

## *Be the Change You Want*

I remember the day so well. I was in a staff meeting. The office phone rang; it was my daughter, Rachel, calling from Manhattan, telling me tearfully that an airplane had just flown into one of the twin towers. Like the rest of the world, I went back to the meeting, thinking it was a terrible accident. We prayed for the victims and continued the meeting. Then, a few minutes later, she called again, saying that a second plane had just struck the second tower. We all understood that this was no accident but an unthinkable horrible attack. We prayed again, this time, completely overwhelmed by the magnitude of what had happened. Then another plane hit the Pentagon and the passengers on another fought the hijackers, crashing it into a field in Pennsylvania, rather than let it hit one of their targets. What was horrendous beyond all imagining, kept getting worse and worse! That was September 11, ten years ago.

We had a special service at Bethany the next Sunday and placed the candle of hope on our altar to remind us to pray for justice and peace in a world that rejects them with such violence. In the year that followed we also offered a showing of a powerful public television documentary on the connection between religious extremism and violence.

It was hard for many to remember that though the hijackers were Muslims, the problem was not Islam, but extremism, a distortion of Islam. (I saw that first-hand when I drove by the Mosque on Steels Corners Road and saw hate graffiti spray-painted on the walls.) I remembered hearing Dale Bishop, head of UCC Missions in the Middle East speak when I was in seminary. Dale talked about the need for the need for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, to remember their common origin in God's call to Abraham to journey with God and faith and to let God use him to become the founder of a people through whom God would bless the whole world. Though we have taken very different paths, and there are great differences in the way we see God and practice our faith, we have common roots and a common purpose – to let God use us for blessing! I also remembered the gracious hospitality I received from countless Muslims and the respect with which students spoke of Jesus and his compassion when I visited Turkey the previous year.

I also recognized that Christian extremists could do terrible violence, too. Those who've murdered Jews down through the centuries, from the middle ages, to Czarist Russia, to Nazi Germany, all called themselves Christian. The crusaders who did such violence in two hundred years of war to take the Holy Land back from the Muslims (sacking Jerusalem and Constantinople in the process) called themselves Christian. So did Timothy McVeigh. So did Jim Jones.

No, the problem was not Islam, but religious extremism and a centuries-old climate of ignorance and misinformation, distrust and hate, just the climate that such extremism needs to flourish. In the years that have followed, our nation has fought terrorism, not Islam; in fact those who've led the fight have understood that we can't win it unless we show respect for the faith of those the terrorists are trying to recruit. Yet, some have played upon ignorance and distrust to start rumors about candidate Obama being a closet-Muslim, foment anger over the building of a mosque near ground zero, and draw attention by threatening to burn the Koran.

Yet, I've also been encouraged to see how most people have responded to the efforts to foster distrust and hate with calm and a desire for understanding. Colin Powell, a member of the opposing party, spoke to the ridiculousness of the "Obama is a Muslim rumors," New York Mayor Bloomberg and countless others spoke of the right of the Muslims to build the mosque and of their desire to foster understanding, and nearly everyone thought the "I'm going to burn the Koran" pastor was crazy.

Closer to home, I was gratified that the Retreat Committee chose Children of God: Jews, Christians, and Muslims as the theme of their very successful and well-received event last year. I'm also glad to share that the Mission Committee has been working to get a small group from Bethany and the local mosque together for a meal and conversation this fall.

Where will this go? I don't know. I saw lots of possibilities after reading an article in the latest issue of Sojourners magazine, which tells of a congregation in Memphis that invited local Muslims to hold services in their church building until the building of their mosque was completed. When asked why, the pastor simply said, "I just thought we were doing what Jesus said. He said, 'Love your neighbor' and they're our neighbors." From that reaching out with trust and a helping hand the relationship has grown to include shared service to the community, such as a meal program and food pantry.

Gandhi said, "Be the change you want." Remembering what Jesus said about how he wants us to be toward our neighbors perhaps that's the best witness we can make as Christians in the second decade after 9/11/2001.

*With Hope in Christ for Peace, Pastor Steve*



## Bethany Kitchen's next meal will be served on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Help is always needed for food preparation and cleaning up. We need 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!**

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study

We will resume Bethany's Bible

Study on **September 21<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00 AM**

We will be studying I and II Samuel



**SAMUEL! SAMUEL!** Who is Samuel and why are there two books of the Bible named after him? What can we learn from the history of the Jewish Kings and Prophets? Come and join in the joy of Bethany's Women's Bible study. Jesus was born out of this rich heritage. Together we can discover God's promises and the timeless spiritual lessons in these two great books of the Bible.



An Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) was recently approved for purchase and has been delivered and installed. A factory representative will be present on **Sunday,**

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** immediately following social hour to instruct church members on its care and use. **All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.** This lifesaving device was made possible from proceeds from the annual Treasures and Bake Sale with the balance paid by the Mission Committee. A special thanks to Bruce Wurgler for all his time and effort on the sale that helped make this purchase possible. Hope to see many of you in the social hall on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Any questions?

