

BETHANY BEACON

HOW ARE YOU USING YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS?

Fall is a beautiful season of the year. I especially look forward to fall because it is football season. It is interesting to watch a football game and see how each player contributes to the game. Some players are always in the game unless they need a break, are injured, out for the season, or have broken the rules. Other players wait their turn and come in to play when they are needed. Regardless, they are all important and needed on the team.

Every person at Bethany is important and needed on the team. Each person is needed to actively be in covenant with the church for the greater good of God's Kingdom. The Spirit gives each of us gifts, calls us to a church, and then it is our responsibility to identify each other's gifts and work for the greater good in the place where we are called.

What does that look like? The fall is a good time to offer your gifts to the church. Have you thought about the gifts you have been given by the Spirit or has someone said to you, "You are really good at _____ and we need you to serve in that capacity at the church?"

Is there something you really like to do? Have you prayed and asked God to make it clear to you, how you can serve God in the church? I believe people are called to a church, because they are needed there.

Sometimes the ball has to be handed-off to another person to keep the ball moving forward toward the goal. Are you a person who can take the ball and run with it, or are you afraid you will fumble the ball? No need to be afraid, it is okay to fumble the ball, because we are here to pick

each other up when things don't go exactly how we think they should. Bethany needs people to pick up some of our balls. My husband did a lot at the church. He carried the ball down the field until he couldn't anymore. He loved being in ministry at Bethany. There are ministries he helped with that need your help.

Let me give you examples: The Bethany website needs someone who will keep it updated. The Bethany Community Involvement Team needs people with new ideas and energy. Our Adult Discussion group needs leadership for short-term topics. Do you have computer skills to work on our conference yearly report and assemble our church annual report? The church needs all of its members to be actively involved in moving the ministry of the church forward. If you have been sitting on the bench, waiting your turn, please consider using your gifts and talents for the greater good. God needs you to serve and so does your church. Ask Pastor Colleen or a council member what you can do to help.

Another aspect of the football season, especially in our local high schools, is homecoming. Bethany's Homecoming, "We Celebrate Our Faith," is scheduled for Sunday, September 20. There is a form in the bulletin for everyone to join together after the service for a catered meal. Please place your form in the offering plate along with your check with "Homecoming" in the memo area. Or, put your form and cash in an envelope and place it in the offering plate. Also, we are assembling a homecoming choir. If you would like to be part of the choir for this

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



September
& October
2015

**2952 Bethany Church Road
Claremont, NC 28610**

Phone: 828-464-5194

Email
bethanyucclaremont@gmail.com

Website
www.BethanyUccClaremont.org

Pastor
Rev. Colleen Samson

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Nevin Feather

Director After School All Stars
Leona Bolton

Youth/Teens Co-Directors
Megan & Leslie Vann

Interim Organist
Jane Cadwallader

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

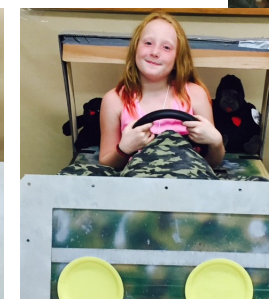
Sunday Schedule
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship: 10:30am

President, Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, will bring the message for our Homecoming Service. Greet him with Bethany hospitality.

Have a good fall! Consider how your gifts and talents can keep you in active covenant with our church and with God. You are important and needed.

by Rev. Colleen Samson

Learning and Fun at VBS Camp Kilimanjaro



How can I describe the past month's events and future events in a way that you might understand? Well one word seems to come to mind, and that is AMAZING! VBS Camp Kilimanjaro was a challenge, to say the least, but it was entirely worth it. The children who attended Camp Kilimanjaro were able to raise almost \$100 on their own! They did this in only four nights with an average of eight children. This has allowed us to feed many children in Africa by donating the money to the Children's Hunger Fund.

So, of course, we couldn't let such a great accomplishment go unnoticed since we had a boys verses girls competition to see who could bring in the most donations. After a very tight vote from church members, the reward was a five gallon bucket of water over each of our heads! Yes, it was cold and neither of us realized how much five gallons was until we were sitting under it. However, we wouldn't change our experience for the world.

We want to be sure to thank all of the volunteers who helped with VBS this year. We could not be more thankful to have had such dedicated and caring volunteers by our sides. Without our volunteers, VBS would not have been possible. Note: All pictures of children who attended will be mailed out along with any lost items.

Fall is near, and that means a lot of changes to our daily lives. Youth and teens have returned to school, vacations have ended, and the holidays are approaching. However, you should know we have no

plans on slowing down. August 30 at 5:00pm we will have a Linc meeting for Youth and Teens. This meeting will be pizza and a movie and time for the children to express their interests. Linc meetings will be held the last Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted. Linc meetings will now also include elementary ages as well as teens. We put a lot of thought into this before deciding, but in the end we thought it would be best to include them. This decision came from wanting to be proactive with all ages.

