

# The Bethany Letter

SUNDAY ~ JANUARY 23, 2011

VOLUME 2011

ISSUE NO. 3

Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

## Vision Beautiful

As I begin to prepare for several weeks of preaching on Jesus' sermon beginning next Sunday with Matthew 5:1-12 (what we call the "Beatitudes"), I came across poet Rainer Maria Rilke's words, "Beauty is nothing but the beginning of terror." Those words puzzled me. Isn't beauty only good? How could it possibly be connected to fear? Then I read Australian Sean Gilbert's reflection in our *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum, and they began to make sense. Gilbert wrote:

*Beauty does not simply mean all things sweet and nice. From the perspective of my native land, the rugged, dry, and dangerous Australian outback is wondrously beautiful. Indeed, the disquieting presence of inhospitality – if not terror – gives an alluring edge or depth to beauty that would otherwise be lacking. "Country" is to be respected and revered, this being its inspiring nature. Indigenous peoples all over the globe know this truth.*

*When thinking about Jesus' vision for human happiness and harmony, especially as found in Matthew 5–7, its beauty lies not in something impossible or dreamy. It, too, is not all sweetness and light. Rather, the beauty of the vision is found in Jesus' tenacious belief that humanity can find practical ways to live into peace, justice, and kindness. This vision is not realized without genuine change or clear intention. Jesus' vision only comes by way of mutual and extraordinary respect for all living things that often require sacrifice. The Beatitudes are not simply hopes for happiness to be eventually found beyond this world. As a "vision beautiful," they command our attention and willing responses for the transformation of this world for the sake of all.*

*Throughout history, visions of change have been passionately offered and responded to. One example is the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of a nation wherein his children would be judged by the content of character, not by the color of their skin. Another is Nelson Mandela's vision of a South Africa beyond the inhumanity of apartheid and an angry retaliation.*

*The vision of Jesus is about taking heart, facing fears, standing up against oppressive forces; doing so within the compelling and healing nature of God's inclusive love. This vision is both beautiful and terrifying. For living into the vision does not come without risk or sacrifice. But it comes, nevertheless. The challenging, yet inviting question for those of us who claim to follow Jesus, is to what extent we make this radical vision for equality and human kindness our own and to what extent are we prepared to be changed by it?*

With that "challenging, yet inviting question" before us, I invite the Bethany family and friends to a series of reflections on Jesus' "Vision Beautiful," proclaimed in as proclaimed in extraordinary and wise ways in the Sermon on the Mount:

- January 30 – Vision Beautiful (Matthew 5:1–12)
- February 6 – Restoring Beauty (Matthew 5:13–20)
- February 13 – From the Heart (Matthew 5:21–37)
- February 20 – Expanding Boundaries (Matthew 5:38–48)
- February 27 – Putting Love First (Matthew 6:24–34)

I look forward to looking with you at the challenging beauty that Jesus lays before us in these passages.

*With Hope in the Power of the Gospel,*

**COMMITTEE NIGHT**  
**7:00P WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

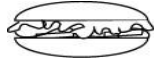
# Bethany Kitchen



Bethany Kitchen had a great turnout January 16<sup>th</sup>. The menu was beef stew, tossed salad, cinnamon apples, rolls and a variety of cakes for dessert. We served 70 meals in an atmosphere equal to none! Thanks to everyone for their outstanding job: Kathy Keenan, Martha Peyak, Lou Atelson, Bob Pletzer, Carol Pletzer, Greg Fratz, John Gonis, Linda Gonis, Carol Frederick, Ed Frederick, Cindy Kahn, Lynette Sheppard, Nancy Buck, Cheryl McGraw and those from FP (Family Promise) Andrew Miller, Stephanie Markovic, and Sean Markovic. Bethany Kitchen's next meal will be served on **Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 a.m. Help is always needed for food preparation and for cleaning up.

