

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:00 am Traditional Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

September 2016

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$ 297,225	\$ 310,977	\$ 13,752
Expenses	\$ 299,571	\$ 294,671	(\$ 4,900)
Fr. Build Fund	\$ 78,000	\$ 20,000	(\$ 58,000)
To Reserves	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000



congregational meeting

Sunday, December 4th, 2016

All church members are asked to attend this meeting where important discussions will shape the 2017 ministries.

Combined Worship Service: 10:30 am

Meal: 11:30 am (please bring a dish to share)

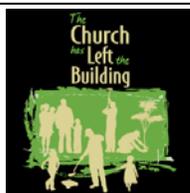
Meeting: 12:30 pm



We are in the process of updating our church directory. Please check the information we currently have on file located on the table in the main hallway starting October 23rd. Please make any necessary changes or additions by Sunday, November 6th. New directories will be distributed November 20th.

A TCHLTB THANK YOU!!!

On Sunday, October 9th, close to 200 volunteers from Bethany, Bethesda and Grace EC Churches came together to work at 37 work sites – painting, landscaping, cleaning and a variety of other assignments. **THANK YOU** for giving your time to be part of this; **THANK YOU** to the local businesses that helped in a variety of ways; **THANK YOU** to the group who committed to pray during this ministry opportunity. Our God was honored and glorified!!!



This single mom said it best:

"Oh my word!!!! We just got home and the house looks incredible!!!! I am seriously crying. Thanks so much!!!! I feel like a giant weight has been lifted off my shoulders."

Thank you again for being the hands, feet and voice of Christ!!!

- The Outreach Commission



Fall Clean-up
Saturday, November 12th
8:00 am

Many hands make light work. Let us all join together and have a time of fellowship as we care for the facility the Lord has blessed us with. **Come when you can and leave when you must.**

What's For Dinner Wednesdays
November 2nd & 16th
Dinner served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm



Come enjoy a hearty meal and fellowship before our Wednesday evening activities. (Adults \$3, Kids \$1, Family cost \$10.00 max). Nursery available. No need to sign-up.

Outreach Commission Increases Opportunities to Give



Throughout the year, keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to give to two ministries in our community. The first: **Schuylkill Women in Crisis**. Helping those who have been physically, emotionally and/or sexually abused is of vital importance. Stay tuned for ways you can help SWIC. The second: **Blue Mountain Elementary Cressona and West buildings**. Similar yet different from the backpack program, an opportunity has been offered for Bethesda to give to the specific needs of these two local schools. again, stay tuned for opportunities to give. **Thank you for being a giving church community!!!**



Adult Sunday School Opportunities
Through November 30th

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.

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

Do everything in love. - 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NIV)

Missionary Corner

LIFE Prison Ministries



Prison ministries at Bethesda include three volunteers meeting Monday nights at the Schuylkill Federal Correctional Institution (FCI). Also, the Council approved becoming a satellite of The Urban Ministry Institute. The satellite is known as the Bethesda Training Institute. Steve Minnich is the satellite coordinator, and a class of 8 inmates has just formed in Rockview State Correctional Institution (SCI) in Belleview PA.

Praises:

- ◆ Continued interest and spiritual growth of 15 to 20 inmates at Schuylkill Federal Correctional Institution and eight inmates at Rockview who have begun the seminary level training.
- ◆ Faithfulness and endurance of the current volunteers: Arwilda Haynes, Lisa Delay, Ed Novitsky and Steve Minnich.
- ◆ For Rev Aaron Reitz, chaplain at Rockview State Correctional Institution working to institute and mentor the Bethesda Training Institute, and Rev Dan Basile at Schuylkill Federal.

Prayer Requests:

- ◆ For safety of the volunteers who work in darkness, and for chaplains and guards.
- ◆ For an environment of trust and submission so that the Holy Spirit will bear fruit and souls will be saved.
- ◆ For healing and hope for the families of the inmates.
- ◆ For success for the eight students at Rockview prison who were accepted into the Bethesda Training Institute four year program.

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



November 7 - Choosing Resilience
November 14 - Lighten Up!
November 21 - Living Online
November 27 - Giving Up On God



Every Tuesday at the
Corner 6:30 to 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.

