

# The Bethany Letter

Sunday ~ August 21, 2011  
Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

VOLUME 2011

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Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

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## *A Living Sacrifice*

In one of the scripture lessons for this week, the Apostle Paul challenges the church in Rome to, in effect, put their life where their beliefs are. Frank Ramirez has written a helpful reflection about that. I'd like to share it with you.

*The apostle Paul tells the Roman Christians that they must present their bodies as a living sacrifice. Typically a sacrifice in the temple, whether Hebrew or Pagan, meant a one-time use of a resource. It was burned or poured out over the altar. But as a living sacrifice we offer up our lives without ending them.*

*The Celtic Christians of the sixth and seventh centuries exemplified what it means to be a living sacrifice. In some ways they felt cheated because they had not been called upon to give up their lives in martyrdom; that seemed to some of them as the highest calling. They then devised a couple of new categories of martyrdom. They decided that "red" martyrdom referred to those who gave their lives, whose blood was spilled. White martyrdom meant giving their lives in service to God, even if it meant giving up the comforts of family and friends. Green martyrdom meant leaving behind their beloved homeland to serve God wherever they were called.*

*Let's take care to use all the colors in the crayon box to decide what way we will serve God. Red, Green, White – Brown martyrdom – do we give of our garden? Yellow – does that mean a sunny disposition? Does an encourager help those who are Blue? Orange? I'll let you decide what the colors mean. But whatever they mean to you, mean it when you give your lives in service to God.*

I'm grateful for the wonderful beauty and variety of the "living sacrifices" so many of you share. They strengthen and inspire us all. May God continue to help us make ever more.

With Gratitude and Hope,



# Bethany's Ministry

## Continues Through the Summer

During the summer, many of our schedules get busier or at least take us away from home. At our home church the ministry and mission that we all share at Bethany doesn't stop or even diminish. In fact, several parts of it (VBS, Camp Bethany) happen only in the summer. This is why it's extra important for everyone to keep on giving toward his or her pledge during the vacation season. If you are not here for several Sundays, please feel free to put your offering in the mail or drop it off at the office. This will help us keep the work we share strong all through the year.

### Wow! Incredible Response to ...

#### Good Neighbors Stock-A-Thon

We have two months left in the Good Neighbors Stock-A-Thon. In August we'll collect some more food items. Boxes are available around the church for your donations and our progress is tracked on the display in the social hall. Here's what we'll be asking for Sundays in **August**:

#### Non-Perishable Food...

28	Rice
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Thank you again for your continued generosity!



### Pastor Steve – Sabbatical Time

Following United Church of Christ guidelines and at Spiritual Council and Consistory's urging, I will take a month of sabbatical time this summer beginning August 8<sup>th</sup>. Sabbaticals are meant to provide pastors with time to be able to focus on reading, reflection, writing and planning in a more intense and creative way than is possible in the midst of their regular pastoral responsibilities. That's what I'll be doing in this time, focusing especially on Christian Education (especially for adults), Stewardship, Worship and Youth. I am grateful for this opportunity and I ask for your prayers as I seek to use this time in ways that will enhance and strengthen my ministry with you.

#### Pastoral Care ~ (during Pastor's sabbatical)

Aug 21 thru Sept 9 **Rev. Mark Steiner**  
1-330-264-6034

**Reminder: Newsletter Deadline**  
**Every Tuesday ~ 10:00 a.m.**

# Bethany is WALKING!

Presented by Bethany Nurses...

## Faithfully Walking Fitness Challenge

Don't forget your pledge!  
Don't forget to walk!



### Welcome Back Teachers and CE Members

It is that time again to begin planning our fall Sunday school program. We will do that with a light supper on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> prepared by Kathy Keenan. We will also pass out our class list and curriculum. We look forward to the return of all our wonderful, dedicated teachers. Once again,

**Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall**

food

### Bethany Night at Donato's

fun



fellowship

**August 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**5:00 – 8:00 pm**

### "All Ye Who Music Love"

*"He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God." Ps 40:2*



The Bethany Chancel Choir is a wonderful opportunity to express your faith – singing in celebration, praise and prayer to God in worship. We rehearse every Thursday from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. The Chancel Choir's first rehearsal will be **Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** in the Choir Room. Seasoned singers, new singers, or just curious about singing are welcome. If you have any questions please give me a call at 330-650-9697.

