

BETHANY BEACON

LIVING TOGETHER *by Rev. Colleen Samson*

When I was growing up in Pennsylvania, the only time I heard about guns was if someone was going deer hunting. People fought with their fists. Pulling out a gun to settle an argument was not part of my childhood experience. That may not be true for every part of the country, but it was me. It's hard to turn the news on each night to hear about the most recent shooting. Whether it is a child shooting another child, a case of domestic abuse, a police officer shooting an African American or an African American shooting a police officer, a teen who goes into a classroom and kills their peers, or a mass killing in a theater, guns and violence seem to be everywhere. Frankly, taking the life of another person seems to have diminished in importance. Do we value human lives? Where can we start to tackle issues of violence and race?

One of the reasons I am thankful for the Bethany congregation, who is willing to struggle with questions of inclusive church, is because human lives matter to God and they should equally matter to us. The real purpose of discussing people who are different from us is to understand them and ourselves better. The new commandment is to love God and love others as you love yourself. Somehow, we need to get to the point where we can love others. How do we get to the point where we can say all people are created and loved by God---and as disciples of Christ, how can we value and respect all of God's creation?

Do we value human life? If we do, how can we be a life-giving part of God's kingdom on earth? I think we have taken a step in the right direction. Realizing some people do not like to talk about our precon-

ceived notions about people or groups of people who are different from us, the Bethany congregation's willingness to step into the conversation says a lot about your love for God. As your pastor, stepping into difficult conversations is important to me, even though conflict can arise.

It is a fact that the United States is quickly becoming multi-cultural, multi-faith, and multi-racial. It is the world we and our children are part of; somehow we have to learn to live where we are planted.

"In 1997, Tom Brokaw produced and wrote a special report called 'Why Can't We Live Together?' It is the story of an affluent community outside of Chicago. To capsule the story, wealthy, professional blacks moved into the community and the whites fled. Tom Brokaw interviewed white residents who stayed in the community and those who fled. The report is sad, because it shows that the perception is that when blacks move into a neighborhood, crime increases, property values fall and school systems decline. People boldly state that these perceptions are 'facts.' They state that they had to move because their children deserve safe neighborhoods and good schools, and because they need to protect their property investments. Even though Brokaw methodically showed the white residents that there had been a slight increase, not decrease, in property values, that the school test scores remained the same, and the crime did not increase, their perceptions persisted. In their mind, perceptions are reality." (Racing across the lines: Changing Race Relations Through Friendship, Deborah L. Plummer)

How many of us have preconceived notions about people? Why can't we

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

MAY &
JUNE
2015

live together? These are good questions to think about from a Christian perspective. If we are called to bring God's kingdom here on earth, what does God require of us? Micah 6:8 Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. Matthew 19:19b Love your neighbor as yourself.

Bethany's Newest Member



Dear Church Family,

It's said that you can't go home again, but I feel very close and very thankful to have become part of the Bethany UCC community. Having grown up in Newton, gone to First Presbyterian, and graduated from Newton-Conover High School in 1957, this is familiar territory. Also my parents, three aunts and mother-in-law lived at Abernethy at different times, so my home in the Village puts me in touch with family and friends.



My journey in the UCC begin when my husband, Larry Charles Bostian, my daughter, Ida, and son, Charles, and I joined the First UCC in Charlotte. When the church relocated to another part of the city, it was renamed Holy Covenant UCC. It has been a wonderful experience to be part of a welcoming church. I feel so blessed to have another welcoming, friendly, Christ centered church near by and look forward to our time together.

In Christ's Love, Sarah Deal Bostian

Important Dates To Remember

May 30, 7am -12 p.m.

Community Yard/Food Sale and Blessing of the Animals

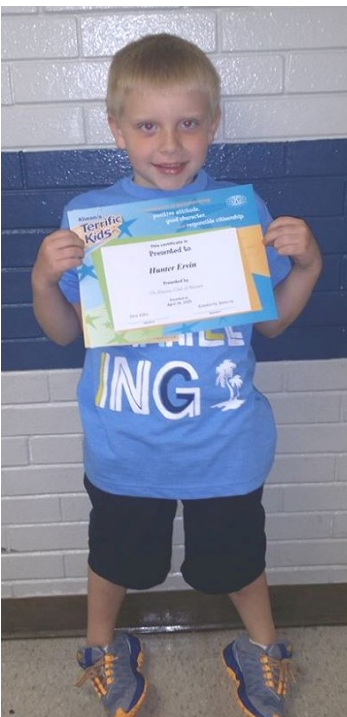
Sept 12, 11am - 2 p.m.

Seventh Annual Community Fun Festival

Sept 20 10:30 a.m.

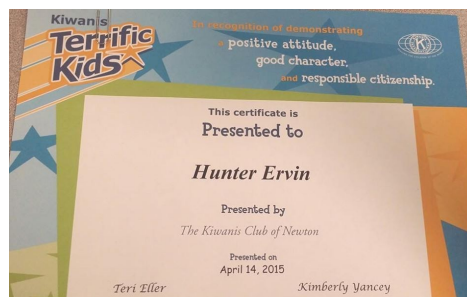
Homecoming Celebration with Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, Conference Minister of the UCC Southern Conference, bringing the message.