Please call me, Kim Wurgler at 330-928-4446.



**Gerry Czetli!**

Gerry will celebrate **September 20<sup>th</sup>**  
3385 Ash Lane, Cuy. Falls, 44223

**Kerygma Begins**  
**Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.**



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. (Next breakfast **September 21<sup>st</sup>**.)

➤ You can help make this time possible by providing breakfast for 8-10 men once during the year. If you'd like to help in this way call Nancy Read at 330-928-3002.



## Go By the Book

A man visiting a church I serve loves that we do not project lyrics on a screen, but use a hymnal in worship. He loves holding the book. He loves finding the page. He loves using his finger to help his little daughter follow the words. He loves seeing the notes and the parts, the measures and the rests. He loves the other notations on each page, notations about author, composer, date, meter, tune, name, church season, and theme. He likes looking at each hymn's context in the hymnal, and seeing what hymns come before and after. Holding the hymnal, for him, is like holding history, holding theology, holding his and the church's devotional life. Mark E. Yurs

*It's time again to...*

## Save your ACME Receipts!

The ACME programs begins **SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
and ends **FEBRUARY 11, 2012**

The YF is collecting ACME receipts. Acme Fresh Market will issue a rebate check equal to FIVE PERCENT (5%) of the Cash Back amount printed at the bottom of the receipt. The Cash Back amount includes all Acme store brand merchandise purchases: Acme Fresh Market, Academix, Dining-In, Domestix, Electrix, Food Club, Full Circle, Paws, TopCare, ValuTime and World Classics products. YF truly appreciates your support as the proceeds help fund the youth mission trip.

# Family Promise



Family Promise of Summit County continues to grow and be recognized in the area as a reputable agency with dependable volunteers and a great success rate for moving families into their own housing. As the program has grown, each rotation at Bethany has generally been to full capacity. Preparing and serving the supper meal by the host family can be very rewarding, but also time consuming and sometimes costly. Therefore, we would like you to consider "sharing" the task of being a host family with another individual or family. We have wonderful meal preparers who look forward to their evening with our guest families. Our next rotation for Family Promise at Bethany is the week of **October 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Carol Clemente at 330-422-0643 to join us in providing this much needed service.



## Need a ride to Worship?

There is one waiting for YOU! Just call the office at 330-923-5277 and we will arrange for you to be picked up. Worried that something might happen to keep you from attending? Don't worry! You will be given the name and phone number of this week's driver so, if need be, you can cancel at the last minute. We do hope you will call.



## What does it mean to live our Faith at Home?

That's the theme of our All-Church Retreat October 7 – 9 at beautiful Temple Hills. Enjoy great faith-building, fellowship and fun! And it's such a bargain!

**Two Nights:** Age 19 and up = \$60  
Age 13-18 = \$30  
Age 10-12 = \$25  
Age 3-9 = \$20  
Age 2 and under = free

**One Night:** Age 19 and up = \$40  
Age 13-18 = \$25  
Age 10-12 = \$20  
Age 3-9 = \$15  
Age 2 and under = free

## River Valley Paper Company FUN FACTS!

Did you know? Recycling 1 ton of mixed paper saves the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline!  
Bethany's recycled paper in July has had the following environmental impact... total tonnage 1 has saved:  
17.26 trees  
3.05 cubic yards of landfill  
7,105 gallons of water  
4,161 kilowatts of electricity: enough to heat 1 home for 6 months

*Presented by Bethany Nurses...*



**Faithfully Walking  
Fitness Challenge**  
**Don't forget your pledge!**  
**Don't forget to walk!**

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." – John 14:27*

**Day Tripper:** Age 19 and up = \$25  
Age 13-18 = \$20  
Age 10-12 = \$15  
Age 3-9 = \$10  
Age 2 and under = free

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

**September 17, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Bethany Kitchen**

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

---

**October 1, 6:00 pm – Family Promise Cardboard Box City**

*Make a witness for the homeless at this overnight/outdoor event at Bath UCC.*

**October 2, 9:15 am – Bible 101, Combined Adult Class**

*A simple one hour introduction to the Bible and its importance for our lives.*

**October 2, Evening – Blessing of the Animals Service**

*Pets are a great blessing to us; come and share in blessing them.*

**October 7-9 – Faith at Home Retreat**

*Reflect on living our faith more fully at home and share great fellowship and fun.*

**October 9–16 – Family Promise Hosting**

*Help welcome guests by preparing a meal, staying overnight, or driving the van.*

**October 15, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Bethany Kitchen** *(see above)*

**October 16, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 am – Association Minister Carol Barth**

*In worship and adult class Carol will share about challenges facing today’s church.*

**October 16, 11:30 am – Celebrate 20 Years of Bethany Kitchen!**

*Celebrate this special mission anniversary and thank our many faithful volunteers!*

**October 23, Evening – October/Steward Fest**

*The Stewardship Committee offers great brats, music, and reasons for gratitude.*

**October 30, 9:30 am – Mission Committee 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch**

*Come for brunch and learn more about an important mission.*

**October 30, 6:00 pm – Halloween Party at 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. Mark Suriano 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** *(see above)*

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

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

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

**Lay Readers;** no experience needed – just a willingness to arrive at church a few minutes before service to share God’s Word with the congregation. Scripture reading provided. Hours: 8:30 Worship or 10:30 Worship (9:30 – summer months). Applicants may leave name, address and phone # with the church office indicating service preferred.

