

The Monthly Newsletter from your Family of Faith at Bethany

May, 2010

May 9 - Mother/Mentor Day

May 16 - Camp Sunday; Family Sunday & Pancake Brunch

May 20-22 - Bethany's YARD SALE, 9 AM - 5 PM

May 23 - Pentecost (wear something red)

May 30 - Memorial Weekend Sunday Worship

LINC

Life IN Christ

Our mission is to create the opportunity for all to make discipleship a way of life.

A Message from Pastor James...

Dear friends & members of Bethany:

Have you ever suffered for doing something good? I learned a lesson when I was a young pastor in my 20's. There was a couple who were having a terrible fight. I made a personal attempt to bring them to peace with one another. You can almost guess what happened. They both turned their ire at me simultaneously!

Mark Twain wrote about repenting of the five good deeds he had done in his life. He couldn't remember his sins or whether or not he had repented, but he remembered every one of his good deeds and repented of them constantly.

Sometimes, I feel that way. How about you? Have you ever done a good deed which you later regretted doing? Well, here's the rub! (That's Shakespeare talk for "What I'm about to say is really going to irritate you!") As Christians, we are called upon by our dear Lord to . . . do good always; no matter what we perceive to be the outcome.

In 1st Peter we find this adage: "It is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil" (3:17). Yes, sometimes we may end up regretting doing good, but the Christ-like attitude is: to continue doing good anyway!

Yes, you might say, but that really rubs me the wrong way when I do some good deed and the beneficiary of that deed is "ungrateful". I remember an incident years ago involving a gentleman in my church whose heart was touched by a story of a local poor family experiencing overwhelming difficulties. He sent them an anonymous gift of money to ease their burdens. About a month later, the very same man came into my office and declared "I will never help anyone else as long as I live!" When I probed to find out what he was upset about he declared: "Remember that family I helped? I never got a thank you note!"

I kindly pointed out that a thank you note might have been a nice thing to get, but poor people often don't think of such things or act on them, especially when in dire straights. I assured him the family was indeed grateful and besides, the gift was anonymous. He insisted that this social faux pas was proof that there was no point in helping people because "all people were greedy and ungrateful" (a sort of good summary of the man's own character, by my estimation at the time). I immediately thought of St. Therese of Lisieux (whose shrine is at 12 Mile & Woodward) who is called the Little Flower because she sought to love God by loving others in little things. One example of her "Little Way" of loving others with the heart of Christ goes thusly: "Help those who are ungrateful!" Imagine!

Most of us expect a thank you when we do good. But I wonder if our offering of good to God by helping others is conditional upon our being thanked properly?

Look, Jesus suffered on the cross, for doing something good, divinely good I might add. Do you think that God is unwilling to love us because some have not thought to thank God for their salvation or thank Jesus for his sacrifice? Imagine God saying "Well, I didn't get a thank you note, so I'm not going to love or help people anymore!" 1st Peter 3:18-19 says "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all . . . in order to bring you to God! He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit!"

Now here's the part where Peter talks about you and me: "Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God" (1st Peter 4:1-2).

Paul said to the Galatians: "Let us not be weary - in doing good" (6:9). We don't do good deeds for some reward (even a thank you note). We do good because it is the "will of God."

"God is kind to the ungrateful . . . Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:35-36) 3 John 11 says, "Whoever does good . . . is from God."

It is our duty as Christians to do good; even, even says St. Therese . . . if they are ungrateful."

Scripture and Sermon Titles for May

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|-------|---|
| 05/09 | MOTHER/MENTOR DAY
Scripture: John 2:1-12; John 19:25-27
Reflections on "How My Mother/Mentor Shaped My Spiritual Life" by B. Nugent, G. Lewis, & J. Rowe |
| 05/16 | CAMP SUNDAY; PANCAKE BREAKFAST AFTER WORSHIP |
| 05/23 | PENTECOST
Scripture: Acts 2 (selections)
Sermon: "From Cacophony to Comprehension to Conversion" |
| 05/30 | SUNDAY OF MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
Scripture: Joshua 4:21-22
Sermon: "What Mean These Stones?" |



National Day of Prayer, May 6



On **Thursday, May 6**, we will observe the National Day of Prayer. Prayer Guides are available at Grand Central. You are encouraged to pray for our nation and it's elected officials. The church will be open beginning at 9 AM. You may come for a personal time of prayer in the sanctuary any time. ALSO, we will have a "Soup & Sandwich" dinner at 6 PM followed by a public prayer service at 7 PM. Please make plans to attend.

