

# BETHEL beacon

MAY 2017

## worship

MAY 7

*Holy Communion*  
*Psalm 23, John 10:1-10*  
*"Shepherd Me O God"*  
*Rev. Patricia Barth*

MAY 14

*Mother's Day*  
*John 14:1-14, 1 Peter 2:2-10*  
*"Living Stones + Dwelling Places"*

MAY 21

*John 14:1-21, Acts 17:22-31*  
*"I Will Love Them"*  
*Rev. Carolyn Richar*

MAY 28

*Ascension Sunday*  
*Acts 1:6-14, John 17:1-11*  
*"Jesus' Feet"*  
*Rev. Patricia Barth*

*10 am Worship*  
*11 am Fellowship*

**BETHEL**

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

4347 Arlington Blvd. | Arlington, VA 22203  
[www.bethelucc-va.org](http://www.bethelucc-va.org)

BY PATRICIA BARTH

## EASTERTIDE: THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS

In the church calendar, we celebrate Eastertide from the evening before Easter until Pentecost, June 4th this year. On Pentecost, we celebrate the "birthday" of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Since there are roughly 50 days between the Resurrection and Pentecost, this period is sometimes called the Great Fifty Days.

In the early church, Lent was a time for catechumens to learn about Christian doctrine to prepare for baptism at the Easter Vigil service. During Eastertide, new converts continued to learn the meaning of discipleship and how to "be church" together.

Nowadays, Eastertide is a great time to remember our own baptisms, and the promises we made or were made for us. These are:

- We renounce evil, and recommit ourselves to Jesus Christ.
- We strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every person.
- Finally, we recommit ourselves to continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer.

During these fifty days, in addition to the usual worship and administrative duties, I will be getting things ready for Pastor Anne. And getting ready for a move! But I will also be thinking about my baptism, and pondering how I will live out those commitments in retirement.

What about you? Is it time for a tune-up in your discipleship? Are you feeling led to different methods or frequency of prayer? Perhaps devotional reading or Bible study? Con-

*(continued on page 2)*





all  
members of Bethel  
are the ministers

## staff & leadership

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## Eastertide CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tact your pastors if you would like some new ideas!

How about “continuing in community?”—perhaps coming to worship more often, or helping out more at Bethel? I know some of you are carrying the church on your backs and could use a break. Maybe it’s time to let go of something you have been doing a long time, and find new ways to serve God and your church.

When we come to Pentecost, I will be asking you to prepare for worship by thinking about the ways you love your church. We will share some of them in worship, and I have a little booklet for you from the UCC. We will take up the Strengthen the Church special offering, which goes not only to the National Church but to our Central Atlantic Conference for new church starts, of which we have a fair number. When you come on Sunday June 25 to vote on Bethel’s future, whether you will move into other space or build parking, I pray that you will remember the ways you love the church, and your own call to discipleship, and let those ideas inform your vote. Love of your Christian community, and love of God can lead you in either direction...rather than simply voting based on personal preference or love of the past. God is always calling us onward and outward to serve the world that Jesus loved so much.

Fondly,  
Patricia+



# UPDATE ON DISCUSSIONS WITH ARLINGTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN RE: SHARING THEIR FACILITY

On April 3rd, Bethel members Jean Rentch, Judy Norton and Carolyn Richar met with the Arlington Church of the Brethren (ACOB) Church Board and interested members to discuss a possible covenantal relationship with our two congregations where we would share space at the ACOB facility. ACOB members were enthusiastic about the possibilities of this relationship. We focused on 5 areas of discussion:

## 1. Shared Community Ministry:

ACOB and BUCC would combine efforts on ministry that we already both participate in – such as Arlington Food Assistance Center Support, Crop Walk, and SERVE. We would invite each other to join in ministries where only one congregation currently is active – such as the Arlington Academy of Hope and Faro De Luz clinic for BUCC and Doorways, Heifer International and AHC for ACOB. We would together explore new community ministries that God might call us to. This might include jointly sponsoring a current or new immigrant/refugee family.

## 2. Shared Evangelical Outreach/Education:

Both congregations have a strong desire to nurture disciples – starting with our youngest members. We believe we could combine our Children's Sunday School program and our adult education programs with shared leadership from both pastors – to create more vibrant and varied Christian discipleship. This would include holding at least one adult education session and children's education sessions on Sunday mornings at the time that BUCC would typically hold worship. We would also look to host mid-week Adult programs both during the day and in the evenings.

## 3. Shared Worship:

Initially, we propose holding worship at separate times such as

*(continued on page 4)*

# BETHEL HELPERS WANTED

· We are in need of a **Financial Secretary** and **Assistant Financial Secretary** to keep track of money received and make deposits. The Financial Secretary normally serves on Consistory but that is optional. The Assistant FS takes the money and locks it up if the FS is out of town.

· **Ushers/Altar guild workers** to set up the sanctuary for worship, hand out bulletins, greet visitors, prepare Communion and clean up.