**Greeters:** successful applicants will have a pleasant smile, a warm handshake and a love of welcoming people to church services on Sunday mornings. Knowledge of classroom and other locations is helpful. Name tags provided. The Ministry Committee of Bethany United Church of Christ will fill this position. You may contact chairperson, Martha Peyak, through the church office at 330-923-5277.

**Ushers:** If you like to assist people, you will fit well in this position. You will work with others serving at the same worship service, passing out the bulletins, or perhaps showing people to their seats. Ushers work under a captain to whom you report. Interested parties may contact John Seymour at 330-678-6166 or the church office 330-923-5277.

**Nursery Helper:** Like babies, little people? Here is an opportunity to spend a little time with the smallest members of Bethany while giving parents a chance to enjoy the worship service. Rocking chair, toys and any necessary accoutrements provided. You will serve with others in this important position. Schedules are provided as well as reminder postcards. Please submit your application to the Bethany office or call 330-923-5277.

**Sound System Operator:** Are you skilled or interested in operating sound systems? Are you willing to learn? This very important job ensures that the worship service can be heard and recorded. Interested parties may contact – John Mancinelli or the church office 330-923-5277.

**Calendar - additions to ~ or ~ changes to the  
2011 monthly calendar mailed to you.**  
(as of Sept. 8<sup>TH</sup>) **September 12<sup>TH</sup> to September 25<sup>TH</sup>**

9/12 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry (Lounge)  
7:00p GREEN Team Meeting  
9/13 9:00a Staff Meeting  
10:30a Newsletter Deadline  
7:15p Finance Committee  
7:45p Stewardship  
9/14 7:30p Consistory  
9/15 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice  
9/16 6:00p A. Jensen Rehearsal  
9/17 11:30a Bethany Kitchen  
3:30p A. Jensen Wedding

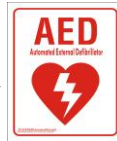
Names of Sunday Volunteers are published AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULED Sunday as a kindly *reminder* and early *thank you!*

**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 ~ September 18, 2011

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

**8:30a Worship** (Fellowship)  
9:15a Church School for Children and Adults  
**10:30a Worship/** Children's Sunday School  
11:30a Social Hour  
11:30a Orientation for 1<sup>st</sup> yr. Confirmands  
11:30a YF Pontoon Boat Picnic \$10 + waiver  
12:00p Orientation for 2<sup>nd</sup> yr. Confirmands  
12:00p 1<sup>st</sup> yr. Confirmand/Mentor Mtg.  
12:00p **A.E.D. Class in the Social Hall** ←



## Volunteers for September 18<sup>th</sup>

Greeters: D.&H. Bedillion / The Shaw Family  
Lay Reader: M. Heyburn  
Nursery: P. Cochran, A. Thompson, A. Cristino  
B. Read, E. Sammons  
Special Music: 7thDay / Chancel Choir  
Ushers: R.&S. Holle, F. Read, M. Seguin, M. Seymour,  
R. Berie, B.&C. Pletzer  
Van Driver: S. Gaskill  
Visitor Outlook: N. Buck

09/19  
09/20 9:00a Staff Meeting  
10:00a Newsletter Deadline  
7:00p Kerygma (The Commandments)  
09/21 8:00a Men's Volunteer Breakfast  
9:00a Bible Study (CE)  
9/22 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice  
9/23  
9/24 6:30p Mission Committee Dinner  
w/Islamic Center (SH)

**Worship**

## Family Sunday ~ September 25, 2011

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

**8:30a Worship** (Traditional)  
9:15a Church School for Children and Adults  
**10:30a Worship/** Children's Sunday School  
→ **Third Grade Bibles given**  
11:30a Social Hour:  
11:30a Toward Affirmation (1<sup>st</sup> yr. Confirmands)  
6:30p YF – Talk Time (What Community Will You Chose)

## Volunteers for September 25<sup>th</sup>

Greeters: G.&S. Jensen / R.&S. Holle  
Nursery: H. Bowman, M. Peyak, M. Ferda, S. Keenan,  
J. Bebout  
Special Music: Bells/ Children's Choir  
Ushers: L. Luginbill, H. Walker, S. Truby, S. Ward,  
H. Bowman, K. Fratz, A. McVan  
Van Driver: C. Jones  
Visitor Outlook: S. Ward

**Bethany United  
Church of Christ**

1235 Broad Blvd.  
Cuyahoga Falls OH 44223

Office: 330-923-5277

Fax: 330-923-3210

Website

[www.bethanyucc.org](http://www.bethanyucc.org)

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #197  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223-2428

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED