

The Bethany Beacon

Presbyterian Theological Seminaries

- Austin—Austin TX
- Columbia—Decatur, GA
- Dubuque—Dubuque, IA
- Johnson C. Smith—Atlanta, GA
- Louisville—Louisville, KY
- McCormick—Chicago, IL
- Pittsburgh—Pittsburgh, PA
- Princeton—Princeton, NJ
- San Francisco—San Anselmo, CA
- Union—Richmond, VA
- Union (Queens Univ.) Charlotte, NC

By covenant agreement with the General Assembly:

- Auburn—New York, NY
- Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico—San Juan, PR

Gifts to Theological Education Fund (TEF) top \$50 million

A year-ending annual gift from a Missouri congregation (First and Calvary in Springfield) has put giving to the Theological Education Fund over \$50 million.

The Theological Education Fund was established by the 198th General Assembly (1986) to provide congregations a way to support all Presbyterian Theological Seminaries in the PC(USA). Also known as the 1% plan, the General Assembly encourages each congregation to give 1% of its program budget to investing in growing leaders for the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.). In the 1990s a seminary support network was formed. Their primary work is to build relationships between seminaries and all congregations and to share how lives transformed for Christ are making a difference in the church and world.

“Over half of our congregations have supported the fund since 1989, including thousands of regular and deeply invested supporters,” says Rose Niles, associate for Theological Education and Seminary

Relations for the General Assembly Mission Council. “All gifts are welcome and appreciated. 2012 will be a year of thanksgiving and celebration of thousands of congregations and mid councils that have invested over \$50 million in this exciting, vital ministry.”

“PC(USA) seminaries are remarkably broad and diverse in their expertise, which serves our educated clergy well. They excel at creatively making lifelong learning and continuing education for all Presbyterians possible.

Karen attended Louisville Theological Seminary (LTS). She received The Sharon Elaine Smith Scholarship, established in 1992, and offered to a student displaying outstanding potential for church leadership. This scholarship provides up to \$20,000 assistance for up to three years of full-time study.

Linda and Steve Toth are both graduates of San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Karen's corner

What to do when someone doesn't listen to you

Dear Friends,

In Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus tells you what to do when someone does not listen to you. That happens a lot to Jesus, so he knows what he's talking about! How does Jesus deal with people who don't listen to him?

Well, Jesus says, take one or two other trustworthy people with you and visit the person who will not listen again. If that doesn't work then have someone from the church help mediate the relationship between the two of you, like a pastor or elder. If that mediation doesn't work and the person still won't listen to you, Jesus says, then treat the other person as “a Gentile or a tax collector.”

Gentiles and tax collectors are those who are new to the faith – they're just taking the first baby steps toward a relationship with Jesus Christ, so we treat them gently. They don't have families that go right back to the time of the Exodus! Their families haven't been shaped and molded by the Word of God for hundreds of years, like faithful Jews in Jesus' time.

In modern words, “a Gentile or a tax collector” is a beginner. They don't have families that have been in the church for generations. They're brand new and learning about God from scratch. We don't want to get in the way of their fledgling faith and burgeoning trust in God, so we do a great deal of listening and we work out the best ways to engage them in the family of the church so we can create the conditions

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Karen's corner (cont.)

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necessary for them to be built up in love by the Holy Spirit.

When someone refuses to listen to you, it means the trust that the other person had in your relationship has been broken. They feel betrayed, angry, or hurt. Perhaps it was over something you said or didn't say. Perhaps there's something going on in the life of the other person that you just don't understand or even know about that's putting up an invisible barrier between the two of you.

This is the time for you to treat this person just like you would someone who is brand new to the faith,

even if the person has been a lifelong member of the body of Christ. This is the time to be humble yourself and to practice gentleness in your way of relating to this other person.

So when you've tried everything to get someone to listen to you and they still don't listen- stop talking.

Pause. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Pray.

And then listen to what the other person has to say to you...

Love in Christ,

Karen

Food Bowl Event to support food pantry



The Next Chapter Food Pantry is holding a "Food Bowl Event" to raise funds for pantry operation. Board members and pantry volunteers are selling bowls for \$10 each. Purchasers may take their bowl to a local participating restaurant to be filled with soup. The diner is then invited to eat the soup at the restaurant. A coupon that can be used at any one of the seven participating restaurants will accompany

each bowl. Coupons can be redeemed at any time during the week of February 20-24.

See Marilyn Rowe for a bowl or to inquire about this much needed fundraiser. All proceeds will go toward operations of the pantry, ensuring that service can continue in our community.

—Submitted by Marilyn Rowe

Bethany tithes in 2011 mission giving

The Mission Outreach committee has been able to assess Bethany's 2011 mission giving "all-of-a-piece" and in a way that didn't show up in recent financial reports made available at the congregational meeting.

In addition to the \$8,400 (7%) of the budget which was pledged and sent to the General Assembly as our basic mission support, money was generously given to the four special offerings and to other local missions. The total of the special offerings was \$1,984. A portion of the Pentecost Offering went to Love INC toward school supplies, and Bethany's share of the Peacemaking Offering was given to the Hospitality House. Others of you donated money directly to the Food Pantry and to the Personal Hygiene ministry with Love, INC. The donations to local missions

came to \$377. All of these gifts to missions added together come to over 10% of the \$97,696 local program expenses of our church last year.

