

BETHANY BEACON

Care Partners

By Rev. Colleen Samson

I learned a new term when I went in for hip replacement surgery in January. They gave my husband a name-tag that had at the top printed "Care Partner." At the time I thought, that's nice, a new, modern term for caregiver. It made me think of the Care Givers Support Group I was planning on starting in March. It made me think of many of you who are supporting family members, caring for spouses or other relatives, or visiting our elderly on a regular basis. Care Partner—what does that term mean in our Christian life?

The circumstances in our personal lives have changed. I'm not sure who is taking care of who; we are probably taking care of each other at this point. David going through treatments and me still recovering from hip replacement---we are quite a pair! But, the tables will turn completely as David continues treatments and eventually goes through a stem cell transplant. Care Partners are important people to those people they are caring for. The one who needs care comes to depend on their Care Partner for certain physical, emotional, and spiritual support.

As in our circumstance, I am not a trained Care Partner, but a loving spouse who wants only the absolute best for her husband. You may be a spouse, a daughter, a son, a friend, or a paid Care Partner who is offering support. You probably thought you would never be in this position; although most of us sooner or later end up as someone's Care Partner.

To physically care for someone can mean hard heavy lifting, helping someone in and out of the car, or assisting with their activities of daily

living. Providing for their physical health can also mean preparing meals, shopping for groceries, and/or picking up medicines. Emotional support can be more difficult than one might think. Many of those needing care suffer from depression, memory loss, or the loss of some of their cognitive abilities. These can be challenging circumstances. Reasoning, judgment, and conversation can be limited or at least difficult.

The spiritual needs of the one needing care are often overlooked. The simple act of praying together or praying for the other person is important. Hymns, scripture, and reviewing their faithfulness in the life of their church are all important ways to remind someone they continue to be connected to God.

Interestingly, Care Partners suffer from the same things. Care Partners must take care of themselves in order to take care of someone else. The physical, emotional and spiritual health of the Care Partner often suffers. The Care Partner becomes so involved in the care of the other person that they forget to fulfill their own needs. It happens frequently.

I have said all of this because Bethany Church has become our Care Partner, as well as the Care Partner of others in our congregation. The situation David and I are experiencing has brought into the forefront our congregation's ability to care for others. As a pastor, I never thought you would be caring for us, but you are. The emotional and spiritual care you are providing for us is amazing. Even though we are miles apart, we are supported by your prayers, sustained through scriptures, encouraged

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April
& May
2014



**2952 Bethany Church Road
Claremont, NC 28610**

Phone: 828-464-5194

Email

bethanyuccoffice@aol.com

Website

www.BethanyUccClaremont.org

Pastor

Rev. Colleen Samson

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Nevin Feather

Minister of Faith Formation

Pastor David Samson

Director After School All Stars

Brenda Josey

Youth/Teens Minister

Pastor John Barnette

Interim Organist

Jane Cadwallader

Bethany Beacon

Co-Editors

Vivian Cline

Donna Ervin

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School: 9:30am

Worship: 10:30am

through conversations-----you are amazing CARE PARTNERS! Even the young people in the congregation have reached out to us. Your love is carrying us through.





HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE EASTER
AT BETHANY UCC
APRIL 20

SUNRISE SERVICE 7:00a.m.
Rev. Calvin Vaughn, Preaching
Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.
EASTER WORSHIP 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Lutz Keller, Preaching

Remembering the Last Supper

On April 17, Grace Reformed UCC in Newton will host a Maundy Thursday Service for our LINC churches. The service, beginning at 7:00 pm, will be a communion service with a combined choir from our LINC churches providing special music. Rev. Calvin Vaughn from Unifour Christian Church will deliver the message.

The offering will go toward our Lenten Project to pay for shipping costs of the Church World Service School Kits and the \$2.00 that is to be sent with each kit for international mailing.

Maundy Thursday commemorates Jesus Christ's last supper and the initiation of Holy Communion. Please plan to attend this meaningful service with our LINC friends.

Submitted by Donna Ervin

Relay For Life of Catawba County

Bethany United Church of Christ has once again joined forces with the American Cancer Society of Catawba County and has registered a team for the Relay for Cancer Walk to be held at the American Legion Fairgrounds on May 30 and 31. I hope all of you will become involved in this worthwhile project. Listed below are ways you can become involved.

