

Bethany Congregational Church

Volume 5 January, 2015 Number 1

Foxborough, Massachusetts



The Bethany Bell



*The Staff of Bethany Church wishes you
and your loved ones a happy, healthy
2015!*

Dear Bethany Friends,

I love this time of year! Well, not the cold and threat of snow storms, but the fact that a brand new year stretches out ahead of me. It feels like a fresh start! How about you - are you a new year's resolution-maker? What if our 2015 resolutions were spiritual rather than material and we resolved to be more intentional disciples of Jesus Christ this year? This fall/winter we have focused on the topics of evangelism, stewardship, fellowship, and worship here at Bethany. As we head into January, our focus will be discipleship. Discipleship encompasses all of the others but is so much more.

Jesus said, "Everyone when he is fully taught will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40 RSV). So discipleship is the process of becoming more like Christ in our thoughts, feelings and actions. When we think of discipleship however, we often have an instructional or educational model in mind. But one can have a ton of Bible knowledge and participate in all of the programs a church offers, but not live like Jesus.

We need the Holy Spirit in our lives for this: working in us, molding and shaping us into God's image and empowering us to live Godly lives. Only through the Holy Spirit, can one hope to approach living one's life the way Jesus would live it. How do we welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives? We do it by loving God more than anything else and always putting Him first. By loving others, and demonstrating this in all of our interactions. Prayer is constant, central to life every day. We serve others and mentor others.

This last point is crucial; not only is discipleship becoming more like Jesus, it's helping others become more like Jesus as well. In the recent Beth Moore study based on 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, the point was made that there are always three groups of people in a thriving body of believers. There are the people that you just know are operating full steam ahead in the Holy Spirit, because they're effectively nurturing others. Then there are those who have been nurtured and are beginning to affect others by their mentoring. In the third group are those that need to be taught and mentored. When a church is healthy, its members are moving along that continuum. As we head into the New Year, prayerfully think about where you are on your journey as a disciple and how you might help others on theirs.

In Christ,

Deb Byron
Director, Discipleship & Children's Ministry

 **is Discipleship Month!**



Twenty years ago Bill Hybels had a vision to change the world by creating a summit for leaders that wanted to honor Christ with their roles. It has had a global impact. In August I attended the satellite site for the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit. A clear message came out of the summit, people want to change the world for the better and leaders have the ability to do it. I have been praying about this for some time and I have a vision for Bethany to be a global leader. The seven spiritual practices have been the lead up for this grander vision. January and February will be so important to the vision. I hope and pray everyone will make the effort to stay connected at Bethany during January and February because this is a really exciting time.

In January we will begin our fifth spiritual practice at Bethany which is Discipleship. For Lent we have something remarkable planned. As we gear up to prepare for the big reveal of Lent, we know we still need to lay some more ground work. We are encouraging everyone at Bethany to recommit to small groups and find mentoring relationships. You don't need to be an expert to be a mentor. In January we will provide training of how to be a great mentor. To pull off the world changing project for Lent, we believe it is crucial for everyone to have a mentor at Bethany. The first Sunday of February we will announce the big reveal of the theme for Lent and the world changing project.

Wednesday nights from 6:00 -7:00 pm January 7-28, I will be leading a small group in the Parlor. Signups forms are available in the church office and the bulletin. We will be using John Maxwell's book "Mentoring 101". Over the years I have had some wonderful Christ-centered mentors who have impacted my life in a powerful way. The focus of the study is to better understand mentoring relationships. You don't have to be a mentor or want to be a mentor to be part of the small group. We are not going to task you to be a mentor after being part of the group. This is to learn how to get the most out of being mentored and mentoring. Mentors inspire and give hope. The great commission Jesus gives is to go and make disciples. Disciples are not students, they are mentees. In essence Jesus says to his disciples go and mentor others as I have mentored you.

Rev. Derek L White



Looking forward to Lent...



-Sunday, December 21st

10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

11:00 a.m. Deacons' Sampling Party

-Wednesday, December 24th

5:30 a.m. Family Service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

-Sunday, December 28th

10:00 a.m. One service only



Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 21st at 10:00 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!



