

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
– Galatians 5:22-23

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Sunday was Pentecost. This coming Sunday is Trinity Sunday.

One of the things we celebrate at Pentecost is that God reversed the actions done at the Tower of Babel. We celebrate the tongues of fire that were given to the early church *and to us*. We celebrate that we are all given gifts to proclaim the Gospel through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and our guide.

But if we are honest – we also admit that the Holy Spirit scares us. We can see the Creator at work through the renewal of life as spring is finally here in the northeast. We know that Jesus walked our world and through Christ we can better come to understand the Creator. These are things we can latch onto or we can speak confidently about. But, Jesus says, “No one knows where the wind comes from or where it will go...” We really can’t put our finger on the Holy Spirit.

The writer of Galatians was very careful not to pluralize the word fruit. Did you ever wonder why – or perhaps you always figured that it was a type? Most scholars concur that because all nine qualities must be exhibited for identification with the work of the Holy Spirit. The writer of this letter to the Galatians wants to see the early church and *us* growing in each area and not excuse ourselves from one of these qualities of Jesus.

I don’t know about you, but there are several areas that I need to grow more deeply into— but I believe the Spirit is making progress in me. Let’s keep encouraging each other to let the Spirit lead us to become more like Jesus in every way!

The Holy Spirit pours love into our hearts to give us hope and endurance.
– Romans 5:5.

I continue to pray for you - that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct all your days in Christ Jesus and hope you pray the same for me.

I am thankful to be your Pastor,
Pastor Peggy

A Letter From Family Promise of the Capital Region:

Pastor Peggy Funderburke
Bethany Reformed Church
760 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

May 11, 2015

Dear Pastor Peggy and the Congregation of Bethany Reformed Church,

On behalf of our volunteers, participating congregations and Board of Directors of Family Promise of the Capital Region, I wish to thank you for your very generous donation of \$1475.00 toward our mission of helping homeless families who are in search of affordable housing. We are very excited that our program is underway as we have welcomed our first family (Mom, Dad, two year old boy and one month old girl). They are a beautiful family and have brought great joy to our volunteers.

We are so grateful to begin this ministry with the support and assistance of Bethany Reformed Church. As we continue to serve our guest families, we look forward to a continued partnership with you along the way and wish you continued blessings on all of your ministries!

Sincerely,
Mary Giordano
Executive Director

REGIONAL FOOD BANK

Saturday, June 5, 2015 – Volunteer Opportunity at the Regional Food Bank!!
9:00 AM – 11:30AM – come for as long as you can! Please wear closed shoes and dress in layers.

Be Our Guest Supper

Tuesday, June 16, 2015 4:45 – 5:45PM Submarine Sandwiches

Melody Van Alstyne is the coordinator.

A Little Humor....

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, all of them between 10 and 12 years of age. The group surrounded a dog. Concerned that the boys were hurting the dog, he went over and asked, “What are you doing with that dog?”

One of the boys replied, “This dog is just an old neighborhood stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we’ve decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog.”

Of course, the reverend was taken aback. “You boys shouldn’t be having a contest telling lies!” he exclaimed. He then launched into a ten minute sermon against lying, beginning “Don’t you boys know it’s a sin to lie,” and ending with “Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie.”

There was dead silence for about a minute. Just as the reverend was beginning to think he’d gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sign and said, “All right, give him the dog.”!

Bethany Family and Friends

Sunday, June 14, 2015 following worship:

All are invited to Pastor Peggy's "Paradise" for an afternoon of swimming, hiking, cooking out, resting and relaxing! Pot-luck lunch – Pastor Peggy will provide hamburgers, buns, iced tea, paper plates, napkins, cups, plastic ware and ice.

Address is 99 Turnabout, West Sand Lake.

Directions: Take I-90 towards Boston to Exit 8 Defreestville. The exit ramp puts you on Route 43 – follow Route 43 through West Sand Lake, and make a left on Route 351 towards Poestenkill (just beyond Troy Sand and Gravel on the left). Make another left onto Algonquin Road – 100 yards after turn onto Route 351. Stay to the right all around the lake – when you see the sign "Dead End" you know you are on the right road.

Strawberry Social

Friday, June 5, 2015 6:00 – 8:00pm

People are needed to bring cookies, bars or cupcakes. Profits from this event will go to our Camp Fowler fund!

June Birthdays

Jack Haefeli	6/07
Scott Bard	6/09
Pat Eberle	6/10
Shirley DeBoer	6/11
Jane Williams	6/16
Rev. Peggy Funderburke	6/18
Glenis Ratcliff	6/20
Bob Hollner	6/26

June Anniversaries

Jack and Judith White	6/10
Bob and Laurie Schraver	6/20
Ron and Shirley Phillips	6/21
Lynn and Mark Carlson	6/29

Calendar - June, 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 09:00 AM - Chair Caners 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	2 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 07:00 PM - 08:30 PM - Choir 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM - African Violets	3 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	4 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	5 10:00 AM - Painters 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM - Strawberry Social 07:30 PM - AA Group	6 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Regional Food Bank 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
7 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	8 09:00 AM - Chair Caners 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	9 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Bell Choir 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir	10 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	11 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	12 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	13 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
14 10:00 AM - Worship 12:00 PM - Bethany Family and Friends 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	15 09:00 AM - Chair Caners 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	16 04:45 PM - Be Our Guest Supper 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Bell Choir 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM - Choir	17 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	18 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	19 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	20 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
21 10:00 AM - Worship 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM - Consistory Meeting 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	22 09:00 AM - Chair Caners 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	23 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous	24 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	25 06:30 PM - Boy Scouts 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	26 10:00 AM - Painters 07:30 PM - AA Group	27 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
28 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	29 09:00 AM - Chair Caners 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	30 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous				

Newsletter via E-mail?

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please contact the Church Office via email at Bethany.info@verizon.net, or by telephone at 518-482-7998 or by regular mail to Bethany Reformed Church, 760 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208, and provide your email address.