

EMBRACING THE COMMUNITY

BETHANY BEACON

Being Thankful While Waiting

There are two themes in the months of November and December that seems to jump out at us every year. November holds that one time of the year that most of us pause to be thankful. December is a time of waiting, as we journey through the season of Advent preparing for the birth of Christ.

I wonder if we can combine those two themes. I wonder if we can be thankful while waiting. Almost all of us have waited for medical tests of some sort. For me, waiting for those results is a stressful time. David used to say to me, "Don't fall on your sword before you have to." That is good advice, but difficult at times. Waiting for your teen to come home from a night out when they are more than an hour late can make a parent almost crazy. Waiting while a jury is out deliberating your fate may cause someone to flee the area. Waiting for your spouse to come home from work when you know some of the employees were let go from their jobs and others are expected to hear soon. Waiting while a loved one is in surgery with a possible cancer diagnosis makes a person's stomach be in knots. Waiting is miserable if we are always expecting a bad outcome! Can we live life expecting good outcomes no matter what the circumstances are in the short term? I think we can.

What if we lived our lives being thankful? Thankful for big things, small things, and everything in between. How would life feel? What would it be like to thank God regardless of our circumstances, regardless of the outcome? Can we be thankful during times of waiting? Can we trust God enough with our lives to live with an attitude of gratefulness knowing that God holds us no matter what circumstances we face?

It is during these times that reaching out to find God in scripture can be reassuring. You may find holding some of the following scriptures close to

your heart is helpful.

Isaiah 40:31 But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Psalms 33:20-22 Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Psalms 27:14 Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Colossians 1:11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.

Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

We are a good work in progress at Bethany and we, each, are a good work in progress. God has the final word. There are times when we think something and then there is a complete reversal. Self-talk that keeps me going is no matter what my circumstances, I say to myself, don't give up too soon, don't count yourself out, and expect a good outcome, because God wants the best for us. God wants us to have abundant life, and if we are following in God's path, the light will lead us home. I look forward to seeing what God has planned for us!

by Rev. Colleen Samson

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November
& December
2015



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Claremont, NC 28610

Phone: 828-464-5194

Email

bethanyuccclaremont@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

BE
ANXIOUS
ABOUT
NOTHING.

BUT IN
EVERYTHING
BY PRAYER & PETITION.

WITH
THANKSGIVING,

LET YOUR REQUESTS
BE MADE KNOWN TO
GOD.

JOIN TOGETHER WITH OUR
LINC MINISTRIES FAMILY OF CHURCHES

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015
BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2952 BETHANY CHURCH ROAD
CLAREMONT
7:00 P.M.

Important Dates To Remember



Meet and Eat at Western Steer Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Service Faith Promise Sunday Harvest Refreshments Nov. 22

LINC Thanksgiving Service and Harvest Refreshments Tuesday, Nov. 24

Combined Thanksgiving Choir 6:15 p.m. Service 7:00 p.m.

Decorating the church for Christmas Sunday, Nov. 29 at 1:30 p.m.



Laity Sunday

Thanks to all who participated in our Laity Sunday Service in October. We especially appreciate Ms. Edith Grimes for bringing the message.



House Blessing and Clearing

On Sunday, October 11, 2015, our congregation was invited by Sarah Bostian to a Blessing and Clearing of her new home at Abernethy Laurels. Chaplain Susan Roddy, Director of Spiritual Life at Abernethy Laurels, conducted the ceremony designed to cleanse the house of negative energies and bless it as a safe and warm space for Sarah to call home. As we entered each room of Sarah's house, special responsive readings and prayers were offered, and incense was carried throughout the house. Delicious refreshments and a time for fellowship followed the ceremony. We wish Sarah many years of good health and happiness in her new home.

A Changing World Sermon Series for Advent



November 29---Full Alert
 December 6---Getting Ready
 December 13---Life is Different
 December 20---A Sudden Change
 Christmas Eve ---The Light of Peace

Advent



November Meet & Eat

will be at Western Steer on Friday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.
 Join in having a great time of Fun & Fellowship at this event.
 Bring your family and friends with you!