LINC Snail Mail

We've worked out all the bugs. Everyone should now receive our monthly newsletter, the LINC, by e-mail. We are also sending out the LINC by snail mail to those without computers and to those who prefer getting a hard copy in the mail. If you are still receiving the LINC by snail mail and you now read it online, please send us an e-mail and tell us to take you off the snail mail list. Our e-mail address is office@bethanywaterford.org.

Mother/Mentor Day, May 9

On **Sunday, May 9** we will observe Mother/Mentor Day in honor of mothers and mentors who have been an inspiration to us. Members of the congregation will have the opportunity to share a sentence about how their mother or a female mentor has been a positive, nurturing influence in their lives. Three Bethany people will share how important women in their lives have impacted their spiritual walk. We will hear from **Becca Nugent, Gene Lewis, & Jan Rowe**. All women in attendance during worship will receive a gift. Come on Mother/Mentor Day and be blessed. 10:30 Worship.



Camp Sunday

On Sunday, May 16, instead of our usual Fellowship Dinner, the Christian Education team and Youth will be serving up their Annual Pancake breakfast with all the trimmings. Come hungry! Support our youth as they earn money toward camp scholarships. Oh—be sure to dress in your "camp attire"!

Trivia Game Night - May 14

Friday, May 14th
7 PM at Bethany
\$10 per person (table host free)

Host a table or be a part of a team. Childcare provided FREE. If you like trivia and competing, come to this night of trivia fun! All proceeds go towards the Faith Milestones program. Sign up at Grand Central.

May 23 is PENTECOST

On **Sunday, May 23** we will celebrate Pentecost (the birthday of the Christian Church)! It is traditional to wear something red to Worship on Pentecost. You are encouraged to do so! **There will be a children's processional at the beginning of the service, so be sure your kids are there a little early to line up.** Also, something extraordinary is going to happen. You will get to experience something like the Pentecost miracle of hearing the Gospel in many languages. Come and hear. Come and see.

Mark Your Calendar VBS is coming!

August 2nd - 6th
6:00-8:30 PM

If you are interested in helping with this vital program, please see Michelle McGregor.

Yard Sale Items Needed

We need clean, usable items for our Yard Sale, **May 20-23**. Toys, furniture, household goods, yard tools, games, electronics, CD's, books, even campers and other large items! We will also receive clothes that are clean and in good condition. You may begin bringing items to the church on **Monday, May 10**. We will receive items through **Monday, May 17**. If you know anyone who may be interested in donating items, please encourage them to do so. Tell them we offer a "Gift in Kind" receipt for tax purposes on all items donated to Bethany for the Yard Sale. Call **Susan Barlow at 248-534-3799** or **Rachel Sparling at 248-623-6250** for more information.

Pictorial Directory Sitzings, May 6-8

DON'T FORGET! If you have an appointment to have your portrait taken for our new church directory, be sure to be on time!

VALET PARKING

We now offer Valet Parking every Sunday beginning at **10:00 AM**. Just drive up under the portico and honk your horn. A church member will come out and park your car for you. If you are interested in joining our team of valets, call **Susan Barlow** at 248-534-3799 or **Jan Rowe** at 248-338-0786. NOTE to MEMBERS: Please leave the parking spaces under the basketball hoop for valet parking.

Membership/Outreach Matchmaker Plan

We would like to match your need with Bethany folks who are willing to help. Below are some areas where we can help you for the sake of Christ.

- **Valet Service** every Sunday morning beginning at 10 AM. Stop your car under the portico and honk your horn. Someone will come and assist you.
- **Running occasional errands** for Seniors and those who are at home ill or recuperating from illness or surgery, like picking up food, prescriptions or needed supplies, etc.
- **Providing occasional meals** for those who are sick at home or have special needs.
- **Doing occasional light housekeeping or light yard work** for the sick and elderly.
- **Giving rides** to medical appointments, church services & events, and other important appointments.
- **Offering occasional tutoring** children, teens, or adults with learning challenges.
- **Helping the Pastor and Deacons by visiting the homebound** or those in need of prayer or encouragement.
- **Responding with emergency childcare.**

Call any one of the following people who will match your need with a member of Bethany who is willing to help.

Susan Barlow, 248-534-3799
Jan Rowe, 248-338-0786
James Bolin, 248-722-4516



Team of the Month: BUILDING & PROPERTY TEAM

Every month we are highlighting one of our 13 ministry teams. This month, our featured team is the BUILDING & PROPERTY TEAM.

