

**Sunday Morning Worship Schedule**

8:00 am Traditional Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

October 2016

|             | Budgeted   | Actual     | Difference |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Income      | \$ 335,331 | \$ 347,254 | \$ 11,923  |
| Expenses    | \$ 336,513 | \$ 324,954 | \$ 11,559  |
| To Reserves | \$0        | \$20,000   | \$20,000   |

*Christmas at  
Bethesda*



**Christmas Card Distribution by BYM - Sun, Nov 27th thru Wed, Dec 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!!!

**Christmas Pizza Party - Fri, Dec 9th, 6:00 to 8:30 pm** - Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited for a pizza dinner followed by an awesome Christ-centered Christmas party..Bible truths, songs, games, crafts; plus "A Charlie Brown Christmas"! Pre-register your child or grandchild on-line at [bethesdaec.org](http://bethesdaec.org).

**Children's Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal - Sat, Dec. 10th, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**JOY Christmas Party & Dinner - Sat, Dec. 10th, 5:30 pm, in the Common Ground, Open to all 18+** See JOY write-up for more information.

**"All About that Baby" - Sun, Dec. 13th, 9:15 am** Instead of regular Sunday School, come join us in the Sanctuary for a Christmas musical performed by the children and youth of Bethesda!

**BYM Christmas Party – Sat, Dec 17th 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Parsonage** Please bring a white elephant or gag gift (keep it clean, keep it funny, and keep it sanitary).

**Griefshare "Surviving the Holidays" - Sun, Dec 18th, 1:30 pm in the Library** - Special presentation for to help those dealing with grief during the holidays.

**Christmas Cantata, Sat, Dec 17th, 3 pm** - Everyone is invited to this year's Christmas Cantata, "Come Messiah King". A time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow. Invite your family and friends to join us! Snowdate: Sun, Dec 18th, 3 pm.

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, Sat, Dec. 24th, 7 pm**

**Winter Small Groups**

will resume the week of January 8th.

Please stay tuned for more details. If you are interested in hosting a small group, please connect with Norma Minnich at 570-617-0931.



**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)



**Adult Sunday School Opportunities**

*December 4th thru February 26th*

**# 1 The Mission of Jesus** - led by Connie Wright in the Library. A series featuring Ray Vander Laan, archaeological expert and Biblical scholar. Ray will take us on journeys in Israel and Rome as he gives deeper insight into Biblical events from Jesus' ministry up through the day of Pentecost.

Second half: **Simplify** - based on a book by Bill Hybels, senior pastor of Willow Creek Church. Hear about the steps he took to simplify his life before it was too late. This is an excellent opportunity to learn how to "unclutter" your soul.

**# 2 "Chase the Lion" by Mark Batterson** - led by Dean Boyer in the Café. "If your dream doesn't scare you, it's too small" based on II Samuel 23. The story of an ancient warrior, Benaiah, who chased a lion into a pit on a snowy day and killed it.

**# 3 Creation: A Divine Cycle** - led by a rotation of leaders in the sanctuary. Emphasis will be on ... Psalms, Luke & Galatians.

Students of BM Elementary Cressona and West buildings go to the school

nurse for a variety of reasons. Our

**Outreach Commission has decided to assist with some of these needs. From November 27th thru December 11th you will have the opportunity to donate a variety of needed items. Stay tuned for more information about quantities needed. Thanks for your giving heart!!!**





## Missionary Corner

Dave & Concé Roof  
OMS International - Brazil

### Praises:

- ◆ Activities in the new church building in Icoaraci: regular services, a *Basic Truths Class*, a baptism and a special program called *Awaken*.
- ◆ Ongoing ministry to the Island of Moju and the construction of a new dock and boardwalk there.


### Prayer Requests:

- ◆ US visit through January 23: Mourning the loss of Dave's father from a bad fall. Time with our son, Andrew, who is at Messiah College.
- ◆ Sharing in churches, including a visit to Bethesda on December 11!
- ◆ Continued growth in Icoaraci church and Moju Island ministry.

December 11th  
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.

