

JANUARY 2012

BETHEL UCC beacon

worship

JAN 8

New Beginnings
Rev. Curlee Preaching

JAN 15

Called and Recalled
Rev. Richar Preaching

JAN 22

Moving Forward
Rev. Curlee Preaching

JAN 29

With Authority
Rev. Curlee Preaching

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10 am Worship
11 am Fellowship

FROM THE PASTOR

Visions for a Better Tomorrow

“*I’ve seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I’m happy, tonight. I’m not worried about anything. I’m not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.*”

- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This month we honor The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his vision for a world where all people are judged, “not by the color of their skin, but the content of their character.” Seen as one of the most formative leaders during the 1950s and ’60s civil rights era, King inspired a generation to believe that one day soon justice would prevail and that racial segregation would be part of history. But Dr. King was not only a man of vision; he was also a man of action. He dedicated his life, and in the end gave his life, to the struggle against segregation and racial injustice.

Dr. King was a prophetic voice, speaking Gospel truths about equality, justice and love. Around the world he saw people of color oppressed, abused and exploited by European colonial powers and he called on the world, on all of humanity, to see the world order as flawed. As a devout Christian, Dr. King practiced and taught non-violence because he believed Christ taught his followers to turn the other cheek instead of raising a hand in revenge. King let God’s light shine in and through his work by speaking the truth to power even when those in power refused to listen and did all they could to keep King silent. And yet, King kept working. Writing letter to friends and followers from the Birmingham jail, King worked tirelessly to bring his vision into reality. King never gave up, and even on his death, his legacy lives on in the lives of those he inspired. King’s is a legacy that continues to transform the world.
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BETHEL UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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Every member of Bethel
are the ministers

staff

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Better Tomorrow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Last year marked the opening of the MLK Memorial in Washington, D.C. Standing on the edge of the Tidal Basin, King's memorial looks out across the water to the Jefferson Memorial and the author of the Declaration of Independence whose words King famously quoted ...

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood."

Today, 43 years after King's assassination, we live in a different world and yet much remains unchanged. For the first time in our nation's history a man of African descent sits in the Oval Office while in cities across the country, including in D.C., racial injustice lives on. Poverty, violence, drugs, and gangs dominate the experience of many children of color. As we honor King's legacy let us join together with our neighbors and rededicate ourselves to prayerfully working to create a nation and a world where every child, create by God, has the opportunity to live and grow into the person God created him or her to be. Join us on MLK Day, Monday, January 16 for an ecumenical worship celebration to honor King's legacy (see page 5 for details). ■

Prayerfully,

Rev. Kristen Curlee

Join us on MLK Day, Monday, January 16th for an ecumenical worship celebration to honor King's legacy (see the "Social Concerns" section on page 5 for details).



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Constitution Bylaws Workshop

We have held three of the four workshops on updating and revising the Constitution and Bylaws of BUCC. The fourth workshop will be held following church on January 15. Copies of what has been done will be e-mailed to all those that have currently participated in at least one session by Monday, January 9. Those that have not participated as of yet, can e-mail me and I will send a copy.

After the workshop on January 15, the draft will go to the Consistory for its meeting on January 22. Following that meeting, the document will be provided to the congregation at least one week prior to the February congregational meeting.

We have looked at the following issues, but not limited to, in these workshops:

- Updating language and coordination of language



between all BUCC governing documents.

- How to provide flexibility in governance and encourage participation in governance by our newer members/ participants and long time members.
- Emergency need backups the leadership of the congregation.
- Cleaned up supervision, evaluation and signature requirement functions.

Join a Committee (or two)

Large-sized documents of committee responsibilities will be posted in the fellowship hall in the very near future. We request that you look at them and ask yourself “Where can I help?” Please sign up to help with a committee (or committees) by February 1, 2012 on the document. ■

*Thanks,
Dave Diesselhorst*



CROP Walk

**Bethel's Crop Walkers
Collected \$6,250**

In this year's Arlington Cropwalk held on October 15, 2011. Many thanks to all who contributed to the effort, which benefits the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) and for Church World Service's drive against hunger worldwide. ■

- Art Lipman

Feed the Hungry

More than 1,700 lbs. of Food Collected for the Arlington Food Assistance Center

Thank you to everyone from Bethel and Children's International for supporting our weekly collection of nonperishable foods for AFAC throughout 2011. We exceeded our goal of 1,500 lbs. by almost 250 pounds: our total of food delivered to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) in 2011 is 1,748 lbs.

For 2012, our goal is to collect 1,500 pounds of food, but as the need for food continues let us try to exceed our goal once again this year.

The next opportunity for AFAC Bagging is Friday evening, February 3. Contact Social Concerns Chair Judy Lipman with questions, suggestions or ideas. ■



In 2011, we collected more than 1,700 lbs. of food for AFAC. In 2012, our goal is to collect 1,500 lbs. (or more)!

Fellowship Events

Bethel Goes Ice Skating

Saturday, January 14

11:15 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Kettler Iceplex above Ballston Mall

A great chance for fellowship and fun. (Note that actual skate time begins at 12:15, but we have to be there 30 minutes early to buy tickets; they sellout fast.)

Pricing:

Adults 13 & over = \$8;

Children 12 & under

= \$7; Seniors 55 &

over = \$6. Contact

Janna Lipman with

questions. ■



Young Adult Happy Hour

Thursday, January 26 | 6 p.m.