September 12 from 11:00-2:00pm will be the Community Fun Festival at Bethany. This is a great opportunity to come out and participate in a good cause. September 27 from 1:00-5:00pm we will host a Family night at PDQ for Fundraising towards our Youth and Teens program. We will receive 10% of all purchases when you tell them you're there for Bethany UCC. We will have corn hole set up, and it will be a great time to get to know each other!

October is going to be jammed packed with fun and events for our Youth and Teens! Make sure you check out the Bethany UCC Youth and Teens Facebook page for more updates, pictures, or videos. Keep watch for when we announce our first parents' night out. Also, please contact us if you have a child or someone you know has a child that is within a close distance to our church and needs help getting to church on Sundays. We will be happy to help!

Megan and Leslie Vann/ Youth and Teens Co-Directors



BETHANY HOMECOMING 2015

WE CELEBRATE OUR FAITH

BETHANY HOMECOMING 2015

Sunday, September 20, 2015
Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, preaching

Catered Meal
Menu by Justin Burke-Samson of
Modern Gramma & Raleigh's Standard Foods

MENU

Pulled Pork
Roasted Broccoli with Crispy Lemon
Apple Fennel Salad
Braised Carrots with Thyme
Mac & Cheese

Adults \$9
Children (Under 12): \$5

If you would like to be part of our Homecoming Choir, please
come to rehearsal on Wed. Sept. 16 @ 7pm

After School All Stars Say Goodbye to Ms. Brenda

The Advisory Council of the After School All Stars held a party on Wednesday, September 2, in honor of Program Director Brenda Josey as she resigns from the position. The children were eager to see her and share their remembrances of what Brenda has meant to them during their time in the program. Cup cakes, ice cream, Kool Aid, cards, gifts, and lots of kind words and hugs filled the room. A prayer of thanks and well wishes for the future was led by Pastor Colleen along with thanks for Brenda's work in establishing the program. Best wishes as you retire once again!

September Meet & Eat

will be at Geppeto's Pizza on Friday, September 25, at 6:30 pm.
Join in having a great time of Fun & Fellowship at this event.
Bring your family and friends with you!



THE FIRST SEVEN SESSIONS LISTED BELOW
will be taught by Larry Sink and Rev. Colleen Samson in Fellowship Hall on
Sunday Mornings at 9:30am from October 4 - November 15.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2.0

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.

Living the Questions is a 21-week DVD and web-based small group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. Ideal for Christian invitation, initiation and spiritual formation, Living the Questions will help seekers and "church alumni/ae" alike in discovering the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

Themes

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Invitation to Journey</i> | <i>Honoring Creation</i> | <i>Call to Covenant</i> |
| 1. An Invitation to Journey | 8. Restoring Relationships | 15. A Kingdom without Walls |
| 2. Taking the Bible Seriously | 9. The Prophetic Jesus | 16. Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision |
| 3. Thinking Theologically | 10. Evil, Suffering & A God of Love | 17. Incarnation: Divinely Human |
| 4. Stories of Creation | 11. The Myth of Redemptive Violence | 18. Prayer: Intimacy with God |
| 5. Lives of Jesus | 12. Practicing Resurrection | 19. Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry |
| 6. A Passion for Christ: Paul | 13. Debunking the Rapture | 20. Creative Transformation |
| 7. Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians | 14. Honoring Creation | 21. Embracing Mystery |

FORMAT

The format of each session includes a video, guided discussion, spiritual exercises and Bible study. The 20 minute videos for each session include conversation, sermon clips, lecture excerpts, and spiritual exercises for practical applications (including different forms of prayer and meditation, movement, walking the labyrinth, etc). Since the overall theme is that of faith as a journey, not a destination, the *livingthequestions.com* web site will offer resources for continued exploration, including downloadable expanded study guides, extra video resources, and links.

For more information contact Rev. Colleen Samson.
www.livingthequestions.com

Important Dates To Remember



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|--------------------------------|--|
| September 12, 11am-2 pm | Seventh Annual Community Fun Festival
Canned Drink Donations Needed |
| September 13, 10:30 am | Bluegrass Worship Service |
| September 20, 10:30 am | Homecoming Celebration with Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, Conference Minister of the UCC Southern Conference, bringing the message. |

Bethany After School All Stars News

Summer Camp was a huge success this year! The children enjoyed swimming, bowling, movies, scavenger hunts, science experiments, new group games, buddies week, outside play, and outside water games. The end of camp party was at Bo's Arcade in Lenoir. The children also visited Buffalo Beal's zoo in Maiden and enjoyed a make your own sundae on the last day of camp.

I want to thank the team for all their hard work and attention during this nine week day camp. The days and weeks get very difficult for the children and especially the staff. Thank you, Ms Jeannine, for going above and beyond what was expected to make this a fun time for the children and also for allowing me to have some days off. Ms Morgan also worked in the adult capacity in the afternoons and some mornings to assist the program. She is back at Gardner Webb now but did a great job with the kids. Thank you also goes out to Ms Jessica S. She is an exceptional helper with the program, and I feel honored to have her. Ms Riley fit right in with the group and worked hard with the kids to make everything fun. Ms Jessica E. assisted this summer and was ready to take her class of small ones for the new school year. A special thanks goes out to Jalynn S. She worked as a volunteer all summer. She was good with the group and was a big help to all. Thank you, staff, for a job well done!

