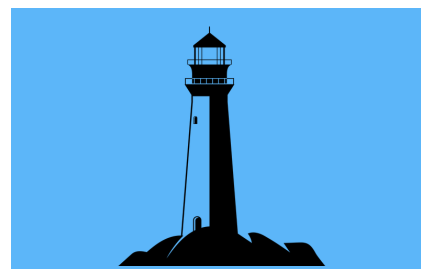




BETHANY NEWS



A Reconciling
and
Lighthouse
Congregation



**Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
Worship the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful
songs. Psalm 100:1-2**



Choir Practice resumes 8/26 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Bell choir - Polish bells 8/19 @ 8:00 p.m.
Practice resumes 8/26 @ 8:00 p.m..**

New members are welcome!





The Pastor's Note

Dear Bethany Church Family,

As I talked about in the June newsletter, the summer is sermons that have been put together based on the questions and curiosities you have had about how our faith interacts with the world. The first six weeks of summer we looked at Christian Virtues. A virtue is simply a measure of good character. Virtues are those things that define who we are rather than what we do. Virtues are dispositions in life that affect our actions. We looked at virtues like grace, forgiveness, self-worth, goodness, patience, compassion, discipline, perseverance, and faith. There were other virtues we talked about throughout the series but these were some of the main topics we looked at.

As we head into this new phase of sermons based on your feedback, we are looking at social issues that many of us are wrestling with in our lives. The focus for these next few weeks will be on how we Christians are to respond to social issues and topics. We will be taking some of those virtues we talked about the past few weeks and applying them to our actions in society. Those lessons are not things that are lived out just within the walls of the church or in our private lives but in every part of our lives in every place. There is to be continuity of who we are from one place to another.

Later this month we will be reading a story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. In the story Jesus is arrested by a group of people armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders. Jesus accepts that Judas has betrayed him and resigns himself to be arrested. Unfortunately, when you send a bunch of people with weapons to take a beloved person away, it can be quite intimidating and one of the disciples decides to defend Jesus from being taken. Jesus rebukes the disciple and tells him that those who use the sword, die by the sword. After rebuking the disciple he turns to the armed crowd and asks them, "Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like a thief? Day after day, I sat in the temple teaching, but you didn't arrest me" (Matthew 26:55).

One thing I really appreciate about Jesus is that he was authentically himself from place to place, person to person, emotion to emotion, teaching to teaching. There was a continuity in his life of who he was and what he was about. He did not use violence nor condoned it. He taught his lessons everywhere and each displayed his heart and calling. He pushed against societal norms and spoke out against injustice. He was, unapologetically, Jesus through and through. Jesus knew who he was, Who sent him, and what he could do for us.

Sometimes I am jealous of how confident Jesus was in who he was (I use the past tense as I am talking specifically about the Jesus who is displayed in the Gospel stories). Our mission statement highlights our hope to, "turn hearts toward mutual respect, authenticity, and love." I love that we don't want to be fake or false at Bethany but we hope to be authentic to who God created us to be. That our whole self can come, without reservations, into this community and be. Jesus shows us what it means to be real with one another. He isn't afraid to disagree, to encourage, to challenge, to hope, to be himself. I hope that we can seek more to foster a community, like Jesus, that is mutually authentic. Where all of us can be ourselves and live into the life that God is calling us toward.

Written with love from me, Cole Gunther Breit, that pastor guy.

Money Matters

NEWS FROM FINANCE

Gifts for July 2026

Thank you for your
many gifts to
Bethany!

Received for the
General Fund

\$16,989.72

Designated gifts to other funds:

Building Fund: \$1450.00

Building Fund/Memorials: \$925.00

Families moving Forward: \$540.00

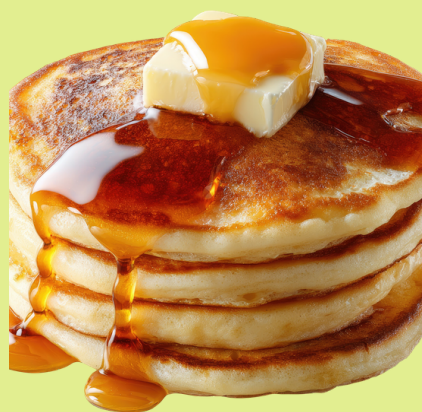
Myles' Neigh. Outreach: \$145.00

Pastor's Discretionary: \$6.00

Trustees: \$500.00

Urban Ministries: \$50.00

Thank you 



Community
Pancake
Breakfast
August 15
8:30-10:30 a.m.

Dear Bethany Members,
My family would like to thank you for visits, phone calls, and cards the last month of Mickey's life. They were so special and all of you shared more kindness, love, and support at a very difficult time. We could not have gotten through this without you. The luncheon gave me time to express my love for Bethany and to thank you for being there my whole life. Love, Jane Roberts

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



The opportunity to help pack meals for **Rise Against Hunger** with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church is still available. Packing is Saturday, Aug. 8th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at 3200 Wellington Ct., Suite 112, Raleigh, NC. Contact Marian Williams for more info and to put your name on the list!