· **Transition Committees:** Joan Graver could use some more people to explore developing parking.

· **Stawberry Festival** will be held June 10: Consider taking a table with a friend!

Bethel meeting in the ACOB sanctuary from 9:45a to 10:45a. Both congregations would then share a joint time of Christian fellowship downstairs. ACOB could then hold worship from 11:15a to 12:15p. These times are just a suggestion of how a schedule might look. We would plan on holding one joint worship service a month at which time a joint voice choir and/or joint handbell choir would give a musical offering. Holiday worship services could be combined such as in the case of Ash Wednesday, and we could possibly look to hold multiple services on Christmas Eve or Easter.

#### **4. Shared Facility Space:**

The main need for shared space would be within the activities noted above. BUCC's pastor would at times need access to a space to provide counseling or for private meetings - but would house his/her main office in a home setting. ACOB's pastor has noted that she would be willing to share the pastor's office in a mutually agreeable schedule for times such as noted above. BUCC recognizes that space at ACOB is already in great use and that storage space would be very minimal. BUCC would use alternate storage space for any items that could not be kept at ACOB. As the relationship deepens, the hope is that BUCC and ACOB might join together to provide updates/improvements to the ACOB facility with cost sharing for these.

#### **5. Shared Maintenance and Operation Expenses:**

There will be ongoing expenses related to the maintenance and operation of the building and grounds. These expenses include such things as insurance, building maintenance and repairs, custodial services and supplies, snow removal, lawn maintenance, and utilities. Since both congregations will be sharing the facilities, a mutually agreeable method for sharing these costs will be developed.

All Bethel Members and Guests are invited to a Discussion Session to be held May 7 at 11:30a in the Library regarding the proposal to share the ACOB facility in a covenantal relationship.



I hope you will be there to share your questions, thoughts and hopes as we look at this possibility for Bethel's future.

Rev. Carolyn Richar,  
Associate Pastor

The UCC purpose statement comes from the Gospel of Matthew:

***To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.***

Mission statement:

***United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.***

And the vision:

***United in Christ's love, a just world for all.***

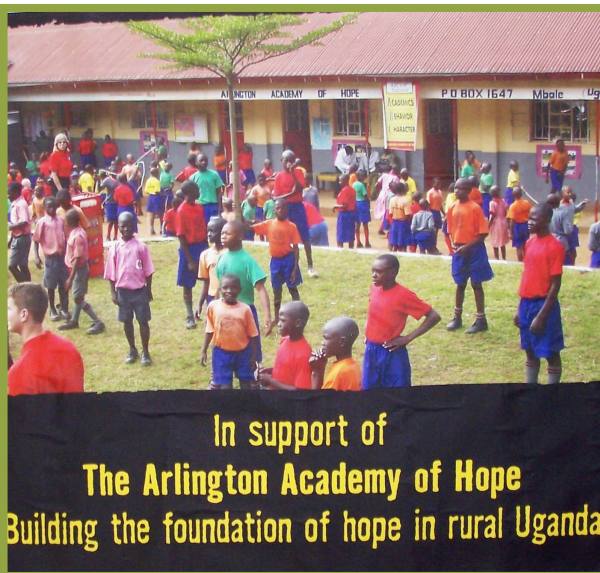
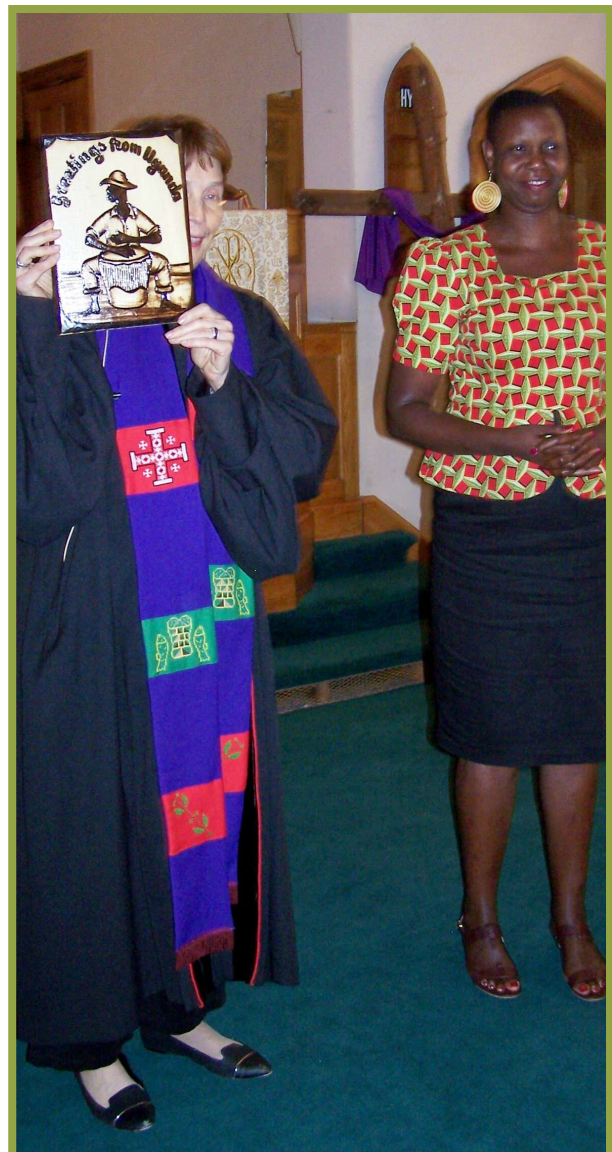