School has started, and we were prepared to see their smiling faces as they gave hugs to each other and greeted new students. After six years, the program runs smoothly. Everyone knows their job and does it well. We have eleven 7th

graders, six 6th graders, five 4th-5th graders, and five K-3 children in our program so far. I have enrolled 2 more from Claremont, and they will be assigned classes next week when they arrive. I always calculate 30 students for Catawba County United Way, and we are getting pretty close to that number.

We get our snacks from ECCCM, and it is working out really well. We are satisfied with the selections, and it is always a treat when new snacks arrive. I will pick up those snacks today, as I write this letter, and it will look like Christmas when they arrive. Items that we must pay for are towels for the holders in each bathroom, Kool Aid, and sugar. I buy the sugar and towels at Sam's Club. I buy Kool Aid at IGA/Bufalo Shoals by the box (They love the blue). I mention this because we could use donations for these items as well as cups and regular paper towels.

I want to thank Tom and Linda Witherspoon for all of their donations to our program. They have been so faithful to bring needed items and contribute dollars for supplies. Thank you.

A new school year starts. The parents and children are happy. Learning begins! New students are in place!

God bless this program is my daily prayer. We see children going into middle school prepared. All is well at Bethany After School All Stars, and I give God praise for what he has caused to happen!

*Brenda Josey/Program Director
Jeannine Poole /Assistant Director*



LIVE UNITED



Catawba County United Way
Community Partner

Prayer List


Page 7

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	Sheila Earp	Harry Moore
Faye Beard	Sheila Eisenhour	Nadine Pennell
C.J. Brooks	Donnie Harris	Louise Perry
Linda Brooks	Louise Harris	Tracy Royal
Bill Cline (Conover Rehab Rm.107-A)	David Hasson	Lynnette Stoker
Elizabeth Cline (CVL 126)	Ruby Henderson	Bill Wahl
Lyerly Cline (AL Pavillion 248)	Kay Ikerd	Cindy Watson
Vivian Compton	Doris Kirby and Angelica	Barbara Wireman
Esther Dollarhyde	Jerry Laye	Lynda Wilkinson
	Kenneth Lockwood	O.D. Witherspoon (CVL 105)



SERVING IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2015

Liturgists:	Elder of the Month:	Acolytes:	Happy Birthday!
<u>September</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>September</u>
6 Vivian Cline	Eddie Ervin 6	Donna Ervin	 1
Isaiah 35: 4-7a	13	Zach Stewart	Laura Reed
13 Linda Anghilante	<u>October</u> 20	Eddie Ervin	Bill Cline
Psalm 19	Louise Setzer 27	Vivian Cline	Donna Ervin
20 Jose DeJesus		<u>October</u>	16 Rick Wilkinson
Psalm 54	Ushers: 4	Tommy Little	17 Randy Lowman
27 Pamela Pope	<u>September</u> 11	Lanie Stewart	21 Kenneth Reed
Mark 9: 38-50	Gina Beard 18	Donna Ervin	24 Elizabeth Cline
	Lynn Brooks 25	Zach Stewart	29 Carolyn Kale
<u>October</u>	<u>October</u>		<u>October</u>
4 Lynn Brooks	Aris DeJesus	Childcare	1 Lisa Goins
Genesis 2: 18-24	Jose DeJesus	Providers:	10 Linda Angehilante
11 Lou Grandmaison		<u>September</u>	12 Eric Ervin
Psalm 90: 12-17	Counting Offerings:	Katie Barrett	12 Steven Ellison
18 Louise Setzer	<u>September</u> 6	Vivian Cline	21 Martha Barringer
Psalm 104: 1-9, 24	Jose DeJesus 13	Gina Beard	25 Lynn Brooks
25 Sarah Bostain	Eddie Ervin 20	Beth Cline	30 Ruth Sanders
Psalm 34: 1-8	<u>October</u> 27		
	Beth Cline	<u>October</u>	Happy Anniversary!
	Lou Grandmaison 4	Lynn Brooks	<u>September</u>
	11	Louise Setzer	9 Joshua & Lauren
	18	Katie Barrett	Stewart

Thank You!

TO ALL WHO SERVE THESE MONTHS

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!!

.....AND.....

THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR

NEW VOLUNTEERS !!!!



26 Tom & Linda Witherspoon

7 Kenneth & Laura Reed

10 Fred Shields & Linda Angehilante

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

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EVERYONE
IS
WELCOME



We Are on The Web

www.BethanyUccClaremont.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Seventh Annual Community Fun Festival

*September 12, 11am-2 pm
Canned Drink Donations Needed*



Council Meeting

*September 13 - 5:00 pm
Deacons Meet at 4:30 pm*

Homecoming Celebration

*September 20, 10:30 a.m.
with Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, Conference Minister
of the UCC Southern Conference*

September Meet & Eat

*Geppeto's Pizza
Friday, September 25, at 6:30 pm*

