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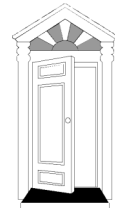
Editor: Chylene Daub
Graphics Editor: Ginger Doherty

Heard through...

WILDWOOD CHURCH
Come Home to Bethel - Since 1858

The OPEN DOOR

17500 Manchester Road, Wildwood, Missouri 63038
www.bethelwildwood.org Phone: (636) 458-2255



PAINTING OF BETHEL WILDWOOD CHURCH ON DISPLAY IN CITY HALL THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19

Bethel Wildwood Church is prominently displayed in the Wildwood City Hall Art and Photography Exhibition which is open to the public through September 19. The painting was created by Artist Konstantin Kuvbanov during the Route 66 Celebration on July 18.

Along with paintings and photographs of several historic sites in and around Wildwood, Bethel Church is front and center on the wall at Wildwood's municipal government building. The painting depicts the classic cars and trucks that were brought to our church by Mike Severns and the Walsh family, with the church in the background.

All of the artwork will be judged and later, many of the pieces will be available for sale.

The City of Wildwood is continuing the celebration of the 100-year anniversary of Route 66 which was established in 1926. Old Manchester Road was a part of that historic route. The city is planning its "Celebrate Wildwood" event for Saturday, Sept. 19.



HISTORIC ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE BRINGS BACK CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

As the new school year gets underway, it is interesting to look back at the schools that served our students in the past.

The quaint little Pond schoolhouse located just a mile or so east of our church has a rich history all its own. This beautiful building is a restored one-room schoolhouse that was built in 1914. It sits on a one-acre tract of land that was owned by the Dreinhofer family. They were early pioneers of West St. Louis County.

Actually, the building we see today is not the original school on this site. There was a Pond School built near the intersection of Pond Road and Manchester Road, sometime around 1880. Then, a second Pond Schoolhouse was built at the current location. This was a wooden building and the story goes that it was destroyed by a fire sometime after the turn of the century.

The community wanted a new school, and with the generosity of the Dreinhofer Family, they planned a new building that would be more fire resistant. The construction began with concrete, clay and stucco. The new roof was clay shingles, all to prevent another fire. The new school building was erected on the same site that is 17123 Manchester Road.



HISTORIC ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE (continued)

Throughout the 20th Century, Pond School held classes. Even as historical events such as the World War I in 1918, World War II in the 1940's and when Manchester Road received its designation as Route 66 in 1926, each September Pond School welcomed students. This continued during the happier times of the 1950's and 60's. It was not until the area school districts were consolidated in the late 1950's that a decision was made to build a new Pond Elementary School that is now a part of the Rockwood School District.

The students were transferred into the new Pond School, but the district still utilized the Old Pond School building as a school for students with special needs. This continued until about 1970. After being used as an administrative office, and then storage, the district finally abandoned the building.

In 1993, a group of concerned citizens approached the City of Wildwood with a proposal to save the school before it deteriorated. Once again, the Dreinhofer family was contacted to see if a clear title could be obtained. Mrs. Lorraine Conreaux, a descendant and legal heir of the Dreinhofer family, was willing to donate the parcel of land to the City of Wildwood so that the Old Pond School could be saved. This became official in 2001.

The city made the commitment to restore and renovate the building. The property is now available for the public to reserve for meetings or other events and is also used for concerts. The well-maintained backyard of the school grounds is a park with playground equipment and a pavilion.

Old Pond School is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The City of Wildwood applied for this designation in 2012, describing Old Pond School as "one of the finest examples of a one-teacher schoolhouse in St. Louis County."

People on Facebook still recall attending Pond School in the 1950's and '60s, and some mention their teachers there, and seeing the principal standing on the steps ringing the bell. They recited the Pledge of Allegiance each morning.

Wishing all students a safe and successful school year filled with exciting new lessons, great friends, and wonderful achievements!



BETHEL'S ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER REACHES 100 - YEAR MILESTONE

It all began as an outdoor church supper served under the trees. The year was 1924 and the women of Bethel's Ladies Aid fried chicken, and made salads, pies and cakes to welcome the community to its very first chicken dinner at Bethel Church. They prepared everything in their homes and brought the meal to church in large picnic baskets.

Japanese lanterns were strung in the trees for lighting. The ladies brought tablecloths to cover the tables made from saw horses. Church members and many neighbors attended to make it a success.



This year will make the 100th annual Bethel Chicken Dinner as we meet again on Saturday, Sept. 26. We would have reached that milestone in 2024, but we had to postpone our dinners during the Covid Pandemic.

In 1975, Bethel was planning to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Bethel Sanctuary, and Reverend John Gooch was working on a history of the church. He interviewed Mrs. Lillie McLoon to learn about the first chicken dinner. She had been a member of Bethel since 1918, and was on the committee that made that dinner happen in 1924.

Mrs. McLoon described the scene set up in the church yard where the education wing is now located. She said they served lemonade and coffee with the meal, but had to haul water to the church in cream cans in order to make both. They charged either 75 cents or \$1 for each meal, as she recalled, and they made a profit of \$75. That was enough to cover the church's conference contribution.

