

NOVEMBER 2014

BETHEL UCC beacon

worship

NOVEMBER 2

Community of Saints
Revelation 7:9-17
Rev. Kristen Curlee

NOVEMBER 9

Hard Stuff
Isiah 11 & Revelation 17:1-14
Rev. Kristen Curlee

NOVEMBER 16

New Heaven
Revelation 21:9-14 & 22:1-7
Rev. Kristen Curlee

NOVEMBER 23

Reigning Compassion
Matthew 25:31-46
Rev. Carolyn Richar

NOVEMBER 30

Where Are You, God?
Psalms 80:1-7 & 17-19
Rev. Kristen Curlee

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**10 a.m. Worship
& Sunday School
11 a.m. Fellowship**



Visions Built on Gratitude

BY PASTOR KRISTEN CURLEE

The season of gratitude is upon us; the time when we gather together to give thanks for the blessings in our lives. We thank God for family and friends; good food and good health. We spread our gratitude and thankfulness by sharing thanksgiving baskets, Christmas toys and boxes of cereal with those who are in need. There is much for which to be thankful.

I am thankful for the growing ministry here at Bethel. This fall's stewardship drive was a great success thanks to Sam Le's leadership, the Finance Committee's support and your enthusiasm and generosity. Both our total dollars pledged and, more importantly one might argue, our number of pledging units increased. Last year 18 individuals and families made a pledge to the church. This year 20 did with a total pledge of more than \$57,000, a 14% increase over last year. Families and individuals are making a new, deeper commitment within our church community. That is something to celebrate and for which to be thankful.

It is a joy to participate in a budget meeting where our Treasurer is able to say, "I gave all the committees everything they asked for" and we still have a break even budget. We are in a good place. Over the last few years the foundation of our leadership, our finances and our ministry has been fortified. As we celebrate and give thanks it is also a time to dream, imagine and envision what God is calling us to build on this solid foundation on which we stand.

Our ecumenical partnership continues to feed our ministry. In October we began a three-week series with Arlington Church of the Brethren.

(continued on page 3)

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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EMAIL BethelUCCVa@verizon.net

WEB www.bethelucc-va.org

vision & mission

Our vision is:

To receive and share Jesus' message of extravagant love through compassionate care for our community and the world.

This vision inspires us to be a church of mission where we seek to:

- 1 Know God and one another and open ourselves to be known.**
- 2 Be a church where people are comforted, encouraged, and challenged by God's Word.**
- 3 Serve as God's hands of mercy, affirming justice and peace in the world.**
- 4 Welcome and celebrate the diversity of people and thought, encouraging each individual's relationship with Christ.**



Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

7:00 PM

BETHEL UCC

**Every member of Bethel
are the ministers**



staff & leadership

Senior Pastor
Rev. Kristen Curlee
pastorkristencurlee@gmail.com

Associate Pastor
Rev. Carolyn Richar
crichar@capitalhospice.org

Church President
Whit Wheeler

Director of Music
Angie Stevens
angielatte@gmail.com

Interim Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Dr. H. Donald Smith

From the Pastor *(continued from page 1)*

We had 12 to 15 people gathered each week to share fellowship and learning. This month we'll celebrate our annual ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, a service that is possible because of our partnership, joint leadership and participation from the three congregations. By working together we become more creative, more effective and more efficient in our ministry. What is our dream for this partnership? What does this ministry look like in three years to five years?

Our partnerships with helping hands organizations like Arlington Food Assistance Center, Wesley Housing and Arlington Academy of Hope continue to evolve and change. The needs are great as is Bethel's response. How do we continue to integrate our outreach to those in need in our ministry? What does our ministry of outreach and generosity look like in three to five years?

Our partnerships with La Luz and Children's International are built on decades of shared space. Their rental allows us to care for our aging building and expand our ministry. We've tried different projects to build bridges to connect our communities in a deeper way with limited success. Yet our relationship is built on time and a commitment to being together in our building. We've benefited from La Luz's love of Bethel

in their willingness to help make a number of repairs including painting fellowship hall this year. We benefit from our partnership with Children's International as the laughter of children's voices echo through the playground and a diverse community of people from many nations and cultures find a wholesome place for their children to play and learn. As we dream about our ministry with our building partners what does it look like in three to five years?

Amidst all the blessings we have some challenges. Our list of major repairs with our aging building is long and we continue to be at our neighbor's mercy when it comes to parking. Yet we are blessed to have a great location in the heart of Arlington, a building that we own without a mortgage and beautiful artwork and stained glass. What is our dream for this building? How does our space limit our ministry today? How do we dream about our space enhancing our ministry in the future? What does our building look like in three to five years or even ten years?

During this season of generosity when we give thanks for this church community and the way God is at work in it, let us think and dream, talk and plan and listen to God's Spirit at work renewing our church for this and the next generation.



2014 Arlington CROP Walk Update

The following walkers from Bethel enjoyed beautiful weather as they walked on Saturday, October 18th: Ralph Buglass, Kristen Curlee, Bekah Curlee, Ward Curlee, Cheryl Falcone with Annabel, Jaila, James Jr., and TimMyiah, Bill Graver, Richard Lee, Art Lipman, Amy Mills, Susan Peters, Lisa Peterson, Peter Rich, Carolyn Richar, Laura Wells with Mike Palermo, Judson and Jeter, and Kristen Wheeler.

