

BETHEL UCC beacon

worship

MAY 3

It Matters
Exodus 23:10-13
Rev. Kristen Curlee

MAY 10

Small Changes: Big Impact
Jeremiah 4:18-28
Rev. Kristen Curlee

MAY 17

Restorative Justice
Revelation 21:1-5
Rev. Kristen Curlee

MAY 24

Come Spirit, Come
Acts 2:1-21
Rev. Kristen Curlee

MAY 31

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost
John 3:1-17
Ms. Kim Moeller

SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT BETHEL
10 a.m. Worship & Sunday School
11 a.m. Fellowship Time

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

4347 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203
EMAIL BethelUCCVa@verizon.net
WEB www.bethelucc-va.org

What “Church” Might Look Like

BY PASTOR KRISTEN CURLEE

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone and they began to speak whatever language the Spirit let them speak.

—Acts 2:1-4



The Spirit came upon them and the church was born. The church was born from the Spirit. The disciples of the Lord did not know what the church was going to look like or where the Spirit was going to call them. It was a time of uncertainty and yet great joy because the Spirit was with them.

Last year we began our long range planning by coming together to discern our Vision and Mission Statement. After prayerful conversation we created this statement about whom we are and how we live out God's call for us in our time and place.

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:

- Know God and one another and open ourselves to be known.

(continued on page 2)

vision & mission

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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.**

From the Pastor *(continued from page 1)*

- Be a church where people are comforted, encouraged, and challenged by God's Word.
- Serve as God's hands of mercy, affirming justice and peace in the world.
- Welcome and celebrate the diversity of people and thought, encouraging each individual's relationship with Christ.

In April, with Whit Wheeler's leadership and the support of a Long Range Planning team including Peter Rich, Judy Norton and Jean Luks, we put in place a process for a building and facilities assessment. At the heart of the process are these questions:

- How does our building support our Vision and Mission?
- How does our building limit our Vision and Mission?

The process kicked off with listening sessions on April 15th and 19th. I was struck in by the power of God's Spirit present among us in those conversations. There was honest, courageous sharing, as people voiced their concerns, fears, sorrows, hopes and dreams. The hopes and dreams were not limited by an image of what church is, but rather what church could be: a house church, a church in a new location, a congregation working with another church to create a cooperative ministry, a church dedicated to evangelism in our neighborhood, a church in this building that utilizes its resources to expand and buy the Red Cross building, creating something new.... The list goes on. During the week after the meetings people came to me with new and different ideas. "What if?" was at the center of each of these conversations.

Just like the early Christians upon whom the Spirit fell, we are in the time of uncertainty. Uncertainty can be scary, but it can also be filled with excitement because the possibilities are endless. May we continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit as we dream dreams for Bethel's future.

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

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

STRAWBERRY Festival

The annual Bethel Strawberry Festival is just a little more than a month away: Saturday, June 6th. The Strawberry Festival is a fun celebration of summer for our community. It includes strawberry shortcake and other food items such as hot dogs and hamburgers, a bake sale, children's activities and a yard sale.

It takes everyone's help to make this event a smashing success.

Please join us for the planning Sunday, May 3rd at 11:30 am in the library. If you can't join us for the meeting be on the look-out for sign-up sheets for baking, serving or other ways to help make this event a hit.



Bethel volunteers bag fresh oranges at Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) last month.



Coming in June:

Bethel will be sponsoring a "neighborly" food drive for AFAC — so start saving brown paper bags! Details to come.



One-third the way through the year, Bethel has delivered a total of 192 boxes of cereal to AFAC—close to one-third of our goal of donating 600 boxes by the end of the year. Thanks to everyone for your strong, continued support of this community ministry!

Help Send a Kid to Camp this Summer

SHAW COMMUNITY MINISTRY STEPS “IN” WHEN SCHOOL’S “OUT”!

Since 1991, Shaw Community Ministry has been part of the outreach of the United Church of Christ in the Washington, DC, area. The Ministry seeks to enhance the lives of children and youth living in the District’s Shaw neighborhood by encouraging each child to reach his or her own potential academically and to behave responsibly. Trained staff mentor the young people in an after-school program where they are able to do their homework in a safe environment and are given an after-school meal.

For a number of years, the children and youth have had an opportunity to enroll in a daylong sum-

mer camp. They participate in activities to reinforce their academic skills and work and to enhance feelings of belonging. The camp also sponsors field trips for the participants to learn more about the city and world outside of the Shaw community.

This year’s camp theme is **Shaw Community Values**, which will be emphasized by engaging participants with local examples of committed relationships, home ownership, entrepreneurship and educational attainment.

During the month of May Bethel’s Social Concerns Committee is asking for your support, in conjunction with other local UCC churches, by donating funds for camperships to allow as many children of Shaw to attend this enriching summer program.

To learn more about Shaw Community Ministry please visit their website at **ShawMinistry.org** or visit their page on Facebook.

NEW MEMBERS

We will celebrate new members on Sunday, June 14th. Anyone interested in joining Bethel at that time should see Pastor Kristen.



FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

May 3	Harriet Morgan
May 10	Joyce Lewis
May 17	Sandy Casmey
May 24 & 31	Hosts needed! Please sign up on the board in Fellowship Hall

Long-Range Planning Conversation Continues

Bethel's long range planning effort continues this month with two more dialogue and listening sessions on how to best update and modernize our church building and facilities so that they support our current ministries and set the stage for the next phase of Bethel's growth.

This month's discussion sessions—both a Sunday post-worship (May 17th) and a weeknight session (May 20th) to facilitate our busy schedules and encourage broad participation—will seek to go beyond last month's start by focusing on our committees and their work (Worship and Music, Christian Education, Fellowship, Outreach and Evangelism, and Social Concerns).

At the session, each committee will:

- identify those spaces that support their work today and how they are use them?
- outline needed improvements in those spaces' ability to support that work, and how

- discuss how various spaces could be used for new activities in the future and what changes would required to support those new activities.

This effort is being undertaken by the Long Range Planning Committee. Based on Bethel's Constitution and By-Laws, the committee consists of Consistory President (Whit Wheeler), Trustee (Peter Rich), Treasurer (Judy Norton), and Senior Pastor (Kristen Curlee). Jean Luks has agreed to serve as an additional Spiritual Council representative. If anyone is unable to make the discussion sessions, s/he is always welcome to speak to committee members and provide input directly.

Final sessions over the summer will look at the ideas generated and place them in three priority categories (e.g., must-do, need-to-do, nice-to-do) and also consider whether the changes are needed in the near, medium or far term—1-2, 5-7, and 10-12 years, respectively.

MAKE PLANS NOW FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Along with Arlington Church of the Brethren and Arlington Forest United Methodist, Bethel will offer Vacation Bible School this summer. It will be held daily Monday, August 3rd through Friday, August 7th from 6 to 8 pm at Arlington Forest UMC. All ages welcome!

VBS begins with a light dinner followed by a story and music, then there are multiple tracks with stations for the children and a faith formation class for the adults. Cost: \$25 per child (children under 2 are free), \$50 for a family of two or more. Nursery care provided. All volunteers will be background-checked.

Registration forms available at all three churches.



May 2015 at Bethel UCC

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