Previous Meet & Eat
fun at Gepettio's &
Sim's Bar B Que.



LINC is the cooperative ministry of six congregations organized for the purpose of carrying out programs and mission projects that live out the prayer of Jesus "that they may all be one". It is a ministry that expands the work of each congregation by enabling them to carry out projects which as a single congregation they could not do on their own. The six churches participating in this important ministry are:



Bethany UCC, Claremont, NC
Bethel UCC, Hickory, NC
Church of the Master UCC, Hickory, NC
Grace Reformed UCC, Newton, NC
St. Matthews UCC, Maiden, NC
Unifour Christian Fellowship, Newton, NC

LINC functions through a Board of Directors made up of the pastor and a lay representative from each participating congregation. It has two main program components that function with the support of volunteers: Serving with Heart and Hammer and the Gift and Thrift Store. While most of the mission effort has been directed to the local community, LINC has also been active in providing Health Kits, Baby Kits, Clean Up Buckets and School Kits distributed through Church World Service where there is need around the world. LINC mission trips to places like Biloxi, MS, Nashville, TN, Aurora, NC and Toms River, NJ have been beneficial to the places served as well as to the many participants from the congregations.

One of the main projects of LINC is the United Church Homes and Services, with 15% of the store profits contributed to their Foundation which helps meet the needs of older adults who have limited incomes. Many of the items sold in the Gift and Thrift Store come from donations from Abernethy Laurels, a Continuing Care Retirement Community of UCHS.

A NEW PROJECT: Providing Welcome Kits and Home Starter Kits for use by EXODUS HOMES:

Exodus Homes is a unifour Area ministry that pro-

vides supportive housing for homeless recovering addicts, alcoholics and formerly incarcerated persons. LINC provides welcome kits containing personal items and bedding to persons coming to Exodus who have nothing of their own, **and** will provides Home Starter Kits to persons who graduate from the Exodus Homes program and are able to move out into the community to live on their own. These kits are provided through the Gift and Thrift Store. Each participating congregation is also challenged to help collect the items needed to make up the kits. You can check with the minister for a list of needed items for each kit.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE:

LINC will sponsor a joint Thanksgiving Service at Bethany UCC, Claremont, NC on Tuesday evening, **November 24, 2015**, beginning at 7:00 pm. There will be a combined choir and the public is invited. Person attending the service are asked to bring an item for the Exodus Kits; i.e, Toilet tissue, paper towels, or personal items such as deodorant, shampoo, nail clip, etc.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

LINC is a ministry carried out by volunteers. At the moment LINC is seeking a person to act as coordinator for the Serving with Heart and Hammer component as well as persons to help with such things as building ramps for older adults and helping with minor repairs. Volunteers are always needed to help with the store. There are two shifts available; 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday and 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday. Volunteers talk about the reward they receive from participating in this ministry. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jane Melnyk, Administrator/Manager (828-464-2881) or Jo Anne Flick, LINC Secretary (828-495-8400).

*Linked in New Creative Ministry
November 2015*



??? Did You Know ???

Rev. Elizabeth Horton has begun her ministry at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC. We are grateful for the time she served Bethany during Pastor Colleen's absence.

Justin Burke-Samson, Pastor Colleen's son-in-law competed in the TV cooking show "Beat Bobby Flay" recently and will also appear on the WCNC TV show "Charlotte Today" at 11:00am on Tuesday, November 10, 2015. He was also the caterer for our very delicious Homecoming Sunday Luncheon. Check it out!

Fall is here, and Christmas is coming faster than we realize. Over the next two months the youth and teens will be working with the After School All Stars on our Christmas play. So far it has been a wonderful experience to bring both programs together. Practice for the play will be held every Tuesday from 5-6pm at Bethany UCC in fellowship hall. "Santa Gives Back Christmas" is sure to be one of the best plays you will see this holiday season! Make sure you come out to see what all the fuss is about on December 13, 2015, at 4:00p.m.

