

Bethel United Methodist Church

Since 1797, a Methodist Witness in the Heart of Charleston

A National Historic Landmark



Our Mission *Sharing God's Love*

Our Vision *In response to God's love, we welcome all people and care for all Creation. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reflect the light of Christ as we worship and celebrate, teach and learn, witness and serve. As a church, we embrace our diverse community as a gift from God.*

January 1, 2012

57 Pitt Street
Charleston, SC 29401
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THE WORSHIP OF GOD
COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE
January 1, 2012

On Monday, August 11, 1755, John Wesley led what probably was the first real celebration of the Covenant Service in the Methodist movement. Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his Journal: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted" (April 1756); "It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing" (October 1765); "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences ... I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings" (January 1, 1775).

GATHERING MUSIC

Trumpet in Dialogue

Louis-Nicolas Clerambault, French, 1675-1749

Noel No. VI

Louis-Claude d'Aquin, French, 1694-1772

Prelude from the 1st Symphonie des Noels

Michel-Richard Delalande, French, 1657-1726

THE JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Voluntary on *My Jesus, I Love Thee*

Don Hustad, American, 1963

INTROIT

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

And the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Colossians 3:15-16) Music: Ancient Christian Chant, c. 12th Century

***HYMN**

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine

Hymnal, page **606**

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn specifically for this service.

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend, you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank you for your loving care, which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and have given us your peace. You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and the witness of your Church.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You remembered us when we forgot you. You followed us even when we tried to flee from you. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace,

We praise your holy name, O God.

THE OFFERING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

9:00 Voluntary on the Early American Hymn *Holy Manna*

Don Hustad, American, 1971

11:15 *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hid, till the storm of life is past.
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.
Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee; leave,
O leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing.
Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in Thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name, I am all unrighteousness.
False and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.
Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee.
Spring Thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity.
Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly, O Lord.

Text: Charles Wesley, English, 1707-1788; Music: Mark Hayes, American, 2004

*THE DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*sung in unison*)

**Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth thou has for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Chronicles 34:29 –33

PROCLAMATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God. Through baptism, we have entered this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator. He sealed it with his own blood, that it might last for ever. On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ, the Source and Perfecter of our faith. On the other side, we are pledged to live no more for ourselves but only for Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. From time to time we renew our covenant with God, especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant or gather at the Lord's table. Today, however, we meet, as the generations before us have met, to renew the covenant that binds us to God. Let us make this covenant of God our own.

INVITATION

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. Christ will have no servants except by consent; Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing. Confirm this by a holy covenant. To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you; in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ. Consider what your sins are. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all. Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God. With God's power, never go back. And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord. Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

COVENANT PRAYER

O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you. God has given holy laws as the rule of your life. I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God. O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

*HYMN

God of The Ages

Hymnal, page 698

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

15

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

MUSIC DURING HOLY COMMUNION

9:00 & 11:15 Short Anonymous Pieces for Organ from The French Baroque

11:15 Choral Anthem, Gracious Spirit, Dwell in Me

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;

Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;

And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;

And with actions bold and meek for Christ, my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me. I would truthful be.

Help me now thy truth to see. I would be like thee;
And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
And, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.
Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee;
Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.
Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy power to see, I would be like thee;
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

Text: Thomas Lynch, English, 1818-1871 & K. Lee Scott, American, 1984;
Melody: Anonymous, from *Processionale*, Paris, 1697
Choral Setting: K. Lee Scott, American, 1984

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Jesus, United By Thy Grace

Hymnal, page 561

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text & Music: Ancient Christian Chant, c. 12th Century

POSTLUDE

Chaconne in D Minor

Louis Couperin, French, c.1626-1661

**Congregation is invited to stand*



The flowers on the altar are offered to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ronald G. Easterby, Jr., by Jan Easterby

Worship Participants

9:00am Communion Assistants: *Pat Morgan, Charles & Susan Edmonds*

Musicians: *The Bethel Sustainers*

Ushers: *Buddy Davis, Joey Dixon, Michael Dixon, Fred Huggins, Greg Porter*

11:15am Communion Assistants: *Pam McMichael, John Benfield & Gillian Boyce*

Musicians: *The Bethel Chancel Choir*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY MORNING CIRCLE

The Monday Morning Circle will meet on the *SECOND* Monday of January (January 9). Please note change of day. At that time we will have our annual pledge service.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Meeting & Vacation Bible School Planning - January 17th @ 5:30pm

Parents and other Bethel Members are invited to attend an informational meeting and planning session for the upcoming year. The meeting will be held in the Chip Center and light refreshments will be provided. The first half-hour will be spent discussing ideas for children's programming in 2012. The remainder of the meeting will be spent on preliminary planning for Vacation Bible School. All who are interested in helping with VBS are encouraged to attend, even if you may not have children of your own participating!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY January 15th 4:00-5:30pm

Join us for fellowship, games, crafts, and devotionals at our monthly Kids' Club. Parents are invited to drop their children off and return to pick them up after the activities, or parents can stay and relax with other parents while the activities are going on. Contact Amanda with any questions, ideas, or to volunteer your time

YOUTH SKI TRIP AND INFUSE CONFERENCE – FEBRUARY 17TH – 20TH

Our Winter Retreat is coming up! We will be headed to North Carolina for a weekend of skiing and Lake Junaluska's INFUSE program for youth. It will be a great opportunity for you to spend time with your Bethel friends and make new friends at the conference. We will stay 3 nights and ski two days. In the evenings we will enjoy fellowship together and worship with the other participants at Lake Junaluska. To reserve your spot, you will be required to provide a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Deposits are due no later the January 8th. Sign up with Amanda soon for this awesome opportunity! Contact AmandaLPooser@gmail.com for more information.

