

Let Us Look Into Our Hearts

I often think of what I heard in a sermon, “We have to return our gifts back to God, which is where they belong.” I also liked hearing, “We are on loan from God.” Or, another one that really stuck with me, “Your treasure is where your heart is.”

I believe each of us have been given gifts from God that are meant to be shared or in other words, returned to him. I think God entrusts us to use our gifts wisely, but that doesn't mean he wants us to hoard them. It means that we should not waste our intelligence, or our money or our good health. Instead, it means we give from our abundance to those who have less than us. Today, there are many people who fall into the category of having less than us. There are needs that are still unmet. Let us look into our hearts to see if it's possible to help fill those needs.

Also, I guess I wondered, “How can we be on loan from God?” But it makes sense. It makes me realize that I need to do all that I can to please God with the gifts that he has given me. I better make good use of my time here on earth to please him. I believe that it can be as tiny as smiling at a passing stranger.

Finally, I think about where my heart is. What do I worship? Things? I saw a bumper sticker that I loved! It said, “The best things in life aren't things.” I will take the joy over making someone's life easier, happier or more fulfilling over things any day! These are the “things” that are life-giving.

Let us reflect on how we can return our gifts to God and how we can make good use of what we have been given in a way that is pleasing to God.

Susan Gaskill

HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Sunday ~ October 30th

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Octagon Shelter, Truxell Road, CVNP

Last year's party at the rustic Octagon Shelter in beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park was received with such enthusiasm that the Youth Committee decided to have it there again this year. We'll have lots of fun and games and great treats to share. Parents, you are welcome to stay at the party or go for a hike in the park and return later.

To reach the shelter turn west off of old Route 8; the entrance drive to the shelter is the second road on the right.



10/30	3:30p	Set Up and Host Halloween Party
11/06	TBA	TBA
11/13	11:30a	Rake & Run
11/20	11:30a	Rake & Run



2011 / 2012

10/30	4:30p	Halloween Party – Game Helpers
11/04	8:00p	Lock-in (pick up 9:00a Sat.)
11/06	11:30a	Class and Meal
11/13	11:30a	Rake & Run

Adult Classes at Bethany

So Many Choices!

One of the best ways to learn and grow in faith and to strengthen the bonds that unite us as a faith family is to gather with other Christians to reflect upon scripture and issues of faith. Bethany is blessed to be able to offer a variety of groups which do this every Sunday.

All of them are eager to welcome new participants.

Here's a brief description of each class:

Bible Discoveries: studies various books of the Bible. They are currently working on Paul's letter to the Romans, and then they plan to begin to study the letter of James. This class meets upstairs in the room just off the elevator.

Lounge: presentations, videos, and shared discussion are used as sources for reflection on a variety of topics relating faith and life. This class meets (obviously) in the Lounge, on the first floor below the sanctuary.

Perspectives: videos, presentations and discussions on films, books, and current events are used to help members in their efforts to be faithful in today's world. This class meets upstairs in the Sunday School wing in the room next to the nursery.

Seasons of the Spirit: the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum is used to relate the scripture passage which is preached on in worship to Jesus' daily call to follow him on the path of discipleship. This class meets in the lower level of the new addition.

Upper Room: the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum provides a basis for discussion on the scripture passage which is focused upon in worship, seeking to relate its truth to daily life. This class meets upstairs in the library.

If you come to the early service, why not stay after and give one a try? If you come to the late service, why not come an hour early and visit one of them? You might be surprised by the blessings that you receive and the friends that you make.

“FOUND & FORGIVEN”

A Musical by Sharon Alberson

Based on the Story of the Prodigal Son

◆ SATURDAY ◆ November 5th

3:00 & 7:00 PM

Trinity United Church of Christ

A spaghetti dinner will be served between shows, 4:30-6:30 p.m. The Market Path, a fair trade store supported by First Grace UCC, will offer items for sale and Williard UCC will offer a basket auction. Tickets for the performance and dinner are available through the EOA/WRA Support Center or at faithmusicals@gmail.com. All proceeds from the day will benefit Akron Urban United Churches of Christ: East Market Street, Miller Ave., Williard and Trinity.

Help Good Neighbors...

Nov. 6	Can of Soup
Nov. 13	Jell-O or Pudding Mix



November 6, 2011

The return to Standard Time (ST) begins at 2:00 am local time in the U.S. on the first Sunday in November, which in 2011 is November 6. Turn clocks **back** by **one hour**, ideally at bedtime on the Saturday night before.

Miracle at Midnight – Pageant Rehearsal
Sunday, November 6 2nd Hour Sunday School

New Members to Be Received



A number of people are planning to be received into membership at Bethany on Sunday, **November 6**. If you would like to be part of this group please call Pastor Steve at 330-923-5277. If this date doesn't work for you but you are interested in becoming a member just let him know and another time can be arranged. Or if you simply want to learn more about membership he'd be glad to talk with you.

