

The Bethany Letter

SUNDAY ~ JANUARY 29, 2012

VOLUME 2012

ISSUE NO. 4

Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

Always Something to Do

Ask the office staff, or anyone who's worked with me very much, I'm a person of lists – lists of what needs to be done, lists that I relentlessly update, checking off what's been accomplished and adding the new things that come up. You guessed it, it never gets any shorter. But I don't expect them to, that's not why I make them. I make them so I don't miss anything (of course, if you've worked with me at all, you know that I still do), but still, I've got to do my best, right?

But beyond keeping me focused and somewhat organized, the lists affect me in another way, they make me very conscious of time, making the most of it, not wasting it. So, I am a self-proclaimed "economy of motion" person. I try to plan things out so that there's no wasted time or motion, so that one thing leads to another in a smooth, efficient flow.

That means it's very, very hard for me, when I feel like I'm wasting time. That's why this story by Barbara Brown Taylor, written at the end of the last century, spoke to me so powerfully.

One of my worst fears recently materialized in of all places the post office. It was lunch hour on a busy day. When I came through the door, ten people stood in line with cardboard boxes, postage machines, and priority mail envelopes in their hands. All I needed were some pretty stamps, but since a return trip later in the day would obviously cost me more time than waiting, I decided to wait.

One problem I have always had with holding still is that my mind kicks into overdrive. Freed from practical concerns such as walking upright or steering a car, my brain takes advantage of the hiatus by thinking of all the things I have not done that I ought to have done and all the things that I should have done but have not done. Perhaps it has something to do with my religious training, or maybe it is simply a sign of neurosis.

Whatever it is, I had a lot of time to do it that day. I have not given the dogs their heartworm pills this month, I thought. I have not checked out that gas smell in the kitchen, nor have I done anything about setting up a tax sheltered annuity. I spend too much time at work. I do not spend enough time with my sisters. Before I know it, we will be three old women who have missed out on most of each other's lives. When will I get my priorities straight?

Needing a break from this train of thought, I began to read the FBI posters on the wall. By the time I had examined four or five of them, my own sins seemed small. I had not killed anyone after all, I had not kidnapped anyone or robbed anyone at gunpoint. In order for my mug shot to show up in the stack, the accusations would have to be more existential: Grand Anxiety, First Degree Guilt.

"Next," the clerk said, and the line moved forward. This brought me even with a digital display of red numbers in a black box on the wall. The three numbers at the left of the display remained stable while the three at the far right flipped so quickly I could not read them.

Checking the small print above the numbers, I discovered they represented the days, hours, minutes, seconds and milliseconds left in the present millennium. My heart beat faster as I watched the red numbers flying across the screen. Whatever I was going to do, I had better hurry. Time was clearly running out.

Of course, Y2K showed us that time was not running out. Yet, Jesus would say, it would do us well to live as if it was. Only he would say that would mean something much different than what we who always have something to do, would say it means. May God grant us the grace to slow down and learn more of what it does mean.

Grace and Peace,

Steve

Some Goals for the New Year

At the annual meeting last Sunday I suggested a number of goals for 2012. Several of them offer opportunities for more of us to be involved our shared ministry and mission. I'd like to share a few and invite you to consider getting involved in one or more.

Become a 1/84 member!

There are 168 hours in a week. Why not commit yourself to devoting 2 of those hours 1/84 of a week to the two most basic forms of Christian discipleship and nurture: Worship and Education. (If you'd like to know more about the education options, I'd be happy to talk to you.)

Social Hour Host

Social Hours are currently hosted by those who serve on Committees, attend Sunday School Classes, sing or play in Choirs, or are involved other Ministries or Missions. That means that many people are helping to host numerous social hours, while many, who are not involved in this way, are not involved in hosting. We'd like to "share the joy" of this fellowship opportunity. (If you'd like to help host a social hour just call the office, 330-923-5277, to get more information and be connected with other volunteers.)