We are blessed to be a congregation with a beautiful, functional building sitting on five acres of land. Our building and property ought always to give glory to God and serve the needs of our congregation's worship and ministries in the name of Christ.

To be good stewards of this blessing, we have a BUILDING & PROPERTY TEAM that provides for care, improvements, and maintenance.

Sometimes, they hire people to do things, but more often turn to volunteers, like you, to help us clean the inside of the building every weekend, do small fix-it jobs, and more involved projects.

Al Jespersen (248-698-1227) and **Lon Fall** (248-797-2664) are Co-Team Leaders. Their job is to oversee our building & property needs and ask volunteers to help with special projects. We have

Alternate Co-Team Leaders in **Bill Thatcher** (248-248-706-1041) and **Steve Croff** (248-706-9880). They work primarily on the maintenance and improvement of our grounds.

Louise Aebersold and **Ida McCutcheon** have taken responsibility for the flower gardens outside. And **Joyce Hice** cares for the garden by the main entrance. Our Winnie Dovre Memorial Garden by the office door is cared for by the **Patterson family**.

Our kitchen is kept clean by volunteers from Gather & Grow.

But we need you too! Is there some way you can be helpful? Talk with Al or Lon or Bill or Steve.

BUILDING & PROPERTY TEAM

Mission Statement: Our Mission is to take care of Bethany's building and property to the glory of God.

Scripture: The joy of the Lord is your strength. - Nehemiah 8:10

Team Responsibilities:

- Arrange for cleaning of building
 - Provide a cleaning check list
 - Post the cleaning check list on the back of storage room doors
- Plan for maintenance of building and property
- Schedule maintenance
 - Weekly cleanings
 - Spring and fall property clean-up
 - Snow removal
 - Lawn service
 - Pest control
 - Annual furnace and air conditioning inspections
 - Carpet cleaning
 - Arrange for dumpster
- Determine safe areas for tornados and exit plans in case of fire
- Educate staff members, teachers, and congregation about safety plans
- Post 'fire exit' and 'tornado shelter' signs
- Maintain fire extinguishers, safety signage, and first aid kits
- Check smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire alarms every 6 months
- Be responsible for cleaning supplies, cleaning equipment, vacuum cleaner bags, water softener salt, hand soap, toilet paper, and hand towels
- Maintain, label, and provide office with map of storage locations for above items
- Submit an annual budget to Stewardship Team
- Keep the storage shed clean and in good order
- Maintain church sign and keep messages current
- Receive bids, and contract for budgeted services
 - Assure that all contractors are properly insured
 - Contracts are to be filed with Church Treasurer

DEACONS

Our Deacons offer spiritual counseling & prayer **each Sunday**, upon the conclusion of Worship. The Deacon of the Day will meet with anyone desiring personal prayer at the front of the sanctuary by the piano. Our Deacons are: **Nona Bos, Bob Hunt, & Rodger Zeller.**

HEADS UP!

Sunday School now begins at **9:15 AM**. This will give us a full hour of time for learning and fellowship.

The Wisdom of Star Trek

Adult Sunday School

Now thru June 13

9:15 AM in the Parlor



DEACONS OFFERING HEALING PRAYERS

On the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month, the Pastor and Deacons will be available in the sanctuary to offer healing prayers for anyone who desires prayer for any reason. An anointing with oil will be available if desired. **12:30 PM. In April: 12th & 26th.**

Book Club

By Louise Aebersold

We are excited about the next two books because the respective authors will attend our discussions. How wonderful it will be to be able to talk to an author about their book and to get your copy signed if you wish!

Please come join us in reading and discussing *Bathsheba* by Tracy Morgan. This is a riveting story of sin and redemption, based on David and Bathsheba from the Old Testament. Tracy is the niece of Ferrol Haxter. We will be meeting at Ferrol's home on May 14 at 9:15 AM. The address is 865 Lakeside Dr. Waterford, 48328. *Bathsheba* is available for purchase at Grand Central. The cost is \$17.

On June 11, our Book Club will discuss *Shell Song* by Ellen Whitehead. This is a poignant and poetic story of the search for one's purpose amid all the struggles life sends along the way, including the onset of mental illness and its invasion into the life of someone you love. *Shell Song* is also available for purchase at Grand Central. The cost is \$10. We will meet at Louise Aebersold's home at 7705 Pleasant Brook Drive, Waterford, 48327, at 9:15 AM.

CAMP LAEL WORKDAY!