Bethany's Kids



Congratulations, Hunter!

Hunter Ervin, son of Eric Ervin, recently received the Kiwanis Club Terrific Kids Award from his kindergarten teacher at Claremont Elementary School.



Way To Go, Peyton!

Congratulations to Peyton Laney, son of Jessica and Scott Laney, and his friend Justin Toney for finishing in sixth place for wheeled vehicle at the State Science Olympiad competition in April.

Relay For Life

Join the Bethany Team---**Relay for Life** of Catawba County, **May 29, 2015**. You can walk for life---see Jane Cadwallader or be a white bag (\$10) or gold bag (\$20) luminary donor. The luminary forms are on the bulletin board outside the pastor's office. Checks made to "The American Cancer Society" can be given to Jane Cadwallader.

Highlights from the Church Council

- The Church Council announces these highlights from the last meeting. We will have **fellowship time** in Fellowship Hall following the service the last Sunday of each month.
- An outside **church workday** is scheduled for Saturday, May 16th beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- For those interested in attending the **50th Anniversary Celebration of the Southern Conference** on June 19-20, in Greensboro, please talk with Pastor Colleen for details.



May Meet & Eat

Our **May Meet & Eat** will be at
Boxcar Grille on Friday, May 22, at 6:30 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 collecting **pictures of loved ones from our church** who have passed on. Please mark your pictures with the name of the person (s) in the photographs and bring them to the church office. Pictures will be returned later this spring.

Our New Technology System

Jericho Audio Visual has completed building our tech booth and installing the new worship software for Sunday services. We are grateful for the way Dwayne and Logan Burke were able to build the booth to blend in with the church furnishings. The booth is large enough to handle the second phase of the project, which is the audio phase. The second phase is a future project for the church renewal program. The new software is called ProPresenter, a very reliable and easy to use worship enhancement software program. Our tech assistants are already learning how to use the system.

Cline have volunteered to operate the new system. They each take the responsibility to type in all parts of the service and download it into the system for our use on Sunday mornings. We hope to add more graphics and perhaps film clips in the future. There will also be special presentations at appropriate times. Many thanks to Eddie Ervin and Steve Kale who worked with Jericho Audio Visual. And, we thank our national grant team in Cleveland, Ohio, for the opportunity to renew our church in many different ways. Also, we are grateful to one of our Bethany families who financially contributed to our new system.

Submitted by Pastor Colleen

Jóse DeJesús, Eric Ervin, Adam Smith, and Beth

Easter Party Fun



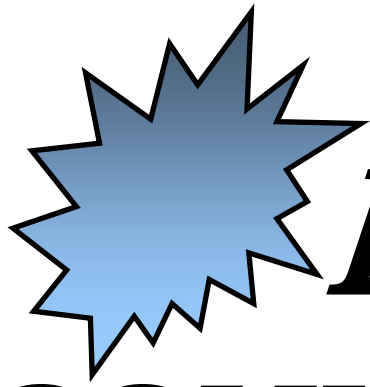
Easter Sunrise Breakfast



Great
Food
And
Fellowship



MAY 30, 2015



BARGAINS **COMMUNITY YARD** **& FOOD SALE**

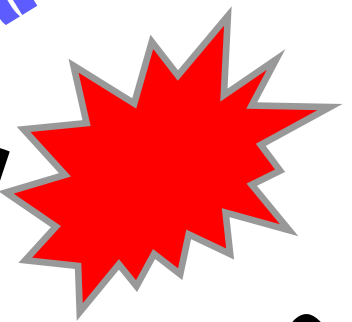
RENT TABLE SPACE TO SELL YOUR BARGAINS
LEAVE MESSAGE 828-464-5194

BETHANY UCC
2952 BETHANY CHURCH ROAD
CLAREMONT

7am~12pm



BLESSINGS



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



BY OUR PASTOR

BRING YOUR PETS

After School All Stars

Warm days, flowers, showers, and sunshine are exactly what a child needs to run and play. Most of us wish we had their energy and freedom!

Reports cards are out, and once again we are happy about the results. It seems as if we are going to have to call our after school the A honor roll club. All parents should be happy with their child. We had several who won awards for most improved in math.

Our wireless internet downstairs is working perfectly. We have two tablets for homework and research. We are planning on getting two more tablets in the near future. Our WiFi is available throughout the entire basement area and much appreciated!

It seems as if the school year is flying by. Soon there will be end-of-year testing in the schools. All of our children do extra work at this time of the year. Even our K-2 are busy reviewing. I am speechless sometimes when I hear them reading. Each child, no matter the age, reads for at least 20 minutes every day.

There was something fishy here for about two weeks. Each class had goldfish, but I think they were overfed and soon had to be eliminated. Maybe we need to think about the no pets rule, because a fish funeral is not very enjoyable.

