



Bethany Congregational Church

Volume 4 December, 2014 Number 9

Foxborough, Massachusetts

The Bethany Bell

Bethany Church Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 6

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

3 Rockhill Street

Located in Foxboro Center

Join us for coffee and donuts
in the morning or
for a delicious lunch starting at 11:30 am

- Gently-Used Books, Cd's and Videos
- Fresh Decorated Wreaths
- Handcrafts
- Silent Auction
- Imaginative Themed Baskets
- Grandma's Attic
- Homemade Sweets
- Children's Fair
- Fun Activities

• Visit With Santa
10:00 am-2:00 pm



"I am too blessed to be stressed!"

Dear Bethany friends,

As we continue on our journey through the Seven Seas of Spiritual Practices, we are coming up on December: our month of Worship. Pastor Derek has wisely picked the season of Advent for this practice, because it's a time when we're pretty comfortable with worship, and I think we'll be able to fully participate in it, and analyze it a bit at the same time.

Worship is simple. It is ascribing value to something. It is all the different ways in which we declare, "This thing is gold! It's amazing! It is worth multitudes!" Consider all the ways in your everyday life when you ascribe value to something, or you witness others doing so:

Praising someone: "Nancy Kaeser makes such beautiful and moving altarscapes for the Jazz Vespers services!"

Talking about something and analyzing it: "This is 98.5 The Sports Hub, coming to you with hour three of our coverage of the third down sack of Brady that ended the Patriots second drive in the first quarter."

When you enjoy someone, and laugh at their jokes.

When you confess and ask forgiveness.

When you give a gift.

When you give a complicated gift. Begrudgingly or genuinely. (Still ascribing value, still worship)

Learning about someone.

Listening to them.

Spending time with someone.

Asking for help.

Trusting.

Think about this: someone who is unsure whether or not God is real, but comes to a worship service is ascribing value to God. Their presence is worship.

For me, art is a powerful form of worship. It uses honed technique and creativity to express that worth in a unique and beautiful and pleasing way.

I hope that this Advent season you can explore what your language of worship is.

Greg Woodsbie

-Sunday, December 21st
9:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant
10:00 a.m. Deacons'
Sampling Party



-Wednesday, December 24th
5:30 p.m. Family Service
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service
-Sunday, December 28th
9:00 a.m. One service only



Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 a.m. Children and adults are needed to tell the wonderful story of our Savior's birth, while other volunteers are needed behind the scenes. Look for the sign-up poster in the Fellowship Hall. Rehearsals will be: Sunday, December 7th at noon; and Sunday, December 14th at noon; with a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 20th (time TBA).

Deacon's Sampling Party

A highlight of the Bethany Advent Season, the Sampling Party is an opportunity to share some of your favorite holiday finger foods. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre, snack or dessert to share with your Bethany friends! We know that it will be a special day!

Nativity Display on December 14!

Many of us keep a nativity set, or even more than one, on display during the Christmas season to remind us of its real meaning. You are invited to show off your favorite nativity set in the Fellowship Hall on 12/14 in between the worship services! We will have a couple of long tables set up for you to place your nativity on. Please describe anything special about it on an index card next to it, as a way we can share a bit of our family Christmas traditions with each other. If you would like to drop your display off during the week prior, let Deb Byron know – she will take good care of it and set it up before worship that Sunday. Let's see how many we can have on display the 14th!



Bethany's "Giving Tree" will be all set up in the Narthex on November 23rd. The tree is decorated with ornaments with a gift suggestion for a needy child in our community (example: Boy, age 11, Lego's). If you would like to help the Foxboro Discretionary Fund provide Christmas presents for children who otherwise would not open gifts on Christmas morning; choose an ornament, purchase the gift listed on it, tape the ornament to the **unwrapped** gift, and place it back under the tree. All gifts must be returned by **December 7th** so the Discretionary Fund elves have time to do their thing!



Discipleship Opportunities

Contact Deb Byron at byron@bethanychurch.org for more information about any of these.

Coffee & Chat

Are your kids getting to the stage where you're doing less "mothering" and more worrying? Do you want to talk with others experiencing the challenges of parenthood and find Christ-centered support? Join Libby Carter at the Commons Eatery in Foxboro before church Sunday mornings from 7:45 until 8:45.

Basket Cases

Help gather donations and package them up in beautiful gift baskets for families of New Hope Shelter in Attleboro who often arrive with just the clothes on their backs. Contact Carol Fraser at 774-254-0740 for the monthly schedule.

Book Discussion Group

Held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Parlor. Contact Jane Michelmore at 508-543-7187 or Deb Byron at byron@bethanychurch.org.



