

The Bethany Letter

Easter Sunday ~ April 4, 2010

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The Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

The Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

Easter Brings a New Way of Living

Today, we look back on Maundy Thursday, the night of Jesus' Last Supper, of his betrayal, arrest and desertion. We also look back on Good Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion. Today as we see those two events through the lens of Easter, we understand them in terms of the good news of Jesus' resurrection. I'm writing to help us consider their significance in terms of our Easter faith and life.

Jesus explained their significance when, at his last meal with his disciples, he took the bread and said, "This is my body, which is broken for you," and when he took the cup and said, "This is my blood, which is shed for you." He shared that meal with those who were fickle in their love for him, never quite understood his purpose, and who would betray, deny, or abandon him before the night was through. Before the next day was over he would die on the cross for those who despised and rejected him, mocked and beat him.

These days are about love, a love so full and strong that it can bear rejection and suffering and finally, even death in order to be given. These days are about giving, a sacrificial giving, that gives so others may have life.

Jesus explained the nature of this kind of giving and its power when he said, "Whoever would save their life will lose it but whoever loses their life for my sake and the gospels will save it." The more we try to hold on to life, the more we lose it; the more we are willing to give, to sacrifice, the more we are blessed with life.

The truth of this teaching and the power of this self-giving, sacrificial love is what we celebrate on Easter. The one who refused to live defensively whose reckless giving looked so foolish, was not a fool at all. The one who didn't withhold himself but gave himself completely for others, to the point of death itself, was not defeated by death. No! Instead, God raised him to life, affirming the goodness and the power of self-giving love.

What we celebrate on Easter is the power of self-giving love.

The self-giving love we celebrate is a challenge and a judgment on how our culture calls us to live and priorities and arrangements we've settled upon as residents of that culture.

Our culture calls us to live as individuals, constructing our life as a project, for our own benefit; self-giving love calls us to live in relationship, nurturing a community, through which others are blessed.

Our culture calls us to grasp, accumulate, and hold, in the hope of finding life and joy and security; self-giving love calls us to let go, share and give, as the way to life, joy and security.

Our culture calls us to believe that there "is not enough" so we must grasp, accumulate, and hold on; self-giving love calls us to believe that God blesses us with abundance so that we can dare to give.

The ideology of our culture leads to certain priorities and life-arrangements that are self-focused and selfish. The good news of Easter is that we can dare to live with other priorities and arrange our lives in ways that we'd never dared consider. May God bless us with the daring to see that new way.

With Easter Hope,



Coffee Sales Resume!

You may have noticed Fair Trade Coffee is back on sale after Sunday services. Coffee makes a good gift and you can be certain the money goes to a good cause as well as protecting song bird habitat.

Buy Fair Trade Coffee!

Congratulations...

... to Kevin and Meghann Tichnell on the birth of their daughter, Leah Gwen, March 18th. Her big sister, Adrianna, and grandparents, John and Cathy Dix, are extremely proud.

Bethany's Annual Chili Cook-Off

The Pueblo cliff dwellers in Mesa Verde may have invented chili, but some of the best chili known to modern man is served up at the Annual Chili Cook-Off. The Memory Bell Choir will host this year's event on **Sunday, April 11th** in the Social Hall after the 10:30 service. The competition for the Chili Champ Crown is as fiery hot as the chili – but don't let that scare you off! Dust off your crock-pot and make your favorite chili recipe to be sampled by our seasoned chili judges – your Bethany friends. Please contact a member of the Bell Choir to enter the contest and bring your best pot of chili to the kitchen before service. All you chili eaters out there – come and sample a wide variety of chili recipes! Good eating will be enjoyed by all. And as Pat Garrett is supposed to have said of Billy the Kid: "Anybody that eats chili cant' be all bad."



Happy Birthday to Lorraine Benesh

Lorraine will celebrate April 15th

2102 Carrington Ln.
Miamisburg, Ohio 45342

Women's Fellowship

Tuesday ~ April 20th 2:00 pm



Join us for our annual trip to Chapel Hill Home for Bingo!

We will meet at the church at 12:45 p.m. to carpool or use the van.

Please bring prizes and cookies to share with the residents.

Fun for all!

Come to the...

Treasures and Bake Sale Saturday, April 24th

Have **YOU** been looking in all the right places?
Your closets? The garage?
The attic ... basement?

If not, please start your search NOW!

Bring in all those special, unwanted pieces the week before (only) for the Treasures Sale. Kim Wurgler, who believes "your junk is our mission," will accept anything ... **BUT CLOTHES & EXERCISE EQUIPMENT.**

Then visit ...

the **Craft and Rummage Sale** at Northminster Presbyterian Church
104 W. Portage Trail Ext. Cuy. Falls
the same day, open until 3:00 pm

Bethany United Church of Christ

Iva and Ed Hazle Scholarship

*A scholarship opportunity is
available to Bethany Youth*



Who:

- Graduating High School Seniors or GED Certified
- A Bethany member for a minimum of two years
- Entering an accredited education program/trade school in the Fall of 2010

How:

- Applications are available in the church workroom
- Completed applications are due by July 15th in the church office
- All completed applications will be reviewed
- The applicant will be selected on need, involvement in church related activities, career goals and extra curricular activities/work history

Questions, contact Bill Leas

Need a ride to Worship?

