



# THE EPISTLE

## LETTERS & NEWS

### FROM BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Bethany Family Fun

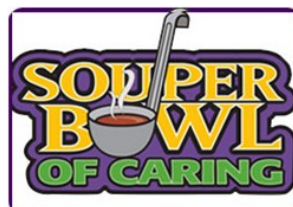


Friday, February 10 from 6—8 p.m.

**JOIN US!**

**Potluck Dinner**

**Bring Salad, Main Dish, or Dessert**



## PEANUT BUTTER FOOD DRIVE

### FEB 5, 2012



Josephine County Food bank needs our help! They feed over 13,000 people monthly in Josephine County and the USDA and Oregon Food Bank are not providing them with any peanut butter, which is a great protein source for individuals and their families. One jar of peanut butter will last a couple of days. If everyone in Bethany's congregation brings even 1 small jar of peanut butter we can really make a difference.

This year we are choosing The Josephine County Food Bank as our charity of choice for next Sunday's annual "Souper Bowl of Caring". Please bring one (or more) small jars of peanut butter to church and place in the box. If you can't get to the store please consider throwing in a couple of \$\$ in the soup pot and we will purchase the peanut butter.

## Office Hours Reduced

### February 7—17

Due to staff vacations and medical time off for Jean Middleton, the church office will be open from 9 a.m. — 12 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays from February 7th through the 17th. (Office is closed on Mondays)

Pastor Steve will be on vacation from February 6—13 and return to work on Tuesday, February 14. Karen will be on vacation from February 6—17 and return to work on Tuesday, February 21. Betty White will be assisting Jean when needed during this time. Please take note of this change.



## Ash Wednesday

Bethany's annual soup potluck and Ash Wednesday service will be held in the fellowship hall at **5:30 p.m. on February 22**. Bring either a pot of soup or bread for the dinner. Pastor Steve will hold a short Ash Wednesday service following the meal. Come join us.



Dear friends,

Many of you were at our congregational meeting last Sunday, so you already know that we voted (80%) to begin a building fund drive, called 'Building for the Future'. Our next step is to see if we can raise enough money to implement the building plan we have been tweaking for the last 8 months. On the first day, right after the vote, we received 9 pledges for a total of \$70,000. What a wonderful start. I have sometimes heard people say that if we all tithed our income (giving 10% of all that we have), we would have little trouble reaching any of our financial goals. What exactly does it mean to tithe? The practice of tithing 10% comes from the Old Testament and was quite common for God's people. Abraham tithed in praise for God's deliverance when he met with the high priest, the King of Salem. Jacob promised to give God a tenth of what he had if God would only protect him and give him what he needed to survive. In the books of the law, the Israelites were commanded to tithe a tenth of their produce as a sign of loyalty and obedience to God. The Prophet Malachi told the Jews that God would bless them if they tithed and would curse them if they did not. Tithing to charity is still a common practice amongst Jewish believers today.

The same kind of generosity carried over into the New Testament since the first Christians were also Jews. The New Testament however does not command that we tithe as a matter of law. Instead, free will offering is emphasized. However, some believe Jesus suggested that tithing was pleasing to God because he told the scribes and Pharisees to show justice to the poor as well as giving your tithes. Both justice and giving were important. Jesus also put a new spin on giving when he commends the humble widow who put her little coin in the offering container simply because it was everything that she had. People were very generous in the early church as some enthusiastic Christians sold everything that they had and dedicated the money to the body of believers, especially to the ministry serving the poor. The New Testament also proclaims that God loves a cheerful giver. Giving is a matter of the heart.

How does this all translate to our time? The church has a long history of giving. We give to mission, to the ongoing work of ministry and to things that enhance our mission and outreach as a congregation. As we give people an opportunity to make a pledge to the building fund we want people to know that every gift counts no matter how small (or even how large for that matter.) Our gifts come from the heart as a result of our thankfulness for what God has done for us. Giving is not a command but a totally voluntary act and is reflective of our relationship with God. Giving does bring blessings. The more generous our hearts, the more connected we become to God's endless grace. I believe that overall God has been very good to me. Therefore, I give.

