

With Joyful Thanks!

Dedication Sunday was a joyful celebration of the Spirit that is alive and moving through the Bethany Church family of faith. There is so much I am thankful for—

- ✠ *It was a joy ...* to see so many people gather in worship and then enjoy a time of food and fellowship together.
- ✠ *It was a joy ...* to have The Rev. Rich Plant, our Eastern Ohio Association Associate Minister, as our Guest Steward sharing about the joy he experiences in his ministry and providing words of inspiration to all of us.
- ✠ *It was a joy ...* to hear the reflections of the Witnessing Stewards: Susan Gaskill, Andy McVan and Jan Edwards, and the stories of joy from those who shared on Celebration of our Congregational Life Sunday.
- ✠ *It was a joy ...* being part of the Stewardship Committee to plan this year's Stewardship emphasis. I hope the Oktoberfest becomes an annual event!
- ✠ *It was a joy ...* to work with the members of Williard United Church of Christ who prepared and served our meal.
- ✠ *It was a joy ...* to hear from so many about how much they enjoy this time of being reminded of our many mission and ministry opportunities.
- ✠ *It was a joy ...* to receive our Estimate of Giving Cards for 2012. On Dedication Sunday, 112 cards were returned for a total of \$215,822, a wonderful start! Cards have been sent to those who were not able to be in worship on Sunday and we are hoping to have them returned by November 27 so the Finance Committee may start working on our Mission Spending Plan for the coming year.

*With joyful gratitude,
Mary Seymour, for the Stewardship Committee*

Youth



11/20	11:30a 4:00p	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

Help Good Neighbors...

November 27	Peanut Butter
December 04	Can of Fruit
December 11	Box of Cereal
December 18	Noodles or Pasta
December 25	Jar of Jelly

2011



2012

11/20	11:30 a	Mentor Meal – then Rake & Run
12/04	11:30 a	Class and Meal



Miracle at Midnight

Sunday, November 27th NO Rehearsal 2nd Hr.

Saturday, December 3rd 9:00-11:00 am
Sanctuary (no music)

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 23rd at 7:30 p.m. for our Thanksgiving Eve Communion worship service. Childcare provided.

Advent Begins a New Church Year!

Why not begin something new with your faith – visit one of Bethany's many adult Sunday School Classes – all of which are eager to welcome you. Pastor Steve would be glad to tell you about them.



First Sunday of Advent

Join in the friendship of the First Sunday of Advent Celebration Sunday, November 27th after the 10:30 service. We will be serving a light lunch, making a craft and decorating the tree. Come and join us!

FYI

Regarding our weekly newsletter...

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



BETHANY BUCKEYES

We welcome and encourage anyone 50 years and older to come and spend a fun-filled evening with dinner, cards and board games. Kathleen Keenan prepares delicious full-course meals for ONLY \$5.00 per person.

Reservations are needed and must be made BEFORE the Buckeye gathering. (Our "chef" needs to plan!) **Reservations** for the December 2nd gathering must be made NO LATER than **November 28th** (office is closed 11/24 & 25); you may make a reservation on your Sunday attendance card Nov. 27th. If you have questions, call Nancy Read at 330 928-3002



Deck the Hall!

The Sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas on **Saturday, November 26th** at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. If you would like to be one of the elves to join in and help, please call Martha Peyak 330-923-1674.



**November 30th
5:00 – 8:00 pm!**

Bethany Night at Donatos

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 2nd 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

Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief congregational meeting in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 worship service on **December 4th**. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a Consistory approved slate of nominees to serve on Consistory beginning in 2012.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday ~ December 4th 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.

SAVE YOUR ACME RECEIPTS!

**Acme Community Cash Back Program
ENDS February 2012**

Receipts must have a date printed on them!

Thanks for the packing stuff!

We're so proud of Bethany's recycling efforts that we now include the following note with every box of communionware that we send out:

"Recycled packing materials provided compliments of the good stewards at Bethany United Church of Christ, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Please recycle!"

It's fun to be able to brag about you; please keep up the good work. With gratitude, Deb and Adam Ocepek

Welcome New Bethany Members!

(Error made last week)

We are happy to welcome new members to our Bethany Family:



Jack and Sarah Scott

Susan Scott

Nancy Miller

David and Dianne Allison

Ashley Ramsey

The Bethany Bunch

(Children's Sunday School)



Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Sunday School Class

Last Sunday we heard the parable of Jesus which tells of a rich man and his three servants and the money he put in their care. We talked about what we did well or what we could do to help others (5 talents for each child). Some of the answers were *help dada set up my video games, set the table, sing, write my name the kindergarten way, show my little sister how to make letters, help clean up in the 20 minute clean-up, rake leaves, gymnastics, help a caterpillar get up a tree.* We made our own money bags, put our talents inside and tied them with twine to keep them safe until we use them. Several of the children had used their lamps with the little space for offering that we made last week, and offering reflected that. Turkeys made from tracing our hands finished our time. We were lucky to have visitor helpers for the second hour – Carolyn, Annie, Dakota Shroyer and Tyler Urasek. Thank you!

