



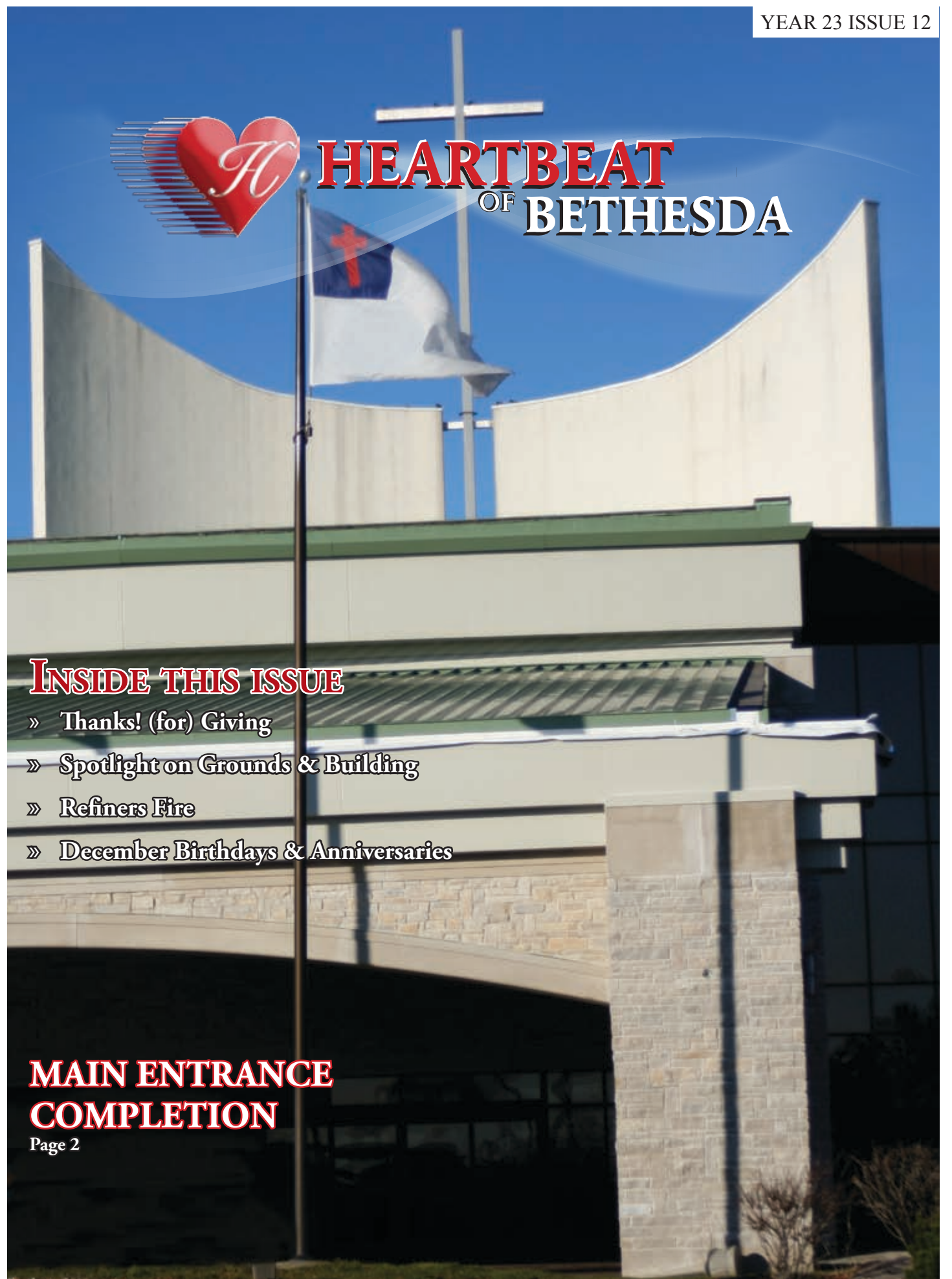
HEARTBEAT OF BETHESDA

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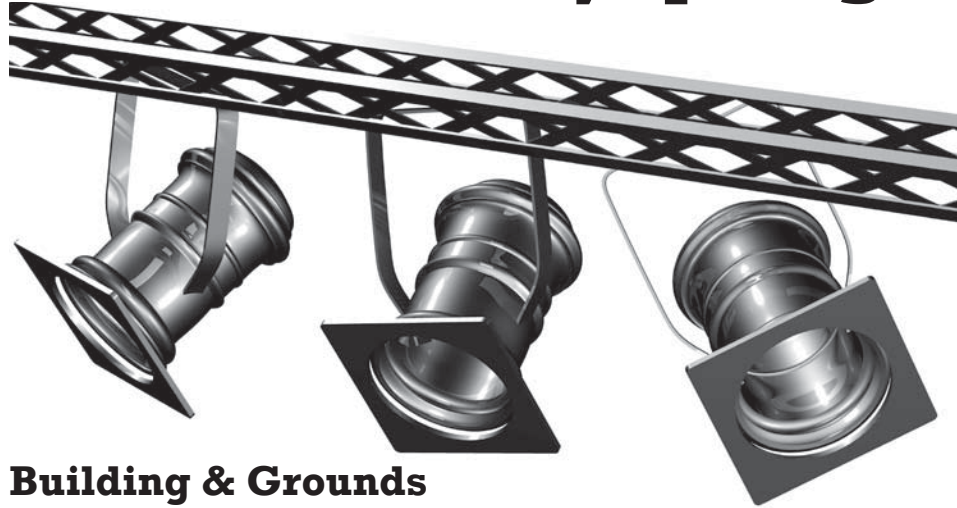
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MAIN ENTRANCE COMPLETION

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Ministry Spotlight



Building & Grounds

By Brian Swarts, Building & Grounds Director

Greetings from the Buildings & Grounds Department! What an exciting year we've had. Who could have envisioned that one year ago when I last wrote to you that we would be rebuilding our Main Entrance this summer and fall? As I look back at the event, I can clearly see that God's hand was certainly evident in the timing of its downfall. Earlier that day we had held a funeral here and many of the folks attending had used that entrance to make their way out to their vehicles. Additionally, the majority of the Church staff, as well as the school's staff/student body were off the property. As a result, there were no bodies in that area when it collapsed. *PTL!* Through it all, we have had good people involved in making sure we have a structure that will look presentable and function well for many years to come.

Some of our congregants have been a part of this reconstruction process, offering us their vast years of building structural design experience and knowledge. The architect and construction company have been first rate in their handling of the entire project and, despite some weather setbacks and material shipment delays, we look to have this finished the first week of December. Along with the new Portico, we also have redesigned the interior of the main entrance. We were able to replace the old revolving doors with 2 sets of sliding doors to help offset the blasts of cold air that used to chill our main lobby every winter. In addition, we added two heated air-curtains that blow warm air into the new vestibule to temper that cold air before it hits the lobby. I am confident that this winter we'll see and feel an improvement to our main lobby use by all who attend or visit us the coming year.

