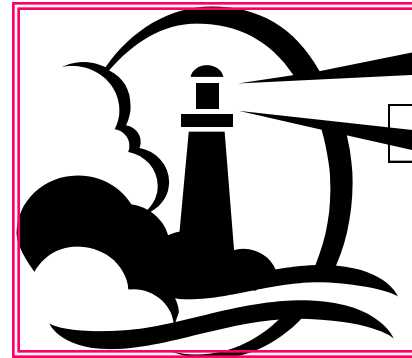


At the Crossroads  
8126 NC HWY 306 S  
Arapahoe, NC 28510



# The Bethany Beacon

*"And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you"*

Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Arapahoe, North Carolina 28510  
Bethanyarapahoe.org

February  
2012

*"Finding the Way of Christ at the Crossroads."*

## Watson's Word

By Merritt Watson

Our house is located among tall pine trees. Sometimes in the morning when I awake I can hear the sound of the wind blowing through the trees. It is a sound that forewarns me before I arise that something is happening. A weather front of some kind is coming or has already come during the night.

Jesus likened the movement of the Spirit of God to the wind. He said to Nicodemus, *"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."* We can hear the wind but we do not see the wind. We can observe things moved by the wind—a tree bending under its pressure, waves crashing on the shore, flags billowing in the distance—but we do not see the wind. So it is with the movement of the Spirit of God. We can see only the results of what the Spirit is doing or has already done.

With the Spirit there is mystery, wonder and excitement. We may see a stirring in the flock of God and wonder if this is the beginning of something new God has set out to do? We may hear a new sound in the congregation and ask ourselves is God breathing new life into dry bones? Who of us is capable of saying? We can only hope.

I do not mean to give the impression that we are merely passive instruments in God's plan and purpose. God has given the church an active role in his great work. Our mission is to share the Gospel with the world. Our task is to make disciples of all nations. Our goal is to get the love of God into the hearts of all people. Our vision is of a kingdom where God rules.

We are confident that God's kingdom is coming. So we work with God at our tasks, listening for the wind moving in our midst. Of course, I can't be sure but I think I do see and hear the movement of God's Spirit among us. Some things have recently happened that indicate a stirring up of the Church. I think we are turning our eyes more toward our mission. While maintenance and survival continue to be important we are beginning to understand that they are not the real issues. The real issue is ministry and mission. I think maybe our elders and deacons see themselves called to lead in new ways and with new daring. I think our congregation is looking around and knows that these are times that call for the renewal and transformation of congregational life. Outcomes to this movement are not yet decided but I think the wind is definitely blowing. And I hope you think so too.

Merritt

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

#### Weekly

Sunday: Sunday School, 9:45 am; Worship, 11:00 am

Tuesday: Chancel Choir—7:00 pm, Jericho Ringers - 7:45 pm

#### Monthly

1st Sunday: Elders, BH, 7:30 am; Official Board, FH, 7:00 pm.

3rd Sunday: CWF/CMF, FH, 6:00 pm.

5th Sunday: Covered Dish Dinner, FH, following worship service.

\*Any changes to regularly scheduled activities and events will be noted in the calendar below.

BH=Bethany Hall; FH=Fellowship Hall; PL=Parking Lot; S=Sanctuary

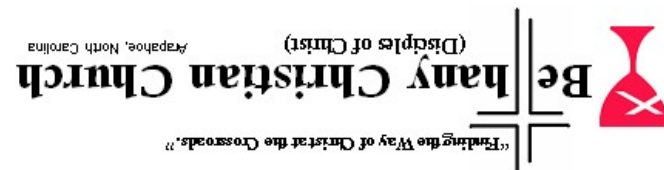
### In the Life of the Church

#### February

- |    |                           |             |
|----|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1  | Quilt Group               | 7:00        |
|    | Care Card Committee       | 7:00        |
| 3  | Youth Leaders Meet        | 6:00        |
| 4  | Elder/Deacon a.m. meeting | 7:30        |
|    | Dinner for 6 gathering    | 7:00        |
|    | Youth Fitness class       | 4:00        |
| 6  | Group #5 @ church         | 7:00        |
| 8  | Quilt Group               | 7:00        |
| 11 | Family Board Game Ngt     | 6:00        |
|    | Youth Fitness class       | 4:00        |
| 15 | Youth Group               | 4:00        |
|    | Quilt Group               | 7:00        |
| 16 | Worship Committee         | 7:00        |
| 18 | Youth Fitness class       | 4:00        |
|    | Youth Valentine Dinner    | 5:00        |
| 19 | Fishes & Loaves offering  |             |
|    | CWF/CMF meeting           | 6:00        |
| 21 | <b>CMF Pancake Supper</b> | <b>5:00</b> |
| 22 | Quilt Group               | 7:00        |
| 25 | Youth Fitness class       | 4:00        |
| 26 | Youth Group               | 4:00        |

