

The Bethany Bell



Bethany Congregational Church

Volume 5

July/August

Number 7

Foxborough, Massachusetts

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Foxboro High School

Britny Andersen
Hunter Harrison Bissonette
Thomas Blake, III
Connor Rice Hogan
Emily Elizabeth Maynard
Maddy McKinney
Erin Putnam
Devan Tierney
Liam Caryl Whitney



We're Proud of You!



Join us this Sunday, June 28th, as we merge our Traditional Service and WINGS together into one Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Summer Sunday School for children age 3 through

Grade 5 and Nursery Care is available. We invite all to find rest, renewal and resurrection through the wonderful fellowship at Bethany. Join us!

Thank You One and All--Two by Two!

Our annual children and youth service was noisy, joyful and fun! We celebrated God's faithfulness and our Sunday school mission focus of Heifer



International through the theme of Noah's Ark. We celebrated our fathers, and recognized all of those who minister to Bethany's kids!

The congregation generously stepped up to the Heifer table during coffee hour afterwards, donating a total of \$300! This can purchase a goat, a pig, 2 flocks of chickens, and a flock of ducks. Adding these livestock to the water buffalo, sheep, trio of rabbits and fish we were also able to purchase this year, we could eventually fill an ark of our own!

"If at first you don't succeed, do it like your mother told you to."

“That They All May Be One”

By Rev. Derek White

“That they all may be one.” (John 17:21). On June 25th, 1957 the Evangelical Reformed Church and the Congregational Church joined together as one United Church of Christ (UCC). The two denominations were very different in polity, theology, and practices of worship. Yet in the midst of growing concern of denominational divides in America these two denominations believed John 17:21 called them to be one United Church of Christ. So on June 25th, 1957 the United Church of Christ (UCC) was official formed. It was not intended to be a new denomination. There is no organizational hierarchy in the UCC like other denominations. Each church is independent but called to be a part of a United Church of Christ. Christ who unites us as the Church is greater than anything that can divide us as the Church.

When discussion began over a year ago about merging the two services together I was hesitant. I prayed about how a consolidation could happen. I felt the Holy Spirit reminding me of the UCC motto, *“That They All May Be One”*. We should always seek to be a united Church because the Holy Spirit brings unity. *“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”* (Ephesians 4:3). The traditional service and the contemporary service both are excellent worship services. The new service will be an excellent worship service as well.

I look at this with the joining of the two services like a wedding. Two people apart can be full of joy but when they come together they find something even greater. I believe there is something new to be found in this union of the two services becoming one.

There will be some challenges. I can envision two people saying to each other “this is my pew where I always sit”. The truth is they both may have been sitting in the same pew for years, just at different times. Do you know who sits in your pew at the other service? Do you know the prayer requests of those who attend the other service? Do you know if that family with the kids in Sunday School are new to the church or have they been coming here for years? There are a lot of unknowns to figure out.

One benefit of the new service is no longer having to say I am a first service person or a second service person. There will be no more double shifts for deacons, teachers, ushers, greeters, service readers, tech booth, musicians, and staff on Sundays. No more preparing two bulletins for Sunday. No more parents waiting around for kids choir to sing a second time. There are many things to look forward to with the new service. There will be more time for the choir and vocalists to prepare with Greg. The new service has an introit at the beginning for reflection as we enter into worship together. The children will head to Sunday School with a special song for them. We are looking to add a gym and playground monitor so parents can chat longer at coffee hour. Having one Sunday School allows more volunteers to help on Sunday morning with one service. There will be an altar call at the end of the service for anyone seeking to give their life to Christ.

Our best has always been when the church has come together as one. One service is offering our best to the Lord. Now is the time for it all to come together. I know it hasn't been an easy journey. My reference of a yearlong cruise of the “Seven Seas” encountered a few waves along the way. June 28th we will dock the ship for the summer. We will make a few repairs and Sept. 13th will head back out to sea.

Pastor Derek

Dear Friends of Bethany,

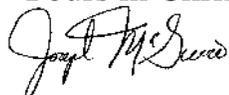
I am writing to briefly discuss our church finances after our first 5 months of 2015, before we enter the summer slowdown. I am sorry to tell you that our position continues to decline, and revenue is running less than planned, which was still less than hoped for. While we planned for a deficit this year, we hoped we would show some progress against it. At the time we passed the budget, we expected to have another cell contract in place and generating rent by October of 2015, but we now know that this is not going to happen. By itself that will create an almost \$6,000 shortfall to plan. Through the end of May, comparatively, we have the following:

	This year	Last year	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Donations	\$120,235	\$128,223	-\$7,987	-6.2%

Both loose collections and pledges are running negative from the same 5 months last year. While it is too soon to really predict our expenses for the year, as I write this I expect them to come in as planned, so it is our donation income that is the cause of concern.

