BETHANY BEACON

IN THIS ISSUE

- **National Day of Prayer Breakfast**
- **Flowertown**
- **VBS**
- **Bethany NOW Classes Resume**
- **Blood Drive**



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Looking beyond the blessing!

Jesus told His disciples to go into the deep waters and let down their nets for fish. When they did, their nets were filled up with fish to the point of breaking. Being fishermen and businessmen, they may have been tempted to start doing business. I mean, think how much they could make!

But God had a different purpose. The disciples' occupation as fishermen was just a vehicle for God to demonstrate His great power and love. He wasn't blessing them with fish so that they would get excited about fishing. He was blessing them with fish so that they could get their eyes off their fishing and on to the greater call He had for them! Thankfully, they left the fishing business and went off with the Lord to do great and mighty things.

Too many of us are wrapped up in fish. We seek the Lord for His blessings, prosperity, and success. But true discipleship is focusing not on the blessings of the Lord, but on the Lord of the blessings! Our commitment to Bethany shows our true discipleship. Our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness are important commitments that we have made. Does our commitment to our church reflect that of one who is wrapped up in fish or one who is focusing on the Lord of the blessings?

As we move from a reflective season of Lent to the joyous season of Easter, may we look inward and see where we are and reconnect to where we need to be. I know that there are many things that have completely turned our church (and our lives for that matter) upside down, but in the midst of all that is going on, can we see the silver lining among the

dark clouds? Can we see the eye instead of focusing on the storm? There have been many blessings that we have shared together. However, we can rejoice in our blessings, but let's not dwell on them! Let's set our eyes on the Lord and the calling He has for us. When He sees that we have pure and willing hearts, He will be faithful to use us to accomplish His glorious plan!

During this season of Easter (and all seasons for that matter), may we keep our eyes on the Lord of blessings!

Spell Chapel (Traditional) 8AM

Word & Table (Contemporary) 8:45AM

Sanctuary (Traditional) 8:45AM & 11:15AM

Ecuador 2023 Mission Trip

After having to delay the Ecuador 2023 Mission Trip until October, the team finally completed the trip October 14-28, 2023. Our team was smaller than in past years and included Brittany and Steve Bishop; Hank Bennett; Jason Engermann; Roland Fulcher; Noah Tidwell; Billy Hay; Arnold Huskins; Jim Parrish; Roanna Payne; Benjie Rodgers; and James "Bubba" and William Smoak. We were blessed with an uneventful flight this year. Sara Flores and Dakin Cook our missionaries in Ecuador met us at the airport. Together we made the 2 hour trip to Pastocalle. It was late when we arrived and everyone was tired. So we quickly went to bed after unloading the bus.

Our first Sunday was election day, so the church did not have services. After breakfast, we did some sightseeing for the benefit of the new folks on the trip. We went to the rock that was thrown out of Cotopaxi. We also got to go to a rose plantation. The owner was so proud of his roses and happily shared information about them. I was even the recipient of 6 beautiful long stemmed yellow roses. We also went to a historic museum and toured some beautiful grounds. Then finally stopped by the school to check out what we would be doing. Not much work had been done on the school over the past year except for building the fence around the property.

We were expecting cool rainy weather but were pleasantly surprised. The days started out overcast and chilly but when the sun came out, it was warm. There would be rain around us along with lightning in the mountains, but we only had to stop one day due to the rain.

Alot was accomplished the first week to get the roof over what would become a chapel and office space. The included preparing the metal beam and getting the area ready for the beams to be installed. We had some help from the neighbor's young turkey chicks. They came to visit and even tried to help Hank. Once the metal A-frames were built, a crane was employed to raise them into place. This was fascinating to watch. The crane lifted the welding equipment as well as other supplies to the roof the current building, then began the process of lifting the A-frames into place. Pretty impressive for a bunch of inexperienced workers.

Noah celebrated his 18th birthday with us. Roland and Steve worked with the kitchen staff to have a pizza party for him instead of a regular meal. It was a lot fun and the joy on Noah's face was nice to see. Ecuador pizza was pretty good.

The kids did a show for us each week to show their gratitude for us working the school. We also met with the Bishop of the Methodist Church in Ecuador. He provided us with a plaque that will be hung in the chapel and English version to be hung at Bethany.

Several days had 2-3 team members going to the current school to meet with the students. They are learning English and wanted to practice with us. One group talked to the 6th graders about professions and what the students wanted to do once they finished high school. Another group did "head and shoulders, knees and toes" with the 4th graders. That was fun to watch. The final group read books in English to the other children. Jason Engermann stole the show with this reading about animals and the sounds they make. The kids loved this.

