

The Bethany Letter

Sunday ~ January 15, 2012
Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

VOLUME 2012

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Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

Who Can Make a Difference?

You!

Your faith matters to you – deeply! You can't imagine living your life without it, without the strength it offers, the guidance in knowing right from wrong, the comfort in times of grief and pain, and the hope in times of uncertainty and brokenness.

Your faith family matters to you – deeply! You can't imagine living your life without it, without the care of fellow believers, their acts of kindness, and their prayers, without the joyful opportunity to share in worship, learning, fellowship, and service.

Yet, you have family and friends who are living without these precious gifts, living without the strength, guidance, comfort, and hope of faith, living without a caring faith family and joy of sharing in its worship, learning, fellowship, and service. You wish there was a way that you could help them know the blessing your faith and faith family are to you. But you don't know how to share this gift. You don't know how to help them receive it. What can you do?

Well, the first thing you can do is remember that accepting Christian faith and becoming part of a faith family is not about theological arguments, or a pastor's preaching, or a church's programs. Instead it's about relationship. It's about having the courage to be honest, real, and authentic about what truly matters to you with those who truly matter to you. It's about being honest, open, and inviting in your family, your circle of friends, your neighborhood, or workplace. In other words, it depends on YOU!

And yet not totally! It depends on you not just talking about your faith but inviting the other person to share in the life of your faith family. It's not so much your words but the life of the whole faith family that makes our faith real, real through the very things that are such precious blessings to you - the loving care and the joyful opportunities to share in worship, learning, fellowship, and service.

But it all begins with YOU! It begins with you making the invitation, saying as Philip said to a skeptical Nathanael, in this week's Gospel passage, "Come and see." Take a look at these figures about why people first come to church:

Friend or Relative	79%
Pastor	6%
Sunday School	3%
Walk-in	3%
Program	3%
Special Need	2%
Visitation	1%
Evangelism Crusade	.5%

When it comes to faith, who can make a difference in the lives of those you love? YOU!

With Hope in Each of You,

Steve



01/15	11:30a	Mentor Meal and Talk
02/05	11:30a	Meal and Class

Youth

01/15	5:00p	Just Peace Celebration Meet at church & take Van
01/22	11:15a	Supervise kids/Annual Meeting
01/29	6:45p	Temple Israel

REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT! 2012



The Partnership Committee invites everyone to once again come together and remember the reason for the Martin Luther King Holiday on **Sunday Evening January 15th**, 6:00 p.m. for the Just Peace Celebration at New Trinity. It has been said it is not how much you spend on Christmas that counts, but **WHERE** you spend Christmas...well, it seems to us that same idea applies to the Martin Luther King Holiday. Where to spend it?...with our Friends and Partners in the cozy and warm Sanctuary of New Trinity on that Sunday Night, that's where. We will sing, listen to others sing and talk and have a great time before having some refreshments in the basement. Carpooling and the Church Van should be available if you don't want to drive.

The time is always right to do what is right. MLK

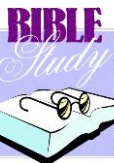
OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY, JANUARY 16th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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 **January 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.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Resumes

January 18, 2012 9:00 am



Bethany Concert Band and Helpers

Thank you for a successful 2011 holiday concert season! Are you ready for a stimulating 2012 summer concert season? Rehearsals begin **January 18th**, 7:30 pm at Bethany United Church of Christ, 1235 Broad Blvd., Cuy. Falls, OH

**WE NEED EVERY ONE OF YOU
AT REHEARSALS!**

Please come!

Jack Scott: 330-928-2690 or 330-620-1838



Bethany Kitchen

Saturday, January 21st - 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 good food and fellowship.