We also are gearing up for that inevitable wintertime event—snow. Yes, I said it will happen and we all know it. With that in mind, we have need of a few more volunteers for the sidewalk clearing crews. Your help would be very useful on Sundays if we have a late snowfall on Saturday; and, if we have enough folks volunteering, you would only be scheduled once per month which means likely 4 times over the whole winter. (And if you pray hard enough, you may not even have to be called in to help!!) So please look in your bulletin for the sign up tab, complete it and put it in the offering plate as it comes around. We'll be most appreciative and I know you'll be blessed for your offering of service to the church body. Speaking of volunteering, we also will be in need of some volunteers during the spring/summer to help with the grounds. Lawn cutting, flower planting and flower bed upkeep are areas always in need of a caring hand or two; and, even if you can only come out once a week for four (4) hours that would be greatly appreciated. Please consider how you might be able to assist us as we go through the seasons in 2012.

God Bless you all,
Brian Swarts
Director of Buildings & Grounds



Heartbeat of Bethesda

a monthly newsletter of

Bethesda Christian Church

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Sterling Heights, MI 48312
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Please email all submissions to
Heartbeat:
cjohnson@bethesdachristian.org

-CHURCH MISSION-
ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE
ENCOURAGING RELATIONSHIPS
EMBRACING DESTINY

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Analee Dunn

ARTS

Terry Allen

BIBLE INSTITUTE

Dr. Ruth Whittaker

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Brian Swarts

BUSINESS MANAGER

James Dunn

CARE & OUTREACH

Rev. Barry Allen

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rob Susan

STUDENT MINISTRY

Jesse Allen

COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

Terry Allen

COMMUNICATIONS

Sonja Bultynck

EDUCATION & MEN'S MINISTRIES

Rev. Patrick Visger

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Timothy Helland

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Maurice Graves

MISSIONS

Joseph Cadariu

PARKWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Lila Place

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Rev. Julie Visger



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Send a Card

December is the perfect time to remind our homebound friends that they are thought of and prayed for. Please drop a note or card in the mail and spread some cheer this Christmas.

