

Children of God - Come Together!

Last Monday night a group of people from New Trinity and Bethany who'd been most involved in our partnership over the years, gathered to reflect on what we should be doing together as we move into the future. Here's an anonymous reflection on what happened:

A group of God's children, black and white, got together on a cold, snowy night.

From Bethany and Trinity they'd come together, to serve our Lord, no matter what the weather.

They started with a prayer, to ask the Lord to bless them, so in word and deed, together they'd confess him.

Then they asked the question, "What's God want us to do?" Here are their answers; I'll share them now with you!

- * to really know each other, down deep in the heart,
and show it's worth the bother, what a great place to start!*
- * to rejoice in how we're different, we don't have to be the same;
we celebrate them both, for we love in Jesus' name!*
- * to see how the world could be, if we'd catch God's vision;
what to do about it, it's all of our decision!*
- * to show love for each other, a black and white example,
of what Jesus showed us, we'll be a livin' sample!*
- * to live united, in our Lord's true communion,
is what we'll be tryin', always to be doin'.*
- * to take the chance to reach out to each other,
livin' and lovin' as a sister or a brother.*
- * to be true disciples, dedicated and committed,
'cause it's for Christ's service, that we're now bein' fitted.*
- * to have fun, and laugh, and, even be silly,
'cause it's God's will we're doin', really, really, really!*
- * to work for relationship, so we can be a family,
Trustin' love's power, to say the hard and the easy.*
- * to go be the change, that the world sure is needin',
hopin' we can be it, cause in our*
- * to have a faith that knows, we don't do all this alone,
for when we gather in His name, he comes and makes a home.*

With these high "callings" before us, we created three groups to help fulfill them: *Congregational Life and Worship; Social Events; and Service*. We also made plans to bring our churches together SOON! So, we're inviting everyone to a Family Night Pot-Luck, Friday, February 4, at 6:00. *All God's Children* is our theme, so we're inviting everyone to bring their baby picture for one of several games we plan to play (we want to start to "have fun" right away). In addition to good food and fun games we plan to share more about our hopes for the partnership - both future events and how you might want to become involved. All of us, from Bethany and New Trinity, hope to see you there.

With Lots of Hope AND Excitement,



Bethany – New Trinity

All God's children are invited to a

Family Night

Friday, February 4th in the
Bethany Social Hall

Potluck Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship and fun to follow

****Bring a baby photo****



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 you BP checked look for after worship.

Future Events for

Bethany and New Trinity

Please mark your calendar and join the fun!

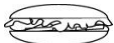
We're excited about lots of fun and exciting ways to witness our oneness in Christ with New Trinity.

Here are a few ways...

- Feb. 27 *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* – Together!
- Mar. 12 *New Trinity Bowling Party*
- TBA *Swim Party at Falls YMCA*
(for children/youth)

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

Super Bowl Sub Sale!



Pick up is ~ when else ~

Super Bowl Sunday, February 6th
after BOTH worship services.

Confirmation – February

2/06	11:30 am	Meal / Class with Pastor Steve
2/13	11:30 am	Meal / Talk with Mentors

Youth Fellowship – February

2/06	8:00 am	Make subs
2/13	11:30 am	Deliver Valentine Cookies
2/20	5:00 pm	Prepare Family Promise Meal
2/27	2:00 pm	Depart “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” (Family Promise)



Phoebe Gero

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

**GREEN TEAM MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH 7:00 PM (Lounge)**

Sunday School Classes

Sunday ~ February 20th

9:15 to 10:20 a.m.



Sunday School Classes (children and adults) will be combined **Sunday, February 20th** 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.



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:

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

IHN's *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*

A 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 IHN mission. This is also a fund raiser for IHN 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.

Fair Trade Coffee Prices to Rise

Commodity prices are rising and the price of Fair Trade Coffee went up 3 months ago. There was old stock to sell so I kept the price the same until now. Starting in February the price of regular and decaf coffees will be \$8.00 each. Thank you to all the coffee drinkers who make this mission possible and I hope you continue to buy Fair Trade Coffee.

River Valley Paper Company **FUN FACTS!**

Did you know? Americans throw away enough office and writing paper annually to build a wall 12 feet high stretching from Los Angeles to New York City! Bethany's recycled paper 12/1 - 12/31 has had the following environmental impact:

36.25 trees
6.40 cubic yards of landfill
14,927.50 gallons of water
8,743.25 kilowatts of electricity



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.

The Bethany Letter is now available via email. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email and save on paper and postage, please send your email address to newsletter@bethanyucc.org. If you have already signed up for email but did not receive last week's newsletter, please resend your email address to newsletter@bethanyucc.org. Adding this address to your email address book will ensure the newsletter doesn't end up in your "spam" folder.

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 19TH.** So don't throw them away! You could mail them in too! Only a couple of weeks remain.

Change of address

Brody Bebout

13938 Up Back, East Center street / Burton, OH 44021

Please remember in your prayers...

- † **Bruce Wurgler**, check w/office
- † **Bobbie Berie**, Akron City Hospital
- † **Nancy Zucco**, Bath Manor



Thank you,

The response to the switching the order of annual meeting and dinner to start with the meeting seems very positive. Thanks to all who made it a good day.

