

The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ

March 2014

Bethel United Church of Christ Our mission is to be and make disciples In authentic community for the good of the world.

Your Prayers Won't Get Off the Ground

Isaiah 58:1-9 "Shout! A full-throated shout! Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout! Tell my people what's wrong with their lives, face my family Jacob with their sins! They're busy, busy, busy at worship, and love studying all about me.

To all appearances they're a nation of right-living people—law-abiding, Godhonoring. They ask me, 'What's the right thing to do?' and love having me on their side. But they also complain, 'Why do we fast and you don't look our way?

Why do we humble ourselves and you don't even notice?'

"Well, here's why: "The bottom line on your 'fast days' is profit. You drive your employees much too hard. You fast, but at the same time you bicker and fight.

You fast, but you swing a mean fist. The kind of fasting you do won't get your prayers off the ground. Do you think this is the kind of fast day I'm after: a day to show off humility? To put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black? Do you call *that* fasting,

a fast day that I, God, would like? "This is the kind of fast day I'm after:

to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts.

What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families.

Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way.

The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am. *The Message*

Meanderings March 2014

For you sports fans especially College Basketball Fans, the time is drawing near for you with selection Sunday. Then you have to make all of your picks and pray that your brackets are completed and the Final Four or at least one of them make it to the Big Dance. For non-basketball folks that is a foreign language unto itself.

For you Christian Fans of Lent it is fast approaching too, Ash Wednesday is drawing near. The time for the traditional giving up something is approaching. I want to share these words with you from Isaiah 58:1-9 from The Message...after you have read them you may want to cut it out and place it next to your Bracket Box for Basketball.

We continue to be encouraged to give up one or two things for Lent. You all know what I mean, give up chocolate, sweets, movies, your favorite (fill in the blank) and whatever else. All you do is just think about it or talk about, and how soon you wish Lent were over so you could reengage yourself with what you gave up.

What if instead of giving up we took upon ourselves as the Prophet Isaiah suggests, "What I'm interested in seeing you do is: That is correct we take on something new in our lives and then after that Forty Days of Lent, we can just keep on keeping on with what we have found to be a new way to serve the Lord. Make a point to call or visit at least one of those on our prayer list or non-Sunday worshippers. Help with Habitat Build this year as they build a home for a Veteran. The list is endless on what we can take upon our reflective selves. This is not to take away what we as Christians believe Lent can be in our lives.

Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ- his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

Keep the faith, read the scripture from Isaiah, pick-up something new and good luck on your BB picks. Jesus did not play basketball but I imagine he could make the game winning shot.

Pastor Haan

Bethel United Church of Christ Consistory Notes

Date: February 11, 2014

Finance Report: Jacqueline Sanor

Anne McKarns wrote a note for the newsletter for giving/tithing on-line.

Deacons decided to put Church advertisement in Morning Journal (Fact Book) for 2014.

Bills are paid to this week but giving is down and money has been tight.

Consistory President's Report: Nancy Howenstine asked for a letter of agreement between her and the church. A letter was drafted by Luanne Sanor and Rev. Phelps and sent to her to sign.

Pastors Report: A typed report was provided by Reverend Haan Phelps. Rev. Haan request time away May 15 -18 (Sunday May 18) and May 28 through June 11(Sunday June 1 and June 8) for Study Leave.

Rev. Haan has asked Elders to go at least once a month to make home visits with him. Luanne Sanor, Gloria Kurena and Anne McKarns all reported about their personal moving experiences going on their past home visits.

All Ministry Reports:

Food Pantry: Lee Kornick reported that 62 people came one week and only 7 people came the next week to food pantry. Lee feels these numbers are due to the weather. The food pantry needs more helpers for the rest of the winter.

Property Team: Lee Kornick reported Wayne Fieldhouse, Ken Harris and himself met with Kenny Hoopes to finalize issues to prepare bids to go out. The bids are expected to go out by the end of Feb. When they come back they will be finalized. Actual work should begin at the beginning of March.

Worship: Reverend Haan Phelps reported he is planning for an Ash Wednesday Meal and Service on March 5th beginning at 5:30 P.M.

Old Business: Rev. Phelps and the Consistory are looking at options for VBS including doing a joint program with neighboring churches. They will continue to explore options.

The website status was reviewed and a potential new site with LightJourney.com was introduced to the group. Consistory will do further study of the new site options in comparison with our present site, which is currently under renovation.

New Business: The new date for Consistory training has been set for March 1, from 4:30-7:30pm. A new community program, "*Open Table*" from Poverty to Wholeness, was introduced to the consistory. Optional community awareness of the program will be available in the month of February. Information will be placed in the bulletin and consistory members were encouraged to participate in one of the events if possible.