Family Promise 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 Sunday, **November 6** in our social hall. Please consider attending the meeting which will include a delicious dinner by Kathy Keenan. The cost is \$10 and more information is being mailed to volunteers this week or see Carolyn B. Hofmann during social hour for a registration form or call 330-929-7704.



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 8**. 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.

Faith at Home Resources

A variety of devotional and one page study guides from the *Faith at Home* Retreat are available in the Social Hall. They offer great insights and inspiration for everyone – not just parents and grandparents but anyone who wants to grow in living their faith “at home.” Also for sale are *Ten Read Aloud Books with Spiritual Insights*. Prices are marked on each book – just leave your cash or check in the basket on the table.

Dedication Sunday-November 13 “For the Joy”

Stewardship at Bethany begins not with the need of the church to receive but the need of each of us, created in the image of God who is a giver, to give. Our guest preacher, Rev. Rich Plant, will help us consider reasons for gratitude and how we might follow Jesus' example in giving of ourselves “for the joy” of our master, and so discover for ourselves the joy of giving. Here's a schedule for that day:


8:30 Worship

9:30 Celebration Brunch for 8:30 worshippers
(Sunday School for the rest of us)

10:30 Worship

11:30 Celebration Dinner for 10:30 worshippers

If you have not yet responded to the invitation you received several weeks ago please do so as soon as possible so our friends at Willard UCC know how many meals to prepare.

Rake'n Run **November 13 & 20**
Once again Youth Committee and Youth Fellowship  are organizing two “Rake & Run” Sundays to help members who need assistance with their fall leaves. Each Sunday 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.

This is a huge project and we're asking for help from everyone. So –

- 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.

From the Bethany Kitchen

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and Bethany Kitchen is in need of turkeys for Thanksgiving Dinner. To date, there are NO turkeys in stock. The kitchen is in need of 6 birds (18 to 20lb). Last year the attendance was unbelievable! We did not run out of turkey, but it was close.

YOUR TURKEY DONATION WILL BE MOST APRECIATED!!



(Monetary donations also are gratefully accepted, payable to Bethany Kitchen.)

ADVENT



First Sunday of Advent November 27th

Immediately following our 10:30 worship service the C.E. Committee will host an Advent Celebration with a light lunch and a craft. More details to follow.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Mark your Calendario!



The Esperanza Mission Trip for 2012 has been scheduled. We will be going February 18th thru February 25th to help build simple casas in the Tijuana area. There is something for everyone to participate in. Any questions please call Mr. Bill Leas at 330-673-3389. He has the answers!



The Bethany Bunch

(Children's Sunday School)

Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Sunday School Class

We had such a great time getting ready for the social hour that we hosted last Sunday. We made centerpieces for the tables, and WE got to give out treats instead of just getting them. That was fun! We want to thank all the parents, grandparents, and others who helped prepare and bring food, serve the food, and clean up after. We also sang "Jesus Loves Me" during the 10:30 service and signed the WHOLE song and not just the chorus. It was a very busy morning!

Please remember in your prayers...



Olive Devine, Haven Homes
Ron Shultz, Western Reserve
Sally Mellott, Cleveland Clinic



Mark Steiner!

Rev. Mark Steiner, Bethany's Pastor of Visitation, will be honored for his work with seniors with the Ben M. Herbster award, which will be presented at a ceremony at Chapel Hill Homes on November 3rd. The award is presented annually at six of United Church Homes' full-service communities to individuals who best exemplify the philosophy, leadership, philanthropic spirit and achievements of the late Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, the founding president of the United Church of Christ, respected trustee for United Church Homes, and tireless advocate for seniors and their concerns. We are grateful to Mark for his loving, caring work with seniors in the Bethany family and we applaud and prayerfully support his work on their behalf in the wider church. Congratulations, Mark, on receiving this honor – our grateful thoughts and prayers are with you!

Thank You!

The Oktoberfest – Reason for a Big THANK YOU!
The Oktoberfest celebration was a wonderful evening for the Bethany family – great music, food, fellowship, and fun. Thanks to all who made it possible: The Stewardship Committee – for planning and hosting; Doppel Adler Band – for great German music; Kathy Keenan's Crew – for an amazing German meal; Everyone Who Attended – for sharing a joyful spirit. Together we shared an evening that was a true blessing – a great example of what it means to live "for the joy!"

Family Promise Host Week

Thanks to all of our volunteers for helping with our Family Promise Host Week. We appreciated the time our volunteers gave to our families by providing leadership each evening, fixing a meal, driving the van, doing the laundry, and staying overnight. Thanks also to members who contributed funds for help to be at the Family Center. We had four families, made up of moms, dads, and nine children. The families were appreciative of the caring attitude and compassion shown to them by our Bethany Volunteers. We are thankful for the support Bethany members give to this important mission in our community.

