



**Sunday Morning Worship Schedule**

8:00 am Traditional Service  
9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT  
July 2016**

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$ 222,635	\$ 243,036	\$ 20,401
Expenses	\$ 227,076	\$ 235,533	(\$8,457)
Fr. Build Fund	\$ 17,056	\$ 0	\$ 17,056
To Reserves	\$ 0	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000

**Fall Semester Small Groups**  
Beginning the week of September 18  
Ending week of November 13



**Sundays:**

**2 to 4 p.m. - 1814 Crazy Horse Drive, Lake Wynonah - Death and Resurrection of the Messiah with Ray Vander Laan** Hosted and led by Steve and Michelle Svenson. Follow Him. Being a follower of Jesus does not mean staying away from evil. It means confronting it – face to face – just like Jesus did every single day and through his resurrection. In this fourth set of Faith Lessons, learn how confronting evil can be loudly proclaiming the name of Jesus or quietly caring for someone in need.

**6 to 8 p.m. - 411 Stoney Run Road, Chestnut Hill - Fire on the Mountain with Ray Vander Laan** – Hosted and led by Mark and Cindy Brooks. When the Israelites left Egypt, they were finally free. Free from persecution, free from oppression, and free to worship their God. But with that freedom comes a new challenge – learning how to live together the way God intends. Discover how God teaches the Israelites what it means to be part of a community that loves him and what that means for us today.

**Tuesdays:**

**6:30 to 8 p.m. - 681 New Schaefferstown Road, Bernville - The Psalms (Life Lessons) by Max Lucado** – Hosted and led by Jeff Hain. The Psalms form a praisebook for God's people, a collection of hymns and petitions to lead us in worship. The variety found in the Psalms reminds us that worship is personal and, that while each worship's differently, each should worship. With scripture reading, inspirational readings, questions to answer, space for journaling, and a prayer, it's like studying the Bible with Max Lucado.

**Wednesdays:**

**6:30 to 8 p.m. - Library at church (childcare) - FOR WOMEN ONLY – Walk As Jesus Walked by Ray Vander Laan** – Led by Norma Minnich. How badly do you want to be like Jesus? As disciples of Jesus, we've discovered that following him demands an intense commitment to the text and complete devotion to Christian community. But there is more. Come discover the fierce passion of our early Christian brothers and sisters to walk like Jesus – even when the path became treacherous.

**6:30 to 8 p.m. - Youth Room at church (childcare) - FOR MEN ONLY – The Me I Want To Be by John Ortberg** – Led by Pastor Jeff. God wants you to become a new creation. But new doesn't mean completely different; instead it's like an old motorcycle that gets restored to its intended magnificence. The good news is that as God redeems you and restores you, you become more you. You become more that person God has in mind when he first thought you up. God is not interested in mass-producing you, but rather handcrafting you to be his best version of you.



**Adult Sunday School Opportunities**  
Starting September 4th

**# 1 God Is Closer Than You Think** - led by Pastor Jeff in the Library. The Bible is filled with examples of an intimate God, a God keenly interested in connecting with ordinary people. He promises to be with us. Yet, somehow, intimacy with God eludes us. *God Is Closer Than You Think* shows how you can enjoy a vibrant, moment-by-moment relationship with your heavenly Father. Not some abstract theological concept, but the real deal-intimate connection with a deeply personal God.

**# 2 The Divine Conspiracy** - led by Steve Minnich in the Café. Is Jesus part of your daily life—here and now? Or, by failing to take him seriously, have you relegated him to the realm of the "hereafter"? In *The Divine Conspiracy*, biblical teaching, popular culture, science, scholarship, and spiritual practice are weaved together to capture the central insights of Christ's teachings in a fresh way and show the necessity of profound changes in how we view our lives and faith. Christians for the most part consider the primary function of Christianity to be admittance to heaven. But a faith that guarantees a satisfactory afterlife, yet has absolutely no impact on life in the here and now, is nothing more than "consumer Christianity" and "bumper-sticker faith." In an era when so many consider Jesus a beloved but remote savior, readers of *The Divine Conspiracy* will explore a revolutionary way to experience God—by knowing Him as an essential part of the here and now, an integral part of every aspect of our existence. *The Divine Conspiracy* calls us into a more authentic faith and offers a practical plan by which we can become Christ-like. It challenges us to step aside from the politics and pieties of contemporary Christian practice and inspires us to reject the all too common lukewarm faith of our times by embracing the true meaning of Christian discipleship.

**# 3 The Sovereignty of God** - led by a rotation of leaders in the sanctuary. Emphasis will be on ... Isaiah, Matthew, Hebrews & Revelations.



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; over-eating; need to control; fear/anxiety and more! For more information, please call the church office.