1. Join the team by going to www.RelayForLife.org/catawba and sign up to be a walker. You can raise money for our team and get contributors to donate on line.

2. Recruit Survivors and Caregivers: We encourage cancer survivors and caregivers to come to the event and be a part of the Survivor Caregiver lap during the opening ceremonies. Survivors and caregivers are also invited to the Relay for Life Survivor Dinner to be held May 27 at CVCC Multipurpose facility. Information about this event will be available on our website at www.RelayForLife.org/catawba once all plans are finalized.

3. Members of our church can purchase luminaries to honor or memorialize their loved ones. Luminaries are lit as part of the Luminary Ceremony which begins after dark. Luminary forms may be obtained by seeing Jane Cadwallader.

4. Make a financial contribution to help the fight against CANCER. You can sponsor a walker or give a check made out to the American Cancer Society to Jane Cadwallader, Team Captain.

This year I am in hopes that Bethany will have a team that stays for part or all of the event. The theme is "**Lights...Camera...Action.**" Campsites may be decorated as your favorite movie. Also many other teams will be showing movies at the different campsites all through the night. If you have any questions, please see Jane for information. Since Pastor David is unable to participate this year, I am really hoping Bethany will shine for him at this year's event.

Thank you,
Jane Cadwallader

S P R I N G

Time for Spring Cleaning!

Our annual **Bethany Community Yard / Food Sale** will be held on Saturday, May 17, from **7:00 am to 12:00 pm**. Individual 10 x 10 spaces plus one table rent for \$15.00. Returning sellers get a reduced price of \$10.00 for the space and one table. If you choose not to sell, you can donate your unwanted items for the church to sell. Proceeds will benefit our annual Community Fun Festival held in September. Volunteers are needed to price donated items, set up and take down tables the day of the sale, and to work during the sale. Invite friends and family to rent a space. More sellers will attract more visitors to our sale! See members of the Bethany Community Involvement Team (BCIT) to volunteer or to rent your space and

table. Members are Chris and Lynn Brooks, Eddie and Donna Ervin, Carolyn Kale, and Pastors Colleen and David Samson.

Submitted by Donna Ervin



Youth and Teens News

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

By Pastor John 828-292-9410

Spring has sprung! Well...Sort of. Even though it has been a bit chilly the last day or two, the world around us is starting to come alive! Trees are starting to show hints of new leaves, flowering plants are starting to get new buds, and soon we'll pull out our shorts and flip flops and enjoy nice, warm temperatures!

This spring the youth and teens programs are coming alive as well! I'm looking forward to our new youth (grades K-6) program, "The Greenhouse!" I can't wait for us to come together as a youth group and "GROW" as Disciples of Christ. We'll have our first official meeting on April 9, at 4:00 pm. I Can't wait!

Teens, get ready! We're hitting the ground running! This spring and summer we're going to be all over the place. Between fundraisers, lock-ins, and mountain trips, you're not going to have time to miss being in the Classroom (like that would happen anyway!).

I'm excited to see how God is going to move during the next few months!

Upcoming Events

Youth:

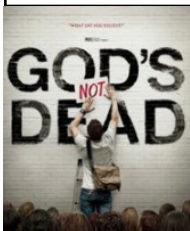
We'll be meeting every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Our first meeting will be on April 6, at 4:00 pm. Can you say "Bowling?"



Teens:

Mark your calendars! We'll be meeting up with the LINC teens for a trip to Bo's in Lenoir on April 27! We'll first meet up with our friends from Grace after church and then head up to Bo's for some fun and fellowship! More details coming soon!



Devotional

Standing up for God can be tough and, let's face it, downright scary! Sometimes it's not the "in" or "cool" thing to say you're a Christian and then actually ACT like a Disciple of Christ. The film "God's Not Dead!" deals with this exact topic. As our teens may recall, the main character, Josh, was forced to defend his faith against a professor and a class full of his peers who claimed to not believe in God. Talk about a tough task! If he was unable to convince his classmates that God existed, he would most likely fail the class. But, Josh stood firm and stepped up to the challenge! In front of 80 classmates and an angry, doubting professor, Josh acknowledged God as the Creator and Lord of all of creation.