Bob and Carolyn

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 Advent.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

October 30, 5:00-7:00 pm ~ Octagon Shelter

The Youth Fellowship hosts a gathering for Bethany children in a beautiful setting.

November 13, 8:30 & 10:30 am – Dedication Sunday

Rev. Rich Plant preaches on our theme “For the Joy” ~ brunch follows worship.

November 18, evening – Mission Spaghetti Dinner/Dessert Auction

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

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?

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

(as of Oct.27th) **October 31st to November 13th**



- 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
November....
 11/01 9:00a Staff Meeting
 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
 7:30p Kerygma
 11/02 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
 11/03 7:15p Chancel Choir Practice
 11/04 6:00p **Buckeyes**
 8:00p **Confirmation Lock-in**
 11/05 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... .. and then ...Find someone to take your place ...Call the church office so we may make the necessary changes on our schedules

Display Cases for November
Case A-1 Endowment Fund
Case A-2 Green Team



Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday ~ November 6, 2011

- † Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 † All Saints Sunday
 † Celebration of Congregational Life

- 8:30a Worship/ Communion**
 9:15a Church School for Children and Adults
10:30a Worship/ New Members/ Children's Sunday
 School/ Pageant Rehearsal
 11:30a Social Hour Host: Consistory
 11:30a Bethany Nurse BP Check
 11:30a 7thDay Practice
 11:30a Confirmands Meal/Class
 TBA YF activity
 6:00p Family Promise Annual Meeting

Volunteers for November 6th

- Greeters: S. Ward / F. Eckenrode
 Lay Reader: J. Wachovec
 Nursery: A. Cristino, M. Peyak, L. Rorrer,
 B. Read, J. Sammons
 Special Music: Story & Song / Chancel Choir
 Ushers: T. Hermann, M. Jensen, J. Grazulis, J. Seymour,
 B.&C. Pletzer, J. Sammons, A. McVan
 Van Driver: S. Gaskill

- 11/07 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
 11/08 **Election Day ~ Bake Sale!**
 9:00a Staff Meeting
 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
 7:15p Finance Committee Mtg.
 11/09 7:30p Consistory
 11/10 7:15p Chancel Choir Practice
 11/11
 11/12



Altar Flowers given in October by...

- 10/02 Sarah Melvin Family** in memory of parents/ grandparent...Don and Mary Melvin, Dee Durst
10/09 Becky Hermann in memory of grandson, Cyle Lorentz; and by **Pat Cochran**
10/16 Donna Jones in memory of her mother, Dora Schaad
10/23 Dorothy Peyak in memory of Robert Peyak, beloved husband and faithful father of our children
10/30 Bob and Linda Read in honor of their anniversary and in honor of their children and parents

Dedication Sunday ~

November 13, 2011

- † Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 † Rev. Rich Plant, preacher

- 8:30a Worship**
 9:15a Dedication Breakfast
 9:15a Church School for Children
10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School/
 Pageant Rhrl.
 11:30a Dedication Lunch
 ... Rake'n Run following lunch
 5:30p Youth Committee

Volunteers for November 13th

- Greeters: R.&H. Alberson / M.&H. Cochran
 Lay Reader: B. McDevitt
 Nursery: J. Salsbury, M. Heyburn, R. Read,
 N. Zeller, Z. Read
 Special Music: / Chancel Choir, 7thDay, Bell Choir
 Ushers: L. Luginbill, F. Read, S. Truby, S. Ward,
 H. Bowman, K. Fratz, J. Bebout, S. Mancinelli
 Van Driver: C. Jones

**Bethany United
Church of Christ**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION: 1

“That They May All Be One”

MISSION: 1 ... is ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food related injustice. MISSION:1 is an opportunity to make real Jesus' prayer for his disciples: *“That they may all be one.”* It is also an opportunity to live out our faith—in unity—by offering the worship that God most desires from us: loosening the bonds of injustice and sharing our bread with the hungry. For the first 11 days of November (11.1.11-11.11.11), United Church of Christ congregations, colleges, seminaries, and health and human service agencies, will join together in a collective mission campaign to collect more than 1 million food items for local food banks, raise \$111,111 in online donations for *Neighbors in Need* and \$111,111 for East Africa famine relief, and write 11,111 letters to Congress (in support of Bread for the World's 2011 Offering of Letters campaign) asking that U.S. foreign assistance be reformed to more effectively serve the world's poorest people. We're asking for your help in meeting two goals:

- 1) Please continue to bring items for Good Neighbors so we can achieve the donation goal of 1,111 items.
- 2) Please send a letter to Congress. Sample letters are available on the table in the social hall. Please take one and write your representatives so that we can meet the goal of sending 111 letters.

There is a video at www.eoaucc.org and more detailed information at <http://www.ucc.org/mission1>.