

JULY - AUGUST 2015

# BETHEL UCC beacon

## worship

**JULY 5**

**COMMUNITY WORSHIP @  
ARLINGTON CHURCH OF  
THE BRETHREN - 10 AM**

**JULY 12**

**Dancing the Presence of God  
II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19  
Rev. Kristen Curlee**

**JULY 19**

**A House for God  
II Samuel 7:1-14a  
Rev. Carolyn Richar**

**JULY 26**

**Speaking for the Victims  
II Samuel 11:1-15  
Mr. Jason Thompson**

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

**AUGUST SCHEDULE**  
**See page 3**

**BETHEL UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

**4347 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203**  
**EMAIL [BethelUCCVa@verizon.net](mailto:BethelUCCVa@verizon.net)**  
**WEB [www.bethelucc-va.org](http://www.bethelucc-va.org)**

## Risking, Failing, and Growing

BY PASTOR KRISTEN CURLEE

On Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer of the Southwest Conference was elected to be the next General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. During my time at Synod I had the opportunity to hear John speak on multiple occasions and I am excited about his passion and his vision for the United Church of Christ in the next ten years.



As Conference Minister in the Southwest, John helped to create a radical new vision for what it means to be church. Church is about a community of people who create space to experience the sacred. He was one of the loudest and most passionate advocates for marriage equality and performed the first legal marriage in the state of Arizona on October 17, 2015. With his leadership the Conference bought new office space in downtown Phoenix. It was an old church. They took that old building; removed all the pews, the altar, and everything else that was inside to create a blank slate. On that blank slate creativity erupted. Worship stations, prayer circles, rock music and liturgical dance had space. New churches started. Many of them failed, but a few took hold and grew and have become vibrant new communities of faith drawing new people to Christ. At the heart of his vision is the willingness to fail. Failure, John believes, has to be part of our plan because if we are not willing to fail, we are not risking enough for the Gospel.

The first thing John plans to do as the next General Minister and President is to call together all the staff in our headquarters offices in Cleveland and ask, what do you plan to risk in this quarter. How do you

*(continued on page 2)*

# 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.**

## From the Pastor *(continued from page 1)*

plan to fail? And then the next quarter when they come together again he is going to ask, how did you fail? What did you risk and how did you fail? And from that failure what did you learn? Then going forward, what are you going to risk this quarter? Because, if we are not willing to risk, we will not succeed; we will not grow.

At Bethel we are coming to the end of a long range planning process. We have talked about many grand dreams for our ministry together and with the community. We have shared out-of-the-box visions of what kind of church we might become and how our outreach might grow. As we dream about remodeling Bethel and creating revitalized spaces for ministry or a new place for ministry, a rebuilt church, a rented church or a church in partnership with other congregations, we have to ask, what are we willing to risk reaching towards our vision for Bethel's next ten years?

### SUMMER CHURCH FOR KIDS

Sunday school during Sunday worship is on hiatus for the summer. Children of kindergarten age and younger are invited downstairs after children's time during our service. Our paid nursery staff will be there weekly, but an extra set of hands is important. Please volunteer to help out by signing up on the sheet outside the office.

### SAVE THE DATE –SUNDAY, JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>

Our Summer Congregational Meeting and Potluck is Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. A food sign-up sheet will be posted outside the office.

**Every member of Bethel are the ministers**



## staff & leadership

**Senior Pastor**  
Rev. Kristen Curlee  
[pastorkristencurlee@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkristencurlee@gmail.com)

