

# **BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Monthly Newsletter 2023 Vol 7*

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." —Luke 11:9-10

Not too sure how you feel about the scripture above, but there are many who struggle with it. Our society is ready now and not willing to wait. Everything is moving so fast and we do not like it when we have to wait. Just today I wanted a hamburger, so I made my way to my favorite fast-food hamburger joint, Burger King. I know fast-food is not the best choice but I had a craving. I pulled into the drive thru only to just sit there behind four cars. No one was moving. So I decided to go inside only to find that there was one person preparing the orders and the line was longer inside than outside. Once I realized this, my cravings quickly changed to McDonald's. Again, not the best choice but at least it was quicker. What ever happened to our persistence? This is our society today and our faith lives are not much better.

All too often when we pray, we'll ask God for something once, maybe twice. And then if God doesn't answer in the affirmative, we'll give up and say, "Well, it must not be God's will."

Jesus told a story in Luke's gospel to illustrate the importance of persistent prayer. A man goes to his friend's house at midnight and asks to borrow some bread for his guest who just arrived from out of town. In those days, family members didn't have their own rooms. They all would sleep in a single room. When everyone turned in for the night, they wanted it quiet. So when someone starts banging on the door at midnight, the man of the house doesn't want to answer the door. Yet because of his friend's persistent knocking, he eventually opens the door and gives his friend what he asked.

Jesus concluded by saying, "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Luke 11:9–10). Jesus was saying, in effect, "Keep praying. Don't give up."

The words ask, seek, and knock Jesus used in the above verses indicate an ascending intensity. When we ask, we realize our need and ask God for help. It would imply being humble and maybe even somewhat low-key about it. The next word, seek, denotes asking plus action. It involves effort. Last, the word knock implies asking plus action plus persevering. It's the idea of pounding on a closed door. We aren't taking no for an answer.

If we will pray like this, then I believe we will see more answers in the affirmative. As our lives become ever more changing because of a faster paced society, may we not lose our persistence with God and prayer and be faithful always and in all ways!

***Blessings ,  
Rev. Michael Ritter***

## Thank you from the Jeters

Thank y'all so much for the memory cards, the gifts, the food, and the reception! They mean so much to us. We love and will miss each of you. Thanks again from the bottom of our hearts!

Love,

The Jeters (Narcie, Mike, Enoch, & Evy)



## **Aldersgate/Holy City Missions Soup Kitchen**

Bethany gets to cook at the Aldersgate/Holy City Soup Kitchen the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. We start cooking at 8 am and we start serving at 9:30. We are finished at the latest at 12 noon.

Please let Von Thurman (843-696-6828) or John Lyons (843-708-9837) know if you would like to be involved during any of these dates or times. Thanks for your support of this ministry!



## Global Missions Team

The Global Missions Team traveled to Camp Nathanael near Hazard Kentucky on Monday April 10 through Saturday April 15, 2023. The team consisted of Team Leader Roanna Payne, Construction Leader Robert Stasiukaitis, Paul Stasiukaitis, Steve and Brittany Bishop, Billy Hay, Jason Engermann; Tony Frye. Also Peggy and JC Ridgeway worked in the kitchen along with the camp staff, providing excellent meals 3 times a day for us.

This area of Kentucky was devastated by flooding the previous year and the Camp served as a staging center, providing much needed resources during the days and months immediately after the flood water receded. The area still bore many scars from the flood but evidence of rebuilding could also be seen.

The teamwork and fellowship were awesome during the 4 days that we worked. We got to meet many of the volunteers who work at the camp. Jeff McIntyre spoke with us after dinner one evening about the camp and its ministries. The camp has a wonderful mission called Scripture Memory Mountain Mission that was founded in 1932. The mission along with the volunteers are all faith supported by churches, businesses, individuals and organizations. Its ministry includes school visitations, summer camps, outdoor education, retreats and counseling to a 7-county area surrounding the camp. The volunteers touch upwards of 3000 people each month.

Our project was to finish a home that was being built for one of the many volunteers who live at the camp. The original building was a mobile home that was swept away in the flood. An earlier team did the foundation, framing of the house, installed the drywall and ran electrical wiring through the house. We worked feverishly under Robert's excellent guidance but were not able to finish the house. However we did finish mudding and sanding the walls, putting primer on most of the walls, installation of electrical outlets and a tankless hot water heater, installation of cabinets in the kitchen and bathroom and the toilet and bathtub. Robert left a detailed list of what needed to be completed before the volunteer could move into the home.

Saturday saw us tired and ready to leave early for the long drive home. The Global Mission Team has decided to include Camp Nathanael as a mission partner. We are looking forward to a long-term relationship with the camp through continued trips to the area to help as guided by the camp.

