

The Bethany Letter

SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 17, 2010

VOLUME 2010

ISSUE NO. 35

The Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

The Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

No Void to Fill

I have a “thought for the day” calendar on my desk. I have encountered quite a few thoughts that made me ponder and challenged me to grow. But so far, I’ve only found one that I decided to keep and put in a place that I can see it every day. It’s a simple but very profound statement by Simone Weil. She said:

All sins are attempts to fill voids.

This is a powerful truth! It has helped me to understand the hurtful, destructive things people do. People are selfish because they feel a void in their life and hope that in holding on to things they will be able to fight the emptiness. People are greedy because they sense a void and hope that money, possessions, or property will help fill it. People are jealous and competitive because they feel a void and believe that they have to protect what they have from others and compete with them for more, so that the void does not become greater, but somehow, filled. People are controlling and manipulative because they feel a void and hope that managing life and others will help fill it. People are dishonest and deceitful because they feel a void and believe that through their dishonesty or deceit, they will affect people or situations in a way that fills the void.

Much of life is based on the assumption of this lack: the way we relate to others, the reasons for our work, the generosity of our sharing. It is curious that success in relationships, in work, or in increasing our standard of living doesn’t seem to do away with this assumption of “lack.” Who can deny that the standard of living in America has risen over the years? Yet, as a people, we have become less generous, not more. Most of us have more than our parents did, but school levies are still hard to pass. Though, as a people, we have so much more, the percentage of our income given to church or charity has been in gradual but steady decline. We live as if there was a void to fill. And our society has become amazingly adept at offering us ways to fill it.

But there is no “void.” The good news of our faith is of abundance! It begins at creation. God blesses us with all we need for life. God blesses us with “enough.” That is plenty. Our first sin is that we don’t let that be enough. We want more. We want to be “like God” so we look for something that will help us be (and have) more. In a myriad of ways that “original” sin has been repeated. We receive the abundance God gives us not with gratitude but with a belief that we must have something more. We create a void when there is none.

But Christ’s victory over death put this all behind. The power of death itself has been broken in Christ’s resurrection. All reasons for living in fear, for feeling that we had to hold on to things, or struggle for more, are gone. All we have to do is receive the gift of life that God has given. That is plenty! That is more than enough! God has poured out all we need for joy! There is no need to look or strive for something more. Let’s give thanks for this abundance and, in gratitude, let it be enough. Who knows what peace and joy await us.

With Gratitude and Hope,



The rosebud on the altar last Sunday was in honor of the baptism of Kyrie Elizabeth McKelvey. Kyrie is the daughter of Patrick and Matilda(Hermann) McKelvey.



Congratulations to Ben and Becky (Cochran) Skinner who were married Sunday, October 10th. They reside at: 7196 W Campus Rd., New Albany, OH 43054

Youth Fellowship – what’s ahead

- Oct. 17 Hayride, 4:30 p
- Oct. 24 Halloween Planning, 6:30 p, YF room
- Oct. 31 Halloween Party, 5-7:00 p,
Octagon Shelter CVNP

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 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. (Next breakfast **October 20th**.) You can help make this time possible by providing breakfast for 8-10 men once during the year. If you’d like to help this way call Nancy Read at 330-928-3002.

Wednesday ~ October 27th
6:30 p.m. Leaders’ Dinner
7:30 p.m. Committee Meetings

Confirmation – the coming weeks

- Oct. 22 Lock-in, 8:00p – 9:00a, Lounge
- Oct. 24 Lead Family Sunday Worship, 10:30a
- Nov. 7 Class with Pastor Steve, 11:45a, Lounge

All are invited to attend a free concert by **The Aidan String Quartet** ~ Friday, **October 22nd**, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Bethany UCC. It is sponsored by the Brahms Allegro Junior Music Club - an educational outreach of Tuesday Musical Association of Akron. For more information contact Ann Edwards at 330/ 923-2250. www.aidanstringquartet.com

EOA WRA Joint Annual Fall Meeting

Keynote Speaker, Rev. Bob Molsberry
Conference Minister

Saturday, October 30th

Bath UCC, 3980 W. Bath Rd., 330/666-3520

Theme: *We Gather in a Season of Change,
To Dance with the Spirit*

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board by the church office. You may obtain a registration form in the office. Also, if you have a computer check out the following website. There is an article from Rev. Molsberry on a triathlon he was part of. <http://www.ocucc.org/StaffPages/ConfMinCornerConnections2.htm#Sept2010>



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Special Place & Time!