February 2012

PO Box 156  
Arapahoe NC 28510-0156



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. FEES AND POSTAGE PAID  
ARAPAHOE NC 28510  
PERMIT NO. 1

<p><b>Serving in</b></p> <p><b>February</b></p> <p><b>Elders</b> Doug Brinson (C) John Beeman, Jr.</p> <p><b>Deacons</b> Kelly Jones (C) Margaret Harrell Del Lee Susan Lee Renee Midyette Mark Aaron</p> <p><b>Deaconess</b> Margaret Harrell</p> <p><b>Acolytes</b> Samantha Armstrong Matthew Bailey</p> <p><b>March</b></p> <p>James Hardison Doug Cahoon</p> <p>Tommy Banks Melissa Watson Jennie Adams Annette Aldridge Christine Beeman Avery Schmidt</p> <p>Kelly Jones</p> <p>Parker Watson Katie Bennett</p>	<p><b>February Birthdays</b></p> <p>2 Rachel Vendrick Johnnie Cowell Jordan Bennett</p> <p>3 Harvey Hardison</p> <p>5 Doug Brinson</p> <p>7 Wendy Morris Johnny Cahoon</p> <p>8 Mark Aaron Jeffrey Blount</p> <p>14 Jimmy Talvacchio Laddie Lea Banks</p> <p>16 Marlie Jones</p> <p>26 Mary Banks</p>	<p><b>Please Remember in Your Prayers:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Maurice Ankrom</td> <td>Betty Ganus Hill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Becky Badger</td> <td>Mike Hodges</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paula Bangle</td> <td>Pete Holt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lea Banks</td> <td>Audrey Humphrey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evelyn Beeman</td> <td>George Jones</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Albert Belangia</td> <td>Jaclyn Cowell Jones</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margie Bennett</td> <td>Libby Kern</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tembra Bennett</td> <td>Clota Lassiter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Velna Bennett</td> <td>Elbert Lee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donnie Bishop</td> <td>Melanie Mills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thomas Blei</td> <td>Betty Morris</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regnld/Wilma Boyd</td> <td>Ann Oliver</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Betsy Bratcher</td> <td>Lucille Parker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donna Bridges</td> <td>Sue Ann H Pezzella</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Becky Cahoon</td> <td>Peggy Potter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gladys Cahoon</td> <td>Louis Puckett, Jr.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claud Carawan</td> <td>Gay Rice</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hannah Cowell</td> <td>James Rowe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rebecca Cowell</td> <td>Harvey Spruill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harley Davis</td> <td>Mary Spruill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Darlene Ensley</td> <td>Patsy Stone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hal Gordon</td> <td>Katie Troxler</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diane Greene</td> <td>George Vendrick</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pat Griffith</td> <td>Virginia Watson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jack &amp; Jo Fleming</td> <td>Ann West</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lena Ruth Hardison</td> <td>Mattie P Williamson</td> </tr> </table>	Maurice Ankrom	Betty Ganus Hill	Becky Badger	Mike Hodges	Paula Bangle	Pete Holt	Lea Banks	Audrey Humphrey	Evelyn Beeman	George Jones	Albert Belangia	Jaclyn Cowell Jones	Margie Bennett	Libby Kern	Tembra Bennett	Clota Lassiter	Velna Bennett	Elbert Lee	Donnie Bishop	Melanie Mills	Thomas Blei	Betty Morris	Regnld/Wilma Boyd	Ann Oliver	Betsy Bratcher	Lucille Parker	Donna Bridges	Sue Ann H Pezzella	Becky Cahoon	Peggy Potter	Gladys Cahoon	Louis Puckett, Jr.	Claud Carawan	Gay Rice	Hannah Cowell	James Rowe	Rebecca Cowell	Harvey Spruill	Harley Davis	Mary Spruill	Darlene Ensley	Patsy Stone	Hal Gordon	Katie Troxler	Diane Greene	George Vendrick	Pat Griffith	Virginia Watson	Jack & Jo Fleming	Ann West	Lena Ruth Hardison	Mattie P Williamson
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<p><b>FLOWER CALENDAR</b></p> <p><b>February</b></p> <p>5 Kelli &amp; Buddy Bailey</p> <p>12 Clara &amp; Tommy Banks</p> <p>17 Christine &amp; John Beeman, Jr.</p> <p>24 Randy Beeman</p> <p><b>March</b></p> <p>4 Tiffany &amp; Dan Bennett</p> <p>11 Barbara Benton</p> <p>18 Susan Bisette</p>	<p><b>Ms Julia's surprise at birthday wishes in Feb.</b></p>	<p>Brandon Bennett Chirs Holton David Epperson John Kistler, III TJ Zahm</p>																																																				

