

# BETHANY BEACON

## Finale Fever

By Rev. Colleen Samson

Since I had my hip replaced in January, I have been watching more television than ever. The morning show people have become my friends----- Gayle King, Robin Roberts, Matt Lauer, Kelly and Michael, and members of The View. I never was able to "get comfortable" in bed with my healing hip, so I would get up and tune-in. I thought our friendship would end when my hip healed, but then David got sick, and he can't get out much, so when I am at home or in Florida with him, there they are in the living room talking away. It is amazing how that chatter can go on and on, and you have no idea what they are talking about as you do chores or other work.

One of our members, Louise Harris, tells me about her Sunday morning routine. Louise is not able to get to church for various reasons, and so she has a Sunday morning line-up of her favorite religious icons who feed her spirit on Sunday mornings. We miss Louise, but we're glad she can enjoy church in the comfort of her home. Others in the congregation have chatted about their favorite shows at Sunday lunch-----those will go unmentioned! And, sometimes there is a bit of texting among members to predict who will win season finales.

Years ago we only had the 3 major networks to choose from, but these days our choices (if we choose to pay for them) are unlimited. I don't remember season finales until "Who Shot JR" from the show Dallas. Now we have Finale Fever!

An organization called The Barna Group that keeps track of the habits and trends of Christians and non-Christians alike recently published an article on what we watch on television and how much television we watch. These terms may help you sort through some of the facts presented by the Barna Group. **Generations: Millennials (or Mosaics) are the generation born between 1984 through 2002; Gen-Xers (or Busters), between 1965 and 1983; Boomers, between 1946 and 1964; and Elders, in 1945 or earlier.**

"Practicing Christians tend to watch more television than non-Christians.

Practicing Catholics watch an average of 3.5 hours per day and practicing Protestants watch an average of 3.1 hours. By contrast, adherents to faiths other than Christianity watch 2.6 hours of TV per day, and those of no faith, which includes self-identified atheists and agnostics, watch 2.7 hours.

*Friends* was the sitcom that brought Gen-Xers and Boomers together more than a decade ago. In 2014, *The Big Bang Theory* is the sitcom that brings Millennials and Gen-Xers and Boomers—and even a significant number of Elders—together. Thirty percent of all adults regularly watch the show.

*NCIS* also enjoys cross-generational appeal, with 40% of Elders, 31% of Boomers, 17% of Gen-Xers and 17% of Millennials tuning in regularly. To a lesser extent, *CSI* attracts a range of ages: 29% of Elders, 23% of Boomers and 17% of Gen-Xers watch on a regular basis. *The Mentalist* and *Dancing With the Stars* round out the top-five list for both Elders and Boomers. One in five adults in these generations watch *The Mentalist*, and about one-quarter of Elders (24%) and 18% of Boomers regularly watch *DWTS*."

Americans are still watching TV, but Americans are not still going to church. What happened? Was the Christian season finale so long ago that people have become disinterested? Is our story too old and boring? Does our story need to be told in a different way? Should our main character be presented in a relevant way? Isn't being resurrected from the dead interesting enough for all generations?

Beginning in June, Pastor Colleen's messages will be based on 2 books. **Why Jesus?** by William Willimon and **Jesus Now** by Frank Viola. Our journey will go deeper into the life of Jesus and deeper into the Christian life. This will not be a summer of reruns. Stay tuned for the all new season premiere on June 1.

Your SERMON GUIDE will appear in your bulletin! See you then.

## BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Claremont, NC 28610

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Email  
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Website  
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Pastor  
Rev. Colleen Samson

Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. Nevin Feather

Minister of Faith Formation  
Pastor David Samson

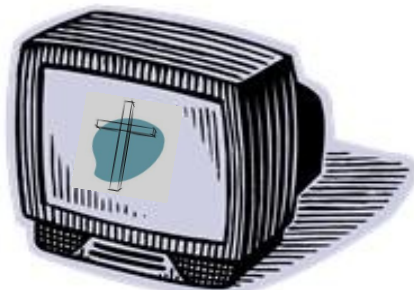
Director After School All Stars  
Brenda Josey

