

The Bethany Letter

SUNDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 12, 2010
The Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

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The Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

Children of Abraham: Jews, Christians, and Muslims

A Retreat

Saturday, October 2nd

Relationships between Jews, Christians, and Muslims have long been conflicted. Brief periods of tolerance and cooperation have been overshadowed by hostility, persecution, and violence.

It's tragic that so much human suffering has been caused in the name of Yahweh, Jesus, or Allah. It's doubly tragic because, though these faiths call God by different names and have understandings of God that are in some ways very different, all three trace their roots back to the same God who called Abraham to a journey of faith, through whom God would form a people through whom, "all the people of the earth would be blessed." Yet, sadly, in spite of honoring that common source in God's call to bring blessings to all people, followers of each faith have neglected that common purpose and focused, instead, on how they were right and the others were wrong.

As a result, we've become strangers to one another, full of suspicion and mistrust, often even viewing one another as enemies, and sadly, treating one another that way.

Members of these faith traditions need to begin to reclaim, affirm, and nurture our shared roots in God's call to be a blessing. This doesn't mean ignoring or denying our real differences in how we view God, God's way of working in the world, and how we're called to live as believers (beginning to seriously share together about such things may mean that we need to become clearer about the heart of our own faith tradition.) But it does mean searching diligently for what we have in common and then seeking to build on those understandings.

That's what we'll be trying to do at the October 2 retreat. We'll have some fun going back to our shared roots in God's call to Abraham, learn about Judaism from Rabbi Horowitz of Temple Israel, refresh our own faith understandings with an overview of the unique heart of the Christian faith, learn about Islam from Hakeem Najeeullah of the Islamic Society of Akron and Kent, and then reflect together on God's call to us in light of what we've heard and learned.

There'll be time for fun and fellowship, for young and older, and to simply enjoy the natural beauty of Furnace Run Metro Park. Something else very special - great food from these faith traditions!

I hope you'll mark your calendar, protect the date and be sure to come – individually, as a couple, or a whole family. I believe you'll be blessed and I trust that together the God of Abraham will help us find new ways to be a blessing to others.

With Hope and Anticipation,

Welcome to Bethany UCC

Our Fall Program schedule is as follows:

[Beginning September 12, 2010 and continuing until June 2011](#)

- 8:30 am **Worship** in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Church School for Children and Adults
- 10:30 am **Worship** in the Sanctuary
- 11:30 am Social Hour



Christian Education Schedule 2010/2011 for Children and Adults

9:15 to 11:30 am Nursery available

9:15 Adult Classes

9:15 CHRISTIAN ED for Children

ATTENTION: The structure of the children's Sunday school classes has been reorganized to conform to the guidelines of UCC Safe Church Policy. Also, due to a decreasing number of children in attendance, classes have been combined as follows:

Grades 1-3 will meet in Room 2 (down)

Grades 4-6 will meet in Room 11 (up)

Children START Sunday School Class and then at ...

10:30 am ... children leave class and attend worship service, returning to class after the children's message to finish their lesson. Class ends at 11:30 a.m.

We would appreciate the children attending our full two-hour Sunday school program offered at Bethany.

Bethany offers many ways for adults to learn and grow in faith on Sunday mornings.

- † **Bible Discoveries** – studies one of the books of the Bible
- † **Lounge Class** – discusses a variety of current faith topics
- † **New Orleans Mission** – will discuss a 2011 mission trip
- † **Perspectives** – discusses faith issues in current films
- † **Seasons of the Spirit** – discusses the Biblical themes from that Sunday's worship
- † **Upper Room** – connects the scripture for Sunday worship with life and faith
- † **Women's Class** – Discuss faith and life issues

These classes gather between 9:15 and 9:30 and end by 10:20 in time for the 2nd worship service at 10:30 a.m.

7th Day



CHOIR

Do you find yourself using earphones when you get a free moment? Do you always check to make sure that your IPOD is fully charged before you go to bed? Do you change the presets in your parents' car to your favorite stations? Have you gone to a concert in the last 12 months. Congratulations, you are a genuine music lover! I have a great opportunity for you to share your love of music with your friends and your church family. **Join 7thDay! Everyone is welcome!**

Bethany Kitchen

Saturday, Sept. 18th 11:30 a.m.