Items for Good Neighbors

During Epiphany, we are suggesting "Kid and Infant Items" for our Good Neighbors collection:

Jan. 22	Cheerios	or	Baby Wipes
Jan. 29	Jam / Jelly	or	Baby Powder



Annual Meeting and Dinner

Sunday ~ January 22nd

The Annual Meeting and Dinner is a wonderful way for our faith family to celebrate God's blessings in the past year and consider how God is calling us to serve in the coming year. We'll be following the same plan which was well received last year:

Simple service for worshippers of all ages at 10:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary immediately following
(Child care provided by the Youth Fellowship)

Annual Dinner in the social hall after the meeting

COMMITTEE NIGHT

Wednesday, January 25th 7:00 p.m.



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. If you have questions, call Nancy Read at 330 928-3002.

Reservations are needed and must be made by the FRIDAY BEFORE the next Buckeye gathering. (Our “chef” needs to plan!) That means **reservations** must be made **NO LATER** than **January 27th** for **February 3rd / 6:00 pm.** or you may make a reservation on your Sunday attendance card by Jan. 29th (330/ 922-5277).



Pre-Kindergarten / Kindergarten Sunday School Class January 8, 2012

Well, we did it! ... Began the New Year's Sunday School Class. There were only three there on time!... but they were joined by five others as the morning went on – so we ended up with eight. We colored a picture of Jesus and John the Baptist, played and had music time with Miss Sarah to practice our song for the next Family Sunday. We set up our altar with things similar to those in the “Big Church” – an altar cloth, a Bible, Christ's candle and an offering plate. We learned about Jesus being baptized by John and how a dove came down and God proclaimed that he was pleased. Then we made a dove from a paper plate to help us remember the story. We finished up with a story about everybody's friend – Clifford.

Please remember in your prayers...

- † Dale Renner, home
- † Ron Shultz, The Arbors



† *In Sympathy...*

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Jan Edwards on the death of her brother, Bob Brisbin January 11th.



Host Week

* We started our week off expecting 12 guests from 3 families. The family of two dropped out of the program. The family of six had strep throat, was contagious and could not be in the program until they were on antibiotics. Family Promise put them up in a motel for two nights. We hosted the family of 4 for the week and the family of six came to us on Saturday night. *Never a dull moment with this mission!*

* We so appreciate everyone's flexibility and support with the many changes during the week. We appreciated the time our volunteers gave to our families by providing leadership each evening, fixing a meal, driving the van, doing the laundry, and staying overnight. Thanks also to members who contributed funds for help to be at the Family Center. The families were appreciative of the caring attitude and compassion shown to them by our Bethany Volunteers. We are thankful for the support Bethany members give to this important mission in our community.

Bob and Carolyn



Dear Friends,

Thank you for remembering me. So many nice cards and notes.

Vivian Lingo

We would like to send our sincere thanks to the prayer shawl committee for the beautiful blanket, hat and booties for our new daughter Paige Ellen Randall. We would also like to thank all the members for their thoughts, prayers, and notes of congratulations. We are all healthy and very happy!

Amy, Jason, and Paige

The faith family at Bethany reaches out in many ways: the prayers chain, prayer shawls, visits from Steve, Mark and Carolyn, well wishes, cards and prayers from the congregation and staff; the use of medical equipment, sharing of cookies and meals. Bart and I both want to thank you for being BETHANY! Please keep us in your prayers as we follow this road of cancer treatment with hope.

Carol and Bart Clemente



Congratulations...

...to Jack and Kristi Dugan on the birth of their daughter, Kinley Noelle, December 15, 2011.

Bring in your

ACME Receipts!



The program ends FEBRUARY 11, 2012

The YF is collecting ACME receipts. Acme Fresh Market will issue a rebate check equal to FIVE PERCENT (5%) of the Cash Back amount printed at the bottom of the receipt. The Cash Back amount includes all Acme store brand merchandise purchases. YF truly appreciates your support as the proceeds help fund the youth mission trip.

Bethany Needs Your Used Printer Cartridges!

Wondering how to dispose of your used printer cartridges? Bring them to Bethany! Just put them in the green printer cartridge box under the Green Team table in the social hall. We will make sure that they are recycled and earn a rebate that will help with our office supply expenses.

