

# The Bethany Letter

SUNDAY ~ FEBRUARY 13, 2011  
Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

VOLUME 2011

ISSUE NO. 6  
Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

---

## *Sometimes, We Just Need to Sit Down!*

My son called me a few days ago and I mentioned to him that I'd recently attended quite a few meetings for the Eastern Ohio Association, some of which went a bit longer than I'd anticipated.

In response he told me about a new way of doing meetings in the business world. There are no chairs in the room. So, since no one can sit down, people tend to say what they need to say and be on their way. It seems that some time management people have decided that this is really a more efficient way to do meetings!

I have deep doubts about this approach. I believe that people need to develop relationships in order to be able to work together in cooperation rather than competition. That requires more time, rather than less. In fact, that's one of the issues we're dealing with in the EOA, where we've gone from monthly to quarterly Council meetings - not enough time together to get to know and trust each other!

Time is a very precious commodity. There is only so much of it. All of us are increasingly busy people, so we tend to view every event in which we might participate in terms of whether it's worth my time and whether, I can do it quickly, that is "get in and out" and be on my way. Such concerns are clearly prompting this new movement to "stand up" meetings. But beyond any uncertainty about the best way to do meetings in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (sitting down or standing up) one thing is clear to me - a family of faith needs to take time to "sit down" together!

That truth was brought home to me powerfully at "All God's Children" Family Night Pot Luck on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The evening took some time. We began gathering around 6:00, filled out questionnaires for the games we'd play later, said our prayer, ate a *leisurely* meal, and played some great games, involving "telling the truth" and our baby pictures, and laughed, and laughed, and laughed. No one was in a rush. Just ask anyone who listened to Oz Hibbard's long story about an adventure in Alaska; we didn't want it to end! In fact, I'd bet my house, that anyone who was there - from Bethany or New Trinity - was glad that they came and took the time to sit down, share a meal, visit, and have fun.

Not everything we do has to be "productive." Sometimes what's most important is that we simply "be" together. That's why I'm so thankful to all who gave the gift of their presence and their time to the others who gathered for that Family Night - so we could "sit down" and "taste" not only some wonderful food but the goodness of what it means to be a family.

We need to do this more often! I hope and pray we will.

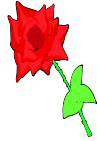
*With Gratitude and Hope,*



*141 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>, the second-most popular greeting-card-giving occasion.*

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

Welcome!



† *The rosebud on the altar last Sunday was in honor of the baptism of Joseph Michael Salsbury. Joseph is the son of Nickolas A. and Jacqueline Marie Salsbury.*

† *Jackie also became a member of our Bethany family last Sunday. Please give her a warm welcome!*

## New Approach for Lent

We frequently begin Lent by asking ourselves "What do I want to give up" which symbolizes the sacrifice that Jesus gave for our salvation. One alternative to consider is asking "What do I want to DO" to honor his sacrifice for us. The Chancel Choir welcomes anyone who wants to answer that call by singing with us during the season of Lent, which includes participating in the cantata, Lenten Sketches, which will be shared in worship on Palm Sunday. We rehearse on Thursday nights from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### Confirmation – February

2/13	11:30 am	Meal and Talk with Mentors
------	----------	----------------------------

### Youth Fellowship – February

2/13	11:30 am	Deliver Valentine Cookies
2/20	5:00 pm	Prepare Family Promise Meal
2/27	2:00 pm	"Walk a Mile in My Shoes" (Family Promise)

## Men's Breakfast



The men of the church meet once a month (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month) for breakfast, fellowship and to help the church custodians with some simple chores. These men are a big help each month ~ we are all grateful. The next breakfast is **February 16<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 a.m. All men are welcome! Also, anyone can help make this time possible by providing breakfast for 8-10 men once during the year. If you'd like to help call Nancy Read at 330-928-3002.

Have you been saving

# ACME Receipts

for the youth at Bethany?

Acme Community Cash Back Program

**ENDS - February 19, 2011**



## Bethany Kitchen

Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m.

