

Holding Faith and Reason Together

We were created with an innate need for connection with God. Yet, the hurriedness and “harriedness” of life today leaves us all feeling disconnected. Quaker theologian Elton Trueblood made a wise observation when he referred to ours as a “cut-flower civilization.” As he explained it, a cut-flower civilization is one that is cut off from its roots, one that has no means by which to draw nurture from its soil. This is a painfully true description for us in this secular era of rapid change. In many crucial ways we are cut off from our origins.

We are not happy with this lack of connection and rootlessness, we yearn for something better. No wonder so many “spiritualties” have arisen. Sadly, though, many are explicitly or implicitly unchristian. Yet, Christian education is in such dramatic decline – both among children and adults, and mainline churches are doing so poorly at nurturing faith and the life of the Spirit that many people are ill-equipped to sort out what is truly Christian and what is not, much less to live with true Christian purpose and confidence. We need to learn and grow together in understanding our core values.

One of those core values is “holding reason and faith together” – a perspective that our culture seems to increasingly dismiss - which means that we need to intentionally lift it up and teach it. So, I’m going to make a start at it with this article.

To do that I’m going to share about what the great Methodist John Wesley referred to as the “Quadrilateral” – a term with which few of us are familiar but which is at the heart of the roots of our approach to spiritual truth. The Quadrilateral suggests that there are four primary sources of understanding God – scripture, reason, faith, and tradition (the church’s memory and history).

Fundamentalism is so powerfully present in our culture today and in the groups that in many ways have “stolen” the name “Christian” that often three of the Quadrilateral’s sources are ignored. Yet, without a firm grounding in roots that value all four – scripture, reason, faith, and tradition, more and more fall prey to a narrow, intolerant, biblical literalism.

One consequence of this ignorance is that many become swept away by reactionary, fundamentalist traditions that don’t seek to hold faith and reason together. They are also easily swayed by theological assumptions that are essentially non-Christian. Recent evidence of this is the popularity of what’s been called the “Prosperity Gospel” (believe in Jesus and you will materially prosper) and the fascination of some highly political Christians with the philosophy of Ayn Rand (charity is an unfair restraint and burden on those who are meant to lead and excel). Also, without holding reason as a source for discerning God’s will and the truth, they are also vulnerable to be swayed by arguments that can’t stand in the face of what we know rationally and scientifically about the world today.

God has given us four gifts to help us to both know God and God’s will – scripture, reason, faith, and tradition. It’s both intellectual and spiritual laziness not to employ all four in our discipleship. May God help us seek to receive and understand all four gifts. May God help us as a church offer more opportunities for that receiving and understanding.

With Hope of Holding Faith and Reason Together,



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.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study



SAMUEL! SAMUEL!
Every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.
In the CE Office

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. All are welcome.

Save your ACME Receipts!

The ACME Program started...

Receipts dated **SEPTEMBER 24TH**
ending **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. YF truly appreciates your support as the proceeds help fund the youth mission trip.

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 / Oktoberfest

Retreat Committee Meeting
Monday September 26th 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE NIGHT
Wednesday September 28th 7:00 p.m.

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 7th** 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 **reservations** must be made **NO LATER** than **September 30th** for **October 7th**. You may call the church office, 330-923-5277.



*New news
regarding reservations!*

Bethany's **GREEN Team** is arranging a trip to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the “Smart Home” on Saturday, **October 1st**. We will take the van and leave from the west parking lot at 12:00 PM. If you want to drive on your own please meet us at the Museum of Natural History by 1:00 pm so we can take advantage of the group discount (11 tickets). We are not stopping for lunch and plan to return home around 5:00 pm. Please call the church office if interested.



2011

2012

October 2	Meal/Class for 1 st and 2 nd year
October 16	Mentor Meal and Meeting



SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 2, 2011

Communion will be at both worship services.

World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers. Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith.



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 2nd**, 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.

The first Sunday of each month, **Bethany's volunteer nurses**, Linda Goodwin and Holly Keenan, offer blood pressure tests during social hour. If you are interested in having you BP checked look for them **October 2nd** after 10:30 worship.



Don't forget Bell Choir Practice on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Join us - you might like it!!!



Host Week

Our next Family Promise/IHN Host week is **October 9th - 15th**. 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHALLENGE

Have you been out to dinner lately? Filled your gas tank? Or done any grocery shopping? Bethany will make a profit of about 4% on the card purchase. Currently our profit from gift cards is \$1015.00. Each Sunday at the Social Hour someone from the Finance Committee will have cards available for purchase or order.

→ **On Sunday, Oct. 16**, the Finance Committee challenges you to purchase or order cards. An anonymous donor will tithe the total of cards purchased or ordered for that day. What a great way to support Bethany. *The Finance Committee*



Ministry Committee

The Ministry Committee is looking for three new members. 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.



Presented by Bethany Nurses...

Faithfully Walking

Fitness Challenge

Don't forget your pledge!

Don't forget to walk!



Altar Flowers given in September by...

- 09/04 Marcia Spring in memory of Jim and Barbara Bidwell
- 09/11 Marcia Spring and in honor of Donna Bidwell; and by Bob and Jan Charton in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.
- 09/18 Bart and Carol Clemente in memory of Carol's father, Ray Brandon; and by Marcia Spring in memory of grandparents
- 09/25 Marcia Spring in memory of Jim and Barbara Bidwell and in honor of Donna Bidwell.