Bethany Church Directories for 2012



will be available in January. Now is the time for corrections to be made. Please call the church office and let us know of any changes made to your families: address, phone number, e-mail, additions/deletions etc. We would like to publish an up-to-date directory for your use.

From the Property Committee & Custodians

Turn out the lights when you leave the building. Although we have many automatic lights, there are still many manually operated ones (especially the Sanctuary). Your attention to this small detail will save us much in utility cost

Announcements in Worship

The family of God comes together on the Sabbath to honor God by giving God thanks and praise in worship. That time of gathering presents an opportunity to remind one another about areas of our life together in which God is honored and given thanks and praise – educational offerings, fellowship events, service opportunities, and special times of worship. It is a great blessing that Bethany is a living, active church, involved in many forms of ministry and mission. Yet, that's all the more reason to be intentional in regard to announcements, so that we don't find ourselves having spent 15 minutes on them without beginning worship.

Mindful of that worship is our unique and special Sabbath purpose and of the nature of the other events through which we honor God, Consistory has approved these Guidelines for Announcements in Worship.

Announcements in Worship Should:

1. Be About Bethany Events

This means events sponsored by a Bethany Committee. Bethany members may be involved in many worthwhile causes and may share information about them in the Newsletter but not in the limited time we have for worship.

2. Be Brief

Announcements in worship are reminders. The "full story" can be told in the newsletter. Please plan what you are going to say so you can be succinct – no more than a half page single spaced or a full page double spaced. (A sermon is about 3 pages single spaced).

3. Not Begin Too Soon

Two Sunday's before the event is plenty, or if it falls on a Sunday, three. More than that compounds the problem of having too many, which lengthens the whole announcement time. Please note that some services which are especially full (Celebration of Congregational Life, Dedication Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter, Cantata Services) may require the omission of verbal announcements. On those Sundays extra space will be available in the bulletin to lift up special events and the pastor will reference these in the Greeting.

Offering Envelopes



Did you pick up your boxed giving Envelopes?

**Calendar - additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2012 monthly calendar mailed to you.
(as of 1/5) January 16th to January 29th**

- 1/16 Office Closed, M.L. King, Jr. Day
7:00p Bell Choir Practice
- 1/17 No Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
7:30p Kerygma
- 1/18 8:00a Men's Breakfast
9:00a Bible Study (CE)
6:30p Band Rehearsals Resume
- 1/19 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
- 1/20
- 1/21 11:30a Bethany Kitchen

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

Sunday ~ January 22, 2012

- † Nursery Available 9:15 to end of Meeting
† ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER
† Family Sunday

- 8:30a Worship**
9:15a Church School for All Ages
10:30a Worship (meeting follows)
11:15a Annual Meeting
12:15p Dinner

Volunteers for January 22nd

- Greeters: C. & E. Croskey / T.&B. Eberhardt
Nursery: T. Ocepek, M. Peyak, S. Keenan.
H. Bedillion, C. Bedillion
Special Music: Memory Bell Choir / Children's Choirs
Ushers: L. Luginbill, H. Walker, S. Truby, S. Ward,
B.&C. Pletzer, J. Bebout, K. Fratz
Van Driver: C. Jones

- 1/23 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
1/24 9:00a Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
- 1/25 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
6:30p Band Rehearsal
7:00p Committee Night
- 1/26 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
- 1/27
1/28



Sunday, January 29, 2012

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

- 8:30a Worship**
9:15a Church School for Children and Adults
10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School
11:30a Social Hour: Sr. High Class

Volunteers for January 29th

- Greeters: Sarah Scott / D. & D. Allison
Lay Reader: C. Eiber
Nursery: A. Cristino, H. Bowman, A. Keenan.
N. Zeller, Z. Read
Special Music: TBA/ Chancel Choir
Ushers: T. Hermann, B. Charton, M. Seguin, M. Seymour,
L. Short, M. Spring, A. Jensen, L. Sheppard
Van Driver: C. Frederick