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 Cindi Bell at 401-663-5399 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 Winter Season of BYG will be posted on the website soon. Contact Anne Marie Holloway, our Director of Youth ministries at Holloway@bethanychurch.org.

Mission Outreach News



Mission Outreach's Community Dinners have 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 Michelmore at 508-543-7187. Our next serving date is January 10th.

Newsletter DEADLINE

The deadline for the next edition of *The Bethany Bell* is **Friday, January 23rd** at

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

Book of Life

Chancel Flowers

December 7th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Blanche and William Wurster, and John William Wurster, by their family.

December 14th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of his sister, Margery Michelmore Heffron by Jane and John Michelmore.

December 28th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dorris and Arthur Dean and Dorothy Stubbs by Ellen and Paul Dean and family.

Death

Our sympathy is expressed to the family of Debbie Kepple, who died on November 23, 2014. She was the sister of Sandy Conway.

Our sympathy is expressed to the family of Michele (Haines) Spiezio, who died on November 24, 2014. Michele was the daughter of the late Carol Haines, and Jerry Haines. She was the niece of Virginia Banian.

Our sympathy is expressed to the family of Louise Kenney, who died on December 9, 2014. She was the mother-in-law of Michelle Kenney, who is one of our Little Footsteps teachers.

Our sympathy is expressed to Carolyn and Pastor Derek White on the death of her father, Frank Bauer, on December 12, 2014. He was the grandfather of Silas and Levi.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Ushers/Greeters

9:00 a.m. Service

1/4 Dorothy Vosburgh and Roland Demers

1/11 the Holloway family

1/18 Todd Kaeser and Bruce Hainsworth

1/25 Ann and George Conaty

10:30 a.m. Service

1/4 Deb and Phil Graham

1/11 the Rogers family

1/18 Beth and Jim Durham

1/25 Lois and Bill Sullivan

Deacon of the Service

9:00 a.m. Service

1/4 Mark Hawrylciw

1/11 Tom Garcia

1/18 Carol Fraser

1/25 Margie Wheeler

10:30 a.m. Service

1/4 Jim McKinney

1/11 Laurel DeCoste

1/18 **

1/25 Bill Hughes

Service Readers

9:00 a.m. Service

1/4 Laurel DeCoste

1/11 Terry Becker

1/18 Ellen Dean

1/25 Devan Tierney

10:30 a.m. Service

1/4 June Carlsen

1/11 Ron Sullivan

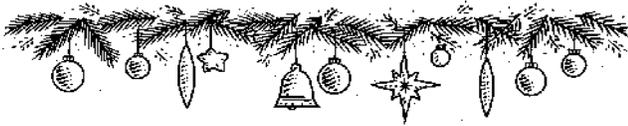
1/18 Pat Scagnoli

1/25 Michele Rogers

** We have an opening, could YOU help?

Annual Reports Due! All staff members and committee chairpersons are reminded that their Annual Reports are due into the Church Office no later than 8:30 a.m., Monday, January 12th in order to be included in the bound Annual Report. Thank you for your cooperation!

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!



Christmas Fair News

I would like to start off by thanking you ALL for everything! Those who planned, donated, advertised, solicited donations, crafted, baked, cooked, set up, decorated, shopped, worked the tables, cleaned up, and many more tasks! You don't know how much it meant to me to have all the support that you gave me as a first-time Fair Chair! And the financial results below show how impressive and successful all those efforts were. Thanks again! Dale Andersen

Bake Table	643.90
Book Nook	978.00
Candy Table	561.45
Children's Books	392.35
Children's Fair	218.83
Children's Toys	1,113.50
Grandma's Attic	2,031.12
Hand Made	277.00
Knitting	340.75
Lunch	672.78
New to You & Crafts	593.00
Santa's Room	244.00
Silent Auction	4,874.00
Theme Baskets	1,864.00
Wreaths	<u>767.64</u>
Table Totals	\$15,572.32

OK, Let's Spend Some \$\$!

The Church Fair Funds Disbursement meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2015. If you will be requesting funds, please complete a "Funds Request Form." This form was designed to organize the request process and ensure that everyone is prepared with the same type of information. Copies of the form are available in the church office. The deadline for submitting the request form is February 1st.