Do to others as you would have them do to you - Luke 6:31 (NIV)



November 13th & 27th
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.

There will be special presentations of  **SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS** Griefshare to help for those dealing with grief during the holidays. They will be held on **Tuesday, November 22nd at 7 pm in the Library** and **Sunday December 18th at 1:30 pm in the Library**.



Fill a Stocking for Joe Toy's
Sidewalk Sunday School Kids

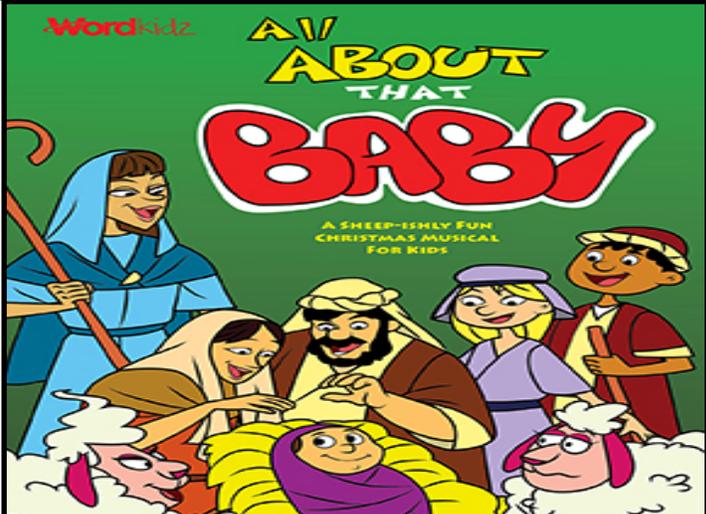
Don't forget to return your stockings by **Sunday, October 23rd!**

We will be **decorating** the church for **Christmas Sunday, November 20th** immediately following the 2nd service.



Christmas Card Distribution by BYM
Sunday, November 27th thru
Wednesday, December 14th

BYM will be collecting Christmas Cards for distribution within the congregation of Bethesda. Simply place your cards in the mailbox located outside the upper, single door entrance of the church – we will take care of the rest. If you would like to make a donation in place of stamps to Bethesda Youth Ministries, it would be greatly appreciated!!!



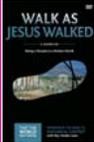
Word of Life
ALL ABOUT THAT BABY
A SHEEP-ISHLY FUN CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR KIDS

Children's Christmas Musical
Sunday, December 11th at 9:00 am



COME
Messiah
KING
Christmas Cantata

Saturday, December 17th at 3:00 pm



Wednesday Night Ladies Bible Study – Walk As Jesus Walked by Ray Vander Laan – Led by Norma Minnich **in the Library**. 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.

Ladies Monthly Breakfast

All women are welcome, no need to sign-up!
Saturday, **November 5th** at **9 am** at **Haag's Hotel**, Shartlesville. Questions? Lisa at 484-294-6765.



Crochet Circle on **November 14th & 28th** at the home of Cheryl Bender.

"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 Minnich at 570-617-0931 to have them included.



Savings Banks are now available at the **Welcome Counter** for the **Spring Ladies Retreat**. Pick yours up **TODAY** to start saving for this great event!!



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]



Movie Night
Saturday, November 12th
6 pm in the Library

Come join us for a night of fellowship and to watch the movie "Miracles from Heaven". Please bring a snack to share. Sign-up at the Welcome Counter or on-line starting October 23rd. Questions should be directed to Linda Bollinger.



Open to all students **age 4 thru 5th grade**. Meeting Wednesday nights from **6:30 to 8 in the Common Ground**.

Bethesda Youth Ministries
Sundays 6 to 8 pm
in the Library



- November 6th** - Bon Fire at the Social Hall
- November 13th** - Regular Meeting or Silver Ring Thing (based on interest)
- November 20th** - Regular Meeting
- November 25th** - FAT Lock-in
- November 27th** - No Meeting



FAT Lock-In – Friday After Thanksgiving lock-in at Ozzy's taking place Friday, November 25th. Sign-up starting Sunday, Oct 23rd.

Winter JAM 2017 - January concert date TBA shortly! Keep your eye open for sign-ups for this great winter concert featuring top Christian rock bands.