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# Global Missions Team continued



## Calling all healthcare professionals

Bethany in conjunction with our new Safety and Assistance Committee, is setting up an emergency response team that will be available during worship and Sunday school times (8 am-12:30 pm). As part of the emergency response team, we are asking any healthcare-trained individuals that are interested and willing to consider being part of the team. We would like to have 1 or 2 healthcare-trained individuals who are willing to be on standby for each service and during the Sunday school hour.

Our definition of a healthcare-trained individual is a Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Nurse, EMT, and Paramedic. If you are willing to share as part of this team, please reach out to Roanna Payne at [roanna1958@bellsouth.net](mailto:roanna1958@bellsouth.net).



Have you listened to the Word & Table Playlist on Spotify? This month you can also find 10 songs chosen by Michael Brown. Use the QR code to find Bethany UMC on Spotify.



## Facility Usage Forms

It's that time of the year to renew your facility usage for Bible Study groups and meetings. Please go online and renew your facility usage request for the Fall and Winter months 2023-2024. If you are meeting June-August please let me know so I can keep you on the calendar.



## A Stephen Ministry Minute



**Greetings from me, John Lyons, a Bethany Stephen Minister.**

In 2017, a poster on a Bethany bulletin board piqued my curiosity. The poster was seeking people to serve as Stephen Ministers.

To me growing in “service” is also key to growing spiritually. So I applied!

Six months later, after finishing the training with six others, we were all commissioned as Stephen Ministers. After another three months or so my first opportunity to serve as a Stephen Minister was offered.

Crunch time! It was time to put the many hours of training to use. It was time to be a compassionate, spiritual presence in the life of someone going through some challenges. To do this seemed daunting. Even with all the training and preparation, I was not sure I was really cut out to be a spiritual caregiver.

Recalling a prayer we pray at the end of each Stephen Ministry meeting helped me to overcome my doubts:

**Go into the world in peace, have courage, and, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Jesus said, “Lo, I am with always, even unto the ends of the world.”  
Know He is with you in every situation.**

Before going into the home of my first Care Receiver, I prayed this prayer. Immediately, I became calm and confident that Jesus would be with us both during our time together. That was seven years ago. This prayer, as well as ongoing training, has since allowed me to be a spiritual presence for many care receivers. The Holy Spirit is always there in every visit, bringing a sense of serenity and filling our hearts with hope.

It has been a blessing to be a Stephen Minister. Someone once said, “We are never more like Jesus than when we are giving of ourselves to others.” This is what Stephen Ministry has given to me.

**A new Stephen Minister Training class will start in January, 2024.**

If you are encouraged to learn the helping skills that Stephen Ministry teaches, please apply.

**Applications are in one of the church tabletop kiosks. Please return to Rev. Barnes.** For questions, please contact Rev. Mark Barnes or any Stephen Minister or Leader.

## Local & Global Missions

The Local Missions Team created these 30 bags to show Bethany's appreciation for The Villages at Summerville's Staff.



### Volunteering with Habitat

We continue to build at 700, 704, and 708 North Hickory Street. We have plenty of volunteer opportunities at the construction site on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Of course, Bethany's Faithful Few always welcomes new volunteers on Thursday from 8 am-Noon. The ReStore welcomes volunteers Monday through Saturday from 9 am-6 pm. If you would like more information, please contact Barney Duncan at [bduncan1008@gmail.com](mailto:bduncan1008@gmail.com) or call 843-224-1898.

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## JULY 28 AT HAPPY HEARTS Meal Reservations due by July 23

Local, talented, and very gifted musician, Mr. Jesse Cockcroft, the strolling accordion player, will be performing for the Happy Hearts meeting on July 28.



A meal of lasagna, garlic bread, tossed Italian salad, with cheesecake for dessert will be served at 12:00 noon for \$8. Please contact Dot by July 23 at 843-343-5450 or [dmprevatte@yahoo.com](mailto:dmprevatte@yahoo.com) to make your meal reservation.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME.



## Katie's Krops Desserts

Thursday, July 13th We are in need of **600** individually wrapped homemade desserts to be paired with Katie's Krops meals. Please deliver to the business office by Thursday July 13th no later than 11:00 am. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

## Holy City Missions Clothing Closet

Men's Pants Waist size 30, 32, 34

Men's Tennis Shoes size 10 and up

Bookbags

**(When the kids get out of school, it's the perfect time  
donate their old bookbags!)**

Put them in the bin outside of the Business Office.

"I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." - Matthew 25:36-40



## Hands of Christ School Supply Drive

Monetary donations are being collected to provide much-needed school supplies for the 2023-2024 school year to DD2 schools and Williams Elementary, a DD4 school. Our goal is to collect **200** book bags which can be dropped off in the Business Office. The book bags that we donate will have our Bethany backpack tags. Donations may be made online, placed in the offering plate on Sunday, or dropped off at the Business Office. Please put in the memo line

"Hands of Christ."



