

BETHANY BEACON

April 2024 | Volume 5

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We live in a society that is ever changing. Over the years we have gone from 45 records to cassettes to mp3 players. We have progressed from floppy disk to zip drive. We have gone from snail mail to email. Not many of us can keep up with the technology around us.

One piece of progress that I have enjoyed is Facebook. I enjoy keeping up with friends that are close and those that have moved away. There is one friend that always signs her page or her emails with, "How are you going to make a difference today?" I ask each of us to look around and see where God is calling you and act on that calling in a Christian way. Where are we going to be the hands and feet of God today?

During the Civil War President Lincoln received many requests for pardons for soldiers who were sentenced to die for desertion. Each appeal was frequently accompanied by numerous testimonial letters from friends and powerful people.

One day the president received an appeal for a pardon that stood out among the rest. It arrived without any documents or letters vouching for the prisoner. Lincoln was puzzled by this and asked the officer in charge whether the soldier had anyone to speak on his behalf. To Lincoln's amazement the officer on duty said that the soldier had not one friend and that his entire family had been killed in the war. The president turned this over in his mind and informed the officer that he would give his ruling in the morning.

Lincoln wrestled with the issue all night. Desertion was no small matter. Overruling a death sentence would send the wrong message to other soldiers. Yet he found it difficult not to have sympathy for someone so alone in the world.

In the morning when the officer asked the president for his decision, he was shocked to hear Lincoln say that the testimony of a friend had sealed his decision on the soldier in question. When the officer reminded the president that the request had come with no letters of reference, Lincoln simply stated, "I will be his friend." He then signed the request and pardoned the man. (Maxwell, 1999)

My friends, this is the action that Jesus took for each and everyone of us on that cross. It is our responsibility to help those around us - those that are in need and those that are not. Where we hear God calling us, that is where we shall go. It is our responsibility to say, "Here I am Lord, send me!"

From Rev. Michael Ritter

WORSHIP WITH US

Spell Chapel (Traditional)
8AM

Word & Table (Contemporary)
8:45AM

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

Memorials from January 20th to March 15th 2024

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Olin McCurry (Epworth)

By Rick & Debbie Call
By Ann Gill
By Cindy & Happy Finucan
By Annette Goins
By Ed & Margie Muckenfuss
By Laurence & Donna Clair
By Liz Williams
By Sally & Davis Taylor
By Franklin Weathers
By Brian & Karen Fox
By Ted & Jill Webster
By Jim & Marcia McEleny (**Fellowship of Christian Athletics**)
By Jack & Donna Mobley

In Memory of Lou Housand (Memorials)

By Penny & JD Metts
By Tony & Brenda Frye
By Laurence & Donna Clair (**Epworth**)
By the Charles Peace Class (**Epworth**)
By Elwood & Marie Varner
By Peggy McQuown-Gramling

In Memory of Bob Cheatham (Memorials)

By Ann Gill (**Operating**)
By Kevin & Kristi Jones
By Jane & Frank Winecoff
By Sally & Davis Taylor
By Otis & Deborah Engleman
By Emily & David Hankins
By Doug & Martha Hughes

In Memory of Toni Sizemore (Operating)

By Ann Gill
By John Duke

In Memory of Valerie Oldham (Bridges)

By Patrick & Rachel Brickman
By Mary K. Luton

In Memory of Sharon Chellis (Endowment)

By Patricia Riley
By Sharon Chellis
By Ed & Margie Muckenfuss
By The Bufort Blanton Family
By Laurence & Donna Clair (**Epworth**)
By RG & Barbara Waring
By Jim & Marcia McEleny

In Memory of Stephen Buddin (Spell)

By Patricia Riley
By Jim & Marcia McEleny

In Memory of Larry Bailey (Memorials)

By Ed & Margie Muckenfuss
By Jim & Marcia McEleny

In Memory of Fenn Stallsmith (Memorials)

By Ed & Margie Muckenfuss

In Memory of Lila Davis (Memorials)

By Ed & Margie Muckenfuss

In Memory of Jim Inabinet (Memorials)

By Ann Gill (**Operating**)

Bethany Bells Beginners Group

If you haven't played bells before or if you haven't played in a while and are looking to play again, we would love to have you join us in the Bethany Bells group. Practices will begin on May 8th from 6:00-6:50pm and will continue every Wednesday through May 29th. This group will perform at Spell Chapel in June. They will resume practice during the Fall Bethany NOW schedule. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Barbara Bassett at 843-810-3590.

