



# The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel United Church of Christ

April 2014

***Bethel United Church of Christ Our mission is to be and make disciples  
In authentic community for the good of the world.***

## ***Beacon Meanderings April 2014***

*The month of April will be upon us and Holy Week will be an integral part of the Church Community very soon. I hope that as a sign of spring, our Snowbirds will return just as the Robins and Wax Wing Blackbirds have begun to do.*

*Spring has arrived and on the first day we received snow, we know we are getting close to Holy Week and Easter because...the Bible tells us so. As we prepare I came across a reading from Seasons of the Spirit, entitled, "**On the Road into Jerusalem**". The story introduces us to the two donkeys as recorded in the Book of Matthew 21:1-11. In those scriptures, there are no names given to these creatures but alas, they have appeared in a rendering of that day in story form. The name of the mother donkey is **Sela**, which means, 'rock' in Hebrew. The other donkey, the newborn, is named '**Tiqvah**', which means 'hope'. Now the author of this story **On the Road into Jerusalem** must have put a great deal of thought into this interpretation. Especially as Jesus rides into the city on the two donkeys named rock and hope, as the people shout Hosanna, Hosanna to the King. (Save us, Save us King).*

*Do we think of Jesus that way in our lives on our road to wherever we are heading? The symbolism of riding on creatures of rock and hope create a different perspective for us to consider. Many years ago and maybe even today people would name their cars, Olde Betsy, Ramrod, Gas Guzzler, Stump Buster for 4 wheelers, and many others but I do not recall any named hope or rock. Just possibly, if we really thought of Jesus out there riding to see us as he travels on hope and rock, it might signify something special for us in our needy lives seeking redemption in this time in Lent.*

*At the end of the story, the young girl is leading her two donkeys' home, it says, "**As Sela and Tiqvah and I plodded along and as the sun went down, it felt as though Jesus was still with me.**" As we plod along on our journey to Jerusalem and our journey in life, do you ever feel that Jesus is still with you? What a wonderful thought and story this is for us to consider. On Palm Sunday, we hope to share this story with you in a special reading. When you hear the reading, you will now be prepared to visualize your rock and hope carrying Jesus into Jerusalem as Jesus continues to still be with each of us in our own journeys.*

*In closing, I want to share the new commandment that Jesus shared with his disciples:*

**John 13:34-35** Common English Bible (CEB) <sup>34</sup>*"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. <sup>35</sup> This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."*

*As we go through the remainder of our time in Lent and prepare for Holy Week may God's Blessings and Presence be a part of your lives.*

*Pastor Haar*

## Bethel United Church of Christ Notes from Consistory

**Finance report:** Janette McKibben reported that all bills have been paid even though giving is down during January through March. Anne McKarns gave a prayer for our financial health.

### **Consistory President's Report:**

Lee Kornick told the consistory that both Nancy and Lee signed an agreement letter for the organist position and a copy of the agreement was given to both parties.

It was decided that a group email would be used to communicate the agenda and the minute for consistory. This will make communication easier and faster getting info to other consistory members.

### **Pastor Report:**

A typed report was provided by Rev. Haan Phelps requesting April 6, 8:30 pm as a date for Confirmands and Consistory members to meet. At this meeting Confirmands will be able to ask questions of the members. Rev. Haan also reported that the Confirmands are in the process of writing their own "Statement of Faith". They will be confirmed on Palm Sunday April 13th along with two baptisms, Colton Foos and Olivia Brunner.

Rev. Haan extended an invitation to the Deacons to go with him at least once a month to make home visits to our people who are unable to attend church.

While Rev. Haan's is taking his study leave at the end of May and the beginning of June, Rev. Sally Ketterer will be giving the message on May 18, Elder Lee Kornick June 1, and Rev. Don Schumaker on June 8 with Communion.

A wedding will be taking place at the church on April 12.

