

BETHANY BEACON

The Top Ten Reasons I Love Being Bethany's Pastor

By Rev. Colleen Samson

In a take-off from The Late Night Show with David Letterman, but not nearly as funny, I share with you the top ten reasons why I love to be Bethany's pastor.

10. You are very predictable. Yes, you have your favorite seat on Sunday morning, but when that seat is empty, it is easy to figure out who is not in church. When you are gone, you are missed. Don't be gone too long.

9. You are willing to try new things. It is every pastor's dream to minister with a congregation that is willing to experiment with different ideas. You live renewal. It makes ministry exciting.

8. Our choir is dedicated. Although we are few in number, those who provide music leadership on Sunday mornings are loyal to the music ministry. We are also a prayer group; trying to remember all those who need prayer.

7. Many of our adults participate in Faith Formation studies. You continue to listen to our Still Speaking God. Faith is a lifelong journey, and you take your journey seriously.

6. Sometimes people wear other people's coats and don't realize it! Sometimes there are so many people in the church office that you can hardly move. And, sometimes people tell stories about their youth antics that show up in the sermon on Sunday mornings.

5. You share your fresh vegetables with David and me. There is nothing

like fresh corn, green beans, tomatoes, squash, and cucumbers from someone's garden. It makes summer one of my favorite seasons.

4. Nothing is more unnerving than the Sunday morning rush to figure out who will acolyte if the scheduled acolyte is not there. When standing in the back I can watch the Elder of the Month race to the men's choir room to make sure the candles get lit. It adds a good bit of humor to Sunday morning.

3. Workdays scheduled by the council are fun. If you have never participated in an outside or inside workday, you are missing a good time. There is frequently a front end loader, and you might be surprised by who drives it. I can't believe how fast the work gets done. Come join us sometime.

2. Our elderly folks are so filled with wisdom, good stories, and love for their church. I love to spend time with them.

1. Have you ever seen a child's face the first time they ring the church bell? Priceless.

If you are reading this article and you attend church at Bethany, know that you make my days very meaningful. If you are reading this article and you do not attend church at Bethany, you are missing being in a community of good people. Either way----- Bethany is a Great Place to Find God!



BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**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
Position Available

Interim Organist
Jane Cadwallader

**Bethany Beacon
Co-Editors**
Vivian Cline
Donna Ervin

Sunday Schedule
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship: 10:30am

August Meet & Eat

will be at Bob Evans
Friday, **August 15**, at 6:00 pm.

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

MID-YEAR COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 2014

Maintenance Committee

Steve Kale

1. Removed snow from parking lot and sidewalks
2. Changed lights bulbs numerous times
3. Reset timer on outside sign numerous times
4. Moved mulch into playground
5. Trimmed shrubbery outside the church
6. Removed leaves from inside and around play ground
7. Had HVAC systems checked
8. Had Plumbing fixed in the parsonage twice
9. Moved and replaced furniture in basement
10. Mowed field across the road
11. Placed pine needles in church courtyard
12. Sprayed weed killer around church
13. Had vans worked on
14. Had vans inspected
15. Met with state inspector on chair lift
16. Turned in quarterly water samples

Maintenance Committee: Steve Kale, Eddie Ervin

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee began the year with Blanket Sunday with Rev. John Barnette and the children heading up the presentation and taking up an offering to provide funds for people in our county and across the world.

Our annual volunteer days at ECCCM are in the spring when we lend an extra hand with folding clothes, bagging food, or helping anywhere assistance is needed. On the first Sunday of every month, our congregation brings in food and monetary donations for Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries.

We are now partners with LINC Heart and Hammer Ministries reaching out to those in need in our community and wherever help is needed.

Louise Setzer

Endowment Fund Committee

The Church Council selected an Endowment Fund Committee to study and research the advantages and benefits of an Endowment Fund for Bethany. The committee composed of Norma Boggs, Eddie Ervin, Lou Grandmaison, Lisa Goins, Larry Sink, and Pastor Colleen, as an advisor, met the first time in May.

When monies are placed in endowments and prudently managed by faithful stewards of God's mission, endowments can indeed be a blessing. The committee learned that for Bethany to avoid a "survival mentality", an endowment would be one way to plan for the future.

