

# The Bethany Letter

Sunday ~ June 12, 2011

VOLUME 2011

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Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

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## *Becoming a Child Again - for Pentecost*

Sometimes as adults our lives get so ordered and routine that it's hard for us to imagine what a real outbreak of God's Spirit might look like and what it might do to our hearts and our lives. Frank Ramirez offers this interesting insight about what such an outbreak might mean for us as givers:

*I'm asking you to remember a childhood passion. You know what I'm talking about, I hope. All of us at one time or another have been consumed with a passion. It might have been for stamps, or coins, or baseball cards, or the novels of a certain series, or all reading, all books. Maybe it was music, or dreaming up stories and writing them down. Maybe you lifted up a rock and saw bugs, or someone gave you a telescope and the universe opened up before your eyes. I don't know what it was. You do.*

*For a while at least you were consumed by that enthusiasm. For some of us, it might have lasted for a month, or a year, and began to fade away, to be replaced by something else. Maybe you had a different passion each month. For others, we may still have that same passion, molded and shaped by our maturing years. Right now I want you to think about that enthusiasm, and the pure joy it might have brought you.*

*Today is Pentecost Sunday. I didn't have a camera there that day, or a voice recorder, so I can't bring you back a clear picture, but I know one thing – that thanks to God's Spirit the apostles' passion for the good news knew no bounds. They spilled out into the streets and couldn't help telling everything they knew about the Word Made Flesh.*

*Is it too much to ask us all, today, to think what our lives of discipleship would be like if through every offering we spilled the unbridled passion of a child? Are we opening our hearts to the Spirit enough so that this happens? Are we walling ourselves off from something so wildly wonderful that people would be as astounded as they were when Peter and the apostles were filled with the Spirit?*

Do we really need to become like children in this regard too? It's something to think and pray about.

With Pentecost Gratitude and Hope,



# Summer Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. A casual, informal worship service held in the Social Hall
- 9:30 a.m. A traditional worship service in the Sanctuary.

Sunday School for children will be during the 9:30 hour. First through Sixth Graders will attend the service with their parents and then go to their class after the Children's message – held in the library. Nursery children will be in class for the whole hour.



## To our Graduates

- Cuyahoga Falls High: Brandon Boling, Evan Cool, Taylor Giffen, Alex Wachovec, Anna Zeller
- Stow-Munroe Falls High: Caitlyn Malorni
- Woodridge High: Dillon H. Shroyer, Eric Spencer
- Miami University: Maria Mancinelli
- Defiance College: Tierney Lynn May
- Ohio State University Moritz College of Law: Hillary Lovell

## American Cancer Society Relay for Life



**TEAM F.A.C.E.** (*Fighting Against Cancer Everywhere*)  
Bethany's RELAY FOR LIFE Team reached our goal while at RELAY. As late May 23<sup>rd</sup> we were only at 51% of our \$5,000.00 goal, but through your generosity and the hugely successful "Purple Toilet Fundraiser" we made it! The Purple Toilet focused on Stow and Munroe Falls residents and raised more than \$2,000.00. Many thanks to The Bethany Family for its' participation. We will continue to accept donations until August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please join us in praying for a world with less cancer and more Birthdays! Thanks again from Deb White, Brody and Christine Bebout, Tiffeny Stokes (Mr. Relay), Debra Schreiber, Oz Hibbard, George Jensen, Brad, Juliana and Susan Bebout.



**For pastoral care needs while Pastor Steve is away on the Youth Mission Trip please call:**

- June 11-13 Rev. Mark Steiner 330-264-6034
- June 14-19 Rev. Diane Shirey 330-928-2991 (church)  
or 330-867-6159 (home)

# Men's Volunteer Breakfast

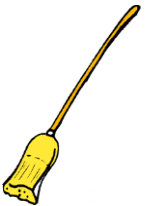
It is a great time for men of the church to get together to share faith, food, and fellowship together; as well as a few chores with which the custodians could use some help. The men gather the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. – next breakfast **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. You can help 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.

# Bethany Kitchen



Bethany Kitchen's next meal will be served on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Help is always needed for food preparation and cleaning up. We need volunteers from 10:30 to 12:00 for set up; clean up from 1:30 to 2:30. If you can stay for the full time your presence will be appreciated. With more people, the job will be completed much faster. All are welcome!