Use a Tote

More and more municipalities are banning plastic bags from grocery stores and other shopping stops. But if your hometown hasn't made the switch mandatory, take matters into your own hands by ditching plastic bags for good. Keep tote bags handy in your car or desk for impromptu trips to the grocery store. And totes aren't just for food shopping. Take one with you on your next trip to the mall, and carry all your purchases in one reusable bag.



The Bethany Bunch

(Children's Sunday School)

The PreKindergarten/Kindergarten Sunday School Class from Sunday 9/4/11:

Eight bright and shiny faces graced our room. We had said goodbye in May to our friends who were moving on to First Grade. Three new kindergarteners remained in the class and we welcomed five new members. We created a hot air balloon picture to take home that had many of the beautiful colors and shapes God has given us in our world. Priscilla, the classroom cat, also came out of her basket to visit with us when we sang her special song.



The PreKindergarten/Kindergarten Sunday School Class from last Sunday 9/11/11:

We had a very busy time. We painted! –the world! What a big job it was. We painted the backs of paper plates blue (Mrs. Roach was the only one who got paint on her clothes!), let them dry, and then glued small pieces of green tissue paper to form the land. We talked about how God created the world and it is our job to take care of it. We mentioned some of the bad things that happen, both natural and man's fault, and what we might do to help. Our resident friend that lives in the basket Priscilla Puppet visited and brought along a friend, Butterfly Flower the turtle.



Remember in your prayers...

- † Olive Devine, Haven Homes
- † Ken Cleary, home
- † *In Sympathy...* We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Jim and Susan Jacobson on the death of his father, James, September 15th.



The Stephen Series ...

...is a complete system for training and organizing lay people to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around our congregation. For more information, contact Bethany's Stephen Leader-Tammy Jensen.

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 below.

BETHANY "Faith at Home" RETREAT 2011 October 7th to October 9th

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

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

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 \$ _____

Registration Deadline: Sunday, October 2, 2011

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?

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, 6:00 pm – 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, 6:30 pm – October/Steward Fest

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

October 30, 9:30 am – Mission Committee 5th 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!

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

(as of Sept.22nd) **September** to **October 9th**

09/26 7:00p Retreat Meeting
7:00p Bell Choir Practice
09/27 9:00a Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
09/28 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
7:00p **Committee Night**
09/29 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice

09/30

October...

10/01 12:00p **Green Team Trip to Museum of Natural
History – meet at church**

Sunday ~ October 2, 2011

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

8:30a Worship/ Communion
9:15a Church School for Children
Combined Adult Class “Bible 101”
10:30a Worship/ Communion
Children’s Sunday School
→ **Third Grade Bibles given**
11:30a Social Hour Host: Seasons of the Spirit
11:30a Bethany Nurse BP Check
11:30a 7thDay Practice
11:30a Confirmand Meal/Class
5:00p Youth Fellowship
6:30p *Blessing of the Animals*

10/03 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
10/04 9:00a Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
7:30p Kerygma
10/05 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
10/06 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
10/07 6:00p Buckeyes
RETREAT WEEKEND (Templed Hills)
10/08 Retreat & 10/09

Sunday ~ October 9, 2011

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.
† Family Promise Host Week
† Rev. Mark Steiner, guest preacher

8:30a Worship
9:15a Church School for Children and Adults
9:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal
10:30a Worship/ Children’s Sunday School
11:30a Social Hour Host: Lounge Class
6:00p F.P. Meal (SH)

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 October:

Case A-1 Stewardship

Case A-2 Chancel Choir

Volunteers for October 2nd

Greeters:
Lay Reader: G. Jensen
Nursery: P. Cochran, T. Ocepek, C. Dugan, N. Zeller,
M. Arnold
Special Music: Story & Song / Chancel Choir
Ushers: T. Hermann, B. Charton, M.&R. Bowmaster,
M. Spring, N. Buck, A. McVan, M. Jensen,
L. Short, S. Holle, C. McGraw, L. Sheppard
Van Driver: E. Frederick
Visitor Outlook:

Volunteers for October 9th

Greeters:
Lay Reader: H. Keenan
Nursery:
Special Music: Chancel Choir, Bell Choir
Ushers: J.&S. Mancinelli, M. Jensen, J. Grazulis,
J. Seymour, B.&C. Pletzer, J. Bebout
Van Driver: L. Goodwin
Visitor Outlook:

Help Good Neighbors Fill Holiday Food Baskets

As we enter October, the Thanksgiving holiday is not far away. The Mission Committee invites you to help Good Neighbors assist their clients with food. While all non-perishable food items are needed, we are suggesting the following:

October 2	Can of Green Beans
October 9	Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes
October 16	Can of Corn
October 23	Muffin or Corn Bread Mix
October 30	Box of Stuffing Mix

November 6	Can of Soup
November 13	Jello or Pudding Mix
November 20	Jar or Can of Applesauce
November 27	Peanut Butter

December 4	Can of Fruit
December 11	Box of Cereal
December 18	Noodles or Pasta
December 25	Jar of Jelly

Leave your donations on the table in the Social Hall or in one of the boxes you will find near the entrances.