



Bethesda Lutheran Church  
"Welcome One Another"

# The Visitor

September 2011

**Reminder: The 8:45am Chapel Service on Sundays is no longer offered at Bethesda. Also, please note our new Sunday schedule beginning September 11. See below.**

*Find this newsletter also on the web at [bethesdanewhaven.org](http://bethesdanewhaven.org)*

305 Saint Ronan Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511 • (203) 787-2346

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## Building Bethesda Together II

### Creation of Bethesda's "To Do" List Continues

Martin Gehner and his Facilities Planning Task Force continue to work hard to identify projects and compile costs for all our property repair and renovation needs. We will see the fruits of this challenging labor this fall.

### Financing Task Force Looks to Kairos.

At the end of June, we invited Rev. Renée LiaBraaten, a consultant from Kairos, a faith based fund raising organization, to speak with the Council and other leaders of the congregation. She explained that the Kairos approach is to begin with a study of our congregation and its resources – people, facilities, and finances – to determine if we can raise the funds needed to move ahead with our plan to fix our physical plant and support our ministry. At the August Council meeting, the Council reviewed the Kairos proposal and voted to bring to the congregation the matter of hiring the firm. The Council called a congregation meeting following worship on Sunday, October 2. Members will be given more information in the weeks ahead.

## Council Corner

The August meeting was a very active one for the Council!

- Chris Lee, chair of the Sunday Schedule Task Force, presented the group's report, the recommendations of which were received with gratitude and approved by the Council for implementation on September 11.
- We welcomed Knute Ogren, Director of Development for Camp Calumet, to talk about the Campaign for Today, an effort to garner support for renovations to enable Calumet to more fully support congregations.
- Treasurer Ian Bjorkman noted that giving needs to be strongly encouraged, as the congregation has fallen behind during the summer in our efforts to meet our challenge budget.
- The Executive Committee reported on Pastor Keyl's annual review and noted the congregation will celebrate his 25th anniversary of ordination on September 25.
- The Council discussed the June 29 meeting with Renee LiaBraaten from Kairos Consulting and reviewed the company's proposal to guide Bethesda in our discernment of our mission and needs toward a capital fund appeal. We approved taking the next step to present the proposal to Bethesda members at a special congregational meeting on October 2.

## New Worship Time Begins September 11!

Chris Lee led the Sunday Schedule Task Force to conclude their work, and the Council voted to approve their plan. Starting September 11, Bethesda's worship service will begin at 9:30 a.m. – just enough earlier to accommodate fellowship before Adult Forum. Our hope is that by giving ourselves a little extra time to catch up with old friends and make new ones before engaging in adult learning will better serve our faith community. Mark your calendars for this important time change!

Here is the complete morning schedule (starts September 11):

**8:30 am** Bethesda Choir rehearsal in the choir room.

**9:30 am** Holy Communion Worship in the nave

**10:45 am** Sunday School for infants through elementary age, beginning with song in the choir room

**10:45 am** Fellowship in the Campanius Room

**11:00 am** Adult Forum in the Parish House Living Room; Confirmation in Pastor's Office; Youth Music and Forums in the Chapel

**11:45 am** Sunday School concludes

**12:00 pm** Adult Forum concludes

## Vacation Bible School



All God's Critters indeed! Twenty-two children, 9 counselors, as many as 10 or 12 adult volunteers, and pastors from four area churches gathered, sang, moved, imagined, created and explored the story of creation for four days in August. First

Presbyterian (FPC) hosted us and folks from Redeemer UCC and First and Summerfield United Methodist Church for this ecumenical success. And many VBS participants and their families joined us "Bethesdans" at our Ice Cream Social. In addition to the activities at FPC, children went to area parks and the Eli Whitney museum for lunch and afternoon activities. Turns out there is much of God's creation to see right in our own neighborhood. Meeting and getting to know the children, teens and adults who participated was the highlight and I know that many new friends were made. Thank you to Pastor Keyl, Richard Ford, and the Judds and Cortrights for their help! And thanks to all of you for your craft supplies! But most of all thank you to Bethany Keyl, Andrés González, David and Matthew Judd, Ruth and Clara Cortright, and Eleanor Lee for participating with their whole selves!!!