Emily Vick, Director of Christian Education. This group will play in Spell Chapel in June. They will pick back up with practice during the Fall Bethany NOW schedule. Contact Barbara Bassett at 843-810-3590 if you are interested in joining or if you have any questions.

The Finance Committee is providing the report below as a snapshot of our financial performance through March 31st. While giving is down versus our projections, spending has been limited. In all, our operating budget is favorable for the year. Our building budget is unfavorable through March. The taxes for the 414 S. Main Street parcel were revalued at a much higher amount than we had budgeted. At this point, we remain in a good position with over \$1,115,000 cash on deposit. Thank you to those who remain steadfast and loyal in your giving to support our missions at Bethany.

Bethany United Methodist Church Summary Income Statement As of 03-31-2024

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD	% Variance
Operating Account				
Giving	\$ 413,021	\$ 458,117	\$ (45,096)	-9.84%
Payroll & Admin	(317,571)	(337,883)	20,313	-6.01%
Church Property	(73,864)	(90,236)	16,373	-18.14%
Apportionments	(34,435)	(34,435)	-	0.00%
Councils	(28,044)	(38,155)	10,111	-26.50%
Net Operations	\$ (40,891)	\$ (42,592)	\$ 1,701	3.99%

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD	% Variance
Building Account Account				
Giving	\$ 41,234	\$ 35,094	\$ 6,140	17.50%
Rent and Other Revenue	20,800	24,703	(3,903)	-15.80%
Loan Interest	(29,185)	(29,286)	101	-0.35%
Debt Service 414	(11,633)	(11,633)	0	0.00%
Rental Expenses	(21,956)	(5,373)	(16,583)	308.63%
Net Building	\$ (739)	\$ 13,504	\$ (14,244)	-105.47%

Happy Hearts

Charleston Hot Shots

Happy Hearts ❤️

May 24 - Happy Hearts with The Charleston Hot Shots

Charleston Hot Shots is a unique skiffle jazz band performing blues, ragtime, and folk music, played on a mixture of guitars, ukuleles, dulcimers, kazoos, and harmonicas.

May 19 - Meal Reservations are due.

A lunch of fried chicken, rice, green beans, roll, assorted desserts, & tea for \$8 will be served at 12:00 noon. Call Helen at 843-771-3979 (leave message) or email her at rooneyjrclan@mac.com to make your meal reservation.

ALL AGES ARE INVITED.



Foster Parent Appreciation Baskets

THE EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME LOWCOUNTRY HUB, HOUSED RIGHT HERE AT BETHANY, IS ASKING CHURCHES TO HELP PROVIDE BASKETS FOR THEIR FOSTER HOMES. MAY IS FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION MONTH, AND THESE BASKETS WILL HELP SHOW HOW MUCH THE HOMES ARE NEEDED AND VALUED.

BETHANY WILL COMPLETE 10 BASKETS FOR EPWORTH AND WE ARE ACCEPTING MONETARY DONATIONS TO PURCHASE THE BASKET ITEMS.

YOU CAN PLACE YOUR DONATION IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR BRING IT TO THE BUSINESS OFFICE (PLEASE MARK IT FOR EPWORTH BASKETS). YOU CAN ALSO DONATE ONLINE USING THE LINK BELOW. DONATIONS ARE NEEDED BY APRIL 27.

[HTTPS://BETHANYUMC.CCBCHURCH.COM/GOTO/FORMS/415/RESPONSES/NEW](https://bethanyumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/415/responses/new)



ASCEND

Bethany United Methodist Church

ASCEND SUNDAYS

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

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

ASCEND also has several retreats, events, and mission opportunities throughout the year! To learn more about what ASCEND has to offer visit www.ascendstudentministries.org.

Senior Graduation Recognition

Dear Families,

I wanted to let you know of our plans for our Senior Recognition, Dinner honoring our Graduating Seniors and our Ascend End of the Year Party .

We will be recognizing all graduation Seniors on Sunday May 19th at the 8:45 traditional service, during that service seniors will be recognized and presented with a couple of gifts from the congregation. This is a big moment in the life of every young person, and we want them all to feel how important they have been and will continue to be to the body of the Church.

We will continue the celebration that night at Ascend, we will have a dinner honoring the graduating seniors and celebrating a great school year for our Student Ministries. All graduating seniors and their families are invited to attend. Dinner will begin at 6:00, with a brief program to follow.

Below is a form that will collect the information that I need ASAP to make sure we have all of the gifts ready to present that morning.

