



# BETHANY NEWS

## February 2012



I had an interesting day yesterday. During the day I attended a conference on communications, both within the church and beyond to the community. In the morning session the presenters were using the term “marketing the church.” I don’t have an aversion to that particular term, unless it begins to feel like something from a business manual: i. e., “How do we increase market share? What strategies do we need in order to move our product?” etc., etc.

Then, last night, I attended a worship committee meeting here at Bethany. During the meeting we used an appreciative inquiry approach, we began by asking: “What are we doing really well in worship? What would we like to see more of? When are the times when we really feel close to God in our worship experience?”

I was struck by the difference in the two approaches (at least as I heard them): “marketing the church” and “when do we really feel God’s presence and what do we do to experience more of that in our worship?”

I think what bugs me about “marketing the church,” is that, (in my experience) it usually turns into a rather self-centered conversation. The focus subtly drifts into “How do we get more people?” And you know we need more people! We need more children, we need more younger adults, we need a new influx of leaders, we need givers to help pay for our new property and building . . . Marketing the church then becomes something that we do, how we analyze data, develop strategies and carry them out. The problem with this approach is not that the focus is on us; it’s that it is based upon the concept of what other *people can do for us*, and how *we* can get *them* to do it.

Appreciative Inquiry is also about us. What do we do really well? What would we like to see more of? Where, in our worship services, has the presence of God be so real as to be palpable?

It is reported that someone once asked John Wesley why so many people came to hear him preach, Wesley’s reply was, “God just sets me on fire, and people come to watch me burn.”

Hmmmm . . .

*Pastor Jimmy*



# Sunday School News

## FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY CARE

February 5	Jennifer Apisai
February 12	Lizzie Grey Chandler SS Class
February 19	Jennifer Apisai
February 26	Wesley Class

---

### Elementary Class

Lynne Sprague

# Worship Helpers



February 5	Connie Kirby
February 12	Kasey Beaton
February 19	Lynne Sprague
February 26	Dan Portaro



February 5	Zac Mincey & Myles Kearns
February 12	James & Tanielu Apisai
February 19	Connie Kirby
February 26	James Apisai & Garrett Mincey



February 5	Lauren & Youth
February 12	
February 19	
February 26	

# Thank you for your Stewardship of Faithfulness January 2012

## Average Attendance year to date

Worship  
Sunday School

January Budget Receipts      \$ 18,874.91

### Other Receipts

Needy Family	\$ 33.20
Urban Ministries Food	\$ 25.00
Memorial – Fellowship Center	\$ 100.00
Capital Campaign/Bldg. Fund	\$ 1,810.00
Paint Sanctuary	\$ 3,515.00
Soup-A-Palooza (youth)	\$ 749.06
Human Relations Sunday	\$ 41.00
Handbells	\$ 180.00

Thank you for your continued support of Durham Urban Ministries. During January 325.3 pounds of food and 2 pounds of clothes were collected. Please bring meat, pasta or sauce for February. Remember you may leave your food items downstairs at the mailbox door in the credenza, on the main floor beside the information table in the hallway or on the back wall of the Harvey Black Sunday School classroom.



**Remember our shut-ins with your prayers, cards, calls and visits. They need to know you care.**

<b>Ruby Anderson</b>	<b>Ruby Bristow</b>
<b>Mary Davis</b>	<b>Billie Garner</b>
<b>Louise Hawley</b>	<b>Melba Jones</b>
<b>Pearl Kirby</b>	<b>Frances Liles</b>
<b>Louise Marshburn</b>	<b>Bob Ruffini</b>

**Willa Watkins**

**(If someone's name has been inadvertently omitted, please notify the church office.)**

## United Methodist Women

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Morning Circle** will meet on Tuesday, February 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Tuesday Evening Circle** will meet Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. with Cathy Portaro.

The **Wednesday Morning Circle** will meet in the Fellowship Hall on February 8th at 10:30. Please remember to bring small gift items for the Valentine gift bags and also regular items for the Crisis Response.