Saturday, we drove to Mindo and toured an artisan chocolate plantation. We sampled all kinds of chocolate including chocolate tea and BBQ sauce. Changing of the guard at the airport with the drop off those leaving and pick up those arriving.

Brittany's luggage did not arrive and would be delivered later in the week.



Sunday had us going to church. The church is small with less than 50 attending. Roanna gave the message entitled "Won't you please be my neighbor". That seemed to be the theme for daily devotions over the course of the 2 weeks. Every year a theme emerges without us planning it. After church we toured a museum.

The second week went quickly and we were out of business before we knew it. Jason coordinated the welding and placement of the tiles on the A-frames. We did some touch up painting and the work was done. The local dog visit came to visit us regularly for our leftovers. Each day, the dog would be waiting patiently for his afternoon treat, and eventually he seemed to invite his other dog friends to come by as well. They were so eager and excited for Roanna to feed them that they would jump in the air for joy when it was feeding time.



Our last Friday had us going back to Quito. We went to the craft market. Saturday had the group split into 2. Some went to the cathedral and La Mitad del Mundo. The rest of us went back to Mindo. While there, we did the chocolate factory again as well as a butterfly and humming bird sanctuaries. It was really exciting to have humming bird drink nectar out of a cap in your hand. Later in the evening we all packed, went to dinner and the airport for an overnight flight home.

God blessed us richly on this trip. This will be the last trip to work on the school as another organization will be taking over the construction. We hope to continue our relationship with the school through Missions

Possible. Sara and Dakin said they would keep us updated on the progress that will be made. Hopefully we will be able to return for the dedication.

Happy Hearts

April 26

Meal Reservations due by April 21

Kevin Jarvis

Singer, Songwriter, Praise Band Leader

This month's entertainer is singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Kevin Jarvis. Kevin was born, raised, and now lives in Sumter, SC. He grew up hearing a wide variety of music from country to classical, from church hymns to hard rock. From that heritage, he believes that music should be positive in influence and spiritually uplifting. One reviewer described his music as "real, down-home songs about life, love, and loss." Kevin has released music as a solo artist and as a member of different singing groups such as *Farpoint, From the Morning, Greyfeather, Mercy's Hand* and *The Green Swamp Collective*. Having also played in various church praise bands, Kevin is currently the band leader at First Church of God in Sumter.

A lunch of lasagna, green beans, salad, garlic bread, assorted desserts and tea for \$8 will be served at noon. To make your meal reservation, call 843-771-3979 or email rooneyjrclan@mac.com. (Note the changes in making reservations.)

ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group will be looking at a new book called, *The Christian's Journey through Grief*. by Carol Peters-Tanksley, MD, DMin

- -How to deal with the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of grief
- -How grief affects one's relationship with God & others
- -How the hope of eternity helps in the journey through grief
- -How you can take the necessary steps toward healing

This group meets the first and third Tuesday in the church parlor at 10:30. Please call Christina Robinson at 609 513-4971 if you have any questions.

ASCEND



ASCEND is the youth ministries of Bethany United Methodist Church. All middle and high school students are invited to jain us in an evening of fellowship, games, youth led praise and worship, a message geated towards teenagers, and then age appropriate small groups

ASCEND also has several refreats, events, and mission apportunities throughout the year! To learn more about what ASCEND has to offer wait www.ascendstudentministries.org.





We continue to have a growing group of young people attending Ascend every Sunday Night. We meet at 5:30 for dinner and then get started with youth lead group games, The Ascend Praise Band, a message and then transition to small groups. Come out and check out what we are doing each and every Sunday Night.

Over the past month we have been extremely busy, traveling to Plum Creek, North Carolina for our annual winter retreat at TVR. We had an amazing weekend, hiking, skiing, fellowship and growing in our relationships with each other and God. We are already counting down the days to TVR 2025.

We also traveled to the Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, North Carolina for our Confirmation Retreat. We have eighteen young people going through the Confirmation process this year and this was a great kickstart to that journey.

We have also begun a partnership in the community with the Hands of Summerville, a non-profit organization that helps provide food and other essential items to families in need in the Summerville area. We had our first service opportunity with them during the Missions Possible and we look forward to many more opportunities for our Youth to serve in their community.

Finally we are in the process of finalizing our summer calendar and will be getting that out shortly. We are looking forward to continuing to serve the students of Bethany and the Summerville community throughout the summer months.