The Church is not in any near term financial risk or duress, as we have plenty of available funds to manage a deficit, even one that is significantly larger than planned for. However, I would be remiss if I did not share my concerns with all of you, and I don't want to be the bearer of a "surprise" at the annual meeting in January. This is beginning to look like three consecutive large deficit years in a row, and that can lead to more difficult decisions regarding our ministries. It is quite possible that more expense reduction will need happen beyond what was contemplated for this year. However, if we all focus on this between now and the end of the year, I believe we can catch up on our planned donations and at least get closer to our plan. If you have any questions or comments, please send me an email at jm McGuire@mcguirecapital.com.

Yours in Christ,



Joe McGuire
Chair, Financial Management



Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. By now some of you may have heard the news that I will be resigning from my position as Director of Youth Ministries with Bethany Congregational Church. I will be continuing on in my position through August's VBS. My last day with Bethany will be August 7th.

This has been one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make. However, after many months of prayer and seeking counsel, I know that this decision -- although extremely difficult -- is the right one for me and my family.

I hope to spend some time with you all over the next few months, and share with you the framework that has been created for the youth ministries program over the past two years. It is a solid program that with existing leadership can continue to run successfully. I will continue to be an available resource to the leaders into the Fall as needed.

It has been a blessing to know and walk alongside all of you. Your love for the youth of Bethany is overwhelming and inspiring. I praise God for your faith-filled hearts.

Peace,

Anne Marie Holloway
Director of Youth Ministries





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 Michelmores at 543-7187. Our next serving dates are Saturday, July 11th and August 8th.

Harvest Hands 2015-2016 Mexican Student Sponsorship.

Harvest Hands is currently accepting sponsorships for the students in the sponsorship program for the upcoming academic year. Sponsorship includes tuition, school and sport uniforms, shoes, sneakers, backpack, school supplies, books, bus fare, under garments and personal care items. The cost of sponsoring a student is:

Primary Student - \$275.00

Resplendor De Vida Student - \$385.00
(\$32/month)

Secondary Student - \$480.00

High School Student - \$750.00.

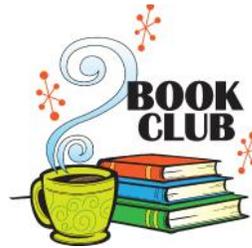
If you are interested in sponsoring a student to attend school please see Carol Fraser for the new forms and information. If you are re-sponsoring a student or a university student it is important that you contact Carol Fraser (cell) 74-254-0740 as the paperwork has changed. Additional information will be available on the Mission Outreach bulletin board.

The sponsorships need to be received by Harvest Hands before the end of June.

Volunteers Needed! If you haven't yet volunteered to lead a summer Sunday school class, please prayerfully consider it. We especially need coverage on the following Sundays: 7/5, 7/26, 8/16, 8/30. We will be journeying through Jesus' parables this summer and it will be an exciting trip! Contact Deb at byron@bethanychurch.org

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Deb Byron at byron@bethanychurch.org for more information on these groups.



Held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Parlor. Contact Jane Michelmores at 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 cynthiacbell@msn.com to find out the monthly meeting schedule.

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 at 8:45.



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.

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.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Deacons

7/5 Jim McKinney/Bill Hughes
7/12 Margie Wheeler/David Fisher
7/19 Laurel DeCoste/Deb Graham
7/26 Mark Hawrylcw/Jim McKinney
8/2 Alin Pop Vicas/Tom Garcia
8/9 Margie Wheeler/Bill Hughes
8/16 Pat Scagnoli/Laurel DeCoste
8/23 David Fisher/Mark Hawrylcw
8/30 Deb Graham/Alin Pop Vicas

Service Readers

7/5 Laurel DeCoste
7/12 Devan Tierney
7/19 Mark Hawrylcw
7/26 John Michelmore
8/2 Dick Hobbs
8/9 Deb Graham
8/16 Penni Jenkins
8/23 Virginia Banian
8/30 Julie Cline

Nursery Volunteers

7/5 Lily Marzalkowski
7/12 Matt Rogers
7/19 Janet See
7/26 Lily Holloway
8/2 Aurora Pop-Vicas
8/9 Mary-Lou Pike
8/16 Lily Marszalkowski
8/23 Brenna Murphy
8/30 Matt Rogers

** We have an opening, could YOU help?

Book of Life

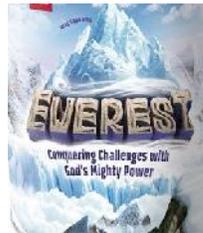
Chancel Flowers

June 7th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jennie and Harry Ellstrom by Dorothy Vosburgh and Roland Demers.