Turn out the lights when you leave 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*

Please remember in your prayers...

- † Ron Shultz, Select Specialty Hospital
- † Sally Mellott, Briarwood
- † Ted Housley, Traditions
- † Don Haflinger, Robinson Memorial Hospital
- † Barbara Sunyecz, Select Specialty Hospital
- † Gail Cool, home

† ***In Sympathy...***



We extend our Christian sympathy and prayers to the family of Bethany member, Olive Devine, who passed away November 15th.

All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action.

- J.R. Lowell, 19th century

On this Day of Thanksgiving Prayer

On this Day of Thanksgiving, may God rest your heart and mind, may He bless and keep you and your family, and may He continue to extend His blessings upon our great nation, guiding us one and all by His Word. May He grant us patience and perseverance in the unexpected turns and tests of our age. May He impress upon us the spirit of our forefathers, their soul-deep craving for freedom, expressed with courage and wisdom, as we meet the particular challenges of our days. And let us always approach our Heavenly Father with true thankfulness not just today, but every day not only in our triumphs, but also in our trials by acknowledging our utter dependence on Him to supply our wants and needs, for in Him we live and move and have our being. Even self-reliance is, at its root, reliance on Him. Amen.



2011 Special Opportunities **Worship, Education, Service, & Fellowship**

The original Greek word for church was *Ecclessia*, 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.

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?

**Calendar - additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2011 monthly calendar mailed to you.**
(as of Nov. 17th) **November 21st to November 27th**

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

Family 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**

- 11/28 7:00p Bell Choir
- 11/29 9:00a Staff Meeting
- 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
- 7:00p Kerygma
- 11/30 NO Bible Study
- 5:00p **Bethany Night at Donato's 8:00p**
- December...*
- 12/01 7:15p Chancel Choir Practice
- 12/02 6:00p Buckeyes
- 12/03 9:00a Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary
- 12:00p (SH) Rsrvd. 6:00p

Sunday ~ December 4, 2011

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.
† Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30a Worship (Communion)**
- 9:15a Church School for Children and Adults
- 10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School/**
Pageant Rehearsal 2nd hr./ Congregation Mtg.
- 11:30a Coffee Hour
- 11:30a Bethany Nurse BP Check
- 11:30a Confirmands, Meal/Class
- 4:30p **Summit Bells Concert/ Reception**
YF to follow concert

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



Volunteers for November 23rd

Ushers: C. Hofmann, B. Charton, L. Short, C. McGraw, J. Nielson

Volunteers for November 27th communion

Greeters: H. Cool, 3rd & 4th 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

<p>If you are <u>unable</u> to volunteer the day you are scheduled please <u>remember</u> to... ... and then ...Find someone to take your place ...Call the church office so we may make the necessary changes on our schedules</p>

Volunteers for December 4th

Greeters:
 Lay Reader: B. McDevitt
 Nursery: A. Cristino, H. Bowman, L. Rorrer,
 H. Bedillion, J. Nielsen
 Special Music: Story & Song / Chancel Choir
 Ushers:
 Van Driver: L. Goodwin

MISSION

A message from Bruce Zake, Board President of Family Promise (IHN)

Dear Friends,

Please pass this message on to your volunteers. We can really leverage some support to Family Promise on a dollar for dollar donation. In the past several years, Wayside Furniture has offered a dollar for dollar match for checks written to your favorite charity - *Family Promise of Summit County*. The only catch is that the checks must be for \$100 or less. You can write multiple checks if you're thinking of donating more during the holiday season and for end of the year tax deductions. We are not certain if Wayside will accept multiple checks from the same donor but you can always enlist your neighbors and friends to write \$100 (or less) checks and reimburse them for their donation. Of course, you will not get the tax deduction but you are helping Family Promise. And what a great way to share your experience and message about *Family Promise!*?! Last year, we doubled our donations of about \$3200 at this time of year and received almost \$6500 total including the Wayside match. Please consider how important this is at the end of the year and note that we are behind on donations and support this year - to the tune of over \$20,000. Is there an increased need? Look at these numbers and decide how important this is and consider how busy your Family Promise had been. *We have had a 79 percent increase in requests for shelter for families from 2010 to today - and 2011 is not over! There was also a 69 percent increase in the number of children who are homeless 2011 vs. 2010.*

Please get your checks to the Family Center no later than Tuesday, November 22 at: Family Promise of Summit County, PO Box 1266, Akron OH 44309-1266. Thanks for your continued support of this mission.

Family Promise Host Week

Our next Family Promise/IHN Host week is **December 25 – January 1**. Please consider volunteering to help this week and contact one of our team leaders: Carol Clemente - meal preparation, Carolyn B. Hofmann - overnight and Frank Read - van drivers. Thanks to our many volunteers who help make this week possible.

Bake Sale a success!