### **All Ministry Reports:**

Lee Kornick reported the food pantry served 103 families totaling 289 individuals in February. The pantry continues to gain new volunteers that they are very thankful for. Lee Kornick will be attending Second Harvest's annual meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The pantry is in need of boxes to put groceries in. (any size)

### **Property Committee:**

Lee will be making contact with another tree service company to harvest trees on the Church's property for a profit for the church. He will report on this at the next Consistory meeting. Lee also reported on the approval of bids and shared that work on the lift project starts March 17.

Rev. Haan met with Kenny Hoopes who said the approved bid contractors will be contacted and will begin on March 17. Kenny Hoopes will be checking on the progress and quality of all work. Cost for the entire Lift/Remodeling project is less than the \$175,000 as planned, including upgrades and alternate choices. Rev. Haan reported on improvements such as the Lift doors opening automatically. Tile color and design and paint colors will be chosen by 3 or 4 people from the congregation. Most work is being done by local contractors. Work will commence Mondays thru Fridays. Rev. Haan shared that a telephone line will be put into the lift. This is a "Must Have" for an add-on.

**Worship:** Rev. Haan Phelps said Ash Wednesday was nice with over 40 in attendance for dinner with plenty of help preparing and serving the meal. There were about 35 attending the service. Consistory members commented on how impressive the burning of the palms was. The West Branch Ministerial Association will be having a Good Friday Community Service at Reading Church @7:00 P.M. The service will be titled "The 8 Stations of the Cross"

### **Old Business:**

Consistory Training Session was reviewed by discussion

The Website was reviewed and it was determined that we would use the present website. Luanne Sanor pointed out we will need someone to update our website monthly.

Luanne Sanor reported that Open Table will have another meeting on April 12 for anyone interested in attending.

Lee volunteered to call the Pastor at the Brethren Church in North Georgetown and get details on their VBS to see if we can do a VBS together and what our responsibilities would be if we decide to join them for VBS. Lee will report his findings at the next Consistory meeting.

**New Business:** Rev. Haan presented a Habitat Letter for a Veteran Habitat dedicated house. It was voted that Bethel will support the Habitat "Stud-a-thon" by purchasing three studs.

Discussion was tabled until the Aprils meeting about Internet service in the sound room. (Need decision on procuring)

**Closing Prayer was given by Pastor Haan**

**Next Meeting is April 8, 2014 at 6:30 P.M.**

## Beacon Financial Report: February 2014

Monthly approved budget \$14,437.61

Income: \$ 15,646.01      annual 2014: \$ 24,235.97

Expense: \$ 14,280.87      annual 2014: \$ 27,477.18

Difference \$ +1,365.14 Difference \$ -3,241.21



### *Reminders:*

*Remember, as a congregation, we have made a commitment to tithe at least 10% of our remodeling project money for a minimum of \$17,500*

Received through Feb. 2014 for remodeling project:      \$3,140.00

Great Job.....giving was awesome in February! Keep up the good work. We still have some bills that are running our checking account low – but your generosity helped lots.

***Ideas for giving:*** Do you pay bills online? Did you know that you can set up your giving to Bethel UCC as an online payment? That way, when you are unable to attend worship, you can still be faithful to your tithe. Brian and I have started doing this, and it is so nice. The church receives our giving in a check from the bank weekly. No more checks to write and our giving stays consistent. *Just a thought....*



If you are able to assist with providing a meal and or preparing a meal for Bethel Buddies. Please contact the church office. Your assistance is greatly needed and appreciated.

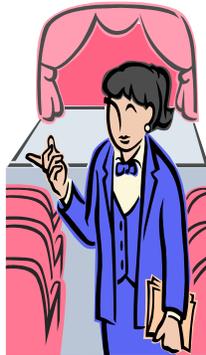


## April Birthdays

- 4/1 Jim Ramsey
- 4/12 Delores Stoffer
- 4/13 Julie Harris
- 4/19 Julie Sell
- 4/20 Carol Barnett
- 4/22 Tom Foos
- 4/23 Vincent Brunner
- 4/27 Ruth Denny