*"... with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God." Col 3:16*

Beth McDevitt

**Bethany  
Buckeyes**

Friday - September 2<sup>ND</sup> marks the beginning of another GREAT year for the Bethany Buckeyes. We welcome and encourage anyone 50 years and older to come and spend a fun-filled evening with dinner, cards and board games like Dominos. We are blessed to have Bethany's Gourmet Cook, Kathy Keenan, our Resident Chef, and her helpers. She prepares delicious full-course meals for ONLY \$5.00 per person. Please make your reservations by calling the church office no later than Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. You may also make a reservation on your Sunday attendance card. If you have questions, call Nancy Read at 330 928-3002. **COME ONE ~ COME ALL!**

**Office Closed  
Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day**

NACCAP Christian College Fair  
For Juniors and Seniors  
Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (Cuy. Falls)

*What does it mean to live our  
**Faith at Home?***

That's the theme of our All-Church Retreat **October 7 - 9** at beautiful Temple Hills. Enjoy great faith-building, fellowship and fun! And it's such a bargain!

**Two Nights:** Age 19 and up = \$60

Age 13-18 = \$30

Age 10-12 = \$25

Age 3-9 = \$20

Age 2 and under = free

**One Night:** Age 19 and up = \$40

Age 13-18 = \$25

Age 10-12 = \$20

Age 3-9 = \$15

Age 2 and under = free

**Day Tripper:** Age 19 and up = \$25

Age 13-18 = 20

Age 10-12 = \$15

Age 3-9 = \$10

Age 2 and under = free



**A New Approach to Pastoral Care**

*You can offer comfort to hurting members of your church family--and help out your pastor at the same time.*

**By Lynn Waalkes**

**Focus Over Fifty** February 2002

What if all you had to do to make a difference in someone's life--to help them weather a divorce, job loss, or a disability--was just . . . listen? If this sounds appealing to you, you may want to consider Stephen Ministry as your servant opportunity.

† The Stephen Ministry movement was born more than 27 years ago in St. Louis, Missouri. It was designed to give clergy much-needed support while revolutionizing the concept of pastoral care.

† Named for the Acts 6 account wherein Stephen and six other saints were commissioned to care for church members, Stephen Ministry provides lay people with training to become one-on-one caregivers in their churches. Since 1975, this dynamic ministry has grown to encompass more than 300,000 lay ministers from 100 denominations.

† Stephen Leaders take a one-week course at the ministry's St. Louis headquarters, then return home to train other church members as lay ministers, matching them with hurting individuals in their church and community. They learn to encourage without officially "counseling," and they suggest community resources and referrals.

† Stephen Ministers, who typically come to care deeply for the people they meet with, must have the spiritual strength to stand back and allow God to work in the individual's life in His time.

† "You're totally dependent on God because you walk alongside people--you don't try to fix situations or solve their problems," says Stephen Minister Lynn Alberti. "You have to have faith that God can work through others. You have to trust God for the results."

† "If you have a caring type of personality, it's the most rewarding experience you could possibly have," Alberti adds. "It's incarnational--Christ ministering through you."

† One woman who met for six weeks with a Stephen Minister remembers her own experience: "I had been unemployed for a long time," she says. "I was depressed and had reached a point where I never left my apartment."

† "The Stephen minister showed up like clockwork every week. She prayed with me, listened as I unloaded all my fears and helped me see that things weren't as hopeless as I thought they were."

† Care receivers aren't the only ones who benefit. Volunteers find the listening skills they learn are easily transferred to their own relationships with family, friends and co-workers. As they encourage and pray for individuals, their own faith grows stronger. They rejoice with those they minister to and relish the camaraderie and support they share with other Stephen Ministers.

† If you have a heart for those who are experiencing difficult times, whether it's divorce, bereavement, terminal illness or unemployment, consider getting involved in this caring ministry. You'll grow in compassion, and your church will grow in strength as you walk alongside someone who needs your emotional and spiritual support.

Reprinted by permission of "Focus Over Fifty".



Thanks to the Green Team for sponsoring, hosting, and leading the outdoor worship service, picnic, and Metropark presentation last Sunday. Thanks also to those who attended. It was a beautiful day and the whole program was well received and everyone who attended was grateful. Maybe we can do it again!

Some good news - the remodeling of the Men's restroom and the second floor of the Church School wing is finished! Thanks to Holly Keenan for making the plans and to all the others who did the work – Brad Bebout, Bart Clemente, Gary Jensen, George Jensen, John Mancinelli, and Nancy Zeller.

Thanks to the Bethany Concert Band and their Director, Jack Scott, for their gift of a music service last Sunday, August 14. The music was wonderful and the whole service inspired a greater appreciation of sacred music as a special way to offer God thanks and praise. It was good to have a chance to begin to get to know them in the social hour that followed. We look forward to their sharing with us again in the future.