Bethany Kitchen provides a **free luncheon** for those in the community who need a meal. Help is always needed for food preparation, serving and cleaning up. **All are welcome** to join us and enjoy fellowship and lunch.



Nursery News

It is that time of the year again where I will be creating the schedule for the upcoming year. The two times are 9:15-10:15 and 10:15-11:30. Two unrelated adults will need to be scheduled for each time slot. Please let me know your time preference by September 12th. **Also, if you have not already done so, please turn in your Safe Church Policy form to the office so you can remain on the schedule.** New volunteers are always welcomed and can request the Safe Church Policy form from the office. Another volunteer option is to be a sub, filling in for volunteers who need to be off for various reasons versus being on the schedule on a regular basis. I look forward to another year in the nursery as we continue to care for the youngest members of our church, raising our future disciples. Please call or email me your preferences. Thanks.

Tammy Jensen, 330-926-0020, tjmj1603@aol.com



Youth Fellowship

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Donato's

The first YF gathering will be Sunday, **September 12th** at Donato's on State Road. We will elect officers for the coming year, play games and, of course, share some great pizza together.



Faith at Home

An Invitation to Welcome God
into Our Everyday Lives

11:45 am – 2:15 pm, September 19th (lounge)

We all have something very important in common: we love Jesus Christ, we love our family members and we are very busy. Sometimes our busy-ness makes it difficult to receive and share our love for God and each other. Our recognition of the way that busy-ness makes living and sharing our faith more difficult tends to make us think of spirituality as something we can share only when we escape from our everyday lives. Yet, faith is meant to be lived and spirituality can be shared by opening ourselves to God in the midst of this busy-ness. This workshop is meant to help us do that. We'll look at faith as how we shape our lives in response to our experience of God as a very real presence in and around us – and live differently, as a result! It's an intentional effort to recognize and welcome the God who is already present in the events of our daily lives. That means our goal as families is to discern, celebrate, and trust God's nearness in the messy, noisy, nitty-gritty chaos of everyday life.

Some things we'll talk about include:

- The Covenant We Share
- What Is Faith?
- The Importance of Family for Faith
- How Do We "Do" It?
- Being the Church at Home

Please consider this special opportunity to reflect on how we can work together to nurture faith at home. Lunch will be provided (free-will offering). Bethany Youth will provide childcare.

You are invited to hear world-renowned pianist, Bob Milne, playing ragtime and boogie-woogie on Sunday, September 19th at 4:00 p.m. Trinity UCC, 215 High St., Wadsworth. (Free will Offering)



You are invited to a concert to benefit Bryan Sirchio's mission in Haiti on Sept. 25th at 7:00 pm and Sept. 26th at 10:30 am. At Middleburg Hts. Community UCC, 2165 Big Creek Parkway, Middleburg Heights. (Free will Offering)

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Begins September 22nd

NEW TIME ~ 9:00 a.m.

Join us on Wednesdays for an uplifting and informative Bible study with the Rev. Sharon Alberson leading our discussions. We meet in the Christian Education office and all men and women of Bethany are invited!

thank you

Dear Bethany Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards I received during my recent hospital stay. I appreciate all your concern.
Shirley Cleary

Please remember in your prayers...



- † Barbara Sunyecz, home
- † Joe Probeck, Akron General
- † Jeanette Paddison, Hospice at Ridgewood

Bethany Night at Donato's



The Youth Fellowship will be hosting
Bethany Night at Donato's,
Wednesday, September 29th from 5:00 to
8:00 p.m. Join us! We have a great time!
Good food and fellowship!

Children of Abraham: Members of One Family
Saturday, October 2nd
9:30a – 9:30p

Furnace Run Metro Park

A Retreat



Mark your calendar now!

