



Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

2952 Bethany Church Rd, Claremont NC 28610

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Fall News 2018

An Extravagant Welcome

Assistant Pastor Kathy Naish

One of the first things I noticed at Bethany was a bold statement in the worship bulletin; “an extravagant welcome to our guests.” Well, my friends, extravagance is my favorite flavor! On my first Sunday, we celebrated with a beautiful and delicious reception. I know that at least one of you took a picture of me with Pastor Colleen. I took a picture of the cake! Tim and I went home that day and called our children, our mothers, our siblings, and our friends and told them all that we had found a wonderful congregation, a congregation of extravagant welcome.

Already, I have enjoyed your openness and your easy friendship. I have appreciated your patience as I learn my place in worship. And, Tim and I have celebrated again and again that we have found a place where following Jesus together is the definition of congregation. Because you have offered us a place in the family, I want to share a little about our lives with you.

Tim and I celebrated our 35th anniversary in August. We have two adult children, a son and a daughter. Now that both are married, we celebrate four children and three grandchildren. Our son’s family lives in the mountains between Morganton and Asheville, and our daughter’s family lives in Charleston. We love visiting them all! Tim’s work has taken us many places in 35 years; Savannah, Atlanta, West Palm Beach, Atlanta (again), Tampa, San Antonio, and now to his work in Charlotte. I first felt the call to congregational ministry when our children were young and we were living in south Florida. We struggled over the years with how to fit seminary, family, and multiple relocations into our lives. But, when we moved to Lincolnton, I finally found help and encouragement from local congregations and ministers so that I could attend divinity school. I graduated from the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University in 2006 with a Master of Divinity. I concentrated in Christian Education and Biblical Studies. I was ordained to the ministry shortly after graduation.

I have served several churches and have been a Children’s Minister and a Pastor of Spiritual Formation. I was with my previous congregation, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Lincolnton, for five years before coming to Bethany. I am grateful for the kinship that exists between our denominations, the recognition of standing, and the acceptance of ministry. I am enjoying learning the fine print of differences in worship styles, but I recognize completely the familiar call to shared, Christ centered living.

Your extravagant welcome is born from your commitment to being a Christ centered community. I can feel the presence of Christ in worship, in your hospitality, and in your commitment to justice and discipleship. Through scripture and daily living, we’ve all learned that following Jesus is a communal activity. The Kingdom he proclaimed is realized in community, and extravagant welcome is a hallmark of that Kingdom. Thank you for extending that welcome to me, and know that I look forward to extravagant discipleship with you.

Grace and Peace,
Kathy

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
Sunday School 9:30
Worship Service 10:30



Scriptures

September

- 2 Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9
- 9 Psalm 125
- 16 New Life Celebration
TBA
- 23 Psalm 54
- 30 Mark 9: 38-50

October

- 7 Psalm 26
- 14 Psalm 22: 1-15
- 21 Youth and Laity
Sunday/TBA
- 28 Psalm 34: 1-8

November

- 4 Mark 12: 28-34
- 11 Mark 12: 38-44
- 18 Mark 13: 1-8
- 25 2 Samuel 23: 1-7



September Events

September 15: Pride Day event from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Salt Block in Hickory. Bring a chair and join us at Bethany's booth for rock painting and raffles, and help us give away bottled water.

September 16: Bethany's New Life Celebration, Sunday, September 16, 2018. We will host Shinnsville UCC from Troutman. They will supply the music and Rev. Dr. Edward Davis will bring the message. We will have a dinner following the service! The church will supply fried chicken as the main course. See the sign-up sheet outside of Fellowship Hall for side dishes, desserts, and drinks. Invite family, friends and neighbors to join in the celebration!

September 30: Third quarterly Fellowship Birthday/ Anniversary Celebration for July, August and September on Sunday September 30, in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

MEET AND EAT

Our next **Meet and Eat** will be on Thursday,
October 11, at 6:00 p.m.
Butcher Boy's Café Hwy 150

Join us! Everyone is welcome!
Bring your family and friends
to this time of
fun and fellowship!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September

1 Laura Reed
12 Donna Ervin
17 Randy Lowman
21 Kenneth Reed
24 Elizabeth Cline

October

1 Lisa Goins
12 Eric Ervin
22 Trish Passman
25 Vicki Smith-Canipe

30 Ruth Sanders

November

4 Coleen McGee
10 Norma Boggs

Please Remember

ONGOING COLLECTIONS FOR:

ECCCM nonperishable food items
and monetary donations
(First Sunday of each Month)

Box Tops for Education
Coke Caps



WELCOME



*Bethany is pleased to Welcome
Assistant Pastor Kathy and Tim
Naish to our Church Family!*

Harvest Time Celebration Sunday



On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18, we will gather in the fellowship hall after the morning service for seasonal refreshments. Please mark your calendar and join in this time of thanksgiving.

Sermon Titles For Fall Series

September 2	A Great Inheritance
September 9	Hidden Treasure
September 16	New Life Celebration
September 23	The Social Ladder
September 30	A Time for Courage
October 7	Enfolding Love
October 14	Relying on God
October 21	Welcome: Dr. Gordon Cappelletty
October 28	He Is Calling You
November 4	Journeying Together
November 11	Family Fulfillment
November 18	Being Thankful
November 25	What is Truth?



Bingo Fun Night!

Everyone is invited to join in an evening
playing BINGO on Saturday, November
3, at 5pm in the church
fellowship hall.

Save The Date

**October 21
Laity/Children's Sunday**

Our speaker for the service will be
Professor Gordon Cappelletty, PHD
from Lenoir Rhyne University.

