

Bethany Congregational Church

Volume 5 March, 2015 Number 3

Foxborough, Massachusetts



As we journey through the 7 Spiritual Practices Jesus asks his disciples to do, we turn to healing ministry in March. Music is a powerful tool in the healing process. Have you ever been in the midst of something difficult and a song came on the radio or to mind that shared a message of hope you needed to hear? Sometimes these songs can be God moments. God speaks to us through music. We'd like to hear your God moment and the song that God spoke to you through.

All throughout March we will be using songs that God has used to touch people. We want to know your God moment story and the song that God spoke to you through. There are cards on both the Welcome Center table and the Sign-up counter in the Fellowship Hall for you to fill out with your story and song request. You can also email me your story and song. If you'd like to share your story and the song as a testimonial, please indicate your willingness to do so. You don't have to give a testimonial. As your Pastor I would love to hear your story.

Share with us songs that heal. Pastor Derek

"Good Grief"

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. - March 10th -31st

Rarely does anyone ever want to admit they are grieving. Grieving is good and is part of the process of healing. As Pastor I often walk with families as they grieve. There are many forms of grieving. During the month of March as we focus on healing ministry we will be looking at healing and how grieving can help restore individuals.

I highly recommend the book *Why Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Rabbi Harold Kushner. There are several books with similar titles, so look for the one by Harold Kushner. I also recommend *Grief; Living at Peace with Loss* by June Hope. Also the church has additional resources from Stephen Ministries for dealing with grief.

Contact Pastor Derek if you would like to be part of this small group on Tuesday. You do not need to be grieving to be part of the group. This study will look at the ways we grieve, why we grieve, and how to grieve well. Suggested donation of \$4 recommended for materials provided.



The Bethany Bell

Dear friends of Bethany Congregational Church,

In preparation for our first year Confirmation class that meets weekly, we have been reading the Book of Psalms. We introduced a “Psalms Reading Plan” that suggests a few Psalms for the youth to read and reflect upon. Part of the reading plan also involves writing one of the Psalms down in a journal and creating a prayer that focuses on what was revealed in reading that Psalm. It has been a wonderful addition to our biblical studies and in-class discussions.

As I was reading, I came across a Psalm that we did not include in our suggested readings for the youth. I wrote it in my journal, so that I could remember to share it in class – as I found that it spoke to my heart. It simply read, “Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.”

(Psalm 30:2)

With March being “Healing” month at Bethany, this Psalm made me reflect upon what it means to be “healed”. A person may need healing for an ailment or a wounded heart. Healing is something deep and needed by us all. We all long to be healed, to feel whole, to experience joy in friendship, love in our relationships and good health. Sometimes healing comes in the form of making tough decisions, admitting a difficult truth, or having to face a fear. Healing may require letting go, embracing, forgiving and accepting.

(Psalm 103:1-5)

What I have learned about healing is that it is almost always an intertwining of sadness and joy – a perfect balance of tears and laughter. Healing can be both complicated and so simple.

For me, healing is always followed by a gift of overwhelming peace.

(Psalm 91:4)

Anyway, as I reflected upon Psalm 30:2, I thought of those moments in my life when I found myself lost in worry, wounded, or sad. In each of those moments, I cannot say that I have always remembered to hand everything over to God. Often times, I selfishly tried to heal those wounds myself – usually unsuccessfully.

(Psalm 147:3-5)

Healing can take many forms. I have found that healing usually comes to me in the form of other people; fearfully and wonderfully made creations breathed to life by God. I have been prayed over, hugged, smiled upon, sung to, kissed, surprised, forgiven, cared for, listened to, encouraged, advised, cried with, and unconditionally loved. I have been shown God's grace made evident through the work of the Holy Spirit in the everyday bits and pieces of my little life.

(Psalm 51:10-12)

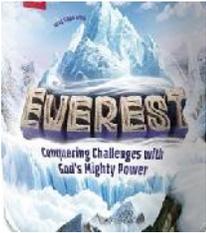
As Christians, we cannot help but reflect on this season of Lent – as we journey together to the Cross in search of healing. It is my prayer that our youth, when needed, will find healing. That they will remember that they can turn to each other for help and see God at work in their lives; that the youth can find comfort in being a part of a church family; that the divinely inspired words spoken in their Bibles are written specifically for them – with love.

(Psalm 119:41-47)

May you all see God at work in your lives. May you know His love, and be healed.

Amen.

Peace and Joy to you,
Anne Marie Holloway
Director of Youth Ministries



VBS 2015!

August 3rd –7th

Children in Preschool

through Grade 5 will want to be a part of this!

Here at Bethany, we have been inspired by the abundance around us — an abundance of SNOW! And this snow has certainly presented some challenges for us. This is why we chose *EVEREST – Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power!* to be our VBS 2015 program theme. We are holding fast to the hope of knowing Summer will be here before we know it! Please mark your calendars for August 3rd–7th and be sure to save some memories of these snowflake filled days!! Registration information will be available soon. Contact Anne Marie Holloway at holloway@bethanychurch.org for information.