ASCEND cont'd





















KidsCare

We are counting down the days until school is out! Join us for Summer Camp 2024

Registration is open! Contact us so you don't miss out as space is limited.

We have some new and exciting activities planned. We will be going on some different off-campus adventures too!

If you are a junior/senior high school student or College-aged student home for the summer and looking for some experience working with school-aged kids and deepening their love for Jesus, KidsCare would love to talk with you!

Be on the lookout as we'll be registering for the 2024-2025 afterschool season soon!

"Look, I am making everything new" Revelation 21:5





Director Makala Boczkowski and Assistant Director Debra Trimeloni KidsCare@bethany-umc.com

Phone Number: 854-429-1856/854-429-1842



BETHANY UMC

BLOOD DRIVE SUNDAY, APRIL 14

118 WEST 3RD ST. SOUTH SUMMERVILLE SC 29483 .ocation: GYM



Schedule your appointment by scanning the QR code or online call RODNEY AT 843-709-0953

Recreation Ministry

We just wrapped up another amazing Bethany Basketball Season.

We had nearly 500 young people participate this year. A special congratulations to teams; Celtics, Razzle Dazzle, Farmers Elite, Heat, and Mavericks, for winning their respective tournament Championship.

We also wrapped up our Junior and Senior Boys leagues in March. The junior and senior leagues featured 7 teams from Bethany and teams from Church of Christ and Knightsville UMC. Special thanks to Pastor Robert Harper and the staff at Knightsville United Methodist Church for again partnering with us and hosting the lion's share of the games in our Junior and Senior Boys games.

The winner of our Junior Division was the Bethany Wildcats and our Senior Division was won for the first time by the Bethany Honey Badgers.

The Bethany Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday May 18th at the Summerville Country Club. There will be a shotgun start at 8:00. There will be great prizes for teams, individuals, raffles and the opportunity to win \$10,000 with a hole in one. We will again have an amazing barbeque lunch poolside after our round. You can sign up by calling us in the leisure ministry office, or shooting me and email or giving me a call. The cost is \$70.00

It's never too early to start thinking about the summer time and camps. We will be hosting a number of sports related camps this summer, basketball and volleyball.

Registration is open and can be found at our website: bethanygym.sportsignup.com

Kyle kboczkowski@bethany-umc.com





Child Development Center

Spring is such a wonderful time of year... new growth, new life, the miracle of Easter - there are so many things to celebrate!

Bethany (CDC

At Bethany CDC, spring is exciting because we get to see how much our preschool and kindergarten students have grown throughout the school year. The CDC halls are filled with the joyful sounds of children laughing and

singing, relishing the independence of newfound skills and the comfort of warm friendships made here at school. We are truly blessed by our sweet students and

families!



Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry is an important ministry at Bethany. The shawls are prayed for as they are made, the pastors bless them, and they are given out to support people in Christian love and support.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets quarterly, the first Monday of the guarter - January, April, July, and September in room 118 at 2 pm.

If you have any questions about being a part of this meaningful ministry or if you would like to give one of the prayer shawls to a person in need, please contact Marge Veneziano at 843-607-4519.

The Flowertown Festival will soon be here. We need lots of help with the following areas:

Parking – Parking will be staffed by the entire congregation, not just Youth. Monies raised will be divided up between Youth, Local and Global Missions. Help is needed with the Parking Lot Entrance (taking money and handing out parking passes) and with directing cars to spaces in the lot.

Hospitality Area – Tables and chairs will be set up for Festival visitors to enjoy themselves. Help is needed to keep the area clean and interact with visitors. We will not be handing out water this year.

YMCA Hospitality Suite – The YMCA is using a room by the gym for a Hospitality Suite for their staff and sponsors. A volunteer is needed to monitor the area and make sure that everything is going well. Also, the vendors who rent space on our property will need access to the restroom, so this volunteer will man the exterior building door for them.

Pancake Breakfast – Volunteers are needed to work in the kitchen, the serving area, the dining room and the dishwasher area. This is Saturday morning from 6-11:30am. Tickets for the pancake breakfast are \$5 each and do not include parking.

Sign-Up online at https://bethanyumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/scheduling/41/public or on the bulletin board near the water fountains downstairs.

Flowertown Festival Parking Passes

Parking on church property for the Flowertown Festival will be \$20 per day.

Bethany members are able to pre-purchase passes at a discount. One-day passes are \$10 each, or you can purchase a weekend pass for \$20.