### Head Usher Helen McBride

- April 6
- April 13
- April 20
- April 27



### Liturgist

- April 6 Youth
- April 13
- April 20 Pam
- April 27 Lee



### Acolytes– Katherine Harlan

- April 6
- April 13
- April 20
- April 27



### Coffee Time Host

- April 6
- April 13
- April 20 Dee Kornick
- April 27 Brian Bandy





| Sunday   | Monday                           | Tuesday                      | Wednesday | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday            |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--|--|---------------------|
|  |                                  | 1<br>April Fools Day         | 2         | 3  | 4  | 5                   |
| 6<br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10am Worship  | 7                                | 8<br>Consistory 6:30<br>P.M. | 9         | 10<br>Girl Scout 5:30<br>pm– 7pm   | 11<br>Wedding<br>rehearsal   | 12<br>Wedding       |
| 13<br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10am Worship<br>Palm Sunday<br>See page 7 for de-<br>tails   | 14<br>First Night of<br>Passover | 15                           | 16        | 17<br>Maundy Thursday<br>Service 7:00 pm<br>See page 7 for de-<br>tails  | 18<br>Good Friday at<br>Reading Brethren<br>Church 7 pm<br>See page 7 for de-<br>tails         | 19<br>Holy Saturday |
| 20<br>Easter<br>See page 7 for de-<br>tails  | 21                               | 22<br>Earth Day              | 23        | 24<br>Girl Scouts 5:30<br>P.M.–7 P.M.  | 25   | 26                  |
| 27<br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10am Worship<br>Personal Safety<br>Demonstration after<br>worship service<br><br>Singspiration at<br>Reading Church<br>7pm | 28                               | 29                           | 30        | <b>Wednesday's Schedule</b><br>4-5:30 Food Pantry-<br>5:30– 7:00 B. B/Adult Bible Study<br>5:30– 7:00 B.B. Children's Bible Study/<br>7:00-7:30 Bell Practice<br>7:30– 8:30 Choir Practice | <br><br>5 |                     |

**Ministry Staff**

T 330/525-7330

F 330/525-0000

***www.bethelucc-beloit.org***

***E-MAIL***

***Bethelunitedchurchofchrist***

***@ymail.com***

*Minister*

**Rev. Haan Phelps**

haan.phelps@hotmail.com

*Minister of Visitation*

**Rev. Jerry Kruse**

jerrykruse@embarqmail.com

*Ministry Assistant*

**Deborah Cappa**

Bethel

unitedchurchofchrist@ymail.com

**Anne McKarns**

Treasurer

**Wayne Fieldhouse**

Custodian

**Communion Elder or Deacon for the  
Month of April**

**Lee Kornick**



**Prayer Concerns:** Marilyn Gobely, Kenneth Brunner, Wayne & Patsy Harlan, Andy Stahl, Faye Vernon, Linda Stanley Crawford, Diane Liebhart, Mary Jo Dye, Jim Ewing, Jim Orlosky, Mary Lou Scott, Delores Stoffer, Goldie Summers, Matt Ketterer, Mike Early, Betty Ring, Delores Brunner, Ina Cameron, Maxine Lentz, Randi Ring, Kylie Dillon, John Handschin, Betty Simpkins, Janice McLaughlin, and our military.



Bethel would like to Thank the Caplea Group (Kenny Hoopes ) for all the work getting the Lift Project off the ground on March 17th and pushing for a completion of the beginning of May.

Emmaus Road (David Becker) sent us thanks for our support of His ministry. There is a nice letter from him on the board by the office for you to read.

We at Bethel have you snowbirds (because its still cold here) on our minds of late and hope you have a safe trip home. See you soon.

# *Holy Week at Bethel United Church of Christ*

*April 13 thru April 20, 2014*

## *Palm Sunday*

*We will celebrate this Sunday with our worship service beginning at 10:00 AM. Included in the service will be the Celebration of the Palms as we enter the sanctuary with our Palm fronds to welcome Jesus to be with us in worship. Our service will also include the Baptism of two of our young people.*

## *Maundy Thursday*

*Our service this evening will begin at 7:00 PM and include a Service of Holy Communion.*

## *Good Friday*

*The Community Service will be conducted at Reading Brethren Church on Georgetown Road beginning at 7:00 pm. This is a traditional gathering of the ecumenical community as we worship together. This year the Pastor's will present the 'Stations of the Cross'. An offering will be taken with the proceeds used as a portion of the scholarship funds given to local students.*