BYG! Bethany Youth Group

Junior High meets from 5-6:30 and Senior High meets from 6:45-8:15. This year's theme is "One Voice". We hope to see you there!

Our program schedule "The Fridge Flyer" for the Fall Season of BYG is posted on the website. Contact Anne Marie Holloway, our Director of Youth ministries at Holloway@bethanychurch.org.

Mission Outreach News



Mission Outreach served the 13th Community Dinner in November. This has been a great blessing for our community, and we thank all the cooks and servers and cleanup crew that have volunteered. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer at any of the dinners that are served the second Saturday of each month, please contact Jane Michelmores at 508-543-7187. Our next serving date is December 13th.

Jazz Vespers Services

The next Jazz Vespers services will be held on Tuesdays, December 2nd and 16th. Join us for a non-denominational service of great music and readings, here at Bethany! A free-will offering will be taken with part of the proceeds to benefit the Foxboro Discretionary Fund. Come hear in Foxboro on a Tuesday night what you'd find in Boston on a Friday night (and with free parking)!



NewsLetter DEADLINE

The deadline for the next edition of *The Bethany Bell* is **Friday, December 12th** at

8:30 a.m. Material may be submitted to haney@bethanychurch.org. Thanks!

Bethany on Holiday



Why Haven't We Heard From You? We have tried and tried, but we still haven't heard from you.

We made announcements, we set up a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, we even tried to talk to you during coffee hour. But we still don't have your registration form for the mid-winter retreat.

We are returning to the Resort & Conference Center at Hyannis, site of our last mid-winter retreat, for another fun-filled, spirit-filled weekend January 16-18, 2015 at 2009 prices. That's right, you can join us for a great weekend of food, fun and fellowship without spending at 2015 prices. The R&CC boasts a fitness club, restaurant, indoor heated pool and much more. Plus it's just minutes from Hyannis center, with its many Cape Cod specialty shops and restaurants. If you don't want to drive and it's too cold to walk, we have arranged for a shuttle van to take you.

We don't want even one member of our Bethany Family to miss out on the return of this great weekend, so we are extending this additional invitation (and the reservation deadline) to give everyone another chance to get in on it.

If you've been before, you know what a good spirit filled time this weekend is. If you haven't been, you should join us and find out. This is Bethany Fellowship at its best.

Please don't miss out. If you **need a Reservation Form, contact Lynne in the Church Office at office@bethanychurch.org** and she will email one to you or call 508-543-5678. Give your completed form and deposit check to Joan Bradley, Liz Myerson, Michele Rogers or Steve Wills as soon as possible, or drop it off in the Church Office. If you have any questions, see any one of us after church at coffee hour, or e-mail Joan at joanmcb Bradley@aol.com.

If you need confidential financial assistance, contact Pastor Derek.

Kudos for a Job Well Done!

Have you noticed the new sidewalks on the upper level in front of the Sanctuary's main doors on Rockhill Street? The Board of Trustees is indebted to local contractor Chris McNamara of C. Mac, Inc., who did an excellent job while helping us out with an extremely favorable price. Chris dug out the old broken asphalt walkway on the upper level, as well as three sections of broken concrete walkway leading to the breezeway from Rockhill Street. His crew then formed up and poured new concrete sections that same day. Best of all, he reduced his asking price to 50% of the original quote as a personal donation to Bethany Church. We appreciate Chris' generosity and the excellent work he provided.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Ushers/Greeters

9:00 a.m. Service

12/7 Pam and John Winslow

12/14 Bev and Tom Crocker

12/21 **

12/28 Bruce Hainsworth and Todd Kaeser

10:30 a.m. Service

12/7 the Maynard family

12/14 the Rogers family

Deacon of the Service

9:00 a.m. Service

12/7 Jim McKinney

12/14 Laurel Decoste

12/21 Mark Hawrylcw

12/28 Bill Hughes

10:30 a.m. Service

12/7 **

12/14 Margie Wheeler

Service Readers

9:00 a.m. Service

12/7 Heidi Hobbs

12/14 Virginia Banian

12/21 Julie Cline

12/28 Dick Hobbs

10:30 a.m. Service

12/7 Michele Rogers

12/14 Sarah Murphy

Nursery Care

9:00 a.m. Service

12/7 Mary Lou Pike

12/14 Aurora Pop-Vicas

12/21 Matt Rogers

12/28 Janet See

10:30 a.m. Service

12/7 **

12/14 Brenna Murphy

** We have an opening, could YOU help?

Book of Life

Chancel Flowers

November 2nd, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Brendan Kelly by his family.

November 9th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marion and Stuart Whittaker, and Dr. Masao Yatsuhashi by their family.