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



# SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH

## 10:30 AM WORSHIP

***"CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES"***

***INVITE 3 FRIENDS***



**High  
Attendance  
Sunday!  
Everyone  
Will  
Be There!**



### **Sixth Annual Community Fun Festival Plans Underway**

As summer begins, so does the detailed planning for Bethany's major end of summer event. For the sixth year, we will host the Community Fun Festival on Saturday, September 13. We will invite those in our surrounding communities whose lives have been difficult in recent years to attend a totally free, relaxing, kids oriented afternoon of fun. If you don't know what the CFF is, ask someone who has been around awhile. While September may seem like a long way off, in reality the work must begin now! If you are new to Bethany, you may ask how does a small congregation organize an event for 500 people that includes free live entertainment, free food, free kids games, free inflatables, and extensive door prizes? Here's how it works.

Every member of the congregation must be committed to help with several things. The first commitment is that we (all of us) ask local enterprises, businesses (those you frequent daily), and individuals for donations. The priority is a cash donation. It takes money to rent equipment and hire quality entertainers. Donations may also be "in kind" donations. For example, some businesses provide use of equipment for free. A

final type of donation is a quality door prize.

The second commitment every Bethany congregant must make is to work on a team that plans the details of each element of the event: sponsors/donors, publicity/advertising, registration/door prizes, food, live entertainment, games/activities, and grounds set up/tear down. The work of these teams is critical to the success of the event. Many people will work on more than one team. The work load of each team will vary. There may be a lot of work up front and taper off. Or there may be little work now but a big effort 5-20 days before the event. ***Note: 90% of the financial support comes from sponsors/donors and 90% of the hands-on work comes from the Bethany congregation. We must all be willing to do our part to make it happen!***

The final commitment is that you will be present on Saturday, September 13 to pitch in and help with whatever needs to be accomplished immediately before, during, and after the event. You will be asked soon what team(s) you want to work with. Please be ready to step up and do your part.

*Submitted by Pastor David Samson*



## Bethany UCC Yard & Food Sale



Bethany's annual Community Yard/Food Sale was held on May 17. Returning sellers, along with some new faces, started the chilly morning at 6:00 a.m. and finished at 12:00 p.m. Thank you to everyone who rented spaces to sell their things, to those who donated items to our church tables, to those who prepared the food, baked cakes, and made cookies, to those who worked in sales, and to all who assisted with the setting up and taking down at the close of another successful event that raised \$613.20 to help with expenses of our free Community Fun Festival held each September. You were a great team!

## Women's Prayer Breakfast



The Women's Prayer Breakfast in May provided these ladies an enjoyable morning of fun, fellowship, breakfast, a program, special music, and giveaways.



# 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

**Hello, summer!** It's time to pull out the flip flops and the shorts! This summer is all about fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth! As we come together to dive into God's word, we are going to learn what it truly means to be brothers and sisters in Christ.

Hey, youth! Let's get the party started, shall we?! June 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm will be our first meeting of the summer. Come on out to the Church for some fun and fellowship! At this first meeting, we'll be discussing our first ever summer kickoff party and ways you'd like to beat the heat this summer!

## Upcoming Events

### Youth:

On Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm we will meet at the church for fun and fellowship.

We will NOT be meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!

Vacation Bible School - Aug 4 - 8

### Teens:

**Youth Sundays!** On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be leading the 11:00 am worship service at Grace Reformed UCC. We will have a repeat performance at Bethany on June 22<sup>nd</sup>!

## VBS - Walking With Moses!!!

All K - 6 graders are invited to attend this year's Vacation Bible School on August 4 - 8 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. This year's theme is "Wilderness Escape - Where God Guides and Provides." Come join us as we trek through the desert with Moses and the Israelites and learn how God provides when things look bleak.

We will be asking for donations of snacks and craft supplies. Please watch the bulletin for suggested donations.

For more information or questions about VBS, see Pastor John.



School soon will end for all the children. You can imagine their excitement.