Encounter Retreat – Winter is just around the corner, which means the Encounter Retreat. Stay tuned for more details as students attend this winter opportunity the weekend of January 20th to 22nd, 2017.

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



Choir Practice - Meeting in the Sanctuary **Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 pm**. New members are welcome! If you would like more information contact Kim Stoudt.

Men's Wednesday Night Bible Study – The Me I Want To Be by John Ortberg - Led by Pastor Jeff in the Youth Room. 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.



There **will not** be a **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** in **November** due to the Fall Clean-up. The **next breakfast** will be **Saturday, December 10th** at **Friedensburg Family Restaurant**.

PRAYER CONCERNS November 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

Victor Arbushites (recovery)
Daniel Behler (recovery)
Donald Behler (cancer)
Margret Bender (recovery)
Butch Blankenhorn (cancer)
Betty Boyer (memory)
Joe Conway (recovery)
Mary Cook (cancer)
Ellen Cote (cancer)
Sam Douglas (recovery)
Bethany DuFour (childbirth complications)
Fred Fannelli (cancer)
Sam Frey (treatments)
Emily Haddix (surgery 11/10)
Angela Haynes (recovery)
Gary Hess (tests)
Heidi Irwin (recovery)
Dorothy Kerschner (recovery)
George Kerschner (transition)
Gail Knauf (knee)
Jerry Knauf (eye)
Wesley LeVan (cancer)
Andrea Long (tests)
Manny Lopez (memory)
Marilyn Matthias (sciatica)
Janel Mengel (recovery)
Gary Moyer (back)
Lynette Moyer (recovery)
Amber Pavalko (recovery)
Kendra Perry (pain management)
Brent Rhen (testing)
Natalie Rich (recovery)
Dave Rothermel (healing)
Christine Ryan (recovery)
Roseanne Saul (breathing)
Kevin Schneck (kidney failure)

Shut-ins

Margaret Bender
Dorothy Blankenhorn
Bert Heydt
Edith Houtz
Edna Huegal

Military

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)

Andrew Schock (cancer)
Diane Stock (cancer)
Jennie Stoltz (diabetes)
Mary Thompsin (recovery)
Ronda Thompson (testing)
Ellen Turner (Bell's Palsy)
Joan Wall (recovery)
Wendy Walter (cancer)
Flo Walton (pain)
Alan Warner (recovery)
Deborah Webber (tests)
Louis Welsh (breathing)
Viola Wright (recovery)
Clyde Yost (brain tumor)
Helen Youst (transition)

Family

Maggie Arbushites family (wisdom)
Dennis Bender family (loss)
Kaye Harding family (loss)
Shelly Heiney family (loss)
Jean Hullihan family (loss)
Noah Benjamin Kilmer (birth)
Corey Kissinger family (loss)
Mildred Manbeck family (loss)
Charlotte McDonald family (comfort)
David Saul family (loss)
Norm & Betty Spotts family (transition)
Ashley Wollyung family (transition)

Local, National and Global

Bible Release at BMEW
CEF, Schuylkill County
EC Officers:
Bishop: Rev. Bruce Hill
Exec Director: K. Henry
Associates: J. Byerly, L. Cool,
G. Kuehner, & R. Sizemore
President Barack Obama
Students, Teachers & Administrators
heading back to school
US Military Forces
PSP Troop L - Frackville, Jonestown
& Schuylkill Haven

Congregational

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

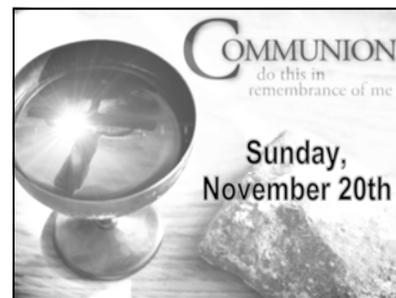


Prayer Meeting
Join us in Pastor Jeff's
Office on Wednesdays
at 7:30 pm to pray for
the needs of our community and
congregation.



**Community Prayer
Ministry**

**Sunday, November 27th
at 6:15 pm @ the Corner**



All articles for events held during December 1st through January 15th should be submitted by the 10th of November in order to be included in our December 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.