The crowd that attended included many from the community and several local candidates as it was an election year. Candidates always wanted to be seen at local gatherings.

When they planned the chicken dinner the second year, they ordered a vat made by a tinner in Manchester so they could fry the chicken outside at the church. A second vat was added as the popularity of the chicken dinner grew. Then, they began the process of killing and dressing the chickens at the church. They were packed in ice overnight and kept in a basement. The next day, the job was to fry all the chicken.

The preacher in 1924 was Reverend C.D. Hewitt. He was a preacher in the Methodist Circuit which meant he served more than one church. She said that many people walked to church in the early years, and recalled that they had one preacher who didn't even have a horse. "We had to get him a horse and buggy," she said. The pastors did not receive a paycheck, but were paid out of the offering that was collected. They decided that the offering collected the third Sunday of each month would be designated to pay the preacher.

Mrs. McLoon was a loyal member of the church for many years. She also recalled that the Ladies Aid made quilts and sold them as another way to raise money for the church.

FRIED CHICKEN DINNER RETURNS TO ORIGINAL HOME-COOKED MENU

Bethel will be frying our chickens on site this year, as we return to the original meal on Saturday, Sept. 26. The “chicken coop” will be back, the vats will be ready for duty and the crew is assembling all the necessary gear.

Celebrating our 100th year of Fried Chicken dinners, Bethel will be serving our classic meal with our famous homemade German Potato Salad, green beans, and applesauce. Iced tea, lemonade and coffee will be included and our vast variety of pies, cakes and cookies for a choice of dessert. Serving hours will be from 2 until 7 p.m., with indoor dining in Fellowship Hall and carry-out orders available. The Bethel Crafters will have their Craft Cottage open throughout the serving hours also. Dinners for adults will be \$18, and for children ages 5-12 will be \$13. Children under the age of 5 are free.

The Bethel Church Chicken Dinner was first held in 1924, and we have held it each year since (except when the Covid Pandemic interrupted.) Therefore, this is the 100th year of serving fried chicken at Bethel Church. Church members are asked to participate by each family donating \$5 towards the expenses. Also, just as we have done each year, members will be assigned a work station on the day of the dinner. Letters explaining this will be mailed to you. If anyone cannot fulfill their assignment, just let co-chairs Nina Lantz and Carla DeSalme know.

Nina and Carla have shared this Chicken Dinner chairmanship for decades, and they actually look forward to the day. It begins with all the planning, ordering and coordinating. The actual day of the dinner is a long, long day, beginning in early morning in the kitchen to prepare and cook the potatoes. Plan to invite your family and neighbors for this year’s very special Bethel Fried Chicken Dinner.

Carla & Nina - Chicken Dinner



Bill K, frying chicken



Mike L & Don W, chicken fryers



BETHEL 2026 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SURPASSES GOAL

The generosity of Bethel Wildwood Church members has been demonstrated again as we have reached and surpassed our original goal for the 2026 Capital Campaign.

Projects are already underway to help bring our church back to her historic beauty. One of the main improvements was to have the entire church building power washed, and to have the exterior trim and window frames given a new coat of paint. These jobs have been completed. Another job was to have the 2nd floor drinking fountain replaced. This has been accomplished also. You can even refill your water bottles with the new fountain. Thanks to Matt Swanstrom for spearheading this project.

Still to be completed will be a new door to Fellowship Hall, and the updating of the church website. These are expected to be accomplished soon. Our thanks to everyone who contributed to this improvement campaign.

After the power washing of the sanctuary, the trim and window frames were given a new coat of paint, thanks to the Professional Painters Inc., Ted Puetz, owner. Working from atop the ladder is Rory Frerichs and preparing to join him is Chris Hinkson. They are helping to restore the beautiful Bethel sanctuary, one paint stroke at a time.



Don't forget our 100th Annual Chicken Supper!

Saturday, September 26 @ 2-7PM

Adults: \$18 Children (5-12): \$13 (4 & under): FREE

Dine in or Carry-out available!

Come and See our Crafters' Cottage @ 2-7 PM

Handmade, seasonal home décor items and delicious baked goods!



PEARLS OF WISDOM FROM REV KEV

The Gospel of Luke is a treasure trove of meaningful lessons for Christians, and Rev Kev has been presenting them in the past weeks of sermons. We have heard these stories before, but it is reassuring to listen to them from a new perspective. Rev Kev posed this question: “Are you a fan or a follower of Jesus Christ?” Your answer requires you to decide if you truly want to be a Disciple. If so, it will be a life-changing decision.

The true Disciple is compassionate, humble and generous. To make this decision, says Rev Kev, “you will have to get out of your comfort zone.” It requires focus and self-denial. You will be expected “to do for others who cannot repay you.” The compassion you show for others, the way you treat other people, these traits will be noticed. “Being a Disciple of Jesus should be obvious to others,” he says. You are always looking for an opportunity to do good.

So, in other words, if you want to be a team player for Jesus, “You must get on the field. Don’t just wave a flag, but get in the game.”

