

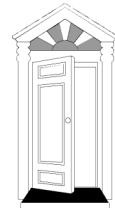


Volume 16 Number 9
October 2026

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



BETHEL CHICKEN DINNER BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

The hospitality of Bethel Wildwood Church was on full display on as we celebrated our 100th Annual Chicken Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 26. The chicken was fried “just right,” on-sight in the famous “Chicken Coop” with Mike Lantz directing his crew including Greg Allerdissen, Bill and Sam Kesselring, Richard Herrera and Jim Easterby. The kitchen helpers did their magic with the home-made German Potato Salad and all the sides. The servers and dining room attendants greeted everyone with welcoming smiles, and the new feature of a band provided music.

Dave Bennett and his band “Padre and the Pulse” presented bluegrass and gospel songs as the dining tables filled with families. Several folks say they have attended our dinner for several years and always look forward to the dinner. In short, it was a great day.

Carla DeSalme and Nina Lantz have co-chaired this popular dinner for 30 years. The planning, shopping, preparation and cooking have all come together year after year. Nina says she has decided to retire with the 100th dinner, and Carla thanked her before the congregation on Sunday, Sept. 27. We all thank both Nina and Carla for their dedication that has made our annual chicken dinner a success for our church and our community.



BETHEL CHICKEN DINNER BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER (cont.)



Busy hands in the kitchen work together to mix the German Potato Salad. Carla DeSalme is pouring in the sauce. Helpers are Marla Easterby, Pam Queen, Suzi Hladky, Jan Allerdissen and Ruth Anne Krueger.



In the chicken coop, Greg Allerdissen dredges the chicken pieces in dressing mix. Bill and Sam Kesselring work side by side. Mike Lantz checks the temperature as the chicken is frying.



Outside the chicken coop, Marla Easterby and her son-in-law Richard Herrera take a short break. Sam and Abby Kesselring introduced their little son Charlie to his very first chicken dinner. The job of cutting pies is tackled by Tom Evans and Dennis Ross, with Jan Allerdissen and Nina Hayes.

FLAGS OF VALOR TELL THE STORIES THAT AMERICA SHOULD NOT FORGET

“Each flag tells a story without saying a word...”

There were 7,620 stories being told on Art Hill in Forest Park during a week-long tribute to never forget the tragic day when America was attacked September 11, 2001. This year - 2026 - marks 25 years since that day, and St. Louis made sure that the people we lost that day and the sacrifices they made will be remembered.

The Flags of Valor of St. Louis was the organization who coordinated the event. The flags were installed on Saturday, Sept. 5, to be left in place until after the Sept. 11 date. They covered the sloping hillside with their striking red, white and blue against the deep blue sky. Each flag represented a person who was either a victim of the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City, at the Pentagon, or on the field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where the brave souls on that plane refused to let the terrorists reach their destination of Washington D.C.

Including those victims and the first responders who rushed in to help, there was a total of 2,977 people lost that day. It is considered the deadliest terrorist attack in human history. America responded to the attack with the global “War on Terror,” which took our soldiers to Afghanistan, Iraq and other Middle East locations as they sought to eliminate the terrorist groups responsible. American soldiers have paid the price for this war with their lives and life-changing injuries. It was the goal of Flags of Valor to dedicate a flag to each one of these heroes who died.

The display at Forest Park is one of the largest tributes to mark Sept. 11, 2026, in the nation. Early Saturday morning on Sept. 5th, 1,200 volunteers arrived on site to place the flags. Divided into 36 teams, they were directed to their assigned rows. The entire hillside had been carefully laid out into a grid to pinpoint where each flag would go. This created the perfect rows with evenly placed flags.



FLAGS OF VALOR... (continued)

The volunteers handled the flags with gloved hands as they respectfully put them in place. The volunteers' second step was to attach the dog tag and a photo identifying the person. The dog tag number would make it possible to locate the flag for anyone who wanted to find a particular person. Volunteers also took a moment to read the name of the fallen hero.

A ceremony to bless the flags was held near the front of the St. Louis Art Museum in the shadow of the statue of St. Louis (King Louis IX of France.) The crowd listened intently as a survivor of the World Trade Center told her story, and a retired Marine described his feeling when he found the flags dedicated to his fellow servicemen.

The flags were to be displayed for the next week, culminating with a candlelight service on Friday, Sept. 11. At that time, the complete list of names of those lost on Sept. 11, 2001, would be read. It was expected the reading would last into the night.

Flags of Valor was joined in this project by many local veterans' associations and by numerous companies that helped to sponsor the event. Individuals were also able to sponsor one flag for a \$50 donation. Volunteers worked for months ahead to prepare for the day.

The American flags that graced Art Hill have an interesting story of their own. They were specially made for the St. Louis Sept. 11 display by Annin Flags. It is the nation's oldest and largest flag manufacturer in America, established in 1847. It is a family business that is now operated by the sixth generation.