All purchases must be made at Bethany in person. Passes will be available for sale on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, and anytime in the Business Office during business hours.

Parking the days of the Festival will be \$20 per day at the gate, even for Bethany members. There will be no charge if you are attending worship on Sunday morning, but please do not leave your car in the parking lot to visit the Festival without paying for parking.

Also, parking is not included in Pancake Breakfast ticket purchase. All money from parking will be divided between Bethany Youth, Local and Global Missions.

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 6:30am \$20 per person

Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World 2 Samuel 22:29-31

Gather on May 2 for a time of prayer, music, and worship with others in our community. A delicious breakfast will be served at 6:30am in the Bethany Fellowship Hall, followed by an inspirational program.

The keynote speaker will be Adrian Despres with Forge. Adrian played football for Furman University and served as chaplain for the University of South Carolina football team. He is currently a Christian speaker with Forge, an organization committed to challenging and equipping people to activate their God-given purpose. Adrian will speak on prayer and the power it can have in your life.

Guest ministers include Rev. Michael Ritter, Bethany UMC, Rev. Robert Toliver, Brownsville Community Church of God, Rev. Anita Herbert, Summerville Presbyterian Church, Pastor Juan Sanchez, Summerville Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Rev. Brent Delbohm, St. Andrews Parish Methodist Church.

Music selections will be performed by Summerville Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Singers, members of the Bethany choir, Summerville Presbyterian Praise and Worship Band, and the Plantation Singers.

Bethany is partnering with the Summerville YMCA to host this inspirational program. Tickets can be purchased at the church (contact Emily Vick), at the YMCA or through the link. https://buy.stripe.com/blYdR2eM41Aj63u9AB



National Day of Prayer Breakfast Thursday, May 2, 2024

Bethany United Methodist Church Dr. Robert J. Howell, Jr. Fellowship Hall 118 West Third Street South, Summerville, SC 29483 Tickets may be purchased through the YMCA or using the QR code provided.







Bethany Quilters

Bethany Quilters have continued to be busy completing numerous guilts this year, helping us to contribute \$1,200 to local missions and activities at Bethany UMC.

We are now ready to add quilts to our list in 2024. Should you or someone you know be interested in having a quilt top hand quilted, contact Betsy Grubb at 843-875-1690 for information.

We welcome hand quilters to join us on Tuesdays 10-2 in the blue house across from Bethany's welcome center. Bring your sewing bag and a lunch and enjoy some quilter's fellowship while making tiny stitches!



LET THE SON SHINE IN !!

Allow HIM and YOUR Stephen Minister to help carry your burdens. It will lighten your life and lift your spirits.

ALL can benefit- Women and Men matched with a trained and caring Stephen Minister.

Please accept this gift with a note or call to Pastor Mark Barnes at 843-873-2130. Also with a call or text to Sue D. Malphrus at 843-435-9116 or Leah Martin at 404-408-5457.

Bethany NOW will resume on Wednesday, April 3 with a full schedule.

Classes will run through May 1. Starting on the 3rd will be a new 5-week class, Bible Stories for Grown-Ups Reading Scripture with New Eyes, led by Joan Naugle in room 238.

In Bible Stories for Grown-Ups: Reading Scripture with New Eyes pastor Josh Scott will look at familiar Bible stories and reveal new details and interpretations for an adult audience. This study will consider stories many read as children including Noah's Ark, the binding of Isaac, Jonah and the big fish, Jesus and Zacchaeus, and more. Scott reimagines these stories and opens new visions for readers to understand well known pieces of Scripture in our current cultural environment.

Continuing classes will be Disciple I and Faith & Finance. All adult classes start at 6:15.



Bethany

CARE TEAM Serving and caring for our Church Family

Mission Statement

1 Peter 5:2-3 God Calls us to care for his people. The Care Team of Bethany United Methodist Church will respond to the joys and concerns of its members in such a way that members will feel God's presence.

Care Team Ministries

The following Ministry groups are within the Care Team. Please review the brief descriptions of each as provided below and let us know which team you want to become an active member of, we are looking forward to you joining us.

Care Team Steering Committee

The mission of this committee is to seek out needs in the church and community, by opening all lines of communications, while also providing support and guidance, to the Care Team Member Leaders.

Visitation Ministry

Personal visitations to individuals while homebound or in a care facility.

Flower Ministry

Teams rearrange altar flowers into individual arrangements for members in care facilities and those who are homebound.