We are continuing to have thirty children, most of whom are here every day. We lost two little girls, because the family moved to another area. We miss

Hannah and Briana very much, but we know they are doing well.

Several of our little ones came to the Bethany Easter Egg Hunt and enjoyed it very much. One of the parents wanted to pass along their thanks for the event. Thank you Bethany for all you do.

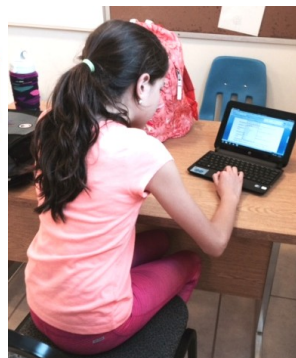
Devotion today was about Esau and Jacob. I was blessed by the fact that a little second grader remembered what we talked about concerning the brothers on Monday. You never know what they hear. Just when you think they are zoned out, they surprise you. Devotion time is honestly the best part of the day for me. Pray that we will touch little hearts as we work together.

I will be at Catawba County United Way on May 5. This is the final presentation for additional funds. It has been a long process, but I am always encouraged by what they do.

Summer camp will start on June 16. I have 6 new children already signed up. The parents had them in another program but wanted a faith-based camp for their children. Some of them live in walking distance from the church. This is a testimony of the outreach that is supplied by Bethany UCC.

May God bless each and every member. Thank you for all you do for us.

Brenda Josey/Program Director
Jeannine Poole /Assistant Director



Work
Time
&
Fun
Together
Time!



Hoops
&
Tents
Fun
Times!



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.

Vicky Allen	Esther Dollarhyde	Doris Kirby and Angelica	Lynnette Stoker
Faye Beard	Sheila Earp	Stanley Klinger	Bill Wahl
C.J. Brooks	Karma Eckard and baby	Donald Laney	Cindy Watson
Linda Brooks	Sheila Eisenhour	Jerry Laye	Barbara Wireman
Becky Cline	Donnie Harris	Darrell Little	Rick and Lynda Wilkinson
Bill Cline (AL 407)	Louise Harris (Home)	Kenneth Lockwood	O.D. Witherspoon (CVL 105)
Elizabeth Cline (CVL 126)	David Hasson	James Lowe	Ann Young
Lyerly Cline (AL Pavillion 248)	Ruby Henderson	Nadine Pennell	
Vivian Compton	Joseph	Tracy Royal	
	Kay Ikerd	Pastor David Samson	
	Lisa Janulewicz	Rev. Banks Shepherd	



SERVING IN MAY AND JUNE 2015

Liturgists:

<u>May</u>	
3	Beth Cline Psalm 22: 25-31
10	Eddie Ervin Psalm 98
17	Brenda Josey Psalm 1
24	Norma Boggs John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15
30	John Pope John 3: 1-17
<u>June</u>	
7	Vivian Cline 1 Samuel 8: 4-11; 16-20
14	Lou Grandmaison 1 Samuel 15: 34--16:13
21	Linda Anghilante 1 Samuel 17: 32-49
28	Pamela Pope Psalm 130

Elder of the Month:

<u>May</u>	Norma Boggs
<u>June</u>	Vivian Cline

Ushers:

<u>May</u>	Eddie Ervin Steve Kale
<u>June</u>	Louise Setzer Tom Witherspoon

Counting Offerings:

<u>May</u>	Donna Ervin Steve Kale
<u>June</u>	Vivian Cline Jose DeJesus

Acolytes:

<u>May</u>	Zach Stewart Steve Kale Vivian Cline Tommy Little Carolyn Kale
<u>June</u>	AJ Ellison Donna Ervin Zach Stewart Steve Kale

Happy Birthday!

<u>May</u>	Lauren Stewart Lou Grandmaison Lyerly Cline Peyton Laney
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<u>June</u>	Margie Witherspoon Roger Josey Hughleen Murray Tom Witherspoon
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Childcare Providers:

<u>May</u>	Vivian Cline Gina Beard Beth Cline Lynn Brooks
<u>June</u>	Louise Setzer Katie Barrett Vivian Cline Gina Beard

Happy Anniversary!



<u>June</u>	Eddie & Donna Ervin Nevin & Cecil Mae Feather Scott & Jessica Laney Joey & Stacey Mosteller
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Staff -Parish Relations Committee

Rev. Samson's SPRC members are:

Chris Brooks
(459-4491)
Becky Cline
(464-4346)
Vivian Cline
(464-6471)

Thank You!

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

AND.....THERE IS ALWAYS
ROOM FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS!



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.

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

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

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 10



Church Clean-up Day
Saturday, May 16 8:00 a.m.



Church Council Meeting
May 17, at 5:00 p.m.
Deacons will meet at 4:30 p.m.



Meet and Eat
Boxcar Grille Friday, May 22, 6:30 p.m.

Food Sale

Community Yard & Food Sale
& Blessing of The Animals
Saturday, May 30 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