The flags are actually hand sewn with great care. The materials are weather and fade resistant and are especially beautiful when fluttering in a breeze. People who have visited the flag display say the most emotional experience is when a slight wind makes the flags flutter and the dog tags seem to be clanging like gentle chimes.



A field of American flags adorned the entire hillside of Art Hill in Forest Park to mark the 25th anniversary of the terror attack on America on Sept. 11, 2001. Each flag represented one person who died that day either in the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City, at the Pentagon or on the field near Shanksville, PA, including those who died of the vicious attack itself, and the first responders of the New York Fire Department and Police Department, the attack claimed 2977 lives that day.

JUST EATING OUT TOGETHER

Most of us are familiar with Romeo and Juliet, the young star-crossed couple made famous by William Shakespeare. But who are the “Romeos and Juliets” of Bethel Wildwood Church? Well, it seems these names are used to identify members of Bethel who enjoy getting together and socializing while sharing a meal. The ROMEOS are an acronym for Retired Old Men Eating Out, and the JULIETS are Just Us Ladies Eating Together.

The gentlemen meet every Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. at Sunny Street Cafe for breakfast. The Juliets meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at the Big Chief Restaurant.

You don't have to make reservations, just come and join the group. Sheila Olive says that everyone is invited. At the Juliet Luncheon in September, the ladies found that Big Chief was closed (the day after Labor Day) so they moved the party to Letty Lou's Cafe. Katie Severns brought along two special guests, her daughter Natalie Warnick and grandson Rhett, who made the whole outing more fun. The ladies pictured are, from left, Katie, Sheila, Diane Durbin, Chylene Daub, Jo Black, Jan Allerdissen, Louella Phipps, Ruth Anne Krueger and Natalie.



Sheila says the ladies have been meeting for lunch for at least 20 years, and the men's breakfast got started even before the women.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED INTO THE BETHEL FAMILY

Bethel Wildwood Church welcomed four new members to our congregation on Sunday, Sept, 13. They are, from left, Garrett Mikesell, Madison Sanders, Abbey Lawrence and Steven Mohre. These beautiful new young faces are a delight to see in the church service each week. Pastor Rev Kev introduced them as our newest members and the congregation greeted them with Bethel hospitality.



GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL HAS ONE MISSION: TO SPREAD THE WORD OF JESUS CHRIST

Spreading the word of Our Lord Jesus Christ to people all around the world is the mission of the Gideons International. The Gideons are known for their passion for placing the Holy Bible in the hands of literally billions of people in more than 200 countries.

On Sunday, Sept. 20, Bethel church members were invited to participate in the mission when Rich Griffin and Don Steiger of the Missouri Field Office in Manchester addressed the congregation.



Gideons International has been in operation since 1899. It is a men's society of professional and business Christian men. Their wives are an important part also. They make up the Auxiliary and serve as "prayer partners" with their husbands.

Griffin emphasized that "our first purpose is to witness. We are men and women who pray together to support the goals of bringing people to Jesus Christ." He quoted his wife Becky when she described the importance of giving someone their very own Bible. She says, "When you open the book, you meet the author."

The Gideons have distributed more than 2.5 billion copies of the Bible in 109 languages. Griffin told the story of a Gideon trip to Tanzania where they had 450,000 Bibles in the Swahili language to give to school children. One little boy stepped up and said, "There is something wrong," and the men realized that the one Bible handed to the boy was translated into Portuguese. They told the boy not to worry, they would give him a Bible in his language, but he smiled and told them, "this is okay, my father speaks Portuguese."

Griffin says it was a memorable moment, that the one Bible in a different language was handed to a boy whose father could read it to him. He said that he and many of his Gideon friends always take Bibles with them when they travel, making sure they bring Bibles in the native language.

People can support the work of the Gideons with a one-time donation or an ongoing commitment on a credit card. You can also donate a Bible and dedicate the gift in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. Pamphlets about how to "Partner With the Gideons" are available at our church.

One more important benefit of being involved with the Gideons, said Griffin, is that it is an opportunity to strengthen your own walk with Christ. It is a beautiful thought that the ministry of The Gideons International is "to share the word of God with the world."

PEARLS OF WISDOM FROM REV KEV

There is a beautiful passage in Luke about the blind man who called out “Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.” Hearing the man, Jesus recognized that the man believed that He was the Son of God, and He answered the man: “Receive thy sight. Thy faith has saved thee.”

Rev Kev was preaching on the value of having “spiritual sight,” not just the physical ability to see. “We are born spiritually blind,” Rev Kev said. Man is full of pride and self-focus. “God wants to open our eyes so that we can see spiritually.” To achieve this, one must be persistent and humble, he said. This is the difference in having simple eyes that are faith filled eyes, rather than complex eyes that see only worldly things. It requires us to pray and then to be patient. Prayers may not be answered immediately, but they are always heard. Rev Kev says, “Good things come to those who pray and wait.”