Congratulations on your outstanding mission giving throughout 2011! We look forward to your generosity and commitment to missions again this year. As stated in the vision statement of Bethany Presbyterian Church, "With grateful hearts, we seek to engage in local and worldwide ministries and missions that offer a compassionate hand to the most vulnerable, seek to do God's justice and encourage the peace of Christ to take root in our world today." Thank you all.

—Submitted by Ruth Ann Alm, mission chair

*"God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others."
2 Corinthians 9:8 (CEV).*

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Per capita brings Presbyterians together...literally

Per capita is the responsible way of sharing the costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian Church community expressing the essential unity of the Church. The payment of the per capita apportionment can be seen as a sign of healthy relationships within the church, giving tangible witness to the unity and wholeness promised to us in Jesus Christ.

It has been said that the per capita apportionment is like a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water and telephone in order to remain connected to the utility systems and benefit from the services provided, we also pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us. The cost of these functions are appropriately shared by the whole church, an opportunity for all members of the

Presbyterian Church through governing bodies (presbytery, synod and General Assembly) to participate equally, responsibly and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians.

2012 per capita is \$25.09 per member. Bethany's stewardship committee requests that each member pay his/her own per capita amount as you are able.

2012 per capita assessment is \$25.09 per member. Please pay your per capita as you are able.



Our per capita dollars at work

So often when budget and finance committees prepare annual budgets they question why we send our perfectly good money to the larger church, headquartered in Louisville KY. We not only send general mission dollars but we send our per capita dollars, which to many seem like dues. The PC(USA) doesn't have dues, but we are connected in many important ways.

One function of our per capita dollar is the Presbyteries Cooperative Committee (PCC). This is a church-wide committee which is the only one not responsible to the General Assembly but is responsible to the many presbyteries of the PC(USA). Now lest you begin to think I am rambling in circles not unlike the Apostle Paul, please let me explain...the PCC is the group of persons who write the ordination exams. These exams are given yearly to candidates in ministry to assess their readiness for ministry. There are four of them: Theological Competence; Biblical Exegesis, Worship and Sacrament and Polity. Biblical Exegesis is an opportunity for the candidate to demonstrate a working knowledge of the ancient languages and ability to draw from Scripture the deeper meanings of the writings. Candidates sign up to take these exams when they feel ready, they know when they are coming up and basically what the content will be. They are given the Books of the Bible for the Exegesis exam ahead of time and the actual passages (one old and one new – they choose one) one month ahead, can work on their own and must meet a deadline. The other three exams are made up of situations a pastor will encounter and, drawing on Presbyterian polity and the *Book of Order*, the candidate writes an essay on how they would respond to these situations.

These exams are graded in an unusual way in that presbyteries elect a person or persons to attend a "reading group" and read these exams, give them a grade and include comments intended to be helpful to the candidates regarding those grades. These groups consist of pastors and elders, men and women, and almost always the Spirit of God sees to it that the groups achieve a balance between the above. The PCC at the same time they prepare the exam, prepares a resource paper for all readers so they will understand the intent of the questions, have access to material for their own edification, and receive information to prepare them for what these candidates have faced in the exam process.

This is your per capita dollars at work in the church. We here at Bethany have a pastor with a wonderful education, who went to a Presbyterian seminary, went through the exam process, was judged by her colleagues in ministry, clergy and lay alike, to be ready to come and work among us. We are the blessed beneficiaries of this process.

It is now time for churches to pay their per capita to the presbytery, and many churches offer their members the opportunity to pay their own per capita. We here at Bethany follow that tradition, so as part of your stewardship efforts will you be willing to pray for the candidates for ministry, support the Presbyterian seminaries and pay your personal per capita? May God lighten your hearts.

—Submitted by Joey Mills, stewardship committee member and former member of and reader for the Presbyteries Cooperative Committee

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THE BETHWIDGEON

The case of the runaway food

By Joey Mills, *Bethwidgeon* News Reporter

It has come to this reporter's attention that once a month food seems to be missing from Bethany Presbyterian Church. It does seem strange that the person or persons nicking the food hasn't noticed the Leprechaun-like pot of gold sitting right next to the food storage cart. Hmmm mighty strange goings on here, Not wanting to make allegations, some undercover investigation has been done. We must all be vigilant.

Good news...Bethwidgeons being vigilant (not to be mistaken with being a vigilante) has paid off. It would seem that there are some

folks in our area without enough to eat. Shocking, in this day and age! Some of our own Bethwidgeons have taken matters into their own hands and are sharing the food in the storage cart with others. These thoughtful little "food nickers" shall so far go unnamed, but you know who you are. As for the rest of us, that pot of gold is how you can help. Share some of your gold and the Bethwidgeon Leprechaun Conrad will exchange it for more food. When you share your gold, nick some food off the shelf, put it in the storage cart and the food nickers will see to it that others can eat.