-Nora Lee

## Evangelism Committee

We welcome you to join our welcoming team, known officially as the evangelism committee, at our next meeting: Thursday, September 15 at 9:15am in the Living Room. If you can't make it then, but are interested in our work, see Katie Gehner or Pastor.

Special and heartfelt thanks to Katie and Martin Gehner for a truly memorable Ice Cream Social. What wonderful neighborhood energy that lovely August evening! The Gehners worked extra hard to get the word out and present Bethesda to the community in a welcoming way. Thanks to all who helped and attended - from the bakers to the docents and the crafters and the scoopers and the musicians and all who enjoyed the event!

## Bethesda Nursery School gets fresh paint

Bethesda Nursery School is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and in August the main classroom, office and hallway received a new paint job in celebration. Be sure to take a peek at the freshened up look to the school.

## 100 Kits!

Gift of the Heart - Sarah Circle will again prepare school and hygiene kits and their goal this year is 100 kits! Last year there were 80-something so 100 is not impossible. Kits are assembled in February and March, but start collecting items now so we may reach our goal! Get your kids involved too! Lists of items are in the Narthex.

## Come and celebrate the first day of Bethesda's Learning Hour program:

**Hour program:  
SEPTEMBER 11**

Activities for Children & Youth from 1 to 17 years old.

Don't miss the International Potluck immediately after Sunday School.

How wonderful to be back worshipping with my friends and seeing how much the kids have grown throughout the summer!! As we all know summer is the time for families with children to engage in diverse activities—summer camps, traveling, visiting family, among many other activities. How tempting to reminisce about my own (hot) summers in Puerto Rico: playing in the rain, playing hide and seek inside the house with the lights off, visiting towns around the island, and yes, going to the most beautiful beaches. No matter what you did, we hope you all have special memories of this summer.

As the school year begins, we are also beginning our Bethesda Sunday School program. This year we have the following classes:

- Our new Baby class 1-3 years old: Teacher- Nora Lee
- 4-6 years-old: Teacher- Gail Labadia
- 7-9 years-old: *Interim* Teacher- Oscar Lied (A teacher for winter and spring is needed!)
- Confirmation Class: Teacher- Pastor Keyl,
- Youth Class with Megan Carnaroli and music with Lars Gjerde

At present, we have approximately 11 younger children and 10 youth in our program, and our goal continues to be to help them grow in faith. Invite family and friends to be part of our Learning Hour program!

*(Learning Hr Cont. p.4)*

## From the Pastor:

### Let us eat Figs!

*<sup>3</sup>God shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords in to plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; <sup>4</sup>but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. (Micah 4:3-4)*

Trees are potent religious symbols. Many world religions use trees or wood fashioned from trees as totems, mythical objects that link the earthly to the spiritual.

Trees provide nourishment from ripe fruit, and for ancient Israel and modern-day Palestine, figs, ah, fresh figs, are still commonly eaten. Yum!

Trees seem to be the storied characters in the aftermath of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene, as they damaged power lines and in some cases, houses. Most of us are cleaning up leaves and branches strewn by the powerful winds.

The prophet Micah criticizes the community which gets too comfortable with its power and wealth. And with his powerful words, he suggests a new paradigm for life that turns weapons of destruction into farm tools. And in his vision, those once who were enemies sit under their trees, no longer afraid.

At Bethesda, we are embarking on our new Fall ministries. We will be exploring how to live under the tree, I mean, roof of our building in worship, learning, and service in peace, under God's promised future.

On Sunday, September 11 will begin our new worship time at 9:30 am for Holy Eucharist, under the tree of the cross, which symbolizes for us new life in Christ.

