

The Bethany Letter

SUNDAY ~ AUGUST 8, 2010

VOLUME 2010

ISSUE NO. 26

The Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

The Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

Sabbatical Hope

A “sabbatical” is three things: 1) regularly scheduled, 2) time away from normal routine, 3) with a purpose.

The United Church of Christ suggests that pastors take a three month “sabbatical” every 5 years, to be spent away from the daily responsibilities of ministry, to provide an opportunity for growth and renewal made possible by time for reading, reflection, and prayer not usually available in the ministry setting.

One of the challenges of pastoral ministry is finding the time and making the many arrangements required to do this. I was able to take two months in 1994; a month five years later in 1999; an additional month in 2000, and none since. That is why I am grateful that Spiritual Council and Consistory have encouraged and supported me taking some sabbatical time this year and next. I’m very grateful for and excited about this arrangement.

A sabbatical is not a vacation but time spent “with a purpose,” or “work of a different kind,” meant to strengthen “work of the usual kind” when it is over. That is my hope for the sabbatical time I’ll be taking from August 17 – September 8 or 10 (depending on how quickly I complete my goals). I’d like to share a bit of that purpose with you.

1. Reading and reflecting upon the challenge of nurturing disciples in today’s world. This will include:
 - a. Preparing for a special *Faith at Home* workshop to be offered after worship on September 19.
 - b. Reading books focused on ministry with youth such as *The God-bearing Life: the Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry* and *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church*.
 - c. Reading and reflecting on the difficult issues parents, children, youth, and the church face in the struggle to be faithful to our baptismal promises.
 - d. Writing “pastoral letters” about those struggles for parents of youth.
2. Studying ways to nurture our growth as responsible stewards of God’s creation. This will include:
 - a. Reflecting how to protect nurture *The Gift of Wonder*, which should be our response to God’s awesome creation, especially in our children.
 - b. Planning a *Blessing of the Animals* service for the evening of October 3, to celebrate the blessing God has given us in the creatures with which we share the earth.
3. Preparation for the Fall Retreat: *Children of Abraham: Jews, Christians, and Muslims*
4. Preparation for the 2011 Lenten Season. This will include:
 - a. A combined adult class on *Ash Wednesday*.
 - b. A mid-week worship series on *Forgiveness*.
5. Preparation for the Sabbaths we share at Bethany. This will include:
 - a. More in-depth sermon preparation.
 - b. More extensive preparation for the Seasons of the Spirit adult class, which I facilitate.
6. Spending more time holding all of you and our ministry in prayer.

While I’m away, please pray for my ministry and me. It has been and continues to be a blessing to serve as your pastor. My purpose in taking this time is to help continue to nurture such blessings in our life together and in our ministry to the world around us. I am eager to work toward that purpose and share the results when I return. Those who are enabling me to do this by taking extra responsibilities while I am away have my deepest gratitude.

With “Sabbatical” Hope,



did YOU vote?

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What a great treasure we, as Christians have, in the hymns of the church. Through them we give thanks and praise to God. Through them God comforts, challenges, and inspires us. We're going to celebrate that treasure in a special way with "Hymn Parade Sunday," when we'll be singing the "Top Ten" favorite hymns of our Bethany family. How will we know what those hymns are? YOU are going to tell us!

All through the summer, every Sunday, you'll have a chance to share your favorite hymn on your attendance card. One vote per week, use them as you choose: name the same hymn every week, or a different one each week; it's up to you. But one vote, per person, per week. Then, on September 5th we'll have a "Hymn Parade" count down in worship to celebrate what a gift it is to sing these songs together.

Congratulations! *A Baby Girl!*
... to Patrick and Matilda McKelvey on the birth of their daughter, Kyrle Elizabeth, born July 30th! Proud grandparents: Tim & Rebecca Hermann



Pastoral Care August/September

Pastor Steve will be on vacation until August 14th. Also, he will be on sabbatical August 17th – September 8th or 10th.

If you have pastoral care needs during this time, please contact:

† Rev. Mark Steiner 330-264-6034 (home)
330-347-3692 (cell)

OR...

If you are unable to reach Rev. Steiner you may contact:

† Rev. Kirk Bruce 330-928-4847 (wk)
Pilgrim Church 330-929-2507 (home)

Happy Birthday to ...



Mary Coffield!

Mary will celebrate her special day
August 12th

(1930 17th Street, Cuy. Falls 44223)

Confirmation

Aug. 15	10:45 am	Orientation – 1 st yr., lounge
	11:15 am	1 st yr. Confirmation Class



Men's Volunteer Breakfast

It is a great time for men of the church to get together to share faith, food, and fellowship together; as well as a few chores with which the custodians could use some help. The men gather the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. (Next breakfast August 18th) You can help make this time possible by providing breakfast for 8-10 men once during the year. If you'd like to help in this way call Nancy Read at 330-928-3002.

Bethany Kitchen

Saturday, August 21st ...

a free luncheon at 11:30 a.m. for those in the community who need a meal. Help is always needed for food preparation, serving and cleaning up. All are welcome to join us and enjoy the fellowship and lunch.

