

## *For the Joy*

Today is Dedication Sunday, the day that we bring our Estimate of Giving Cards expressing our financial support for the mission and ministry of Bethany Church for the upcoming year. By the time you are reading this, we will have shared our Celebration Dinner and learned our initial results.

While we are all hoping for numbers that will ensure that there will be adequate funding to continue (and expand) our many missions and ministries, I feel that this time of Stewardship Emphasis means so much more to our congregation. The Celebration of Congregational Life Sunday is always a day that I enjoy so much. I love to hear the stories from those who share in worship that day. They are heartfelt expressions of what gives meaning and purpose to our lives. Sometimes the story tells of how a person may have been encouraged to help, even reluctantly, and discovered that they truly have a passion for that ministry. We agree to help with the intent that our work will benefit “others”, but we find that we are the recipient of grace, having our eyes and our soul opened. It is in serving that we find our true self. We’ve heard stories of how lives have been changed, new talents discovered and programs started that reach far beyond our doors.

I’ve also noticed how financial giving and involvement are related. Aside from the office staff, as Financial Secretary, I am the only person who knows giving numbers. As I have held that position for a number of years, I’ve so often observed that as members invest their time and talents in a particular mission or ministry, their financial giving also tends to increase. Through our involvement, we are able to see how some of the mundane operating expenses, like utility bills or office supplies, are necessary to make mission and ministry possible. A well maintained, highly functioning building enables us to focus on our greater goals. We are blessed with excellent pastoral leadership and dedicated support staff.

So often, in my work in the National Setting of the UCC, I’m asked by someone about “my church”. It is so easy to share the stories of my experiences at Bethany, the stories of a loving and caring congregation that is constantly moving forward on a joyful journey, on the lookout for new ways to serve. I think of how many of our important missions and ministries of today started with an idea that someone mentioned, then leads to a discussion and a group of interested people get something new started. It’s amazing! As a church family, we enjoy fellowship with one another, sharing meals, tasks, cares, fears and tears. We support and lift up one another in our prayers. We welcome new members into our midst and reach out to extend our welcome. I truly find my joy at Bethany!

If you made your Estimate of Giving today, Thank You So Much! If you were not able to be with us, you will receive a card in the mail this week. Please prayerfully consider your gift and return your card to the church office, as the Finance Committee will soon begin to craft the budget for the year ahead.

*With Joy and Thanks for all of you!*

*Mary Seymour, Financial Secretary*

## ESPERANZA MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

The group going on the 2012 Esperanza Mission Trip is offering Honey Baked Ham items for sale **before Thanksgiving**. Order forms are available during Social Hour. Checks should be made out to "Bethany UCC" and items will be available for pick-up in the kitchen Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks for your support.



11/13	11:30a 5:00p	Dedication Lunch & Rake'n Run Rake'n Run Meal at Bethany
11/20	11:30a 5:00p	Lunch & Rake'n Run Rake'n Run Meal at Bethany
11/27	11:30a	Advent Celebration
11/30	5:00p	Bethany Night at Donato's



### 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. We will be meeting at 8:00 a.m. **November 16<sup>th</sup>**. Join us!

### COMMITTEE NIGHT

**Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**



## Bethany Missions

### The Mission Committee is sponsoring SPAGHETTI DINNER & DESSERT AUCTION

**Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**. Dinner will be available from 5 – 7:30 p.m. in the social hall. Price: \$8 a person, \$7 for seniors 65 and over, \$3 for kids 7-10 years and kids 6 and under eat for free with their family. The entertainment for the evening will be our own Doug Shroyer auctioning off delicious desserts which can be taken home for later or shared with your friends while you dine. We are looking for donations of desserts for the auction. Please Carolyn B. Hofmann if you are able to help at 330-929-7704. Proceeds will benefit our many mission projects.



## Bethany Kitchen

**Bethany Kitchen's next meal will be served on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

Bethany Kitchen will provide a free luncheon for those in the community who need a meal from 11:30a to 1:00p.



2011

2012

11/20	11:30 a	Mentor Meal – then Rake & Run
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### Help Good Neighbors...



November 20	Jar or Can of Applesauce
November 27	Peanut Butter

### Miracle at Midnight

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Sunday School

### Rake'n Run

The Youth Committee and Youth Fellowship are raking one more Sunday – **November 20<sup>th</sup>** – to help members who need assistance with their fall leaves. We'll begin with a meal after the 10:30 service, rake during the afternoon, and share supper together when we've finished. So -

- If you'd like us to rake your yard just call the office at 330-923-5277.
- If you can help we'd love to have you join us (bring your own rake and tarp if you have one).
- If you have a leaf-blower and can help please call Andy McVan at 330-923-3156.