Bethany Kitchen provides a **free luncheon** 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 food and fellowship.



Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.

## Host Week

Our next Family Promise/IHN Host week is **February 20 - 26**. Please consider **volunteering** to help and contact one of our team leaders: Carol Clemente - meal preparation, Carolyn B. Hofmann - overnight and family center volunteers, and Frank Read - van drivers. Thanks to our many volunteers who help make this week possible.

## Combined Sunday School Classes

**Sunday ~ February 20<sup>th</sup>**

**9:15 to 10:20 a.m.**

Sunday School Classes (children and adults) will be combined **Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** and meet in the social hall ~ please plan accordingly. Our guest, Lindsay Bonilla, is presenting

***“Lily and the City of Light.”***

It is a book she has written about a young girl who wants to travel to the “city of light” but the only way there is to make a great sacrifice. Come and meet the colorful characters along the way and see if Lily can do the one thing that will allow her into the city of her dreams. We will be taking a free-will offering that will be given to Family Promise.

**The church office will be closed Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, President’s Day. Please plan accordingly.**



## Miller Avenue UCC

**“Lunch on Us”**



On Saturday, **February 26**, we will be preparing and serving the meal to the neighborhood from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bethany members are encouraged and welcome to join the mission committee members with this project. Please consider helping. We are also collecting toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper to give to the guests when they come for lunch. Please drop off your donations in the social hall. For more information, contact Carolyn B. Hofmann. Hope you can join us.

**COMMITTEE NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY**

**February 23<sup>RD</sup>**



## Relay For Life

Team F.A.C.E. (the Bebout Family) is recruiting new team members for 2011. We proudly gave rise to a new team this year and need to replace the members that we lost. If you would be interested in joining our team in our effort to help the American Cancer Society to eradicate Cancer, please contact any member of our family.

## Future Events

### Bethany & New Trinity

Please mark your calendar and join the fun!

We’re excited about lots of fun and exciting ways to witness our oneness in Christ with New Trinity.

Here are a few ways...

**Feb. 27** *Walk a Mile in My Shoes – Together!*

**Mar. 12** New Trinity Bowling Party

**April 3, 6-8** Swim Party at Falls YMCA

(1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade children & youth)

**Watch for more EVENTS in the months ahead!**



### Family Promise (FP)

#### *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*

*Walk a Mile in My Shoes* will be held on **Sunday, February 27, 2010** at Fairlawn West UCC at 2950 West



Market Street. Registration is at 2 pm with the walk to follow. This event is being held in February so our participants can think about the homeless families that are on the streets in the winter months enduring the cold weather. The focus of this event is to bring together the families from our twenty-eight congregations to celebrate the success of our FP mission. This is also a fundraiser for FP and we are encouraging all Bethany members to ask for the support of their family, friends, neighbors and collect pledges for the walk. There is no registration fee for the walk. If you are not able to collect pledges, you are still welcome to participate and join in the fun. Please come out and support this important event as a walker, pledger or volunteer. Thank you for the support you have given to this mission.

# BOY SCOUT TROOP #160

## Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

AND



### Saturday, March 5th

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Bethany United Church of Christ  
1235 Broad Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls

Tickets: 13 and over \$ 7.00  
6 to 12 years 3.50  
Under 5 FREE

**Contact: Zach / Bob Read or Jacob Sammons for tickets. Homemade spaghetti sauce with meatball on the side.**

*Please remember in your prayers...*



- † **Bobbie Berie**, Falls Village
- † **Nancy Zucco**, Gardens of Western Reserve
- † *Please keep our Bethany members going on the Esperanza Mission Trip in your prayers.*

## Recycling Info from Ocepeks

*Thanks for taking the time and going to the extra effort of recycling your packing materials! We ship out communionware to churches, using many of the items that you have donated. Some have asked about what we can and cannot use, so here's a list for your reference.*

### We love to receive the following:

Styrofoam peanuts  
Styrofoam thin sheets  
Air packs  
Bubble wrap  
Foam wrap



### We sometimes can use the following:

Boxes, not too big or too small (usually between the size of a toaster oven and an air conditioner)  
Paper packing  
Padded envelopes

