

The Bethany Letter

SUNDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 19, 2010
The Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

VOLUME 2010

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The Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

Blessing of the Animals

A Special Service
Sunday Evening, October 3rd



God blessed the prophet Isaiah with a vision:

*The wolf shall live with the lamb, and the leopard lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion, and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.*

What a remarkable vision! Animals, which people had feared since beyond remembering, would reveal to us the nature of God's love – the wolf will lie down with the lamb!

This reminds us that the Bible takes animals seriously as creatures of God and as participants in and beneficiaries of, God's saving work.

We see this again in Mark's Gospel. Jesus, alone in the wilderness, struggling with great temptation, makes friends with the wild animals – bears, leopards, lions, wolves, poisonous snakes, and scorpions. He begins to live out the vision of Isaiah – as the wolf lives with the lamb (Jesus). Jesus does not kill the animals, nor dominate them, in order to protect himself. He is simply "with them."

It was a long time until anyone else picked up that vision – thirteen centuries to be exact! It was then that a young man named Francis from the little Italian town of Assisi heard God's call to leave behind wealth and comfort and begin to serve God by loving all creation – all of it!

That's what Francis did! He came to understand that all creatures are connected. He said, "Those who exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, will deal the same way with people." He saw that how we treat animals is the way we also deal with each other.

Five centuries later, the writer Robert Louis Stevenson saw a man beating his dog. Stevenson at once interfered, and when the owner resented his interference and told him, "It's not your dog!" he cried out, "It's God's dog, and I'm here to protect it!"

Animals belong to God and not to us! That's why, on the evening of October 3, the eve of the Feast of St. Francis, we're going to have a "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, and that 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 are a pet owner, I hope you'll be there with your pet. Even if you don't have a pet, I hope you'll join us in asking God's blessing on a precious part of creation.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Every Sunday Morning

- 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.

*Receiving their Bible in worship today
are third graders:*

*Benjamin Ferda
Jackson Gallagher
Samantha Lees
Ameah McVan
Laela McVan
Chad Renner
Nathan McTague*

Worship

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 – Discusses faith and life issues

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



*Living God, reveal your light
and truth to this generation in
vital worship. We thank you.
We praise you. We worship
you. We long for the fullness of
your reign of love and justice.
In the holy name of Jesus
Christ, Light and Truth. Amen.*

Adult Sunday School Opportunity!

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



Begins ...

Wednesday, 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!

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!

Bethany Buckeyes

The Bethany Buckeyes is an informal group of men and women who are at least 50 years old. We meet the first Friday of every month and celebrate with food, games and laughter. Our next meeting will be Friday, **October 1st**, 6:00 pm. Remember to mark your attendance card or call in your reservation to the church office, 330-923-5277.



Sunday School

PLEASE consider being a helper in our 2 – 3 year old class (Betty Caiola) or our 4 – 5 year old class (Suzanne Roach) We just need you one Sunday every couple of months. Let the office or Carolyn Shroyer know when you might be available. Thanks

How We're Doing...

	Income	Expenses	+ or -
August	21,806	26,330	- 4,524
Y-T-D	196,187	210,393	-14,206

COMMITTEE NIGHT

Wednesday, September 22nd

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.

Reason to Celebrate!

The Bebout Family gathered last Sunday afternoon to celebrate the addition of two little girls to our family. Amber Bebout Jones has been given custody of Layla (6) and Arianna (2) who are sisters and we want all of you to share our joy!!

Need a ride to Worship?

There is one waiting for YOU! Just call the office at 330-923-5277 by 4:00 p.m. Friday 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.

Please remember in your prayers...

† Joe Probeck, Akron General
† Evelyn Vance, Akron City



† We received an e-mail from Diane Nielsen regarding her mother, Phoebe Gero. She broke her hip and is in the hospital. She is at Palos Community Hospital, #410B and direct phone is 1-708-923-5410. Send cards to:

Phoebe Gero, c/o Susan Hickerson
9024 Linden Dr., Tinley Park, IL 60487

† *"Special Thoughts"* to Bethany members who are unable to worship with us Sunday mornings. Please keep them in your prayers and keep in touch with a call or a card!

