

The Bethany Letter

Sunday ~ May 29, 2011

VOLUME 2011

ISSUE NO. 20

Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

What It Means to Be Somebody

Public Television recently aired a wonderful program on the Freedom Riders of the civil rights movement. I was deeply moved by the courage of those young people, many of whom were motivated by Christian faith, and all of whom believed in human dignity, and saw non-violence as the best way to witness to and further respect for that dignity in the face of the incredible hostility and violence of a racist society.

Having seen that program, I was grateful to come across a story that author Tom Long tells of the empowerment of a couple of young Christians by their distinguished father, infusing them with the power of God in the face of government-supported racist evil.

The late Howard Thurman, who was dean of the chapel at Boston University, the first African American professor at that institution, and a mentor and counselor to the leaders of the civil rights movement, attributed much of his own sense of dignity and vocation to his grandmother, a former slave, who repeated to her young grandson a message she had heard in worship. Over and over she told him, "You are somebody!" She was bearing witness to her grandson of a truth she heard in church.

Once when traveling through the South in the 1950s, Thurman and his family stopped to rest for a few moments at a park along the highway. His daughters immediately spotted a swing-set on a playground in the park and pulled their father toward it to swing. They couldn't read the sign that warned that this playground was for "white only by state law." Sadly but patiently, Thurman told his little girls that they could not play there and explained why. This was their first real encounter with the cruelty of racism, and they instantly burst into tears.

So, much as his grandmother had done when he was a child, Thurman gathered his children into a warm embrace and said to them, "Listen, you little girls are somebody. In fact, you are so important and so valuable to God and so powerful that it takes the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the whole state police force to keep you little girls off those swings!"

May we remember not only what it means to say, "I am somebody," but that this worth is given to us by God, and not only to us, but to all people.

With Eastertide Hope,



MISSION MINUTE

Chapel Hill Community - May Special Offering

May is the annual special offering for Chapel Hill Community. Chapel Hill is one of our United Church Homes, the nearest one, located in Canal Fulton. There are no special envelopes available for this offering, so use any envelope you have and mark it for Chapel Hill.

We ask for your prayers and financial support.



Youth Fellowship

5/29	10:20 am	Out to Breakfast
6/05	6:00 pm	Mission Trip Planning
	8:00 pm	Parent Information Session
6/11	7:00 am	Mission Trip Begins
6/19	9/10:00 pm	Mission Trip Returns

The Church office is closed Monday, May 30th (Memorial Day observed). *Please plan accordingly.*



Altar Flowers Given in May by...

5/08 *Debbie Schreiber in memory of her mother*

5/22 *Marifyn Rowe in memory of loved ones*

Thank you!

Buckeyes

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The Buckeyes will meet **Saturday, June 4th** at the Gehlert home, our final gathering of the season, for a picnic! Time: 6:00 PM

Meat and beverage will be provided.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and your lawn chairs! It'll be fun!



TEAM - F.A.C.E.

(Fighting Against Cancer Everywhere)

Team F.A.C.E. would like to ask for your support once again. We are participating in the Stow-Munroe Falls Relay on **June 4th & 5th**. Team members include Brody and Christine, Juliana, Brad and Susan Bebout, Oz Hibbard, George Jensen, Tiffeny Stokes and Debra Schreiber. We will be available at the Social Hour to accept your donations and to sell Suns and Moons and Luminaries in celebration of those who have fought cancer. We are getting there. We have now reached 51% of our \$5,000.00 goal.

You may make a donation by contacting anyone of us at any time. Contact information is available through the Bethany Office. Check out the website!

http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY11OH?team_id=851756&pg=team&fr_id=31659



Graduation Accolades!

We will be recognizing Bethany's 2011 graduates during the 10:30 worship service on **June 5th**. **If there is someone in your family you want recognized, please call the office by May 31st.**

The Incredible Good Neighbors Stock-A-Thon

Your response to *The Incredible Good Neighbors Stock-A-Thon* is remarkable! To date, we have delivered 537 much-needed items to Good Neighbors. And there's more that is needed. **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:

- 6/05 Soap
- 6/12 Toothpaste
- 6/19 Shampoo
- 6/26 Deodorant

Thanks

“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 5, 12, 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.

6/11	Ponca Creek Mission Trip Begins
6/18	Bethany Kitchen
6/22	Committee Night
6/29	Bethany Night at Donato's
7/04	Office Closed (Independence Day)
7/24	Camp Bethany / New Trinity Family Promise Guest Week



Summer Worship Schedule

BEGINS

Sunday June 12th ~ Pentecost

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.

Camp Bethany-New Trinity Register by June 15th & Save

Registration forms for Camp are available in the office. They were mailed to parents of 1st - 6th grade children. A savings is available for registrations received by June 15th. The absolute deadline for registrations is July 15th. Scholarships are also available - contact Pastor Steve.



Bethany Kitchen

Bethany Kitchen had another great turnout May 21st. The menu was ham, pulled pork sandwiches, bean salad, rolls and a variety of cakes for dessert. We served 101 meals. The table centerpieces were great! Thanks to everyone for his/her outstanding job: Kathy, Keenan, Martha Peyak, Harry Cool, Lynette Sheppard, Lou Atleson and Zack Read.