One of the new expansions of the youth and teens outreach has included getting more active with the after school program. Each Wednesday from 3:45-4:15, I will spend time with the children using the Whirl program. This will allow the children to get to know God and how we like to worship here at Bethany. Our hope is to expand our relationship with the children who spend a lot of time at Bethany but do not know what Bethany is all about.

I regret to inform you that we will no longer have LINC meetings. However, we like the idea of children having separate time to learn about God and also have some fun. Therefore, we will begin doing parents' night out in place of LINC meetings. This will allow us to include Bethany youth and teens as well as the After School All Stars. Our first night out will be sometime in November, and we will notify all after school and youth/teens parents.

Youth and teens held its first fundraiser at PDQ in Hickory on the 18th of October. Although we had very short notice and could not get a lot of traffic coming through, we still managed \$329.86 in sales for support of our program. We receive 10% of the total sales which would come out to around \$34. The number is not huge, but the fact that most of the sales came from people who did not know who Bethany is, I think we did pretty well. We will host another fundraiser soon and are optimistic that our number will be much larger.

Before going any further, I would like to announce that we had



three members of our youth and teens group complete the Lord's Prayer challenge. Kayden, Hunter, and Noah have all successfully said the Lord's Prayer without any assistance! We are so proud of them for their hard work and dedication to learning such an important prayer. Make sure to congratulate them when you see them.

October 31 is Halloween and what better way to trunk or treat is there than a bonfire with s'mores! We will have hot chocolate, hot apple cider, hot dogs, s'mores, and trunk or treat!



Now, if our Halloween celebration isn't exciting enough, Bethany will now be offering free transportation to and from Sunday service. We have a few guidelines for transportation listed below.

Youth and Teens Only (k-12)

- Must be within a five mile radius of the church
 - Requests must be made no later than 5:00 pm on Fridays
 - Written permission from legal parent or guardian is required
- Morning Worship is Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Contact Megan Vann, Youth and Teens Co-director for more information! (828) 446-7860



Megan and Leslie Vann/ Youth and Teens Co-Directors

Santa Gives Back Christmas

A Lighthearted Comedy

By: John V. Bartocci

This play is set in Santa's workshop at the North Pole. Santa Claus is concerned because he has become too popular with the children of the world and he fears they have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. He decides that he will bring all the children to the North Pole and teach them the story of Jesus' birth.

The children of the church along with the After School All Stars children are preparing and practicing now for this

delightful play to be presented at Bethany United Church of Christ on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 4:00pm. Make plans now to support our children and also enjoy the fun and refreshments that follows the play.



Beginning a New School Year

The After School All Stars have gotten off to a great start this school year and are settling in to their daily routine. Getting back to a regular schedule is always a little hard at first, especially with all the changes that come with a new school year such as new teachers, different classmates, and the new faces here, too. Some change is exciting and some change can be a little scary. But this little group is like family, and there is plenty of support for all to laugh, cry, and work our way through the tough times while looking forward to all the good days ahead. Each and every one is finding their place and their own learning curve to help get things done. It's a great group, and we are all getting to know each other better every day. Hopefully with the new flyers about the program going out and more advertising, we will have even more new friends to get to know very soon!

In addition to getting homework done and extra tutoring for some, the children are very

active with other school activities such as Running and PE Club (including a unicyclist!) and participating in their favorite sports. And they really like all the fresh air and exercise that they get here on the playground and playing basketball, soccer, and chasing leaves while enjoying this great fall weather, too.

Soon there will be more time spent indoors, and we have already started practice on Tuesdays for this year's Christmas program on December 13. It will be here before we know it, and we will be celebrating the Reason for the Season!

I am thankful for this opportunity to serve as Director of the All Stars Program and for the warm welcome. I want to say how much I appreciate the support of all the staff, parents, Advisory Council, Ms. Jeannine, and especially all our young All Stars!

