



**JANUARY 2017**

**Sunday Morning Worship Schedule**

8:00 am Traditional Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)



**2017 Winter Semester Small Groups**

Beginning the week of January 8

Ending week of March 5

Sign-up at the Welcome Counter or On-line

**SUNDAYS:**

*2 to 4 p.m.*

*1814 Crazy Horse Drive, Lake Wynonah*

Walking with God in the Desert with Ray Vander Laan – Hosted and led by Steve and Michelle Svenson. Are you going through a difficult period of life? The loss of a loved one? Unemployment? A crisis of faith? During these desert times, it's easy to think God has disappeared. Discover that it's only when we are totally dependent on him that we find God is closer than ever and can experience his amazing grace and provision. Filmed on location in Israel, Faith Lessons is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance.

*6 to 8 p.m.*

*411 Stoney Run Road, Chestnut Hill*

Good or God? Why Good Without God Isn't Good Enough by John Bevere – Hosted and led by Mark and Cindy Brooks. These days the terms good and God seem synonymous. We believe what's generally accepted as good must be in line with God's will. Generosity, humility, justice—good. Selfishness, arrogance, cruelty—evil. The distinction seems pretty straightforward. But is that all there is to it? If good is so obvious, why does the Bible say that we need discernment to recognize it? Good or God? isn't another self-help message. This study will do more than ask you to change your behavior. It will empower you to engage with God on a level that will change every aspect of your life.

**WEDNESDAYS:**

*6:30 to 8 p.m.*

*Library at church (childcare)*

FOR WOMEN ONLY – All The Places To Go by John Ortberg – Led by Norma Minnich. Very rarely in the Bible does God command someone to "Stay." He opens a door, and then he invites us to walk through it—into the unknown. And how we choose to respond will ultimately determine the life we will lead and the person we will become. In fact, to fail to embrace the open door is to miss the work God has made for us to do.

*6:30 to 8 p.m.*

*Youth Room at church (childcare)*

FOR MEN ONLY – Life Lessons with Henry Cloud, John Townsend, Ravi Zacharias and Francis Chen – Led by Steve Minnich. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Too often, since the days of Eden when Adam blamed Eve for taking the apple, men have not excelled at walking in the good works that God prepared for them. Join the Men of Bethesda for discussions based on video messages relating to current issues facing men of all ages. These Christian leaders will present topics relating to everyday life, like leadership, prayer, entitlement and addiction. The topics do not require that you attend every meeting to have a meaningful learning experience.

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

November 2016

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$ 365,815	\$ 380,292	\$ 14,477
Expenses	\$ 366,066	\$ 357,289	\$ 8,777
To Reserves	\$0	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
From Building Fund	\$ 81,804	\$67,000	\$14,804



Adult Sunday School Opportunities

Now 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.

**What's For Dinner Wednesdays**

January 18th

Dinner Served: 5:30 - 6:15 pm



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

**Fill the Cart**



Beginning Sunday, January 8th through Sunday, January 22nd, there will be an opportunity to "Fill the Cart". We will be accepting donations of lunch-ables, juice boxes, and other self contained meals and beverages, which will be passed on to the homeless of Schuylkill County. Thank you in advance for your giving heart toward this need. Sponsored by the Outreach Commission of Bethesda—all donations will be given to LHOT (Local Housing Options Team of Schuylkill County).

**Missionary Corner**  
**CARE NET**  
of Schuylkill County

**Praises:**

- Hiring new staff (Cera, Kelly, Havilah)
- We are thankful for the flourishing opportunities to share in the schools. Sarah was able to go into 6 different districts and shared with 590 students.
- Silver Ring Thing- we had 300 students attend! It was a great evening presenting sexual purity and the Gospel.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Our heart is to see the clients that need us to come to our center.
- For more connections in the school, especially the districts that we have no involvement with.
- January 15th during Sanctity of Life Sunday, we pray for awareness to the need for abundant life in our community, especially as we start the new community initiative called, "Making Life Disciples" in the churches to help train first responders to disciple and walk alongside anyone facing a "life decision".



January 8th & 22nd  
1:30 – 3:30 pm in the 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.

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



- January 2 - Be Yourself
- January 9 - Playing God
- January 16 - Losing a Loved One to Alzheimer's
- January 23 - "Why Did I Survive?"
- January 30 - Confronting Evil



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.



