

# Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

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## Spring News 2018

### Looking Forward

by Rev. Colleen Samson

Warmer weather, flowering trees, daffodils, and green grass sure look good after a long, cold, wet winter. I hope this finds you looking forward to and/or enjoying a good spring.

The promise of new life in the spring gives us a sense of hope. When we see the dead of winter turn into the life of a beautiful spring, it reminds us of the new life God promises to each of us. First and most important is the promise of eternal life after death. As we prepare for Easter and listen to the post-resurrection stories, we realize that God made us a promise and then affirms that promise as the disciples encounter Jesus after his death. There is also the promise that God will always be with us. There is nothing more assuring than the presence of God, especially during difficult times. The promise of forgiveness is given to those who come before God with a contrite heart, truly seeking repentance for wrongdoings. The promise of a peace that passes all understanding is given to you for those times when your anxiety is out of control. These are some of God's promises.

God's promises help us to look forward to each day and to live each day to the fullest. It is good to look back and remember the past, but if you are not looking forward, then your life might be lacking purpose. God wants each of us to discover/have a purpose in life. Consider the purpose of your life! Likewise, God gives the church a purpose. Bethany's purpose continues to unfold as we continue to discern ways we can move forward in being an inclusive church.

Life is exciting when God is at the helm. God does not promise an easy life, but when you are a disciple, God promises a fulfilling life. When we follow God, we are looking forward. We look forward to the next step on our journey while learning from the past.

I wish everyone a good spring. There is plenty to look forward to in the coming months. Be active in the life of the church, and look forward to more good things to come!



*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

#### March

- March 4 Psalm 19: 1-8
- March 11 Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22
- March 18 Psalm 51: 1-12
- March 25 Psalm 31: 9-16

#### April

- April 1 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
- April 8 Psalm 133
- April 15 Psalm 4
- April 22 Psalm 23
- April 29 Psalm 22: 25-31

#### May

- May 6 Psalm 98
- May 13 Psalm 1
- May 20 John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15
- May 27 Psalm 29

### Did You Know?



We will have our first quarterly Fellowship Birthday/Anniversary Celebration on Sunday March 25, in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### March

- 20 Gina Beard
- 27 Jerry Pope
- 29 Beth Cline

#### April

- 3 Edith Grimes
- 9 Brandon Swanson
- 27 Jane Campbell

#### May

- 9 Lou Grandmaison

## Pastor Colleen is the Western North Carolina Association Minister of Church Affairs

Rev. Colleen Samson was selected as the Western North Carolina Association (WNCA) Minister of Church Affairs (MCA). Responsibilities for her new ministry began on February 20. She will now be half-time at Bethany and half-time with the WNCA. She will oversee 65 churches and about 350 clergy including active local pastors, chaplains, and retired ministers. Her new responsibilities also include consultation with the Committee on Ministry and the WNCA Board of Directors. Pastor Colleen will be a pastor to the pastors of the WNCA.

You may be wondering how Pastor Colleen's work at Bethany will change. The council is working on a plan and hopefully will soon have something to present to the congregation. Until that time, there will not be any noticeable change.

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, Southern Conference Minister, will install Rev. Samson to her new position. A date for the installation has not yet been announced. The congregation will be informed when a date is chosen.

### MEET AND EAT



Join us April 12 at Pomodoro's Cafe  
7925 Natalie Commons Dr.  
Denver, NC  
Everyone is welcome!  
Bring your family and friends  
to this time of fun and fellowship!



Why give to One Great Hour of Sharing? Because we are committed to improving lives of people everywhere. Working through established and proven networks, we are making a difference.

Donations starting March 11, 2018

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE for **Holy** WEEK



Maundy Thursday Service will be held at Peace UCC in Hickory, NC on March 29 at 7:00pm.

Palm Sunday Service will be celebrated on March 25 at 10:30am.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service will begin at 7:00am with Breakfast in the fellowship hall immediately following. Easter Worship with Holy Communion will begin at 10:30am.

Everyone is invited to join in these Celebrations!



## *DARE TO DANCE AGAIN*

*A Sermon Series for the  
Season after Easter!*

As Easter people, we are called to dance our dances of freedom for all the world to see. Dances of hope. Dances of justice. Dances of love. During this season, post-resurrection stories point to the joy of living in the beloved community and extending that fellowship through our witness as we dare to dance and "sing out strong!"



## May Cookout



Bethany will be having our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual cookout on Saturday, May 5, at 4:00 pm at the church. Mark your calendar now to attend, or you will miss a great time of food, fun, and fellowship! The hamburgers, hotdogs, and fixings will be supplied. There will be a signup sheet with a list of all other items needed. Please bring your comfortable lawn chairs so that we can sit and enjoy each other's company. We will bring outdoor games again for fun and competition!!!! Invite your friends, too. All are welcome. Hope to see everyone there!