



Bethany Chicago

Newsletter

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Let's Have a Party!

This is one party that should be right up your block. In fact, it is! The 4200 Paulina Street Block Party will be taking place on Saturday, August 8th, between the hours of two and sunset. It will feature live music by Hustle! (the group that includes Dan Arnett) along with several activities sure to be of interest to the children of our church and community: a bike parade, egg toss, jumping toys, a slide and more.

In order for our Block Party to be a hit, we need maximum volunteer participation from our own members. If neighbors wish to assist in the planning, God bless them, but we have to take the lead. Kelly and Mike have identified several areas where help will be needed on the 8th: entrance volunteers who would collect donations and give out wristbands...someone to coordinate the egg toss...persons to grill hot dogs, make popcorn and otherwise take care of the food...overseers of the bouncy toys...and, as with any event, persons to set up (from noon until two) and tear down. Let us know what you're able to commit to, and, in advance, thank you!



Celebrating 10 Years

Sunday, June 14 members of Bethany church celebrated with Stephen Hargreaves as he was honored for his dedication. For the past ten years, he has brought his musical talents to Bethany's worship services and special events. Stephen is developing a recital series of music to share with the Bethany community. More information about this recital series will be available soon, so keep your eyes open for these exciting musical experiences.



June in Review

June was an especially busy month at Bethany Church, beginning on its very first day with Bethany's involvement in feeding the hungry and homeless of our community through the Night Ministry. Kelly Aaron coordinated the event and many in our congregation assisted either in obtaining the ingredients for the meal, or, on the prior Sunday, making the sandwiches and filling the bags.

It's always a special moment when a wedding involves members of your own congregation, as was the case on June 6th with the service that united in marriage James (J.D.) Bartelme and Melanie Zanoza. We've included just a few of many wonderful pictures that capture the joy we all felt that day. (next page)

A wetter than normal June delayed outdoor worship by one week, so that June 14th was not only our first service of the summer with natural air-conditioning, but the day on which we remembered with gratitude the ten years that Stephen Hargreaves has been Bethany's musician. You will find on the front page of this newsletter not only pictures from that celebration, for which Stephen's wife, Shannon, provided the cake, but an announcement from Stephen about a summer and early fall recital series.

When Bethany Church became an Open and Affirming congregation, we joined the community of "welcoming churches" here in Chicago who have taken a similar stance within their own denominations. These welcoming churches march annually in the Pride parade, carrying placards and other signs bearing the name of their church. This year, I was extremely pleased to have help carrying Bethany's sign in the parade. Scott Beaderstadt, Juliet Rowland and Bryan Schultz marched the complete route with me, as the picture below will testify. And I've thrown in a picture taken with one of my Chicago heroes. As I told WGN weatherman deluxe Tom Skilling, our outdoor worship depends heavily on his forecasts. Tom modestly protested, and we both finally agreed that he won't take credit for parades, nor I for church picnics.



UCC's General Synod Focuses on Universal Health Care

The 27th General Synod of the United Church of Christ came to a close Tuesday evening, June 30th, with a celebration of five days of worship and work in the host city of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Rev. Geoffrey Black, who has served for nearly a decade as minister of the UCC's New York Conference, was called by election to succeed the Rev. John Thomas as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. In addition, the Rev. Linda Jaramillo was re-elected as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and the Rev. Stephen Sterner was chosen as Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries. All will serve four-year terms beginning in October.

Longtime health care reform advocate John Conyers of Michigan, a 22-term U.S. Representative, came over from Detroit to meet with church leaders about that issue. On Monday afternoon, 200 Synod attendees marched to City Hall and gathered to demonstrate their commitment to universal health care. Chanting "Health care now!" they wound their way through downtown streets on a path cleared by Grand Rapids police.

Resolution actions called for solidarity with the people of Iran, support for Iraqi refugees, a continuation of the "Sacred Conversation on Race" and advocacy regarding a single-payer health care solution among many others. A coverage archive of all resolutions, committee actions and General Synod activities is available at ucc.org/news.



Around the Congregation

...Bethany congratulates Anne and Bob Rubocki on the July 6th birth of Nora Frances, who weighed in at 7 lbs 15 oz and was 20 inches long. Of greater importance, both mother and baby are home and doing well. Bob remarked in his email that the birth occurred on Monday, a day after he had been at worship and announced Anne's July 11 due date during joys and concerns.

...Nicole Macaluso and Phil Collins have been counting down the days to their wedding at Bethany Church on the 15th of August. That day is fast approaching. May I, on their behalf, invite you to witness the vows that will join them as husband and wife in a service of Holy Communion that I look forward to sharing with Phil's father, a retired Lutheran pastor. The reception that follows the 1:30 wedding will take place in Bethany's fellowship hall.

...Please continue to keep in prayer Karen Theel and Mike Termini as they face ongoing health-related issues. The good news for Mike is that a date for hip surgery has finally been scheduled. The doctor who performed the original surgery will be in charge of the July 23rd operation.

...The Academy is taking a break for the summer but will reconvene in September with much more to discuss on issues that relate faith and culture, the church and society. Thought has also been given to expanding the Academy's reach to the hour on Sunday morning just prior to worship. If this idea interests you (or if it doesn't), get in touch with Jack Mc Clelland and let him know.

...Bethany's Facebook page is a great way to find out what's going on in the lives of your fellow Bethany members. If you're on Facebook, or as you become introduced to that networking tool, remember, as Carole King wrote years ago, you've got a friend.

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 July. Contact Shaun in the church office if there has been an error or you need to change a date.

JULY 26

L: Bryan Schultz
F: Robin and Bryan Schultz
C: Robin and Bryan Schultz

Sign Up Sheets are now available at the information table for August and September.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2...DYLAN ARNETT
- 3...MARJORIE LAVERY
- 14...LINDA HANSEN
- 15...NICOLE MACALUSO
- 16...EDWARD MULLARD
- 17...JIM KROKAR, EMMY PEEK, MARY SIMPSON
- 23..."RUSTY" BAUMGAERTEL
- 29...J.D. BARTELME

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 9...JACK MC CLELLAND
- 15...BONNIE JAMES
- 18...VICKI BAKER
- 20...GEORGETTE TARNOW, DON TURNER
- 21...JACK SCHULTZ
- 23...LEROY LARSEN



Preparing Food for Night Ministry



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God
is still
speaking,