Friendship Sunday event and the presence of Christ right with me.
- Being a prayerful observer was helpful in making me a better listener.
- Experiencing the Soul Friendship Triad was meaningful – being listened to, having my heart and mouth empty its contents at the doorstep of a friend. That friend invited me into her “space” as if I were an invited guest.
- In the historical background it was nice to see how people of faith, seeking the truth, are used by God so that his church is not lost in human error.
- The experience of the monastery as well as the historical teaching sessions were extremely insightful for me because I come from a Catholic background – usually these things are minimized by evangelicals rather than elevated by understanding.



the grief in our lives. Sharon learned that listening is just as important and fulfilling in ministry as anything else. The people were excited to share with her and she was thankful that God gave her patience to listen carefully and understand what they were saying.

If the opportunity came to return to Japan, Sharon says she would be willing and hopefully able to go. She greatly enjoyed the culture because of the quiet, clean, simple lifestyles they had. The people were curious and wanted to be helped, and also to share. They were continually hospitable. If you would like to see pictures and daily updates, visit the Adelpia Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AdelpiaSchool>

One thing Sharon wants to continually do is to put people before a project. She thinks about how people are forgotten for the sake of getting a job done. Sharon will be working at Lake Retreat this summer. In the fall she plans to pursue a course of study in Midwifery.

It was also VERY NICE to welcome home **Steve & Diane** Mosman after their two month stay in Papua, Indonesia. During their stay, Diane taught English to the Aviation staff and Steve built furniture for the Hanger facility. They also did counseling & just loved the people. The results were very encouraging. Prayers of the Bethel folks were much appreciated during their absence.

Outreach and Missions

Sharon Steen has completed her year of study at Adelpia Bible School. Congratulations on a job well done.



She recently returned from Japan, where she traveled with other students from Adelpia. During the 11 day trip, the mission team assisted in Ishinomaki City as they came alongside those already serving the people affected by the 2011 Tsunami. Sharon says that what impacted her the

most in working with the people was to know that she was one of the few Christians they had ever met. She was also impressed by their reserved, guarded, disciplined nature. Her outlook on life and ministry changed by questioning how God fit into the entire disaster in Japan. The culture in Japan is “no touch” but it was awesome how the people changed. Her outlook on life is looking at how God fits into

News from the Church Council

- The Deacons have had the privilege of interviewing several folks for Church Membership. The most recent new members are Les & Beth Lewis, Brandi Campey, and Jackie Taylor. Welcome to the Bethel Family.
- We participated in a continuous county-wide prayer effort beginning on the National Day of Prayer, May 2nd, until Pentecost, May 19th.
- Congratulations to the Worship Team for their month long emphasis of “Worship Through the Decades”.
- Security issues for the church building and our children continue to be addressed by the Council.
- Staffing for Children’s Ministry continues to thrive.

Bag Ladies Plus One Weekly Sack Lunch ministry is requesting the following items to include in the lunches packed every week. *Chips (individual size), bottled water, fresh fruit and granola bars.* Please bring these items to the church by Wednesdays. **THANKS!!!**



“Remember: He WANTS your fellowship, and He has done everything possible to make it a reality. He has forgiven your sins, at the cost of His own dear Son. He has given you His Word, and the priceless privilege of prayer and worship.” — [Billy Graham](#), *Hope for Each*

Day: Words of Wisdom and Faith

“Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened.

— [Billy Graham](#)

Stewardship	As of 5-12-13
Total General Fund Income Year To Date	\$ 76,975.00
GF Budget Needed Through May 12 th , 2013	\$ 80,123.00
Percent Over / Under Budget	-3.9%
Monthly General Fund Need	\$ 18,275.00
General Fund Giving for May	\$ 3,863.21
Designated Fund Giving for May	\$ 178.16
Total Giving for May	\$ 4,041.37
Total Giving Year to Date	\$ 92,177.05