"The Bethany Letter"

To save on cost associated with the preparation and distribution of our newsletter, the next *Bethany Letter* will be ready on our website or you may pick it up at church ...

Aug. 22nd ... (it will continue weekly)

If you do not pick it up it will be mailed to you on the Monday after. Deadline for news articles: 10:00 a.m. Tuesdays. Check out our website: www.bethanyucc.org

With a Voice of Singing

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

This is what the Chancel Choir is all about – singing in celebration, praise, and prayer to God in worship. What a great opportunity to express your faith through God’s gift of music. The Chancel Choir rehearses every Thursday from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 2nd in the Choir Room. Seasoned singer, new singer, or just curious about singing, are welcome!

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

Partners in Ministry (PIM) is now accepting applications from interested lay leaders! PIM is an educational lay ministry program offered by the EOA. It is used as a means of helping lay leaders expand their knowledge and skills. The program provides courses in a variety of areas that may lead to certification, accreditation or spiritual enrichment. The course is designed to strengthen discipleship, broaden one’s understanding of commitment and enrich one’s personal faith journey. The program admits new members once a year in the fall, with interviews taking place in August and September. To learn more visit the website at: www.eocucc.org



Please remember to notify the church office of any additions/changes to your family, your address, or your telephone/cell number so that we may keep our church records up-to-date.

How We’re Doing...

Month	Income	Expenses	+ or -
JULY	25,647	21,239	+ 4,408
Y-T-D	174,380	184,063	- 9,683

Children of Abraham: Members of One Family
Saturday, October 2nd 9:30a – 9:30p

Furnace Run Metro Park

A Retreat



Mark your calendar now!

Abraham, who obeyed God’s call to leave a settled life and go to a place that God would show him where in spite of his old age, would become the father of a people through whom all the world would be blessed, is the father of our faith. His obedience to God’s call was the seed through which the Jewish faith, then Christianity, but also Islam, have grown. The Retreat Committee would like to invite members of the Bethany family to reconnect with these roots and also develop connections with others of God’s children, who are also descendants of Abraham, from the Jewish and Muslim faiths. The retreat will include sharing by representatives of all three faiths, time for crafts and recreation, some great food, inspiring worship, and lively entertainment. It’s being planned to be a special day for all ages. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Bags for Williard



For some years, we have been collecting grocery bags for Williard UCC to provide to clients of their food pantry. The clients need the bags to carry home the items they receive. Charlie Dorow from Williard recently came to pick up a load of bags and he expressed delight at seeing some PAPER bags among the donations. Apparently, these are needed for certain tasks, but are hard to come by for free and have to be purchased.

When any of us contribute to any charitable endeavor, we like to think that our dollars are going toward the actual work - providing food, for example, in this case. It's too bad when the donated funds have to go toward things like paper bags. So if we can minimize these other expenses through donations that cost us nothing, why not! It increases the value of our cash donations. Please make an effort to choose PAPER BAGS at the grocery store when possible, and save them for Williard. Of course plastic bags are also welcome and needed. Your bags can be left in the lower level room next to the choir room, in the same place we collect packing materials. This is not only a great help to our friends at the Williard Food Pantry, but also great stewardship of resources! *Thanks, Debra and Adam Ocepek*



given in July by...

7/18 Marilyn Funk in memory of Ralph Funk; and by **Margaret Deacon** in memory of loved ones and Josie.

7/25 Connie Hagen in honor of mother, Olive Devine's birthday; and by **Debbie and Clark Schreiber** in celebration of Hayden's 5th birthday.

Please remember in your prayers...

- † Joe Probeck, home
- † Donna Bidwell, Falls Village
- † Bobbie Berie, Falls Village
- † Barbara Sunyecz, Heather Knolls
- † Shirley Cleary, home (from hospital)



Camp Bethany – New Trinity

What a Joy and Blessing



What a joy it was to see children, youth, and adults from Bethany and New Trinity worshipping, praying, singing, learning, eating, and playing together as a family at camp. If you heard and saw them on August 1, singing together in worship with an enthusiasm that spilled over into an after-worship songfest in the social hall, you'll understand what I'm talking about. They know each other well enough to recognize each other's quirks and love each other enough to accept and embrace them. As Emily Sammons said to me, "I love camp because it's a safe place, where everybody loves me and I can be myself." Thanks to all the youth and adult staff for their excellent work and their unwavering, loving focus on the campers. Thanks to all who supported our work with contributions of meals, snacks, money, and prayers. Thanks to all the parents who entrusted your beautiful children to our care; we (the staff) believe they returned with joy and strengthened faith – because we know we did. Finally, thanks be to God, for the gifts of faith and love, peace and joy that we shared in such abundance. To God Be the Glory!

