

# Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

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## Summer News 2019

### A Lifetime of Thriving

by Rev. Colleen Samson

What do you wonder about? In your free moments, what does your mind think about? Does it go to the heat of the summer, the beauty of the Carolina sky, the political situation of our time, what you might do tomorrow, or are you able to think about nothing? Let me suggest you try to think about how you can THRIVE in life.

In May there was a clergy/spouse retreat at Black Lake near Asheboro. The Black Lake Retreat Center is owned by the Southern Conference and is available to congregations to use upon request. The setting is lovely, and there are cabins for people to stay overnight if they so choose. The Bethany congregation could use the facility for a day or a weekend. Let me know if you have any interest in having an event there.

Part of our retreat day focused on the subject of thriving. Rev. Betty Morton presented a program that asked the participants to consider how they can thrive in their lives. First, we had to define what it means to thrive. Thriving is personal. Thriving depends on who you are and what stage of life you are in. Rev. Morton presented Five Keys to Thriving; 1.) Grounding in God 2.) Self-knowledge (values, passions, dreams, strengths and limitations) 3.) Holistic self-care (care of heart, body, mind, soul and relationships) 4.) Mindful living 5.) Community.

An important part of life is to THRIVE not just SURVIVE. The concept of thriving not only applies to an individual, but also to the church. We want to be a church that THRIVES, not just SURVIVES. Look at the five steps above, and try to apply those to our life together as the Body of Christ.

Now, I hope you can find something to think about in your free moments. Give yourself time to consider how you can THRIVE and how our church can THRIVE. Make it your special word for the summer. As you walk, drive, cook, mow the lawn, sit and enjoy the sunset, or whenever your mind is free, consider the word THRIVE and what it would take for you to THRIVE in your life. Have a wonderful summer!

*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

#### June

June 2 John 17: 20-26  
June 9 Ps 104: 24-34, 5b  
June 16 John 16: 12-15  
June 23 Luke 8: 26-39  
June 30 Luke 9: 51-62

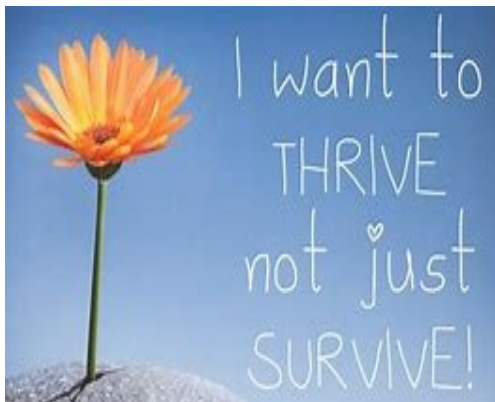
#### July

July 7 Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20  
July 14 Amos 7: 1-17  
July 21 Amos 8: 1-12  
July 28 Psalm 85

#### August

August 4 Psalm 107 1-9  
August 11 Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20  
August 18 Isaiah 5: 1-7  
August 25 Jeremiah 1: 4-10

*Welcome Summer!*



### Mark Your Calendars!

#### Meet and Eat Events:

June 13 at 6:30 Yellow Deli  
August 15 at 6:30 Butcher Boys

#### Social Events

July 13 at 3:00 Ice Cream Social at Pastor Colleen's Home  
August 11 Worship Service at The Little White Church  
November 2 at 5:00 Bingo at Bethany

**Southern Conference Annual Meeting**  
June 13-15 at the Canterbury School in Greensboro



**Attending:**

**Lisa Goins** who serves on the Southern Conference Board of Directors  
**Vicki Smith-Canipe** as the Delegate from Bethany UCC  
**Rev. Samson** as the Western North Carolina Association, Associate Conference Minister and Bethany UCC Minister.  
**Others** from Bethany as they are able and willing to attend.

**WORSHIP SERVICE AT  
 "THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH"**



On Sunday, August 11, at 11:00 a.m., Bethany congregation will worship at "The Little White Church" (Mt. Bethel Reformed) in Blowing Rock. Mt. Zion congregation from Lenoir will join us for a combined worship service. Lunch will be available at the Blowing Rock Conference Center following worship. Information about worship and lunch plans will be forthcoming.

Mt. Bethel United Church of Christ is the oldest church still standing in Blowing Rock. Originally a German Reformed Church, the congregation was organized in 1882 by Rev. John Ingle. Jacob Klutz gave the property for the church and the cemetery behind the church. The church was used regularly from 1886 until 1921. Later, sister churches began visiting and holding worship services of their own during summer months. Bethany's history included summer worship at the church during the 1950's and years following. Covered dish lunches followed outdoors on the Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds.

Andrew Critcher, great-great-grandson of Jacob Klutz, and his family now own the church. After a time of neglect, they have begun restoring the church to make it what it once was. Much damage over the years has required repairs to floorboards, support posts, stone work, windows and window sills, pews, scraping and repainting inside and out, and clearing the parking area of trees and bushes. Community involvement has helped it all happen.

The cemetery across the road from the church dates back to 1750 and was formerly known as the Elrod-Green Cemetery. It is believed to be the old Blowing Rock town cemetery. The Critcher family now owns and manages all three properties--the church and both cemeteries.

Named for his great-great-grandfather, Critcher has set up a nonprofit, Klutz Preservation, for funding the restoration to get the church back to "the peaceful, grace-filled place it used to be." He says, "I just want to get the church back to its glory. It was just falling in, and I wanted to put it back exactly the way it was, maintain it and the two cemeteries, and make it a holy place and a place of peace, and just put it back the way it used to be."

Mount Bethel United Church of Christ is located at 100 Rankin Road in Blowing Rock. Make plans to worship there on August 11 as we remember Bethany's history with "The Little White Church" and make new memories in this "peaceful, grace-filled place."  
*by Donna Ervin*

**Christian Education News**

Our Sunday School is growing by leaps and bounds! We have so many new children in our Sunday School, that we've added a new Sunday School class. Our preteens are now meeting in the room directly across the hall from Adult Discussion, and our young children have taken over the larger room. Of course, a new class means a new teacher, and we welcome Julia McCray as our new lead teacher for preteens and youth.

During the Easter Season, we presented our Young Disciples with Bibles. It was a joy to see their pleasure at receiving the beautiful Bibles. Our youngest readers received children's Bibles, while our youth received study Bibles. What a wonderful way to celebrate Young Disciples and resurrection life!

You will also notice the new children's table in the sanctuary. This table has coloring pages that match the sermon topic and scripture readings. There are also crayons, pipe cleaners, and soft toys for children. We hope these additions to our worship space make the sanctuary welcoming and inviting to young children. No matter your age, knowing that you're welcome and wanted in church matters to your soul, and even children can tell that there's a welcome waiting for everyone at Bethany!

So, well done parents, grandparents, congregation, and teachers! Together we are building Christian community at Bethany UCC and joyfully following Jesus' direction to "let the children come" to him.

*by Rev. Kathy Naish*

<u>June</u>		<u>July</u>	
3	Steve Kirby	4	Eddie Ervin
19	Hughleen Murray	8	Tim Naish
25	Cindy Smith-Canipe	<b>August</b>	
		10	Darlene Conklin
		15	Judy Kirby

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**