ALL ARE WELCOME! *Harvey Koudela*

## Super Bowl Sub Sale!



There is no sub like a Bethany "YF SUPER BOWL SUB!" Order yours after worship January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cost is \$4.00 and "WOW" that is a deal! Having a bowl party? Order a dozen! Oh, you don't have to watch the super bowl to order one, two or three. You can order on your attendance card January 30<sup>th</sup> if you want.

Pick up is ~ when else ~

**Super Bowl Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**  
after BOTH worship services.

## Remember to save your

ACME receipts to help Bethany's Youth Fellowship. Just bring them to church ~ there are collection boxes at all the entrances. You will be supporting the youth's mission trip this year. **The ending date for receipts is FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>.** So don't throw them away! You could mail them in too!



## New Orleans' Mission Trip

Five people representing Bethany will join 15 people from Christ Church UCC of Orrville, on February 25th, and head to New Orleans to continue the rebuilding effort following Hurricane Katrina. For more information on the role of the United Church of Christ in the rebuilding effort follow the link below:

<http://www.ucc.org/disaster/south-central-conference-11.html>

*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 speaker is Lindsay Bonilla from Akron. She works in the field of theatre as an actress and director. She started her own children's theatre company called **World of Difference, Ltd.** - which uses interactive performances of folktales from around the world to teach people of all ages, but especially children about world cultures. After her presentation we will have a free will offering which will go to Family Promise.



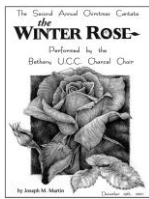
## Host Week

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.



**George Jensen** has DVDs available of the Christmas Cantata and the Children's Christmas Eve Pageant. If you are interested in purchasing a



copy of the Cantata, the Pageant or both please see George after church in the Social Hall, he will be there for the next few Sundays. His asking price is \$5.00 - to defray the cost of production.

## Bethany's Volunteers

*For those of you who volunteer at Bethany (greeters, nursery, etc.) on a weekly basis please remember you will now be reminded via e-mail. Check your e-mail from Bethany!*



**Need a ride to worship? Give Bethany a call at 330-923-5277 by 4:00p Friday. We will pick you up!**

Sunday ~ January 23<sup>rd</sup> Scripture... **Matthew 4:12-23**

*As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news\* of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.*

# thank you

Dear Supporters of Good Neighbors,

We gratefully thank you for all contributions during 2010 and would like to share some of the things we were able to accomplish: Emergency food orders provided were 3,261. During the year we spent over \$61,000 on food. School clothes and supplies were provided to 431 children. At Christmas we served 566 families representing 1,529 adults, seniors and children with a food basket, gloves and 3 to 4 gifts for each person. Our total clientele during the year was 966 families (1,449 adults and 1,014 children) which, due to your generosity, we were able to help with various needs including clothing, household items and food. We want you to know that since we are served totally by volunteers, 85% of your donations go directly to our clients. Thank you for caring.

Bethany Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful Poinsettia and all the cards and notes. We want to thank Sharon Otto for delivering the poinsettia; we always enjoy our visits with her. And thanks to Rev. Steiner for his many visits, they are so appreciated.

*Love, Warren and Mary Jo Graves*

Many Thanks ...

We would like to thank the Bethany Consistory, Women's Guild and the staff for the Christmas gifts. And on top of that to the many drivers who make it possible for me to continue my visitation ministry among you. We are indeed grateful.

*Mark and Ellie Steiner*

## Please remember in your prayers...

- † Nancy Zucco, Bath Manor
- † Bobbie Berie, Akron City Hospital
- † Karen Butler, Traditions

† *In Sympathy...*

*We express our Christian sympathy to the family of Bill and Shirley Leas following the death of Bill's father, Howard Leas, on January 18<sup>th</sup>.*



**Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the  
2011 monthly calendar mailed to you.  
January 24<sup>th</sup> to February 6<sup>th</sup>**

1/24 7:30p Bethany / New Trinity Mtg. at NT  
 1/25 9:00a Staff Meeting  
 1/26 7:00p Bell Choir Practice  
       7-7:30p COMMITTEE NIGHT  
 1/27 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice  
 1/28  
 1/29

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

## Sunday ~ January 30, 2011

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

† ORDER YOUR SUPER BOWL SUB!

