



Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

- 8:00 am Traditional Service
- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:30 Contemporary Service (child care provided)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

July 2017

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$ 280,729	\$ 281,077	\$ 348
Expenses	\$ 233,805	\$ 223,405	\$ 10,400
To Reserves	\$ 23,846	\$ 15,000	(\$ 8,846)

2017 Fall Semester Small Groups

Beginning the week of September 17

Ending week of November 12



Sundays:

2 to 4 p.m. - 1814 Crazy Horse Drive, Lake Wynonah - Prophets and Kings of Israel with Ray Vander Laan - Hosted and led by Steve and Michelle Svenson. Historian and teacher Ray Vander Laan explores the turbulent history of Israel's prophets and kings, and draws lessons from their stories that can help build our devotion to and trust in God today.

6 to 8 p.m. - 411 Stoney Run Road, Chestnut Hill - Gospel in life: Grace Changes Everything by Tim Keller- BEGINS October 1st - Hosted and led by Mark and Cindy Brooks. Join author and pastor Timothy Keller in this video-based study of the gospel and how to live it out in everyday life. In week one you and your group will study the city, your home now, the world that is. The series closes with the theme of the eternal city, your heavenly home, the world that is to come. In between you'll learn how the gospel can change your heart, your community, and how you live in this world.

Tuesdays:

6:30 to 8 p.m. - 109 Sunset Drive, Bernville - (Life Lessons) 1, 2, 3 John and Jude by Max Lucado - Hosted and led by Joel and Sally Holubec. Intriguing questions, inspirational stories, and poignant reflections take the participant deeper into God's Word. **This small group is FILLED.**

Wednesdays:

6:30 to 8 p.m. - Theater Room at church (childcare) - FOR MEN ONLY - Convergence "Where Faith and Life Meet" - Led by Pastor Jeff Byerly. Convergence is a video series that invites you to join leading Christian thinkers to discuss the challenges of faith and life with host Donald Miller. Never content with pat answers, Convergence seeks to honestly address the challenges people face in a world that is often confusing and increasingly complex. Topics will include: Living in a Fallen World; How to Meet God in the Everyday; Learning to Share Our Stories; and Understanding God's Plan and Our Hope.

Continued in next column

Wednesdays (Continued.....):

6:30 to 8 p.m. - Library at church (childcare) - FOR WOMEN ONLY - Glory Days and Before Amen by Max Lucado - Led by Norma Minnich. Maybe you're feeling stuck. Caught in a rut. Wondering if this is as good as the Christian life gets. If so, there's good news. You were made for Glory Days. In God's plan you win more than you lose, forgive as quickly as you are offended, and give as abundantly as you receive. You may stumble, but you won't collapse. You may struggle, but you will defy despair. You will enjoy abundant fruit and increasing faith. With God's help you can close the gap between the person you are and the person you want to be. In Before Amen Max Lucado reveals how connecting with God each day can be as simple as five short sentences: "Father, you are good. I need help. They need help. Thank you. In Jesus' name, amen." He shows you how to let go of uncertainties about prayer, trust that God hears you, and embrace a prayer life that brings peace and rest.



Sign-ups to be a part of the Christmas Cantata are now available. Please sign-up no later than Sunday, September 3rd so we know how much music to order.

Practices will begin, Sunday, October 1st from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The Cantata will be held on Saturday, December 16th at 3:00 pm with a snow date of Sunday, December 17th.

Choir practice will begin Wednesday, August 23rd at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. New members are welcome! Contact Kim Stoudt for more information.



Open to all students in Age 4 to 4th grade. Meets on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Common Ground starting on September 20th.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. - Col 3:13

Bethesda Youth Ministries
Students in 5th thru 12th grade



New this year - BYM will be split into *BYM Senior* (8th thru 12th grades) which will meet on **Sunday evenings** in the Library from **6 to 8 pm** and *BYM Junior* (5th thru 7th grades) which will meet **Wednesday evenings** in the Log Cabin Room from **6:30 to 8 pm** while **small groups & Kidz Klub** meet.

