



Bethany Road

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2022

Committee Meetings

- Safety Team
February 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- Property
February 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- Christian Education
February 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Deacons
February 3 at 6:00 p.m.
- Personnel
February 7 at 6:30 p.m.
- Outreach
February 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Worship & Memorials
February 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Finance
February 17 at 7:00 p.m.
- Session
February 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Winter Youth Retreat 2022

God is on the move! That is what comes to mind every time I think about our Winter Retreat! We had the honor of taking 13 students to Seneca Hills Bible Camp along with Victory Life Church, and Natrona Heights (EPC). It was a weekend full of incredible messages, worship, fellowship, conversation, games, sledding, and of course a snowstorm! It was amazing being in the presence of God all weekend and watching students start to take incredible ownership of their faith and walk with God. I am beyond excited for the momentum this gives not only our youth group but the students individually in their faith. We all thank you immensely for prayers for safe travels and for safety at camp. It was a transformational weekend and God is working in big ways through the students!





The theme was
"CHURCH"
CAMP



Congregational Meeting There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 30th directly after the church service in the sanctuary.

Bethany's 2021 Financial Statement through December

Income	\$513,290.46	Expenses	\$438,405.31	Difference	\$74,885.15
--------	--------------	----------	--------------	------------	-------------

Love & Loaves & Fishes

Food Warehouse to pick up distribution after pantry closes in June.

Reprinted with permission from the Record Argus (1/14/22)

Photo credits: Caleb Stright cstright@recordargusnews.com

A while back, Sandra and Bill Probst set 20 years as the amount of time they'd like to be involved in and eventually run the Mercer Area Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry. And as they approach that milestone and get deeper into their 70s, they're finding more and more that's the right amount of time.

June will be their final distribution, but with it approaching, they were having trouble finding someone to take over. A conversation this week is removing that worry: The Community Food Warehouse in Sharon will use its mobile food program to distribute food in Mercer and Fredonia.

"We didn't want to leave the town without food available," said Sandra who serves as the pantry's director.

Since 1982, Loaves & Fishes has been providing food for the Mercer community, and Community Food Warehouse, which serves 4,200 families in the county through eight programs and 34 agencies, will continue that legacy.



"Loaves & Fishes will be dissolved in June, but to continue to feed people in Mercer, support the Community Food Warehouse," Sandra said. "We hope everyone supports them as well as they've supported us."

While it's time for the Probsts to step away, they admit it will be bittersweet.

At one point in 2010, they were providing food to 500 people, and just prior to the pandemic, they were seeing 70 to 90 households. Those numbers, though, have actually declined during the pandemic, and they're not sure why.

But they continue to be inspired by the support of the community, including those who have donated whole stimulus checks to the pantry. "I thought it was so wonderful that they cared that much about the other person," Sandra said. "There's people that say, 'we don't want people to

(continued)

know,' so it's just me and Bill that know."

But probably the most inspiring moment for the Probsts was a team of eighth-graders from Tennessee staying with Mercer Baptist Church that took it upon themselves to hold a food drive and collected 1,500 pounds of food, the most during the Probsts' tenure.



Over their two decades at the helm, the Probsts have plenty of people to thank, not least of all Dr. William "Bill" Crawford and his wife, Shirley. Since about 2000, the Crawfords have been providing the facility for the food pantry on West Cornell Road. It was once a tack shop, but Bill and Sandra put in shelves and got grants for refrigeration.

The Crawfords have been providing not only the roof, but also the heat. Bill

Probst said the Crawfords were even covering the electric, but as the pantry brought on more coolers, the Probsts said Loaves & Fishes should take that bill.

"This would not have lasted this long without Bill and Shirley," Bill Probst said.

What is now Loaves & Fishes began in 1982 under the Mercer ministerium, headquartered at Bethany Presbyterian Church. The program, which also provided clothing at the time, was housed in a home across the street from the church, but after the house was sold, Loaves & Fishes moved out to the Crawfords' property in 2000, with the Probsts securing the entity's 501(c)3 status in 2010.

The Probsts started volunteering in 2002, and with the organization in need of leadership, Bill became secretary-treasurer in 2007, and Sandra became director in 2008.

They'll continue distributing food at the pantry with June being the last month, and Community Food Warehouse beginning in July. They encourage all those people that have supported Loaves & Fishes for all these years to do the same for the Community Food Warehouse. They noted putting the mobile food program in the memo line of checks to direct money to those efforts.



Bethany Presbyterian Church
100 West Venango Street
Mercer PA 16137

Regular Office Hours

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

(724) 662-4340

Fax: 724-662-1080

Prayer Chain: bethanyprays@yahoo.com

Web: www.bethany-presbyterian.org

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Mercer, PA 16137

PERMIT No. 39



TO: Or Current Resident

Elders & Deacons

Elders: Dan Cameron, John Inman, Chuck Kite, Ed Lindey, Valerian Moeller, Joe Phillips, Denny Thompson

Deacons: Amy Cameron, Don Chandler, Sue Horkey, Joni Knechtel, Ken Knechtel, Delores Palmer, Lori Pears, Kim Watson, Carol Wiggins

Bethany Staff

Transitional Pastor

Rev. Bob Stauffer

Visitation Pastor

Pastor Bill Woodman

Church Administrator

Mr. Steve Amsler

Youth Director

Mr. Jon D'Angelo

Children's Director

Mrs. Ashley D'Angelo

Music Director

Mr. Josiah Forton

Organist

Mr. Denny Horkey

Pianist

Mrs. Jane Deitrick

Financial Secretary

Mrs. Kim Watson

Treasurer

Mrs. Bev. Gallagher

Office Assistant

Ms. Lois Metelsky

Facility Manager

Mr. Dayle Wilkins

Wednesday Helper

Mr. Jarrett Smith