---

A special "thank you" to Cathy Sensing for installing our officers at the banquet in January and to Sharon for all her preparations for a wonderful event

---

"It gives me great pleasure to present this year's special recognition pin."... began Connie as special recognition pin was presented for 2011. This lady is an active member of the UMW and the McFarland/Kearns (Wednesday Morning Circle). She is one of our ladies that always works behind the scenes. It might be making some of those special desserts for a bake sale or a friend, knitting a prayer shawl for someone, sending cards on any special occasion, making telephone calls for any group (circle or class). She is a mother, grandmother, and a great-grand mother. This could probably describe several ladies in this group. Let me see if I can help you narrow it down. I understand she and her husband worked with the youth group for several years and used to take the group to a farm for big meals, weekends and outings. She loves to read. Has a tremendous collection of cookbooks and sea shells. She is even a lifetime member of the North Carolina Shell Club. She is a very caring and compassionate person, always willing to help any of her family and/or friends in any way possible. She has been treasurer of the Harvey Black SS Class for many years. You all know who this is by now..Janet Truckner.

Congratulations, Janet! This is certainly well deserved.



I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the youth group through our various fundraisers during the year. Without the support we would not be able to travel and work with those in need. With that said, I am happy to announce that we have decided as a group to return to New Orleans, LA this summer for our mission trip. It is very clear that we were all extremely touched by those in New Orleans and we have a special place in our hearts for those still suffering, many years later, from the hurricane. After seeing the devastation and damage first hand, it has been hard to get it off our minds, and we feel that we are called to go back there and work with more individuals that have not yet recovered. We will be doing so through the Epworth Project which is a local Methodist disaster response and recovery organization in the New Orleans area, so we look forward to teaming up with them.

As far as fundraisers go, we will be having our annual Valentines cookie sale on **February 12** after church in the fellowship hall. There will be an assortment of lovely Valentine themed cookies for you to take to ones you love. They will be \$4.00 for a half dozen and \$8.00 for a dozen of your choice. Please come out and get some fabulous cookies for yourself or others.

These are also a great gift to take to the shut-ins, so keep that in mind!

We also need volunteers to make cookies for the Valentines cookie sale so if you are willing and able, get out your favorite recipe and bring a batch (or two) of homemade cookies to the fellowship hall on Sunday **February 12** before church. If possible please provide us with the recipe for your cookies incase of allergies to certain ingredients. We appreciate your help and support!

The youth will be feeding at Urban Ministries on Friday **February 24th** so please take a look at the sign up sheet on the bulletin board and help us by providing some of the listed foods and supplies. Thanks!

## METHODIST MEN



The UMM will meet on Tuesday, February 7 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome and urged to attend.



Please pray for members of our church family serving in the military: **Jeff Lord** (son of Rev. Laura Chatelle), **Jacob Portaro** (son of Dan and Cathy Portaro), **Bill White** (son of Suzi Arnold), **Joseph Kellner** (grandson of Ruth Campbell) and **Jessica K. Cadieu** (granddaughter of Frances Smith)

The Youth will be feeding at Urban Ministries on **February 24th**. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for items needed or Money can be placed in the offering plate marked Youth Urban Ministries to help purchase the food. Contact Lisa @ [471-3960](tel:471-3960) for any questions about this project. Thank you..... I have also made a sign up sheet and will put it up.

### A NOTE FROM THE MARGIE HURLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY



A few new books have been added to the library collection, they are:

Just Me: Vignettes of a Missionary Wife by Edna Parker

Mindless Eating by Brian Wansink, Ph.D.

Rumors of Another World by Philip Yancey

Fearless by Max Lucado

A Cup of Comfort, Colleen Sell, editor

The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry

Daily Guideposts 2011, the Anniversary 35<sup>th</sup> Edition

Also,

Then Sings My Soul, 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories by Robert Morgan has been donated to the library in memory of Toni Joyner by her niece, Virginia Kennedy.

A reminder that the library welcomes books donated in memory or in honor of someone and a bookplate is placed in the book with the pertinent information.

Still to be completed, the remainder of the books donated to the library by Bethany's United Methodist Women.

I would like to thank all of our Nursery Volunteers who continue to serve in the Nursery. It is so important for our children here at Bethany to have a safe and nurturing environment. You are greatly appreciated! If anyone is interested in helping in the nursery during worship hour, please contact Lisa Kearns [919-471-3960](tel:919-471-3960)

### THANKS FROM THE FAGGARTS

Bryan sends his thanks to Bethany UMC for their prayerful support at the death of his father. He writes "Bethany surely has lived out their baptismal covenant at the death of my dad with their prayers, their presence, their gifts, and their witness. The Faggarts are a fortunate people to be loved so well."