### We DON'T use the following:

Very large or very small boxes  
Dirty or damaged boxes  
Shredded paper  
Large styrofoam or cardboard chunks

*We will do our best to use all the materials you provide, and recycle the rest. When in doubt, bring it in and we'll take care of it!*

*Thanks, Deb and Adam Ocepek*



# Thank you!

Thank you for all the prayers, flowers, cards and the visits from Pastor Steve and the visits and communion with Rev. Steiner *Barbara Sunyecz*

Thanks to the Youth Committee and Youth Fellowship members who created some great Super Bowl Sunday Subs! Thanks also to everyone who supported our Youth Ministry by purchasing them.

Dear Bethany Friends,

What a nice surprise to see Betty Caiola with a lovely bouquet at my door on Sunday. They certainly brightened the January doldrums!

*Sincerely, Edna Truby*

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

**February 14<sup>th</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup>**

- 2/14  
2/15 9:00a Staff Meeting  
7:30p Kerygma  
2/16 8:00a Men's Breakfast  
9:00a Bible Study (CE)  
7:00p Bell Choir Practice  
2/17 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice  
2/18  
2/19 *Esperanza Mission Trip Begins*  
11:30a Bethany Kitchen

***Sunday ~ February 20, 2011***

- † **Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.**  
† **FAMILY PROMISE GUEST WEEK**  
8:30a Worship  
9:15a **Combined** Children and Adult S.S. Class  
10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School  
11:30a Coffee Hour  
5:00p YF – FP Meal Preparation  
6:00p FP Meal (SH)

- 2/21 Office Closed (Presidents Day)  
6:00p FP Meal (SH)  
2/22 9:00a Staff Meeting  
6:00p FP Meal (SH)  
2/23 9:00a Bible Study (CE)  
6:00p FP Meal (SH)  
7:00p Bell Choir Practice  
7:00p COMMITTEE NIGHT  
2/24 6:00p FP Meal (SH)  
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice  
2/25 *New Orleans Mission Trip Begins*  
5:30p G. Scouts (SH) 9:00p  
6:00p FP Meal (Lounge)  
2/26 Esperanza Mission Trip Returns  
8:00a (SH) Rsvd. – 10:00p  
10:00a Miller Ave., "Lunch on Us" Mission Co.  
6:00p FP Meal (Lounge)

***Family Sunday  
February 27, 2011***

- † **Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.**  
† **Children remain in worship**  
8:30a Worship  
9:15a Church School for All Ages  
10:30a Worship

11:30a 7thDay Practice

2:00p YF depart for *Walk a Mile* w/ NT  
Names of Sunday Volunteers are published AHEAD  
OF THE SCHEDULED Sunday as a kindly *reminder*  
and early *thank you!*



***Volunteers for February 20<sup>th</sup>***

- Altar Flower Delivery: E. Frederick / M. Trostle  
Greeters: F.&M.Clark / M. Crichton, M. Trail  
Lay Reader: J. Welfley  
Special Music: / Chancel Choir  
Nursery: H. Bowman, H. Bedillion, M. Ferda,  
S. Keenan, J. Nielsen  
Ushers: T. Hermann, H. Walker, J. Grazulis, J. Seymour,  
N. Buck, H. Bowman, J. Nielson, L. Sheppard  
Van Driver: B. Read  
Visitor Outlook: R. Schreiber

**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 February 27<sup>th</sup>***

- Altar Flower Delivery: A. Lorentz  
Greeters: J.&P. Mansfield / A.&S. Lorentz  
Special Music: Bell Choir / Children's Choirs  
Nursery: P. Cochran, T. Jensen, S. Ferda, B. Read  
E. Frederick  
Ushers: C.Hofmann, B. Charton, M. Seymour, M. Seguin,  
L. Short, J. Smith, Z. Read, M. Spring

Van Driver: F. Read  
Visitor Outlook: K. Wurgler