### A Taste of CR Event

**When?** *Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

**Where?** *At the Church*

**Why?** *To help you answer the question:  
What is Celebrate Recovery®?*

**Please join us...** *In seeking and celebrating God's healing power in our lives.*

Every Monday 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Bethesda @ The Corner



September 5 - "I Lived in a Dumpster"  
September 12 - BIAS  
September 19 - Confronting Bullies  
September 26 - Hurt By Church



September 11th & 25th  
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 for more information.



You're Invited To Our 16th Birthday!



October 6 at 6:00 pm - Faith Church, 1168 Centre Turnpike, Orwigsburg

You're invited to the biggest birthday party in Care Net's history!  
Please join us on October 6th as we light 16 candles to celebrate the impact that you have made in our community.

Tickets are \$12.50 each if reserved by September 23rd.  
After September 23rd, price increases to \$15.00.  
Reservations will not be accepted after September 30th.

### Kitchen Renovations Update

The renovation of the kitchen is now complete! Please be sure to take a walk downstairs and check it out! All the cabinets are labeled for ease of use. If you have any questions about anything new in the kitchen, please contact Norma Minnich at 570-617-0931.



For those who asked....

Copies of the recipe for Ethel Kane's **Mexican Cheesecake** that was a hit at the Welcome Picnic for Pastor Stewart & Joelle are available at the Welcome Counter for anyone who is interested in a copy. Happy baking!!!

### Continued Seed Planting.....

A reminder - on Sunday, October 9, 2016, Bethesda church, along with Bethany and Grace EC Churches, will be coming together to be part of a "The Church has Left the Building" campaign. This dimension will have participants working in teams to provide service of various kinds for individuals and families in our community. When this day is completed, all three churches will be coming together for a meal and time of celebration at Hawk Mountain BSA.



Sign-ups for the various teams will be available shortly so keep an eye out for them!

- *Pastor Mark*

## Missionary Corner

Child Evangelism Fellowship  
& Connie Wright



**CEF**  
CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP®  
Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide®

### Prayer Requests:

- \* For CEF staff and Good News Club teachers as they prepare for the fall school clubs.
- \* For a person to help with the bus tickets at Pottsville's elementary school. This is a critical need, which does not require teaching skills. Please contact Connie Wright at 570-573-1450 for more details.

### Praises:

- \* Almost 700 children were reached this summer through day camps, Five Day Clubs, and fair ministry. Children at each of these venues chose to believe in Jesus as Savior or sought reassurance of salvation.
- \* For the seven summer missionaries who served through these ministries.



### Ladies Monthly Breakfast

All women are welcome, no need to sign-up!  
Saturday, September 3rd at 9 am at Haag's  
Hotel, Shartlesville. Questions? Lisa at 484-294-6765.



Crochet Circle on September 12th & 26th  
at the home of Cheryl Bender.

### Ladies' Fall Breakfast Saturday, Sept 17, 2016 Blue Mountain Family Restaurant 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Featuring personal testimonies of  
Annette Holopirek, Jen Matz & Janet Kramer  
*Sign ups are now available at the  
Welcome Counter and on-line.*

"Optional Women's Opportunities" which include  
events for women being held by other churches and/  
or the denomination are now listed on the Community  
Bulletin Board by the church office. This list will be  
updated as we hear about events. If you hear about  
an event that you think other women would like,  
please contact Norma Minnick at 570-617-0931 to  
have them included.



**Wanted: Walker Bag Ministry Coordinator** We  
are in need of a woman interested in coordinating  
the sewing and distribution of walker bags for local  
nursing homes. These bags are greatly appreciated  
by many and have been missed! If you are  
interested or would like more information about this ministry,  
please contact Norma Minnick at 570-617-0931.

Please ask at the Welcome Counter for direction  
on how to get a free **prayer shawl** that is  
individually packaged including a gift card and  
bookmark for you to personally give to someone you know that is  
going through difficult or challenging circumstances. Each shawl  
is handcrafted by a woman of Bethesda who begins its creation  
with prayers and blessings that continue throughout the time the  
crafter is working with the unique and meaningful color yarn and  
pattern.



*"Under [Christ's] direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part  
does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body  
healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:16 [NLT]*

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**  
Saturday, September 10th at 8 am  
at the Friedensburg Family Restaurant.



**Men's BBQ**  
Saturday, Sept 10th - 5 to 7 pm

Join us for a time of connecting, male-bonding,  
and asking/answering the question: "How do I activate my  
faith?". Information and sign-ups at the Welcome Counter.



JOY Invites you to join us at...  
Manbecks EC Church Pig Roast  
Saturday, September 10th

Meet at the church at 4 pm and travel together to Manbeck's.  
Cost is \$9 per person. If you have any questions contact Linda  
Bollinger at 739-4580 or Wayne Blankenhorn at 739-2533.  
**Sign-up at the Welcome Counter or on-line.**

### Upcoming Events:

September 11th - BYM Kickoff (12 noon to 2)  
September 18th - Regular Meeting (6-8 pm)  
September 25th - Regular Meeting (6-8 pm)



BYM is open to all students in 6th thru 12th grades. Questions  
should be directed to Dawn Koch at 570-691-6457 or Pastor  
Stewart at 570-789-4952.