Updates on our Home-Bound Friends

Communion is available to Bethesda members who are in the hospital, homebound, or in nursing care. You must contact Rev. Barry Allen at the church office at least two weeks before the first Sunday of the month to be on the schedule. The recipient must be available on the first Sunday afternoon of the month to be served, unless other arrangements are made with the church or Elder/Deacon assigned to this duty. You can reach Rev. Barry Allen at (586) 264-2300, Ext. 114 or email him at ballen@bethesdachristian.org.

Kit and I visited with **Dolores Braxton**



yesterday after church and had a wonderful time! Her brother, Irvin, greeted us at the front door and warmly welcomed us inside. Dolores' granddaughter, Carmella, was also present. It was obvious the three of them were highly anticipating receiving communion, because they had prepared ahead of time. Dolores not only had the two songs picked out that she wanted everyone to sing, but she also had a copy of the words to those songs on hand-outs for each one of us. All three of them had a bible in front of them and were really ready to "participate" in the communion supper. But the one thing that truly overwhelmed Kit and me was that Dolores had put a bunch of tithe envelopes in a large envelope and then she asked us to turn them in for her. Her brother, Irvin, also gave us a tithe envelope. And then her granddaughter spoke up and said, "Grandma, why didn't you give me one of those envelopes. I want to give too!" Kit explained to her that she could participate in giving tithes to her home church (Grace Community). She told him that she does give there, but wants to give more! Recently Carmella became Born Again and she's so excited about the Lord! Dolores opened up to us with a story of how her and her husband and four daughters came to BCC. It started with listening to Sister Beall on the radio back in the 70's. She said that she loves Bethesda, Brother Jim and Pastor Analee. She also told us how her and her husband believed that they should sow a seed of faith into each one their grandchildren for the blessing they received through our church, so they

paid for all 14 grandkids to go through our Catechism Class. She shared one story after another of the goodness of the Lord and His faithfulness to always being "on-time". When it was time for us to leave we all stood up and joined hands as we prayed for Carmella's husband who was going to the doctor. Then Irvin came out of the kitchen with large bag of giant marshmallows, bottled water for both of us, and a box of Christmas cookies. As Kit and I drove away we both agreed that we felt like we had just had a 5 course meal. We were full of God's goodness and fully satisfied. **Karleen and Franklin Warren**

Dale and I had a nice visit with **Vivian Edwards** today. We kept it short because she was struggling and not feeling well due to her pneumonia. When we arrived, we were greeted by her Shih-tsu, "Vivi", whom we learned had a name change from "Bebe" —compliments of Vivian's late husband, Harry. It is evident that Vivian misses her husband greatly. However she receives comfort from God's strength, the care from her large family and the companionship of her dog. Vivian reminisced about her husband's recent memorial service and how she was comforted by Pastor Dunn's words. Although Ruth Whittaker had written a eulogy, she was unable to deliver it personally as part of the service due to her health issues. Sharron Rutt read it in her place. Vivian shared that she is also suffering from neuropathy in her hands, which is preventing her from driving, cooking, etc., and her physician is sending her to a neurologist. Following communion, we anointed Vivian with oil and prayed for God's healing touch in her body. She was grateful for the prayer time as well as the delivery of an afghan made and donated by Margaret Geisz. **Dale and Angela Flowers**

What a treat to visit with **Maurice and Linda Graves** in their lovely home. Maurice continues to receive in-home physical therapy following surgery to correct a problem in his back. He is graduating from using a walker to unassisted walking in the house and hopes to return to church before Thanksgiving. The evidence of Linda's 'green thumb' is still visible in the flower beds and shrubs that add beauty to their one story home where they relocated to 'make life easier' without stairs. A happy birthday balloon was still flying high from a recent family gathering to celebrate Linda's October birthday. Another balloon was floating above a diploma from their son, Brian's, recent graduation having completed the requirements for Graphic Design. They anticipate the coming of Christmas which will likely include another Christmas play written by one of their granddaughters, who composes a new one each year with assigned roles to be played by various members of the family. Maurice shared some of his experiences while still working as an International Union Representative at Chrysler Corp. We joined in prayer for the family including prayer for Brian's search now for employment. Maurice and Linda have faithfully served the church in the capacity of Deacons and continue now as Elders. We were blessed by the beauty of the Grave family's smiles. **William and Elaine Stoddard**