On that tenth anniversary of violent actions that threatened our nation's sense of security, 9/11/11, we will recommit ourselves toward God's vision of Shalom (Hebrew), Salaam (Arabic), the peace that gathers all to share the resources of the earth.

Come and be a part of a community that gets stirred up to realize God's vision of peace, given voice by prophets, lived out by Jesus, and celebrated each Sunday.

Bring figs to share!

Pastor Tim Keyl

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### Choir resumes Sept. 7

Late-summer (early fall?) greetings to all! I am making plans with Pastor for a new musical season of worship at Bethesda and am looking forward to working along Bethesda's people to create a powerful year of song! I am excited to see the choir with steady (and new?) members starting Wednesday, September 7 at 7:30pm. I also look forward to making music with our youth every second Sunday after worship. Your musical contributions will be greatly appreciated! Our music series season is almost finalized and promises to provide diverse and moving musical experiences, including our Reformation Concert and a grand ecumenical hymn festival on February 5 at 4pm.

Finally, I am very happy to help plan for a big **INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK** for September 11, our kick-off Sunday. I hope to see some good Swedish and other exotic foods that can challenge my Norwegian treats! More on this soon. See you all in the near future, refreshed by various travels and experiences over the summer. Yours, Lars

Learning Hour Continued from p. 2

**Upcoming activities:**

September 11- First day of Learning Hour! Teachers' installation & Picnic after SS

October 2- Blessing of animals at Church (3:00 PM)

October 9 - Collection of items for "Gift of the Heart" School Kits

October 16 – Hay ride and Super Saturday Family Gathering

**"Gift of the Heart" Kits:**

The Learning Hour program is participating again this year in the preparation of School kits as part of the project "Gift of the Heart." These kits are distributed in the United States and around the world. Please bring these items to your Sunday School class by Sunday, October 3, and remember to go shopping with the kids, so that they actively participate in this program!

Each School Kit includes the following items:

One pair blunt scissors

One 30 centimeter ruler (12")

One pencil sharpener

Six new pencils with erasers

One large eraser

One box of 24 crayons

3 70-page single subject notebooks

We will provide the cloth bags, approximately 12" x 14"

Processing/shipping per kit: \$2.00

The Chapel Apartment renovation also highlighted the particular talents Chris Couture and Spencer Young, who tackled tasks that needed their particular electrical and carpentry skills. With the choir on summer break, those gathered for worship enjoyed the considerable abilities of the singers and instrumentalists who provided special musical offerings. And, standing in twice for the vacationing Lars Gjerde was our own surgeon-turned-substitute organist Simon Schimmack.

To those who maintained their giving through the summer, thank you! If you're among those who have been away, we urge you to catch up. Offerings were excellent through May, even a little above what we need to achieve our Ten Percent Challenge Budget. But as August has wound down and Hurricane Irene kept us from gathering for worship on the 28<sup>th</sup>, our giving has fallen behind. We ask that you return the generosity of Bethesda's ministry and give of your treasure as passionately as you are able – perhaps a little extra as the Spirit moves and the purse permits!

In Faithful Gratitude,

<b>T</b>	<b>Time Talent Treasure</b>	<i>An update on offerings to Bethesda...</i>
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Maureen Anderson <i>For the Finance Committee</i>	Christopher Wigren <i>For the Stewardship Committee</i>
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2010		2011		Ahead/ (Behind)
<i>As of 8/29</i>	\$96,185.68	<i>As of 8/28</i>	\$101,517.22	6%
Year end	<b>\$158,237.00</b>	Budget	<b>\$176,000.00</b>	

It takes many hands to conduct the wonderful ministries in which Bethesda is involved. In the last two months, some of those hands have given an extra measure of time. The congregation is grateful to the members who gave many hours to the renovation of the Chapel Apartment, especially Doug Gray and Richard Ford for their leadership in the effort. Also, kudos to Katie Gehner and all those who planned, baked, set up, entertained, served, and cleaned up to create an enormously successful Ice Cream Social on August 24.