Hope to see you all there on May 19th

In His service,

Kyle Boczkowski
Bethany United Methodist Church
Youth and Recreation Ministries Director



<https://bethanyumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/409/responses/new>

Senior Graduation Recognition

Senior High School Graduates will be recognized at the 8:45am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary. Please use link or QR code to fill in all pertinent information pertaining to the celebration.



<https://bethanyumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/409/responses/new>

ascendstudentministries.org

KidsCare



May is the month of new life! Allowing us to let the sights, sounds, and smells of a new season bring life to something new within us. To live in the freedom of God! Spring reminds us to find peace around us and to “cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you”. 1 Peter 5:7

May means the hustle and bustle of another glorious school year is ending soon. SUMMER CAMP IS COMING! We are still taking registrations for some weeks for summer camp 2024.. If you want to be a part of all the fun activities we have planned, reach out to us today!

We are currently accepting registrations for afterschool for 2024-2025 School year. The routes fill up fast so don't delay in getting a spot!

What a blessing it is to be able to serve God's kingdom by helping our young ones come to know His will for their lives!

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

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

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 quarter - 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.



Recreation Ministry

CINDY BAGGOTT'S BATTLING BISHOPS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 24th- June 28th
from 9am-1pm

Cost \$150

Registration Coming SOON!!



COACH CALVIN DAVIS' LADY GREEN WAVE CAMP (GIRLS ONLY)
BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 22nd- July 26th
from 9am-1pm

Cost \$150

<https://bethanygym.sportngin.com/register/form/278913190>



Coach Greg Elliott and David Long
Green Wave Basketball Camp
Bethany United Methodist Church

July 8th-July 12th
from 9am-1pm

Cost \$150

Registration Coming SOON!!



KURT JAMES BASKETBALL CAMP
BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE 10TH-JUNE 14TH
FROM 9AM-1PM

COST \$150

<https://bethanygym.sportngin.com/register/form/906560694>



Child Development Center



We are wrapping up another wonderful school year at Bethany CDC. In May we will celebrate our students and all they have accomplished this school year. Our 2 and 3-year-olds will have closing picnics on our playground, our 4-year-olds will have an art & music program, and our kindergarten class will have a graduation.

Saying goodbye is always bittersweet, but we know that our students, families, and staff will have a wonderful summer. We think of 1 Thessalonians 5:15, and we are thankful for every part of this school year.

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Thank you to our sweet **students**. Your curiosity, enthusiasm and joy have filled our hearts this year!

Thank you to all the **parents** who have trusted us to care for their children and help them grow & learn this year. It has been an honor being part of your child's life.

Thank you to our amazing **staff**. Your dedication and hard work have made this year successful and fun. You love the students, and it shows in everything you do!

Thank you to the **staff and community of Bethany United Methodist Church**. We appreciate your support and feel honored to be a ministry of BUMC.

And most of all... thank you to **God** for allowing us to be part of our student's lives and to serve others through the CDC.

Our new school year will begin in August, and we cannot wait to see what God has in store for the CDC! Have a blessed summer!



Bethany Quilters

Bethany Quilters have continued to be busy completing numerous quilts 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 .



Katie's Krops Desserts

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 no later than 11:00 am. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

Next date is May 9th

The upcoming 2024 dates are as follows:

June 13th, July 18th, August 22nd,
September 19th, October 17th, November 14th, &
December 12th



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 send cards to Bethany members in need of encouragement and support.
Phyllis Laferte
843-810-9987
Laferte001@msn.com

Baby Welcoming Ministry

A Celebration gift is delivered to the new parents, to welcome the newest member to their family.
Sandy Mills 843-425-0622
Sjcm2007@gmail.com

Home Communion Ministry

This Team delivers the Blessed communion elements once a month, to church members and friends in health care facilities and to those who are homebound.
JC & Peggy Ridgeway
240-538-4457
peggyridgeway@yahoo.com
jonridgeway@gmail.com

Grief Support Ministry and Bereavement Ministry

Bereavement information is sent monthly to members following the death of a loved one. Team members help to prepare and serve food for Bethany families after a funeral service.
Stephanie Parker
843-442-4236
Sparker51@comcast.net

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This Team Makes hand knitted and crocheted shawls, 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

Plumbing Ministry

Teams crochet plastic grocery bags into sleeping bags for homeless veterans, and others need. Help is needed for crocheting and preparing plastics bags for us.
Clare Stonner
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

It's almost time for us to gather our campers for VBS and learn to trust God in all things. If you haven't registered yet, please do so quickly as many of our classes are already full. There are many ways you can be a part of this amazing week.