The consistory is continuing to look at the organization of committees and teams to fulfill the mission of this church. Reverend Haan Phelps passed out informational papers of different committees and asked that the Elders and/or Deacons read it over before the training session.

Minutes Taken By: Jacqueline Sanor

Beacon Financial Report: January 2014

Monthly approved budget \$14,437.61

Income: \$ 8,589.96 annual 2014: \$ 8,589.96

Expense: \$13,196.31 annual 2014: \$13,196.31

Difference \$ -4,606.35 Difference \$ -4,606.35



Reminders:

Remember, as a congregation, we have made a commitment to tithe at least 10% of our remodeling project money for a minimum of \$17,500

Received through Jan. 2014 for remodeling project: \$2,190.00

Friendly reminder.....This is the time of year when we have the most expenses and...also the time of year when many folks are out of town and our income is the lowest.

Ideas for giving: Do you pay bills online? Did you know that you can set up your giving to Bethel UCC as an online payment? That way, when you are unable to attend worship, you can still be faithful to your tithe. Brian and I have started doing this, and it is so nice. The church receives our giving in a check from the bank weekly. No more checks to write and our giving stays consistent. Just a thought....

Help Wanted!! If you are able to assist with providing a meal and or preparing a meal for Bethel Buddies. Please contact the church office. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



March Birthdays

March Anniversaries

| 3/1 Ben Humphre |
|-----------------|
|-----------------|

3/5 Sandy Kestner

3/7 Abby Johnson

3/12 Brian Bandy

3/13 Patty Brogan

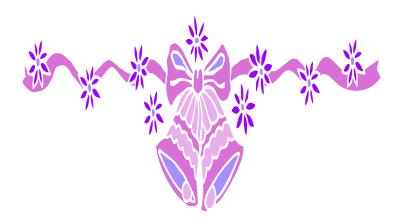
3/18 Anthony Cappa

3/19 Edward Miller

3/22 Pamela Baum

David & Garnett Yaggi 3/12/77

David & Deborah Scott 3/31/78



Movich

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | Consistory Training Class 4:30-7:30 |
| 9:00 Bible Study 10am Worship | 3 | 4 | 5 Lent Begins Ash Wednesday Meal 5:30 P.M. Worship 6:30 P.M. Choir Practice | 6 | 7 World Day of Prayer OGHS begins | 8 Time Change Spring forward |
| 9 9:00 Bible Study 10am Worship | 10 | Consistory 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall In use 6-9pm | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Music Workshop 9-noon Medina UCC |
| 16 9:00 Bible Study 10am Worship | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18 | 19 | 20 Girl Scouts 5:30 P.M.–7 P.M. | 21 | 22 |
| 9:00 Bible Study 10am Worship Pulpit Exchange Bethel does Salads and Dessert | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Girl Scouts 5:30 P.M.–7 P.M. | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:00 Bible Study 10am Worship OGHS Special Mis- sion Offering | 31 Staff Meeting 6:30 P.M. | | | Wednesday's Sc 4-5:30 Food Pantry- 5:30– 7:00 B. B/Adu 5:30– 7:00 B.B. Chile 7:00-7:30 Bell Practi 7:30– 8:30 Choir Pra | It Bible Study dren's Bible Study/ | |

March

Head Usher Lorrie Wallace

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

March 30

Liturgist

March 2 Youth

March 9 Debbie Garlock

March 16 Jackie Sanor

March 23

March 30 Lee Kornick



Acolytes-Katherine Harlan

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

March 30



Coffee Time Host

March 2 Sandy Fieldhouse

March 9

March 16 Dee Kornick

March 23

March 30



Ministry Staff

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Minister

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Rev. Jerry Kruse

jerrykruse@embarqmail.com Ministry Assistant

Deborah Cappa

Bethel

unitedchurchofchrist@ymail.com

Anne McKarns

Communion Elder or Deacon for the Month of March

Lee Kornick



Prayer Concerns –To the Family of Mark Davies, To the Karl Humphrey Family, Faye Vernon, To the Family of Paula Miller, Linda Stanley Crawford, Diane Liebhart, Mary Jo Dye, Nathan Harlan, Jerry Wallace, Jim Orlosky, Patsy Harlan, Mary Lou Scott, Delores Stoffer, Goldie Summers, Matt Ketterer, Mike Early, Wayne Harlan, Betty Ring, Delores Brunner, Ina Cameron, Maxine Lentz, Randi Ring, Kylie Dillon, John Handschin, Janice McLaughlin, and our military



Mary Jo Dye sends thanks for the card everyone signed wishing her to get well.

