

Bethel Baptist

December 2015



Thoughts from Pastor Gene

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (II Corinthians 9:15)

The Bible tells us that we have been given the most awesome gift that could even be given. Paul Tripp has written, "It's gorgeous from every perspective. It's a gift of such grandeur that it's hard to wrap human vocabulary around it and explain it. It's the gift that every human being needs. It's a gift that in all of your work and all of your effort and all of your achievement you couldn't have ever earned; you could have never deserved; you could have never achieved. It is absolutely without question the gift of gifts."

This is the special time of the year when people all over the world celebrate the Christmas story! God's goodness and generosity were remarkably displayed when Jesus entered the world as the virgin-born son of Mary. God the Son lived a perfect life and sacrificed Himself on the cross to pay the debt for our sins. He rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. Everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus receives God's forgiveness and begins a new life as a child of God that will never end.

Let's be sure we open, treasure, share and celebrate "*the gift of God*" and "*his indescribable gift*" this Christmas!



Christmas Offering



Members and friends of Bethel have demonstrated an impressive concern for others this fall via Operation Christmas Child and Brother Hoy's Christmas Food Drive. Now is our opportunity to show our love and

appreciation for our church. Our faithful giving and special donations in December will hopefully help our church close out the year on a positive note. Let's follow the example of our Heavenly Father this month and be a "*cheerful giver*" (II Corinthians 9:7)!

**Merry
Christmas**

It's a Christmas Party!

Be sure to mark *Sunday, December 13*, on your calendar, because you don't want to miss our annual Christmas Party!

Our Christmas Party committee has a fun evening planned, beginning with an Italian dinner at 5 pm. After dinner, we'll be playing some games that will keep you laughing, followed by a storytime gift exchange (please bring a small gift to include). We'll also have a drawing to see who the lucky person is to receive a gift from the Magi. And a party wouldn't be party without cupcakes, hot cocoa, and apple cider! We'll close out the party with Christmas Carols and a children's story reading in the sanctuary.



Tickets are on sale now! Cost is \$5 for teenagers and adults and \$1 for children age 12 and under.



Children will meet with Ms. Crystal and Ms. Samantha for dinner and games, while our youngest ones will hang out with Ms. Jamie in the nursery.

We hope you'll be able to join us at the Christmas party! Consider bringing a friend or two to join you as well!

**faith &
hope love**

On Mission for God *Jillian Wilson*

Let me paint a picture of a world where handicapped children spend their days in the mud and oppressing humidity and blazing sun, a world where moms try to kill their newborn because they already have six children to feed, a world where rape is commonplace and left unquestioned. That picture is not of a fictional world or part of a Hollywood script, but rather, that world is Haiti. It's a picture that has been forever engrained in my mind for as long as I continue to breathe.

As disturbing as this picture is, it is in this very place where God gave me a fuller, more complete understanding of His heart for the poor and the broken. My deepest cry each time I've gone to Haiti has been for the Lord to allow me to see with His eyes for people, to love with His heart, to work with His hands. Praise God my cry has been answered as I truly have seen Jesus in every person that I've met in Haiti.

God's kingdom is forcefully advancing in Haiti, but Satan's army is desperately combative. Haiti is a very dark place, and the battle for souls rages on. There is still much work to be done, but the Lord is equipping many to fight against the oppression and poverty that lurks there.

As for me, I pray the Lord continues to bless me with the opportunity to be His vessel just a little while longer. He has been so very faithful to me, so how can I be anything but faithful in return? May our Father continue to bless you all during this Christmas season with unspeakable joy, overwhelming love, and a deeper passion for serving the least of these.



Annual Business Meeting

This year's Annual Business Meeting will be held on *Sunday, December 6* at 10 am, in the sanctuary. Ballots will be distributed and members will vote on the 2016 Proposed Budget and nominees for church officers. Sunday school classes will begin immediately after the meeting.



Welcome – *Minsun Park!*

We've been interviewing for a new church pianist and consider ourselves very lucky to have found Minsun Park to fill the position. Minsun holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano and a Master's degree in Piano Performance from Boston University, along with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of New Mexico.

Minsun was born in South Korea, but grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After attending college there, she moved to Boston for her graduate studies and then to Cincinnati to join her sister. While living in Cincinnati, she served as an accompanist for the Cincinnati Children's Choir, and was a staff accompanist and piano faculty member for Northern Kentucky University. Minsun taught piano, violin, and music theory at Indian Springs Academy of Music in West Chester, Ohio. Minsun also served as pianist and administrative assistant for Ascension Lutheran Church in Montgomery, Ohio.

Minsun began a new adventure this year when she moved to Round Rock to be with her mother, brother, and sister. She is a piano teacher and accompanist in the Austin area and has recently received her black belt in Tae-kwon-do. In her spare time, Minsun enjoys doing random computer stuff. Minsun is a wonderful addition to Bethel's music ministry and we look forward to getting to know her better.