- Sept 1st - BYM All-nighter (5-12th grades)
- Sept 17th - BYM Kick-off at the Parsonage (5-12th grades)
- Sept 20th - BYM Jr (5 thru 7th grades)
- Sept 24th - BYM Sr (8 thru 12th grades)
- Sept 27th - BYM Jr (5 thru 7th grades)

For more information or to sign-up for an event, please visit the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway. Questions? Contact Pastor Stewart at 570-789-4952 Dawn Koch at 570-691-6457.



Manbeck's Church Pig Roast
Saturday, September 9th
Meet at Manbeck's at 5 pm

Sign-up online or at the Welcome Counter. For more information, please contact Linda Bollinger at 570-739-4580 or Wayne Blankenhorn at 570-739-2533.

September 10th & 24th
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

- September 4th - Getting Past Your Past
- September 11th - A Safe Place
- September 18th - Is Church Obsolete?
- September 25th - Forgiving the Unforgivable

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.



MOB's Home & Auto Repair Program continues as we try to utilize our abilities, gifts, and resources to help those in need. Do not hesitate to complete the MOB program card at the Welcome Counter and we will see if we can help!!!

Wednesday night MOB's bible study will begin on **Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm** in the Theater Room. Please see the front page of this newsletter for detailed



The Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, September 9th** at the Friedensburg Family Restaurant.



Ladies Monthly Breakfast

All women are welcome, no need to sign-up!
Saturday, Sept 2nd at 9 am at Haag's Hotel, Shartlesville. Questions? Lisa at 484-294-6765.



Crochet Circle on September 11th & 25th
at the home of Cheryl Bender.

Ladies' Fall Breakfast
Saturday, September 16th
8 to 10 am

Blue Mountain Family Restaurant
(Shartlesville Exit off Rte 78)



Order off the menu-Separate checks
Relaxed Fellowship ~ Testimonials ~ Prayer

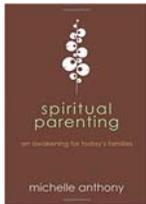
Please sign-up at the Welcome Counter or on-line by **September 10th**. Questions? Contact Norma Minnich at 570-617-0931.

*"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]*



Jingle Bell Beach
2017 Children's Christmas Musical
Kick-off Party - Sunday, August 27th at 2 pm

Everyone who is interested in being a part of this year's Children's Christmas Musical – Jingle Bell Beach – is invited to join us for the kick-off party on **Sunday, August 27th**. **Children should wear their swimming suits and be prepared for beach games, sand castle building, food, and lots of fun!!** Please sign-up your child/grandchild at the Welcome Counter if they will be attending.



Spiritual Parenting Sunday School Class
Starting September 3rd
Meeting in the Common Ground

No one can deny that leading a family through life comes with its challenges and struggles. Working hard to provide while making sure that children are raised to be respectable and productive members of society provide a great amount of burden to the task of leading a family and when we add parents and teachers prepare us for much of what life has to offer, we simply cannot avoid the fact that, unless you were raised with a parent as a pastor, effective spiritual leadership within a family setting is not a course that is offered in any school.

Beginning September 3, we will be holding a trial Sunday School class which is different from anything that has been done before here at Bethesda. **We will not be offering age based Sunday school classed for children ages 4 through 12th grade but, instead, will be holding a class which brings the entire family together to learn what it is to be an effective disciple making family.**

Using the material found in the book *Spiritual Parenting* by **Michelle Anthony**, we will take a look at the spiritual nurturing within the family structure as well as offer creative ways in which parents/guardians can take part in God's plan to develop an intimate relationship with all people by starting with the most intimate environment that we have, the home. Using stories, service, crafts and other mediums, each family should leave the class equipped with a proper understanding of church leadership's role in the family's spiritual development, a better understanding of their role in God's big story, and the confidence to be able to actively seek spiritual discussion and development at home.

This is a class that will require parent/guardian and child participation and will rely heavily on discussion and activities to effectively communicate the importance of spiritual development within each home. There will be no other Sunday school classes offered for Children ages 4 through 12th grade so we encourage you to set aside this time every Sunday to gather together with your spouse and children to devote yourselves to learning more of what God desires for the families that make up the body of Christ.

Continued Seed Planting.....