Thank You to the people who serve our church as our pastor, in the pantry, doing Bethel Buddies meal, preparing coffee, bringing donuts and cookies for coffee time, young people who have served as acolytes, operating the sound room, taking offering, singing and directing the choir, playing the organ and piano, preparing and serving CFF Meals, doing the liturgy, serving communion, being on the consistory as Elders and Deacons, that one who keeps our finances in line, keeping our church neat and clean, providing flowers for our alter, people who take an interest in decorating the church, all the people who listen and participate during our bible studies, Sunday school and worship time, people who prepare paraments for the alter, who keep oil in the candles, take pictures of the events of the church, people who shovel the sidewalks, people who teach the bible study classes, those who make the apple dumplings. For those who are the body of the church. We need to let these people know they are the ones that keep the church going and without them we wouldn't exist. Thanks!!!

Pulpit Exchange Sunday

The Consistories of Immanuel UCC in Alliance and Bethel UCC in Beloit voted to have our second annual pulpit exchange Sunday on March 23rd Pastor Neal Mann will lead worship at Bethel beginning at 10:00 AM and Pastor Haan Phelps will lead worship at Immanuel starting at 10:30 AM. Following both services, members are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall of Immanuel for a luncheon. Immanuel is to provide beverages and the main entrée(s) while Bethel members are encouraged to bring salads and desserts. One way to share in the community is to meet and greet with one another in fellowship and what better way to do that than at a meal.



Alan Shawn Feinstein 37 Alhambra Circle Cranston, RI 02905

Please use MY money to help your neighbors in need!

My name is Alan Shawn Feinstein. For the past 16 years, I have been giving away \$1 million each year to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country.

This year, I am doing it again...

WHATEVER YOU DONATE TO THIS AGENCY,
I WILL ADD MONEY TO IT. THE MORE
YOU GIVE, THE MORE OF MY \$1 MILLION
THEY'LL GET—THANKS TO YOU!

Why am I doing this? Because I believe each of us was put here on earth to do what we can to help those in need. You got this letter because we feel that YOU believe that, too.

My money started this campaign but it is **YOU** who will help decide how many needy people in <u>your</u> city or town will be fed this year.

This has become the greatest grass roots campaign ever to fight hunger in our country. Your donation makes <u>you</u> a partner in it with me!

We Are Needed Now!

Please give whatever you can - I gladly add my money to yours.

(My \$1 million will be divided proportionately in full among the agencies receiving donations from my offer.)

Thank you for sharing my heart, and the hope that—someday—no one will ever go hungry.

Sincerely Yours,

Com Shown Fair Hain

Alan Shawn Feinstein

P.S. All that will matter to us someday is what we did while we were here to help those in need.



January 22, 2014

Dear Church Friends,

Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity is holding a new kind of fundraiser - it's a Stud-A-Thon!

It's probably not the kind of stud you're thinking about, but rather the studs that are built into the framing of a house.

We're "selling" studs to raise money for the 2014 Veteran Build. Anyone can buy an eight (8) foot stud and sign their name, decorate it with paint, stickers, pictures, or practically whatever they want. For example, a church like yours could buy a stud (or more than one) and write the names of all the veterans who attended, or are loved by your membership. Or buy it in honor/memory of one particular veteran and use the stud to showcase that person's achievements or commitment to this country. Perhaps you'd like to buy a stud to commemorate a particular event - like Pearl Harbor or a promotion to a higher rank - or to just write note of encouragement, verses, and the like for the homeowner. When your stud is complete, return it to Habitat and it will be built into the 2014 Veteran Build house. We want this Veteran homeowner to feel like she is forever surrounded and supported by fellow veterans and those who appreciate her bravery. Our goal is to sell 200 studs so that each stud in the home represents a veteran.

Each 8ft stud is \$150 and can be delivered to your church for signatures or decorating. This is an incredible opportunity to support Habitat and Veterans in the Alliance community. Please contact the Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity office at 330.823.2448 or Sarah@AllianceAreaHabitat.org to make arrangements. Studs are due back to Habitat no later than May 1st, 2014.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful chance to give back to our veterans.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lane