Discipleship Opportunities

Contact Deb Byron at byron@bethanychurch.org for more info.

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.

Basket Cases

A mission-minded group who support New Hope, which provides shelter for families of domestic violence, through monthly gift baskets of donated items from our church members. Contact Cindi Bell at 401-405-1921 or cynthiabell@msn.com to find out the monthly meeting schedule.

Upper Room Devotional Study

Join Carol Fraser every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to read and discuss teachings and insight from *The Upper Room* devotional. All are welcome!

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.



Parlor Chats with the Elders

Come sit and chat about any church issue that's on your mind. Perhaps you have questions we can answer. Now's your chance! We meet the first Sunday of the month in the Parlor between the two services so that everyone can come – join us for our next get together on March 1st!

Stay in the Know!

We have an email service in which you can receive weekly Bethany updates on events. You can subscribe to *The Bethany Buzz*, by emailing the Church Office at office@bethanychurch.org.

Missed a Service?

Our Worship Services are taped and are scheduled to air each week on Foxboro Channel 08 and Verizon FiOS Channel 39. Check cable listings for times.

CPR Training Monday, March 23

CPR/AED training is being offered on Monday, March 23rd here at Bethany. If you are looking to recertify, or have never been trained, join us for an evening from a trained specialist to learn the Heartsaver CPR. The cost is \$40 for CPR training (AED training included). In addition, we will be having a first aid training that night; the cost for that is an additional \$25. Participants will receive a CPR card after completion of the class. To sign up, contact Nancy Kaeser by Friday, March 20th at kaeser@bethanychurch.org.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Ushers/Greeters

9:00 a.m. Service

3/1 Rick Lewis, Penni Jenkins
3/8 Pam & John Winslow, Bruce Hainsworth
3/15 Pam & John Winslow
3/22 Ann & George Conaty
3/29 **

10:30 a.m. Service

3/1 Deb Graham
3/8 Rogers family
3/15 Beth & Jim Durham
3/22 Lois & Bill Sullivan
3/29 **

Deacons

9:00 a.m. Service

3/1 Laurel DeCoste
3/8 David Fisher
3/15 Mark Hawrylcw
3/22 Alin Pop-Vicas
3/29 Jim McKinney

10:30 a.m. Service

3/1 Jim McKinney
3/8 Deb Graham
3/15 Bill Hughes
3/22 Pat Scagnoli
3/29 Laurel DeCoste

Nursery Volunteers

9:00 a.m. Service

3/1 Janet See
3/8 Mary Lou Pike
3/15 Lily Marszalkowski
3/22 Aurora Pop-Vicas
3/29 Matt Rogers

10:30 a.m. Service

3/1, 3/8, 3/22 **
3/15 Brenna Murphy
3/29 Lily Holloway

Service Readers

9:00 a.m. Service

3/1 Penni Jenkins
3/8 Virginia Banian
3/15 Julie Cline
3/22 Dick Hobbs
3/29 Ellen Dean

10:30 a.m. Service

3/1 Michele Rogers
3/8 Sarah Murphy
3/15 June Carlsen
3/22 Ron Sullivan
3/29 Pat Scagnoli



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 is included in this *Bethany Bell*. 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 Michelmoré at 543-7187. Our next serving date is Saturday, March 14th.



**"Spring Ahead" on
Sunday, March 8th**

** We have an opening, could YOU help?

Book of Life

Chancel Flowers

February 8th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Wallace Read, former Scout Master of Troop 7, by his family.

February 15th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Matthew Sullivan by his parents, Lois and Bill Sullivan.

February 22nd, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Shirley Treweek by her family.

Births

Collin Nicholas Holben and Kyle Patrick Holben were born on February 3, 2015 to Sean and Sarah (Wills) Holben. Collin and Kyle's grandfather is Steve Wills. Congratulations!

Deaths

Our sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of Betty Mailhot, who died on February 8, 2015. She was the beloved companion of Joe Prew.

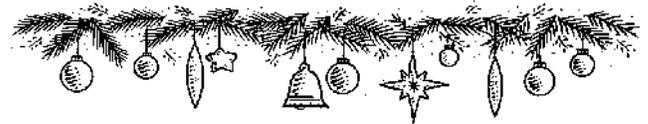
Our sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of Lester Goodwin, who died on February 14, 2015. He was the uncle of Sandy Conway.

Newsletter DEADLINE

The deadline for the next edition of *The Bethany Bell* is **Friday, March 27th** at

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

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

Save the Date!

Saturday, December 5th, 2015!

I know it's only March, but here are some things we need to keep in mind for the 2015 Christmas Fair:

- Start a pile in your closet, garage, attic, or cellar, of gently-used items for "Gramma"!
- 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.