Thanks to all of our Bethany Bakers! We raised \$377 for the Bethany's missions. Thanks to Linda Read for pricing all of our goods. Thanks to Mary Lane Clark, Pat Cochran, Linda Goodwin, Harvey Koudela, Beth McDevitt, Martha Peyak, Bob Pletzer, Frank Read, Maurine and Dale Renner, Mary Seymour, Carolyn Shroyer and Becky Wachovec for selling all the goodies on Election Day. Thanks to Carol and Bart Clemente for helping with setting up the area and coffee. We appreciated the support of all of our Bethany bakers! Thanks from the Mission Committee.

Bethany's Missions for Christmas 2011

How YOU can support our missions!

THE GIVING TREE – Begins November 20

The *Giving Tree* will benefit sixteen families at H.M. Life Opportunities and the families of Family Promise/IHN. The tree will be decorated with gift tags at the coffee table in the Social Hall beginning November 20 and the gifts are due back to Bethany by December 11.

Family Promise/IHN is an emergency shelter for homeless families and HM Life Opportunities provides transitional housing to families up to two years. Several of our IHN guests have gone to live at HM Life.

The *Giving Tree* will contain gift tags for certificates to area businesses for our Family Promise/IHN families when they move into their new homes. It will also have tags for requested gift items from members of fourteen families from HM Life that we have committed to support for the holidays.

If you would like to provide for one of the gifts requested but don't want to do the shopping, the Mission Committee will shop for you! Look for members of the Mission Committee at the coffee table in the Social Hall beginning on November 20 and each Sunday through December 4.

How the Giving Tree Works:

- † Take a tag from the Giving Tree in the social hall.
- † Record your name and number of the tag on the list provided.
- † Buy the item on the tag. If it is for a gift certificate to Marc's or Acme, get whatever amount that works for your budget. We are encouraging members to buy the gift certificates through our program here at Bethany.
- † Bring the gift back to the social hall **unwrapped** by December 11.

GIFTS OF THE HEART - Begins November 20

The Mission Committee selected twelve of the mission projects Bethany supports. You can use this list to give a gift in someone's name or as a special Christmas donation you would like to make. You may want to write a card and tell the person this gift was given by you in their name. Return your list and check at the Mission table in the Social Hall, the offering plate or the church office.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

We are collecting nonperishable food items for Good Neighbors for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will make a delivery before Thanksgiving and another before Christmas. Items can be placed in the back of the sanctuary or in the social hall on the table marked for Good Neighbors. Good Neighbors is not accepting clothing donations at the time.

Christmas 2011 ~ Gifts from the Heart Shopping List

Bethany United Church of Christ Mission Committee

Gifts from the Heart is an opportunity to give a gift, in honor of a friend or relative, to a variety of local and international self-help projects. Use the list below to select your gifts.

Amount BACK BAY MISSION: This UCC mission to the community, located in Biloxi, MS, suffered severe damage from Hurricane Katrina. Your gift will help with the rebuilding and repairs. \$20 / \$25 / \$30 for reconstruction of facilities.

BETHANY KITCHEN: A free meal is provided in the Bethany Social Hall for those in need of nourishment and social interaction the third Saturday of each month. \$10 / \$15 / \$20 will help purchase food.

CHAPEL HILL HOMES: This United Church Homes retirement community in Canal Fulton helps Add life to years@ for its senior residents. \$10 / \$15 / \$20 for the Life Enrichment Fund.

ESPERANZA: For the past several years, members of Bethany have traveled to Tijuana, Mexico to assist local residents with the building of homes. Your gift will help with the expenses of this trip and the costs of building materials. \$10 / \$20 / \$30 will assist with expenses.

FAITH IN ACTION: To help our neighbors maintain their independence through trained volunteers from the Interfaith community with the support of service organizations. \$10 / \$20 / \$30 helps to fund this vital ministry.

GOOD NEIGHBORS: This ecumenical outreach program provides food, clothing and utility assistance to those in need in our community. Bethany helps with donations of gently used clothing, food and volunteer help. \$10 / \$20 / \$25 helps provide fresh food vouchers and utility assistance.

HAZLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND: A fund was established to benefit graduating high school seniors. \$10 / \$20 / \$25 provides funding to help our youth.

FAMILY PROMISE/IHN: Bethany provides leadership and serves as a host congregation for this ecumenical program which provides housing and support for families. \$10 / \$20 / \$30 helps to fund this vital ministry.

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: Provides funds that Pastor Steve may use to provide emergency assistance to those in need, both within the congregation and in the community. \$10 / \$20 / \$25 provides gasoline or food vouchers

SOUTH STREET MINISTRIES: This inner-city ministry reaches out to the children in the Summit Lake neighborhood with tutoring and mentoring programs. \$10 / \$20 / \$25 provides funding for this ministry

UCC CAMPS: Templed Hills and Pilgrim Hills Camps provide camping and retreat facilities for children, youth and adults. Your gift helps with camp programs and upkeep. \$10 / \$20 / \$30 helps to fund this mission.

WILLIARD UCC FOOD PANTRY: This church is located in downtown Akron and provides important outreach in the community, including assistance through a food pantry. \$10 / \$15 / \$20 will help fund this program

OTHER: Indicate here what mission you would like to make a donation to:

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____

Envelope # _____ Check Amount: \$ _____

Office use:

PD/ DEPOSIT _____