**The Property Committee** will be having another clean up on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM to noon. We will be finishing up the outside clean up as well as some inside projects. Lunch will be served by Bethany Kitchen.



6/19	9/10:00 pm	Mission Trip Returns
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**The Incredible Good Neighbors Stock-A-Thon**  
June is toiletries month. Boxes are available around the church for your donation and our progress is tracked on the display in the social hall. Here's what we'll be asking for

- 6/19 Shampoo
- 6/26 Deodorant

*Thank You!*

## Social Hours – a Chance for All to Share!

Social Hours are a real blessing. We're asking Bethany members to help out as individuals, families, or small groups this summer. Here are some dates we still need help:

**June 19 July 17, July 31**  
**Aug. 14, Aug. 21, Aug. 28**

If you can help on one of these days, please call the office at 330-923-5277 or e-mail [cwood@bethany.ald.net](mailto:cwood@bethany.ald.net).

# Let's Get Fit!



Presented by

Bethany Nurses...

**Holly Keenan and Linda Goodwin**

We will be joining other participating UCC churches across the nation in the "Faithfully Walking Challenge" initiative to fight obesity. Our participation will begin in July after General Synod. Watch your newsletter for further information!

6/22	Committee Night
7/04	Office Closed (Independence Day)
7/24	Camp Bethany / New Trinity Family Promise Guest Week
8/07	Worship Service at Mingo Shelter 10:30a
8/14	Worship at 9:30a (1 service only)



## "The Bethany Letter"

To save on cost associated with the preparation and distribution of our weekly newsletter, *TBL* will be ready on our website, e-mail or to be picked up at church on the following Sundays in the summer:

**June 26**

**July 10, 24**

**August 14, 28 ... to continue weekly**

*TBL* will be mailed (if not picked up) on the Monday after the above listed Sunday. Deadline for summer news articles: 10:00 a.m. the TUESDAY before the above date. Please plan accordingly.

## Funerals at Bethany

When the death of a loved one occurs, grief and loss make it difficult to sort through the various decisions and plans that must be made fairly quickly. That's why, at their May meetings Spiritual Council and Consistory suggested the enclosed "*Funerals at Bethany*"; thoughts and guidelines we hope will be helpful for members in this difficult time. Please feel free to call Pastor Steve if you have any questions about funerals.

## Inside Out & Upside Down on MAIN STREET



Mark your Calendar!

**Bethany Night at Donato's**

Wednesday ~ June 29<sup>th</sup>

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## Vacation Bible School

at Bethany

July 11<sup>th</sup> - July 15<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

# Lay Liturgists Needed

If you would like to serve as a lay liturgist at the 8:30 service, please contact Mary Seymour at 330-603-5445 or [seymourm@ucc.org](mailto:seymourm@ucc.org)

Available dates: **July 24, 31 and August 7, 28**

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## *What does it mean to live our Faith at Home?*



That is the theme of our All-Church Retreat October 7 – 9 at beautiful Templed Hills. Enjoy great faith-building, fellowship and fun!

**Mark the date now!**

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thank you



**Thank you** for the beautiful altar flowers and to Carolyn Shroyer for delivering them on a very rainy, gloomy Ohio day. Bethany means so much to me.

*Thanks again, Lou Atleson*

The **annual picnic** was blessed with beautiful weather in lovely Oak Park. It was a great opportunity to share fellowship, good food and fun. Thanks to those who created the fellowship – everyone who attended. Thanks to those who organized, set up, prepared and served the food – Kathy Kennan and her crew. Thanks to those who made it fun – the members of our various adult classes who organized the games. With so many people coming together and sharing gifts, how could we be anything but blessed! And we were!

*Please remember in your prayers...*



† **Joan Porter**, *Copley Health Center*

† **Olive Devine**, *Haven Homes*

† **Please pray for a safe journey**, for hearts open to God and one another, for patience, energy, love and joy, for our Mission Trippers and for those we know as our Ponca Creek family. Bethany members begin their trip Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>: *John Dix, Linda Goodwin, Beth McDevitt, Pastor Steve, Rosalee Read, Emmily Sammons, Alex Wachovec, Anna Zeller, Jacob McClellan, Taylor Giffen*



## **Acts 2:1-21**

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When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

