



February 2014

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:00 am Traditional Service
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT December 2013

Budgeted	\$360,000.00
Income	\$336,882.00
Expenses*	\$347,681.00

*\$13,000 of the expense money, is money that has been placed in reserves.

WET CEMENT BLOGSITE

As Lisa was launching our website in April 2013, I set up a personal blog space. As I was considering a title for this blog space, I decided upon a favorite phrase that I often use when making decisions with our leadership--"Wet Cement." Many important decisions for me are rarely quickly set in stone; there are just too many variables to consider and there may arise sudden factors that have yet to be considered. Therefore, many decisions are not set in stone. Yet a course can be set; we can pour the cement into its forms, use the trowels to smooth out the rough places, and begin the process toward completion, but we work with ideas and concepts that are still taking shape.

This is my take on life and on much of what I have learned about important things such as God, Jesus and his kingdom. I have traveled down many popular schools of Christian thought over the past three decades only to find disappointment that Jesus was just not in it. Just when I thought that I had it figured out, I realized that the cement had hardened too quickly and I had become a blockhead! So I journey much more cautiously today. I work with wet cement—ideas that are taking shape. I realize that I now know much less than I thought did at the beginning of the journey. ;-)

Perhaps I will arrange the forms when suddenly an event, a situation, a person, an intersection, or maybe it will just be you who will walk across my nicely sculpted path. I then break out the trowels to re-shape and mold the ideas that are forming in my thoughts and governing my patterns of life. Jesus has drastically altered my understandings several times in my life. So if you read something that strikes you as odd, or irritates you, it's probably a coarse piece of grit in the still-curing cement of my thoughts. Thank you for your grace!

I want to finish this article with the names of my favorite authors who have had the greatest influence for shaping much of my thinking and style in presenting Jesus--don't blame them for my feeble interpretations: C.S. Lewis, Eugene Peterson, Lesslie Newbigin, Dallas Willard, N.T. Wright, Alan Hirsch, and John Ortberg. I look forward to sharing my thoughts with you all as I continue working with wet cement.

So if you have the time, take a visit to my weekly blog at bethesdaec.org/media/blog.



A **youth membership class** will be starting on Sat Feb 15th at 10 am and will meet through Mar. Any student in 8th grade or above. Please see Pastor Jeff.



**Adult Sunday School
Opportunities
Jan 5th - March 30th**

Gathering @ 9:15 am; Starting @ 9:30 am

1 Respectable Sins - led by Connie Wright in the Cafe. Have Christians become so preoccupied with the major sins of our society that we have lost sight of our need to deal with our own more subtle sins? This study by Jerry Bridges addresses specific "acceptable" sins that we tend to tolerate in ourselves—such as jealousy, anger, pride, ungratefulness, and judgmentalism. The message of hope to overcome our subtle sins lies in the profound mercy of the gospel and the transforming grace of God.

2 Living For Jesus by Richard Dickey - led by Dean Boyer in the Library. In this class we will be developing an understanding of a worldview or map to show us how to live in the spiritual journey of life. Without a map we tend to wander and stumble along without a real purpose or sense of destiny. We will attempt to define success God's way using His scriptures for our practical day-to-day lives. Our hope is to examine ways God has provided to get closer to Jesus in our daily walk and to hear the words, "well done my good and faithful servant" is the ultimate success.

December 1st – February 23rd

3 Jesus and the Just Reign of God - led by a rotation of leaders in the sanctuary. Emphasis will be on... Luke and James The Perfect Gift... We Must Have Faith in People... Never Too Early to Pray...

Do you need help paying your heating bill this winter?



If so, Citizens Oil may be able to help you. Based on income, they are offering 100 free gallons of oil. Contact them at 1-877-563-4645 for an application. Questions, contact Mary Ellen Hering at 570-366-2152.



Women's Winter Retreat
February 14-16, 2014
Speaker—Donna Best

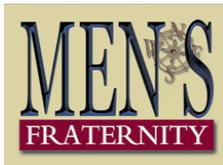
"Weatherproof Your Home...Against the Storms of Life"

The biblical principles taught in this seminar are based on Psalm 127:1, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." We actually build two "houses." One is our own life and the other is our family ["Family" also includes the lives of single women.]. As we seek the Lord and His ways, He will tear down what we have built on faulty beliefs, and will construct a new life for us. That new life is "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27), and is built on a foundation of TRUTH.

Cost: \$166 for weekend; \$23 for Saturday sessions and lunch only [NOTE: Saturday sessions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. include ALL main teaching. Overnight guests enjoy more times of formal and informal sharing with the speaker who will be staying through Sunday morning.] Location: Kenbrook Retreat Center. Visit www.donnabest.org for more information on the speaker. Sign-up at the Welcome Counter or online.

**Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast
February 8th @ 8 am**

Friedensburg Country Restaurant (Rte 443)
All men are welcome. There is no need to sign up.



**Re-Scheduled Christmas Party/
Sweetheart Dinner**
Open to Adults 18+

Saturday, February 1st @ 5:00 pm in the Common Ground.
Bring a white elephant gift for a "FUN" exchange. Cost is \$5 per person. Please sign up at the Welcome Counter or online. Contact Linda Bollinger at 570-739-4580 with questions.