By-laws have been written and will be presented to the Church Council

for approval in the near future. If the by-laws are approved, the members of Bethany will be offered opportunities to become informed about the endowment, how it works, and how Bethany will benefit from such a fund. We strongly encourage every member to take advantage of these educational opportunities when they are offered.

Larry Sink

Treasurer's Report

Meeting the financial needs of Bethany continues to be a challenge for the congregation. However, the commitment and generosity of all our members is greatly appreciated and your continued support is needed to allow us to meet the mission and vision for Bethany.

On June 30, 2014:

1. There was a deficit of \$3,769.03 in the General Operations Account. This deficit was due to unexpected expenses and some miscalculations in the 2014 budget.
2. There is \$36,238.83 in designated funds. These funds can only be used for their intended purpose.

3. The Memorial Fund has \$7,573.24.
4. The Cemetery Fund has \$8,226.28
5. The General Fund Certificate of Deposit has \$33,977.80.

Except for the General Operations deficit, the financial status of Bethany is reasonably stable. Hopefully, we can erase the deficit and also meet our continued expenses during the second half of the year. Please be in prayer about your personal stewardship and ask God to direct you in your giving.

Larry Sink

The Worship Committee met and assisted the pastor in planning for services during the first two quarters of 2014. The year began with Pastor Colleen Samson having hip replacement surgery. During her recovery, we were fortunate to have her spouse and Licensed Minister Pastor David Samson take over for her.

In Pastor Colleen's absence from directing the choir, we arranged for special music during worship services. Guest musicians included Pamela and John Pope, Madeline Mehaffey, Donnie Little and Donna Ervin, Spirit Song, Debbie Mitchum, Rev. Lutz Keller, Ingrid Keller, and Helena Keller Hoyle.

Pastor John Barnette, Youth and Teens Minister, with A.J. Ellison, Lanie Stewart, and Zach Stewart presented Blanket Sunday, sharing information about Church World Service with the congregation. A special offering for CWS was taken.

On March 9, Pastor Colleen and Pastor David led the service together. Although this was Pastor's Colleen's first Sunday back following her surgery, she and David shared the sermon time to inform the congregation about the return of David's leukemia (later diagnosed as MDS). Medical plans for David were made, and they both left for the Mayo Clinic in Florida to find out treatment options for David.

During their absence, we were grateful to have supply ministers including Chaplain Larry Bolick, Rev. Susan Smith Walker, Rev. Steven Butler, and Rev. Lutz

Keller. The Church Council, the Worship Committee, Conference Minister Rev. Jerry Rhyne, and Pastor Colleen assisted in selecting the supply ministers.

Rev. Steven Butler preached on Palm Sunday, and Rev. Lutz Keller preached on Easter Sunday. We had our usual Easter Sunrise Service with Rev. Calvin Vaughn preaching. Breakfast prepared by the men of the church followed, and guests from Unifour Christian Fellowship Church joined us.

Women of the church were given pink carnations for Mother's Day in May.

Pastor Colleen returned to lead worship on May 25.

John and Pamela Pope coordinated a high attendance Sunday for Pentecost on June 8. Red and white balloons decorated the sanctuary and members and guests were invited to the Fellowship Hall for cake and punch following the service.

After an absence of three months, Pastor David was able to return to assist in leading the service on June 15. Pastor Colleen preached.

Youth Sunday was observed on June 22. A.J. Ellison and youth from Grace UCC participated. Pastor John Barnette gave the message.

As the second quarter of the year ended, Pastors Colleen and David continued to share the service.

Committee Members: Elders: Vivian Cline, Eddie Ervin. Louise Setzer Others: Rev. Dr. Jose DeJesus, Donna Ervin (Chairperson), Carolyn Kale, Rev. Colleen Samson

LINC Mission and LINC Gift and Thrift

Lou Grandmaison

Unifour Christian Fellowship, one of our LINC churches, held an "Amazing Race" with five teams participating. A total of \$3,000.00 was raised and given to charities.

An Ash Wednesday service was held for our LINC congregations at Church of the Master UCC on March 5.

