

June 25, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My little Essence has been having some major problems in school; hitting, kicking, and spitting at her teachers. It would seem that no amount of praying, talking, hugging, or encouraging was making any difference. In fact, things continued to spiral down until last week she was expelled for two days. I was appalled and embarrassed. How could 'my' charge get expelled from Kindergarten? She was not behaving this way at home so why did she do it at school? Last Friday, Saturday, and Sunday after church we had school at home. I requested and received all the work that the teachers had prepared not only for the two days she was missing but any sort of enrichment work she could do at home. Last weekend Essence worked and worked on her schooling. Because she was not allowed to go to school did not mean she would have free time at home.

On Sunday evening as I was putting her to bed and talking with her about going back to school tomorrow; it occurred to me that we had never been able to get beyond, "I don't know" when I asked her "Why are you doing this?" Sunday evening I changed the perspective and asked her if she was scared that school was ending. She said, "Yes." I then asked, "What is it about school ending that scares you?" "That I will never see my friends again."

I had been looking at and working with Essence from an adult's perspective. The breakthrough came when I was able to see her situation from her perspective. This child has had more adults to abandon her than any child should ever experience. I am delighted to report that since our several talks about being scared, Essence has completely turned around at school. Yesterday, she received a 93% on her behavior. She graduated from Kindergarten yesterday and looks forward to going back to school each day.

I have shared this event with you because I believe it has theological implications. We are children - no matter how old we are or how much we think we know. In God's view, we misbehave (or sin). If our misbehavior goes unchecked, we also spiral down. It is when we are able to confess what is wrong in our lives that God can, in infinite love and mercy, draw near and help us.

I wish each of you times of sincere, honest, and contrite periods of confession with God. I know for me, my times of confession are times when I feel most loved and adored.

I am blessed to be your pastor!

Pastor Peggy

Bethany Reformed Church Consistory Agenda

June 21, 2015

We are gathered in God's Presence by the lighting of the Christ candle.

According to Christ's promise:

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The lit Christ candle symbolizes the presence of our Lord.

Attended Reverend Peggy, Kathy Casey, Wendy Delehanty, Jessica Faustel, Jack Haefeli, Kathy Heider, Phyllis McClarty, Bill Murray, Melody VanAlstyne

Reflection – Deacon Kathy Heider

Giving Thanks for individual's efforts in Bethany or the endeavors for the church. Jessica Faustel thanks the Hollners for their continuous cleaning every day. Rev. Peggy thanks Bruce and everyone else for their coverage of the Sexton's duties. Kathy Heider is thankful for the Bell Choir and the Choir. Kathy Casey is thankful for John Sokol for always being there. Bill Murray is thankful to the Congregational Committee for the Be Our Guest dinners.

Minutes from April 19, 2015 meeting accepted.

Communications and Correspondence

1. 5/11/15 Thank you letter from Mary Giordano, Family Promise, for donation.
2. 5/18/15 Thank you note from RCA Women's Sankofa 2015.
3. 6/3/15 Thank you letter and invitation from SALT (Schoharie Area Long term, Inc.,) for donation.
4. 6/8/15 Thank you letter from Unity House for our donation.
5. 6/8/15 Thank you letter from Lions Foundation for our donation.
6. 6/12/15 Thank you note from Room for All for our donation.
7. 6/12/15 Thank you letter from American Red Cross for our donation.

Pastor's Report

Since our last meeting, I have been blessed to be able to make nine visitations to our shut-ins or to those in the hospital. I have had seven private consultations to members, their families, or those in need. I have met eight times with various committees of Bethany. I attended, presided, or participated in 10 Classis or Regional Synod meetings. I along with several Consistory members hosted the RCA Women's Sankofa gathering and the catered dinner for Dr. John Coakley's historical discourse about our denomination. I worked Friday morning at Bethany's Flower Sale. I continue to mentor Christine Allen and supervise the Consistory of Westerlo Reformed Church. I was honored to facilitate the funeral service for Carole Ballard, Bob Hollner's sister. Finally, Essence and I will be hosting Bethany's Family and Friends picnic at our home in West Sand Lake.