June 14th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frank Annese by the MacPherson family.

June 21st, given to the glory of God and in celebration of Children's and Youth Sunday and Father's Day.

June 28th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Carolyn and Howard Michelmore by Jane and John Michelmore.



VBS 2015!

August 3rd -7th

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

We have chosen

EVEREST – Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power! to be our VBS 2015 program theme. Summer will be here before we know it! Please mark your calendars for August 3rd-7th. Registration information will be available soon. Contact Anne Marie Holloway at holloway@bethanychurch.org for info.

Help Wanted!

I would like to thank you for offering to help out with VBS in years past! Some of you have asked how you can help serve again this year, and I am reaching out to you in hopes that you might help out again and assist in running one of our many stations! If you are interested in being a crew leader, (teens) Please let us know!! VBS dates are August 3-7. The hours this year are from 9-11:30 for preschool through grade 5. Our volunteers will need to be here at 8:45 and might need to stay until 11:45 to set up for the next day's session... If you know of some folks who might be interested in helping out, please let me know and pass this along to them!! Again, I can be reached by email or phone...

Here's a list of areas in which station leaders are needed:

Bible Expeditions

Imagination Station

KidVid Cinema

Snack Station (Self-serve again this year - kiddos bring own snacks)

Glacier Games

-here is a link to view for each station - to give you an idea: <http://www.group.com/vbs/everest>

Nancy Kaeser has graciously begun brainstorming decorating ideas!! This should be a fun and easy VBS to decorate for!

Thank you again for your dedication to this beloved summer ministry of Bethany Congregational Church!!! It is sure to be the "coolest" week of the summer!!!! :)

Peace and joy! Anne Marie



Snowflake Night!

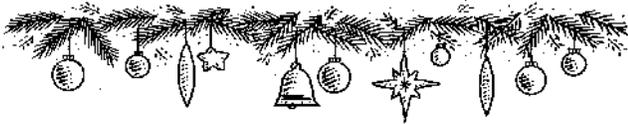
Join us on Wednesday, July 15th from 7-9 pm for some "cool" VBS decorating! We'll be making all sorts of snowflakes for our upcoming VBS week!

Drop in for part or all of the night. Adults, teens, and elementary kids (if young, please send along mom or dad) are all welcome to join us. Any questions, please contact Libby Carter or Nancy Kaeser.

Newsletter DEADLINE

The deadline for the next edition of *The Bethany Bell* is **Friday, August 21st** at

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



Christmas Fair News

Saturday, December 5th, 2015!

We have helpers for the Book Nook, but are in need of some dry storage space. If anyone who has a love of books would be interested in taking over this very important section of the Christmas Fair, or if you have some dry, accessible space in your basement, please contact Dale Andersen,

huddlehous@comcast.net or 543-2119.

(Please DO NOT drop any more books off at the Church Office, or at the Haney's house, as they will have to be disposed of if no one assumes the leadership of the Book Nook. We'll let you know if/when you can resume donations! Thanks!)

Knit Goods Wanted!

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. Call her at 543-4543.



News

The Food 'n Friends Kitchen at First Baptist Church in Mansfield will be run by our wonderful team of Jen and Maureen on Tuesday, September 7th. 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.

The Foxboro Community Farmstand will open on Wednesday, July 8th for the 2015 summer season and is looking for volunteers to cover shifts. Please consider volunteering for a two-hour shift, one shift a week or whatever you can give. Profits from the farmstand go to the Foxboro Discretionary Fund to help with the food pantry and school lunch programs. Contact Laurie Bubencik at lbbubencik@comcast.net or 508-543-0528 if you can help!

LYNN Ministries, a local ministry serving the needs of the homeless in our communities, is in need of volunteers to help with serving meals. Below are the upcoming dates for Attleboro and Brockton for the next few months. Cooks are also needed for Brockton the Friday night before each date. Contact Angela Maynard at 508-543-2256 to sign up!
Attleboro: 7/4, 8/1, 9/5, 10/3, 11/7, 12/5
Brockton: 7/18, 8/15, 9/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/19

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!