GAP, LUNCH, OUR TREAT

GAP "Lunch, Our Treat" will be January 22 after the 11:15 worship service.

BETHEL'S GOT TALENT

UMYF will be teaming up with the United Methodist Women to hold a Talent Show and Dinner Theatre on January 22 at 5:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Youth and UMW missions. All youth are encouraged to sign up to perform in the show. Don't miss this exciting event for the whole church family

BETHEL'S LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN!

Find our new selection of books in Room 10 of the Education Building (upstairs next to the restrooms). Visit the library during regular church hours the door is always open.

BETHEL BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jan 1 Randall Felkel, Mary Frances Lundy **Jan 3** Alicia McCorry, Melanie Dixon **Jan 4** Michael Richmond, Michael Lear, Edith Calliham, Iris Bullock **Jan 5** Ryan Bell, Walker Chapman, Betty Davis **Jan 7** Charles Edmonds Jr., Rembert Garris, Leonard Mitchum III, William Chamberlain, Lisa Wong, Betsy Waters

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Ann Andrus, Ricky Archambault, Dera Bicaise, Bobbie Blackburn, George Busch, Marshall Burns, Edith Cook, Betty Davis, Jewel Felkel, David Fields, Janice Flynn, Ginny Ford, Nell Garris, Rembert Garris, Mary Hunt, Pharen Johnson, Dorothy Anne LeMacks, Ernie McAllister, Sara McAlister, Becky Moran, Jim Sawers, Evelyn Simmons, Oscar Vick, Jean Williamson, Oliver Williamson, Margaret Winter.

FLOWER CALENDAR 2012

There are still dates available in 2012 for Altar flowers: February 5, 12, 26; March 4, 11, 18; June 3, 10, 17, 24; July 15, 22, 29; August 5, 12; September 9, 30; November 11, 18; December 16, 30. The cost is \$85.00 which includes 2 arrangements. Call the church office to reserve the date you desire.



THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Sunday, January 1

9:00 a.m.	Worship
10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
11:15 a.m.	Worship

Monday, January 2

9:30am	Disciple Bible Study
6:30pm	Disciple Bible Study

Tuesday, January 3

1:00pm	Staff Meeting
7:00pm	Us Too!

Wednesday, January 4

10:30am	Lambuth-McEldowney Circle
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Thursday, January 5

12:30pm	Kendrick-Rodgers Circle
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Friday, January 6

Saturday, January 7

Sunday, January 8

7:30am	Men's Club Breakfast
9:00a.m.	Worship
10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
11:15 a.m.	Worship
12:15pm	College, Lunch, Our Treat
4:00pm	Education Meeting
6:00 p.m.	UMYF

BETHEL UMC STAFF

John Warren, Minister • Gregory H. Jones, Director of Music • Marvin Grooms, Program Coordinator
Lindy Hoel, Nursery Coordinator • Amanda Pooser, Children/Youth Director
Emily Ghassemzadeh, Intern • Connie Hodges, Administrator • Mike Tyrrell, Sexton

RECORD OF THE FAITHFUL FOR DECEMBER 25, 2011

Attendance

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 520

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 122

General Budget

For the Week Ending December 31, 2011

Contributions	\$24,290.00
Plate Offerings	\$1,556.00
Church School Offerings	\$0.00
Total Contributions	\$25,846.00
Needed per week	\$13,969.90

Year to Date Actual

Contributions	\$721,599.79
Plate Offerings	\$12,641.31
Church School Offerings	\$1,630.75
Total	\$735,871.85
Budget YTD	\$726,434.80

Other Income

Rental Income	\$0.00
Wedding & Event Rentals	\$0.00
Parking Lease Income	\$1,200.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
Total Other Income	\$1,200.00
Needed Per Week	\$800.00

Rental Income	\$21,600.00
Wedding & Event Rentals	\$11,339.00
Parking Lease Income	\$14,654.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
Total Other Income	\$47,593.00
Budget YTD	\$41,600.00

Memorials / Honorariums (Other than SRC)

YTD \$17,995.00

Restoration Campaign

Received	\$1,925.00	\$721,921.05
Principal Payments	\$0.00	\$692,526.88
Outstanding Loan Balance		\$240,919.80

Interest YTD of \$52,688.68 has been paid from the operating budget. All interest payments for 2011 are included in the operating budget.

All contributions to Sanctuary Restoration go towards principal payments. Based on the current loan balance, approximately \$6,000 a quarter is needed for principal payments. The Administrative Council voted to keep \$12,000, or approximately 2 quarters of principal payments, in reserve.