### Bethany Library

You name it – we might have it. Our two libraries (children's and adult) are small. So it's easy to browse. See you there (behind the sanctuary). Check it out!

## Prepare for Thanksgiving Day!

A special way for you to reflect and give thanks for God's blessings as we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday is to join us **Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** for our **Thanksgiving Eve Communion worship service.** Childcare provided.



### Regarding our weekly newsletter...

The office will be closed Thursday, **November 24<sup>th</sup>** and Friday, **November 25<sup>th</sup>** for the Thanksgiving holiday. Therefore, *The Bethany Letter* will not be published for Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Please plan accordingly. Please have your newsletter articles in by November 15<sup>th</sup>.**



### First Sunday of Advent

*The Manger is empty.* Begin the preparation of the manger and your heart for the coming of the Christ Child. On **Sunday, November 27** following the 10:30 service, a light lunch will be served by the CE Committee, dessert will be provided by the Lounge Class and each household will have the opportunity to make a table-top manger and find out how to prepare it during Advent.

## Bethany Night at Donatos **November 30<sup>th</sup> 5:00 – 8:00 pm!**

The pizza's great and so is the atmosphere – like a party – full of members of the Bethany family enjoying each other's company! AND – 10% of all the receipts and any tips (YF Members and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year confirmands will be serving you) will go to help fund our Youth Ministry. So mark the date on your calendar and plan to stop in. You won't be sorry.



### Bethany Concert Band

*The holiday concert season is nearly here!*

11/30	7:00 pm	Stow Library
12/07	7:00 pm	Danbury of Cuyahoga Falls
12/14	7:30 pm	Rockynol Retirement Center
12/21	6:30 pm	Barberton Public Library

## Mark YOUR Calendar

**Sunday ~ December 4<sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm**

**SUMMIT BELLS,** a bronze level handbell choir, will perform a Christmas Concert in our social hall at 4:30 p.m. Bethany's Memory Bell Choir will join them for one piece; they are hosting the event with a reception following.



### From the Property Committee & Custodians Turn out the lights when you leave

**Please Please Please!** the building. Although we have many automatic lights, there are still many manually operated ones (especially the Sanctuary). Your attention to this small detail will save us much in utility cost. *The Property Committee*

## The Bethany Bunch



*Children's Sunday School*

Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Sunday School Class

Fall is here and Thanksgiving is coming!

Last Sunday, we heard in the story *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* about a little fox experiencing his first autumn, talked about things we are thankful for like food to eat, and learned about Jesus' parable of the ten bridesmaids and their lamps. Then we made a lamp out of air-dry clay and it even lit up! (We even have a little place in our lamp where we can put a coin or two during the week to use for an offering on Sunday.)

Dear Bethany Friends,

**THANK YOU!**

I am sending everyone my gratitude for your prayer, especially Shirley Ende-Saxe for delivering the altar flowers. They are as lovely now as the day they came. After 3 or 4 weeks they never lost a blossom. All of your kind prayers are truly making a positive difference in my life. My thanks also go out to Rev. Mark Steiner for his inspiring visits.

### Please remember in your prayers...

- † Olive Devine, Haven Homes
- † Ron Shultz, Select Specialty Hospital
- † Sally Mellott, Cleveland Clinic
- † Gail Cool, Akron City Hospital
- † Don Haflinger, Robinson Memorial Hospital



## **2011 Special Opportunities**

### **Worship, Education, Service, & Fellowship**

The original Greek word for church was *Ecclesia*, meaning “the gathered people,” those Christ had gathered to do God’s work in the world. Bethany does that work in many ways: giving God thanks and praise in worship, learning and growing in faith, serving others, and sharing in fellowship. Everyone matters; everyone is needed. Here’s a list of opportunities from now until the first Sunday in Advent.