So far Bethel has raised a total of \$6,610 for Church World Service's fight against hunger worldwide, with several of our walkers still collecting donations. Arlington Food Assistance Center will receive at least \$1,652.50 of Bethel's total.

It is not too late to donate for this worthy cause if you have not had a chance to do so. Please see Art



Lipman or go to the Bethel Team website to make a donation on line: http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/site/TR?team_id=112518&pg=team&fr_id=19866&et=07nLni-SdGZnk1EYuTnd4w

Fellowship Hour

One of the many joys of Bethel life is after the Sunday Worship Service going down to Fellowship Hall to greet fellow members and newcomers, have a good cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate, and enjoy a small treat of whatever happens to be on the table. Each Sunday, one Bethel member signs up to provide these treats. Have you thought about hosting and thought it might be too much to organize? It is actually really easy, usually there are a few expert hosts around church early to help set up the tables and the coffee and a lot of the time, people bring in other treats that are available to use each week. You can easily add some fresh fruit or vegetables or a baked good if you are up for it, but do not be intimidated: Fellowship Hour is a time for all to relax and enjoy each others company. If you are interested in learning more about hosting, please contact Janna Lipman or Cheryl Falcone and we would be happy



to walk you through the quick and easy steps.

We thank the November hosts:

- Nov 2: Cheryl Falcone
- Nov 9: Judy Lipman
- Nov 16: Ralph Buglass
- Nov 23: Host still needed—*maybe you?!*
- Nov 30: Advent Workshop—no host needed, however please see Pastor Kristen or Marya Hynes if you are interested in helping with Advent crafts.

Benevolence Giving for 2014

This past year Bethel UCC voted to support four organizations recommended by the Social Concerns Committee by budgeting \$100 for each. The organizations include:

- **Shaw Community Ministry** (SCM) in Washington, DC,
- **Residential Program Center** (RPC) in Arlington,
- **Arlington Academy of Hope** (AAH) in Uganda, and
- **Lighthouse Free Clinic** in El Salvador.

AAH funds support 7-year-old Joshua's education as he began his first year of primary school in the hope that Bethel will follow and support him at least through secondary school and possibly beyond.

Lighthouse Free Clinic funds support the physician's monthly salary.

Due to budget constraints funds could not be budgeted for two other recommended organizations which Bethel has supported in the past: **Arlington Food Assistance Center** (AFAC) and **Arlington THRIVE** for emergency funds for neighbors in need. If you would like to make additional donations of any amount to one

or more of these worthy organizations during the remainder of 2014 we encourage you to donate through Bethel via check or cash and designating the amount and the organization(s) on your check or envelope, or by donating through Bethel's online account.

The Social Concerns Committee thanks all of you who have already made special donations of goods and monetary gifts for these and other organizations in 2014.

To learn more please visit the organizations' websites:

- **AAH:** www.aahuganda.org
- **RPC:** www.voaches.org, (click on "Homeless Services" for Residential Program Center),
- **SCM:** www.shawministry.org,
- **AFAC:** www.afac.org, and
- **Thrive:** www.arlingtonthrive.org

FINANCE CORNER

The Budget Committee is busy preparing a balanced budget to present to the congregation in December. It started with each committee planning its needs and making requests. Each member of the congregation was then given the opportunity to make a pledge for 2015. The Stewardship Chair gave the pledge total to the Budget Committee, and we are now in the processes of finalizing the budget. The Finance Committee reviews the proposed budget and the Consistory approves the document that will be presented to the congregation for the final vote. Mark your calendars to attend that meeting (and potluck lunch) on December 7. The Stewardship Committee again thanks all of you who participated for your generosity is making our job easier each year.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 7th

Congregational meeting
and potluck
following Worship



Advent begins at Bethel Sunday, Nov. 30 with the Advent Workshop following Worship. Please see Pastor Kristen or Marya Hynes if you are interested in helping with craft activities.

November 2014 at Bethel UCC

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
						1 5:30-7:30 p.m. Halloween Party (Fellowship Hall)
2 ALL-SAINTS DAY 10 a.m. Worship & Communion / Sunday School 11 a.m. Fellowship	3	4	5 7 p.m. Bible Study (Library)	6	7 6-8:30 pm Adult Faith Formation Series: The Book of Revelation (Part III - held at Arlington Church of the Brethren)	8
9 10 a.m. Worship / Sunday School 11 a.m. Fellowship	10	11	12 7 p.m. Bible Study (Library)	13	14	15
16 10 a.m. Worship / Sunday School 11 a.m. Fellowship	17	18	19 7 p.m. Bible Study (Library)	20 12 noon Third Thursday Lunch (Library)	21	22
23 10 a.m. Worship / Sunday School 11 a.m. Fellowship	24	25	26 7 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Service at Bethel	27 THANKSGIVING	28	29
30 10 a.m. Worship / Sunday School 11 a.m. Fellowship/ Advent workshop					<div> Head Usher for Nov. Peter Rich </div>	