Other Sunday Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to help with:

- Altar Flower Delivery
- Greet Worshippers
- Nursery Care
- Sunday School Teaching and Helping
- Ushering

Call the office for information about any of these. Thanks for your willingness to consider serving in these ways. *Pastor Steve*



Youth

02/05	8:00a	Super Bowl Sub Sale
02/12	TBA	Valentine Cookie Delivery



The first Sunday of each month, Bethany's volunteer nurses, Linda Goodwin and Holly Keenan, offer blood pressure tests during social hour. If you are interested in having your BP checked look for them after worship February 5th.

Items for Good Neighbors

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

2/05	Chicken Noodle Soup	Or	Jars of Baby Food
2/12	Canned Tuna	Or	Infant Cereal
2/19	Macaroni & Cheese	Or	Baby Shampoo



Super Bowl Sub Sale!

Pick up is ~ when else ~
Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th
 after **BOTH** worship services.



02/05	11:30a	Meal and Class
02/19	11:30a	Mentor Meal and Discussion



Phoebe Gero!

Phoebe will celebrate February 6th
 1140 Munroe Falls Ave., Cuy. Falls 44221

GREEN Team Meeting

Monday ~ February 6th 7:00 p.m.

New Members to Be Received

We'll be receiving new members into the fellowship of our church sometime in February. If you'd like to know about Bethany and possible membership contact Pastor Steve at 330-923-5277.



The Boy Scouts of America

annually celebrates its founding on February 8, 1910, based on the program started by Lord Baden Powell in England on August 1,

1907. Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration in the middle 1940s. Bethany will celebrate Scout Sunday on **February 12th**. The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledged each week. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

EOA HAS TALENT!

Saturday, February 18th 7:00 p.m.



Trinity United Church of Christ
3909 Blackburn Rd., NW, Canton
(corner of Fulton and Hills and Dales)

Come and experience great talent, great food and great fellowship, all for a great cause. Your generous donation will support the operations of the Eastern Ohio Association.

Annual Chili Cook-Off

will be Sunday, February 19th

after the 10:30 church service



Sprinkle ... a little of this and a little of that ... in your recipe, warm up your crock-pots and be ready to battle for the title of Chili Champ! (Or just work up an appetite and get ready to eat!) This is an annual event at Bethany everyone enjoys and it just might be YOU who will win!

YEAR END REPORT

OF OUR SCRIP PROGRAM

Thanks to all who supported the Scrip Program at Bethany during this past year. With your help our profit for the year was \$1802.54 and cards on hand of \$1725.00, for a total of **\$3527.54**. This is a great way to support Bethany by buying your Gift Cards at church. Look for our **GIFT CARD** sign on the table each Sunday morning. Remember, if you order cards on Sunday they will be waiting for you the next Sunday. Think of the groceries or gas cards you could use each week. Those seem to be our most popular. We also have cards for many restaurants and big box stores. With your continued support we can have a better year in 2012. The Finance Committee



DVD'S OF THE CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT ARE AVAILABLE!

The 2011 **Bethany Children's Pageant** presented by our First through Sixth Graders was another one in a growing list of great performances. *Miracle at Midnight* featured Bobby Read as Mayor Mayer and Katie Larkins as his very able assistant Ms. Snitley. The cast of wise men, shepherds and townspeople made us all laugh and sing as usual. The confirmation classes presented the Liturgy so be sure to check out what God is up to at Bethany through our Children if you missed it. Available soon will be *Winter's Grace*, the Advent Cantata presented by the Chancel Choir and the **Bell Choir Concert**. All DVD's are five dollars; just see George Jensen in the Social Hall after worship or in the 5th and 6th Grade classroom.

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 11th**. So don't throw them away! You could mail them in too! Only a couple of weeks remain.



Please remember in your prayers...

- † Sally Mellot, Cleveland Clinic
- † Vivian Lingo, hospital (Kentucky)
- † Ron Shultz, The Arbors
- † Mark Steiner, home recovering from a broken ankle
- † Barbara Sunyecz, Select Specialty Hospital



In Sympathy...