You may never have to be in the same situation as Josh (and I hope you're not!), but every day you have the chance to confess Jesus as Lord! Acknowledging Christ doesn't always mean screaming "Christ is Lord!" from the school rooftop. Acknowledging Jesus can be as simple as following his commandments in everyday situations. For example, a kind, encouraging word and warm smile to a classmate who isn't necessarily the "cool" kid (by the way, there are no uncool kids in God's eyes. Period. Remember that!); helping a friend with tough homework when he or she is struggling; or (I know this is very challenging) being the one who stands up against bullying are all actions that show others you love Jesus and that you want them to know his love, too.

Matthew 10:32-33 (NRSV): "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven."

Snow, sleet, freezing rain, sunshine, and warm weather-- we have enjoyed all of this with the children. And, all of this happened in one week! We survived it all and are looking forward to a nice warm spring!

We are always doing homework, and the children are really busy. They are having spring practice in baseball, volleyball, softball, and finishing up in basketball. These children are very well-rounded students. I am also certain that their parents are exhausted.

I am proud to say that all of the paperwork is completed for United Way funding for 2015. It is always a time consuming process. Our rounds of presentations will be on May 6. Yearly funding must be taken care of, because funding is not automatic. Prayers are appreciated as we go forward.

You really should make a trip downstairs and see the new floors and paint. It is such a blessing to have this warm, cheery place to enjoy each day. We are trying really hard to teach the children proper care of our space, and it seems to be working.

A special thank you to the members of the congregation for all of the great snacks. This is a real blessing to our budget, also!

Believe it or not, we are already getting calls for Summer Camp. We do have a limit of 20 children, and it looks as if we will fill the spots. Our weeks will be themed weeks with activities that correspond with the week. I could use some volunteers for the summer. If you can give a few hours, just let me know, and you will be scheduled for assistance. You can read with a child, play with a child, make a craft with a child, or

even go on a trip with all of us. Any amount of time would be great.

Report cards have been good also. We are proud of everyone, but we are especially proud of our older children. Middle school is very difficult academically, socially, and emotionally. Our older students are thriving in this atmosphere. We will graduate our first group this year, and I must admit that I will be sad to see them go. I do know that they are prepared for the next stage of their life.

Special prayers for Pastor David are being said. All of us are very concerned about his health. We are praying for strength and comfort for Pastor David and Pastor Colleen. The children believe that all prayers are answered and so do I. We love and miss you!

Brenda Josey/Program Director
Jeannine Poole/ Assistant Director



“Hippity, Hoppity! Easter’s On Its Way!”

Come join Bethany UCC for its annual Easter “EGG-stravaganza!”

On April 19

From 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Come and enjoy crafts, games, food, and not one,
but TWO Easter egg hunts!

During our second egg hunt, help us find the elusive
GOLDEN EGG and win a 1lb Chocolate Easter Bunny!



Prayer List



If you want to activate the Prayer Chain, please call **Becky Cline at 828-464-4346**.
Anyone can activate the Prayer Chain with a prayer request or gratitude for a prayer answered.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Robert Belk | Sheila Eisenhour | James Lowe | Pastor David Samson |
| Linda Brooks | Donnie Harris | Lisa Lundlovsky | Bob Shadowens |
| Jane Cadwallader's Mother | Louise Harris | Agnes McDaniels | Larry Stewart |
| Lena Campbell | Faye Hicks (in Hospice) | Teresa Miller | Patricia Simmons |
| Brian Chapman | Julia Ingle | Harry Moore | Judy Sink |
| Bill Cline | Samuel Jarrett | Nadine Pennell | Bill Wahl |
| Elizabeth Cline | Donald Laney | Claudia & Jerry Pope | Cindy Watson |
| Lyerly Cline (AL Pavilion 210) | Dorothy Lassinger | Maxine Reinhardt (AL 707) | O. D. Witherspoon |
| Michael Cline | (Rm 106 - CVL at Rock Barn) | Richard Rizzo | Jeannie Willis |
| Sheila Earp | Kenneth Lockwood | Rev. Colleen Samson | Clarise Witt |

SERVING IN APRIL & MAY 2014

Elder of the Month:

April

Louise Setzer

May

Norma Boggs

Liturgists:

April

6 Pastor John Barnette
Ezekiel 37:1-14

13 Louise Setzer
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

20 Brenda Josey
Jeremiah 31: 1-6

27 Carolyn Kale
Psalm 16

May

4 Lauren Stewart
Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

11 Norma Boggs
Psalm 23

18 Eddie Ervin
Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

25 Vivian Cline
Psalm 66: 8-20

Ushers:

April

Aris DeJesus 6

Jose DeJesus 13

20

May

Roger Josey 27

Tom Witherspoon

Counting Offerings:

April

Eddie Ervin 4

Louise Setzer 11

18

May

Beth Cline 25

Lou Grandmaison

Staff -Parish Relations Committee

Rev. Samson's SPRC
members are:

Chris Brooks
(459-4491)

Becky Cline
(464-4346)

Vivian Cline
(464-6471)

Larry Sink
(612-8042)

Acolytes:

April

Zach Stewart

A.J. Ellison

Zach Stewart

A.J. Ellison

May

Zach Stewart

A.J. Ellison

Zach Stewart

A.J. Ellison

Childcare Providers:

April

Stacey Mosteller

Lynn Brooks

Louise Setzer

Vivian Cline

May

Gina Beard

Beth Cline

Stacey Mosteller

Lynn Brooks

Happy Birthday!



April

2 Brenda Josey

2 Louise Setzer

3 Maxine Reinhardt

7 Linda Witherspoon

13 David Samson

15 Diane Cline

28 A.J. Ellison

May

8 Lauren Stewart

9 Lou Grandmaison

14 Lyerly Cline

27 Peyton Laney



Happy Anniversary!

April

3 David & Colleen
Samson

TO ALL WHO SERVE THESE MONTHS.....

WE COULDN'T DO
IT WITHOUT YOU!!!!

Thank You!



April Meet & Eat

Our next **Meet & Eat** will be at Harbor Inn on Friday, Apr. 11, at 6:00 pm

Join in having a great time of Fun & Fellowship.
Bring your family and friends with you!



THANK YOU !

Our first blood drive with Community Blood Center of the Carolinas was a success! Twenty-one donors presented to give, and sixteen pints were collected, making a lifelong difference in the lives of **48** people in our community. Because of our sponsorship, work, and donors, **48 patients in our community will receive the blood products that they so desperately need. In addition to making a lifelong difference to patients in the community**, for each donation made, CBCC will make a financial contribution, in honor of our drive and donors, to the Ronald McDonald House in Charlotte. This financial contribution equals 16 nights stay to a family(s). Thanks to everyone who came to give and to those who asked others to donate. Our next blood drive will be October 15, so...**SAVE THE DATE.** Every Drop Stays Here. Saving Local Lives.

Submitted by Donna Ervin

We appreciate our donors!



Josh Stewart & Lynn Brooks



Jeremy -1st time donor



Darrell Little



Beth, Vivian, and Linda

Did You Know?

A Women's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 3,
at 9am in the Bethany UCC Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a friend! RSVP to Brenda Josey by April 30th.

We will enjoy breakfast, a program, special music, and giveaways.



Submitted by Pamela Pope

Bethany United Church of Christ
2952 Bethany Church Road
Claremont, North Carolina 28610

**Bethany is a
Community of Justice
and Peace serving the
needs of people on
their spiritual journey.**



Rev. Colleen E. Samson
Pastor, Bethany UCC

Phone: 828-464-5194
E-mail:
BethanyUCCOffice@aol.com

**EVERYONE
IS
WELCOME**



We Are on The Web

www.BethanyUccClaremont.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Meet & Eat

Harbor Inn Friday, April 11, at 6:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service

April 17, 7:00 pm at Grace Reformed UCC in Newton

Easter "EGG-stravaganza!"

Saturday, April 19 1:00pm -3:00pm

Celebrating Easter April 20

Sunrise Service 7:00 am - Breakfast 7:30 am - Worship 10:30 am

Playground Mulch Work Date

Saturday, April 26 8:00 am

May Events

Women's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, May 3 9:00am

Yard & Food Sale

Saturday, May 17 7:00am - 12:00pm