In May, the Bethany MEN will not have a breakfast . . . at the Maxfield's! Instead, all able bodied men are invited to the CAMP LAEL WORK DAY on May 15 (well, women and children are invited too!). The work will begin at 9 AM. You may go directly to Camp Lael or if you choose to car pool, meet at Bethany at 7:15 AM. Here's the good news! You get breakfast AND lunch in thanks for your work. Breakfast is at 8:30 AM. For directions to Camp Lael, go to their web site: www.camplael.com

What a Deal!

Our friends at Liberty Tire & Auto Care (6485 Cooley Lake Rd.) have established a program that gives BETHANY families an opportunity to raise funds for BETHANY! Todd & Jon at Liberty Tire will donate 2% of the invoice total for any repair/maintenance services rendered on your car or truck to BETHANY! Simply mention that you are a member of BETHANY and that you want 2% of you invoice to be donated JUST ONE TIME. Then, it's all automatic. Pastor James & Dave von Behren have been taking their vehicles there for years. For more information, call Todd at 248-681-9710.



Thanks from Lighthouse

Dear Pastor Bolin & Bethany Friends:

On behalf of the volunteers, Board of Directors, and most importantly, those we serve; thank you so much to your church for the generous in-kind donation of food valued at \$400. We firmly believe these efforts make our community stronger! Sincerely: Thomas Stowell, Executive Director

Thanks from Bethanie

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for their prayers, cards and good wishes during my recuperation from my April surgery. It's a privilege to be a member of such a caring church family.

Love and hugs, Bethanie McClow



2010 YARD SALE

May 20, 21, 22

at

BETHANY CHURCH
1375 Hiller Road
Waterford, MI 48327
248-722-4516

(Please fill out this form and turn it to church)

- I have items to donate.
- I am willing to help with publicity and/or signage
- I have large item/s to & will need help bringing.
- I am willing to donate table/s.
- I am willing to donate baked goods.
- I am willing to work during the week of the sale.

Check all applicable times:

- Getting building ready Sun. eve. May 16
- Sorting & pricing M-W, May 17-19
- Transporting donated items to the sale
- Working sales on May 20
- Working sales on May 21
- Working sales on May 22
- Cleaning up on Sat. May 22
- Transporting larger sold items to buyers
- Other (describe)

You may bring donated items to the church from **Monday, May 10 through Monday, May 17**. Items will not be accepted after May 17. Good saleable items only.

You may turn this form in at Grand Central or put in the offering plate.

For more information, call **Susan Barlow at 248-534-3799** or **Rachel Sparling at 248-762-0858** or email to office@bethanywaterford.org

Your Name: _____

Phone or email: _____

COMING IN JUNE

*June 6 - Graduation Sunday;
Family Sunday; Communion*

*June 13 - Flag Day Eve
(an American Flag for every worshiper)*

*June 20 - Father's Day; Family Sunday;
Youth Commissioned*

*June 27 - Marriage Sunday
(give James & Susan marriage advice)*

GRADUATION SUNDAY

June 6th

We will be honoring our High School Graduates on Sunday, June 6. They are:

Andrew Upleger
Kimberly Wooster
Rebecca Nugent
Melissa Sargent
Casey Starick

We also wish to honor higher education graduates. Please call the office to give us the information.

There will be a small reception following the service. Don't miss it!

Gather & Grow

By Nancy Maxfield/Nona Bos

Do you remember your Grandmother's apron? Or the one you made in home economics? Gather and Grow will be hosting a brunch on **Saturday, May 8 at 10:30**. It's called "A String of Memories - Wrapped Up in an Apron." If you have a favorite apron, bring it along and share your apron memories. Please let Nona Bos or Nancy Maxfield know if you plan to attend. However, if you find you are free at the last minute and want to come, come along. We would like a good "guesstimate" as to how much food to prepare.

On **Monday, June 7** we will be attending the Detroit Historical Houses of Worship. These will be churches in the Grosse Ile area. The cost of the all day trip is \$40 and a box lunch is included. Please see Nancy Maxfield. This is a first paid - first served basis and we have only twelve tickets. So see Nancy soon.

Booth Patterson P.C.
Attorneys at Law

J. Timothy Patterson

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tpatterson@boothpatterson.com

YOUTH MUSIC SERIES

By Michelle McGregor



The youth just finished a challenging, but meaningful series on music. We explored **secular music**; the good, the bad and the profane. We thoroughly examined the words and meanings behind the top songs they are singing along to and downloading.

We used the scripture Philippians 4:8 to “filter” music: *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.”* I challenged them to consider the music on their Ipods; discerning if they are “Jesus Approved.” We also examined how music really can influence our thoughts, and potentially our actions.

