

Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

2952 Bethany Church Rd, Claremont NC 28610

www.BethanyUccClaremont.org and follow us on [facebook](#)

bethanyuccclaremont@gmail.com 828-464-5194



SUMMER NEWS 2017

Puppy, People, and Patience by Rev. Colleen Samson

I admit that sometimes I wonder if getting a puppy was a mistake. But then, I look at my sweet Lily and think, it will be okay, just give it time. Lily likes to put her paws in her water bowl and tip it over. Yes, when there is water in it. She does the same thing with her food. Why would a dog rather eat her food off the floor instead of dining from a nice stainless steel bowl? Potty training is another story. Just when I think she is getting it, I find a pile of "you know what." When did she do that? I shake my head, clean it up, and hope that tomorrow is a better day. Lily tests my patience.

Are there people in your life who test your patience? Maybe your children, co-workers, family members, friends, and/or strangers. Maybe the person who is talking on their phone instead of paying attention sits through a green light. Or, how about the person who parks their shopping cart in the middle of the aisle blocking the entire aisle so you can't get through? Most of us have our patience tested every day. Conversely, most of us test someone else's patience daily.

It makes me wonder when God will run out of patience with me. Wondering about God's patience with me, makes me pray for God's patience with me. Do you ever pray that God will have patience with you? Or do you wonder when God will run out of patience with you? Scripture tells us that God had plenty of patience with the Israelites. I hope that patience extends to each of us.

And, that brings me back to Lily. She has been with me for seven weeks. No, she is not perfect. She is a puppy. We are not perfect. We are human. Whether puppy or people, can we extend the patience that God gives each one of us to each other? Think about it the next time someone is testing your patience. Let me know how you do, and I'll keep you up to date with Lily's progress.

Bethany is a community of justice and peace serving the needs of people on their spiritual journey.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

Every Sunday Morning
Adult Faith Formation 9:30
Worship Service 10:30



Scriptures

June 04	John 20: 19-23
June 11	Matthew 28:16-20
June 18	Matthew 9: 35--10: 8
June 25	Psalm 86:1-10
July 02	Romans 12: 1-8
July 09	Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67
July 16	Psalm 138
July 23	Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
July 30	Matthew 13: 31-33 44-52
August 6	Matthew 14: 13-21
August 13	Matthew 14: 22-33
August 20	Matthew 15: 10-20, 21-28
August 27	Matthew 16: 13-20

June, July, August Fellowship Opportunities

- July 15 Day Trip Leave 9:00a.m. Shatley Springs, Frescos and Cheese Factory
- Aug 4 Meet & Eat @ Olive Garden at 6:00p.m.
- Aug 12 Homemade Ice Dream/Desserts 4:00p.m.



Summer Special Events

- June 11 Foster Care Sunday with Megan Bridges from Social Services speaking
- June 18 Father's Day
- June 25 60th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ and a shortened service with the third 5 year planning session and lunch to follow.
- July 16 Servant's Voices to sing during our worship service.

After School All Stars

We hope that everyone is having a great spring. The All-Stars have been spending a lot of time outside playing all types of ball games and enjoying the weather when their homework is done. We always have reading time daily, too, and even multiplication drills to make sure they are prepared for the upcoming End of Grade tests. Their progress reports have been good, so we think they will do well.

Soon they all can enjoy the class parties, last minute field trips, movie days and field days that they always look forward to as the school year comes to a close. We wish our 6th graders the best as they move up to middle school.

We wish all of the children continued success in the future, and we will miss them very much.

Congratulations to the Class of 2017 near and far!

Ms Lee and Ms Jeannine



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July

4 Eddie Ervin
18 *Sharon Pope
22 *Donna Rauschenberg
30 O. D. Witherspoon

June

15 *Margie Witherspoon
19 Hughleen Murray
25 Cindy Smith-Canipe

August

3 Jessica Laney



Watch for new **BE THE CHURCH** banners coming soon!



Missions and Christian Education

The Missions Committee and Board of Christian Education have been involved in recently in some joint projects. The Committees provided Christmas gifts to our shut-ins. The four women received a prayer shawl knitted by Lou Grandmason and a decorative Christmas bell arrangement. The four men were given a cozy lap blanket and a rustic Christmas decoration for their rooms.

The children in our church and the youth in our After School Program were remembered, too. Each received a gift bag and Christmas card with their name on it. The bag contained fruit, nuts, a small gift, and of course, candy. The Committees also spread Easter joy to our youth and those in the After School Program with an ice cream sundae party and were given an insulated cloth drink bag to carry drinks in. Markers were passed out so the youth could put their names on the bags and decorate them. Each participant was also given an activity book.

The Missions Committee, chaired by Lou Grandmason, gave twelve prayer shawls knitted by Lou to a local Conover care community. The Board of Christian Education assisted Pastor Samson and Lou Grandmason in a dedication of the shawls during worship time. Pastor Colleen delivered the shawls to the assisted living community.

We will be planning some other projects in line with the outcomes of our church's time of reflection. We welcome any suggestions and ideas. Thank you.

Submitted by Sarah Bostian

SERMON SERIES FOR JUNE 11-JULY 9

"IMAGINE THE PEOPLE OF GOD"

"I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to imagine with all followers of Jesus, the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test the length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!"

Ephesians 3: 16-21 (MSG)



Save the Date



**SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Annual Gathering

Hosted by the Eastern Virginia Association

June 22-24, 2017

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Living our Faith | Building on Hope | Sharing Our Love

Did You Know?

Pastor Colleen and Vivian Cline will be representing Bethany UCC at the Southern Conference gathering in Virginia Beach, Virginia from June 22 through June 24.