

The Bethany Letter

Sunday ~ May 2, 2010

VOLUME 2010

ISSUE NO. 16

The Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

The Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

Look What I Made!

The Bible makes it very clear that human beings are unique among all the creatures in God's creation.

The psalmist describes us as "a little lower than the angels." The author of Genesis says that we have been created "in the image of God." We are called "children of God." What God is willing to do for us in Jesus also shows the special place we have, not only in creation, but also in God's heart.

We are special in many ways, endowed with gifts of comprehension, reflection, and creativity beyond any other creature. We have done awesome things, for good and for evil, with those gifts.

Those gifts bring with them great responsibility. We are to use our intellect, our ability to be introspective, and our creative powers, in ways that express who we are as God's children. We are to be "the image of God," representing God, serving God's loving purpose, showing God's goodness and love to all creation, bringing God glory, the glory of a creation that reflects his goodness and love.

Unfortunately, we tend to use our gifts, our "powers," in a much more narrow, self-focused way. We tend to use them in ways that serve our purpose and bring us glory. That's why I'd like to share this illustration, by William Willimon, of how we might think about using our gifts, especially our creative powers.

Little children were coming out of their morning at the kindergarten, each of them holding in each of their hands some little something that they had created – little dishes I think, made out of clay, made during some kindergarten project. One could look at their faces and see their pride, their joy.

Why did they seem so particularly joyful as they present the creations of their hands? "Look, mommy! Look what I made!"

Here is my theory: I think that childhood can be so unpredictable, so confusing and chaotic, and adults can be so incomprehensible, that a young child takes particular joy in making something, in contributing something to the world.

The Christian faith keeps reminding us that we are all little children, so far as our relationship to God is concerned. We never get too old or too adept not to know the joy that comes in standing before the Creator, holding our little lives in our hands and saying to God, the Giver of Life – "Look God, what I did with my life."

We are "a little lower than the angels." We are "children of God," created "in God's image." But along with all the special gifts God has given us as his children, comes the responsibility to remember that our lives are not our own. They belong to God, who expects us to make something of them that reflects their loving source and sustainer. May God help us remember this as we use our gifts.

With Gratitude and Hope,

BETHANY BUCKEYES

Join us at our next meeting **Friday, May 7th**, 6:00 p.m. in the social hall. Because it is so much FUN you must make reservations! Do so by calling the church office.

Graduation Accolades!

We will be recognizing Bethany's 2010 graduates during the 10:30 worship service on **June 6th**. If there is someone in your family you want recognized, please call the office by May 31st.



Prayer Shawl Ministry



Prayer shawls are a means to extend our love and prayers to persons who may be homebound, ill or perhaps a way to share a special joy such as a birth or birthday milestone. Bethany's Prayer Shawl group meets the second Monday of each month (**May 10th**). If you are interested in this ministry please join them at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge.

Now is the Time to Sign Up for Camp!

Camp Bethany / New Trinity July 25 – 30

Camp Staff have shared an important leadership training time, focused on our call to "make disciples" by making camp an outpost of the Kingdom of God.

Camp Sunday was a great "kick-off" to our camping program for 2010. If you have a child of camp age (finishing 1st – 6th grade) and would like to register him or her for camp here's what you need to know:

Camp Bethany – New Trinity

Date: July 25 - 30
Place: Camp Trinity, Navarre, OH
Cost: \$ 120 if registered by May 15
\$ 160 if registered by June 15
\$ 200 if registered by July 15



Note: registration includes full fee payment.

Forms: available in social hall & workroom.
To Help: sign up to do a meal or donate food.

Ohio Conference, UCC Camps

Date: Many choices through the summer
Place: Pilgrim Hills or Templed Hills Camps
Cost: Varies with camp
Information: available in social hall & workroom.

Don't forget: scholarships are available to any camp!

SUMMER

SAVE THIS DATE!



Women's Fellowship Salad Luncheon

Wednesday, May 19th 11:30 a.m.

Good food ~ fellowship! Good music!

Program: *Patterson Park Singers*
"back by popular request"

What a deal the luncheon is ...



Tickets only \$4.00

See Jan Charton, Lou Atelson,
Doris Brubaker

Pentecost Sunday ~ May 23rd

Christian Ed is planning to decorate the church sanctuary with red geranium plants on May 23rd. We would appreciate any plants you can bring in and set on the window sills. After worship we will plant them outside on our church property.



Linen Alert!

Faded – Worn – Torn

An update on the 5-year-old linens we use for our IHN guests - please consider donating new or slightly used sets of TWIN size only sheet sets and blankets. Children patterns also needed. Please leave in church workroom.

Bethany United Church of Christ

Iva and Ed Hazle Scholarship

*A scholarship opportunity is
available to Bethany Youth*



Who:

- Graduating High School Seniors or GED Certified
- A Bethany member for a minimum of two years
- Entering an accredited education program/trade school in the Fall of 2010

How:

- Applications are available in the church workroom
- Completed applications are due by July 15th in the church office
- All completed applications will be reviewed
- The applicant will be selected on need, involvement in church related activities, career goals and extra curricular activities/work history

Questions, contact Bill Leas

Change of address:

Lorraine Benesh

c/o P. Bragg
469 Burnt Tree Lane
Apopka, FL 32712



Thanks to the children of Bethany's YMCA Day Care for picking up litter all over the church grounds on Earth Day. It looks great! It was very thoughtful and much appreciated!

Thanks to the Mission Committee for hosting a special brunch between the services last Sunday. Brad Bebout and Carol Clemente did a wonderful job sharing about their mission trip to New Orleans to work on Hurricane Katrina recovery. They not only provided a very informative history, with powerful photos, regarding the disaster, they spoke with sensitivity and passion about the work and the relationships they began to form with other volunteers and the local people who worked with them. It was an informative and inspirational morning! So, much so that 10 people have already expressed interest in going on the trip next year! Many Thanks! We are Grateful!

