

## Take a Tally!

Nearly two years ago we did an Advent devotion with the youth in which we asked them to write down their most important beliefs and values on a piece of paper. Then we asked them to make a log of how they spent their time in an average week on another. After that we asked them to make a tally of how much of their time actually went toward expressing their most important beliefs and values.

It was very telling for all of us. As you might guess the actual amount of time and energy we put into living out our stated values and beliefs is often much less than we might hope for or imagine.

Why? Well, often life gets so full of so many things that we just “have to do” that the things we really believe in, the things that we truly value, get squeezed out; the need here might be for organization, structure, and self-discipline. Sometimes, too, our stated values and beliefs are just that, stated but not real in terms of what we’ve really made priorities in our life, other things are more important; the need here might be for self-examination, reflection, and discernment.

Given the pace of life today, and all the things that allure us and pull us away from what’s truly important, I’d bet that most of us have both kinds of needs, all the time. That’s why I’d like to invite you to do two things.

The first is right now, today – make your tally! Write down your most important beliefs and values. Then make a log of how you spend your time ever week (for an even clearer picture you can do it with money, too). Then compare your stated beliefs and values with what you’ve been giving yourself to, that is how you’ve been spending your time (and perhaps money) and see what it tells you. See if it doesn’t indicate a need for some time focused on faith and your faith family.

Second, in three weeks,...



## Come to the Retreat!

The *Faith at Home Retreat* is a chance to reflect not only on where we’ve been putting God in our lives at home but what we can do to make God a more important part of our lives every day.

As you consider this opportunity you might do another time tally. The whole annual retreat goes from Friday night, October 7, to Sunday morning, October 9 – about 40 hours. About 3-4 of those hours will be spent on skits and discussions on our theme; 1 – 1 ½ hours will be spent in worship; 4 hours sharing some great meals; 3-4 hours of planned activities will be offered – a night hike, wagon ride, action/challenge course, and game show. In addition there will be lot of free time options - further group discussion or private reflection; games and crafts, or just relaxing. All of which can help strengthen your relationship to God and your faith family.

If you’d like, you can do a financial tally, too. The cost for one adult for the whole weekend is \$60 (youth and children are less, as are day trippers; see another article for details). That’s for one retreat in a year! How does that compare with what you might spend in a year on – golf? Or to go to Browns, Cavs, or Indians games? Or to eat out? Or to pursue a hobby? Or to buy new clothes? Or remodel or accessorize your home?

How do these tallies compare with how you’ve spent your time and money on other, perhaps, less important things in the last year? I hope you’ll reflect on them carefully and ask yourself if the *Faith at Home Retreat*-would not be time and money well spent – on two things that really matter – your faith and your faith family!

*With Hope and Anticipation for a Great Retreat, Pastor Steve*

## Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

**Bell Choir Practice** (every Monday) **7:00 pm**

**Retreat Committee Meeting** **7:30 pm**



**The Memory Bells** are looking for new members! We meet Monday evenings from 7-8 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Anyone in sixth grade or older is welcome. You may be surprised that ringing bells is not as hard as it seems. Being able to read music is NOT required – all that is needed is to know your left hand from your right and be able to count to four (sometime six). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dawn Filler.

*P.S. Dawn is Bethany's new organist/bell director.*

## Kerygma Begins

**Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 p.m., in the Lounge**

**We'll begin our study of**

***"The Commandments: Rules for Life!"***



## 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.

## Would You Like to Know...

### ...More about Bethany?

If you've been attending Bethany as a visitor and would like to know more about our congregation and the wider United Church faith family, please contact Pastor Steve at 330-923-5277 or [pastor@bethany.ald](mailto:pastor@bethany.ald). He'll be glad to talk to you and answer any questions you might have.

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study

We will resume Bethany's Bible Study on

**September 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00 AM**

**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.



**friday september 23rd**  
**first day of autumn**

*It's time again to...*  
**Save your ACME Receipts!**

The ACME program 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.

## The Incredible Good Neighbors Stock-a-Thon

Boxes are available around the church for your donations and our progress is tracked on the display in the social hall. **One more week.**

**(Non-Perishable Food)**

9/25	Pasta Sauce
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***Thank you for your generosity!***



## Family Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

8:30a Worship: *Memory Bell Choir to play*  
 10:30a Worship: *Third graders to receive their Bibles; also the children's choirs will be singing.*



2011

2012

September 25	Toward Affirmation - 1 <sup>st</sup> year only
October 2	Class for 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
October 16	Mentor Meal and Meeting

## Youth



9/25	6:30p	Talk Time – <i>What Community Will You Choose?</i>
10/02	5:00p	Prepare – <i>Blessing of the Animals</i>
10/07	Fri-Sun	<i>Faith at Home Retreat</i>
10/16	6:30p	Halloween Planning
10/23	5:00p	Halloween Planning