The **Durham Arts Council** needs your help to bring Durham's signature arts festival to life! Volunteer opportunities include supporting artists, greeting visitors, collecting donations, assisting in the Kidz Zone, and helping with festival setup. Every role helps create a welcoming and memorable experience for our community. To volunteer go to:
<https://volunteer.bloomerang.co/volunteer>



Bethany will be preparing and serving dinner at **Urban Ministries of Durham** on Aug. 28. If you are able to help, please let Lisa Kearns know.

Durham Crisis Response Center provides free and confidential services to survivors of domestic, sexual, and family violence, and human trafficking. They have reached out to Bethany to see what ways we may want to partner together and spread awareness about their vital services. They have invited us to come visit their office, the Durham Family Justice Center, and learn more about them and how we can be of help. Pastor Cole is planning to schedule a visit and would be grateful to have others come and learn as well. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Pastor Cole at cbreit@nccumc.org.





The Lizzie Grey SS Class is sponsoring the annual ice cream social and hymn sing in the FC on Aug. 23 at 3:00 p.m. Come and bring a friend!



School Supply List



#2 Pencils

1 Subj. spiral notebooks

Wide ruled notebook paper

24-pack crayons

Glue sticks & 2 inch block erasers



United Women in Faith Tuesday Morning Circle

The Tuesday Morning Circle will NOT MEET in August.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Tuesday Evening Circle

The Tuesday Evening circle WILL MEET on **August 18**, @7:00 p.m. to pack bookbags for Hillandale. Last day to contribute will be Sunday, 8/16.



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will meet on August 11, @7:00 p.m. in the FC.

WORSHIP TEAM

August 2026

Communion Servers: Gary Crispell & April Stone-Mills



Acolyte

Aug. 2 - Heather Fisher
Aug. 9 - Sharon Sone
Aug. 16 - Kate Hankins
Aug. 23 - April Stone-Mills
Aug. 30 - Gerhard Mels

Liturgist

Aug. 2 - Sharon Stone
Aug. 9 - Kate Hankins
Aug. 16 - Gerhard Mels
Aug. 23 - Elaine Truckner
Aug. 30 - Casey Breit

Open & Close Church

Aug. 2 - John Long
Aug. 9 - John Roberts
Aug. 16 - Dan Portaro
Aug. 23 - Gary Crispell
Aug. 30 - Sharon Stone

Ushers

Aug. 2 - Becky & Donald House
Aug. 9 - J. Long & G. Mels
Aug. 16 - Lisa & Gary Kearns
Aug. 23 - P. Hall & C. Klein
Aug. 30 - D. Portaro & M. Painter

A Note on Switching Dates

If you are unable to do your assigned worship activity, please arrange to switch with someone or find a willing volunteer.

Please let the office know if it involves a liturgist or an acolyte, as those names are always listed in the bulletin.

Greeters

Aug. 2 - Donald House
Aug. 9 - Marian Williams
Aug. 16 - Lynne Sprague
Aug. 23 - Donald House
Aug. 30 - Cathy Portaro

A HEART FOR SERVING

By Lisa Kearns

At Myles Neighborhood Outreach, we are reminded that ministry is about more than meeting needs—it is about the relationships God builds and the lives He changes.

Shamia first came to Myles' Neighborhood Outreach for support during a difficult season in her life. As we got to know her, we discovered her kind heart and genuine love for others. Before long, she began helping us!