We now have a Chair for Gramma's Attic! A big THANK YOU to Linda Marszalkowski!

We are in need of a new resident Bookworm. After many years of dedicated service Glenda Haney has decided to move on to something new. Thank you Glenda! If anyone who has a love of books would be interested in taking over this very important section of the Christmas Fair please contact Dale Andersen, huddlehous@comcast.net or 543-2119.



Knit Goods Wanted!

Got Cabin Fever?? Knit something for the Christmas Fair! Any item would be very much appreciated – hats, mittens, scarves – any size, color, or style. Baby sweaters and sets are good sellers! Nell Yahmarkt would be happy to pick up your items – when the snow melts – perhaps in July! Call her at 543-4543.

2014 Funds Distribution

At the fair fund distribution meeting on 2/8/15, members of the Bethany community brought forward well thought out and deserving requests for funding. The fair committee prayed for discernment as we reviewed the requests and asked for guidance as we made our decisions. Last April, the fair committee made the decision to tithe a portion of the fair funds for good works in the community. In keeping with the tradition of giving back to the community, the \$1,500.00 Annual Christmas Fair Tithe will be distributed as follows: \$1,000.00 – Foxboro Discretionary Fund, \$400.00 –LYNN Ministries & \$100.00- Foxboro High School Senior All Night Graduation Party.

Below is the distribution of funds from the fair.

Item	Amount	Requestor
New Computer	\$700.00	Steve Wills & Kirsten Torkelson
Upgrades to Welcoming	\$575.00	Welcome Committee/Libby Carter
Annual Christmas Fair Tithe	\$1,500.00	Libby Carter
Shipping of Spanish Bible Stories	\$200.00	Al Papianou
Youth Group scholarship	\$500.00	Anne Marie Holloway
Rental of Vans for Berea Trip	\$750.00	Anne Marie Holloway
Kitchen Supplies	\$425.00	Carol Fraser
Renovating the Narthex	\$5,000.00	Trustees/Joyce Lewis
Church Marketing	\$3,000.00	Pastor Derek
Fellowship Activity Funding	\$2,000.00	Janet Fisher & Lynn Burns
Expansion of Gravel Parking Lot	\$2,500.00	Ted Mertz
	\$17,150.00	

Any projects not completed by 12/1/15 will have to be brought forward for re-consideration in the disbursement of 2015 fair funds. In addition to the disbursements noted above, the fair committee will make a \$2,000 contribution to accelerate the pay down of the mortgage for the family life wing if adequate funds are available in the account on 12/1/15.

The fair committee is deeply grateful to the church community for the strong support of the annual Christmas Fair. Those who take on a leadership role at the fair make the decisions about the disbursement of funds. Your involvement is always welcome and encouraged.



News

The Foxboro Food Pantry is in need of non-perishable food items – especially cans of beef stew and clam chowder. Donations can be left in the red bin located in the breezeway area. Thank you!

The Food ‘n Friends Kitchen at First Baptist Church in Mansfield will be run by our wonderful team of Jen and Maureen on Tuesday, March 3rd. They are looking for people who can help out. Call Jen Murray at 508-699-7974, Maureen Driscoll at 508-339-7866 or sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.

LYNN Ministries is in need of the following travel size items to be given out to the homeless and at risk population in our local area: shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, and toothpaste. There is a box to place these items in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Angela Maynard at 508-543-2256 for additional information.

We know from our Mardi Gras Pancake Supper that Bethany LOVES pancakes! So here are two more opportunities to eat ‘em!

Annual Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 15th from 7:30 – 11:30 am
Ahern School Cafeteria
Tickets \$5, kids under 5 are free
Great raffle baskets and items up for grabs.
Tickets available at the door or from any Cub or Boy Scout in town. Please support Foxboro Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and enjoy a breakfast of pancakes, bacon, sausage, orange juice, milk, coffee or tea. All you can eat.

Pancakes at the Farm

March 7, 8, 14 and 15

A farm-to-table breakfast and opportunity to explore the Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA. Pancakes, pork sausage, and real maple syrup. Tour the Sugar House and meet the sugar makers. Tour the farm and meet the animals. Adults \$12, Kids 3-10 \$6, Kids 2 and under free. Reserve your seat today 508-886-2221.

“She hurried to the pharmacy to get medication, got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said, ‘I don’t know how to use this.’ She bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within 5 minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off of his cycle and asked if he could help. She said: ‘Yes, my daughter is sick. I’ve locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?’ He said, ‘Sure’. He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute, the car was open. She hugged the man and through tears said, ‘Thank You, God, for sending me such a very nice man.’ The man heard her little prayer and replied, ‘Lady, I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday; I was in prison for car theft.’ The woman hugged the man again, sobbing, ‘Oh, thank you, God! You even sent me a professional!’

Is God great or what!?!”

-Submitted by Al Papianou. Thanks, Al!