## Message from Church Treasurer

Consistory has reviewed the policy for reimbursement of church related expenses. This procedure follows the 2017 Federal Reporting Requirements for churches published by The UCC Pension Boards.

Bethel UCC related expenses paid by individuals must be turned in to the church treasurer within 60 days of incurring the expense. In addition the expense must be approved by the committee chair and signed off on the receipt or via e-mail. An original receipt or a copy of a receipt with itemization of expenses or a paid detailed invoice is required. In the case of property expenses, all team members must agree to the expense. Expenses paid in cash without a signed receipt from the payee, the one receiving the cash, will not be reimbursed.

Whenever possible have the church billed directly. The church is exempt from paying sales tax and forms are available from treasurer so if the expense is over \$100, please ask for a form in advance.



# VISIT FROM THE WANDAS



# News about Faro De Luz Free Medical Clinic, El Salvador

La Luz Verdadera, this Hispanic congregation meeting at Bethel, has co-sponsored the Faro De Luz Free Medical Clinic with Bethel for the past 9 years. With Bethel's changes in parking, La Luz now needs to refocus their finances on building a facility that their congregation can use at their land in Fort Washington MD. As of this August, La Luz will no longer be able to provide consistent support for the clinic while they are in their building campaign.

Carolyn is discussing alternatives with Dr. Lissette Alvaro, the clinic's doctor, to explore the possibility of keeping the clinic open part-time under the current amount Bethel is providing support. As news becomes available, Carolyn will share this with the congregation.

## Pride Parade + Festival in DC

The Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ is Open and Affirming, meaning that LGBTQ people are welcome to full participation in the church, including not only welcome to worship and lay leadership, but also weddings.

See <http://www.potomacucc.org/ona/> for more information.

The association will be in this year's DC Pride Parade (June 10) and have a booth at the Pride festival (June 11). This year's theme: "We are Unapologetically Proud to be Open and Affirming." And of course, God is Still Speaking,

This (case-sensitive) link will take you to an old video posted by DC Capitol Pride that is fun to watch.

<http://bit.ly/Pride2017ThemeReveal>



# Strengthen the Church Offering

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Bethel UCC will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017

## General Synod Update



### Support the CAC Shelter Project

We are asking delegates, visitors and volunteers to General Synod make or purchase hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for distribution to homeless throughout the Central Atlantic Conference during the winter months. In addition, we will be collecting "Ugly Quilts" (sleeping bags) or blankets including a small pillow with each. These items are to be brought to General Synod. Links for written directions and a video on making the quilts can be found on the CAC General Synod website, CAC Homeless Shelter Project page. If you are unable to bring items with you, we are happy to accept financial donations for the purchase of these items.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Jill White (gs2017lac@gmail.com) or Sheila Helgersen (sheila@umhousing.org).

There is a lot of information on the CAC website! Documents and downloadable updates have been organized into a "Library of General Synod Documents." Look for this link on the General Synod web page [www.cacucc.org/generalsynod2017](http://www.cacucc.org/generalsynod2017) and visit this site often.

# ONLINE



# GIVING

Online giving allows members and friends the option of keeping up with those pledges and giving regularly even if you cannot make it to church every Sunday.

As you click through you will enter a secure portal where you can give on a regular basis or for special collections. You will enter checking account information and your account will be debited for the amount and at the frequency you specify.

It is easy to use, so give it a try! Click through from the green button on the homepage or use this case-sensitive url:

[bit.ly/BUCCdonor](http://bit.ly/BUCCdonor)

# May 2017

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1	2	3 Bible Study, 7 pm	4 Bible Study, noon	5	6
7 Worship, 10 am Fellowship, 11 am Discussion of Bethel Options, 11:30 am	8	9	10 Bible Study, 7 pm	11 Bible Study, noon	12	13 CIS Teacher Training, FH, 8 am - 2 pm
14 Mother's Day Worship, 10 am Fellowship, 11 am	15	16	17 Bible Study, 7 pm	18 Bible Study, noon	19	20
21 Worship, 10 am Fellowship, 11 am Consistory, 11:30 am	22	23	24 Bible Study, 7 pm	25 Bible Study, noon	26	27
28 Worship, 10 am Fellowship, 11 am	29	30	31 Bible Study, 7 pm			