8:30a Worship  
 9:15a Church School for All Ages  
 10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School  
 11:30a Social Hour Host: Ministry Committee  
 11:30a 7thDay Practice  
 TBA YF – Toboggan Party

## Volunteers for January 30<sup>th</sup>

Greeters: F.&N. Read / D.&M. Renner  
 Lay Reader: C. Eiber  
 Special Music: / Chancel Choir  
 Nursery: B. Lees, T. Jensen, J. Smith,  
           K. Dugan, J. Bebout  
 Ushers: R.&S. Holle, B. Charton, M. Seymour,  
           M. Seguin, A. McVan, A. Pease, N. Buck  
 Van Driver: C. Frederick  
 Visitor Outlook: B. Lees

1/31

## February...

2/01 9:00a Staff Meeting  
       7:30p Kerygma  
 2/02 7:00p Bell Choir Practice  
 2/03 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice  
 2/04  
 2/05 10:00a SH Rsrvd. – 3:00p

Super Bowl Sub Sale  
 Orders Taken  
 January 30<sup>th</sup>

## Sunday ~ February 6, 2011

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

† PICK UP YOUR SUPER BOWL SUB!

8:30a Worship (Communion)  
 9:15a Church School for All Ages  
 10:30a Worship  
 11:30a Social Hour Host: Finance  
 11:30a Confirmands Meal/Class  
 11:30a 7thDay Practice

## Volunteers for February 6<sup>th</sup>

Greeters:  
 Lay Reader: M. Seymour  
 Special Music: Story and Song/ Chancel Choir  
 Nursery: A. Thompson, S. Ward, N. Zeller, J. Dugan,  
           H. Alberson  
 Ushers: L. Luginbill, M. Jensen, M.&R. Bowmaster,  
           A. McVan, K. Fratz, J. Sammons, C. McGraw  
 Van Driver: E. Frederick  
 Visitor Outlook: J. Charton

# *5 Green Resolutions You Can Actually Keep*

## **1. Eat and shop local**

- There are so many benefits to eating local; you're helping your local economy, food is fresher and stays fresh longer and fewer chemicals are needed to prolong life.
- Also, studies have found that food could travel 1,500 miles before it reaches your plate. That means a lot of pollution. Eating and shopping closer to home helps cut down on that pollution.
- Check out local farmers' markets and artisan shops.

## **2. Start a compost pile**

- Compost is magical. It improves soil quality physically, chemically and biologically. It also reduces the estimated 1.3 pounds of food scraps that Americans throw away daily.
- The best part is you can compost no matter where you live and make huge, but simple strides to be greener in 2011. Bonus: Use the nutrient-rich soil to grow herbs and vegetables, and you keep your eating local resolution, too.

## **3. Reduce your footprint**

- Almost everything we do contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, but there are a lot of little things you can do to reduce your footprint. An added benefit is that these things will also save you money.
- In the winter, try to keep your thermostat at 68 degrees or lower and during summer months, try for 78 degrees or higher. For each degree you vary from these recommended settings, you can increase your energy bill by four percent. Plus, less energy use means fewer emissions.
- Make every Friday carpool day to work or school. This simple act will this bring you closer with your neighbors and help cut down on pollution.

## **4. Start recycling**

- Recycling is not only one of the greenest things you can do, it's also one of the easiest. If your community doesn't offer a curbside recycling program, you'll have to drop off recyclables at a collection center nearest you.
- Try storing recyclables in plastic tub with a lid and handles. This will make carrying everything to the center much easier. Bonus: Consolidate your trips, and you can also keep the reducing your footprint resolution.

## **5. Simply use less**

- It's so easy and convenient to use paper plates, paper towels and single-use mops, but think about all the waste you have to throw away.
- This year try to avoid single-use products and excessive packaging. Invest in plates, mops and towels that you can reuse over and over, instead of ones you throw away after only a few uses.

[www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com)

by Megan Dobransky

Published on December 30th, 2010