November 16th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jerry McPhail by his sister, Joan Bradley.

November 23rd, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Buzz and Mac McKenzie by their daughters, Bonnie, Lorna and Glenda.

Anniversaries

Nelle and Dick Yarhmarkt celebrated their 70th anniversary on November 19th! Congratulations, lovebirds!

Ida and Larry Foster are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on December 29, 2014. If you'd care to send an anniversary greeting, their address is 140 Old Stonewall Drive, Locus Grove, GA 30248.

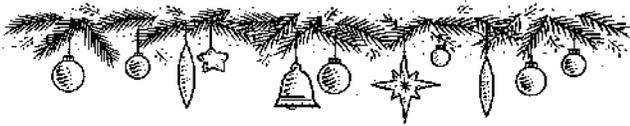
Wedding

Kari Dost and Christopher Sawin were married on November 15th. Chris is the son of Pam and Craig Sawin. Congratulations!

Death

Our sympathy is expressed to Deb Mertz on the death of her father on November 5th.

Our sympathy is expressed to the family of Richard DeCoste II, who died on November 11. He was the brother of Alison Bancroft and the uncle of Abby and Charlie Bancroft.



Christmas Fair News

Save the Date – December 6th!
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Foxboro's Favorite
Traditional Christmas Fair



New This Year!

Come visit the Candy Table and be taken back in time to... "Penny Candy"! Of course, nothing costs a penny these days,

but for a nickel you can enjoy those old (and some new) candies... Mary Janes, Mint Juleps, Fireballs, Pixie Stix... Come be a kid again!

Donations for the Book Nook, Grandma's Attic and Children's Toy items are gratefully accepted for the ten-day period from 11/23 to 12/2. Look for signs indicating the designated drop off areas. We need to avoid blocking the breezeway doors for fire safety.

These items must be received by Tuesday, 12/2 so that they can be sorted, priced and nicely displayed. **We are unable to accept donations for these areas after 12/2.**

Come to Our Kitchen Workshop!

The girls from the Candy and Bake tables could use your help! We will be having a "Fair Prep Day on Sunday, November 30th at noon. All ingredients will be provided, so all we need is YOU to help prep and bake. Come join us for a fun afternoon! Thank you! Bonnie, Lorna and Pamela

New To You – Please Donate!

Did you receive a gift that wasn't quite right or buy something and forget to return it to the store? That brand new item may not be right for you, but could be just right for someone else. Donate your item to the "New to You"

Table and find it a new home where it will get the love and appreciation it always deserved!

Grandma's Attic and Toy Room

Donations Start looking through your closets and basements because Grandma's Attic and The Toy Room will soon be accepting donations! All donations should be useable, clean, and complete. Items should include all pieces/parts to games, toys, and household appliances. Donated items that are broken, dirty, or damaged cannot be sold and must be disposed of at a cost to the church. Please look critically at your donations to determine if you think the item is truly worth selling. Donations will be accepted starting Sunday, November 23rd at noon through Wednesday, December 3rd at noon. We are also in need of helpers for all aspects of Grandma's Attic and the Toy Room including sorting and pricing items the week before and selling items the day of the fair. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating your time to help! If you have any questions or are willing to help, please contact Diane at dianethies@gmail.com
Donation guidelines for Grandma's Attic:

Of course we do not expect things to be in perfect condition, but donations should be useable, clean and complete. Include all pieces and parts to games, toys and household appliances. Zip lock bags make great containers for small pieces, parts and instructions. Donated items that are broken, torn, or dirty can't be sold and must be disposed of AT A COST TO THE CHURCH.

Please look critically at your donations to determine if you think the item is truly saleable. When deciding if an item is in good enough shape to donate, ask yourself if you would be willing to purchase it yourself! Old tube style televisions and computer equipment ARE NOT SALEABLE. Please do not donate these items to the fair. We also cannot re-sell car seats and baby cribs due to safety issues.

The Book Nook is Collecting!

I'm collecting for this year's Fair, so when you finish up your summer/fall reading, viewing, and listening; save those books (fiction and cookbooks only, please), DVD's, VHS movies, and music CD's and tapes!

Books on CD and cassette tape sell especially well. You may leave donations in the Church Office, or call Glenda Haney, at 543-5673.

Silent Auction Goods and Services

We are calling out to our Bethany family once again for crafters, bakers, or anyone with a unique service for our goods and services section of the Silent Auction. Do you volunteer with the Nursery on Sundays? Maybe you have a couple of free hours to donate as babysitting for someone. Feel free to be creative! It is helpful for us to learn about your donations as soon as possible! Contact Karen Phillips at kjphillips65@yahoo.com



BAKE TABLE

Attention All Bakers!!!