We then explored **Contemporary Christian Music**, comparing popular secular artists with Christian artists. There really is a large variety of Christian music that is just as good, if not better than “radio” music.

We concluded the series with a trip to Family Christian Stores to listen and purchase music. This is always a challenging but fun series and it always ends with the youth reconsidering their music collection.

MISSION ACTIVITY FOR MAY

By Lottie Jespersen

Join a team of Bethany volunteers, of all ages, on May 15, Saturday, as we get Camp Lael ready for the youth summer camps. There will be plenty of simple jobs to choose from. Camp Lael is located in Lapeer. We plan to car pool from several locations for those wanting to share a ride. We will start off with a 8:30 breakfast at the camp, work morning and afternoon with a midday break of a nicely prepared lunch at the camp. Sign up on the mission’s bulletin board or contact Bob Hunt, 248 881-9376, in advance, so we can plan the number of meals and the ride arrangements.

The Mobil logo, featuring the word "Mobil" in a blue, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right.

Omar Putrus
Owner

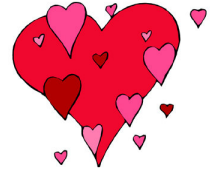
5761 Cooley Lake Rd.
Waterford, MI 48237

Tel: (248) 638-8744
Fax: (248) 738-8126

A Message from Susan

As I have been driving around running my errands for the last few weeks, I feel a budding thankfulness coming from deep within my soul. Just seeing the joys and beauty everywhere in this world. I feel like celebrating each tree budding and the sparkle of the sun on the blue waters of the local lakes. I breathe in the spring air and listen to the bird songs as I take my walks. It is glorious to see this world as a child of our Lord.

But there is something else even sweeter that came into my mind lately. As I was writing out a birthday card, I was overwhelmed by a profound gratefulness for all of you, my dear church family. I have been a member of several churches as my family moved quite often. But here at Bethany I feel agape, family and friendship love everywhere, the feelings of love emanating from this Home of God. What a miracle here in our own corner of the world to have a family brought together by love for Christ and His church.



I feel so blessed, Bethany is indeed fortunate to have a congregation who is willing to help each other and do Christ’s work. Look at all of the wonderful teams! Every team meeting that I have gone to has people working for God with JOY in their hearts.

As I felt that gratitude I remembered being at the last worship team meeting as we planned the Pentecost celebration and knowing that the Holy Spirit is indeed here among us at Bethany.

I know many have been here their whole life (or at least a good part of it). They might think this is a typical church; that it is normal. But this is not normal—it is wonderful!!!

We have so many places to serve our Lord and each other. The Ladies Retreat was such a needed break, the Palm Sunday service, the fellowship dinners, sharing ideas at Sunday School sessions and the thought-provoking sermons. This is the place where I chose to work on being a better Christian and following Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount more closely. Sundays here are a great way to start me off on the right track for my week.

So when I feel a bit of stress (the YARD SALE, marrying the pastor, moving myself and unpacking James’ things into our new place, just to mention a few), I try to remember to take a deep breath and focus on Jesus and the spirit-filled place that I call my church home.... Bethany.

God Bless you all.

Susan Barlow

Bethany

Encounter God's Love!!

**An American Baptist Family Of Faith In
The Heart Of
Oakland County**

1375 Hiller Road
Waterford, MI
48327



Website: www.bethanywaterford.org

(Copies of this newsletter are available on the website)

We welcome your contributions to the **LINC**. The June LINC deadline is **Sunday, May 23**. Email articles to Ellen Whitehead at whitehee@clarkston.k12.mi.us or put them in the tray in the Church Office. Please get articles in by the deadline. Thanks!

Bethany Prayer Chain

To activate the Bethany Prayer Chain, call one of the following individuals:

- Joyce Hice – (248) 335-9026
- Joann Shulte – (248) 682-1109 or
- Church Office – (248) 681-2130



Outreach Matchmakers

If you need special assistance (housekeeping, meals, emergency childcare, etc.), call:

- Susan Barlow – 248-534-3799
- Jan Rowe – 248-338-0786
- James Bolin – 248-722-4516

Tender People for Tough Times

When you need Bethany's Pastoral Staff, for any reason at all, just call:

Church Office: 248-681-2130 (Fax is 248-681-9798)

Email: Office@bethanywaterford.org

Rev. James Bolin at home: 248-722-4516

Deacon Nona Bos: 248-886-8615

Deacon Bob Hunt: 248-481-2960

Deacon Rodger Zeller: 248-789-5809

Being a family of faith means
you don't have to go it alone – **CALL US!**