Items for Lenten School Kits were collected from the LINC churches. Assembling the projects was done in May at Bethel UCC followed by a covered dish meal.

Grace Reformed UCC hosted a Maundy Thursday service in April for our LINC churches. The offering received was used to pay postage for mailing the school kits.

\$500.00 was given to the Rotary Club for the "Stop

Hunger Now" project.

Rev. John Barnette, Youth Minister of LINC churches, received a check for youth projects. June events included a "Summer Kick Off" with pizza and a pool party; in July a "Back to School Mission Project;" and in August a "Sock-hop and Cookout."

Five for Five awards were given to two LINC Mission churches at the Southern Conference meeting held in Virginia during June. These two churches were Bethany UCC and Church of the Master UCC.

A Board Planning Retreat was held at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Don Flick on July 12. Plans were made to participate in the Soldier's Reunion Parade on August 21 and to have a summer cookout and concert on August 24 at Church of the Master.

Church Council*by Louise Setzer**President: Eddie Ervin (Elder)**Vice President: Beth Cline (Deacon)**Secretary: Louise Setzer (Elder)**Recording Secretary: Vivian Cline (Elder)**Lou Grandmaison (Deacon)**Steve Kale (Deacon)*

January- Winter Jam was a success with AJ and Steven. 12 to 13,000 present at the Bobcat Arena. Pastor John Barnett has a lot of plans for the year for Bethany and Grace and needs help from everyone.

Plans to have fund raisers and get involved in Heart and Hammer and the Humane Society. Goal is to have a community youth event. LINC has donated \$600.00 to Bethany and \$600.00 to Grace for their youth program.

Pastor David Samson's Terms of Call Agreement was accepted.

February- Rev. Anne Wepner had an informative discussion about how to set up church endowments.

We are going to set up our guidelines and form a committee.

Exploratory Team for what Hispanic Ministry might look like at Bethany.

What can we do for the Hispanic community?

Tech Team and others needed to visit churches using technology in worship, and see what they have.

March- No communion on April 6

Move and spread mulch on playground. Steve will try

to move mulch with his tractor on April 26 or May 3
Approved a request from Brenda Josey to hold a women's prayer breakfast on Sat., May 3

April- Schedule for supply ministers: April 20- Lutz Keller, April 27- Larry Bolick, month of May- Lutz Keller.

Church endowment team members are: Larry Sink, Lisa Goins, Lou Grandmaison, Norma Boggs, Eddie Ervin, and Pastor Colleen Samson.

Southern Conference Annual Meeting 6/26 & 6/27. Vivian and Lou volunteered.

May- Did not meet in May

June- Workday for trimming and cleaning up of church azaleas and other bushes: 6/18/14 9:00 am.

Rev. Jerry Rhyne has made a suggestion for a supply while Pastor Colleen is away for David's transplant.

She is a UCC chaplain from Winston Salem.

July- Pastor John Barnett resigned effective July 7, 2014.

Vacation Bible School is August 4-8 with Brenda Josey, Pam Pope and Pastor Colleen searching for volunteers!

Pastor's Report

Bethany continues to be a UCC National Renewing Congregation. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to explore different areas of ministry. In today's world, it is challenging to be a small, rural church. As we experiment with teen/youth ministry, faith formation for all ages, and how to build our congregation, we realize exactly how hard it is for all churches today.

The first half of this year demonstrated to me that the Bethany congregation is equipped for ministry. When I was out for hip replacement surgery and then stunned by David's diagnosis, the congregation

stepped up and more than survived, you thrived. With new ideas and renewed energy, you continued to endure. Many of you stepped out of your comfort zones to teach, visit, pray, and organize different events. What a wonderful demonstration of ministry through Christ who strengthens you.

Let us look forward to a time of abundance. Be encouraged, be faithful, and know each of you is important to the Body of Christ at Bethany.

*Pastor Colleen Samson***"THE YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION"**

**HOMECOMING AT BETHANY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
September 21, 2014**

**Preaching
Hospice Chaplain Brenda Lewis**



Bethany After School All Stars

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26 Children enrolled in program - Summer Camp has 14 children enrolled

We are a funded partner with Catawba County United Way that provides full and partial scholarships to 5 children

We offer Before School from 6:30—8:00 am

We have 9 enrolled & delivered by van to various schools.