**Associate Pastor**  
Rev. Carolyn Richar  
[crichar@capitalhospice.org](mailto:crichar@capitalhospice.org)

**Associate Pastor**  
Mr. Jason Thompson  
[jason7thompson@outlook.com](mailto:jason7thompson@outlook.com)

**Church President**  
Whit Wheeler

**Director of Music**  
Angie Stevens  
[angielatte@gmail.com](mailto:angielatte@gmail.com)

**Interim Pastor Emeritus**  
Rev. Dr. H. Donald Smith



## Bethel UCC's Summer Worship Schedule

- All worship services begin at 10 am -



- July 5**      **Community Worship (July 4th weekend)**  
@ **Arlington Church of the Brethren**  
300 N Montague Street
- July 12**      @ Bethel (Rev. Kristen Curlee)
- July 19**      @ Bethel (Rev. Carolyn Richar)
- July 26**      @ Bethel (Mr. Jason Thompson)
- August 2**      @ Bethel (Rev. Kristen Curlee)
- August 9**      **Community Worship**  
@ **Arlington Forest United Methodist Church**  
4701 Arlington Blvd. (Rev. Mike Southall-Vess)
- August 16**      **Community Worship**  
@ **Bethel** (Rev. Kristen Curlee)
- August 23**      **Community Worship**  
@ **Arlington Church of the Brethren**  
300 N Montague St. (Rev. Nancy Fitzgerald)
- August 30**      **Community Worship IN THE PARK**  
@ **Lubber Run Park**  
200 N Columbus St. (Mr. Jason Thompson)
- Sept. 6**      @ Bethel (Rev. Carolyn Richar; Labor Day weekend)



## Vacation Bible School

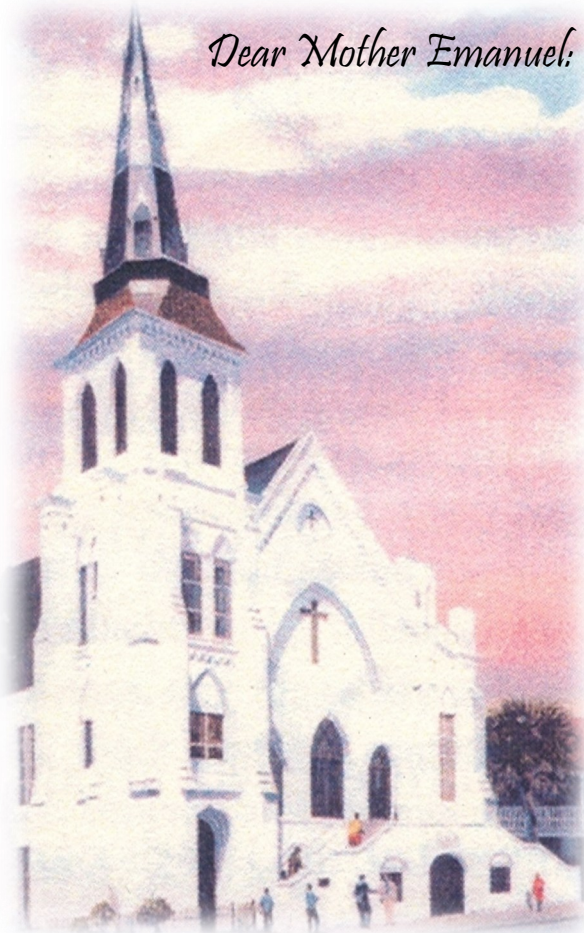
BY JASON THOMPSON

When I was a kid, some of my fondest memories are from my summers in vacation Bible school. Learning the stories of David and Goliath, the flood of Noah, and Moses leading the people out of Egypt fascinated me as a child. Though I didn't understand the nuances of all these stories as such a young age, the things I learned planted the seeds of the faith that guides my life today. I also learned that Jesus always loves me, even when I was fighting with my brother over who would get to ride in the front seat (a time before car seats!).

As an adult, the Bible studies I have attended and lead have allowed me to ask hard questions about what God is calling us to do in today's world? Where was God's compassion as Job called out for relief? What does it mean that Jesus violently wielded a whip to drive out the money changers? Hard questions? Yes! Relevant to our lives today? Absolutely!