GIVING

In an effort to make you aware of our ongoing income and expenses Greg, our treasurer, has calculated our monthly expenses and we have provided a total of our offerings for the given month as follows:

Total estimated monthly expenses:	\$14,000
Total offerings received as of 8/23/26:	\$10,789

MISSION SUNDAY

Our September Mission focuses on our Chicken Dinner...

Please make sure to give your \$5 donation per family member to either Nina Lantz or Carla DeSalme, bring two pies and sign up to help where needed. Thanks!

If you wish to make a monetary donation, note your contribution with:

Chicken Dinner

Thanks for donating to our August Mission—**Military Care Boxes** We collected:

\$195, 1 bag of candy, crackers, potato chips, 4 beef jerky, 5 body lotions,
1 box of drink mix, puzzle book, a book, a blanket, and stationary



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Anne K	9/11
Greg A	9/15
Jan A	9/19
Jeff R	9/27
Grace D	9/29



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARYS

Greg/Laura G 9/7

If your anniversary or birthday is missing from this listing and you would like it included in the future, please email the information to secretary@bethelwildwood.org. Thanks!



Bethel Wildwood Church,

Thank you for your generous donation. These gifts help support our mission to serve every person and family affected by breast and gynecological cancer by providing free healthy meals, rides to treatment, housecleaning essentials and peer support. Through the generosity of donors like you, we can ensure that “No one travels this road alone”
Warmly-**Pink Ribbon Good**

Bethel Crafters,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful prayer shawl I received. The thoughts and prayers that came with it was truly appreciated! Love to all.-**Pat Schneider**

Dear members of Bethel Wildwood Church,

I truly cannot thank you enough for this generous scholarship. The upcoming semester will bring me to Malaga, Spain. I’m so excited to experience the culture I’ve spent so many years learning about. The 500 dollars (or 440 euro) will give me the chance to further immerse myself through trying new foods and traveling as much as possible. Thank you so much for making that possible. Que Dios te bendiga (God Bless You)-**Savannah Daub**

Bethel Wildwood Church,

Thank you so much for your generosity and for helping support my dreams and my future. I feel so blessed and am so grateful for the help your scholarship has provided.-**Grace D.**

On The Calendar @ Bethel

Bethel Fitness—Mondays & Thursdays @ 9am

Music Ministry Practice—Tuesdays @ 10am

Crafters & Prayer Shawl Warriors—Thursdays @ 9:30am

Bible Study at the Roberts—Resumes in October

Board Meeting—Tuesday, Sept. 1 @ 7pm

Juliets' Luncheon—Tuesday, Sept. 8 @ 11:30am

Women's Bible Study—Thursday, Sept. 10 @ 10:30am

Communion—Sunday, Sept. 13 @ 10am

Women's Bible Study—Thursday, Sept. 17 @ 10:30am

Women's Bible Study—Thursday, Sept. 24 @ 10:30am

100th Chicken Dinner—Saturday, Sept. 26 @ 2-7pm

Fellowship Time

Join us for coffee in fellowship hall after worship every Sunday. All are welcome.

Nursery

Childcare provided during Sunday service.

**We are blessed to have a good number of gifted lay leaders
willing to help make our Zoom service a success.**

Our schedule for September is as follows...

Date	Devotion	Music	Lead	Prayer	ZOOM	PPT
9/6	PJerry	PJerry	Patti	PJerry	TBD	TBD
9/13	PKevn	PKevn	Katie	PKevn	TBD	TBD
9/20	PKevn	PKevn	Patti	PKevn	TBD	TBD
9/27	PKevn	PKevn	Suzi	PKevn	TBD	TBD

The ZOOM & PPT Teams arrange their own schedules.

Contribution Recordkeeping Schedule

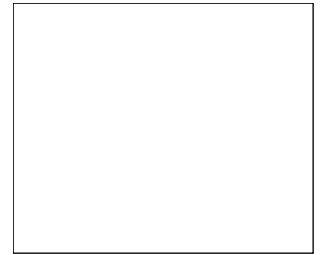
	Sheila	Greg	Greg	Greg
Sept.	6	13	20	27

Counters Schedule

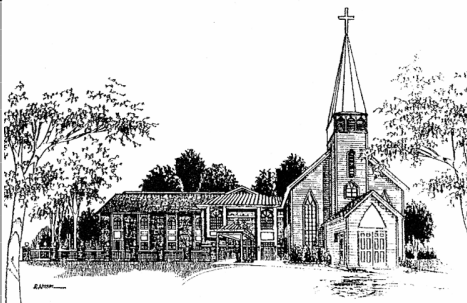
	Dale/Sheila	RuthAnne/Greg	RuthAnne/Jan	Greg/Suzi
Sept.	6	13	20	27



Bethel Wildwood Church
17500 Manchester Road
Wildwood, MO 63038-1907



September 2026 News!



Bethel Wildwood Church

***Love God,
Love Others,
Serve All!***

Please Join Us Sunday For Service

Service will be **LIVE** in the sanctuary @ **10 a.m.**
or you can use one of the following:

Church webpage: www.bethelwildwood.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BethelWildwoodChurch/> **"Like Us" on Facebook**

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@BethelWildwoodChurch>

Zoom: Please contact the church office at 636-458-2255 to receive the link.