 **SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS** There will be special presentation of Griefshare to help for those dealing with grief during the holidays. It will be held on **Sunday December 18th at 1:30 pm in the Library.**

Mondays 7:00 to 8:00 pm  
Bethesda @ The Corner



- December 5 - Overcoming Worry
- December 12 - In the Beginning
- December 19 - Crafting a Truly Fulfilling Life
- December 26 - "The Aliens Are Coming"



Tuesdays @ 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.

Christmas Dinner Party  
Saturday, December 10th  
5:30 pm in the Common Ground



Please bring a white elephant gift for a fun exchange. Cost is \$6.00 per person. Questions should be directed to Linda Bollinger at 570-739-4580.

Bethesda Youth Ministries  
Sundays 6 to 8 pm  
in the Library



- December 4th - Regular Meeting
- December 11th - No Meeting
- December 17th - Christmas Party at the Parsonage (see below)
- December 18th - No Meeting
- December 25th - No Meeting

**BYM Christmas Party** – Sat, Dec 17th 11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Bring a white elephant or gag gift (keep it clean, keep it funny, and keep it sanitary).

**Encounter Retreat** – Winter is just around the corner, which means the Encounter Retreat. **Sign-ups are now available** at the Welcome Counter and in the youth rooms to 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.



The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be on Saturday, December 10th at Friedensburg Family Restaurant.




### Ladies Monthly Breakfast

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

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



 Savings Banks are 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]*



Open to all students age 4 thru 5th grade.  
Kidz Klub will resume January 11th. Stay tuned for more details!

## PRAYER CONCERNS December 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 (rehab)  
Daniel Behler (recovery)  
Donald Behler (treatment)  
Bonnie Betz (testing)  
Angie Blankenhorn (testing)  
Butch Blankenhorn (cancer)  
Phillip Christman (stability)  
Joe Conway (recovery)  
Mary Cook (treatment)  
Ellen Cote (cancer)  
Diana Curry (cancer)  
Sam Douglas (recovery)  
Bethany DuFour (dialysis)  
Diane Ebert (recovery)  
Sam Frey (treatments)  
Eileen Goodwin (cancer)  
Brenda Guillory (MS)  
Emily Haddix (recovery)  
Angela Haynes (recovery)  
Gary Hess (discernment)  
Cathy Inschwiler (recovery)  
Frances Keefer (recovery)  
Dorothy Kerschner (rehab)  
George Kerschner (transition)  
Ira Kinsel (cancer)  
Andrea Long (tests)  
Janel Mengel (recovery)  
Gary Moyer (recovery)  
Lynette Moyer (recovery)  
David Novatnak (cancer)  
Thomas Parnell (testing)  
Amber Pavalko (recovery)  
Kendra Perry (pain management)  
Brent Rhen (testing)  
Mary Rhen (recovery)  
Dave Rothermel (healing)

### 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)

Christine Ryan (recovery)  
Roseanne Saul (breathing)  
Andrew Schock (cancer)  
Diane Stock (cancer)  
Jennie Stoltz (diabetes)  
Mary Thompsin (recovery)  
Ronda Thompson (testing)  
Ellen Turner (Bell's Palsy)  
Joan Wall (rehab)  
Flo Walton (pain)  
Alan Warner (treatments)  
Deborah Webber (tests)  
Louis Welsh (breathing)  
Kirby White (recovery)  
Clyde Yost (brain tumor)  
Helen Youst (transition)

### Family

Maggie Arbushites family (wisdom)  
Betty Boyer family (transition)  
Doris Brennan family (loss)  
Alaina Jade Cooper family (birth)  
Shelly Heiney family (loss)  
Jean Hullihan family (loss)  
Dundee Killian family (loss)  
Charlotte McDonald family (comfort)  
Brad & Shane Murphy family (recovery)  
Rev David Roof, Sr family (loss)  
David Saul family (loss)  
Carolyn Soponis family (transition)  
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  
President Elect Donald Trump  
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, December 18th  
at 6:15 pm @ the Corner**



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