

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:00 am Traditional Service

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

December 2016

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$ 395,900	\$ 463,398	\$ 67,498
Expenses	\$ 395,698	\$ 407,337	\$ 11,639
To Reserves	\$0	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
From Building Fund	\$ 81,804	\$ 81,696	(\$108)

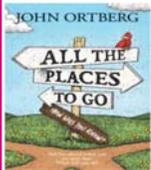
Women of Bethesda
healthy, growing & full of love



"Take Another Step" featuring Denise Grove
Women of Bethesda Annual Retreat
March 31-April 2, 2017
Kenbrook Bible Camp, Lebanon, PA

Denise says that our lives are continually moving and invites us to evaluate the direction they are moving in and "Take Another Step". *Step into Truth:* Learn to get your thought life out of the dumpster and onto the Most High. *Step Out of Disappointment:* Turn your "hope-so's" into "know-so's". *Step into Purpose:* Learn to embrace who you are and where God has you! *Step Out of Isolation:* Explore why we need friendships, what it takes to cultivate them, and how to respond to a friend in crisis.

Full weekend or day guest options available please visit the Welcome Counter for complete details and to sign-up. Questions or more information, please contact Norma Minnich at 570-691-0931.



We invite you to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Library for *All The Places To Go* by John Ortberg led by Norma Minnich (childcare is available). 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.

Crochet Circle on February 13th & 27th at the home of Cheryl Bender.



Ladies Monthly Breakfast



All women are welcome, no need to sign-up!
Saturday, February 4th at 9 am at Haag's Hotel,

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]

Sunday School
learning to live the life

Adult Sunday School Opportunities 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 Wednesday
February 1st & 15th
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.



The Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, February 11th at the Friedensburg Family Restaurant.

Join us on Wednesday's from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Youth Room for *Life Lessons* with Henry Cloud, John Townsend, Ravi Zacharias and Francis Chan led by Steve Minnich. Join the Men of Bethesda for discussions based on video messages relating to current issues facing men of all ages.



Missionary Corner

Bob and Bettina Schaeffer

Serving with L.I.F.E.

(Living in Freedom Eternally)

Praises:

- For the opportunity to minister to those trapped in the addiction of homosexuality and other bondage to sin.
- Speaking engagements in EC Churches.
- The growth of the Church Community in St. Clair.

Prayer Requests:

- For the brave men and women who continue to work on counseling for release from sexual addiction.
- For families and friends to show godly compassion to their loved ones who are struggling with homosexuality.
- For ongoing wisdom in counseling those in this battle.

Bettina will be joining us on February 12th during both services to talk about their ministry.



February 12th & 26th
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



February 6 - Finding Meaning Every Monday
 February 13 - Crop Circles
 February 20 - Spiritual but Not Religious
 February 27 - Police Brutality or Necessary Force?



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.

Do you know of any repairs or maintenance work that needs to be done around the church but don't know who to tell? We have now made it easier for you to let the right people know!!

There is a notebook in the office located in the "Operations Commission" mailbox. Just stop in the office, write in your concern, and it will be looked at during the next meeting.



Youth membership classes will continue Saturdays, 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 February 26th.



Open to all students age 4 thru 5th grade. Kidz Klub is held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Bethesda Youth Ministries
Sundays 6 to 8 pm
in the Library



February 5 - Super Bowl Party (see below)
 February 12 - Regular Meeting
 February 19 - Regular Meeting
 February 26 - Regular Meeting

Super Bowl Party - Sunday, February 5th at 6 pm at the Koch Residence. Please bring a snack or drink to share.

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.



Southern Gospel Concert featuring the



Saturday, March 11th at 6 pm

Cost: \$22 per ticket, RSVP by February 13th. The concert is being held at the Lancaster Mennonite School in Lancaster. Any questions contact Wayne Blankenhorn at 570-739-2533.