EOG's will begin very soon, and then it will be over. We wish all of our children well as they face this milestone for the end of the school year. The state of North Carolina will give special interest to third graders. They must read on their grade level or attend a summer school for a certain number of weeks. The only other option is to repeat their grade. This shows us how important our reading programs at after school have been.

In addition to reading, we are also working on math with the children. Each student has a work book to be completed on both subjects. The curriculum was suggested to me from Balls Creek Elementary School. We hope that the extra attention to both subjects will enable our children to excel.

School will be dismissed on June 13, and the summer camp will begin on Monday, June 16. Our hours of operation will be 6:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. We will rotate times as counselors to fit the number of children that we have on any certain day. This will be a 10 week camp with activities based on a weekly theme.

We are offering a summer reading program in our curriculum. Each day the children will have a reading period using books that we obtain from the public library. Discussion and comprehension questions will follow. An award will be given at the end of camp for the most dedicated reader.

It is with a lot of emotion that we have to give up Parker this fall. Parker has been with us for each of the 5 years we have been open. He has been accepted to Discovery High School for his freshman year. Congratulations, Parker, for a job well done. We will not lose him entirely because he and Jalyann are working as volunteers in our summer camp. They will work through an intern program. Does this sound like future counselors to you?

We also welcome Justin Shook back to the All Stars program. Justin attends Western Carolina University and is at home for the summer. I cannot tell you how glad we are to have someone that the children love. He has their respect as well as ours. Justin was the first counselor that we hired. Now he is the first adult counselor that we have hired. What a blessing that he has agreed to help with the program.

We are looking at this time for an adult who is willing to work 4 days a week/4 hours a day. This will be a paid position starting with the fall school term. Please pass this along to someone that you may know who would be interested. This adult is not required to work summer camp.

Please have them contact me at 828-781-8919 and fill out an application that I will forward to our Advisory Board.

We are trying to stretch our snacks until camp begins. We, however, will need Kool Aid, styrofoam cups, paper towels, and Pop Tarts or cereal. If you can help, we really would appreciate it.

Hope you are noticing the new All Stars sign near the flag pole in the former Bethany church sign. Thank you to John and Pamela Pope for this addition.

We are also in need of sponsors for 3 scholarship children for the summer program. We will lose 3 regulars because of the lack of funds. United Way money has not been able to cover these expenses, and now we need to ask for help. It is all tax deductible, because we are a registered non-profit. Maybe you could support 1 child for 1 day at a cost of \$20.00 per week. Just an idea for you to think about. I have already made that commitment myself. I will support 1 child for 1 day a week for 10 weeks. The total to me will be \$200.00 for the summer camp. I worry about those in need being by themselves this summer because of funds.

Thank you to John and Pamela Pope for supplying a meal for the children on Friday during summer camp. Maybe this is a cost effective way to contribute that many would consider.

The next United Way payment will arrive around July 10. I have made my presentation for funds for 2015. We will be advised in June, 2014 if we receive support for next year and also how much. The process has to be renewed each year. If United Way meets their goal, then we all have a better chance to receive funds.

This is a lengthy article, but I have one more thing to bring to your attention. I have been in conversation with a man who conducts capitol campaigns. We are working together to find something appropriate for a fund raiser for the All Stars program. My desire is to see the program fully funded and running smoothly for the students and staff.

This has been on my mind for a long time. When we come to some conclusion, it will be presented to the Advisory Board and Church Council. WILL YOU PRAY FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME?

Brenda Josey/Program Director  
Jeannine Poole/ Assistant Director



## 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 Earp	Kenneth Lockwood	Bob Shadowens
Linda Brooks	Sheila Eisenhour	James Lowe	Patricia Simmons
Dosia Carlson	Donnie Harris	Lisa Lundlovsky	Judy Sink
Jane Cadwallader's Mother	Louise Harris	Teresa Miller	Bill Wahl
Lena Campbell	Jackie Hendricks	Harry Moore	Cindy Watson
Brian Chapman	Faye Hicks (in Hospice)	Nadine Pennell	O. D. Witherspoon
Bill Cline	Bill Hoppes	Claudia & Jerry Pope	Jeannie Willis
Elizabeth Cline	Donald Laney	Maxine Reinhardt (AL 707)	
Lyerly Cline (AL Pavilion 210)	Dorothy Lassinger	Richard Rizzo	
Michael Cline	(Rm 106 - CVL at Rock Barn)	Pastor David Samson	