## Coffee Hour volunteers

Please consider signing up to serve coffee hour after church one Sunday this fall. The sign-up sheet is located outside the Kitchen in the Campanius Room, and Clarissa Youngberg is happy to provide instructions for anyone who has not prepared and served coffee before. Her email is [cdwylie@comcast.net](mailto:cdwylie@comcast.net), and phone is 203 397-2983. Thanks!

## Facilities Hits Major Milestone!

Rejoice.... After several months of hard work, the re-decoration of the Caretakers Apartment over the Chapel is finally complete. After its 18 month vacancy, it is now occupied by Ben & Chloe Groth. After two crash Saturday work sessions, (and several extra days & nights) the apartment was treated to a thorough cleaning, a fresh coat of paint and new blinds. The bathroom tub area has been completely refurbished and the electrical panel moved and replaced with up-to-date equipment. The hardwood floors have been sanded and refinished. A new sink and counter now grace the kitchen.

I sincerely thank ALL who participated in this undertaking: Richard Ford & Dianne Witte (my 2 right hand people), Molly Dinneen, Kari Keyl, Bethany Keyl, Gabriel Keyl, Maureen Anderson, Chris Wigren, Spencer & Kari Young, Chris Couture, Becky Lerud, Linda Cortright, Lisa & Brendan Randall, Bill Strickland.

There are many other areas that will demand our attention, and we cannot let these issues accumulate. They will not go away by themselves, so WE NEED YOUR HELP. The facilities committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Muhlenberg Room at 7:30 P.M. If you are interested in supporting the facilities crew, please see Doug Gray or send an email at [dgray30@comcast.net](mailto:dgray30@comcast.net).

Peace,  
Doug Gray

## Heartfelt Thanks

Ben and I would like to thank Doug Gray, the Facilities Committee, and all of the members of the congregation who volunteered to renovate the Caretaker's Apartment. We are so grateful for the hard work and time that was put in, and we are thrilled to call it home this year. We spent a wonderful summer in New Orleans while Ben completed his Clinical Pastoral Education at East Jefferson General Hospital. As you can see from the picture of our first experience with a Crawfish boil, we embraced the local culture and food! We are happy to be back in New Haven and look forward to being a part of Bethesda's community in a new way this year.

Chloe Groth  
864-238-0151 (cell)  
[caretaker@bethesdanewhaven.org](mailto:caretaker@bethesdanewhaven.org)

## Chapel Renovations



Living Room



Bathroom





## BETHESDA HOLIDAY FAIR

### **Holiday Fair rounds the bend**

We are beginning to really ramp up for the fair. By the time you receive this we will have made this year's

batches of bread and butter pickles. Our next projects will be pie making once the apples are ready for picking. That should be in September and we will announce when we will making pies on Sundays. We will also put the dates on the church calendar.

The quilt is all done! The tickets are ready. We will be getting pictures and tickets out on Sunday mornings to those who would be willing to sell raffle tickets to friends and relatives. This year's quilt is just beautiful. Hopefully that will offset the fact that the tickets are now \$2 each with a book of 6 for \$10. I know that will come as a shock. But other groups are asking \$5 and even \$10 per ticket.

Janis Underwood has agreed to run Trash and Treasures again. Thank you Janis! You will be able to bring in your treasures any time during the month of October. But we are asking that you do not bring in last minute donations. It becomes very difficult to price and organize when things come in the week before the fair.

And just as a reminder, the fair will be held on the second Saturday of November, November 12 from 10 – 3. We will have food served all day from coffee and coffee bread to lunch with coffee and soda.

We will have a visit from some of the violin students – weren't they great at the ice cream social? – around lunch time.