Will and I enjoyed a scenic drive, traveling to visit **Dorothy Howton**, across Metro Parkway and up Groesbeck toward Richmond. A warm and sunny day in November is a rare treat and must be savored. A few leaves lingered on the trees and added to the color from the blue sky. Dorothy introduced

Refiners Fire REDEMPTION PROGRAM

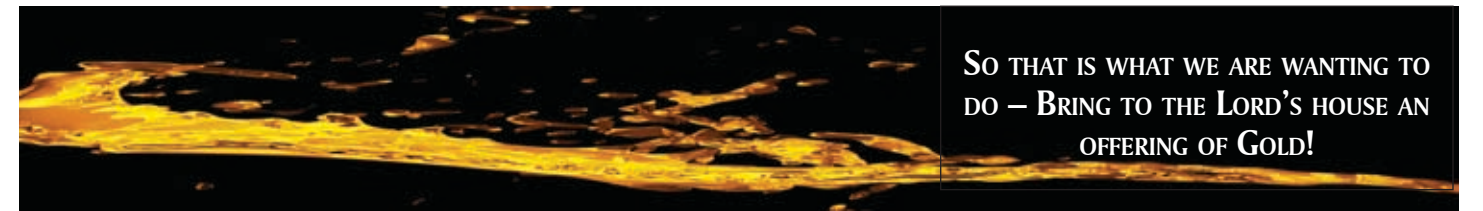


This past Sunday we introduced our "Refiners Fire" gold redemption program that will help our Church generate funds without anyone in the congregation having to write a check.

The purpose in doing this is to bring in sufficient funds which will allow us to move forward in repairing our tablet on the roof, replace the worn out HVAC controls and pave areas of our parking lots. These three projects alone will cost many thousand dollars and we believe there is a rather unique way to accomplish this.

If you will recall the Bible states in Exodus 35:5 - "From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering of gold, silver and bronze."

You have probably watched as local jewelry stores or pawnshops have encouraged folks to cash in on unused or unwanted jewelry because the price of gold has risen so dramatically in the last few years. There have even been gold themed "house parties" that some of you may have attended in order to do the same thing. Reports have surfaced about how low a dollar value is generated compared to the actual value of what is being turned in. That is because the actual process of melting down gold is quite an operation.



SO THAT IS WHAT WE ARE WANTING TO DO – BRING TO THE LORD'S HOUSE AN OFFERING OF GOLD!

Our leadership has been in touch with a group used by nearly 30 churches around the nation. In fact, we will be the first church in Michigan to adopt this approach. In our discussions with these folks, we have become connected with assayers and smelters who look on this type of offering as a ministry to advance the work of churches. As a result, the dollar value of what you donate will be considerably higher than what you might be paid locally for your scrap gold. We hope you will see that by our collective efforts we can better use all the resources at our disposal in these challenging times.

Scrap gold is any used or broken gold jewelry, gold earrings - matched or single (even just posts), gold wedding bands, gold class rings, gold watches, gold coins, gold medals, gold locket, gold charms, gold chains, gold broaches and pins, old gold dental fillings, bridges or teeth

You might be surprised at the scrap gold in your home. These other churches have found their members reporting the most unusual things that have been placed in a drawer for decades and just collecting dust. Here is a way to use what you do not wear or no longer have any sentimental regard for.

As we explained, on Sunday December 11 and 18, 2011, we are going to take a collection up of scrap gold and convert it for Kingdom work. The process is very easy and afterwards you will be getting a statement from the Church (based on current market prices) that you will be able to use for tax purposes.

If you are not able to join us on collection Sunday or want more details, please look in the Information Racks in the lobby or see our website at www.BethesdaChristian.org.