Bethany Kitchen's next meal will be served on Saturday, June 18th. Help is always needed for food preparation and cleaning up. The volunteer count was small for our May dinner. The Kitchen needs 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!

Social Hours – a Chance for All to Share

Social Hours are a real blessing. They provide a way for us to share fellowship on a weekly basis, stay connected and help welcome new people into our faith family. We're asking Bethany members to help out as individuals, families, or small groups. 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.

Mark Your Calendar NOW

Vacation Bible School at Bethany

July 11th - July 15th
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

GIFT CARDS

Subway, Wal-Mart, Circle K, Acme, Giant Eagle, Target, Starbucks

The above are just a few of the Gift Cards that are available *each Sunday morning*. We have many cards on hand and others can be ordered. Purchase of these cards is a small way you can support Bethany. We earn a profit of about 4% on the sale of these cards. Look for the "GIFT CARDS" sign each Sunday after church in the social hall. *Sponsored by the Finance Committee*

Psalm 121 A Song of Ascents.

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

Thank you!

Thanks to those that turned out on a beautiful Saturday: Pat Cochran, Dale Renner, Karen Fratz, Kim Fratz, Sue Jensen, John Seymour, Sue Mancinelli, Dick Holle, John Mansfield, and Mike Cochran. Thanks to Ed Zeller for delivering the mulch and to Bethany Kitchen for again feeding us. There is still much to do so look for a cleanup in June.
The Property Committee

Green your Summer Road Trip

Check tire pressure

It's a good idea to check tire pressure frequently, but especially before a long trip and along the way. According to fueleconomy.gov, gas mileage improves up to 3.3 percent with properly inflated tires. A tire pressure check is usually part of the oil change service – if you go that route – so ask the staff to show you how to use a pressure gauge and consider picking one up for the road.

Slow down, mister

Observe the speed limit for better fuel efficiency. Anything above 60 mpg reduces your mileage, according to fueleconomy.gov. Sudden starts and stops from aggressive driving waste gas, too.

Please remember in your prayers...

- † *Joan Porter*, Copley Health Center
- † *Olive Devine*, Haven Homes
- † *Donald Haflinger*, Robinson Mem. Hosp.
- † *Vivian Lingo* (We received a note from Vivian that she is doing okay, but she misses her Bethany friends.)



BETHANY VOLUNTEERS!

We are so grateful to all of you who volunteer your time and talent to Bethany during the year. Thank you! If you are unable to volunteer on your scheduled day you are reminded to call someone to substitute for you; or call the church office. It will be very much appreciated!

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

(as of 5/26) **May 30th to June 12th**

5/30 Office Closed (Memorial Day)

5/31 NO Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline

June...

6/01 6:00p EOA-WRA Search Co. (L)

6/02

6/03

6/04 6:00p **Buckeyes' Picnic** (at Gehlerts)

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday ~ June 5, 2011

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

† Ascension Sunday

8:30a Worship

9:15a Church School

10:30a Worship/ Graduation Recognition

11:30a **PICNIC – Oak Park/ (rain? In S. Hall)**

6:00p YF – Mission Trip Planning

8:00p Parent Information Session

6/06 7:00p GREEN Team Mtg. (L)

6/07 9:00a Staff Meeting

10:00a Newsletter Deadline

7:15p Finance Committee Mtg.

6/08 7:00p Consistory

6/09

6/10

6/11 7:00a Ponca Creek Mission Trip Begins

Summer Schedule Begins

Sunday ~ June 12, 2011

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.

† **PENTECOST – Communion**

8:30a Worship in the *Social Hall*

9:30a Worship in the *Sanctuary*

10:30a Social Hour Hosts: *Corinna Croskey,
Jackie Salsbury, Beth Lees, Beth Weiser*

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 June 5th

Flower Delivery: S. Ward / S. Keenan

Greeters: P. Silliman, J. Dukarich / McVan Family

Lay Reader: R. Tromp

Nursery: T. Jensen, M. Peyak, A. Lorentz, E. Zeller,
H. Alberson

Special Music: Story & Song, Chancel Choir

Ushers: R.&S. Holle, Bob Charton, S. Truby, S. Ward,
K. Fratz, N. Buck, M. Spring

Van Driver: F. Read

Visitor Outlook: M. Trail

Display Cases for June:

Case A-1 Vacation Bible School

Case A-2 Property Committee

Volunteers for June 12th

Flower Delivery: E. Frederick

Greeters: P. & R. Novak / J. Neilson Family

Lay Reader: Kim Fratz

Special Music:

Nursery: H. Cool, Hilda Bowman

Ushers: L. Luginbill, M. Jensen, M.&R. Bowmaster,
H. Bowman, Lindsay Short, C. McGraw,
L. Sheppard; B. Pletzer, A. McVan, H. Koudela,
K. Koudela

Van Driver: S. Gaskill

Visitor Outlook: N. Read-Zeller

BETHANY



CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday – June 5th

Immediately following 10:30 Worship

We will be grilling some meat.

We will be playing some games.

We will be sharing great fellowship!



Join us for some fun!

*... just bring a dish to share.... your own table
service ... and an appetite!*