Winter Jam 2017  
Thursday, January 19th  
\$43 pp for JamNation  
Sign-up on-line or at the Welcome Counter by 12/28.



Youth membership classes will be starting on Saturday, January 28th thru March 18th from 10 to 11:30 am in the Library. This class is open to any students in 8th grade or above. Please see Pastor Jeff for more details.

A Mission-Minded Kids program will be held during Junior church on January 22nd.



Open to all students age 4 thru 5th grade. Kidz Klub will resume January 11th on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Bethesda Youth Ministries  
Sundays 6 to 8 pm  
in the Library



- January 1 - NO Meeting
- January 8 - Regular Meetings Resume
- January 15 - Regular Meeting
- January 22 - NO Meeting (Encounter Retreat Weekend)
- January 29 - Regular Meeting

Encounter Retreat '17 - Friday thru Sunday, January 20th thru 22nd at Camp Herbron. Detailed information will be provided to those who are attending.

Mark your Calendars!! Big Creek Missions, Bear Branch, KY, June 10-17th. More details and sign-ups to follow, keep your eyes open!

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, January 14th at Friedensburg Family Restaurant.



Ladies Monthly Breakfast

All women are welcome, no need to sign-up! Saturday, January 7th at 9 am at Haag's Hotel, Shartlesville. Questions? Lisa at 484-294-6765.

Crochet Circle on January 9th & 23rd at the home of Cheryl Bender.



The Women's Spring Retreat will be held at Kenbrook Retreat Center from Friday, March 31st thru April 2nd.

*"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]*

JOY will NOT meet in January, stay tuned for February meeting details.....



## PRAYER CONCERNS January 2017

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 (rehab)  
Daniel Behler (recovery)  
Donald Behler (treatment)  
Bonnie Betz (recovery)  
Angie Blankenhorn (pain surgery)  
Butch Blankenhorn (cancer)  
Joe Conway (recovery)  
Mary Cook (treatment)  
Ellen Cote (cancer)  
Diana Curry (cancer)  
Bob Daneker, Sr (recovery)  
Sam Douglas (recovery)  
Bethany DuFour (dialysis)  
Sam Frey (treatments)  
Eileen Goodwin (cancer)  
Brenda Guillory (MS)  
Emily Haddix (testing)  
Angela Haynes (recovery)  
Gary Hess (discernment)  
Cathy Imshweiler (testing)  
Frances Keefer (recovery)  
Dorothy Kerschner (rehab)  
George Kerschner (transition)  
Ira Kinsel (cancer)  
Andrea Long (tests)  
Jim Martin (recovery)  
Janel Mengel (recovery)  
Brenda Mishoe (treatment)  
Gary Moyer (recovery)  
Lynette Moyer (recovery)  
David Novatnak (cancer)  
Thomas Parnell (testing)  
Amber Pavalko (recovery)  
Kendra Perry (pain management)  
Brent Rhen (testing)  
Clyde Rhen (testing)

### Shut-ins

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Margaret Bender  
Dorothy Blankenhorn  
Bert Heydt  
Edith Houtz  
Edna Huegal

Gary Ritter (cancer)  
Dave Rothermel (healing)  
Christine Ryan (recovery)  
Roseanne Saul (breathing)  
Andrew Schock (cancer)  
Diane Stock (cancer)  
Jennie Stoltz (diabetes)  
Maria Szumlanski (virus)  
Ronda Thompson (testing)  
Joan Wall (rehab)  
Flo Walton (pain)  
Alan Warner (treatments)  
Daniel Welsh (tests)  
Louis Welsh (tests)  
Kirby White (recovery)  
Clyde Yost (brain tumor)  
Helen Youst (transition)

### Family

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Maggie Arbushites family (wisdom)  
Betty Boyer family (transition)  
Doris Brennan family (loss)  
John Dalrymple family (loss)  
Charlotte McDonald family (comfort)  
Brad & Shane Murphy family (recovery)  
Rev David Roof, Sr family (loss)  
Carolyn Sponis family (transition)  
Norm & Betty Spotts family (transition)  
Ashley Wollyung family (transition)

### 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)

Nicole Perkins (Army)  
Thomas Perkins (Army)  
Steven J Russell-Rhen (Army)  
Zach Siple (Coast Guard)  
Jake Stoudt (Air Force)  
Joe Sweigart (Army)

### Local, National and Global

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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

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



**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, January 22nd  
at 6:15 pm @ the Corner



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