Card Ministry Team members

rs send cards to Bethany members in Laferte001@msn.com

Batry Welcoming Ministry
A Celebration gift is delivered to the new parents, to welcome the newest member to their family. Sandy Mills 843-425-0622 Siem2007@gmail.com

Home Communion Ministry This Team delivers the Biessed com

once a month, to church members and friends in health care facilities and to those who are JC & Peggy Ridgeway

peggyridgeway@yahoo.com joridgeway@gmail.com

Grief Support Ministry and Bereavement Ministry Bareavement information is sent monthly to members

following the death of a loved one. Team help to prepare and serve food for Bethar after a funeral service.

Stephanie Parker Sparker@1@comcast.net

Prayer Sharel Ministry
This Team Makes hand knitted and crocheted shares, to comfort those who are experiencing difficult times. If you like to knit or crochet, please join us. (Lessons are also provided) Marge Veneziano 843-607-4519 mveneziano58@gmail.com

Plaming Ministry
Teams crochet plastic grocery bags into sleepiung bags for homeless vertierans, and others need. He is needed for crocheting and preparing plastics bay for us.

Clara Stores. 843-821-8910 clarastonner@att.net

The Care Team Ministry of Bethany United Methodist Church encompasses many ministry groups who rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn, and serve those who need encouragement and support. Through this ministry, we seek to follow Christ's command to love one another as he loves us, showing His love through prayer, care, and support. If you or someone in your life is experiencing one of life's battles or sorrows, or if you would like to be part of the Care Team, please contact us. Whatever your gift or talent, the Lord can use you

Rev. Mark Barnes Congregational Care Pastor Bethany United Methodist Church

Please note: Contact information for each Care Team Leader is located on the back of this brochure.

www.bethany-umc.com, (843) 873-1230

Children's Ministry

Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God

We need you to help our campers learn that God is with us in every situation. Kids will learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Once again, we are expecting over 500 Campers, from children who have turned 3 by 9/1/2023 through those children who are completing sixth grade. Children are placed in VBS classes according to their *current* grade level. We need lots of volunteers to make it a success. Please consider contributing your time and talent to this week of fun and blessings. Classroom teachers are our greatest need. Register to volunteer by emailing Stephanie Mitchum at smitchum@bethany-umc.com

VBS VOLUNTEER TRAINING - April 27-9:30am

We encourage all VBS teachers and assistants to attend the training session Saturday, April 27 from 9:30-11:30AM. This one-time session will provide a review of our curriculum and plans. Attendance is highly encouraged as some things are changing this year. Childcare will be provided. Teen Helpers do not need to attend.



REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN

VBS is for children who have turned 3 by 9/1/2023 through those children who are completing sixth grade. You can register quickly and easily online at Bethany-umc.com. We strongly encourage early registration as classes will fill up fast.

SUPPORT NEEDED

It is our goal to continue to offer a high quality program to our children each year. We are asking for \$15 per registrant to help offset the cost of a program of our scope and size. Payment can be made online at the time of registration. We are also accepting donations to sponsor students.



https://asburyhills.org/employment



HELP NOW

We are planning our decorations, crafts and missions. We have some take-home projects that we need help completing. These are simple projects that anyone can do – cutting out items, making paper chains, making wreaths, etc. We have all the supplies and instructions; we just need many hands to help. Please stop by the Children's Ministries office or the table near the elevator on the 3rd floor to take a project.

DONATIONS NEEDED

To help with decorating, crafts and other activities, we need several things from you! To make it easy for you, we have created an Amazon Wishlist. Use the QR code to access the list. There are also projects for you to take home. Stop by the table outside of the elevator on the 3rd floor to see the projects.



TEEN HELPERS

We need lots of help from our Youth during VBS! Teen helpers can begin signing up to help on April 1. Look for announcements and emails about this.

PRAYERS

Please keep our VBS team in your prayers as we plan and prepare for this special week! Thank you for your support!

Children's Musical

You will not want to miss the 11:15 service on April 28th! The Children's Choirs will lead the worship service by presenting their musical Mission: Possible - Sharing the Gospel ... By Our Love. What starts out as an ordinary day waiting for the bus, quickly turns into an action-packed adventure, starting with a strange note and a mission! Come along and join us on this MISSION: POSSIBLE—where God will show each of us what He has called us to do for His Kingdom!





US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #25
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
Summerville
29483

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**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 www.bethanygym.com

 $be than ygym.com\ facebook.com/Be than y\ Summer ville,\ SC$

twitter.com/BethanyUMC Instagram/@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.