

The Bethany Letter

SUNDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 26, 2010
The Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

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The Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

Your Heart Will Follow

We've heard these words from Matthew 6: 19-20 many times:

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Martin B. Copenhaver gives us some important things to think about in regard to them.

Jesus' statement, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," may sound familiar, but if we don't read it with care we might reverse the statement through a kind of scriptural dyslexia. We might read it to say, "Where your heart is, there will your treasure be also." That would make sense to us because much of the time our dollars follow our heart's lead. We give to what matters to us. But that isn't what Jesus said.

That's the appeal you hear over and over again from, say, National Public Radio or your alma mater: If you care about this institution, you will write a check. In other words, "Where your heart is, there will your treasure be also." But Jesus didn't say that.

Jesus is speaking of a different dynamic: Give and spend where you want your heart to be, and then let your heart catch up. Don't just give to those things you care about. Give to the things you want to care about. Ask yourself, "If I were the sort of person I long to be, then what would I do? How would I spend my money?" Then, do what you would do if you were that sort of person. Put your treasure where you want your heart to be. And if you do, says Jesus, your heart will go there. If you want to care more about the kind of car you drive, buy an expensive one. If you want to care more about property values, remodel your house. But if you want to grow in your faith, bring an offering to God. Wherever your treasure is, your heart is sure to follow.

Prayer

O God, fashion my spending and my giving in ways that refashion my heart. Amen.

May God answer that prayer! May God help you and me to put our treasure where we want our hearts to be, where we, when we're truly honest, know that God wants our lives to be focused.

With Hope for What Our Hearts May One Day Treasure,

Every Sunday Morning at BUCC

- 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

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

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!

Acme Receipts!


A Chance to Help YF!

Over the years Bethany members have provided important support for our Youth Ministry by collecting Acme Receipts. You can help us again this year! Please save and turn in receipts dated September 25th – February 19th. Collection boxes are at all the entrances. The YF is grateful for your support!

A MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS IS BEING PLANNED!



We will be gathering in the Social Hall during the Sunday school hour. Our two Main goals are to identify a group of adults interested in going to New Orleans and to set a date for a Mission Trip. If there is interest, we will also study the effects of hurricane Katrina and the progress of the rebuilding efforts, five years later. Possible topics might include; why we should care and why New Orleans should be rebuilt. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you plan on going on this trip. If you interested in going on this mission trip, but are unable to attend these classes, please contact Brad Bebout.

 *Happy Birthday to
Gerry Czetli
Her special day was September 20th*

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!



ATTENTION DONATO'S DINERS!

Double up Bethany's earnings from Donato's Night by PRE-purchasing gift cards – not only will the youth receive their percentage of the proceeds of the event, but Bethany will earn an additional 9.75% from the gift cards. They will be on sale in the social hall on Sunday. A list of the most popular gift cards is included with this newsletter, but there are many more available. Pick up a copy of the full list at the sales table. You may fill out a request form during the week and put it *along with your check* in the Consistory/Financial Secretary's mailbox in the office hallway. Mary orders the card on Sunday evenings. Contact Mary Seymour at seymourm@ucc.org with any questions.

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.



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 call in your reservation to the church office, 330-923-5277.

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 faith was the seed through which Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, have grown. The Retreat Committee invites 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. We'll have representatives of all three faiths, time for crafts and recreation, some great food, inspiring worship, and lively entertainment. It will be a special day for all ages! Please register by calling the church office.

River Valley Paper Company

Fun Facts!

Did you know? One 3-foot stack of newspaper is equal to one tree, approximately 30 feet tall
Bethany's recycled paper has had the following environmental impact 8/1 – 8/31

Saved: 29.67 trees

5.24 yards of landfill

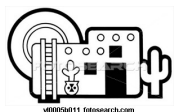
12,219 gallons of water

7,157 kilowatts of electricity, enough to heat 1 home for 6 months



Blessing of the Animals

At **6:00** pm, on **October 3rd**, 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. 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 Sunday School lawn by the Peace Pole.



It's scheduled!

Esperanza 2011

Feb 19th ~ Feb 26th

A brief information / planning meeting will be held in the adult library after the 10:30 service on **Sunday, Oct. 3rd**. Are you interested in going on this mission trip? Please join us! Any questions please call Bill Leas at 330-673-3389.