Decorations Help:

We always need help prepping decorations for the building. You can cut out items, make tissue paper balls, string garlands, and do a variety of other projects. Stop by the table by the elevator on the 3rd floor or the Children's Ministries office, and we'll give you something to work on. We would also love to have your help with decorating the building. We will begin on May 28 during the day to decorate certain areas of the church. Decorating will continue daily until we're finished! Please let the Children's Ministries team know if you can help decorate. It's a fun way to help out!



Teen Helpers:

Any Youth (7th grade and above) that would like to assist during VBS, let us know now! We need help in all grade levels, but some special areas are already full. If you would like to be a helper, please contact Stephanie Mitchum at smitchum@bethany-umc.com and let her know what age group you would like to work with.

Amazon Wishlist:

To help with decorating, crafts, and other activities, we need your help! We've created an Amazon Wishlist to make it easy for you. Use this link or QR code to access the list: <https://a.co/97mgc5b>



Other Ways You Can Help:

- Pray – Your prayer for our campers, counselors, missions, and program helps us to have a fantastic week.
- Teacher Snacks – Each day we provide a snack table for our volunteers. We need two-liter drinks, breakfast items, finger foods, chips and dips, hot dips, and anything else you think our volunteers would like.
- Set-up and Break-down – We need lots of help moving tables, setting up rooms, decorating, and many other things. Set up will be on Sunday, June 16 from 12:30 – 4:00, and the breakdown will be on June 21 from 10:00-3:00. Just show up ready to help!

If you would like to help in any way or have any questions about VBS, please call Emily or Stephanie at 843-873-1230 or email evick@bethany-umc.com or smitchum@bethany-umc.com.

Children's Church

Children's Church will take a summer break from June 18 to August 4 giving our volunteers some time off. The last day of the program will be June 16.

Wonderful Wednesdays are coming back!

In July, we will host Wonderful Wednesdays again this year. This is a time for families to enjoy fun activities together such as movie nights and crafts. Look out for more information to come.

Kid's Musical April 28

"You won't 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". The story begins with an ordinary day waiting for the bus, but quickly turns into an action-packed adventure when the kids receive a strange note and a mission! Join us on this MISSION: POSSIBLE and discover what God has called each of us to do for His Kingdom!"



What a fantastic week we had during Missions Possible! It was an enjoyable experience to provide assistance to our mission partners by helping them with their daily tasks. We witnessed them in action and were able to gain a better understanding of their purpose. Despite the unfavorable weather on Saturday, more than 100 people participated in various projects ranging from painting the church to making mastectomy pillows, and even moving offices for some of our partners.

Sunday was an inspiring day, starting with Jeff McIntyre's remarkable sermon from Camp Nathanael. The Missions Fair had over 25 booths, and all were excited about the turnout and the number of people they were able to share information with.







Blessing Box Donations Needed

**You can drop off donations in front of the
Business Office door during
the week or on Sundays. The following are
needed:**

- Canned Meats**
 - Macaroni and Cheese boxes**
 - Spaghetti/Pasta jarred or canned sauces**
 - Peanut Butter**
 - Jelly**
 - Canned/ready to eat Ravioli, Stew, Chili**
 - Fruit** (large cans and individual serving cups)
 - Individual Grits packets**
 - Granola bars**
 - Snack Pack Pudding**
 - Sandwich Crackers** (Cheese/Peanutbutter)
 - Rice/Pasta/Potato** in envelopes or boxes
- Canned items pull top cans preferred*



JUNE 17-21, 2024
9:00AM – 12:30PM
REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.BETHANY-UMC.COM
OR USE THE QR CODE





5 Reasons to Become a Stephen Minister

**Do you have the gifts of caring or compassion or empathy?
Is God calling you to become a Stephen Minister?**

Consider the following list and let these reasons help with your answer. Please prayerfully consider whether Stephen Ministry is the right place for you to serve. If so, find an application in one of the tabletop kiosks around the church or ask for one. Fill it in and return to Pastor Mark Barnes by early September. The training class starts mid-January '25.

5 REASONS:

- 1 Make a real difference in the lives of people who are hurting.
- 2 Help our congregation ensure that no one suffers alone
- 3 Learn what to say and do – and what NOT to say and do – to care effectively for people who are suffering.
- 4 Be involved in a meaningful ministry that uses your spiritual gifts.
- 5 Deepen your faith as you see God at work through your ministry.

For any questions, call or text these Stephen Leaders:
Brenda Byrd (912-674-8314) or Michelle Helton (843-709-1679)



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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

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

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.