Cause and effect...stewardship at it's finest, share and share alike, love, forgive, grow!

Letterbox

From Merlyn Ashby along with the note, "for the next Beacon:"

Thank you, Kathryn, for your initiating and implementing the Beacon! "The Editor" does a great job of keeping us in touch and updated. I have always enjoyed reading this and printing out the calendar, but never more than while I

have been in California.

I have had a wonderful Christmas season and Thanksgiving with my boys and their families, but have also missed my church family. Again, many heartfelt thanks to you, Kathryn, and to Cali Burzota and B & B Printing for our *Beacon*.

Merlyn



Andy and his birthday pie with all 90 candles. Note Conrad and the fire extinguisher (background)...just in case a 5-alarm fire breaks out.

Photo provided by Andy's family

Andy celebrates 90th

Andy Moore celebrated becoming 90-years-young last weekend. He mentioned a few of the many blessings he has had during his life-time:

- 66 years with his loving wife, Jeanette.
- Four wonderful children.
- That the good Lord is still allowing him to be in church and walking down the center aisle to his pew.
- That he has been in worship all of his 90

years. His mother took him to church when he was just a baby.

- That he has been a member of Bethany for 66 years. (Notice a correlation with his wedding anniversary?)

Andy, your Bethany family is grateful for you. We wish you a happy birthday and hope you will be walking to your usual seat for many years to come! What a blessing that you are still ushering, mowing the lawn and running the Country Store. You can't keep a good man down!

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Bethany bulletin board

Chase Van Weerdhuizen will be visiting an art institute near Minneapolis to evaluate enrollment next year (yes, he is a senior!). He entered some of his art in a competition, and several of his works are featured at a display in Boise.

Keep families who have lost loved ones in your prayers—the Ron Marlow family and also Jean Church and family. It has been three years since Katy passed away. The loss is still very keen.

Pray for Jim Groves as he anticipates hip surgery.

Chris Moore is living in Montana to be near her son, Bob. Her new address is c/o Bob Moore, 6090 Century Drive, Manhattan, MT 59741.

It is always good to welcome people back to worship. Betty Roberts has been back several times. She expresses thanks to everyone for

their cards, calls and concerns. Special thanks go to Kay Hyatt for doing Betty's grocery shopping for her.

Merlyn Ashby is back from an extended visit with her family. She said, "I was there so long that I began to fit in."

Norma Ruth had a big birthday celebration with her family and church friends a couple of weeks ago.

Terry Warrington has her mother settled in Meadowbrook, and she is adjusting well.

Prayers for Bea Hansen and her daughters. Bea suffered a stroke. She now resides at Wellsprings.

Karen has begun a term on the presbytery's Committee on Ministry. She will be away to attend meetings on third Sunday afternoons.

February 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Coffee available in Wilson Hall every Sunday			1	2 5:30 CE committee	3	4
5 8:30 Music rehearsal 9:00 Bible study 10:00 worship	6	7 7:00 Scouts	8	9 9:00 am long range planning 7:00 Session	10 10—Noon stew feed preparations	11 Heavenly Stew Feed
12 8:30 Music rehearsal 9:00 Bible study 10:00 worship	13	14 7:00 Scouts	15	16 Noon—Mariners	17	18
19 8:30 Music rehearsal 9:00 Bible study 10:00 worship CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	20	21 7:00 Scouts	22	23 9:00 am long range planning	24 2:00 mission committee	25
26 8:30 Music rehearsal 9:00 Bible study 10:00 worship	27 3:00 worship committee	28 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Deacons	29			

Bethany Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Rev. Karen Francis, Pastor
1712 West Idaho
Ontario, OR 97914

Phone: 541-889-5752
Emergency: 541-709-1467
E-mail:
bethanypresoffice@gmail.com



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***Minds are like
parachutes...they
only work if they
are open.***



Ring around the World quilt created by Ilea Jones.

—Photo by Kathryn Baker

Heavenly Stew Feed...success is in the details

Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Heavenly Stew Feed and Country Store will be on Saturday, February 11. Dinner will be served from 5-7 p.m. We need people to help that night as well as on Friday, the 10th. Marilyn Moore will be here that day to prepare the lamb stew, so meat trimmers and vegetable choppers will have lots of work to do. Friday volunteers will gather in the kitchen at 10:00 a.m. With many helping hands, we anticipate that the work will be complete by noon. Be sure and let Marilyn Rowe know where and when you can volunteer to help. Workers on Saturday are asked to wear white shirts and navy or denim trousers or skirts so our guests can easily spot Bethany folk.

Pat Looney, dessert chair, is requesting desserts (homemade if you can manage) to be

brought to the church one to two hours before dinner is served. Andy Moore reminds us that we need to donate articles to the General Store (and buy too!).

A new addition this year is a quilt raffle. The queen-sized "Ring around the World" quilt was made and donated by Ilea Jones and quilted by Karen Ross. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held on Sunday morning, February 12 following worship.

To accommodate increased prices for ingredients for both of the stews, ticket prices have been raised a bit this year. All proceeds are designated to Bethany's contingency/capital asset account for use as needed to upgrade the building and address any major repairs to the Bethany facility.