We want you to consider being involved in this special way to help and bless the Church.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Anna M. Younis May 18, 1934-November 7, 2011



Anna Younis was born Anna Marie Frey. Her parents, Joseph and Anna Frey raised her and her older brother Joe in Dearborn, Michigan. Anna loved to ride bikes and explore the open fields that dominated the then developing area. Anna was a sensitive and shy child. She attended Edsel Ford High School and Wayne State University. Although Anna often mentioned that she would have enjoyed being a librarian, she graduated with a degree in Education. While attending Wayne State, Anna and Richard would meet to share a meal at the Salvation Army's Evangeline residence. Richard and Anna were married on July 1st, 1961. Anna often mused that she missed being a June bride by 1 day. This year they celebrated 50 years.

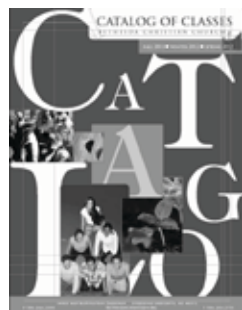
After marrying, Anna taught at the Detroit public schools and the couple ministered in the Cass Corridor and 2nd Avenue areas of Detroit. They worked in small missions and made life-long friends with other inter-city missions workers, including "Sister" Lee Coudsy who would provide their daughter's middle name and inspiration for years to come. Their desire to participate in a growing church family in revival, led them to Bethesda where they were members for over 40 years. Anna felt blessed to be able to use her creative talents at Bethesda. She provided typing and scrap-booking assistance for Ruth Whitaker and found a use for her inner librarian by assisting with setting up the library. In more recent years she participated in the Handbell Choir, Sidewalk Sunday School, the Christmas Pageant and visiting area Nursing homes.

Anna was a historian by nature. She loved to catalog and create captions for the thousands of photos she took. She used this talent for many of the community organizations she participated in like the Saint Clair

Shores Community Chorus and several drama groups. She also loved music. She sang and played several instruments including the drums, violin and dulcimer. She was also a woman of great compassion. She was frugal but generous. She would remember a nursing home resident's comment that they would love a new pair of socks and search the following week at resale shops to make sure she had a pair for them when she went for the next visit. She would mentally track people's casual comments about their likes and dislikes. Even at the end of her time on this earth she would say, "Remember Tami, dad's favorite fruit is Strawberries and he likes mustard on his sandwiches, not mayo."

But Anna's greatest love and passion was God. It stirred her heart and gave her a reason to sing. She treasured moments when she could focus on God, His Word and His Creation. And she strove to find those times – whether it was listening to a Gospel record, humming an old hymn, trips to the Upper Peninsula to visit Inter-Varsity's Family Camp or traveling to the Holy Land with Bethesda. The church was the place where she made life-long friends. And it was her church family that gave her the strength to witness to co-workers and relatives. She cherished the Godly friends with whom she could share soul-searching conversations about God and how His influence should affect the way we live our life and relate to our friends and nation. It was these friends that lasted through trials and moves and sickness and the passing of loved ones. And her friendships with Godly people led Anna to moments of great reflection and ultimately, her fervent belief that the most important thing was forgiveness – God forgiving us and us in return forgiving others. Anna's greatest sadness about this last bout with cancer was that it forced her to leave her church family. She would be most pleased to know that this service brought her home to them. ~Submitted by the family of Anna Younis

Adult Catechism Class



What happens to people who never hear about Jesus? Are the books of the Bible just stories? Don't all religions worship the same god? Our Catechism classes give answers to these questions and more. These courses provide interactive discussion in small group settings. As the class progresses, each student will be exposed to the sacraments of the New Testament Church.

Registration and \$45 material fee required. Please contact Rev. Patrick Visger to register (586.263.2300 ext. 119) or complete the form in the Course Catalog, found throughout the lobbies in the brochure racks.

us to her roommate Annie who was also enjoying the November sunshine. Their room faces south and Annie occupied the warm spot by the window. Annie and Dorothy often share their visitors and join together for various Bible studies and prayer times. We served Dorothy communion and then she eagerly popped up from her wheelchair so we could applaud how strong she looked. She lamented that she doesn't get much opportunity to walk. I found a rolling walker and away we went down the hall with Dorothy leading the parade! The staff complimented her on being up on her feet. She travelled about 100 feet before deciding that was far enough. We prayed with Dorothy and Annie, asking for their continued strength. Annie thanked us for praying and asked that we continue to pray for her sore right hand. I assured that we would do just that. Dorothy is always delightful to visit and we enjoy talking with her. **William and Beverly Worman**