## Board Minutes (unapproved until March 5, 2012)

### February 5, 2012

The official board of Bethany Christian Church met in the fellowship hall at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 5, 2012 for its regular monthly meeting with sixteen present and Chairman, Mac Harris presiding.

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order and Reverend Watson lit a candle representing God in our midst, followed by comments and prayer.

The minutes of the January 1, 2012 meeting were read by the clerk and approved. The minutes of the congregational meeting held on Sunday, January 15, 2012, seeking approval of the 2012 budget, were read and approved.

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for January, prepared by Randy Beeman and presented by Christine Beeman, was made available to all (attached). The report was received as presented.

### Elders Report

Doug Brinson reported the Elders had met this Sunday morning for their regular monthly Sunday morning breakfast and meeting. He stated January had been a busy month with a good representation from the Deaconate attending the "Dare to Lead" meeting in Greenville on Sunday afternoon, January 29<sup>th</sup>. The "Dare to Lead" program will continue with meetings for the eastern part of the state at Camp Caroline, which will be convenient for the churches in this area. A decision will need to be made by March 16<sup>th</sup> on whether or not Bethany wishes to continue with the program. There was also a meeting of the Elders and Deacons on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast and concluding at 9:00 p.m.

### Diaconate

Christine Beeman stated that the Deaconate enjoyed meeting with the elders on Saturday, February 4.

### Youth

Reverend Watson reported that the Youth sponsors will meet on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> to plan for the next meeting.

### Worship

A draft of job descriptions for the director of music and the organist (attached) were distributed to all present. It was pointed

out that our present director of music and organist's responsibilities do not fall under these guidelines as they were hired before these drafts were prepared. These documents need to be in place for future vacancies of these positions. A motion was made by Christine Beeman and seconded by Naomi

Cahoon that these drafts be adopted as official records for future hiring's of the director of music and the organist. The motion passed unanimously.

### Budget

Chairman Harris reported that Buck Jones will serve as the new Chairman of the Budget Committee

### Scholarship

Forms will be placed in the church office for anyone wishing to apply for a college scholarship. The deadline for the applications to be returned is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Property

John Beeman submitted a written report, which was read by Chairman Harris (attached) and said the following:

There is no driveway plan to report at this meeting, hopefully in the March meeting.

Fixed one exterior HVAC compressor, low on coolant. Comfort Air did the work.

Toilet in women's bathroom checked by Cayton Plumbing. A part had to be ordered to fix it. Should be repaired soon.

Ireland Electric has been called again to repair exterior lighting needs. Also, a pole has been ordered to change the lights in the sanctuary ceiling.

### Housekeeping

**Bethany office phone number**  
252-249-0266  
**Office hours**  
Tuesday—Friday 8-12:00  
Renee—Thurs. 9-4:00

**The Bethany Beacon**  
Published on the first Thursday after the first Sunday of each month by Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Post Office Box 156, Arapahoe, NC 28510

The question was asked about who is doing the cleaning of the buildings. It was reported that the same people are doing the cleaning under a new company that has been formed.

### Communication

Our audio system is now up and running again. A new computer has been installed, but there are still some tweaks that need to be done.

### Activities

Janci Cahoon reported that seven couples have signed up for Dinner for Six. Family Game Night is coming up on Friday, February 10. Accommodations have been booked for a Weekend Get-away August 10-13 at Southport (near Wilmington). Those who plan to participate should get a \$50.00 deposit to Renee' Midyette. Information about the house is posted on Mrs. Cahoon's classroom door.

### Chairman's Statement

Chairman Harris made comments encouraging the Board to support an effort to strengthen God's mission for our Church. He stated this could be done through the "Dare to Lead" program that is being offered, or through a program offered by Dick Hamm.