† In Sympathy,

We express our Christian sympathy and extend our prayers to the family of Bethany member, Jeanette Paddison who passed away September 9th.



Plastic Savings

About 89 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are used each year. But a collection of canvas bags decreases this need for plastic. Reusable bags only cost about a dollar, and some stores will even give you a small credit for utilizing a reusable bag.

- 🌍 Look for reusable bags at thrift stores. They can be any fabric type or size, as long as they suit your needs
- 🌍 Sturdy bags from clothing stores can be reused for shopping trips until they wear out
- 🌍 Retailers sell inexpensive reusable bags, some of which collapse down to reduce space in your car or purse
- 🌍 Keep extra bags on hand at the office in case a co-worker is ever in need of an extra sack
- 🌍 Get your kids involved by letting them decorate their own reusable canvas bag. They'll love adding their own touch and helping you with the groceries
- 🌍 Package gifts to friends and family in reusable shopping bags. You'll save on disposable gift bags and share some reuse karma with others

**Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2010 monthly calendar mailed to you.
September 20th to October 3rd**

9/20 9:00a Quilters
 9/21 9:00a Staff Meeting (L)
 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
 7:30p Kerygma
 9/22 9:30a Bible Study Starts (CE)
 7/7:30p COMMITTEE NIGHT
 9/23 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
 9/24
 9/25 8:00a S. Hall Rsrvd. 11:00p

Family Sunday

September 26th

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 † Children remain in worship

8:30a Worship (Traditional)
 9:15a Church School for All Ages
10:30a Worship
 11:30a Coffee Hour
 11:30a 7thDay Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 11:30a 2nd yr. Confirmands - Orientation
 11:30a YF to Cleveland Zoo

9/27 9:00a Quilters
 9/28 9:00a Staff Meeting
 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
 9/29 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
 5:00p Bethany Night at Donato's 8:00p
 9/30 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice

October...

10/01 6:00p Buckeyes
 10/02 8:00a S. Hall Rsrvd. 10:00p
 9:30a **ALL CHURCH RETREAT** 9:30p
 (Furnace Run)

Sunday ~ October 3, 2010

† Nursery Available 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 † World Communion ~ Communion at both services

8:30a Worship
 9:15a Church School for All Ages
10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School
 11:30a Coffee Hour
 11:30a 7thDay Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 11:30a Conf. Meal/Class
 11:30a Bethany Nurse BP Check
 5:00p **Bless the Animals** – Youth Event

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

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



*My word... will not return to me empty,
 but will accomplish what I desire and
 achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
 Isaiah 55:11, NIV*

Volunteers for October 3rd

Cup Washer: A. Zeller
 Greeters:
 Lay Reader: G. Jensen
 Special Music: Chancel Choir
 Nursery:
 Ushers:
 Van Driver: C. Frederick
 Visitor Outlook:

100 Holes for the Homeless

On **MONDAY~ SEPTEMBER 27TH** I will play 100 holes of golf to raise money for Family Promise of Summit County (formerly IHN of Summit County). Family Promise provides a vital service to homeless in our area. Please help me in the largest fund raising event that Family Promise conducts by filling out the form below or by writing a check and sending it to the address noted. *Thank you, Rollie Seguin*

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Pledge Card

Family Promise - 100 Holes for the Homeless

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

I WOULD LIKE TO PLEDGE \$_____ PER HOLE.

I WOULD LIKE TO PLEDGE A **FIXED** AMOUNT OF \$_____

Mail to: **Roland Seguin**
1830 Highbridge Road
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

*An original musical based on the book of Ester
by Sharon Dobbins Alberson*

"A Star for Freedom"

*Presented by The Urban Ministries Working Group of the
EOA Church in the World Department*

November 6th

3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Trinity United Church of Christ

915 North Main Street

Akron, Ohio 44310

Tickets: Adults - \$10

Children 10 & under - \$5

**Tickets may be purchased at the door or
reserved by calling 330-929-7704**

**** \$5 spaghetti dinner 4:00 - 6:30 **
Family discount packages available**

*All proceeds benefit the ministries of Akron Trinity, East Market,
Miller Avenue, and Willard UCC Churches.*