We had a wonderful afternoon with **Kurt and Christel Kies**, complete with a lot of good conversation and laughs. Kurt is still suffering with chronic back pain and his Alzheimer's is progressing; however, his hope and trust are in the Lord. Christel is a fantastic caregiver and has the energy of someone 50 or even younger. Their spiritual foundation is deep with wisdom and faith. **Dave and Sandi Ondra**

Had a great time serving **Mable McKee** again. Mable is doing well and is praising the Lord for His goodness! We spent quite a bit of time discussing Pastor's sermon that Sunday and also talked about the worship and how wonderful it was to sing all those Blood songs. It was an exceptional service! While she is doing well, she still requests prayer—don't we ALL need it? **Robin & Steve Malek**

Rev. Phyl Nelson is grateful for the prayers of her Bethesda friends. God answered, enabling her doctor to do

extensive surgery at the end of October, requiring the insertion of a rod in her lower leg, a plate and seven screws.



Her caregiver, Rev. Bob Nelson, served Communion. There have been some tears, moans and groans with pain; but her spirits are high. Her hope is in the Lord. She is off

her feet for three months and expecting she'll be walking without pain by Valentine's Day. **Rev. Bob Nelson**

Mel and I saw **Mary Shonts** at Evangelical Home in Sterling Heights. If you have ever seen a sweet little lady sitting with her walker in the back of our congregation with a huge smile and a big hello as you exit the sanctuary - then you have probably seen our "Mary." She is such a delight and she misses going to church and giving away her smiles. After a recent hospital stay, Mary has been living at Evangelical. She was lying in her bed and looking very chipper and eager to receive guests. She is happy in her new home, but she is frustrated with the therapy progress in her left hand and is having difficulty pushing the wheelchair with this hand. Mary enjoyed hearing about the recent Sunday sermons. We encourage the congregation to visit Mary or send along a little get well card. Each card received is displayed proudly on her window ledge. We shared communion and anointed her with oil. **Twyla & Mel Baggett**

Denise and I visited **Eleanor Stewart** who is now in Bortz Nursing Home. Eleanor said she is having some depression but feels okay. Eleanor was beautiful as usual, her hair done and waiting in her room. She remembered us after we began visiting a while. We served her communion, anointed her with oil and prayed. When we asked what she needed or would like, she asked that she be remembered in prayer. **Tom and Denise Korth**

Joan Strumbos wasn't feeling good. The living room was dark, the blinds were closed, and she was resting. She was surprised to see Rev. Phyl Nelson ride in on her electric wheelchair, less than two weeks after her foot surgery. Rev. Bob Nelson shared highlights of Pastor Dunn's Sunday morning message. Neighbors, all three live at Waltonwood. Lakeside. Bob served Phyl as well as Joan, as Phyl is still having a lot of pain, and is unable to get to church yet. **Revs. Phyllis and Bob Nelson**

We served **Vernon "Uncle Bill" Thompson** at his kitchen table where he was waiting for us. We were excited to present him with a special gift, a lap robe, crocheted by Margaret Geisz. However; the lap robe presentation had to wait until Communion was taken for we knew he would be too excited to concentrate on Communion. His joy at receiving this gift was a delight to all of us. A huge thanks to Margaret Geisz for crocheting the beautiful lap robe. **Richard and Jeri Eix**

Today we had a most extraordinary visit with **Mrs. Hattie Turner!** Having never served Hattie before, we found her in the lovely senior living center Windemere Park on Van Dyke. At 91-years-young, Hattie has her own apartment in the independent living tower and it is a cozy place appointed with her lovely furniture and strewn casually with a few of her favorite appointments, each one with a story of its own. Each and every story is regaled with bursts of memories, bright blue twinkling eyes and chuckling shoulders! Hattie glows with a joy that only comes from the inner abiding of the Holy Spirit. She came to Bethesda with her husband's people "when it was a wooden church" and although she couldn't remember the date, we can all agree that was a very long time ago. We sat down to share the Lord's Supper with her and Hattie even said a beautiful prayer over the Cup. We sang a few of the lovely hymns we had sung in the service that day. Hattie knew every word to "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus." We prayed and anointed her with oil. We gave hugs and left Hattie Turner's home filled to overflowing with gratitude for the privilege of being able to meet and serve this grand woman and to the Lord for the grace and love and Spirit we received from her! **Mary and James Visger**