A reminder - on **Sunday, October 8th**, 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 ministry 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!**



Adult Sunday School Opportunities
Starting September 3rd

1 Parables: The Mysteries of God's Kingdom Revealed through the Stories Jesus Told - based on the book by John MacArthur *led by Dean Boyer in the Cafe*. Jesus was the master storyteller and the parables He told were simple word pictures with profound spiritual lessons. Jesus told Parables so His people could comprehend His message about the kingdom of God clearly.

Some sections of the Bible give us grand theology. Parables are wonderful stories Jesus used to break the complexity of the Kingdom, salvation, wisdom and folly, Christian life, and judgement into simple concepts for us to use in our daily lives.

2 Crisis 101 Back to Basics: Making Sense of Life... When Life Doesn't Make Sense - *led by Pastor Mark in the Library*. Crisis literally means "the turning point of a disease". It was used by ancient physicians to describe in an illness when things can go toward recovery or not. In modern times, we use the term to define very difficult, life-changing events in our lives and the lives of others. All of us are either going into a crisis, coming out of one, or in the midst of it right now. We know lots of other people in the same boat. So, what do we do? How do we handle those "life-changing" times? And, just as important, how do we help others in crisis? Join us as we go over 10 basic strategies to navigate those troubles and stormy times in our lives. They will help us see that times of crisis can be faith building. We can be victorious and give praise to the One that has delivered us!

3 Covenant with God - *led by a rotation of leaders in the Sanctuary*. Emphasis will be on ... 1&2 Samuel; Nehemiah; Ezekiel; 1 Corinthians; and Hebrews.

Missionary Corner

Child Evangelism Fellowship & Connie Wright



Prayer Requests:

- * Good News Clubs start at the beginning of October.
- * Children believing in Jesus as Savior and growing in Him.
- * Teachers and helpers to staff all of the clubs.

Praises:

- * The summer ministry of Day Camps, 5-Day Clubs and Fair ministry went well.
- * Summer missionaries worked well together.
- * Consistent prayer and financial support.

Prayer: Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!



A Change Has Come.....

A new approach is being taken toward Bethesda's prayer list located in the monthly newsletter. Once a prayer concern is passed on through the office or pastoral staff, if that request is not updated within four weeks, it will be removed from the list. Because much time is spent every month following up with prayer concerns, the goal is to place this responsibility to the "giver" of the initial prayer request. The purpose of this change is to change the responsibility of follow-up, while we continue to emphasize praying for others. Thank you – and continue praying!!!

New Ministry to Help Those Who Need Help Navigating the Medical Field



Navigating through the medical processes for even the most minor procedure can be quite daunting and stressful! Preparing for joint replacements or receiving a diagnosis about a chronic condition or terminal illness can be devastating in so many ways, particularly dealing with the stress of understanding medical terms, forms, appointments, short- or long-term care or therapies and short- or long-term after care. Often we have a navigator or advocate from within our family or from among close friends to help us through each step; but what if we don't, who do we turn to? Please feel free and encouraged to turn toward your church brothers and sisters for help, God's Helping Hands Outreach can help you.

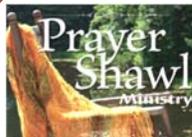
We can help you by being right by your side for prayer time, appointments, conversations with medical professionals, note-taking during appointments or education sessions, reporting to family who aren't local, and other helps to you. In other words, we can help you navigate through the medical "jungle" in any way that will help your life be less stressful ... for you and your family.

You can contact this aspect of God's Helping Hands through Maggie Arbushites at 570-573-0412, Pastor Mark at 570-573-2824 or the church office at 570-739-2241.



During the month of September we will be working to update our church directory. Keep an eye out for an announcement to check your current information on file. In the meantime, if any of your contact information has changed since last October - phone number, address, etc - please call (570-739-2241) or e-mail (office@bethesdaec.org) the office so that we have the most up to date information. Thank you!

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2



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.

Fellowship of Prayer
6 pm in the Café
September 10th and 24th



A time of adoration and worship followed by small group prayer focused on specific requests. Everyone is welcome to join this fellowship of prayer. Questions or for more information, please contact Connie Wright at 570-754-2259.



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.