Please join us for Vacation Bible School this year from Monday, August 3 through Friday, August 7, 6-8 pm each evening at Arlington Forest United Methodist Church. Help us delight our children with the stories of our faith and challenge our adults with God's still-speaking message. Cost: \$25 per child (children under 2 are free), \$50 for a family of two or more. Nursery care provided.

## A prayer for our grieving brothers and sisters in Charleston, South Carolina



*Dear Mother Emanuel:*

You, who authored courageous slave rebellions, who suffered and survived wretched bigotry, burnings and earthquake. You, you who worshipped underground when black churches were outlawed...

Dear Mother Emanuel, in this day of grievous heartache we wrap you in bands of prayer.

We pour out upon your broken hearts the healing balm of Gilead.

You whose shepherd has been taken from you,

Whose building has become a tomb,

Whose children are terrified:

We stand with you...

We weep with you.

We rage with you.

We keep vigil with you for your beloved dead.

May the God of Moses and Miriam, of Jesus and the Mary's,

Anoint you with healing, furnish you with hope and,

One day, someday, mend your torn hearts and wipe the tears from your swollen eyes.

God help us... Amen.

— The Rev. Nancy Taylor

*Rev. Taylor is senior pastor of Old South Church (UCC) in Boston*

## "Neighborly" FOOD DRIVE



*Thanks to all for donating to our June food drive for Arlington Food Assistance Center. We were honored to have Charles Meng, AFAC director, join us for blessing the food June 7<sup>th</sup>.*





# Strawberry Festival 2015

More  
scenes  
next page







**Bethel's  
2015  
Strawberry  
Festival**  
*continued*



**Photos by  
Art Lipman**





# Back-to-School Supplies Needed

Economically disadvantaged students experience many challenges and obstacles in their journey to succeed. Children cannot reach their full potential in school if they lack the necessary tools to learn. Again this year, Bethel will be collecting backpacks and school supplies for students living in Whitefield Commons just a few blocks from Bethel.

The most critical need is for **book bags, backpacks, and roller book bags** for students in grades 1-5. Based upon student needs and teacher requests, each needy child receives a bag that includes some or all of the following:

- composition books
- wide-ruled loose leaf paper
- rulers (both standard and metric)
- yellow highlighters
- no. 2 pencils
- ballpoint pens (blue, black, red)
- crayons and colored pencils
- children's scissors
- glue sticks
- pocket folders



You can help children succeed by donating book bags and supplies. A box will be outside the church offices July 20-August 17 for donations of book bags and school supplies. Thank you!

1  
2

Halfway through 2015, we're more than halfway to our goal of donating 600 boxes of cereal to Arlington Food Assistance Center.

**317 boxes donated as of June 30!**

Many thanks to everyone for your support and generosity.

**Help us meet our 2015 goal:**



**BOXES OF CEREAL**



# July 2015 at Bethel UCC

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 10 a.m. <b>COMMUNITY WORSHIP</b> at Arlington Church of the Brethren 11 a.m. Fellowship	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Summer Congregational Meeting and Potluck	13	14	15	16 12 noon Third Thursday Lunch (Library)	17	18
19 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship	27	28	29	30	31	Aug. 1



# August 2015 at Bethel UCC

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<b>2</b> 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Fellowship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<div> <b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</b> at Arlington Forest United Methodist, 6-8 pm each evening, Aug. 3-7            Registration required—email Pastor Kristen         </div>						
<b>9</b> 10 a.m. <b>COMMUNITY WORSHIP</b> at Arlington Forest United Methodist Church 11 a.m. Fellowship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10 a.m. <b>COMMUNITY WORSHIP</b> at Bethel UCC 11 a.m. Fellowship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12 noon Third Thursday Lunch (Library)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10 a.m. <b>COMMUNITY WORSHIP</b> at Arlington Church of the Brethren 11 a.m. Fellowship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10 a.m. <b>COMMUNITY WORSHIP</b> at Lubber Run Park (200 N Columbus St.) 11 a.m. Potluck in the Park	<b>31</b>					