We extend our Christian sympathy to Margaret Deacon and her family on the death of her sister, Helen Hutchins, December 20th.



given in January by

**1/29 Pat Fennell & Edward Wallace in memory of
Rush and Margaret Wallace**

Thank you!

Dear Bethany Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and all the lovely Christmas cards and a big thank you to Barb Briggs for delivering them.

God Bless, Warren and Mary Jo Graves

Dear Bethany Church,

Thank you for the lovely altar flowers that were sent to us in honor of Bill's birthday. We also enjoyed the nice visit we had with John Wachovec who brought the flowers to us. Thank you so much!

Love, Bill and Joan Hunt

Annual Meeting & Dinner Thanks!

- † Thank you to those who prepared and shared reports at the annual meeting. Your time and effort helped us better understand and support our shared ministry and mission.
- † To those who prepared, served, and cleaned-up our annual meeting dinner. The wonderful meal gave us an important opportunity to share fellowship and further welcome recently received new members.
- † To all who stayed after worship to hear the reports at the meeting, express appreciation for those involved in our many ministries and missions, and to share the delightful food and fellowship that followed.
- † It was a great expression of what it means to be a faith family – thanks to everyone involved!

Display Cases for February

- Case A-1 Library (Adult & Children)
- Case A-2 Church Growth

Change of Address:

Lorraine Benesh

c/o Sharon Stein
32 Avondale Circle
Newnan, GA 30265

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHURCH IS ...

- to establish a Christian congregation for worship,
 - to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ,
 - to celebrate the sacraments,
 - to render loving service toward humanity,
 - to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace,
 - to advance the Realm of God at home and abroad.
- (The Bethany Constitution)

Sunday January 29th Scripture

MARK 1:21-28

21 They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,²⁴and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.'²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!'²⁶And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.'²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**Calendar - additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2012 monthly calendar mailed to you.
(as of 1/26) January 23rd to February 5th**

1/30 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
9:00a Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline

February...

2/01 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
6:30p Band Rehearsal
2/02 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
2/03 6:00p **Bethany Buckeyes**
2/04

Pick Up Your Super Bowl Subs

Sunday ~ February 5, 2012

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

8:30a Worship/ Communion
9:15a Church School for All Ages
10:30a Worship/ Children's S.S.
11:30a Social Hour: Youth Committee & YF
11:30a Confirmation, Meal/Class

2/06 7:00p GREEN Team Meeting
7:00p Bell Choir Practice
2/07 9:00a Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
7:15p Finance Committee Mtg.
2/08 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
6:30p Band Rehearsal
7:30p Consistory
2/09 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
2/10
2/11

Boy Scout Sunday

Sunday ~ February 12, 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/
Baptism
11:30a Social Hour: Wed. Bible Study Class
TBA YF Valentine Cookie Delivery
4:00p (SH) Rsrvd

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 February 5th

Greeters: S. Bebout Family / P. Cochran
Lay Reader: M. Seymour
Nursery: J. Salsbury, A. Thompson, L. Rorrer,
B. Read, M. Arnold
Special Music: Story & Song / Chancel Choir
Ushers: C. Hofmann, M. Jensen, J. Grazulis, J. Seymour,
H. Bowman, L. Short, J. Nielson, K. Fratz
Van Driver: F. Read



Home Depot now accepts household
batteries for recycling. Also, they recycle
fluorescent compact light bulbs.

**SO ... PLEASE ... do not bring
them to church!**

(The Church earns \$\$ on paper, cans, cell phones and
ink cartridges ... so you may bring these items in.)

Volunteers for February 12th

Greeters: Boy Scouts / Boy Scouts
Lay Reader: L. Rorrer
Nursery: L. Weiss, S. Ward, B. Lees, N. Zeller, D. Bridges
Special Music: / Chancel Choir
Ushers: J.&S. Mancinelli, F. Read, M. Seguin, M. Seymour,
R. Berie, Z. Read, L. Sheppard
Van Driver: S. Gaskill