- Committee chairs who wrote and shared reports
- Young adults who provided child care
- Meal committee members who prepared a great meal
- Consistory members who made desserts and salads and did the clean-up
- Everyone who attended and stayed for the meal.

Wonderful things happen when we work together, and even more when we come together to celebrate them!

Thank you,

Many thanks to you all for the prayers, cards, the beautiful poinsettia plant and the visits from Pastor Steve and Rev. Mark.

David Dietz

Dear Pastor Steve, Rev. Mark and my dear Bethany Family,

Thank you for all your cards, calls, flowers, and prayers. My prayers and thanks go out to all of you for your kindness over the years. I still remember holding my Grandmother's hand as she took me to Sunday School. The world needs more of what was taught in those days. Thank goodness we all have Bethany to remind us of what is really important these days.

God Bless one and all, Joan Porter

Altar Flowers Given in January by...

- 1/02 **Marcia Spring** in memory of Jim Bidwell and Donna Bidwell
1/30 **Pat Fennell and Ed Wallace** in memory of Rush and Margaret Wallace

2010 Year End Statistics for Family Promise/IHN

Pamela Betty, Executive Director of the Family Promise Network released these figures for 2010. Thanks to our many volunteers at Bethany for helping to make this mission happen in our community.

of people served----- 136 (69% increase over 2009)
of family units served---- 33 (78% increase over 2009)
Total # of children----- 86 (37% increase over 2009)
Children age 5 & under---- 55 (50% increase over 2009)
Average length of stay----- 29 nights (28 night average 2009)
Secured Housing----- 30 (65% increase over 2009)
A 90% success rate in 2010 of families securing a stable home environment.
Estimated # of volunteer hours - 11,373

An email to Bethany from one of our college students!
“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” -Mahatma Gandhi

Greetings from Athens, Ohio!

As you may or may not know, last quarter here at OU, I joined a co-ed service fraternity called Alpha Phi Omega, APhiO. I've known that service would always be a very important part of my life, but I did not know of an efficient way to serve others here at school - until I stumbled upon this fraternity. It has truly opened up the possibilities where service is concerned. It gave me the opportunity to travel to New Orleans over winter break this past December, a trip which not only positively impacted my life, but opened my eyes to an entirely different culture and part of this country. It has rewarded me with new friends and a place in the community. There are not enough good things to be said about APhiO.

The most recent project I have decided to take part in, and the reason I'm sending this email, is the 4th annual *Polar Bear Plunge* here in Athens. I'm sure you've heard of this event before and if not, it's basically jumping into a freezing pond in the middle of February alongside friends. Crazy right? My thoughts exactly! But the goal, which is not crazy, is to raise money for the Special Olympics of Ohio. To participate, I personally have to raise \$50 by Saturday February 12th, the date of the event. Any donations, big or small, that you would be willing to make will be greatly appreciated. Also, I'm sure there will be lots of pictures taken so I'll send those out after the event so you can see for yourself what your donations are going toward!

Thanks so much! Love, Emma Jensen
email ej220908@ohio.edu

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Sue Parker occti@yahoo.com
Organist; Bell Choir Directo

Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2011 monthly calendar mailed to you.
January 31st to February 13th

Names of Sunday Volunteers are published AHEAD
OF THE SCHEDULED Sunday as a kindly *reminder*
and early *thank you!*

1/31

February...

- 2/01 9:00a Staff Meeting
- 7:30p Kerygma
- 2/02 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
- 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
- 2/03 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
- 2/04 6:00p FAMILY NIGHT w/ New Trinity (S. Hall)**
- 2/05 10:00a SH Rsrvd. – 3:00p

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 ~ February 6, 2011

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

† **PICK UP YOUR SUPER BOWL SUB!**

- 8:00a YF Meet (make subs)
- 8:30a Worship (Communion)
- 9:15a Church School for All Ages
- 10:30a Worship/ Children's S.S./ Baptism
- 11:30a Social Hour Host: Finance
- 11:30a Confirmands Meal/Class
- 11:30a 7thDay Practice

Volunteers for February 6th

- Greeters: E.&J. Fisher / S.&K. Davison
- 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

- 2/07 7:00p Green Team Meeting (Lounge)
- 2/08 9:00a Staff Meeting
- 7:15p Finance Committee
- 2/09 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
- 7:00p Bell Choir
- 7:30p Consistory
- 2/10 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
- 2/11
- 2/12

Display Cases for February:
A-1 Library
A-2 Church Growth

Sunday ~ February 13, 2011

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

† **Boy Scout Sunday**

- 8:00a 7thDay Practice
- 8:30a Worship
- 9:15a Church School for All Ages
- 10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School
- 11:30a Social Hour Host: Bible Study (CE)
- 11:30a YF Deliver Valentine Cookies

Volunteers for February 13th

- Greeters: Boy Scouts
- Lay Reader: L. Rorrer
- Special Music: 7thDay / Chancel Choir, Bells
- Nursery: M. Peyak, T. Jensen, A. Lorentz, E. Zeller, C. Eberhardt
- Ushers: J.&S. Mancinelli, F. Read, S. Truby, S. Ward, H. Koudela, B. Pletzer, J. Bebout
- Van Driver:
- Visitor Outlook: N. Read