## ***Care Team Spotlight***

Have you ever been confined at home or elsewhere and had someone lift your spirits by bringing you a flower arrangement? That's just what the Flower Team does each Monday! We take the arrangements from the Sanctuary and Spell Chapel, rearrange them into smaller ones, attach a small note, and deliver them to our members at home, in residential facilities, hospitals or rehab. We have five teams that rotate according to the Sunday of the month.

If you interested in learning more about this ministry, please call or leave a message for Pastor Mark Barnes at 843 873-1230.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**November 30th,  
December 1 & 2, 2023**

A drive-through reenactment of The Christmas Story

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## **SAVE THE DATES**

**10/25-10/29 & 11/1-11/5**



# ***Children's Ministry***

## **Children's Church**

Children's Church ended on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> to take a break for the summer. It will resume on Sunday, August 20 at 8:45.

## **Sunday School**

Summer Sunday School will look a little different for our Elementary kids. 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will stay in large group the entire hour. Kindergarten will stay in their room, and Preschool will follow their usual schedule.

## **VBS Wraps Up**

The Hotline is quiet and the Heroes are out on their quest to answer God's call. What a week it was!! Bethany's doors opened to over 500 children, 70% of whom are not Bethany members. What a great way to reach out to the community. God's hand was in everything we did, and we give Him all the glory!



HUGE THANKS to all of the volunteers who helped to bring the word of God to these precious children. Over 200 adults and teens worked each day to make it special. Every single act of service was vital to the success of the ministry, and we could not have done it without all of you.

The children arrived each day ready to answer God's call. They sang, enjoyed tasty treats, created beautiful projects and learned the good news. The sight of the hallways and classrooms filled with children learning of God's love was spectacular.

Again, thank you to everyone at Bethany for supporting VBS and helping to make it a fantastic week. We are blessed to have the encouragement and help of all of you.





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**  
**AND PROMOTION SUNDAY**  
 Sunday August 20th

## Riverdogs Fun!

Join us for a night at the Riverdogs. Bethany has reserved seating available for the July 30 game. Parking is free and game time is 5:05. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased using the link below. Tickets will be available for pick-up 3 business days after purchase in the Welcome Center at Bethany. Contact Emily Vick at [evick@bethany-umc.com](mailto:evick@bethany-umc.com) with any questions.

<https://bethanyumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/351/responses/new>



### **Blood Drive** **Bethany United** **Methodist Church**

Held in the Gym  
118 West 3rd South St  
Summerville, SC 29483

**Sunday, July 30, 2023**  
**8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Schedule your appointment today!

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)  
Enter Sponsor Code: BethanyUMC



Come give July 17 thru 31 for an exclusive Shark Week shirt from Discovery, while supplies last!



## Volunteers Needed

We are looking for teaching teams to help in Sunday School for 2023-24. Each grade has a team of four who rotate teaching duties, so this is not an every week commitment. We provide all curriculum, supplies and materials. This is a great way to get involved at Bethany and make a difference in the lives of our children.

Help is also needed on Wednesday evenings during BNOW. Volunteers are wanted to help with both the preschool and elementary choirs, to assist Mrs. Sharon in Crafting Faith and to lead Sprouts Preschool Bible Story Time.

If you would like to help with this, please contact Stephanie Mitcum at [smitchum@bethany-umc.com](mailto:smitchum@bethany-umc.com) or stop by the Children's Ministries office any time.

## Wonderful Wednesdays

Each Wednesday evening in July, families can gather for fun and fellowship. Each week will be a different activity. Bring your kids, your grandkids, your neighbors and plan to stay for a fun-filled evening. Activities will be from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Dinner is not provided, so please eat before or after.



# Recreation

## Summer Camps



We had a very busy month of June, as we hosted three great weeks of camps. We started with Coach Kurt James and his All-Stars basketball camp. Coach Kurt was joined by Coach Abby of the Bethany staff and both of his sons KJ and Josiah. KJ just retired from playing professionally all across Europe, and Josiah will be returning for his senior season with the Tennessee Volunteers. The kids certainly got a big thrill out of working with both of these young men.

During our 2nd week of camp we turned our attention to Volleyball. Coach Cindy Baggott of Bishop England High School returned for her third summer working with our campers. She is super high energy and organized, our girls were in constant motion and learned a lot.

We just finished up our third week of camp with our first ever girls only basketball camp. This camp featured more than 50 young ladies from 4th-11th grade. Coach Calvin Davis of the Summerville Greenwave and his staff lead this camp. It was a lot of fun to see our gym full of young female ballers...The girls got a lot of individual attention and I think we might have a number of high school basketball players in the future.