**February
Upcoming Events**



- February 2nd - Youth Sunday & Souper Bowl Football Game w/FUMC
- February 9th - Regular Meeting
- February 16th - Encounter Retreat
- February 23rd - Regular Meeting

BYM is open to all students in 6th - 12th grades.
Meeting in the Library.



Open to all students age 4 thru 5th grade. **Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm** runs thru March 26th.



Every Monday 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Bethesda @ The Corner
(Rts. 183 & 443)

- February 3 - News from the Future
- February 10 - Finding the Family I Never Knew
- February 17 - Do Good Dogs Go to Heaven?
- February 23 - God and Gays

**February 9th & 23rd
1:30 - 3:30 pm Library**



GriefShare is a support group for those who have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend. Video vignettes, group discussion, personal study, and reflection are part of healing. Call Paul at 570-294-0778 or Marcia Schlosser at 570-739-2889 for more information.



**Every Tuesday @ the
Corner 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

Celebrate Recovery® is designed to help those struggling with hurts, hang-ups, and habits by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through the recovery process. The program is based on eight principles from the Beatitudes and the Twelve Steps (i.e. AA) and their biblical comparisons. A limitless number of issues can be dealt with through the program such as chemical addictions, overspending; anger; overeating; need to control; fear/anxiety and more! For more information, please call the church office.

Crochet Circle ...

February 10th & 24th at the home of Cheryl Bender.



Mommy's are you going crazy being stuck inside the house with little ones this winter? Come out and join Bethesda's Mommy and Me time, a weekly playdate time where Mommy's (Daddys, Grandparents or other Caretakers) can come socialize while the little ones have fun playing together and burning energy. **Mommy and Me meets every Monday in the Nursery from 10:00-11:00am.**

**What's For Dinner Wednesday
February 5th & 19th**

Dinner served: 5:30—6:30 pm
Come enjoy the fellowship. (Adults \$3, Kids \$1, Family cost \$10 max) After dinner there are small groups for ladies & men as well as Kidz Klub for the youth. No need to sign-up.



A Mission-Minded Kids program will be held During Junior church on **February 9th.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

February 2014

Please Note – All prayer concerns will be listed for one month and then removed. If you would like your prayer concern to be continued longer than a month, you must contact the church office or Pastor Mark. Thank you!

Personal

George Appelt, Sr (recovery)
Brenda Bauer (cancer)
Bonnie Betz (internal bleeding)
Trudi Bux (cancer)
Mary Dietz (cancer)
Dale Felker (stroke)
Eddie Heim (cancer)
Peg Heim (recovery)
Sara Houshower (cancer)
Edith Houtz (recovery)
Eleanor Jamison (recovery)
Harlie Jaskierski (testing)
Gail Knauf (arm)
Diane Luckenbill (eyes)
Jennifer McKenrick (cancer)

Erika Minnich (pneumonia)
Dolly Natel (comfort)
Alexandria Rader (recovery)
Clyde Rhen (testing)
Mary Rhen (hearing)
Bonnie Richards (cancer)
Mark Sanford (cancer)
Marcia Schlosser (cataracts)
Vinnie Slovinsky (heart)
Sue Troxel (heart)
Flo Walton (back)
Patsy Weaver (recovery)
Alan Woomert (recovery)
Harry Young (mixed dementia)
Sandy Zanini (recovery)

Family

Delaney Brown family (loss)
Helen Deweese family (loss)
David Dorsey family (loss)
Jean Potts Curry family (loss)
Allison Scott family (loss)
Kathy Schaeffer family (transition)

Local, National, and Global

Rev. Bruce Hill, Bishop
Rev Chuck Campbell
Church Health, Church Planting,
Leadership, Evangelism, and Discipleship
Connie Wright, Child Evangelism
Fellowship, Schuylkill County
President Barack Obama
US Military Forces

Shut-ins

Margaret Bender	Martha Koenig
Dorothy Blankenhorn	M. Jean Luckenbill
Joyce Brown	Margaret Miller
Bert Heydt	Hazel Minnich
Virginia Hoover	Errol Russel
	Flo Walton

Congregation

Blue Mountain Backpack Program
Celebrate Recovery @ the Corner (Tues)
Family Promise
Griefshare Ministry @ the Church (Sun)
Lifetree Café @ the Corner (Mon)
L.I.F.E. Prison Ministry
PSP Troop L—Frackville, Schuylkill
Haven & Jonestown

Military

Josh Behler (Air Force)	Nicole Perkins (Army)
Keith Drummer (FBI)	Thomas Perkins (Army)
Brandon Huntzinger (Army)	Joseph Renninger (Army Reserve)
Benjamin Kilmer (National Guard)	Steven J Russell-Rhen (Army)
Luke Long (National Guard)	Zach Siple (Coast Guard)
Luke Long, Jr. (National Guard)	Jake Stoudt (Air Force)
	Joe Sweigart (Army)

Community Prayer Ministry

Sunday, February 23rd @ the Corner
6:15 to 7:30 pm



Contact Norma Minnich (570-739-2122) or Shelley Hikes (570-739-4049) with questions or for more information.

Prayer Meeting

Join other church members to pray for the needs of our community and congregation. Every Wednesday @ 7:30 pm in the Library



All articles for events held during March 1st through April 5th, should be submitted by the **10th of February** in order to be included in our **March issue**. Please do your best to get your information in on time. Thank you! **A copy of this newsletter can also be found on-line at www.bethesdaec.org.**