### SERVING IN JUNE & JULY 2014



#### Elder of the Month:

##### June

Vivian Cline

##### July

Eddie Ervin

#### Liturgists:

##### June

1 Larry Sink  
Isaiah 30: 21, Isaiah 35: 8,  
and Isaiah 40: 3-5

8 Larry Sink  
Isaiah 55: 1-13

15 Louise Setzer  
Exodus 33:7-11

22 Brenda Josey  
Youth/Teen Sunday

29 Carolyn Kale  
Mark 1: 16-20

##### July

6 Lauren Stewart  
Isaiah 7: 13-25

13 Norma Boggs  
Luke 19: 1-10

20 Eddie Ervin  
Isaiah 61:1-4,  
Joel 2: 23- 32

27 ReSunday with  
Pastor John and  
Pastor Colleen

#### Ushers:

##### June

Eddie Ervin 1  
Steve Kale 8

##### July

Lynn Brooks 15  
Louise Setzer 22

#### Counting Offerings:

##### June

Vivian Cline 6  
Louise Setzer 13

##### July

Beth Cline 20  
Steve Kale 27

#### 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:

##### June

Zach Stewart  
A.J. Ellison  
Zach Stewart  
A.J. Ellison  
Zach Stewart

##### July

A.J. Ellison  
Zach Stewart  
A.J. Ellison  
Zach Stewart

#### Childcare Providers:

##### June

Louise Setzer 1  
Vivian Cline 8  
Gina Beard 15  
Beth Cline 22  
Stacey Mosteller 29

##### July

Lynn Brooks 6  
Louise Setzer 13  
Vivian Cline 20  
Gina Beard 27

#### Happy Birthday!



##### June

15 Margie Witherspoon  
18 Roger  
Josey  
19 Hughleen Murray  
22 Tom Witherspoon

##### July

4 Eddie Ervin  
8 Bradley Setzer  
22 Crystal Setzer



#### Happy Anniversary!

##### June

8 Eddie & Donna Ervin  
17 Nevin & Cecil Mae  
Feather  
17 Scott & Jessica Laney  
24 Joey & Stacey  
Mosteller

##### July

1 Roger & Brenda Josey  
26 Steve & Carolyn Kale

Thank  
You!

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

# CHRISTIANITY'S MOST INTRIGUING PERSON



## JUST JESUS



### SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Based on **Why Jesus?** by William Willimon  
and **Jesus Now** by Frank Viola

Rev. Colleen Samson, Pastor, Bethany UCC



### June Meet & Eat

Our **June Meet & Eat** will be at  
Olive Garden on Friday, June 13, at 6:00 pm.

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

### ??? DID YOU KNOW ???

Pastor Colleen is offering a New Member/Inquirer's Class for those who are interested in joining Bethany or are wanting to learn more about The United Church of Christ or Bethany UCC. You are invited to attend the Inquirer's Class on Sunday, June 29, in the Fellowship Hall following worship. A light lunch will be served. Please let Pastor Colleen know if you are interested.

We have a Church Endowment Committee who is looking into the possibility of establishing an Endowment Fund for Bethany. Members of this committee are Larry Sink, chairman, Norma Boggs, Eddie Ervin, Lisa Goins, Lou Grandmaison, and Pastor Colleen Samson. Information will be shared with the congregation in the coming weeks.

**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](http://www.BethanyUccClaremont.org)**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**High Attendance Sunday!**

June 8 at 10:30 am

**Deacon's Meeting**

June 8 at 4:30 pm

**Council Meeting**

June 8 at 5:00 pm



**June Meet & Eat**

Olive Garden Friday, June 13 at 6:00 pm

**Youth/Teen Sunday**

June 22 at 10:30 am

**ReSunday with Pastor John and Pastor Colleen**

July 27 at 10:30 am