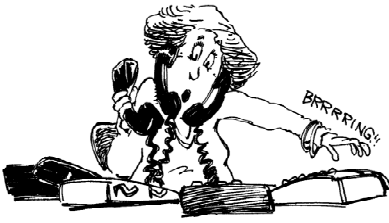
Our session wants to remind us how important it is not to take what we normally give to the church and give it to the building fund instead. That could only hurt the ongoing mission of the church. Rather, the building fund is a one-time opportunity to thank God for the way we have been blessed and participate in this exciting new mission. It is a way of saying, I want to be a part of this new direction and I want to build on the future for our congregation. Of course the gift doesn't have to be given all at once though the gifts given now will help us begin this project sooner. Gifts can also be given in monthly or yearly increments over a three year period. We also realize that some believe they are already giving as much as they are able to the church right now. If this is the case, then they should continue what they are normally giving and not make a pledge. Our goal may seem impossible to reach for some, yet for others it will be a challenge that God is longing to help us meet. Some people may be saying, "the economy is not good right now and things are not as good for me financially as they have been in the past". Others will also add to that comment, "but overall God has been very good to me, so I want to give." Together we will all pray that God will lead us to do what is right and good and that God will reveal to us what is his will for the future.

I am reminded that the first temple built to God by King Solomon was built during a time of great wealth, but the second temple built after the captives returned from Babylon was built during a time of economic struggle. There is no one way God can work. Continue to pray that we see what God wants to do right here and right now.

Love and peace,

Pastor Steve

[steverparker@bethanypres.org](mailto:steverparker@bethanypres.org)



## From the Office...

I'm especially happy that February is here. Mainly because I will be in Hawaii for two weeks but also because it is the beginning of things slowing down a bit in the office. Don't forget to pick up your 2011 giving records. They are on a table in the narthex. I also have some annual reports left over in case you didn't get one. We have a few of the Building Enhancement Project brochures and Building Fund

pledge cards left over too. All are available in the narthex.

If you've noticed by bulletin announcements, the church office will only be open from 9 a.m.—12 p.m. for the two weeks that I am on vacation; February 6—17. Since Jean is undergoing chemotherapy and only able to work 3 hours a day it was felt that this was the best way to handle office hours. Betty White will be on hand to assist Jean when needed. Please try to limit your requests for office assistance during this time. I will be back on Tuesday, February 21. Until then I leave you all with my love and wishes for a great month.

Aloha,  
Karen Nantais  
[karen@bethanypres.org](mailto:karen@bethanypres.org)



## “BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE” BUILDING FUND DRIVE BEGINS

The “Building for the Future” building fund drive that was approved during the congregational meeting on January 29. The goal of the recently approved drive is \$230,000 for phase one alone and \$360,000 for phase 1 and phase 2 together. On the first day of the drive, right after we established the building fund drive, we received 9 pledges for a total of \$70,000.

You may pledge a one-time gift, or give in 6 month and yearly increments for a 3 year period, or you could give monthly for that same three year period. The drive is designed to last no longer than 3 years. If we get enough money to reach our goals we will begin to build.

**BUILDING  
FOR THE  
FUTURE**

The Session wants to stress that people should give only above and beyond their regular contributions. If someone would have to reduce their regular giving to the ongoing work of the church in order to give to this building drive, they should not fill out this pledge card. Otherwise the mission of Bethany would be impaired.

“What is my fair share?”, someone might ask. Well, with approximately 180 giving units and a goal of \$360,000 you can do the math. However, some have more resources than others and not everyone will be able to give, so some will want to give more than others are able. We want to stress that every gift is important, no matter how small or large for that matter. If you have resources and you feel thankful for what God has provided for you please give generously to this important plan for our future. In order to reach our goal \$3000 gifts, \$5000 gifts, \$10000 gifts and even \$25000 gifts or more will be needed.

What can I do to help? - Pray, think, talk to your loved ones about the amount you are able to invest in the future. Don't forget to dream, imagine the possibilities with a church family multipurpose room, a more functional kitchen, covered and more visible entryways, expanded narthex for fellowship, a more attractive exterior and more efficient office space. Also pray for our goals of expanded outreach, support for youth and families, and mission to the community.

Ask now what God is leading us to as a church family and how God is leading you to respond.