Once again this year, the Youth Fellowship and Youth Committee are happy to host a HALLOWEEN PARTY for Bethany children. We’re especially excited this year to host it at the lovely Octagon Shelter in beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park. One of the things we’re trying to emphasize in our youth ministry is the gift of God’s creation and how blessed we can be when we give ourselves an opportunity to spend time in it; so we’re glad to be hosting the party in this setting. It will be from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the shelter. Parents are welcome to either stay at the party or leave their children and enjoy a walk or drive in the park. To get to the Octagon Shelter take Old Route 8, turn west on Truxell Road; the entrance drive to the shelter is on the right (north side) just past the entrance to the Ledges Shelter.



Election Day Bake Sale

The annual Election Day bake sale is just around the corner. Proceeds benefit our Bethany missions. Members of the mission committee will be calling to ask members to consider donating a baked good for **Tuesday, November 2nd**. Please consider making a donation of a baked good. We are in need of help throughout the day to be at the sales table. If you are able to help with a two hour shift, please call Carolyn B. Hofmann at 330-929-7704. The Mission Committee

21st Annual Spaghetti Dinner!

A community effort to benefit the

Williard Food Pantry

Please join us for "A Night in Old Italy"

Friday ~ November 5th 5:30 or 6:30 p.m.

Fairlawn-West UCC, 2095 W. Market St., Akron

Tickets: Adults \$7 (\$8 at the door)

Children (6-12) \$4 (\$5 at the door)

5 yrs. and under – Free

Call: 330/864-2179

Bethany Buckeyes

The Bethany Buckeyes, an informal group of men and women who are at least 50 years old, meet the first Friday of every month and celebrate with food, games and laughter. The next meeting will be Friday **November 5th** at 6 o'clock. Remember to call in your reservations to the church office, 330-923-5277, or mark your Sunday attendance card.

How We're Doing

Month	Income	Expense	Total +/-
Sept.	25,130	35,807	- 10,677
YTD	221,316	246,200	- 24,884

"A Star for Freedom"

I have been serving on the Church in the World Committee for the Eastern Ohio Association of the UCC for the past three and a half years. Two years ago I agreed to chair the working group of Urban Ministries. This committee supports the mission outreach provided to the Akron community by the UCC congregations of East Market Street, Miller Avenue, Trinity, and Williard. Our group has supported their mission work by holding several clean up days in their churches to spruce up their buildings and we also provide financial assistance. Rev. Sharon Alberson is again providing one of her musical performances to benefit Urban Ministries. We have several Bethany members who are again in the musical. The event will take place on **Saturday, November 6 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.** at Trinity on North Main Street; \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. A dinner for \$5 will be available between performances. Please consider attending this special evening and supporting the good work being done by these urban congregations. I will be selling tickets each **Sunday** in the social hall at the coffee table.

Thank you. Carolyn B. Hofmann



Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.

Annual Meeting

Each year the Board of Directors and Family Promise volunteers gather to review the state of the Network and to celebrate the accomplishments of this mission. Bethany will be hosting this meeting on **Monday, November 8th** in our social hall. Please consider attending the meeting, which will include a delicious dinner by Kathy Keenan. The cost is \$8 and more information is being mailed to volunteers this week.

Host Week

Our next Family Promise/IHN Host week is **November 28 - December 5**. Please consider volunteering to help this week and contact one of our team leaders: Carol Clemente - meal preparation, Carolyn B. Hofmann - overnight and family center volunteers, and Frank Read - van drivers. Thanks to our many volunteers who help make this week possible.

Sharing God's Love!

♥ One of the doctrines of the Christian Church is that we share God's love with everyone. That is what Williard Food Pantry is doing by feeding some of the hungry people of Akron. The Food Pantry is open 3 days every month and they fed 730 individuals in the month of August. In the second quarter (April, May, June) they fed 3,416 individuals.

♥ Charlie Dorrow has been the coordinator since 2001 and he has decided to step aside. It is the Food Pantry Board's responsibility to find the people to take over his duties. I would hate to see the Food Pantry fold up, therefore, in a small way I am asking for people to volunteer 2 hours one day a week in the morning from 7-9 AM to help the Food Pantry.

♥ If you are interested in finding out more information, please call me.

Frank Read [330-928-3002]



Please remember in your prayers...