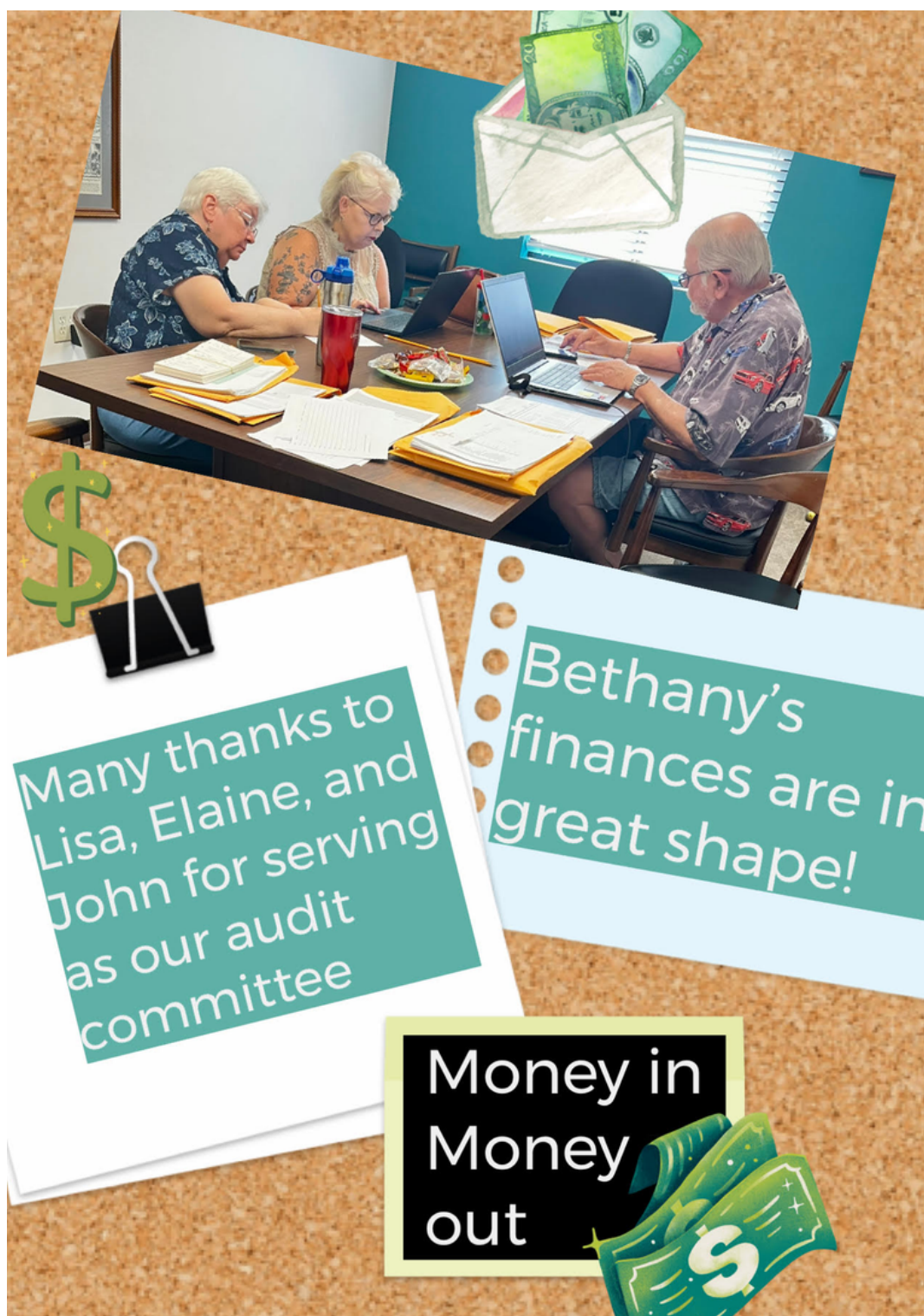
Today, even while facing challenges of her own, Shamia helps wherever needed and has a gift for making others feel seen, welcomed, and valued.

Her example reminds us that God works through willing hearts. Shamia shows that our circumstances do not define our ability to love, encourage, and bless others.

We are deeply grateful for Shamia and the light she brings to MNO. Her story reminds us that hope is real, community matters, and God can use each of us to make a difference. Please continue to keep Shamia, our outreach ministry, and all those we serve in your prayers. Together, we are witnessing God's love in action—one relationship, one act of kindness, and one life at a time.

MNO would love more volunteers! Let Lauren Dawood or Lisa Kearns know if you'd like to help on August 15 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.





Each year the church is required by the UMC *Book of Discipline* to conduct a review of its financial operations. As we are considered a small church, Bethany is allowed to use a committee from the congregation under the direction of the Finance chair. Many thanks to this group for giving up their day and working through Bethany's workbooks with such diligence!



As Myles' Neighborhood Outreach continues to grow, we are so appreciative of your support and donations. We are proud of how far this has come and so excited to continue! In July, we served 30 individuals, so the word is spreading. With that said, our need for donations is growing as well. If YOU would like to donate ITEMS there is a donation box in the narthex of the sanctuary or items can be dropped off at the fellowship center Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering. Be sure to designate MNO on your check. Thanks again for the support and generosity towards this amazing outreach! Lauren Dawood

CURRENT NEEDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Women

Shirts (S, M, 3, 4, 5, 6x)

Pants - XL

Women's Underwear
(L, XL, 2X, 3X)

Sports bras (M, L, 2, 3, 4X)

Men

Clothing (S,M,L,XL,
2,4,5,6x)

Pants (32, 34, 36, 38)



FOR EVERYONE

Backpacks, purses, reusable totes

Deodorant

Hats

Reading glasses/Sunglasses

Washcloths

TRAVEL SIZE - lotion, hand sanitizer, toothpaste,
soap, shampoo/conditioner





1st Ingrid Clayton
5th Henry Garrett
6th Alan Arnold
18th Ruth Campbell
20th Russell Jones

21st Kate Hankins
23rd Heather Huggett
24th Jennifer Apisai
27th Pat Crispell
30th Zach Mincey

20th Connie & Earl Kirby
24th Cheryl & Christopher Klein
27th Cathy & Dan Portaro

*Happy
Anniversary*

Church Contacts

Sanctuary Address: 2809 Guess Rd
Office Mailing Address: 2903 Guess Rd
Office Phone: 919-477-6659
Church Email: bethanyumc1@gmail.com

Online Links

[Google Calendar](#)
[Bethany Website](#)
[ZOOM Meetings](#)
[Live Online Worship](#)