**Bob Vischer**  
**Class of 2010—2011**

## Getting to Know Your New Stephen Ministers...

I was born in Ohio and spent my first 13 years there, during the 50's & 60's when times were innocent. We lived in a small rural community where we knew mostly everyone. Summers were a lot of fun with plenty of fishing and swimming. Winters were equally fun with ice skating on the frozen creek outside our house and sledding on the nearby lake. We used to skate around with coffee to sell to the ice fishermen. I started participating in sports in the sixth grade playing tackle football for my grade school and continued on with football, wrestling, and track in middle school.



In 1964 we moved to Southern California where they only had flag football in the middle school so I played a year of Pop Warner football. The following summer I was introduced to gymnastics. My freshman year in high school I continued with gymnastics and got back into wrestling. I earned a JV letter in wrestling and a Varsity letter in gymnastics my freshman year. I went on to earn another JV letter in wrestling and two more

Varsity letters in gymnastics before giving them up for the rock & roll, hippy party scene. While in high school, I joined Men's Chorus, initially as a make up class for flunking Algebra. I was told that it was an easy grade so I went for it. Low and behold, I found that I had a decent voice and could carry a tune. I really enjoy singing and performing. We sang for our school as well as local middle schools to encourage those students to join choir in high school. The highlight of my singing in high school was when I joined the A cappella Choir and we were selected to back up the professional singers at the Easter Sunrise Service at the Hollywood Bowl.

After graduating from high school, I went on a journey of exploration and experimentation in the hippy/ biker counter-culture during the late sixties and early seventies. I got to see more than twenty big name rock bands and live concerts. I did a lot of camping in the mountains at Big Bear Lake and spent weekends and Spring breaks in Palm Springs. By 1975, all my friends in So. California were married so I moved to San Jose where a couple of my friends and sister lived. Two years later my sister moved to Cave Junction and I moved with her. Within 6 months I met a girl that I had grown up only five miles away from in So. California. She had a 1 1/2 year old son that I quickly came to love. I moved in with her and we had two more children. We had a lot of good times in the party scene as well as some bad times. In 1983 my girlfriend started using Cocaine and within a year she was hopelessly addicted. Our relationship turned sour as we continued to run in that scene. Two years later she died from a drug overdose. Our children were only six months, five and nine years old. About this same time I rolled my truck that caused an injury that left me functionally disabled for the next 15 years.

Three years later I went back to school and in the midst of two back surgeries, I still achieved an Associate Degree in Business Administration. I also got back into singing with a community choir, which led me to Bethany and my wonderful journey of faith. Two of my children suffered from long term drug abuse with severe consequences. During that time I addressed my own drug usage for 36 years. I now have been clean over 9 years and at the same job for 7. My kids are doing well too, each with over one year clean.

Throughout all the times of trial and turmoil, I have maintained my sanity through a strong faith in the Lord that allows me to accept the things I cannot change and to carry hope for what may become. My church and choir family have been a great source of strength for me, as well as an inspiration in my songwriting. I write a lot about faith and recovery, and our responsibility to each other. I also feel moved to write songs that relate Bible stories to our lives today and how they can work to build our strength in faith.

I have a good sized suitcase of inspiration and experience in working through hardship that I pray serves me well as a Stephen Minister.

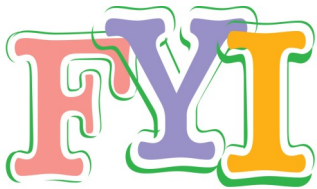
# Important Notice!

Bethany has a commercial kitchen license so that we can prepare food for the teens at Inn Sight school each month. As a result we are subject to frequent visits by the health department and must stay in compliance with the strict rules governing commercial kitchens. During a recent drop in inspection by the health department, we were found to be in violation of a health code and received a "Critical" violation deduction of 5 points, indicating that *Ready-to-eat food was not properly date marked.*

**Effective immediately...** Within 24 hours of opening any perishable food that is not consumed completely, it must be marked with the date it was opened and/or prepared for consumption. Including the date food is opened it must be consumed within 7 days.

Failure to follow this procedure is in violation of the health department (Section 3-501.17) and puts our commercial kitchen license at risk.