Family Promise/IHN Host Week

Thanks to all of our volunteers for helping with our Family Promise/IHN Host week. We appreciated the time our volunteers gave to our families by providing leadership each evening, fixing a meal, driving the van, doing the laundry, being at the Family Center and staying overnight. We also appreciate the members who contributed funds to pay for staff at the Family Center. We had two families, made up of two moms, one dad, and nine children. The families were appreciative of the caring attitude and compassion shown to them by our Bethany Volunteers. We are thankful for the support Bethany members give to this important mission in our community. *Bob and Carolyn*

Bethany Kitchen Update

† We served 70 meals to 50 guests at Bethany Kitchen last Saturday. The meal went smoothly thanks to the volunteers who helped prepare, serve and clean up. Your help with and support of this mission for our community was greatly appreciated. Thanks to Lou Atleson, Marty Crichton, Kathy Keenan, Harvey Koudela, Sue Mancinelli, Cheryl McGraw, Martha Peyak, Bob Pletzer, and Janice Smith.

† When Bethany Kitchen first began, the responsibility for each month was shared by several people. We are going to try this approach again and we thank Kathy Keenan, Martha Peyak and Doug Shroyer for agreeing to be coordinators. They will rotate responsibility for this monthly mission. Harvey Koudela will be responsible for coordinating food purchased from the Akron Canton Foodbank for these meals. We will plan on the continued support of our faithful volunteers to help with meal preparation, set up, serving and clean up. *Mission Committee*

Bags for Williard UCC

Please make an effort to choose PAPER BAGS at the grocery store when possible, and save them for Williard. Of course plastic bags are also welcome and needed. Your bags can be left in the lower level room next to the choir room; in the same place we collect packing materials. This is not only a great help to our friends at the Williard Food Pantry, but also great stewardship of resources!



Reasons to Recycle Plastic Bottles

- 🌍 **Shed some light on the issue.**
Recycling a single plastic bottle can conserve enough energy to light a 60-watt light bulb for up to six hours.
- 🌍 **Get a creative boost.**
Recycled plastic bottles can be made into products such as clothing, carpeting, detergent bottles and lumber for outdoor decking.
- 🌍 **Walk it out.**
More than 80 percent of U.S. households have access to a plastics recycling program, be it curbside or community drop-off centers.
- 🌍 **Make room.**
Recycling one ton of plastic saves 7.4 cubic yards of landfill space.

Dinner & Concert

to benefit

Clean Water and Bethany Missions

*Featuring the Musical Stylings of
Heyburn, Heyburn, Parker & Bair*

Saturday, October 9, 2010

**Pasta Dinner
5 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.**

CONCERT

**follows at 7 p.m.
Bethany UCC**

Please remember in your prayers...

- † **Joe Probeck**, Select Specialty Hospital
- † **Evelyn Vance**, Akron City
- † **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!

**Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2010 monthly calendar mailed to you.
September 27th to October 10th**

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
 7:00p Bell Choir Practice
 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
 11:30a Esperanza Meeting (A. Libr.)
 5:00p YF
6:00p Bless the Animals – Youth Event

10/04 9:00a Quilters
 10/05 9:00a Staff Meeting (lounge)
 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
 10/06 9:00a Bible Study (CE)
 7:00p Bell Choir
 7:30p Spiritual Council
 10/07 7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
 10/08
 10/09 5:00p Mission's Dinner/ Concert at 7:00p

Sunday ~ October 10

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

8:30a Worship (Healing & Reconciliation)
 9:15a Church School for All Ages
10:30a Worship/ Children's Sunday School/ Baptism
 11:30a Social Hour
 11:30a 7thDay Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 11:30a Confirmands/ Meal/Meeting
 5:00p YF – Fun and Stuff

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 October 3rd

Cup Washer: A. Zeller
 Greeters: D.&C. Shroyer / J.&S. Mancinelli
 Lay Reader: G. Jensen
 Special Music: Story & Song/ Chancel Choir
 Nursery:
 Ushers: R. Holle, B. Charton, S. Truby S. Ward,
 H. Koudela, J. Smith, L. Sheppard, S. Mancinelli
 K. Fratz, B. Pletzer, N. Buck, M. Spring
 Van Driver: C. Frederick
 Visitor Outlook:

Volunteers are always needed

Volunteers for October 10th

Cup Washing: C. Eberhardt
 Greeters: Pre K-K Class / J.&A. Randall
 Lay Reader: H. Keenan
 Special Music: / Chancel Choir
 Nursery:
 Ushers: L. Luginbill, M. Jensen, M. Seymour, M. Seguin,
 A. McVan, H. Bowman, J. Bebout, R. Berie
 Van Driver: E. Frederick
 Visitor Outlook: S. Ward

*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.*