Treasurer's Report

As of 5.31.15

SUMMARY - General Fund	This Month	Year to Date
Total Receipts	\$15,853.72	\$57,290.38
Total Disbursements	13,729.28	62,040.61
Net Cash	<u>\$ 2,124.44</u>	<u>\$-4,750.23</u>

Report was received with thanksgiving.

On-Going Business

Concerns from the Congregation

A member of the Congregation has suggested that the prayers from Joys and Concerns be placed in the following week's bulletin. It was greed the prayers would be posted in the Newsletter. Wendy Delehanty and Kathy Heider will work on gathering the information and it will be sent to the Newsletter editor via email.

Committee Reports

Elders

Phyllis McClarty

No Report.

Elder Delegate to Classis

Wendy Delehanty

The Classis met on Tuesday, May 26 at Westerlo Reformed Church. New Baltimore Reformed Church will be holding an event 'Come to the River' on Sunday August 9 at Catskill Point. There will be worship on the wharf at 10 am, a 3-K challenge and concerts by the Hilltown Ramblers and the McKrells. The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater will be there. Frese's Barbeque, and church made treats and cookies will be available for sale. It looks like a fun day for the whole family. They are also looking for workers to help run the event.

Jack Haefeli suggested there be a place to exchange ideas and events with other churches. Rev. Peggy noted she posts anything she receives from other churches on the bulletin board. Jack will email the clerk of Classis and make the suggestion of setting up a Facebook page. Kathy Casey will look into a Facebook page for Bethany.

Deacons

Jessica Faustel

7 volunteers went to the Regional Food Bank on 6/8/15. For the month of June, 7 bags of food, along with numerous brown paper bags, were donated to the First Church in Albany. Thank you to all who have signed up over the year for coffee hour and greeting. The Deacons appreciate your time very much!

Jack Haefeli thought the Deacons were responsible for visiting the shut-ins. Rev. Peggy suggested it is everyone's responsibility. The Deacon's will discuss this at their next meeting.

Youth Ministry and Education

Wendy Delehanty

No Report. Jack Haefeli suggested we do something for youth, stating that most of them need to talk and be heard. A new program is planned for September.

Stewardship

Phyllis McClarty

Nothing to Report. Rev. Peggy suggested we are all stewards and it should not be up to Phyllis and Pam only. Kathy Casey suggested "Build a Foundation" as a subject for the upcoming stewardship.

Congregational Life

Bill Murray (Nancy Murray)

Be Our Guest Supper

The Be Our Guest Suppers continue to be a successful mission with many from the community attending. They express much appreciation for the dinners. Thanks to all who put the dinners together. Without their tireless efforts this couldn't happen. May's dinner was hosted by Yeuming as he along with the committee prepared a delicious Chinese meal. The June menu is Subs and the host is Melody. July's dinner will be a barbeque with hamburgers, hotdogs, salads and desserts. The host is Nancy Murray. The August dinner will be chicken with salads and desserts.

Bethany Family and Friends

The Bethany Family and Friends had a picnic at Pastor Peggy's home, and all who attended had a terrific time. We ate, played games and enjoyed the fellowship with one another. No plans have been made for Bethany Family and Friends for July and August.

Worship

Jessica Faustel (Sandy Goodman, Chair)

Pastoral Relations

Melody Van Alstyne

No Report.

Finance

Wendy Delehanty

Fund Raising

Flower Sale May 8-9: raised over \$4,000

Strawberry Social: \$200

Brooks BBQ: Next BBQ July 24, 2015

Property

Jack Haefeli (Bruce Neyerlin, Chair)

No Report. Jack Haefeli informed Consistory if they have questions for the Property Committee, they call Jack Haefeli or Bob Hollner. There are other topics coming up, but other decisions have to be made before new projects are brought up.

Web Site

Wendy Delehanty

Faith Web Sites is the company that hosts our web site. They have recently sent information about some free steps we can take to improve our site. They also noted that with people accessing the internet from phones, tablets, etc, and the growing use of touch screens, it is important to upgrade our site so it can be easily accessed using the new technologies. They are currently offering a half price

upgrade if we make the commitment in the next couple of months, and go through with the upgrade in the next 5 months. I would like to take advantage of this offer and I will make the commitment to follow through on it. (Of course, I'd love help if anyone is interested.) The cost is \$300 instead of the usual \$600.

