



The Bethany Bell

Bethany Congregational Church

Volume 5 December, 2015 Number 11

Foxborough, Massachusetts

December is **Generosity** Month

Be on the lookout for tie-ins to this theme in the Sunday morning bulletin, sermons, music, and our week-day programming!

Bethany Church **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

3 ROCKHILL STREET
LOCATED IN FOXBORO CENTER



JOIN US FOR COFFEE &
DONUTS IN THE MORNING
OR FOR A DELICIOUS LUNCH
STARTING AT 11:30

Visit With Santa
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

- CHILDREN'S FAIR
- IMAGINATIVE THEMED BASKETS
- HANDCRAFTS
- FRESH DECORATED WREATHS
- GENTLY-USED BOOKS, CD'S AND VIDEOS
- GRANDMA'S ATTIC
- HOMEMADE SWEETS
- FUN ACTIVITIES
- SILENT AUCTION

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 508-543-5678

“Do something wonderful; people may imitate it.” - Albert Schweitzer

Dear Bethany Family,

By now most of you know that I will finish up working here at the end of December. While I'm excited to start something new, it's always hard to leave the familiar behind. My consolation is that Bethany is my church home as well as my work place – so in one sense I'm not going anywhere! I'm grateful for all the opportunities I've had here over the past twelve years to share God's love and truth with children and adults alike, and I so appreciate all your support and encouragement. As we head into the season of Advent I look forward to celebrating its themes of hope, love, joy and peace with all of you.

We just finished up a fun 8-week fellowship/discipleship series called Tuesdays Together. Each of the four Bible studies offered had much relevance for both the season and our life together as a church. Here is a little nugget from each:

HOPE

Jesus introduced hope into the world. Here we are 2000 years later, and His church is still strong. The church is the hope of the world because it is the vehicle by which God is bringing the solution to our greatest problems; sin, sorrow and death. (*Starting Point*)

LOVE

When we use our God-given gifts to serve the church, and our time and talents come together to meet the needs of others, we are living demonstrations of Christ's love. (*Discovering your Spiritual Gifts*)

JOY

The apostle Paul deliberately and painstakingly nurtured leaders for the early church. He experienced great joy in mentoring and encouraging others, who then helped spread the Good News. We too will experience spiritual joy as we continue to develop leaders at Bethany and invest in their ministries. (*The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*)

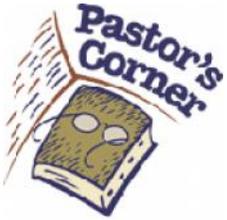
PEACE

God's peace is what gives us stability and sure-footing. By arming ourselves with prayer and active expressions of our faith we will achieve this peace. We will always be able to turn away from wrong direction or deception, experiencing instead the power and protection of the Holy Spirit. (*The Armor of God*)

Pastor Derek has chosen "generosity" as a focus during December. Let's cultivate and practice a generosity of hope, love, joy, and peace together this month!

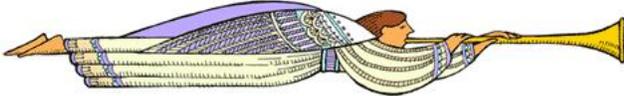
Yours in Christ,

Deb Byron



Generosity of Love Our Theme for December

November was a great month as the church focused on “Thankfulness” as the theme for the month. For December the church will be focusing on “Generosity of Love” as the new theme. Making time to share with others requires a conscious effort. In a fast-paced world, time is in high demand and so many priorities rob of us time with loved ones. This month make the people you love a priority and be generous in sharing your time with them. It could be as simple as taking the time to write a Christmas card; perhaps it could be cooking an extra portion of a meal to share with a neighbor. As we work together to find ways to share love with others during the month of December, let us all make a little time to communicate love to those in our lives. This month be generous with your love.



December 13th is “Angel Sunday”!

The figures of angels we collect and display at Christmas time help us to reflect on our Savior, Jesus Christ, whose birth and resurrection were announced by angels with great joy! During coffee hour on December 13th, we will have an angel display. You may bring them in the week before and leave them with Deb Byron, or just bring them that morning and place them on the tables in Fellowship Hall. Please write something about your angel on an index card to make the display even more meaningful.

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.



Sunday, December 20th

Christmas Sunday

10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

A beloved Bethany tradition

11:00 a.m. Deacon’s Sampling Party
Bring a “finger food favorite” to share,
and sample others’ favorites!

Thursday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with
Communion



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

Man 2 Man - Men’s Ministry has changed its name to “Man 2 Man”. The group seeks to be a Christian brotherhood that gathers month to month in fellowship. For those who have never been part of the Men’s Ministry before, we want you to be part of this new focused ministry. If you are trying to navigate big decisions in your life, we want to be a group that you can turn to for prayer and support. Contact Gary Hobel, Jim McKinney, or Pastor Derek for upcoming events.

Basket Cases - A mission-minded group which supports New Hope, a women's/ children's shelter for victims of domestic violence through monthly gift baskets of donated items from church members. For information call Cindy Bell at 401-405-1921.

Book Club - 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.

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.



A Praying Church is a Powerful Church - Prayer Group meets Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Come pray for our church community, for our leaders, volunteers, committees and all who are part of our greater church family. We meet for 30-45 minutes starting with listening to some worship music and entering into communal prayer as well as silent prayer. Come one time or as often as you are able. If you are not able to join us, please be in a spirit of prayer at this time each week. If you have any questions or would like to be added to an email list, please contact Pamela Hogan at pthogan@verizon.net.