Elderly friends and neighbors in your community are in dire need of friendly faces and willing hands to help with everyday tasks that keep them healthy, improve their quality of life, and maintain their ability to live in the homes they love. You have the ability to be the difference. RSVP of Schuylkill County is now recruiting volunteers aged 55 and above who have kind hearts and some free time and want to help our seniors. Contact them at 570-622-3103 or e-mail cbowen@co.schuylkill.pa.us for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.



Support SWiC of Schuylkill County

It is amazing to witness the generosity of the local Body at Bethesda!!! Another opportunity to give: Sundays February 12th and 19th, the Outreach Commission will be accepting donations of personal hygiene items to be utilized through the ministry of SWiC. Shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, hair brushes, hair bows, hair ties, lip gloss . . . you get the picture. Stay tuned for more details as we try to support this vital ministry right here in our area.

PRAYER CONCERNS February 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

Victor Arbushites (rehab)
Daniel Behler (recovery)
Donald Behler (treatment)
Bonnie Betz (recovery)
Angie Blankenhorn (Surgery)
Butch Blankenhorn (cancer)
Paul Blankenhorn, Sr (recovery)
Joe Conway (recovery)
Mary Cook (treatment)
Ellen Cote (cancer)
Diana Curry (cancer)
Sam Douglas (recovery)
Bethany DuFour (dialysis)
Lewis Ebert (recovery)
Sam Frey (treatments)
Eileen Goodwin (cancer)
Brenda Guillory (ALS)
Emily Haddix (testing)
Gary Hess (discernment)
Cathy Imschweiler (testing)
Jacob Jamison (heart)
Frances Keefer (recovery)
Dorothy Kerschner (rehab)
George Kerschner (transition)
Ira Kinsel (cancer)
Sharon Kissinger (surgery)
Andrea Long (tests)
Jim Martin (recovery)
Les Mengel (hospice)
Gary Moyer (recovery)
Lynette Moyer (recovery)
Brian Muthersbaugh (recovery)
David Novatnak (cancer)
Thomas Parnell (testing)

Amber Pavalko (recovery)
Kendra Perry (pain management)
Brent Rhen (testing)
Clyde Rhen (testing)
Dave Rothermel (testing)
Christine Ryan (recovery)
Andrew Schock (treatment)
Diane Stock (cancer)
Jennie Stoltz (diabetes)
Maria Szumlanski (eyes)
Ronda Thompson (testing)
Joan Wall (rehab)
Flo Walton (pain)
Alan Warner (treatment)
Tom Wehr (cancer)
Daniel Welsh (tests)
Alan Woomert (recovery)
Helen Youst (transition)

Family

Maggie Arbushites family (wisdom)
Gretchen Asbury family (loss)
Betty Boyer family (transition)
Joanna Lauren Kutz family (birth)
Emmeline Marie Luckenbill (birth)
Janel Mengel (transition)
Charlotte McDonald family (comfort)
Brad & Shane Murphy family (recovery)
Roseanne Saul (transition)
Carolyn Sophonis family (transition)
Norm & Betty Spotts family (transition)
Ashley Wollyung family (transition)
Clyde Yost family (loss)

Shut-ins

Margaret Bender
Dorothy Blankenhorn
Bert Heydt
Edith Houtz
Edna Huegel
Ruth Liddle

Ardith Luckenbill
M. Jean Luckenbill
Hazel Minnich
Flo Walton
Hilda Yeager

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)

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

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 Donald Trump
US Military Forces
PSP Troop L - Frackville, Jonestown
& Schuylkill Haven

Congregational

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, February 22nd
at 6:15 pm @ the Corner



Camp Swatara Camporee Weekend
June 23rd - 25th, 2017

Camp Swatara is a Christian campground with lots of family activities. There is a Splash Pad, large swimming pool with tube slides, bike track, hiking trails, mini golf, canoeing, paddle boating, a gaga pit, and more! A great family get-a-way at a reasonable cost.

Campsites or cabins are available. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Tom and Diane Luckenbill at 570-739-2042 or tlwuck@verizon.net.

All articles for events held during March 1st through April 15th 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.