Executive Director

Pat Gates

Co-Chair of Veteran Build 3)-58/-1845 Sharon LaMotta

Co-Chair of Veteran Build

405 South Linden Avenue, Suite 207, Alliance, Ohio 44601

Phone: (330) 823-2448 Fax: (330) 823-2338



This Lent, Easter at a Glance



| (| March 9, 2014 | March 16, 2014 | March 23, 2014 | March 30, 2014 | April 6, 2014 | April 13, 2014 | | April 20, 2014 |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Liturgical date | Lent 1 | Lent 2 | Lent 3 | Lent 4 | Lent 5 | Palm/Passion Sunday | | Easter Day |
| Title | Choices to Live by | Life-Giving Wind | Water for the Thirsty | Learning to See | Raised Up | Palm/Passion Sunday | | Christ Is Risen |
| Lectionary readings focus passage in bold) | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11 | Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9 | Exodus 17:1–7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1–11 John 4:5–42 | 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 | Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45 | Liturgy of the Paims Liturg Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Philipp Matth orl | Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14—27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54 | Acts 10: 34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6 Psalm 118:1, 2, 14–24 Colossians 3:1–4 or Acts 10:34–43 John 20:1–18 or Matthew 28:1–10 |
| Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving | We begin the Season of Lent with an opportunity to explore the potential of wilderness. | With Nicodemus we hear the process of birth is powerful and life changing. | Jesus asks the woman at the well for a drink, and new life begins. | In the story of some- one without physical sight, we meet a per- son of wisdom and deep perception. | In stories of being raised up to new life we are encouraged to keep faith through our life and our Lenten journeys and move toward hopeful, life-giving futures. | From joyful proclamations, to betrayal, to the power and poignancy of the Last Supper, to abandonment, prayer, violence, and apparent hopelessness we enter Holy Week. | to betrayal, to the e Last Supper, to ence, and appar- loly Week. | We celebrate the presence of the risen Christ, and enter the great 50 days of the Easter Season. |
| | April 27, 2014 | May 4, 2014 | May 11, 2014 | May 18, 2014 | May 25, 2014 | June 1, 2014 | June 8, 2014 | 14 |
| Liturgical date | Easter 2 | Easter 3 | Easter 4 | Easter 5 | Easter 6 | Easter 7 | Pentecost | |
| Title | Wounded Hands | Companions on the Road | Living in Community | Courageous Faith | Never Abandoned | Continuing the Christ Life | Pentecost Sunday | nday |
| Lectionary readings focus passage in bold) | Psalm 16 Acts 2:12a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31 | Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 | Acts 2:42–47 Psalm 23 John 10:1–10 1 Peter 2:19–25 | Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14 | Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20 1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21 | Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11 | Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30 Psalm 104: 24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 o John 20:19–23 or John | Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30 Psalm 104: 24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21 John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39 |
| Emphasis for worship, learning, and serving | Resurrection breaks through locked doors, and we are encouraged to ask tricky questions. | In the breaking of bread we, with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, share the truth that Christ is risen. | On Good Shepherd Sunday we consider the growth and nurturing ways of the early church. | In the story of the mar- tyrdom of Stephen we reflect on ways to live out our calling as God's people. | In Jesus' farewell speech to the disciples we hear the good news that no matter what happens God's Spirit is with us offering help, comfort, | Jesus' prayer for his disciples invites us to listen in and hear ourselves being prayed for, and to become a community of such prayer. | | Today is a day for celebration: we recapture a momentous event in the life of those first followers of Jesus, and celebrate the birth of the Christian church. |

and encouragement.

Lent, Easter 2014



March 9, 2014

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12–19 **Matthew 4:1–11**

March 16, 2014

Genesis 12:1–4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 **John 3:1–17** *or* Matthew 17:1–9

March 23, 2014

Exodus 17:1–7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1–11 John 4:5–42

March 30, 2014

1 Samuel 16:1–13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8–14 **John 9:1–41**

April 6, 2014

Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6–11 **John 11:1–45**

April 13, 2014

Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21:1–11 Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 31:9–16 Philemon 2:5–11 Matthew 26:14—27:66 or Matthew 27:11–54

April 20, 2014

Acts 10:34–43 *or* Jeremiah 31:1–6 Psalm 118:1, 2, 14–24 Colossians 3:1–4 *or* Acts 10:34–43 **John 20:1–18** *or* Matthew 28:1–10

Lent, Easter 2014



April 27, 2014

Psalm 16 Acts 2:12a, 22–32 1 Peter 1:3–9 John 20:19–31

May 4, 2014

Acts 2:14a, 36—41 Psalm 116:1—4, 12—19 1 Peter 1:17—23 Luke 24:13—35

May 11, 2014 Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23 John 10:1–10 1 Peter 2:19–25

May 18, 2014

Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14

May 25, 2014

Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20 1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21

June 1, 2014

Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11 John 17:1–11

June 8, 2014

Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21 John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39

Lent, Easter 2014



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May 11, 2014

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May 18, 2014

Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14

May 25, 2014

Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20 1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21

June 1, 2014

Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11 John 17:1–11

June 8, 2014

Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21 John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39



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