Hombound Friends - Continued

We had a wonderful visit with **Delores Wrobel** today. This is the day that the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24 is one of our favorite verses in the Bible. The first part of the psalm is a fact: "This is the day the Lord has made." Our almighty God and Creator of the universe is a faithful God and He has given us a new day every day from the beginning of time 365 days a year. The second part of the psalm is a choice we make. God has given us a free will and we can choose to rejoice or not. We choose to rejoice that our Lord has given us another day to serve Him. This particular day the Lord has given us is communion Sunday and we as Elders and Deacons are given the honor to serve the shut-ins of our congregation. Delores Wrobel is a widow with severe arthritis. It takes her a good three hours in the morning just to get moving with her walker. She was hospitalized last week with severe groin and leg pain. She also has two adult daughters that are challenged that live with her. She doesn't drive and has the weight of the world on her shoulders as she has to rely on her neighbors for transportation. Delores would like adult conversation and fellowship. If you have the time, give her a call. Better yet, give her a call and pay her a visit. If you can provide transportation, let her know. When you call, tell her Tom and Carole sent you. She'll be expecting your call (586-532-6048). **Tom & Carole Delano**



today, who is 91 years old. She looked so good and attached is a picture we took of her today. It sure is a beautiful day with a small breeze and sunny. Leaves are falling and Catherine was raking leaves when we left. It was so delightful to hear her stories about coming to Bethesda and working with the nursing homes preaching about Jesus. She has done that for years having services and she even purchased a projector and microphone so the people can hear her and also see the words of scripture on screen as well as words to the choruses they sing. She said she believes in making friends and always offers a smile, candy or a tract. She feels she can continue with her evangelism even though she now must stay at home. Catherine had been falling and when she fell at church by trying to sit down on a bench, at that point her family decided she should go to a doctor and he found she had a fracture in the spine. She said that she is so blessed to have a family that takes good care of her and takes her places that she needs to go. Her husband is living in an assisted living facility and we asked her why is she not with him and Catherine explained, "I can still do for myself and she is not ready to go there." She is a delight. **Karen and John Jones**

We visited **Catherine Zabrzenski**

John Streber asked to have communion the next time I came to see him. During that next visit, we spent some time just talking about all John has been through. He is certain that the Lord has more for him to do since he is still here with us. After just a few minutes of talking, John told me that it was potentially grave for him before the surgery. He is excited about learning what it is that he will have in store as he continues to seek the Lord. He said he knows the prayers of the body of Christ we effective, the love of his family and church family helps him each day. We then took communion, it was truly with so much gratitude to the Lord for his preservation and we also prayed for God's leading as John finishes rehab. **Rev. Barry Allen**

It's always a joy to visit with **Clarence and Virginia Tylkowski** each month. Clarence is going into surgery on November 29 to have a defibrillator placed in his heart. We are praying this procedure will help his shortness of breath and overall heart condition. We had a good time of fellowship and serving them communion. We ended our visit praying for them and singing some of Bethesda's "oldies" (but goodies, including "Something Beautiful," "What A Mighty God We Serve" and "Alive, Alive." Virginia sang like an angel remembering all the words to the songs! **Rob & Peggy Susan**

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PEEWEE BIBLE QUIZ RESULTS - ROOKIE DIVISION

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN - 2ND PLACE
3 Wins - 1 Loss

Individual Top Scores
1st - Evelyn Ghazar
5th - Averece McIntyre
6th - Alex Kruzel

Peewee Bible Quiz - Experienced Division
Bethesda Christian - 3rd Place 3 Wins - 3 Losses
Individual Top Scores
1st - Ariana McIntyre
10th - Sydney Peck

Additional Team Members: Sophia Marchesi & Isa Wilson

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JUNIOR BIBLE QUIZ RESULTS

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN - 3RD PLACE
4 WINS - 2 LOSSES

Individual Top Scores
7th - Stephen Wilson



Additional Team Members: Zuliana Kooma

December Happenings

"Behold, a virgin shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means God With Us." Matthew 1:23

~Be Truly Moved This Christmas~

Friday **Saturday**
Dec 16 **Dec 17**
7 PM **7 PM**



This is a free event. Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

"Tickets "are available in the Daystar Gift Shoppe, at the Information Desks, as well as on our website: BethesdaChristian.org

November Happenings

'tis the season to
Give Thanks

700
food baskets

Over 4,000 food items were donated to feed families in need. And, we all enjoyed the fellowship at the soup and pie gathering after Thanksgiving Eve Service.



God Bless You
bcc congregation