### Old Business

Christine Beeman pointed out that an offering for the regional Capital Cam-

 **Bethany Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
[www.bethanyarapahoe.org](http://www.bethanyarapahoe.org)

<b>Minister</b> Merritt Watson <i>minister@bethanyarapahoe.org</i>	Sara Spalding <b>Bell/Chime Choir Director</b>
<b>Board Chairman</b> Mac Harris	Sara Spalding <b>Communications Director</b>
<b>Secretary</b> Renée Midyette	Mac Harris <i>communications@bethanyarapahoe.org</i>
<b>Choir Director</b>	

Vision and Mission Statement  
*Our highest aspiration is to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbors as ourselves.*  
*Our mission is to enable people to know Christ and to strengthen their personal relationships with Him.*

Board minutes continued:

paigned was not received on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in January as agreed upon at our January meeting. The next fifth Sunday will be in April.

### New Business

Doug Brinson pointed out that in our present by-laws there is no way to honor someone who is not an elder or deacon, but who has performed an outstanding service. He pointed out that Clara Jean Ensley served as the church board clerk for 40 years, more or less, and we should have some way to honor this service. Mr. Brinson stated that if the Board passes this amendment, it could be read to the congregation next Sunday and voted on the following Sunday.

Mr. Brinson made a motion that the Board add sentences to the by-laws in Article II, Section A, paragraph 1 to allow the Board to nominate for honorary office those people, who, though no longer serving, have served as Board officers or members with honor, dignity and extraordinary service. The motion was seconded by Gladys Lee and passed unanimously.

Reverend Watson informed the Board that Ariel Fornes has cancelled her request to use our building on May 12<sup>th</sup> for her wedding and reception.

Elena Schmidt has requested the use of our building on April 21<sup>st</sup> for a wedding. A motion was made by Christine Beeman and seconded by Doug Brinson that Ms. Schmidt be granted permission to use our building. Motion passed unanimously.

Reverend Watson informed the Board of a request by Courtney Richmond and Adam McIntyre to use our building for a wedding on March 10<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Shirley Ensley and seconded by Jack Lee to grant this request. Motion passed unanimously.

Reverend Watson reminded the Board we need to appoint delegates to the Regional Assembly in Raleigh on April 27-29. Christine and John Beeman and Linda Watson were appointed as delegates and Jennie Adams as an alternate.

A written request by Dave and Sandy Netting to use our building for a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration on August 11, 2012 was read by Shirley Ensley. A motion was made by Shirley Ensley and seconded by Christine Beeman to grant this request. The motion passed unanimously.

Reverend Watson submitted a Minister's Report for January 2012 with comments (attached).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with everyone forming a prayer circle and comments were made by Reverend Watson.

Mac Harris, Chairman  
Linda Watson, Clerk

## Bethany News and Views



Here's Bethany's large group at the **Dare To Lead** workshop in Greenville on Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> with leader Rick Morse. Mac Harris and Doug Brinson are not in the picture. The presentations challenged Disciples churches to experience Missional Transformation & provided steps to take in the journey.

You are invited to enter into a **study of Spiritual Disciplines**—to learn what they are and why they are vital to living the Christian life in these times.

This study will be offered beginning on **Wednesday night, February 22, at 7 PM**. Each session will last for about an hour. **Lent** is a time when Christians focus on the practice of spiritual disciplines in repentance and preparation for celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord. It is a time when individual believers "give up something" for the sake of the Lord. I ask you to give up some of your time by participating in this study.

If you cannot possibly be present with us on Wednesday nights, I invite you to share in this study by way of the internet. One thing I ask of you as you do is to practice the discipline of patience and not rush ahead of the rest of us in this study. John Ortberg has written that our greatest enemy in the spiritual life is hurry. Please do not hurry ahead of the rest of us by advancing more than one session for one week at a time in this study. You will not gain the full benefit of what spiritual disciplines are by rushing through a study. I believe it is important that we all stay together, learn together and grow together. Our goal is to practice the spiritual disciplines we study and not just learn what they are.

The web site we will use for this study is: [http://www.watersedge.tv/disciplines\\_intro.htm](http://www.watersedge.tv/disciplines_intro.htm). You can go there and read what we will be talking about on each Wednesday night. Again please do it with us one subject for one week at a time. Our first session will be an introduction to spiritual disciplines. Sign up forms are available in the narthex.

Bethany Christian Youth would like to invite everyone to attend a **"Valentine Spaghetti Supper"** on **Saturday, February 18th**, from 5-7pm. The youth will provide Spaghetti, salad, bread, drink and dessert for \$6.50 per ticket. Door prizes will be given every half hour. Tickets will be available on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Come on out and support the youth of Bethany Christian Church. Bring your sweetheart. You might even receive a special valentine.