# Reconnecting with God's Creation

Although we live in an urban environment the nearby Cuyahoga Valley National Park offers to experience the wonder and blessings of God's creation. There are dozens of trails to hike, many great places to bike, and beautiful special destinations to explore. The Green Team would like to encourage everyone to get out for a hike or a bike ride. We'd also like to let you know about the many programs the National Park Service offers to help you get to know the park. Here are a few that are coming up in the next few weeks:

## Programs for All Ages

<b>Campfire Tales – “Who’s Out There?” – June 13, 5:30 pm</b>	<i>Ledges Shelter</i>
<b>Full Moon Hike – June 15 – 8:30 – 10:30 pm</b>	<i>Oak Hill Trailhead – 1.5 miles</i>
<b>Legacy of the CCC – June 18, 2:00 – 4:00 pm</b>	<i>Octagon Shelter</i>
<b>Canal Day – June 18, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm</b>	<i>Canal Way Center</i>
<b>Displaying Songbirds – June 18, 7:00 – 10:00 am</b>	<i>Horseshoe Pond</i>
<b>Early Evening Hike – June 22, 7:30 – 9:00 pm</b>	<i>Station Road Trailhead – 5 miles</i>

**Junior Ranger Programs (ages 7-12): fee \$8; for location call 800-642-3297 ext. 100**

<b>Outrageous Exploration, June 16, 10:00 – 11:30 am</b>	<i>Octagon Shelter</i>
<b>Twilight Bat Flight – June 17, 9:30 – 11:30 am</b>	
<b>Ultimate Ranger Challenge – June 20, 9:30 – 11:30 am</b>	
<b>Bring on the Bugs – June 21, 2:00 – 4:00 pm</b>	

**Junior Ranger Jr. Programs (ages 4-6): fee \$8; for location call 800-642-3297 ext. 100**

<b>Come Hide with Me – June 14, 9:30 – 11:30 am</b>
<b>Amazing Animal Senses – June 18, 9:30 – 11:30 am</b>
<b>Seed's Journey – June 22, 9:30 – 11:30 am</b>

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

(as of June 9<sup>th</sup>) **June 13<sup>th</sup> to June 26<sup>th</sup>**

6/13 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry  
6/14  
6/15 9:00a Men's Breakfast  
6/16  
6/17  
6/18 9:00a Property Co. - **WORK DAY**  
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...  
...Find someone to take your place ... **and then**  
...Call the church office so we may make the necessary changes on our schedules

**Help is needed! The more the merrier ~  
and the quicker we will be done!**

 **Summer Worship Hours**

**Sunday ~ June 19, 2011**

† Mary Seymour, guest preacher  
† Nursery Available 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.  
† Trinity Sunday  
† Father's Day

**8:30a** Worship in the → *Social Hall*  
**9:30a** Worship in the → *Sanctuary*  
10:30a Coffee Hour

**Volunteers for June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Flower Delivery: S. Keenan  
Greeters: H.&J. Edwards / L. Rodgers, L. Luginbill  
Lay Reader: M. Heyburn  
Nursery: H. Cool, S. Melvin  
Special Music: Becca McClellan, piano  
Ushers: J.&S. Mancinelli, F. Read, J. Grazulis,  
J. Seymour, R. Berie, K. Fratz, M. Spring  
Van Driver: C. Jones  
Visitor Outlook: H. Bedillion

6/20  
6/21 **First Day of Summer!**

9:00a Staff Meeting  
10:00a Newsletter Deadline  
6:00p EOA (Lounge)

6/22 6:00p Camp Planning  
7:00p **Committee Night**

6/23  
6/24  
6/25



**Join us!**

**Sunday ~ June 26, 2011**

† Nursery Available ~ 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.  
**8:30a** Worship in the → *Social Hall*  
**9:30a** Worship in the → *Sanctuary*  
10:30a Social Hour Hosts: Bethany Nurses  
10:30a Camp Planning

**Volunteers for June 26<sup>th</sup>**

Flower Delivery: R. Schreiber / P. Cochran  
Greeters: S.&B. Roach / J. Lees Family  
Special Music: Mission Trip Singers  
Nursery: L. Rorrer, J. Salsbury  
Ushers: T. Hermann, H. Walker, J.&M. Seymour,  
B. Pletzer, L. Short, H. Koudela, K. Koudela  
Van Driver: C. Frederick  
Visitor Outlook: N. Buck