El Paso Café | 4235 N. Pershing Dr.

(between N. Thomas Street and N.

Glebe Road)

Contact Janna Lipman for more

information. ■

Beginner Yoga for All Ages

Join us **Wednesday nights at 6 p.m.,**

starting January 11. Register with Laura Wells (lchwells02@yahoo.com). ■

Bethel Work Day

Saturday, January 7 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Come help us change light bulbs, dust, put away Christmas decorations and spruce up the church as we begin 2012. ■

Faith Formation

Bible Study Series

Starting **January 11th** join us at **7:15 p.m.** in the library for a six week series exploring the Hidden Histories of the UCC. Ministries and congregations share their stories. What can we learn for our lives and ministry today from those who went before us as brothers and sisters in faith? ■

3rd Thursday

3rd Thursday Lunch in the Bethel Library | January 19 | 12 p.m.

Bring your lunch and join Pastor Curlee for connection, conversation and prayer. ■



Bethel's Ministry of Welcome Welcomes You

Hospitality and welcome are essential parts of ministry and of paramount importance for our growth as a church community. Creating the space to welcome worshipers – visitors and members – is the significant role of Ushers. Each month in 2012 an elder will be assigned to recruit ushers. You might get a call from one of them — please take a turn as an usher when they call. We need one person each week in this role. ■

Congratulations

To Robert Woosley

After 29 and one-half years of dedicated work for the U.S. government, Robert retired on December 23. For the past 19 years he worked for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Robert moved from the Pittsburgh area in June 1979 to Arlington. Soon after that he started attending Bethel and then became an active member serving as usher and greeter for a number of years. Robert enjoys participating in Bethel's many activities as well as attending Sunday services. Our congratulations to Robert on his many years of service with the U.S. government. ■



social concerns

Interfaith Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Unitarian Universalist
Church of Arlington
4444 Arlington Boulevard
(@ S. George Mason Drive)
Arlington, VA 22204
703 892 2565

As has been the custom of recent years, there will be a glorious interfaith service in remembrance of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday, January 16, beginning at 12 p.m. This year, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington will host the joyful community event bringing together Jewish, Catholic, Muslim and Protestant congregations in an expanded service.

There will be eight participating congregations including our own Bethel United Church of Christ and the Arlington Church of the Brethren, Congregation Etz Hayim, Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center, Rock Spring United Church of Christ, St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church, St. Hildegard's Church, and the host Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington.

Potluck fellowship to follow the program: You are welcome to bring finger-food or passed hors d'oeuvres of any type. Contact: Rev. Curlee with questions. ■



January Winds Blow Cold

Poets aside, January may truly be the cruelest month for those without a home, friends, or family. Just imagine living on the street at the start of the New Year — how on earth can anyone function in the cold, wind, and slush that usually makes its appearance about now? What can we do? While it might not solve the homeless problem, the Monthly Service Project offers you a chance to make soft, warm, no-sew fleece scarves for Arlington Homeless on Saturday, January 28 at 10 a.m. at the Arlington Church of the Brethren, which is located at 300 North Montague Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203 (just off Route 50).

Bring your pinking shears if you have them, and \$5 to cover the cost of the materials, and plan to spend an hour or two helping to help the homeless.

And mark your calendars: the Monthly Service Project will offer you a different social justice service project on the fourth Saturday of each month through the winter and into the Spring.

The effort is brought to you via a coalition of three Arlington Churches: Bethel, the Church of the Brethren, and Saint Hildegard's Old Catholic. If

you have a project to suggest for upcoming months, contact Monthly Service Project Coordinator Laura Dely at laura.dely@gmail.com. See you January 28! ■

Help for the Homeless

Residential Program Center (RPC) provides Homeless Services, including a 44-bed shelter for homeless individuals in Arlington County; a Detoxification Unit, which provides social model detoxification services for up to 14 days to Arlington County citizens seeking help.

Additionally, the RPC provides an Early Recovery Unit, which is an intensive post-detoxification treatment service. Most clients in the Early Recovery Unit are entering their first residential treatment. Our members and friends gather to stage a "Game Night" at the RPC on the First Friday of the odd-numbered months, including the first month of the New Year: January.

So join us Friday, January 6, first for dinner together at the Lost Dog Café, 2920 Columbia Pike, Arlington, 22204, near South Walter Reed Drive, at 6:30 p.m. Then we'll move down the street to the RPC & Game Night, which begins at 7:30 p.m. (the RPC is located at 1554 Columbia Pike, at S. Glebe Road. Contact Social Concerns Chair Judy Lipman if plan to attend. ■

January 2012

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day 10 am Communion 11 am Fellowship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Church office closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6 pm Dinner at Lost Dog Cafe 7:30 pm BINGO at RPC</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10 am - 2 pm Bethel Work Day</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am CE Committee</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6 pm Yoga 7:15 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:45 - 1:45 pm Ice Skating at Kettler Iceplex above Ballston Mall</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am Bylaw Review</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Martin Luther King Day 12 pm MLK Ecumenical Worship at UUA</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6 pm Yoga 7:15 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12 pm 3rd Thursday lunch in the library</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am Consistory</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6 pm Yoga 7:15 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6 pm Young Adult Happy Hour at El Paso Cafe</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10 am Monthly Service project at Arlington Church of the Brethren</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:30 Spiritual Council</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				