Abraham, who obeyed God's call to leave a settled life and go to a place that God would show him where in spite of his old age, he would become the father of a people through whom all the world would be blessed, is the father of our faith. His obedience to God's call was the seed through which the Jewish faith, then Christianity, but also Islam, have grown. The Retreat Committee would like to invite members of the Bethany family to reconnect with these roots and also develop connections with others of God's children, who are also descendants of Abraham, from the Jewish and Muslim faiths. The retreat will include sharing by representatives of all three faiths, time for crafts and recreation, some great food, inspiring worship, and lively entertainment. It's being planned to be a special day for all ages. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

**Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2010 monthly calendar mailed to you.
September 13th to September 26th**

9/13 9:00a Quilters
9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry (Lounge)
6:00p Family Promise Meal (SH)
9/14 9:00a Staff Meeting
10:00a Newsletter Deadline
6:00p Family Promise Meal (SH)
9/15 6:00p Family Promise Meal (SH)
9/16 6:00p Family Promise Meal (SH)
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
9/17 6:00p Family Promise Meal (SH)
9/18 11:30a Bethany Kitchen
6:00p Family Promise 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...

† **Find someone** to take your place ... **and then**
† **call the church office** so we may make the necessary changes on our schedules

Sunday ~ September 19, 2010

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

8:00a 7thDay Practice
8:30a Worship (Fellowship)
9:15a Church School for All Ages
10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School
11:30a Social Hour
11:30a Family Spirituality (Lounge) YF-childcare

Volunteers for September 19th

Cup Washer: A. Zeller
Greeters: P. Casper, m. Morris / D.&J. Welfley
Lay Reader: M. Heyburn
Special Music: 7thDay / Chancel Choir
Nursery: S. Ward, J. Dugan, K. Dugan, D. Shroyer
Ushers: T. Hermann, F. Read M. Seymour, M. Seguin,
A. McVan, S. Mancinelli, R. Berie, M. Spring
Van Driver: S. Gaskill
Visitor Outlook: N. Buck

9/20 9:00a Quilters
9/21 9:00a Staff Meeting (L)
7:30p Kerygma
9/22 9:30a Bible Study (CE)
7/7:30p COMMITTEE NIGHT
9/23 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
9/24
9/25 8:00a S. Hall Rsrvd. 11:00p



for all ages!

Family Sunday September 26th

† 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
11:30a Social Hour
11:30a 7thDay Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
11:30a 2nd yr. Confirmands - Orientation
11:30a YF to Cleveland Zoo

Volunteers for September 26th

Cup Washing: C. Eberhardt
Greeters: D. Brubaker, F. Eckenrode
Special Music: Young Shepherds
Nursery: M. Peyak, T. Jensen, H. Bedillion, C. Bedillion
Ushers: R.&S. Holle, H. Walker, M.&R. Bowmaster,
H. Bowman, L. Short, J. Smith
Van Driver: C. Jones
Visitor Outlook: S. Ward

Yet another Adult Sunday School Opportunity!

It is now five years after Katrina and there is still an astronomical need for our help. Hopefully all of you heard about the Mission Trip that Carol Clemente and I went on to New Orleans this past February. As a result of that trip we both feel driven toward assuring that we send a group from Bethany to New Orleans, sometime in this next year. Toward that end, I will be conducting an Adult Sunday School Class beginning on September 19th. If you would like to learn more about the affect of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast and specifically on New Orleans, please plan on attending. I have collected a wealth of information. This class will continue until we feel that we have sufficiently covered the subject. It is not necessary that you intend to go on a trip to New Orleans in order to attend. Maybe you are not physically able to go, but would like to support a group. There are those who don't believe that it is even smart to rebuild New Orleans. Even if you question the sensibility of rebuilding below Sea Level you are welcome. The Gulf Oil Spill has also greatly affected the area and will also certainly be a subject of discussion. Again, the focus of this class will be first to define a group who is interested in and able to go to New Orleans and help in the rebuilding. Secondly we will set a date for a Mission Trip to New Orleans. Beyond these two goals...who knows...we will see where the spirit leads us. Thank you, Brad Bebout