To our Christian Family,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers at Easter. They smelled so fragrant and the pink hyacinths were so pretty and gave one the hope that the flowers were very much spring itself. Martha Peyak delivered the flowers and we had such a nice visit that the time just flew by. The days are turning into another season and warm weather will be here. Thank you again. *Love, Karen and Al Butler*

Thank you for the very pretty plant delivered by Sharon Otto. I was so happy to see her up and about. We had a happy visit remembering her mother and Dad. Her mother's family home was down the street from mine in Firestone Park. I had Sharon when I taught Sunday school; was that a few weeks ago?! Thanks to all who remember me with cards and phone calls. I think of all of you. *Mary Coffield*

We want to thank the Mission Committee for providing Brunch last Sunday and for giving us the opportunity to present information regarding our Mission Trip to New Orleans. The food and fellowship were great. Thanks also to those of you who came to learn about the Mission Trip and for your attentiveness and questions. We were pleased to share our experience and excited that many of you are interested in a future trip. We thank our fellow mission tripper Orrville friends, Anna and Suzanne, for being here to lend a hand. We are available to answer questions anytime and hope to have a gathering soon for those interested in planning a trip for next year. If you were unable to attend the Brunch but would like to know more, please contact one of us. *Brad Bebout and Carol Clemente*



April Altar Flowers given by...

4/11 **Dale and Betty Pickard** in honor of great grandchildren: Calvin, Kyle, Ava, Sylar

4/18 **Ralph and Mary Bowmaster** in memory of loved ones

4/25 **Carolyn B. Hofmann** to congratulate Interfaith Hospitality Network of Summit County on their 6th Anniversary of helping homeless families in our community. Thanks to our many Bethany IHN volunteers for their dedication and commitment to this mission.



Please remember in your prayers..

† **Kathryn McMillen**, home

† **Please remember our homebound members in your prayers ...**

*Jenny Bisesi
Lloyd & Claudine Bigelow
Al & Karen Butler
Mary Coffield
Ann Gerlinger
Warren & Mary Jo Graves
Don Hafliger
Willis & Marion Hitchcock
Glenn & Peg Leiter
Beverly Lipinski
Kenneth Limbach II
John & Katherine McMillen
Harvey Morrow
Jeannette Paddison
Joan Porter
Mary Ellen Powell
Pauline Raleigh
Jean Pekar
Kathy Ruch
Pauline Rutledge
John Sunyecz
Barbara Sunyecz
Doris Welch
Evelyn Vance*

No matter where you bought it, Best Buy will recycle it.



Regardless of where you bought it, what brand it is, or how old it is: take it to Best Buy. They will make sure it's properly and safely recycled. It's all part of their Greener Together program. They will take just about anything electronic, including TVs, DVD players, computer monitors, audio and video cables, cell phones and more. Most things are recycled absolutely free, with a few restrictions: Best Buy charges \$10 for televisions and monitors, but you immediately receive a \$10 Best Buy gift card good toward future purchase. Give them a call.

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)

Need a ride to Worship?

There is one waiting for YOU! Just call the office at 330-923-5277 **(BY FRIDAY, 4:30 PM)** and we will arrange for you to be picked up. Worried that something might happen to keep you from attending? Don't worry! You will be given the name and phone number of this week's driver so, if need be, you can cancel at the last minute. We do hope you will call.

Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2010 monthly calendar mailed to you.
May 3rd to May 16th

5/03 9:00a Quilters
7:00p Bell Choir Practice
5/04 9:00a Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
5/05 9:30a Bible Study (CE)
5/06 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
5/07 6:00p Buckeyes
5/08 8:00a (SH) Rsrvd. 10:00p

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Mother's Day

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

8:30a **Worship** (Healing and Reconciliation)
9:15a **Church School** for Children and Adults
10:30a **Worship/** Children's Sunday School
11:30a Social Hour Host: Men's Breakfast Group

5/10 9:00a Quilters
9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00p Bell Choir
5/11 9:00a Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
7:15p Finance Meeting
5/12 9:30a Bible Study (CE)
6:45p Spiritual Council
7:30p Consistory
5/13 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
5/14
5/15 11:30a Bethany Kitchen

Sunday ~ May 16, 2010

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

† Ascension Sunday

8:30a **Worship** (Fellowship)
9:15a **Church School** for Children and Adults
10:30a **Worship/** Children's Sunday School
11:30a Social Hour Host: Perspectives Class
11:30a Retreat Committee (L)
6:30p YF

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

Volunteers for May 9th

Cup Washing: C. Eberhardt
Greeters: G.&N. Jensen / L. Rodgers, L. Luginbill
Lay Reader: G. Cool
Music: Organist/ Chancel Choir w/Young Shepherds
Nursery: A. Thompson, T. Jensen, H. Bedillion, C. Bedillion
Ushers: R.&S. Holle, H. Walker, J. Grazulis, J. Seymour, R. Berie, T. Robinson, A. McVan
Van Driver: C. Frederick
Visitor Outlook:



Volunteers for May 16th

Cup Washer: A. Zeller
Greeters: L.&J. Rorrer, H.&A. Keenan
Lay Reader: J. Welfley
Music: 7th Day/ Chancel Choir
Nursery: T. Jensen, S.&M. Ferda, T. Giffen
Ushers: J.&S. Mancinelli, B. Charton, R.&M. Bowmaster
H. Koudela, K. Koudela, E. Sammons
Van Driver: E. Frederick
Visitor Outlook: N. Read

**Bethany United
Church of Christ**

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Check out our web site!

www.bethanyucc.org

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