## REPORT FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL PLANNING RETREAT

On January 13 & 14 your Church Council met for our planning retreat where we did plan, but did not at all retreat (actually we charged ahead). More than 40 of us were involved over the two day event. The theme for the retreat was:

2012—Bethany is 120 years strong. Where do we want to be for our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary??

Jimmy opened with a revisitation of Affirmative Inquiry & the four “D’s” of *Discovery, Dream, Design and Deliver*, the positive approach process we have been and continue to use for our planning.

We got an update from John Long on the status of the Fellowship Center. The interior demolition work is nearing completion. We are having a building material sale on February 18 to sell off un-needed furniture and fixtures. There will be a workday on Saturday, February 11, to organize and clean up the sale items. At that time we will pre-sell anything to Bethany members. The floor plan is complete and the construction documents are being prepared by Tise-Kiester and should be ready soon.

We talked about what we did best in 2011. Among our very many astounding accomplishments are: 1) The work on the Fellowship Center. Not just the demo work, but the installation of the new sign and using the grounds for the large nativity during Christmas. 2) Wednesday night fellowship supper donations. 3) Growth of the Wesley Sunday School class. 4) Music Sundays. 5) Children’s music programs. 6) Stew & Q sales. 7) Youth missions both to Philadelphia and at Urban Ministries. The list goes on and on. We affirmed that we should pat ourselves on our collective back for the many jobs well done.

On Saturday we broke into small groups to discuss four areas we wanted to focus on in 2012: Bible studies and spiritual enrichment, Worship, Current facilities and the Fellowship Center and Hospitality. From these groups came dreams and ideas that we—all of us (you)—will work on this year. Here I will site an example from each group.

Group 1 dreams of more bible based studies and other forms of spiritual enrichment possibly in conjunction with fellowship suppers or other social events.

Group 2 dreams of a web site with lively graphics, a Facebook page (which already exists), web streaming capabilities for our services and special events and an upgraded sound system.

Group 3 sees a repainted sanctuary and updating of our aging landscaping and the office spaces in the Fellowship Center completed and occupied.

Group 4 dreams of expanding the Fellowship suppers to more often and on different nights. This would allow us to explore some classes or bible studies or other personal enrichment activities. Perhaps we could invite speakers and the choir could participate in the activities.

At the end of the retreat “TO DO lists” were put up on the wall of the Fellowship Hall and each one of us signed her or his name to the projects we are willing to commit to work on. We encourage, challenge even, each member of the congregation to read these lists and affix your own names to a project you can and want to commit to. As our history shows us through a united commitment Bethany can do anything we really want to do.

So, we reflected on a very productive and enriching 2011 and made plans for a superlative 2012 while looking forward to a fantastic 2017 and our 125<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

Your brother in The Spirit,  
Gary Crispell,  
Chair Church Council

## BETHANY LOVES TO FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday night fellowship dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. on February 1. Menu will be baked spaghetti, salad, and bread with desserts by the LGC Class. Donations will be accepted for expenses and anything over the expenses will go to our building fund. Beginning in March our fellowship dinner will move to 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday evenings instead of Wednesday. Watch for more information on that change.

Join us for a pot luck dinner on Valentine’s Day at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish or two of your favorite to share. We will be entertained by Rob and Kasey Beaton. What a great way to spend Valentines evening with someone special and your Bethany family.

**Bethany United Methodist Church**  
2809 Guess Road  
Durham, NC 27705

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Durham, NC  
Permit 364

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Rev. Jimmy Weaver  
Office 477-6659  
Parsonage 471-1084

January 31, 2012



## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1	Dawn Proctor	16	Nancy Burns
2	George Isaacs	17	Brenda Pederson
3	Robert Ruffini		Carol Ward
5	Brenda Perkins	18	Warren Takacs
7	Ann Law	19	Ted Takacs
8	Deidre Dunn		Robert Overby
9	Peggy Bradley	26	Jason Davis
	Flora Browning	28	Margaret Murphy
	James Sprague		Bryan Roberts
10	Jane Betts		
	Lauren Kearns		

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

10	Albert and Becky Bosso	13	Foye & George Isaacs
12	Charles & Debi Steeley	27	Tommy and Lisa Apodaca