Bethany's **GREEN Team** is interested in inviting the congregation to go to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the "Smart Home" on Saturday, **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. We can take the van there to explore innovative solutions for climate change. Admission to the museum is about \$10 pending age and how many go; \$5 additional for the Smart House and \$4 more if any wants to go to the Planetarium. Please call the church office if interested.  
 (Time going? TBA)

*Social Hour Schedule ...  
 Posted by church office.*

**Presented by Bethany Nurses...**  
**Faithfully Walking**  
**Fitness Challenge**  
**Don't forget your pledge!**  
**Don't forget to walk!**

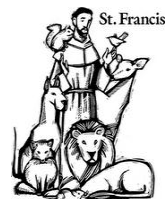
## Bible 101

**Why the Bible Matters – in One Hour!**  
**Sunday, October 2, 9:30 am, Social Hall**  
**Combined Adult Class**

We're in many different places in relation to the Bible. You may have been reading it since you were a child. You may feel you don't know enough even to open it. If you are either of these, or somewhere in between – the Bible 101 combined class is for you!

We'll consider important questions like:

- ❖ What is the Bible?
- ❖ What isn't it?
- ❖ Why does what it says matter to us as Christians?
- ❖ What's important to remember as we read it?
- ❖ All Bethany youth and adults are invited to attend.



## Blessing of the Animals

At **6:00** pm, on **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**, in honor of the Feast of St. Francis, we will have our second annual *Blessing of the Animals* service. We'll welcome the pets of our faith community to our church lawn; affirm the gifts and blessings they bring to our lives. Since they ultimately belong to God and not us, and we've only been entrusted with their care, we ourselves need God's guidance and blessing as their caretakers. The service will be lively and informal and a great way to welcome God's care into an important part of our lives. If you have a pet or even if you don't, come join us in asking God's blessing on a precious part of God's creation. We'll gather on the Sunday School lawn by the Peace Pole.

**New news**  
**regarding reservations!**

## Bethany Buckeyes

The Bethany Buckeyes is an informal group of men and women who are at least 50 years old. They meet the first Friday of every month and celebrate with good food, games and laughter. The next meeting will be **October 7<sup>th</sup>** at 6 o'clock.

- ❖ **NEW THIS YEAR:** Reservations are needed and must be made by the FRIDAY BEFORE the next Buckeye gathering. (Our "chef" needs to plan!) That means **NO LATER** than *September 30<sup>th</sup>* for October 7<sup>th</sup>. You may call in your reservations to the church office, 330-923-5277, or mark your Sunday attendance card by Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.



Share your time and talent with another individual or family during our host week at Bethany. Preparing and serving the supper meal by the host family can be very rewarding. **Our next rotation for Family Promise is the week of October 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.** Please contact Carol Clemente at 330-422-0643 if you are willing to share!

## Ministry Committee

The Ministry Committee is looking for three new members. We thank and miss our former three members: Doris Brubaker, Joann Boling and Kathy Keenan who were very dedicated and hardworking. A brief summary of what we do: each member is responsible for a month in the year to schedule greeters for Sunday mornings and send greeting cards such as get well, sympathy, etc. to congregation members as needed. We also deliver Christmas and Easter flowers to our homebound members on the Remembrance List. The committee hosts a social hour as well. We don't meet every month but when we do meet it is always a blast! Please call Martha Peyak at 330-923-1674 for more information and to join us.

## Hospice of the Western Reserve

addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of seriously ill people and their families. Committed and passionate volunteers allow us to care for thousands of patients and their families. A few hours of your time will make a world of difference for our neighbors. Our next volunteer education will take place at Hospice of the Western Reserve, 150 Springside Dr., Suite A-100, Fairlawn, on Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning November 21<sup>st</sup> through December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

More info or to register: Joan Ibbett 216-970-6201.

**Please remember in your prayers...**

- † Ken Cleary, Akron City Hospital
- † Olive Devine, Haven Homes

**Thanks** to the anonymous donor of “Cap Erasers” (for pencils) given to Pastor Steve to take care of his many mistakes!

## Recycling Info from Ocepeks

Thanks for taking the time and going to the extra effort of recycling your packing materials! We ship out communionware to churches, using many of the items that you have donated. Some have asked about what we can and cannot use, so here's a list for your reference.

We love to receive the following:

- Styrofoam peanuts
- Styrofoam thin sheets
- Air packs
- Bubble wrap
- Foam wrap



We sometimes can use the following:

- Boxes, not too big or too small (usually between the size of a toaster oven and an air conditioner)
- Paper packing
- Padded envelopes

We don't use the following:

- Very large or very small boxes
- Dirty or damaged boxes
- Shredded paper
- Large styrofoam or cardboard chunks

We will do our best to use all the materials you provide, and recycle the rest. When in doubt, bring it in and we'll take care of it!