CHRISTMAS BOXES LET MILITARY KNOW THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

Bethel Wildwood Church always lets our servicemen and women know they are remembered and appreciated at Christmas. Boxes are being filled with snacks, toiletries, socks, games, writing materials, and other surprises to be mailed to relatives and friends of Bethel members. This year, in honor of America’s 250th Anniversary, we are including books of American trivia, and also books about military dogs that have served alongside our soldiers. We have the names of three servicemen this year, representing both the Army and the Navy.

You can add to these boxes with a special note of appreciation written to these brave men. A personal note is very much appreciated. We have note cards in Fellowship Hall with our display. Also, it is not too late to add another name or two. Just let Ginger know in the office, or Chylene Daub 314-277-3447.



MISSION SUNDAY

Our October Mission is a collection for the Thanksgiving boxes for Circle of Concern. Please bring in one or more of the following items: boxed: stuffing, dry potatoes, or corn-bread, or canned: fruit, pumpkin, cranberry sauce, green beans, corn, gravy, or broth.

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

The deadline for the donations is Oct. 25!

Thanks for donating to our September Mission—**Chicken Dinner**



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Louella P	10/2
Dale R	10/3
Greg G	10/8
Grant S	10/11
Jill L	10/12
Kim H	10/17
Carolyn R	10/19
Edie M	10/23
Becky R	10/26



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bert/Wanda F	10/21
Fred/Carla D	10/30

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,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your generosity in providing me with a scholarship to support my education. I am truly honored to be selected as a recipient, and I am very grateful for your willingness to invest in my education & future. Your support over the last few years has had a very positive impact on my education journey.—**Morgan M** (abridged)

Bethel Wildwood Church,

The Gideons were very pleased to have been part of your service, Sept. 20. The gifts will be used for placing scriptures around the world into hands of those who crave to hold and study the Word of God. Thanks for the opportunity to partner with you.—**Don S** (abridged)

Chylene & Ginger,

A huge thank you for another wonderful Open Door. You both are such blessings by keeping all informed of Bethel's happenings! Blessings—**RuthAnne**

Bethel Wildwood Church,

Thanks to the Bed Build hosted at Bethel, we've delivered two beds this past Saturday, have two deliveries scheduled on Thursday and yet another this Saturday. That means within one week's time, 5 children will have a bed of their own and **NO LONGER SLEEP ON THE FLOOR**. Thank you again for your partnership with SHP. —**Dan R**

On The Calendar @ Bethel

Bethel Fitness—Mondays & Thursdays @ 9am

Music Ministry Practice—Tuesdays @ 10am

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

Communion—Sunday, Oct. 4 @ 10am

Board Meeting—Tuesday, Oct. 6 @ 7pm

Juliets' Luncheon—Tuesday, Oct. 13 @ 11:30am

Bible Study @Roberts' Home—Wednesday, Oct. 14 @ 7pm

Women's Bible Study—Thursday, Oct. 15 @ 10:30am

Fellowship Time

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

Nursery

Childcare provided during Sunday service.

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 9/27/26:	\$15,243

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

Our schedule for October is as follows...

Date	Devotion	Music	Lead	Prayer	ZOOM	PPT
10/4	PKevn	PKevn	Jo	PKevn	TBD	TBD
10/11	Mitchel	Mitchel	Will	Mitchel	TBD	TBD
10/18	PKevn	PKevn	Patti	PKevn	TBD	TBD
10/25	PKevn	PKevn	Suzi	PKevn	TBD	TBD

The ZOOM & PPT Teams arrange their own schedules.

Contribution Recordkeeping Schedule

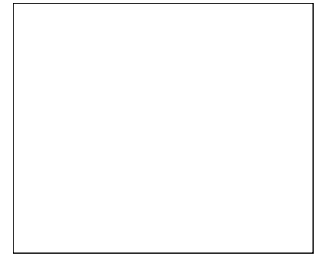
	Sheila	Greg	Greg	Greg	
Oct.	4	11	18	25	

Counters Schedule

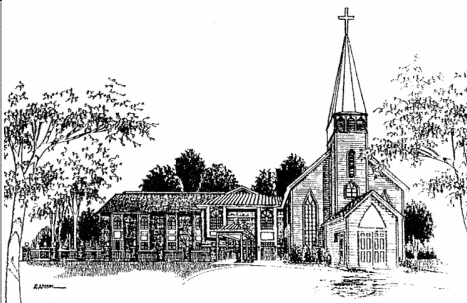
	Dale/Sheila	RuthAnne/Greg	RuthAnne/Jan	Greg/Suzi	
Oct.	4	11	18	25	



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



October 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.