*Leona Bolton, Program Director
Jeannine Poole, Assistant Director*



Catawba County United Way
Community Partner

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	Sheila Earp	Carolyn Laford
Pam and Todd Ballard	Sheila Eisenhour	Harry Moore
Faye Beard	Cecil Mae Feather (AL Pavilion 141)	Nadine Pennell
Kathy Bogdanescu	Rev. Don Flick	Louise Perry
C.J. Brooks	Donnie Harris	Lynnette Stoker
Linda Brooks	Louise Harris	Rev. Banks Shepherd Family
Bill Cline (Conover Rehab Rm.107-A)	David Hasson	Bill Wahl
Elizabeth Cline (CVL 126)	Ruby Henderson	Landon Webb
Lyerly Cline (AL Pavillion 248)	Kay Ikerd	Barbara Wireman
Vivian Compton	Jerry Isley	Lynda Wilkinson
Darlene Creech	John King	O.D. Witherspoon (CVL 105)
Esther Dollarhyde	Doris Kirby and Angelica	
	Jerry Laye	



SERVING IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2015



Liturgists:

November

1	Beth Cline
	Psalm 24
8	Lisa Goins
	Mark 12: 38-44
15	Norma Boggs
	Mark 13: 1-8
22	Jose DeJesus
	Mark 9: 38-50
29	Vivian Cline
	Jeremiah 33: 14-16

December

6	Eddie Ervin
	Baruch 5: 1-9
13	Larry Sink
	Zephaniah 3: 14-20
20	Lou Grandmaison
	Micah 5: 2-5a
27	Sarah Bostian
	Psalm 148

Elder of the Month:

November

Norma Boggs

December

Vivian Cline

Ushers:

November

Donna Ervin

Eddie Ervin

December

Lisa Goins
Lou Grandmaison



Acolytes:

November

1	Tommy Little
8	Donna Ervin
15	Vivian Cline
22	Eddie Ervin
29	Tommy Little

December

6	Donna Ervin
13	Vivian Cline
20 & 24	Eddie Ervin
27	Tommy Little

Counting Offerings:

November

Donna Ervin
Vivian Cline

December

Jose DeJesus
Eddie Ervin

Happy Birthday!



November

10	Norma Boggs
10	Stacey Mosteller
16	Jakob Mosteller
17	Scott Laney

December

5	Leah Boggs
10	Lanie Stewart
15	Hunter Ervin
21	Shon Kale
23	Katie Barrett
27	Becky Cline
30	Louise Harris

Safe Church Child Rep.

November

1	Vivian Cline
8	Beth Cline
15	Sarah Bostian
22	Gina Beard
29	Beth Cline

December

6	Vivian Cline
13	Sarah Bostian
20	Gina Beard
27	Vivian Cline

*Thank
You!*

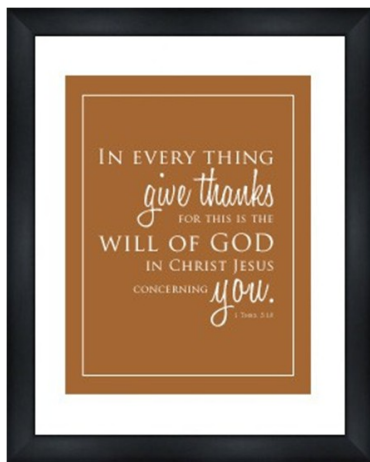
TO ALL WHO SERVE THESE MONTHS
WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!!
.....AND.....

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
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We Are on The Web

www.BethanyUccClaremont.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Council Meeting

November 8 - 5:00 pm
Deacons Meet at 4:30 pm



November Meet & Eat

Western Steer
Friday, Nov. 13, at 6:30 pm

Thanksgiving Service - Faith Promise Sunday
Harvest Refreshments Nov. 22, at 10:30 am

LINC Thanksgiving Service
& Harvest Refreshments Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 7:00 pm

Christmas Play and Social
Sunday, December 13, at 4:00 pm