- † **Joe Probeck**, Select Specialty Hospital
- † **Evelyn Vance**, Hospice Chapel Hill
- † **Shirley Ende-Saxe**, Home (from hospital)

"Special prayers" to Bethany members who are unable to worship with us Sunday mornings. Please keep them in your prayers and keep in touch with a call or a card!

Usher Openings

There is a need for more Ushers at Bethany and YOU can help. Each Sunday two ushers serve Bethany during our 8:30 Worship and six, including our elevator usher, at our 10:30 Service. On Communion Sundays, four additional 10:30 ushers participate in distributing the communion elements. For five Sunday months with one Communion service, there is a need for 44 Ushers. We are currently blessed to have 30 adults and four confirmands helping as Ushers. We are 10 short. You can help. What are the requirements to serve as an usher? One needs to arrive about 20 minutes before the service, bring a friendly smile to greet worshipers and be able to traverse the length of the sanctuary. You are even guaranteed a back-row seat! It's easy to become an Usher. Just include a note on the back of your attendance card, or contact the church office at 330-923-5277 or John Seymour at 330-678-6166. Please say "yes" to this opportunity to extend Bethany's hospitality! Say aloud three times:

"I want to be an Usher! "

Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Mission Committee by attending the musical performance and dinner last Saturday night. Everyone enjoyed the musical gifts of Mark Bair, Fred Heyburn, Meig Heyburn, and Sue Parker. A thanks also goes to Kathy Keenan and Amanda Keenan for the delicious dinner. Special thanks to Meig Heyburn for bringing this fundraiser idea to us and for planning and organizing the performance. We made \$727 that will go to general missions and to Charity: Water to build wells around the world.

The Mission Committee



Altar Flowers given in September by...

- 10/19 Bart and Carol Clemente in memory of Carol's father, Ray Brandon**
- 10/26 Doris Brubaker in memory of loved ones; Sarah Mellott in memory of Calvin Mellott**

**Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2010 monthly calendar mailed to you.
October 18th - October 31st**

10/18 9:00a Quilters
10/19 9:00a Staff Meeting (L)
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
7:30p Kerygma
10/20 8:00a Men's Breakfast
9:00a Bible Study (CE)
7:00p Bell Choir Practice
10/21 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
10/22 7:00p The Aidan String Quartet
8:00p Confirmation Lock-in
10/23 9:00a Confirmation Pick Up

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

Sunday ~ October 24, 2010

† **Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.**
† **Family Sunday – Children remain in worship**

8:30a Worship (Traditional)
9:15a Church School for All Ages
10:30a Worship
11:30a Social Hour
11:30a 7thDay Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:30p Youth Committee Meeting
6:30p YF Halloween Party Planning

Volunteers for October 24th

Cup Washing: C. Eberhardt
Greeters: T.&B. Eberhardt / R.&P. Haft
Special Music: Bell Choir / Children's Choirs
Nursery: S. Ward, T. Jensen, N. Zeller, J. Dugan,
C. Eberhardt
Ushers: T. Hermann, H. Walker, S. Truby, S. Ward,
L. Short, J. Smith, Z. Read, N. Buck
Van Driver: B. Read
Visitor Outlook: L. Goodwin

10/25 9:00a Quilters
10/26 9:00a Staff Meeting (L)
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
10/27 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
6:30p LEADERS'S DINNER ☺
7:00p Bell Choir Practice
7:30p COMMITTEE MEETINGS
10/28 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
10/29
10/30 9:00a (SH) Rsrvd. – 7:00p
9:00a EOA-WRA Annual Fall Meeting Bath UCC



Sunday ~ October 31, 2010

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

8:30a Worship (Traditional)
9:15a Church School for All Ages
10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School
(Pageant Rehearsal begins, 2nd hr. S.School) ☺
11:30a Coffee Hour

Volunteers for October 31st

Cup Washer: A. Zeller
Greeters: T.&B. Kermann / T.&B. Briggs
Lay Reader: C. McGraw
Special Music / 7thDay
Nursery: M. Peyak, H. Bedillion, A. Lorentz, E. Zeller,
J. Nielsen
Ushers: R.&S. Holle, B. Charton, M. Seymour,
M. Seguin, B. Pletzer, J. Sammons, L. Sheppard
Van Driver: F. Read
Visitor Outlook: need a volunte

**Bethany United
Church of Christ**

1235 Broad Blvd.
Cuyahoga Falls OH 44223

Office: 330-923-5277
Fax: 330-923-3210



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