*Thanks, Deb and Adam Ocepek*



## RE: BATTERIES

**UNFORTUNATELY WE ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE RECYLING BATTERIES. PLEASE DO NOT BRING THEM IN TO CHURCH**

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

That's the theme of our All-Church Retreat October 7 – 9 at beautiful Templed Hills.  
 Enjoy great faith-building, fellowship and fun! A registration form is enclosed.

## BETHANY "Faith at Home" RETREAT 2011 October 7<sup>th</sup> to October 9<sup>th</sup>

The Bethany Church Retreat at Templed Hills is a chance to get away to get to know other church members better and to better know your faith family and yourself, as we reflect together on what it means to live our "faith at home." Plan now to attend this incredible weekend! Sleep in real beds in cabins equipped with bathrooms and showers. The camp staff prepares all meals. There are hiking trails and plenty of recreational activities.\*Childcare will be provided during the "workshops".



For those who cannot come for the entire weekend,  
 join us Saturday morning and return home in the evening. (Carpool available)

### Full Weekend

_____ Adult	\$60 _____	\$ _____
_____ Youth/Confirmand	\$30 _____	\$ _____
_____ Ages 10-12	\$25 _____	\$ _____
_____ Ages 2-9	\$20 _____	\$ _____
_____ Under 2	Free _____	\$ _____

### Subtotal

### One Night

_____ Adult	\$40 _____	\$ _____
_____ Youth/Confirmand	\$25 _____	\$ _____
_____ Ages 10-12	\$20 _____	\$ _____
_____ Ages 2-9	\$15 _____	\$ _____
_____ Under 2	Free _____	\$ _____

### Day Trippers

_____ Adult	\$25 _____	\$ _____
_____ Youth/Confirmand	\$20 _____	\$ _____
_____ Ages 10-12	\$15 _____	\$ _____
_____ Ages 2-9	\$10 _____	\$ _____
_____ Under 2	Free _____	\$ _____

**Total Amt. Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I will need transportation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I/we request vegetarian meals:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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?

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**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.*

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**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!*

**Calendar - additions to ~ or ~ changes to the  
2011 monthly calendar mailed to you.**  
(as of Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>) **September 19<sup>th</sup>** to **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

09/19 7:00p **Bell Choir Practice**  
7:30p Retreat Committee Meeting  
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 *First Day of Autumn*  
9/24 6:30p Mission Committee Dinner  
w/Islamic Center (SH)

### Family Sunday

## September 25, 2011

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

8:00a Bell Choir Rehearsal  
**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 Host: Retreat Committee  
11:30a Toward Affirmation (1<sup>st</sup> yr. Confirmands)  
11:30a 7thDay Practice  
6:30p YF – Talk Time (What Community Will You Chose)

9/26 7:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal  
9/27 9:00a Staff Meeting  
10:00a Newsletter Deadline  
9/28 6:30p Bethany Band Practice (S.Hall)  
**7:00p Committee Night**  
9/29 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice  
9/30  
10/1 TBA Cleveland Museum (Climate Change)  
6:00p Family Promise (Cardboard Box City)

### Sunday ~ October 2, 2010

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

† **World Communion Sunday**

**8:30a Worship** (Communion)  
9:15a Church School for Children only  
Combined Adult Class "Bible 101"  
**10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School/ Communion**  
11:30a Social Hour  
11:30a 7thDay Practice  
11:30a Confirmands / Meal & Class  
5:00p Youth Fellowship  
6:00p **Blessing of the Animals**

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

### 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

### Volunteers for October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Greeters:  
Lay Reader: G. Jensen  
Nursery:  
Special Music: Story & Song / Chance Choir  
Ushers:  
Van Driver: C. Frederick  
Visitor Outlook:

## **INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS**

Night at the Theater

September 24, 2011, 8:00 p.m.

**Weathervane Playhouse**

**3 Guys Naked**

(It's a metaphor! They're not really naked!)

Tickets \$24.00 (recommended for ages 13+)

**All proceeds from tickets purchased through Interfaith Caregivers will help to keep our neighbors independent and living in their own homes.**

**Call Interfaith Caregivers today to reserve your seat: 330-922-1900**

3 Guys Naked is an amazing musical comedy of three stand-up comics that are so accustomed to being naked "emotionally" because they're used to mining their own lives for their stand-up material.

Wild and crazy and very hip, their unique blend of intellectual and slapstick humor propels them from unpaid, neophyte performers to *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*, instant stardom and even their own television show. However, the commercial success evaporates the previous magic.