There is one waiting for YOU! Just call the office at 330-923-5277 and we will arrange for you to be picked up. Worried that something might happen to keep you from attending? Don't worry! You will be given the name and phone number of this week's driver so, if need be, you can cancel at the last minute. We do hope you will call.



Please remember in your prayers...

Jean Pekar, Akron City Hospital
Katherine McMillen, Akron City Hospital
Linda Smith, home (from hospital)

In Sympathy...

We express our Christian sympathy to the family of Bethany member, Dorothy Draper, who passed away March 24th.

thanks

Bethany Church,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful bouquet of flowers that Jan and Howard Edwards delivered to our home. Anyone who knows me, knows how much I love flowers! Thanks again for the thought and gesture of kindness.

With love, Bob and Carol Pletzer

To Val Renner who coordinated preparing and serving the Confirmation Reunion Breakfast last Sunday. Thanks, too, to the 7th Grade Confirmands and their parents for sharing in the preparation and serving. Finally, thanks to all the past Confirmands and Mentors who gathered to share this special time. It was great!

The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who contributed to the "Noisy Offering" last Sunday. A total of \$479.83 was collected which is designated to Bethany missions. Thank you so much. A LOUD noise was heard!



Given in March by ...

- 3/07 Oz and Ruth Hibbard in memory of parents Ward and Eleanor Henderson
- 3/14 Howard and Jan Edwards; and Beverly Edwards
- 3/21 Clyde and Lynette Sheppard in memory of Beth Oyler and Ethel Haigh



FUN FACTS! *Did you know?*

Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 4,100 kw hours of electricity – enough to power a home for 6 months! Your recycled paper has had the following environmental impact (2/1 to 2/28/10) ... saved:

- 23.39 Trees
- 4.13 Cubic yards of landfill
- 9,632 Gallons of Water
- 5,642 Kilowatts of Electricity

**Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2010 monthly calendar mailed to you.
April 5th to April 18th**

- 4/05 9:00a Quilters
- 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
- 4/06 9:00a Staff Meeting
- 10:30p Newsletter Deadline
- 4/07 9:30a Bible Study (CE)
- 4/08 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
- 4/09 6:00p (SH) Rsrvd. 9:00p
- 4/10 12:00p Mary Thomas Visitation, Memorial Service,
Lunch

Sunday ~ April 11, 2010

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.

† **IHN Guest Week**

- 8:30a Worship** (Healing and Reconciliation)
- 9:15a Church School** for Children and Adults
- 10:30a Worship/** Children's Sunday School
- 11:30a **Chili Cook Off** ☺
- 11:30a 7th Day Practice
- 11:30a **YF Mini Retreat** ☺
- 6:00p IHN Meal (SH)

- 4/12 9:00a Quilters
- 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00p IHN Meal (SH)
- 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
- 4/13 9:00a Staff Meeting
- 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
- 6:00p IHN Meal (SH)
- 7:15p Finance Committee Mtg.
- 4/14 9:30a Bible Study (CE)
- 6:00p IHN Meal (SH)
- 7:30p Consistory
- 4/15 6:00p IHN Meal (SH)
- 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
- 4/16 6:00p IHN Meal (SH)
- 4/17 11:30a Bethany Kitchen (SH) ☺
- 6:00p IHN Meal (SH)

Camp Sunday

April 18, 2010

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.

† **TREASURES SALE SET-UP WEEK**

- 8:00a 7th Day Practice
- 8:30a Worship** (Fellowship)
- 9:15a Church School** for Children and Adults
- 10:30a Worship/** Children's Sunday School
- 11:30a Camp Sunday
- 12:30p Camp Staff Leadership Workshop ☺

Names of **Sunday Volunteers** are published **AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULED** Sunday as a kindly *reminder* and early *thank you!*

If you are unable to volunteer the day you are scheduled, please remember to...

- † **Find someone** to take your place ... **and then**
- † **call the church office** so we may make the necessary changes on our schedules

Volunteers for April 11th

- Cup Washing: C. Eberhardt
- Greeters: McVan Family / D.&M. Renner
- Lay Reader: S. Holle
- Music: Story and Song / Chancel and Bell Choirs
- Nursery: T. Jensen, A. Lorentz, S. Keenan, C. Bedillion
- Ushers: J. & S. Mancinelli, H. Walker, J. Grazulis,
J. Seymour, H. Koudela, K. Koudela, C. Bedillion
- Van Driver: B. Read
- Visitor Outlook: S. Ward



Volunteers for April 18th

- Cup Washer: A. Zeller
- Greeters: B.&J. Charton / P. Cochran
- Lay Reader: A. Cool
- Music: 7th Day / Chancel Choir
- Nursery: S. Ward, B. Read, H. Bowman, T. Robinson
- Ushers: L. Luginbill, B. Charton, M.&R. Bowman,
Karen Fratz, C.&D. Schreiber, J. McClellan
- Van Driver: F. Read
- Visitor Outlook: L. Goodwin