### **Sarah Circle Invites New and Returning Women**

I'm not sure where the summer went, but suddenly it's September! That means that everything is starting up again, including Sarah Circle. We meet on the first Monday of the month – except for September. We don't try to compete with Labor Day. Our normal meeting includes enjoying a dessert and coffee, then a reading and discussion. During the late winter we assemble Gift of the Heart kits.

We will kick off our year on Monday, September 12 with a potluck dinner in the Parish house starting at 6:30. All women are welcome to join us. It is a good way to get to meet an interesting group of women. We will be talking about what book to focus on during the year. If you've read something interesting, feel free to suggest it.

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Anderson at 203-488-4993 or [karlandmaur@yahoo.com](mailto:karlandmaur@yahoo.com).



### **A Letter for Fools Bible Study: Take Two**

Tuesdays in the Parish House Living Room from 7 pm to 8 pm  
Sept. 13th – Nov. 15th

Convened by Pastor Keyl

“God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,” Paul writes to the seaport community brimming with diverse cultures.

I invite you to a second series of weekly conversations about this letter to a wonderful and wacky congregation in the first century. We will ask what wisdom can be shed on our wonderful and wacky congregation. We will wonder what's going on in a Christian community that has so many different practices and opinions, and see how the apostle Paul offers faith, opinion, and counsel.

This study will begin with chapter 9, and include the familiar chapter on the body of Christ, and the Love poem.

Indicate your interest in coming by emailing Pastor Keyl at [pastor@bethesdanewhaven.org](mailto:pastor@bethesdanewhaven.org), or phone me at 203-787-2346.

## **Prayers for Members and Friends:**

***For Healing and strength:*** Len DeNardis; Robert Delaney, nephew of Molly Dinneen; Margaret Stark, mother of Barbara; Tim Bruneau, son of Barbara Stark; Eric Larson, brother of Doreen Oboyski; Carole DeVore; Charles Dupré; Helen Blade; Nils Svensén; Ruth Mattson; Sarah Yoder, cousin of Molly Dinneen; Oscar Roos; Bob Lehet; Ruth Beaumont; Rita Wissink; Nancy Bailey, cousin of Lisa Randall and Leslie Dunn; Verna Carlson; Adele Larson, mother of Doreen Larson Oboyski; Ed Abeling; Ray Anderson; Linda Salisbury; Betty Neal; Betty Henrickson; George Lindbeck; Robert Evenson; Aina Smith; Sylvia Dunn; Ruth Mood; Jeanette Tykson; Ruth Jacobson.

***For those serving in the military:*** including Bethesda members and friends currently serving in the military ***and the chaplains of our churches who serve them.***

***For our partners in the Gospel:*** the congregations and schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Jordan & The Holy Land (ELCJHL); Luther House; our mission partners, Resurrection Lutheran Church in New Haven, and the Pangani Children's Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, in its ministry to those living with the impact of AIDS and hunger in Africa.

***For Bethesda:*** that God continues to guide us into the future with ministries of witness and service while building up our community in all of its diversity.

***For those preparing for ministry:*** Tracy Swan Tuite, Lorraine Peterson, Abby Ferjak, and Ben Groth.

***Pastoral emergencies:*** Please contact the church office (203-787-2346) with any pastoral emergencies. Outside of regular church office hours, you may reach Pastor Keyl at home at 203-823-9234, or on his cell phone at 603-533-7537.

*By the grace of God,  
and with the consent of God's people,*

**Bishop Margaret G. Payne**

will ordain

**Lorraine Elizabeth Peterson**

to the ministry of Word and Sacrament  
in Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church  
at a Festival Service of Holy Communion  
on **Saturday, September 17, 2011**

at **2:00 in the afternoon**

at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

837 Charles St.  
Torrington, CT.

Your prayers, and the honor of your presence are requested.

Clergy are invited to process.

The color of the day is red.

Lorraine has been called to serve as Pastor of  
Trinity Lutheran Church in Centerbrook, CT;  
a congregation of the New England Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.