## God's Blessings



*The rosebud on the altar July 3<sup>rd</sup> was in honor of the baptism of Graham Andrew Jonas, son of Jay and Sarah Jonas; grandson of Bill and Donna Anderson.*

*The rosebud on the altar July 24<sup>th</sup> was in honor of the baptism of John Logan Lipinski, son of Joseph Lipinski and Samantha Lewis; grandson of James and Beverly Lipinski.*



**Please remember in your prayers...**

† Olive Devine, Haven Homes

## Altar Flowers - \$15 per vase

### SIGN UP

Please assist the office with the correct information regarding your altar flower choices. If you want to reserve a flower for the altar for a particular Sunday, the office needs to know the following:

1. Do you want the church to keep the flowers to be delivered to a shut-in or someone recently hospitalized, or for a birthday? If so CIRCLE [C] for church takes in the flower book and on the pink slip that goes to the office.
2. Do you want to take the flowers after church yourself? If so, CIRCLE [D] for donor takes in the flower book and on the pink slip that goes to the office.
3. Do you want your arrangement in HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF someone? If so, PLEASE fill that information in on the pink slip and turn it in to the office.

The Ministry Committee contacts church members to deliver the flowers that are designated for the "church to take." PLEASE circle [D] or [C] when you enter your request in the flower book so they know how many people to contact for delivery. If you do not provide the above information, the office will have to assume the church takes the flowers. If you do not provide a dedication for your donation your name will simply appear as the donor in the bulletin. Thank you.

▪ **Reminder:** Plastic and paper grocery bags are collected for Williard Food Pantry. The Pantry still has to purchase paper bags, so let's help them save on this cost. Request PAPER BAGS at the store whenever possible, and recycle them through this important mission. Please leave them in the lower level room next to the Choir Room (same place recycled packing materials are collected.)

## gift cards



Bethany now offers the opportunity to order and purchase gift cards for a huge variety of businesses as a fundraiser for Bethany. We hope that every month we'll have more and more people participating in this easy way to support our church. We invite you to take a look at the gift card order form on the table in the social hall. You can place an order with a check and your cards will be here for you the following Sunday. Try it; you'll like it!

**Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the  
2011 monthly calendar mailed to you.**

(as of Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>) **August 22<sup>nd</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>**

8/22  
8/23 10:00a Newsletter Deadline  
8/24 6:30p "Welcome Back Teachers"  
7:00p COMMITTEE NIGHT  
8/25  
8/26  
8/27 2:00p (SH) Rsrvd. 8:00p

## Family Sunday August 28, 2011

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.  
† Rev. Jackie McMillen, guest preacher

8:30a Worship in the Social Hall  
9:30a Worship in the Sanctuary  
10:30a Coffee Hour  
12:00p (SH) Rsrvd. 7:00p

8/29  
8/30 10:00a Newsletter Deadline  
8/31 5:00p Bethany Night at Donato's

### September...

9/01 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice  
9/02 6:00p Bethany Buckeyes  
9/03

## Sunday ~ September 4, 2011

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.  
† Rev. Mark Steiner, guest preacher  
† Welcome new organist, Dawn Filler

8:30a Worship in the Social Hall/ Communion  
9:30a Worship in the Sanctuary  
10:30a Coffee Hour  
10:30a Bethany Nurse BP Check

9/05 OFFICE CLOSED – Labor Day

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

### Volunteers for August 28<sup>th</sup>

Greeters: E.&N. Zeller / D.&M. Renner  
Nursery: L. Weiss, B. Read  
Special Music: Mark Bair, trumpet  
Ushers: J.&S. Mancinelli, H. Walker, J. Grazulis,  
J. Seymour, R. Berie, H. Bowman, K. Fratz  
Van Driver: L. Goodwin  
Visitor Outlook: M. Trail

### **BETHANY VOLUNTEERS!**

We are so grateful to all of you who volunteer your time and talent to Bethany during the year. Thank you! If you are unable to volunteer on your scheduled day you are reminded to call someone to substitute for you; or call the church office. It will be very much appreciated!

### Volunteers for September 4<sup>th</sup>

Greeters:  
Lay Reader: D. Ocepek  
Nursery: A. Lorentz, S. Ward  
Special Music: Fred Heyburn, saxophone  
Ushers: T. Hermann, B. Charton, M.&R. Bowmaster,  
M. Spring, N. Buck, A. McVan, H. Koudela  
Van Driver: B. Read  
Visitor Outlook: N. Zeller



## Why Stephen Ministry?

*Because the Bible tells us to:*

“Love one another as I have loved you.”  
John 15:12

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”  
Galatians 6:2

“Encourage one another and build each other up.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:11a

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”  
Romans 12:15

“Serve one another in love.”  
Galatians 5:13

“Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers and sisters, be compassionate and humble.”  
1 Peter 3:8

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”  
Ephesians 4:32

The Stephen Ministry logo, with the broken person behind the cross and the whole person in front of the cross, symbolizes that we are all broken people and that it is only through the cross of Jesus that we are made whole. Stephen Ministers will help guide you in your journey from brokenness to wholeness.

*For more information, contact your Stephen Leader, Tammy Jensen.*