Please consider thumbing through those favorite recipes of yours and

thinking about what cookies, cakes, squares, pies, breads, and other tasty treats you would like to bake for us to sell at the Fair. As was the rule last year with the Board of Health, we need to know who baked the items and what ingredients are in them, so if you could include your name and address with your baked goodies along with the ingredients, that would be wonderful. Please package the baked goods festively, and drop them off in the Church Parlor on Friday between 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM or Saturday morning at 9:00 AM. We appreciate your help, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call us. Thank you in advance.

Bonnie McKenzie 699-4354
Lorna Sullivan 543-3964



Theme Baskets

The theme baskets are sponsored by small groups, families or individuals who donate the items. Then we arrange, decorate, and raffle them off. Every year the interest grows and we get so many compliments on how thoughtful and creative you are with your ideas. Simply gather items around a theme and get them to us by Thanksgiving, and we will do the rest. Early donations include picnic, appetizers, doggie and spa baskets. We are so grateful for the

generous support we have received in the past. Please let us know how you'd like to help make it a resounding success this year.



On Tuesday, November 25th at 7:00 p.m. Bethany will host a Community Thanksgiving Service to which all are invited. Bring a friend as we "gather together" to thank God for our many blessings!

Upside Down?

Even amid increased secularization, God makes the core Christmas message known. Take, for example, the story of a "winter pageant" a mother attended at her son's grade school. Songs of reindeer, snow and Santa included one titled "Christmas Love," in which the youngest performers held up letters as the song progressed: "C," "H," etc.

When a little girl unknowingly held her "M" upside down, the older kids snickered and the adult audience smiled acceptingly. But as the song drew to a close and all the letters were revealed, surprised recognition struck the Christians in the room.

"CHRISTWAS LOVE," read the string of student-borne letters. God's truth had penetrated the human clutter and confusion around Christmas — as it has power to do throughout our lives: "Christ was love." And of course, he still is.

The Bethany Bell is now posted on the Bethany website, "bethanychurch.org" the last week of each month, for the following month. To have the newsletter emailed directly to you, go to the website and click on the link at the top of the homepage to subscribe. *The Bell* will be emailed to you as soon as it's done -- and you don't have to remember to go out to our website to read it!

"Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store." *The Grinch*, Dr. Suess



REQUEST FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will have poinsettias in the Narthex and Sanctuary for our Christmas season services. Persons wishing Christmas poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones, please fill out this form, and send it the Church Office at 3 Rockhill Street, attention Flower Committee. ***The Deadline is Sunday, December 14th.*** Please make checks payable to Bethany Church with "Flower Fund" in the memo.

Your name _____ Phone # _____

In memory of _____

By whom _____

7 inch pot (\$17.00) _____ 9 inch pot (\$30.00) _____

Will you be taking your plant after the December 21st Pageant? _____

Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have turned in pledge cards. There is still time to pick up stewardship materials before the Pony Express kicks off. Boxes of offering envelopes with pledge cards and information are in the Narthex of the church. They are in alphabetical order.

We apologize for the confusion over the cards in the Stewardship letter that went out with the \$20.40 amount on them. The church pays \$20.40 to the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ each year for every member we have on our active membership list. **Last year we paid \$9,002.90** to the Mass. Conference of the UCC. You are not required to return those cards nor pay the \$20.40 to maintain your status as an active member. Your membership will be maintained until you notify the church you wish to be removed from membership or the Deacons contact you if you have been inactive for more than one year. Those cards should not have gone out with the letter. They were an option we were considering but did not approve to use. We are very sorry you received them with the Stewardship letter.

Many of you have pledged before and are familiar with the practice of pledge cards and offering envelopes. For those unfamiliar with the process the pledge cards help the church determine the budget for the following year. **The envelopes are necessary for the Assistant Treasurer to keep track of cash offerings so we can generate the year end statement required by law for tax purposes.** Three years ago the tax laws changed and the statements became a federal requirement. There is no need to use the offering envelopes, unless you choose to do so. **If you do automatic bill pay with your bank for your offering that works even better.** We cannot track loose plate cash to generate a statement for you. However you choose to support the ministry of the church is greatly appreciated.

If you pick up your stewardship materials by November 30th you will not be on the list for the Pony Express Campaign. Thank you again to all who participated in the 2015 Stewardship Drive. Our goal is for every member to respond to the Stewardship materials by December 31, 2014. What you give is between you and God. The Stewardship Committees mission is to provide stewardship materials to every member household.

Thank You
Stewardship Committee and Rev. Derek White, Pastor