Motion made, seconded, unanimous vote .

Helping Hands Wendy Delehanty
Is now on summer break

Kitchen Renovation Wendy Delehanty

As you may know our kitchen does not pass code and we have been told to fix it or face whatever action the City of Albany may take against us. Also some cabinets have their doors off or are unmanageable. Counter tops are in poor shape. A new vinyl floor is needed. Of course there are other things we could also do to improve our kitchen. In any event we need to at least address the code problem. Talk has been going on for about a year. There is a whole range of additional ideas and dreams to consider for our new kitchen.

But it is time to take some action. Nothing can be done until we know how much money we have to work with. So we are asking the consistory to authorize now a congregation wide fund raising program.

Motion made, seconded, unanimous vote.

New Business

1. New AI-Anon Group has requested use of the Fellowship Center for once a month meeting to hear special speakers.

Motion made, seconded, unanimous vote

2. From Wendy, "Occasionally, we have had 'surveys' handed out so people could indicate what types of activities or jobs they were interested in. It was a way to find Sunday School teachers, etc. I don't think we've done it recently. I was thinking that it might be good to do something like this again, with the purpose of finding people who might be willing to do some of the jobs that are falling through the cracks or overloading the people currently doing them. Hopefully the sexton duties will be short lived, and not needed. I'm thinking of things like adopting a bulletin board (outside, water fountain, fellowship hall, etc.), keep the office calendar up-to-date (maybe include being the contact person for the groups), send post cards for fund raisers, find people to deliver Easter and Christmas plants, organize/clean out parts of the office. I think we could come up with lots of things if we all put our heads together. This might even include touching base with people who have jobs now, but might like help. I don't know how to write this up."

Wendy and Pastor Peggy will work on a list of things that need doing. The list will be printed in the bulletins and the newsletter.

3. Where are we with Planning for Bethany's Future with a 5 and 10 year plan?
Jack Haefeli suggested the whole Consistory work on the 5 to 10 year plan.
4. Kathy Casey moved to allow the use of the Pastor's bedroom in the Parsonage, starting in September. He will be staying there Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights. Motion made, seconded, six approved, one abstained, one no present for vote.

Next regular meeting: August 16th (No meeting in July)

Devotions by: Elder Melody Van Alstyne

Prayers: Praises for the good discussions at this meeting; prayers that the Congregation be nicer to one another.

Closing prayer by **Deacon Kathy Heider**

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melody VanAlstyne, Clerk

Give Us a Hand

The following are items that Family Promise needs on an on-going basis. Whatever you can provide is appreciated. Please drop off at the kitchen door of the Parsonage.

Paper Towels	Toilet Paper
Kleenex	Laundry Soap
Fabric Softener	Aluminum Foil
Plastic Wrap	Napkins
Hand Soap	Dish Soap
Food Storage Containers (for leftovers)	

New Address

Lucille Hunt's new address is:
Cypress House
205 Midland Parkway #136
Summerville, SC 29485

BE OUR GUEST SUPPER

Come to Bethany on July 21, from 4:45-5:45 p.m. for the next Be Our Guest Dinner. The menu is Hamburgers, hotdogs, salads and desserts. I am the host for July.

The Be Our Guest Dinner in August is on the 18th from 4:45-5:45 p.m. The menu is Barbeque chicken, salads and desserts.

So come and enjoy two delicious meals. We love doing this and enjoy seeing the smiles on everyone's faces.

Save The Date!

July 24, 2015 Brooks Barbeque!! 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Your Help is Needed!!!