## *Easter Sunday*

*Easter Sunrise Service will be conducted April 20 at 6:30 AM. The service will be at the home of Ken and Ruth Brunner 23677 Hartley Road, Alliance, Ohio. This service will be on the east side of their home. Dress appropriately as we will be outside. Communion will be served.*

*Easter Breakfast will be served at approximately 7:30 am following the Sunrise Service in the Fellowship Hall of Bethel Church.*

*Easter Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 am. We will be recognizing our Confirmation class and Mentors, Special Music and Holy Communion included in our Resurrection Sunday Worship.*

### **Don't be a Victim**

**Come to the Personal Safety Demonstration at First Immanuel**

**April 27 (after worship service a meal will be provided, then the demonstration will begin.)**

**Call 330-823-7124 to let them know you are coming.**

We began our Feinstein Challenge on March 1 and ends on April 30th. This is our second year for this challenge and we are hoping it will be even better than the first. Contributions can be made to our pantry in a number of ways. One way is by bringing in items like shampoo, toilet paper, deodorant, canned goods and non-perishable items. We track the giving of these items by weight, which is how Feinstein calculates what we will receive from there organization. Another way we give is monetary. You can specify an amount of money you want to contribution on your giving envelope. Other ways to give to this challenge are getting your school or organization involved by collecting items to donate to the pantries. Let's see how many ways we can find to contribute to our pantry so we can better serve our community with the help of Alan Feinstein.



Alan Shawn Feinstein  
37 Alhambra Circle  
Cranston, RI 02905

**Please use MY money to help  
your neighbors in need!**

My name is Alan Shawn Feinstein. For the past 16 years, I have been giving away \$1 million each year to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country.

This year, I am doing it again...

WHATEVER YOU DONATE TO THIS AGENCY,  
I WILL ADD MONEY TO IT. THE MORE  
YOU GIVE, THE MORE OF MY \$1 MILLION  
THEY'LL GET—THANKS TO YOU!

**Why am I doing this? Because I believe each of us was put here on earth to do what we can to help those in need. You got this letter because we feel that YOU believe that, too.**

My money started this campaign but it is **YOU** who will help decide how many needy people in your city or town will be fed this year.

This has become the greatest grass roots campaign ever to fight hunger in our country. Your donation makes you a partner in it with me!

We Are Needed Now!

**Please give whatever you can - I gladly add my money to yours.**

(My \$1 million will be divided proportionately in full among  
the agencies receiving donations from my offer.)

Thank you for sharing my heart, and the hope that—someday—no one will ever go hungry.

Sincerely Yours,



Alan Shawn Feinstein

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*P.S. All that will matter to us someday is what we did while we were here to help those in need.*



*Now More Than Ever.  
Help Build It!*

January 22, 2014

Dear Church Friends,

**Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity is holding a new kind of fundraiser – it's a Stud-A-Thon!**

It's probably not the kind of stud you're thinking about, but rather the studs that are built into the framing of a house.

We're "selling" studs to raise money for the 2014 Veteran Build. Anyone can buy an eight (8) foot stud and sign their name, decorate it with paint, stickers, pictures, or practically whatever they want. For example, a church like yours could buy a stud (or more than one) and write the names of all the veterans who attend, attended, or are loved by your membership. Or buy it in honor/memory of one particular veteran and use the stud to showcase that person's achievements or commitment to this country. Perhaps you'd like to buy a stud to commemorate a particular event – like Pearl Harbor or a promotion to a higher rank – or to just write note of encouragement, verses, and the like for the homeowner. When your stud is complete, return it to Habitat and it will be built into the 2014 Veteran Build house. We want this Veteran homeowner to feel like she is forever surrounded and supported by fellow veterans and those who appreciate her bravery. Our goal is to sell 200 studs so that each stud in the home represents a veteran.