Betty White has graciously volunteered to monitor our refrigerator. Anytime she finds food that is not marked, it will be discarded. It is imperative that anyone who uses either of the refrigerators must follow the above stated procedure as set forth by the health department. Most importantly mark any open food if you store it in the refrigerator or take it home with you. There is a sign posted on the refrigerator in the main kitchen. Permanent markers and paper are available to label any open items.



## TEEN LUNCH MISSION AT INN SIGHT SCHOOL

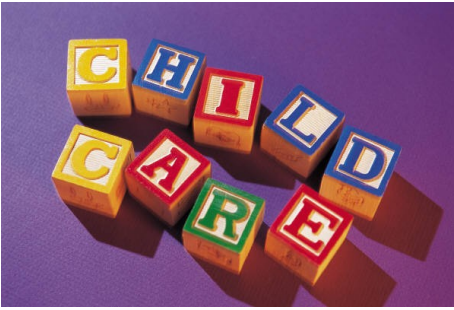
• FOR YOUR INFORMATION • *Most likely you are aware that for the past several years Bethany sponsors lunch once a month for the teens at Inn Sight Alternative High School. This has been a wonderful outreach mission of the church with a different group of people every month preparing and delivering the meals. If you would like to be included in this fun activity the following information was prepared by Meredith Harris and might be very helpful. If you would like to participate in any way contact Roy or Meredith at 541-955-8316.*

Bethany is a licensed kitchen facility and we need a certified food handler present while preparing food at Bethany and serving at the school. There are a few easy "rules" that need to be followed. Roy, Meredith, and Rod Alfsen are certified and we invite others to obtain this certification through the Department of Human Services. This can be done online and is just a matter of reading the manual and taking the short multiple answer exam.

Here are some ideas for menus that have all been served and enjoyed. Or, use your imagination!

Lasagna, salad, bread,  
Tacos and maybe fruit or refried beans  
Chile and Cornbread and fruit  
Papa John's Pizza (they will give us a discount)  
Spaghetti/salad/bread  
Subway or other purchased sandwiches/chips etc.  
Casseroles, chicken, salad  
Chilidogs, chips, fruit  
Hamburgers/potato salad  
Complete Thanksgiving dinner (served every November)  
Hot dogs/ baked beans, raw vegetables

All food must be prepared at Bethany unless purchased ready to serve or frozen and then heated at Bethany. We usually serve sodas bought by the case at Safeway (their brand). Grape, orange and strawberry are the favorite flavors. Desserts include ice cream bars, sundaes, brownies, cookies, or sheet cake. Funds are available to cover the cost of the food from Bethany's Homeless Teen Mission Fund.



## **Volunteer to be a Nursery Worker During Worship**

We are in need of nursery workers to meet some of our recent needs. There has been a suggestion that we have teams work together so that one person can take a child out if needed while the other attendant stays in the nursery. Is there a person that you would like to hang out with and cover nursery one time a month or every 6 weeks?

We currently have a family with two younger children needing nursery care. One of the children is currently being potty trained so it would be great to have a partner to stay with the other child. Especially if there are more than two kids in the nursery. The other concern is regarding an emergency. Having a partner would help in this situation as well.

If we want new families to use our nursery, we need a few good crews to sign up. If you or someone you know would be willing to help, let them know about this opportunity.

A sign-up sheet for nursery workers is located outside of the nursery. If you have any questions contact Jennifer Northcutt.

*Special thanks to Jean Middleton who shared these words of wisdom*

### **“THE SERMON YOU PREACH”**

**THE FIRST SERMON PREACHED EACH SUNDAY IS NOT BY THE PREACHER, BUT BY YOU.**

**YOU PREACH A MESSAGE OF GOOD CHEER WHEN YOU SAY “GOOD MORNING” TO THOSE YOU MEET WHEN YOU PARK YOUR CAR AND WHEN YOU ENTER THE BUILDING.**

**YOU PREACH A MESSAGE OF “WELCOME! WE HAVE ROOM FOR YOU!” WHEN YOU SLIDE OVER IN THE PEW INSTEAD OF FORCING OTHERS TO SQUEEZE IN FRONT OF YOU.**

**YOU PREACH A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND JOY WHEN YOU SING ENTHUSIASTICALLY DURING SONG SERVICE.**