Dear Bethany Friends,

How very special you are. Your calls, your flowers, your visits and all the kindness have touched my heart. I remember holding my Grandmother's hand as she walked me to Sunday School. When I'm back on my feet, hopefully I am able to rejoin you and do my part for others like you have done for me. God Bless you. I send blessings to you all. *Sincerely, Joan Porter*

Dear Bethany Friends,

Thank you for your cards, well wishes, the beautiful shawl and prayers for my "special" birthday. You made it a very special day! *Sincerely, Olive Devine*

Lunch on Us

We served 115 meals to the Summit Lake Community at Miller Avenue's *Lunch on Us* on July 31. It is truly a blessing that Miller Avenue provides this meal to this neighborhood that has so many needs. Thanks to our volunteers for providing the meal: Bob Pletzer, Bill Leas, Caitlyn Malorni, Tyler Malorni, Frank Read, Dale Renner, Lynette Sheppard, and Janice and Glenn Smith.



Stewardship Message Sabbath Time

I lift up my eyes to the hills... Psalm 121

When you read this message, I hope to be having some Sabbath and renewal time in the mountains of New Hampshire. I know that my help does not come from pine-covered hills, but from the God who made heaven and earth. Still it helps to get away even for just a week to a place of beauty and rest. I hope you have the chance to go somewhere you find restful, even if it is your own backyard. Perhaps the most violated of the Ten Commandments is the one about taking Sabbath time; God tried to establish a society where one of the basic rules was that no created being, not even a servant, should work all the time. We need to take time simply to, as an old Confession puts it, remember that our "chief end" is to praise and enjoy God.

In your Sabbath, whether a day off or a vacation, give of your mental capital, your spiritual energy, to listen for God this summer. Time for reflection, for wonder, for honest questions, for waiting on the Spirit all are gifts to ourselves, to God, and ultimately to our faith communities. This kind of time makes us whole, so that we can work with God to bring wholeness to the world. Give God time this summer. Oh, and don't forget to send in your pledge, too!

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

August 2010 God is still speaking,

This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2010 monthly calendar mailed to you.
August 9th to August 22nd

8/09 9:00a Quilters
9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry (L)
8/10 7:15p Finance Committee Meeting
8/11
8/12
8/13
8/14

Sunday ~ August 15, 2010

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.

8:30a Worship (Fellowship)
9:30a Worship
10:30a Coffee Hour
10:45a 1st yr. Confirmand Orientation (L)
11:15a 1st yr. Confirmation Class

8/16 9:00a Quilters
8/17 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
8/18 8:00a Men's Breakfast
8/19 12:15p Newsletter Preparation
8/20 Teacher Appreciation / Aeros Ballgame
8/21 11:30a Bethany Kitchen

Family Sunday August 22, 2010

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.
† Rev. Mark Steiner, guest preacher
† Children remain in worship

8:30a Worship (Traditional)
9:30a Worship
10:30a Social Hour Host: Retreat Committee

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 August 15th

Cup Washing: A. Zeller
Greeters: Zeller Family / E. Albert
Lay Reader: J. Roach
Special Music: Ellie and Jennie Stumm, vocal
Nursery: K. Keenan
Ushers: T. Hermann, M. Jensen, S. Truby, S. Ward,
H. Koudela, K. Koudela, L. Sheppard, N. Buck
Van Driver: C. Frederick
Visitor Outlook: R. Schrieber

*In all this I have given you an
example that by such work we
must support the weak,
remembering the words of the Lord
Jesus, for he himself said, "It is
more blessed to give than to
receive." - Acts 20:35*

Volunteers for August 22nd

Cup Washer: A. Zeller
Greeters: M. Spring / R.&J. Eberly
Special Music: Ellie Steiner, piano
Nursery: B. Read
Ushers: R.&S. Holle, F. Read, M.&J. Seymour, K. Fratz,
H. Bowman, M. Spring
Van Driver: E. Frederick
Visitor Outlook: K. Wurgler

Bethany Missions



Save the Date

mark your calendar !

The Mission Committee is hosting an evening of food, fun, and music on Saturday, **October 9**. The proceeds will benefit The Clean Water Project and Bethany's missions.

Make a difference with your donations Throughout the summer, we would like the families and members of our congregation to bring in items for Good Neighbors, IHN, and Miller Avenue. For Good Neighbors: a school supply (list enclosed) or a food item such as peanut butter, cereal, tuna, pasta, soup, or canned vegetables. For Miller Avenue: toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrush, paper towels, tissues, or toilet paper. For IHN: coffee, diapers size 4, 5, and 6, wipes and Desitan, child's underwear sizes 2-6, cleaning supplies. Please put items in the boxes marked in the social hall. Thanks in advance for your support of these missions.

Fair Trade Coffee We have several regular drip varieties: Breakfast Blend, Bright Day, Columbian, Ethiopian, French Roast and Decaf. Whole bean is available in Breakfast Blend. Check us out at the social hour each Sunday. This is a Mission awareness and benefits the coffee farmers.

Family Promise (IHN) If you have been thinking about getting involved with this mission but you're not sure how to get started, consider shadowing a volunteer during our host week to learn more about the program. For more information call Bob Pletzer or Carolyn B. Hofmann.

Please contact Carolyn B. Hofmann at 330-929-7704, 330-543-3897
or chofmann@chmca.org for more information on these many mission projects.

Come, join us and learn more about our mission projects.

Thanks for your support of
Bethany's Missions