Each 8ft stud is \$150 and can be delivered to your church for signatures or decorating. This is an incredible opportunity to support Habitat and Veterans in the Alliance community. Please contact the Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity office at 330.823.2448 or Sarah@AllianceAreaHabitat.org to make arrangements. Studs are due back to Habitat no later than May 1st, 2014.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful chance to give back to our veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Lane".

Sarah Lane  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Gates".

Pat Gates  
Co-Chair of Veteran Build

330-581-1845

Sharon LaMotta  
Co-Chair of Veteran Build

# Holy Week Reflections



## Day 1 Cloak of deference/honouring

Disciples placed their cloaks on the donkey and colt Jesus was riding on. The crowd laid their cloaks on the ground in front of Jesus. They wouldn't do that lightly. Cloaks were costly and it is likely they would own only one. They therefore would be making themselves vulnerable.

**Reflect** on the events of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. What words of praise and lament do you long to release from the depths of your heart this week?

## Day 2 Cloak of vulnerability and naked trust

Jesus serves the disciples at the Last Supper.

**Reflect** When have you perceived the love and justice of God's reign breaking through in the midst of a trying time?

## Day 3 Cloak of disguise/concealment

When the soldiers come to arrest Jesus, the disciples vanished. Peter hopes to avoid being recognized. He pretends it's not happening; but later the rooster's crow, which can be heard even above the sound of the panic in his head, pierce the defences and the terror, and he recalls the words of Jesus.

**Reflect** How do we disguise ourselves from others, from ourselves? With whom are we most honest?

**Prayer** God, we ask you to break down our fear; when we are panic stricken remind us to trust. Give us your peace in our panic, peace that is deeper than our fear even when our fear feels fathomless and stronger than our minds. You are nearer than our breath.

## Day 4 Cloak of fear

Peter is almost paralyzed by fear in the courtyard outside Caiaphas's house. He wants to know what happens to Jesus but panics when recognized as a follower.

Pilate sees Jesus' situation for what it is: trumped up charges borne out of jealousy and fear, but is afraid to put himself on the line faced with the fury of the crowd and the complexities of the charges against Jesus. He too appears paralyzed, as though caught in the headlights.

**Reflect** In which situations do you feel paralyzed by fear?

## Day 5 Cloak of scorn/mockery

The group of soldiers placed a scarlet robe round Jesus in mockery.

**Reflect** When do we cloak ourselves in unexamined mockery?

## Day 6 Cloak of authority (and protection)

Soldiers wore cloaks at the time of the arrest, when they stood round Jesus at the time of the crucifixion, when they stood protecting the tomb. It is a threatening image.

Caiaphas and Pilate would both have worn ornate cloaks to represent their authority.

**Reflect** When do we use our power to preserve our priorities: with our children, with our friends, with those with whom we work?

## Day 7 Clean cloth

Joseph of Arimathea wraps the body of Jesus in clean linen. This is poignant: the new cloth almost hinting at new resurrection life yet hiding it.

**Reflect** What is your prayer, what is your hope?

**Calling all Mothers, Daughters, Sisters and Friends**

You are invited to an evening of good food, fun and fellowship.

**Bethel's Spring Banquet**

**"Under His Wings"**

May 4, 2014 (Sunday) 5:00 PM

Heritage Oaks Banquet Center  
230 S. Twelfth Street  
Sebring, OH 44672



"Under His Wings" Spring Banquet Reservation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Adults \$14    \_\_\_ Children \$7 (8-12)    \_\_\_ Free (7 and under)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations and payment can be turned in to the church office or given to Linda Buttermore by **Apr. 24th**. Please make checks payable to Linda Buttermore. (330-446-0317)



**The Many Colors of Holy Week**

There are many variations in the use of vestments and color during Holy Week. Some common practices: red, the color of martyrs, for Palm/Passion Sunday up to Maundy Thursday, when white is used for Holy communion; stripping of all chancel paraments at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service, with no adornment until the appearance of white and/or gold at Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday; the use of black, red or no color for Good Friday; the use of scarlet during Holy Week instead of the "fire" red of Pentecost



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**Bethel United Church of Christ  
25701 Buck Road  
Beloit OH 44609**



**April 2014  
Edition**