Building Expansion Update

Be on the look out for opportunities for you to serve.....

Demolition & Construction Team

We will need people to help with removing materials, demolition, an various project assignments.

Facility Usage & Program Team

We will need people to survey the community about their needs and how our space can meet those opportunities.

Interior Design & Decoration Team

We will need people to develop practical hospitality and a beautiful décor throughout the building.

Communications Team

We will need people to help with strategic and timely communications to keep the congregation informed.

Prayer Support Team

We will need people to pray for the immediate challenges and the ongoing long-range vision and goals.

YOU NAME IT Team

We will need people to help with the naming and designation of spaces.

"Something We Missed" Team

If you have an interest in some facet of the project that is unlisted, please inform a member of the Building Expansion Steering Team.

PRAYER CONCERNS

September 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

Nanette Albright (transition)
Daniel Behler (hospice)
Donald Behler (treatment)
Bonnie Betz (heart)
Eileen Blew (knee)
Mary Ann Boyer (heart)
Johanna Brauer (therapy)
Joe Conway (recovery)
Irene Conway (cancer)
Diana Curry (cancer)
Janene Ditzler (medication)
Glenn Ebert (healing)
Gloria Ebling (cancer)
Donna Evans (cancer)
Eileen Goodwin (rehab)
Mike Gossard (testing)
Kharizma Harris (testing)
Glen Heisler (recovery)
Gary Hess Sr (recovery)
Mina Horan (leukemia)
Pat Johns (Alzheimer's)
Henry Larsen (leukemia)
Dennis Lauffer (respiratory)
Leah Lauffer (recovery)
Andrea Long (eye)
Sandy Long (recovery)
Don M (recovery & employment)
Marilyn Matthias (recovery)
Caitlin McGarry (rehab)
Evelyn Joy Mowrey (recovery)
Gladys Nagle (cancer)
David Novatnak (cancer)
Jenn Oswald (recovery)
Amber Pavalko (recovery)
Donna Platts (cancer)
Jennifer Rader (arthritis)
Riley Renjyak (cancer)
Clyde Rhen (legs)
Howard Rio (heart)
Carol Rolshausen (cancer)

Shut-ins

Margaret Bender
Walter Bilger
Dorothy Blankenhorn
Bert Heydt
Edith Houtz
Ruth Liddle

Military

Josh Behler (Air Force)
Ryan Brooks (Air Force)
Caleb Jennings (Marines)
Issac Long (Coast Guard)
Jessica Nabholz (Army)
Nicole Perkins (Army)
Thomas Perkins (Army)

Vicky Sleinkofer (recovery)
Judy Snyder (recovery/treatment)
Diane Stock (cancer)
Jennie Stoltz (diabetes)
Mary Ann Subalesky (cancer)
Maria Szumlanski (surgery 8/28)
Gene Voydik (rehab)
Joan Wall (rehab)
Flo Walton (pain)
Richard Welker (cancer)
Brenda Wessner (knee)
Randy Wessner (heart)
David Wright (transition)
Helen Youse (heart)
Beth Zimmerman (cancer)

Family

Daniel Behler family (loss)
Michael Carter Ball family (birth)
Judith Burcik family (loss)
Kendra Dzedzy family (loss)
Sam Fry family (loss)
Charlotte McDonald family (comfort)
Maidenford family (fire loss)
Helene Motley family (loss)
James Strauss family (loss)
Waschko family (support)
Weeble family (loss & recovery)
Paula Winn family (loss)

Local, National and Global

CEF, Schuylkill County
EC Officers:
Bishop: Bruce Hill
Exec Director: K. Henry
Associates: J. Byerly, L. Cool,
G. Kuehner, & R. Sizemore
President Donald J. Trump
Vice President Mike Pence
US Military Forces
PSP Troop L - Frackville, Jonestown
& Schuylkill Haven

Congregational

Appalachian Trail Ministry
Celebrate Recovery
Coffee @ the Corner
Griefshare Ministry
Lifetree Café
L.I.F.E. & TUMI Prison Ministries
Students, Teachers, Support Staff, and
Administrators returning to school

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. A copy of this newsletter can also be found on-line at www.bethesdaec.org.