**YOU PREACH A MESSAGE OF THE POWER OF PRAYER WHEN YOU FERVENTLY ENTER INTO OUR TIME OF PRAYER TOGETHER.**

**YOU PREACH A MESSAGE OF RESPECT WHEN LISTENING ATTENTIVELY WHILE THE PREACHER IS SPEAKING.**

**YOU PREACH A MESSAGE OF LOVE WHEN YOU SMILE, SAY HELLO, AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO VISITORS.**

**YOU PREACH A MESSAGE OF FAITH WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR OFFERING.**

**YOU PREACH A MESSAGE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SCRIPTURES WHEN YOU BRING YOUR BIBLE.**

**MANY MESSAGES ARE PREACHED BEFORE THE PREACHER STANDS UP TO BRING HIS MESSAGE. IF YOUR MESSAGE IS POSITIVE AND CONSISTENT, THEN THE MESSAGE GIVEN FROM THE PULPIT WILL BE MUCH BETTER RECEIVED.**

**COME EACH SUNDAY PREPARED TO PREACH YOUR SERMON!**

**AUTHOR UNKNOWN**



Pam Arbogast 02-01  
 Dave Bliss 02-01  
 Jean Carlson 02-05  
 Janice Webb 02-08  
 Jonelle Maurer 02-08  
 Bethany Semblante 02-08  
 Bill Smith 02-09  
 Carl Strohmeyer 02-09  
 Janice Dole 02-09  
 Delaney Page 02-15  
 McKenna Page 02-20  
 Mike Coster 02-21  
 Elsa Koski 02-23  
 Katie Smith 02-27  
 Daryl Forde 02-27  
 Annette Roe 02-28

**Prayers of Joys & Concerns**



**Barbara Hickox** died on January 21 after suffering for years from a major stroke. Barbara was a kind, loving woman and we pray with thanksgiving that God has called her home. We pray also for **Linda Nahale**, Barbara's daughter as she grieves her loss. We continue to pray for **Jean Middleton** who has started weekly chemotherapy infusions for breast cancer. **Jack Mason** is recovering from a stroke and is at Vintage Suites. We continue to pray for **Lori McCulloch** and her ongoing health issues. We pray with joy for **Brian Nantais'** whose recent tests show him to be cancer free. **Pat Van Auken** recently had successful cataract surgery. **John Strain** is having surgery on his legs. We pray that it will relieve his pain. We pray for **Jesse Loffer** who broke his hip. We celebrate the joy of **Mike and Helen Coster's** 69th wedding anniversary. We share in **Kathy Logan's** joy of having 10 girls in her Bethany Girls group.

We share in the prayers for the following:

**Steve Armstrong's father** is still in rehab but improving. Steve's parents celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary.  
**Rena Denham's father** had a ruptured appendix.  
**Judy Larson's aunt Leona** who has stomach cancer and will begin chemo.  
**Karen Slusher's sister Kathryn** is recovering after major surgery.  
**Mike & Avelina Coster's friend Tim Bowser** is suffering from illness.

*Dear friends at Bethany,*

*Thank you for the love, support and sweet sentiments I received this past 5 1/2 years for Kathy and our family. In life, from 9—69 my Kathy spread God's Word and His love for everyone. In death she still reached out to family and friends, leaving the speaker at her memorial with: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me" John 14:6. Without **the Way** there is no going. Without **the Truth** there is no knowing. Without **the Life** there is no living.*

*Mary Lou Osburn*



**HOLY ROVERS  
 2012 CAMPING SCHEDULE  
 JOIN US!**

Dates	Location	Hosts
April 27—30	Indian Mary	O'Hara
May 11—14	Seven Feathers	Bliss
June 15—18	Hiouchi	McFarland/Strohmeyer
July 15—18	Silver Falls	*Harris/Link
August 10—13	River's Edge	Armstrong
September 14—17	Twin Rivers	N & D Snyder/ Mel & Joy
October 12—15	Turtle Rock RV Park	Ferguson
December 14	Christmas Party	D & S Snyder

\* If you are planning to go to Silver Falls you need to pay Roy Harris \$96.97 immediately so you don't lose your spot.