



# Bethany Welcomes New Members



FROM LEFT; Juliet Rowland, Dan Arnett, Bryan Haas and Sara Bosch.

Bethany was delighted to receive new members on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. All have jumped right in and become an active part of the Bethany community. Dan Arnett has a keen interest in the renovation of Bethany's stage with an eye toward returning it to a venue for theater and the arts. Dan enjoys music and plays in a band, an interest shared by son Dylan (if the picture in our directory is any indication).

Sara Bosch and Bryan Haas have expressed an interest in connecting with Bethany's children and youth, based on positive experiences each had in the congregations in which they grew up. Bryan loves sailing and snowboarding, and we even talked about a "boat blessing" as the days warm. (At this point, I refuse to bless snowboards.) I can personally vouch for Sara's wonderful comfort food.

Juliet Rowland is a familiar face to many of us in that she's been attending worship with Scott Baderstadt for several years. We've been enjoying Juliet at both our family game nights and Bethany's Wednesday night Academy.

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Worship and Sunday School Sundays at 10:30 a.m.



## Pancakes and more...



The final Sunday before Lent is the equivalent of the Mardi Gras in New Orleans at Bethany Church. We prepare a pancake brunch that goes well beyond pancakes: eggs, sausage, hash browns, fresh fruit. After all, with the arrival of Lent we're all supposed to be giving up something, aren't we? Thanks once again to Bryan Schultz, Mike Termini and their dedicated crew for coordinating this February 22nd event. Also that Sunday, Jeff Peek and Steven Hargreaves performed a duet during the Offertory.



## Birthday Milestone

When we turned the page to 2009 and saw that Barbara Baderstadt's 80th birthday was going to fall on a Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, we knew that we had to do something to mark that milestone. The celebration that began in the sanctuary with the singing of "Happy Birthday" and continued in the fellowship hall with a cake and the participation of many family members proved to be an early new year highlight.

## For Times Like These

The Social Justice committee will be organizing Bethany's next networking with the Night Ministry, which will take place on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we will be assembling approximately 200 sandwich suppers, which will be distributed by the Night Ministry bus. Much of this work can be done on Sunday, as we've proven in the past. We do, however, require a core of persons on Monday afternoon to complete the task. If you are able to help out on March 30<sup>th</sup>, please contact the Social Justice committee through Kelly Aaron, or let us know at the church office and we will relay your interest to Kelly. The need gets greater with each passing week of our economic crisis. It is only right that we at Bethany do our fair share.

Lauren Polenske was leading a conversation during Sunday's coffee hour that actually began during the joys and concerns. She is willing to launch a series of evening meals in which members of Bethany, friends and guests, and especially those who are facing difficult times right now, can break bread together. She is proposing March 18<sup>th</sup> as a kick-off date, between 5:30 and 7 P.M., when people can just drop in and eat, visit and plan/talk about future events. I will keep you updated through my weekly emails, but, in the meantime, give Lauren or the Social Justice committee a call with your suggestions.

# Geoffrey Black, New York Conference Minister, Nominated to Lead UCC

The Rev. Geoffrey Black, who has led the UCC's New York Conference for nearly a decade, has been nominated to become the UCC's next general minister and president. The nomination is scheduled to be voted on by the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ at its March meeting.

During his career, Black has served as an assistant chaplain at Brown University, associate minister at St. Albans Congregational UCC, lectured in the Field Education Department of Union Theological Seminary, been Protestant chaplain at Adelphi University and been a staff member in the UCC's Office for Church Life and Leadership.

Ecumenical commitment, concern for equal justice, African-American empowerment and community improvement have shaped Black's ministry in the church and the communities in which he has served. He has worked, among other places, at the Caring Communities of Shaker Heights, Ohio and the Amistad Cultural Center of Long Island, which he co-founded.

Black earned his B.A. from Lincoln University in 1969 and a Masters from Yale Divinity School in 1972. He and his wife Patricia Williams-Black and daughter Makeda live in Dewitt, N.Y. and are members of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Syracuse.



## SIGN-UP REMINDERS

Thank you to the following persons who have volunteered to provide flowers, serve as lector or host a coffee hour during the months of March or April. Contact Shaun in the church office if there has been an error or you need to change a date.

### MARCH 8

Lector: Jeremy Van Meter  
Flowers: Kelly Aaron  
Coffee Hour: Linda Z.

### MARCH 29

L: Jack Mc Clelland  
F: Jack and Mike  
C: Jack and Mike

### MARCH 15

L: Linda Zawada  
F: Bryan and Sara  
C: Alice Peterson

### APRIL 5

L: to be assigned  
F: palm branches  
C: Ruth Cato

### MARCH 22

L: Bryan Schultz,  
F: the Schultz family  
C: the Schultz family

## Interest Groups

We have at the current time a substantial number of persons interested in theater who would like to renovate our stage and/or use the gym for artistic purposes. We are attempting to bring these persons together around that common goal. We are blessed to have an excellent facility that has been handed down to us by prior generations of forward-thinking members. If you or others would like to use a portion of our building on a given day or evening...let's say, for example, for a women's group or a 20's and 30's group or a young mothers meeting or a book club, check with Shaun in the office to make sure the space you desire will not already be in use, but otherwise consider this an invitation to be at home here.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4...DEBBIE LAKE	17...ALAN NEFF
8...PHIL COLLINS	18...FRED DIBBERN
9...RUTH CATO	19...KAREN THEEL
10...ANDY KROKAR	28...DIANE SELJE OLSON
11...ANGELA ZAWADA	30...VERA PFEIFFER
12...BILL PARKER (30)	31...HENRY SCHULTZ
15...ROBIN SCHULTZ	



## Wednesday at the Academy

Just a typical Wednesday night (7:30 until 9 P.M.) at the Academy. Jack Mc Clelland leads a group that has numbered between five and ten in discussions that relate faith and the Bible to topics of interest and often of controversy. Join us in March as we talk about human rights. Contact Jack if you'd like to do some reading in preparation for the gathering.

## New Brochure Rack

You have probably noticed that we have a brand new, hand-made brochure rack in the fellowship hall, completely filled with periodicals, newsletters, local newspapers and other reading material of interest. For this we have Jurek to thank. We had been looking at catalogs and investigated warehouses specializing in used office furniture. Everything either cost too much or looked insubstantial for our needs. That's when Jurek volunteered to build one, and it is lovely. One way of thanking Jurek is to use the brochure rack for the purpose for which it is intended. Feel free to browse or even to borrow. Which leads me to the Upper Room material located both in the brochure rack and on tables as you enter through the church's main doors. These devotional materials are yours for the taking, or, if you insist, a small donation. Let me know whether or not you enjoy them.



**Bethany United Church of Christ**  
**4250 N. Paulina St.**  
**Chicago, IL 60613**



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God  
is still  
speaking,