Open to all students in Age 4 to 5th grade. Meets on  
Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Common  
Ground starting on September 21st.



**Sign-ups to be a part of the Christmas  
Cantata** are now available. Please **sign-up no  
later than Sunday, September 4th.** Practices  
will begin, Sunday, October 2nd from 5:30 to  
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The Cantata will be held on  
Saturday, December 17th at 3:00 pm with a snow date of  
Sunday, December 18th.

Choir practice will begin Wednesday, August  
31st at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. New  
members are welcome! Contact Kim Stoudt for more information.



**date NIGHT CHALLENGE**  
Comedy Edition

**Celebrate Marriage**  
with a little humor.

Come for a fun night of laughter and  
connection at our date night event! Laugh  
along with a great lineup of comedians and  
learn from the humorous insights of Dr. Greg  
and Erin Smalley.

Bethesda EC Church, Route 183, Schuylkill Haven  
Saturday, September 17th 2016 6pm

## PRAYER CONCERNS September 2016

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

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Victor Arbushites (treatment)  
Donald Behler (cancer)  
Butch Blankenhorn (cancer)  
Jean Bolton (treatment)  
Betty Boyer (memory)  
Rev Chuck Campbell (recovery)  
Joe Conway (recovery)  
Mary Cook (cancer)  
Ellen Cote (cancer)  
Fred Fannelli (cancer)  
Bill Harig (recovery)  
Jesse Henry (recovery)  
Gary Hess (tests)  
Heidi Irwin (recovery)  
Eleanor Jamison (recovery)  
Jacob Jamison (recovery)  
Wesley LeVan (cancer)  
Andrea Long (tests)  
Manny Lopez (memory)  
Marilyn Matthias (sciatica)  
Janel Mengel (recovery)  
Doris Motley (transition)  
Gary Moyer (back)  
Amber Pavalko (recovery)  
Kendra Perry (pain management)  
Brent Rhen (testing)  
Natalie Rich (recovery)  
Dave Rothermel (healing)  
Roseanne Saul (breathing)  
Kevin Schneck (kidney failure)  
Andrew Schock (cancer)  
Diane Stock (cancer)  
Jennie Stoltz (diabetes)  
David Strohl (recovery)  
Mary Tompsin (recovery)  
Ellen Turner (Bell's Palsy)

### Shut-ins

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Margaret Bender  
Dorothy Blankenhorn (recovery)  
Bert Heydt  
Edith Houtz  
Edna Huegal (recovery)

### Military

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Josh Behler (Air Force)  
Ryan Brooks (Air Force)  
Keith Drummer (FBI)  
Tosha Fegley (Air Force)  
Benjamin Kilmer (National Guard)  
Issac Long (Coast Guard)  
Jessica Nabholz (Army)

Gene Voydik (surgery 9/7)  
Joan Wall (recovery)  
Wendy Walter (cancer)  
Flo Walton (pain)  
Louis Welsh (breathing)  
Clyde Yost (brain tumor)

### Family

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Maggie Arbushites family (wisdom)  
Alice Corby family (loss)  
Morrissine Emerich family (loss)  
Matt Folk family (loss)  
Kaye Harding family (loss)  
Patricia Huneke family (loss)  
George & Dorothy Kershner family (transition)  
Corey Kissinger family (loss)  
Mildred Manbeck family (loss)  
Charlotte McDonald family (comfort)  
Wilbur Killian family (loss)  
Norm & Betty Spotts family (transition)  
Alexander Michael Vengen (birth)  
Ashley Wollyung family (transition)  
The Weigly family (loss)  
Sandy Zanini family (loss)

### Congregational

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Celebrate Recovery  
Griefshare Ministry  
Lifetree Café  
L.I.F.E. Prison Ministry

Ruth Liddle  
Ardith Luckenbill  
M. Jean Luckenbill  
Hazel Minnich  
Hilda Yeager

### Local, National and Global

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CEF, Schuylkill County  
Community Associates:  
K. Henry, G. Kuehner, L. Cool, J. Byerly  
President Barack Obama  
Rev. Bruce Hill, Bishop  
Students, Teachers & Administrators  
heading back to school  
US Military Forces  
PSP Troop L - Frackville, Jonestown  
& Schuylkill Haven



**Prayer Meeting**  
Join us in the Library  
on Wednesdays at  
7:30 pm to pray for the  
needs of our community and  
congregation.



**Community Prayer  
Ministry**

**Sunday, September 25th**  
at 6:15 pm @ the Corner

*All articles for events held during October 1st through November 15th should be submitted by the 10th of September in order to be included in our October 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](http://www.bethesdaec.org).