We have two camps this month. The 2nd session of basketball camp will be held July 10-14th featuring Coach Greg Elliott and David Long of Summerville High School. We will finish up with Ashley Ridge Swamp Fox Head Coach Leigh-Ann Carter July 24-27th. If you are interested in getting your children signed up visit our new website at [www.bethanygym.sportsengineprelive.com](http://www.bethanygym.sportsengineprelive.com)

## Fitness Center Improvements

I am very excited to announce we have begun the long awaited improvements to our fitness center. We have purchased a couple of new workout machines. The first is a Peloton+ it should be delivered this month and should be ready for use before August 1st. The 2nd is a golf specific workout called the Stack System, you can learn more about it on the systems website: <https://www.thestacksystem.com>. Its currently available to use. We are very excited about these new arrivals and can't wait to have the fitness room busy again. If you are interested in utilizing the equipment, please email Kyle at [kyle@bethany-umc.com](mailto:kyle@bethany-umc.com) for more information.

## Fall Volleyball

Our Fall Volleyball league will begin in early September and will again feature two divisions:

Juniors - 7th Graders and Below

Seniors - 8th Graders and Above

We will practice on Monday and Wednesday nights, Juniors from 6:15-7:15 and Seniors from 7:15-8:30. Game will be played on Saturday mornings. Registration will open on July 15th for Church members and returning participants.

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**“ASCEND** had an AMAZING time in NYC! We served with many different mission partners who worked with the homeless and dealt with food scarcity issues within the city. We had a great round table discussion with Marc Greenberg of the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing. We then worked with many different mission partners across Manhattan and Brooklyn. A couple of our groups served with the Agape Food Rescue of Brooklyn who prepare meals and place them meals in refrigerators across the borough. Other groups worked with the Campaign Against Hunger of Brooklyn serving at their food pantry and helping build an urban farm. A few groups served with CityMeals (Meals on Wheels) delivering meals across Lower East Side and at Trinity’s SAFH preparing and serving meals to those in need. Our final mission partner was the Broadway Community Church where groups worked to prepare and distribute sack lunches for their community.

As hard as we worked - we also played our way across the city (and didn’t let the smoke from Canada slow us down!!) We ate dim sum in Chinatown, had a spectacular meal in Little Italy, ate soul food in Harlem, and pizza in Times Square. We went to a Yankees game (they lost, sorry Frank), to a Broadway show (middle school went to “Wicked” and high school went to “Shucked”), viewed the city from the One World Observatory and visited the 9/11 Memorial. We went to the State of Liberty, Trinity Church, Wall Street, Rockefeller, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, MoMA, saw the Brooklyn Bridge, shopped everywhere, visited Grand Central Station, and so much more!

If you want to see everything we did during the week and learn about our mission partners visit [www.ascendstudentministries.org](http://www.ascendstudentministries.org) where you can access our NYC Book, this contains our daily devotionals, schedules, mission partners, and more!

Pictures from all the small groups and their shenanigans can be found on ASCEND’s social media pages (LIKE and subscribe!).

It was a great trip and many thanks to all the adult chaperones who did an phenomenal job throughout the week.

We also want to give a special word of thanks to those who financially supported this mission trip through the envelopes fundraiser, special donations, and the Endowment for their generous gift.

The youth of Bethany is a special group of young people and it has been a pleasure to walk alongside them in their spiritual journey.



**Bethany United Methodist Church**  
**118 West 3rd South Street**  
**Summerville, SC**  
**29483 - 5997**

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## **Room Request**

If you have a standing room reservation, please submit your request by visiting our website at:

**[www.bethany-umc.com](http://www.bethany-umc.com)** or contact Ann Gill at  
**[agill@bethany-umc.com](mailto:agill@bethany-umc.com)**

Bethany Beacon is published monthly by Bethany United Methodist Church. Articles, story ideas, questions, comments, news or photos may be sent to the Communications Team at ***[ddominianni@bethany-umc.com](mailto:ddominianni@bethany-umc.com)***  
Please email your address changes or if you would like to be removed from the Bethany Beacon Newsletter mailing list.

Upcoming deadlines: ***Submissions are due the 15th*** of each month

[www.bethany-umc.com](http://www.bethany-umc.com)

[www.bethanygym.com](http://www.bethanygym.com)

[bethanygym.com](http://bethanygym.com) [facebook.com/BethanySummerville, SC](https://facebook.com/BethanySummerville)

[twitter.com/BethanyUMC](https://twitter.com/BethanyUMC)

[Instagram/@umcbethany](https://instagram.com/umcbethany)

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 AM. to 5 P.M.,

Friday 8:30 A.M. to Noon,

Church Office: 843.873.1230

Office Fax: 843.873.1937

Gym Office: 843.873.7261

Child Dev. Center: 843.821.1946

**Emergency Number:** If you have an emergency for which you need pastoral care at night, on weekends, or holidays, call 843.425.1069.