Offering classes for 7th graders

Summer Camp has 14 children enrolled

We have themed weeks with activities pertaining to the theme

We visit Kool Park every Thursday for swimming

Registration is open for the 2014-2015 school session

Thank you to all of those who sponsored 1 child/1 day a week for summer camp.

Received enough to pay for 2 total scholarships in the amount of \$2,200.00

Thank you to Miss Lou for sponsoring our summer Reading Contest

Thank you to all who brought by snacks and drinks. Thank you to those who are helping to provide a simple lunch on Friday.

We are grateful to the UCC Church for highlighting our program in their newsletter

Thank you to all who spread the mulch in the playground

Many awards were given to our children during the school year.

All children were on the A-B Honor roll. 10 children made the A honor roll all year.

Brenda Josey/Program Director

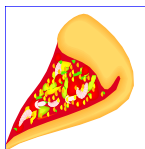
Jeannine Poole/ Assistant Director



LINC Manager Position Available

LINC Ministry, which our congregation helps sponsor, is seeking a manager for their Gift and Thrift Store in Newton. The manager oversees the daily store operations, recruits and trains volunteers, and is responsible for the general business administration of the store. The position of manager is, above all else a ministry, and is an exciting challenge. The hours required depends on the number of available volunteers to operate the store and the administrative skills of the individual. It is not a paid position, but a stipend of \$600 per month is available to help with personal expenses. Interviews for the manager position will be held no later than August 15th. If you are interested in considering the position or learning more about it, please speak with the pastor or call Jo Anne Flick at 828-495-8400.

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2952 Bethany Church Road, Claremont



COMMUNITY FUN FESTIVAL 2014
SEPTEMBER 13th, 11:00-2:00



BRING THE KIDS!!!!
LIVE MUSIC DOOR PRIZES
INFLATABLES FOOD GAMES
ALL FREE

The Bethany Board of Christian Education served as the lead team for Faith Formation ministries. Members of the board were active in planning events, and many others helped lead and participated in a variety of activities. Significant accomplishments occurred in the following areas.

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion – Because Pastor David was conducting the morning worship (and later was ill), several folks volunteered to facilitate discussions from January 19 through June 29. Linda Witherspoon led a study of the book “What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian,” Donna Ervin led the Lenten study “God’s Gift of Life,” and Brenda Josey led a discussion of the book “The Jesus Creed.” Discussion on all topics was lively, and all sessions were well attended.

The Digging Deeper Bible study group continued to meet on a regular basis. After completing their look at the Book of Acts, they discussed the Book of Ephesians.

Pastor John Barnette was hired as Bethany’s Youth and Teens Minister in January 2014.

He led Disciple Time (offered during Sunday worship except 1st Sundays). The number of youth participating continued to vary from zero to 4 or 5, and there was also a wide range of ages attending. It made planning difficult.

Teens Faith Formation – Part of Pastor John’s re-

sponsibility was to organize a joint teen group with Grace Reformed UCC. Pastors Colleen and David had laid the ground work with Grace UCC who had agreed to split the expenses for the joint ministry. The program was small but stable with meetings alternating locations between Bethany and Grace on Sunday evenings. The teen ministry was expanded to include LINC churches on the fourth Sunday of each month, but that is still undergoing some organizational struggles.

The Youth and Teens conducted the regular Sunday worship service on June 22.

Open and Affirming (ONA) matters were discussed throughout this six month period. Two informational items, provided by the UCC National setting, were given to each member of the Faith Formation Team: A Short Guide to a Successful ONA Process compiled by the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns and Building an Inclusive Church: A Welcoming Toolkit 2.0. This is an information package published in 2013 by the Institute for Welcoming Resources. It is designed as a guide for a small group of congregants who wish to facilitate building an inclusive church in their local congregation. A “core team” was formed with the goal of conducting several congregational meetings, with an outside facilitator, to provide information and be a forum for discussion.