Silent Auction Items Still Available!

There were a few items at the Christmas Fair Silent Auction that didn't receive a bid, and one item that the vendor sent late (arrived Monday 12/8!) If anyone would like to purchase any of these items Please contact Dale Andersen huddlehou@comcast.net 508-543-2119.

The items are listed below with the value and a suggested purchase price. I am open to negotiations!

-Canobie Lake Park- 4 complimentary passes valid thru 9/20/15 value \$144.00 suggested offer \$75.00

-Personal Best Karate- Birthday Party for 15 value \$195.00 suggested offer \$125.00

-Personal Best Karate - 2 Months Membership/Uniform/2 Private Lessons/2 months Classes value \$455.00 suggested offer \$250.00 Very willing to negotiate!

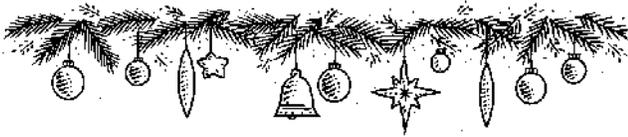
-Personal Best Karate- 1 Month Kickboxing Classes/Kickboxing Gloves value \$99.00 suggested offer \$40.00.



The "Bookworm" has left the apple—or rather, the Chapel!

After ten years I have decided to quit the "Book Nook". We are looking for someone to take over. All you need is a strong back, a love of books, and a dry spot in your home where you can store the books through the year. I kept them in my basement, on 4 pallets which I am happy to give to the next person. I also have plenty of boxes and the names/numbers of the people who buy/take the leftovers. Call me if you would like to explore this opportunity.

Thank you to all my donors of books, movies, and music over the past 10 years. You helped me to raise a lot of money for Bethany! Glenda Haney 508-543-5673.



Save the Date!

Saturday, December 5th, 2015!

I heard those groans! But it's not too soon to start thinking about Christmas Fair, 2015! Here are things to keep in mind during the year:

- Start a pile in your closet, garage, attic, or cellar, of gently-used items for "Grammar"!
- Pick up an extra souvenir of anyplace you visit this year, and donate it to the Fair!
- Keep an eye out for cool ideas for crafts, or new recipes for the Bake Table and Candy Table. Pinterest and Etsy are good sites on line to scan for ideas!



T.H.I.N.K. First

British evangelist Alan Redpath suggested these five helpful questions to ask yourself before you speak:

- T — Is it True?
- H — Is it Helpful?
- I — Is it Inspiring?
- N — Is it Necessary?
- K — Is it Kind?

A 90-10 Split

When the weather prediction is for a 10 percent chance of rain, do we sigh and grumble and stay indoors? Or do we go ahead and picnic, golf or hike because the chance of bad weather is so low?

When doctors say our child has a 90 percent chance of full recovery from a deadly illness, don't we rejoice at the great prognosis? We quickly decide we can live with the slight chance of some impairment.

When a really tough exam comes back with a 90 percent grade, aren't we glad to have done well?

When a politician runs for office, 90 percent of the vote would be considered an overwhelming mandate.

Why then, when God gives us 100 percent of our material blessings, are we so horrified at the thought of giving him 10 percent back?

God's Servant, the Janitor

When a young man in Oklahoma City lost his job a decade ago, he was told about a church that needed someone to maintain the building. He applied for the job. He was hired, and he now feels that the job is the Lord's will for him. It is his venue for ministry.

For example, a mission team was being organized for Africa. He set up the room where the mission was planned... He considered his actions to be a small part of the ministry to the mission field.

When he cleans the sanctuary, he makes sure it's in the best condition possible. He knows that cleanliness is indeed next to godliness. The psalmist wrote, "Holiness befits your house" (Psalm 93:5, NRSV).

The senior minister of the church took the custodian aside one day. He said that some new members had joined the church in part because the facilities were always well kept and clean. In a sense the man had served as an evangelist.

When asked about the work he's doing for God -- and on behalf of God's church -- he says, "I feel blessed."

May we all discover blessed opportunities to serve God in everything we do.

(If you run into our Sexton, Pat Coleman, thank him for his ministry here at Bethany!)