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 date is Saturday, December 12th.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Deacons

12/6 Bill Hughes & Deb Graham
 12/13 Mark Hawrylcw & Tom Garcia
 12/20 Alin Pop-Vicas & Jim McKinney
 12/27 Margie Wheeler & Bill Hughes

Nursery Volunteers

12/6 Aurora Pop-Vicas
 12/13 Mary Lou Pike
 12/20 Lily Marszalkowski
 12/27 Matt Rogers

Ushers

12/6 Bev & Tom Crocker
 12/13 Roland Demers & Dorothy Vosburgh
 12/20 Lois & Bill Sullivan
 12/27 Michele Rogers & Penni Jenkins

Service Readers

12/6 Deb Graham
 12/13 Virginia Banian
 12/20 Penni Jenkins
 12/27 Laurel DeCoste

Book of Life

Chancel Flowers

November 1st given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Brendan Kelly, on his birthday, by his family.

November 8th given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marion & Stuart Whittaker, and Dr. Masao Yatsuhashi by their family.

November 15th given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jerry McPhail by his sister, Joan Bradley.

November 22nd given to the glory of God and in celebration of Phyllis Wills' birthday, by Grace, Sammy Beth, Collin, Kyle and Owen.

Birth

Declan Thomas Nolan was born November 1, 2015 to Katie and Tom Nolan. He is the grandson of Bonnie McKenzie. Congratulations!

Baptism

Robert Joseph Santarlasci, born September 1, 2015 to Erika and Troy Santarlasci, was baptized on November 15, 2015. He is the grandson of Dorothy Vosburgh and Roland Demers.

Death

Our sympathy is expressed to the family of Louann Boyton who died on November 20, 2015. She was the wife of Leonard and mother of Debra, Patty, and Dianne.



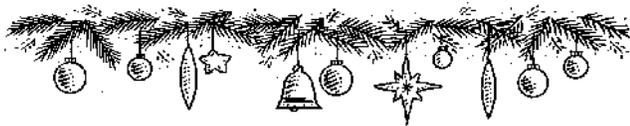
BYG! Bethany Youth Group

Jr. High meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and Sr. High meets from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

Upcoming events include:

12/6 No BYG - 12/13: Miracle on Rockhill Street - 12/20: Jingle Bell Rock Party! - 12/27: Showing the way!

Please register online at bethanychurch.org - click on the "Youth @ Bethany" tab on the home page and scroll down to "Youth Group Registration". Contact our interim co-leaders, Liz Myerson at ebmyerson313@gmail.com or Brett Jackson at speejackson@yahoo.com for more information.



Christmas Fair News

Saturday, December 5th, 2015!

Church Fair Countdown – It's November-- That means **ONLY** 4 weeks to the Fair!

The Book Nook is Collecting!

We are in need of books, books and more books for the Christmas Fair. Please look at home and see if you can make a book donation. At this time we are collecting **fiction** books **ONLY**. Books can be left at church, or call Alison Bancroft 617-763-7438 or Karen Phillips 508-813-1947 for books to be picked up. Thank you for your help. Alison and Karen



Yummy Baked Goods!

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 - 8:00 PM or Saturday morning at 9:00 AM. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us. Thank you in advance. Bonnie McKenzie 699-4354 & Lorna Sullivan 543-3964.

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!



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.

With many thanks,

Jane Curtis 543-3462 Ruth Jackson 698-0617
Joyce Lewis 543-2089 Michele Boti 774-215-5078

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!

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 22nd at 11:30 a.m. through Tuesday, December 1st. 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.

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



An Evening in Bethlehem

The Foxboro Seventh-day Adventist Church at 308 Central Street is once again holding their FREE, outdoor, Live Nativity Program. December 4, 5 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and December 6 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., travel back in time to see how it all began. Visit Bethlehem's market, vendors, centurions, the stable, the inn, and meet its people. Sample wares, listen to stories, and become part of the excitement of a Roman census and the birth of Christ. Dress warmly!

Heifer Farm Holiday Open House

Creating memories, giving thoughtful gifts and enjoying good food are all part of our holiday seasons. Heifer Farm invites you to a special event with a Living Gift Market so you can honor family and friends with a purchase of an animal gift that will share joy. Take home a special gift card and your photo with a goat! Warm yourself with hot chestnuts at the bonfire; take a hayride; enjoy delicious homemade soup, baked goods and hot cocoa. Before you go, decorate a gingerbread cookie or stop in the Shop@Heifer for fairly-traded gift items, books, jewelry, and Heifer items. Enjoy free admission with a canned good donation which will be given to the Worcester County Food Bank. We greatly appreciate your support! For more information, call 508-886-2221, email heifer.farm@heifer.org.





REQUEST FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will have poinsettias in the Narthex and Sanctuary for our Christmas services. Persons wishing Christmas poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones, please fill out this form, and send it to the Church Office at 3 Rockhill Street. **The Deadline is Sunday, December 13th.** 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 service? _____



STORY OF ELIJAH

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times. "Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?" A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

Five Gifts from God

Love makes our friends a little dearer.

Joy makes our hearts a little lighter.

Faith makes our paths a little clearer.

Hope makes our lives a little brighter.

Peace brings us all a little nearer.

—Author unknown

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

The deadline for the next edition of *The Bethany Bell* is **Friday, December 18th**

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