July Birthdays

Rollin Jones 7/03
Lucas Hollner 7/11
Rod MacDonald 7/20

July Anniversaries

Bill and Nancy Murray 7/15
Scott and Donna Bard 7/28

August Anniversaries

Bob and Sandy Goodman 8/13
David and Gloria Sleeter 8/26

August Birthdays

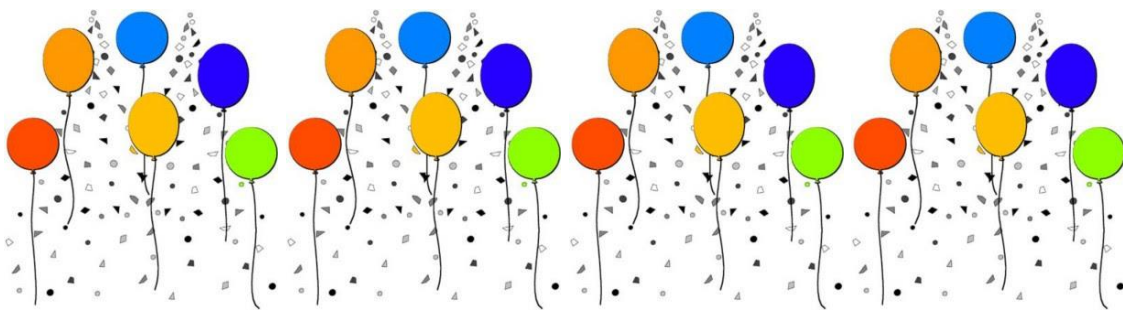
Coreen Hallenbeck 8/02
Jack Delehanty III 8/02
Lisa Empie 8/05
Barbara Brazis 8/11
Cindy Starks 8/18
Gil Faustel 8/20
Pam Nichols 8/21
Donna Bard 8/21
Bruce Neyerlin 8/25
John Delehanty 8/25
David Sleeter 8/27
Christine van Alstyne 8/29



Kitchen Fund Drive Authorized by Consistory

More exciting information coming soon

Be looking for it.



Calendar - July, 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	2 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	3 07:30 PM - AA Group	4 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
5 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	6 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	7 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous	8 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	9 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	10 07:30 PM - AA Group	11 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
12 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	13 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	14 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous	15 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	16 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	17 07:30 PM - AA Group	18 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
19 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	20 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	21 04:45 PM - Be Our Guest Supper 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous	22 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	23 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	24 03:00 PM - 06:00 PM - Brooks Barbecue 07:30 PM - AA Group	25 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
26 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	27 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	28 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous	29 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	30 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	31 07:30 PM - AA Group	

Calendar - August, 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
2 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	3 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	4 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous	5 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	6 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	7 07:30 PM - AA Group	8 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
9 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	10 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	11 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous	12 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	13 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	14 07:30 PM - AA Group	15 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
16 10:00 AM - Worship 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM - Consistory Meeting 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	17 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	18 04:45 PM - Be Our Guest Supper 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous	19 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	20 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	21 07:30 PM - AA Group	22 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
23 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	24 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time	25 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous	26 06:30 PM - Bible Study 07:30 PM - New Start Step Group	27 07:30 PM - Nicotine Anonymous	28 07:30 PM - AA Group	29 10:00 AM - Al Anon Group
30 10:00 AM - Worship 06:00 PM - Keeping Clean	31 09:30 AM - Women's Bible Study 07:00 PM - Step at a Time					

Drive Thru
Friday
July 24, 2015

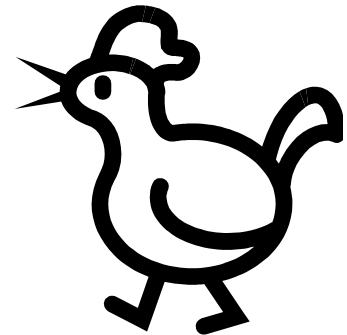
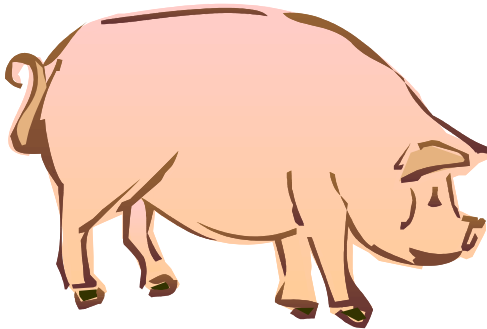
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Bethany Reformed Church

760 New Scotland Avenue

Albany

Convenient to Route 85 at Buckingham



1/2 Chicken Only	\$8
1/2 Chicken Dinner	\$10
Ribs Only	\$10
Rib Dinner	\$12

**Dinners include: meat, potato, coleslaw, roll,
dessert**

**Pre-orders accepted thru July 23 - Call 384-
1756**

www.bethanyrc.org