Pastor David Samson

Lazy Days of Summer Will Soon End

Our youth and teens are taking a little summer hiatus while we re-group and plan for the fall. We have two youth attending Johns River Valley Camp, and several of our teens have been traveling to visit family and see sites. But before you know it, school will start again and along with it our Bethany Youth and Teens events. Watch FACEBOOK, the Bethany website, and the church bulletin for details.

The adults have also been resting their brains...a little...with some less intense but interesting contemporary topics in Sunday Morning Discussion. In mid-August we’ll briefly explore the Old Testament with a short series dealing with the Sabbath, and in mid-September we start to “Embrace a Spiritual Awakening.” In this newest “Embracing” installment, Diana

Butler Bass expands on the ideas she developed in her recent book, *Christianity after Religion*, exploring what Christianity may look like beyond religion and beyond the church. Segments include Arriving, Believing, Behaving, Belonging, and Awakening.

The *Digging Deeper Series* of Bible studies will begin again in late September. This is a wonderful way to learn more about scripture in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with other people who have the same questions about scripture that you have. We learn together and ask the Spirit to guide us along our way. Attendance at the group is “fluid.” Come as you are able; when you can’t make it we miss you, but it’s OK.

Pastor David Samson

Prayer List

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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	Lyerly Cline (AL Pavilion 210)	Kenneth Lockwood	Judy Sink
Linda Brooks	Michael Cline	James Lowe	Bill Wahl
Dosia Carlson	Sheila Earp	Nadine Pennell	Cindy Watson
Jane Cadwallader's Mother	Sheila Eisenhour	Claudia & Jerry Pope	Jeannie Willis
Brian Chapman	Donnie Harris	Richard Rizzo	Barbara Wireman
Leila Church	Louise Harris	Pastor David Samson	O. D. Witherspoon
Bill Cline	Donald Laney	Bob Shadowens	
Elizabeth Cline	Dorothy Lassinger	Roberta Sigmon	
(Rm 100 - CVL at Rock Barn)	(Rm 106 - CVL at Rock Barn)	Patricia Simmons	



SERVING IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2014

Elder of the Month:

August

Donna Ervin

September

Louise Setzer

Liturgists:

August

3 Larry Sink
Joel 2: 23- 32

10 Louise Setzer
Psalm 139:1-7

17 Carolyn Kale
Ezekiel 37: 1-14

24 Brenda Josey
Matthew 16: 13-20

31 Eddie Ervin
Matthew 16: 21-28

September

7 Norma Boggs
Matthew 18: 15-20

14 Jose DeJesus
Matthew 18: 21-35

21 Vivian Cline
Homecoming Sunday

28 Lou Grandmaison
Matthew 21: 23-32

Ushers:

August

Beth Cline 3
Katie Barrett 10

September
Gina Beard 17
Lisa Goins 24

Counting Offerings:

August
Eddie Ervin 7
Louise Setzer 14

September

Beth Cline 21
Steve Kale 28

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:

August

Steve Kale
Vivian Cline 3

Tommy Little
Carolyn Kale
Donna Ervin 1

September

A.J. Ellison 10
Steve Kale 12
Zack Stewart 16
Vivian Cline 17

Childcare Providers:

August

Beth Cline 3
Stacey Mosteller
Lynn Brooks 6
Louise Setzer
Vivian Cline

September

Gina Beard 9
Beth Cline 26
Stacey Mosteller
Lynn Brooks

Happy Birthday!



August

Jessica Laney

September

Laura Reed

Bill Cline

Donna Ervin

Rick Wilkinson

Randy Lowman

Kenneth Reed

Elizabeth Cline

Carolyn Kale



Happy Anniversary!

August

Chris & Lynn
Brooks

O.D. & Margie
Witherspoon

September

Joshua and Lauren
Stewart

Tom and Linda
Witherspoon

Thank
You!

TO ALL WHO SERVE
THESE MONTHS.....
WE COULDN'T DO IT
WITHOUT YOU!!!!



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

August Meet & Eat

Bob Evans
Friday, August 15 at 6:30 pm

LINC Summer Cookout/Concert

Church of the Master - Sunday, August 24 5:00 pm

Community Fun Fest

Saturday, September 13
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Hospice Chaplain Brenda Lewis
September 21, 2014 at 10:30 am