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**November 18, 5:00 to 7:30 pm**

### **Mission Spaghetti Dinner/Dessert Auction**

*Help support Bethany’s many missions by sharing a great meal and dessert.*

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**November 19, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Bethany Kitchen**

*Help welcome our guests to this time of food and fellowship.*

**November 20, 9:30 am – Adult Class – Fair Trade Shopping**

*Fair Trade products and baked goods from our Chancel Choir for sale during Social Hour*

**November 23, 7:30 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Communion**

*Remember and give thanks to God, the true source of all we have and are!*

**November 27, 11:30 am – Advent Celebration**

*Following 10:30 worship Christian Education will host an Advent Celebration with a light lunch and craft! All are welcome!*

## **Where is Jesus calling you to get involved?**

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### ***Welcome New Bethany Members!***

*We are happy to welcome new members to our Bethany Family. They are...*

*Jack and Susan Scott*

*Nancy Miller*

*David and Dianne Allison*

*Ashley Ramsey*



**Calendar - additions to ~ or ~ changes to the  
2011 monthly calendar mailed to you.**  
(as of Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>) **November 14<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup>**

- 11/14 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
- 11/15 9:00a Staff Meeting
- 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
- 7:30p Kerygma
- 11/16 8:00a Men's Volunteer Breakfast
- 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
- 7:00p Committee Night (are you meeting?)
- 11/17 7:15p Chancel Choir Practice
- 11/18 5:00p **Mission Committee Fundraiser - 7:30p**
- 11/19 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... **... and then**  
**...Find someone** to take your place  
**...Call the church office** so we may make the necessary changes on our schedules

**Sunday ~ November 20, 2011**

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.  
 † Rev. Mark Steiner, preacher

- 8:00a 7thDay Meets
- 8:30a Worship**
- 9:15a Church School for Children/ Combined Adult
- 10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School/**  
Pageant Rehearsal 2<sup>nd</sup> hr. S.S
- 11:30a Social Hour Host: Chancel Choir  
**& Bake Sale - Fair Trade Sale**
- 11:30a Confirmands/ Mentors ~ Meal/Class
- 11:30a Lunch & Rake'n Run
- 5:00p Rake'n Run Supper



**Volunteers for November 20<sup>th</sup>**  
 Greeters: The Dugan Family / Lou Atleson  
 Lay Reader: M. Peyak  
 Nursery: L. Weiss, P. Cochran, S. Keenan, E. Zeller,  
 J. Bebout  
 Special Music: 7<sup>th</sup>Day / Chancel Choir  
 Ushers: C. Hofmann, H. Walker, M. Seguin, M. Seymour,  
 M. Spring, N. Buck A. Jensen, R. Berie  
 Van Driver: C. Frederick

- 11/21 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
- 11/22 9:00a Staff Meeting
- 11/23 NO Bible Study
- 7:30p **Thanksgiving Eve Service/ Communion**  
(Childcare available)
- 11/24 *Happy Thanksgiving!* Office Closed
- 11/25 Office Closed
- 11/26 Set up decorations

**Volunteers for November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
 Ushers: C. Hofmann, B. Charton, L. Short, C. McGraw,  
 J. Nielson



**Sunday ~ November 27, 2011**

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.  
 † **First Sunday of Advent / Communion at both services**

- 8:30a Worship**
- 9:15a Church School for All
- 10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School**
- 11:30a **Advent Celebration w/ light lunch & craft**

**Volunteers for November 27<sup>th</sup>** *communion*  
 Greeters: H. Cool, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade class / B.&M. Peyak  
 Nursery: T. Ocepek, A. Thompson, N. Zeller  
 D. Filler, D. Shroyer  
 Special Music: Memory Bell Choir / Children's Choirs  
 Ushers: L. Luginbill, M. Jensen, M.&R. Bowmaster,  
 B.&C Pletzer, A. McVan, L. Sheppard,  
 H. Bowman, K. Fratz, S. Mancinelli, M. Spring  
 Van Driver: S. Gaskill

## **November is *National Adoption Month***

There are currently 4,000 youth in Ohio (100,000 nationwide) waiting for a family. The sign you have seen in the social hall is placed to help bring awareness to the need for adoptive families. One radio commercial says, "you don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent". Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program for adoption of older youth has a video with the catch phrase, "They aren't unadoptable. They just aren't adopted. Make unadoptable unacceptable." One of their posters is a lovely young lady with the caption "I am not a troublemaker." Our Ohio Adoption month poster says, "Children can't wait".

All of this is true. The youth waiting for a family are adoptable, wonderful youth with great potential and they can't wait. All they need is a family to be there for them. Many youth age out of the system without a family. Caring for Kids is a non-profit agency located in Cuyahoga Falls. I have worked for them for over 12 years and am available any time to talk with you about Adoption. It is not just my job but my mission to find families for these youth.

Hilda Bowman 330 858-7304  
or Caring for Kids 330- 928-0044