



Bethany Road

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2022

Committee Meetings

- Safety Team
January 4 at 6:30 p.m.
- Property
January 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Christian Education
January 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Deacons
January 5 at 6:00 p.m.
- Personnel
January 10 at 6:30 p.m.
- Outreach
January 11 at 7:00 p.m.
- Worship & Memorials
January 11 at 7:00 p.m.
- Finance
January 20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Session
January 27 at 7:00 p.m.

From the Desk of Rev. Bob Stauffer

Well, we come to the close of a very eventful year! So many things have happened this year, some that we rejoice in, and some that bring us sorrow. But in all of these events, we are reminded that God is with us and that no matter what our circumstances are, He is always present.

For me and my family there have been many changes this year. And one of the biggest of those changes has been my appointment as the EPC'S National Director of Church Health. What that has meant is that since August I have essentially been working three jobs (National Director, Presbytery Church Health Director, and Transitional Pastor at Bethany.)

I have been told that I have a pretty large capacity in terms of getting things done but the truth is something needs to change for both me and my family. So effective the end of this year the Session has approved my request to no longer be preaching at Bethany. Fortunately, we are supremely blessed to have four other preachers here and they will continue in doing their excellent work until the new pastor comes. I will continue to serve here with office hours, moderating the session, helping with the Outreach and Implementation Teams, and giving support to the Pastor Search Team. And I will continue those duties until the new pastor is on board.

My new position will require lots of new duties and travel (especially on weekends) and I never want to be in a position where I am preaching the Word of God unprepared. So while you will see less of me on weekends you can be assured that I will still be around to harass Steve and Lois very regularly.

Thank you for your understanding of this transition as I hope to continue to be faithful to my calling both here and across the U.S. while maintaining balance in my personal and family life. You are in extremely good hands with the pulpit staff and leadership and I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for Bethany in the months ahead!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting is scheduled for January 16. This will only be a very brief meeting with the purpose of postponing the rest of the meeting until January 30. This is necessary so the Finance Committee can complete the final financial reports for 2021.

Update from the Pastoral Search Committee

So far, we have received 11 applications. Candidates submit their Personal Information Form which includes basic personal information and information where they stand on theological, pastoral or practical topics. With it the candidates submit cover letter, describing why they are interested in the position of Senior Pastor at Bethany as well as links to sermons by the candidate.

Each member of the Pastoral Search Committee will then do his/her own research, looking through the Personal Information Form, listening/watching the candidate's sermon, etc. At our meetings, we discuss our impression of the candidate, exchange opinions about strengths and weaknesses, etc.

Sometimes we ask for more information from the candidate, if we need clarification on their Personal Information Form or we call references they gave us. If we are confident on the information they provided, and it aligns with our profile of the prospective candidate, we move the candidate forward in our process.

The next step is a Zoom Interview. Thanks to technology we can have this done through the internet, the Pastoral Search Committee in Carson Chapel and the candidate at his home. For this interview the Committee has prepared questions

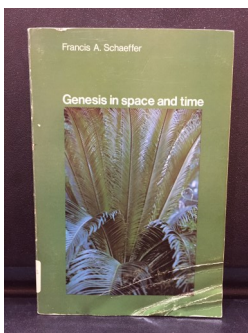
to get to know the candidate a little bit better and give him the opportunity to ask us questions about Bethany. After the interview we brainstorm about the interview, but then give each member time to reflect on it for a week or so.

Depending how the interview goes, we will move the candidate forward to another Zoom interview. The second Zoom interview is designed to know more about the candidate's theological positions and his experience as a pastor at his current church, what his weekly schedule looks like, etc.

The next step is an in-person interview. Even though the Zoom interview provides a good opportunity it does not give us the personal, face-to-face interaction we need.

Currently, we have candidates scheduled for the in-person interview as well as candidates for the first Zoom interview.

Each step is accompanied with prayer, personally and as a committee. We ask you to keep us in your prayers throughout the whole process: individually, as a committee and during meetings. Members are Sue Allen, Joni Knechtel, Valerian Moeller, Mark Muehlman, Lori Pears, Joe Phillips, Crystal Ruhlman, Earl Runcan, and Bob Stauffer.



Book of the Month

You may have heard Dr. Valentine quoting from this classic book in his sermon on Dec. 12th. It's old but still available. Francis A. Schaeffer, Genesis in space and time.

Bethany's 2021 Financial Statement through November

Income	\$426,856.30	Expenses	\$405,606.50	Difference	\$21,249.80
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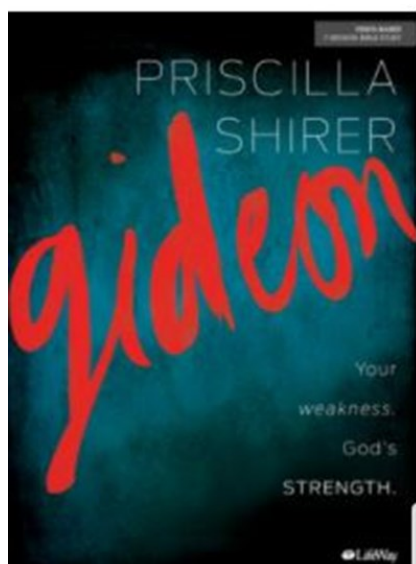
Bethany Worship Committee

We are sure you have noticed, Bethany has been beautifully decorated for Christmas. The Worship Committee works very hard to keep our church looking beautiful in all seasons, especially Christmas. The team consists of Joe Phillips, Gary Kleinfelder, Gary Wiggins, and Denny Horkey. Thanks for all your hard work!



Women's Bible Study—Gideon: Your weakness, God's Strength

January 10 – February 21, 2022 on Mondays 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



This 7-session study will encourage you to recognize your weakness as the key that the Lord gives you to unlock the full experience of His strength in your life. Instead of ignoring, neglecting, or trying to escape your weaknesses, learn to see them as the gifts given specifically and strategically by God. If you've ever felt insufficient, ill-equipped, incompetent, or outnumbered, this study is for you.

Sign-up at the Welcome Center or by emailing Pat Amsler at patamsler@bethany-presbyterian.org before January 7, 2022.

Thank You There are no adequate words to express how much the support of our Bethany Family has meant over the past couple of months. With the passing of our beloved MaMa' & our brother-in-law Ron Mahen so close together, we have been a bit overwhelmed. So whether you made a call, sent a card, made food, sent flowers or had a loving word & hug for us, it was balm for our grieving souls. We thank God for you & remember you all in our prayers.

Merry Christmas from Mark & Pam Muehlman

Mercer Light up Night

Light Up Night in Mercer was a great event for the community and we are excited that Bethany was a part of it. Nancy, Laurie and Jon set up our canopy and sign Friday afternoon on the lawn in front of the bandstand. The weather was good and a lot of adults and children turned out and



stopped by the Bethany booth for popcorn, water, and chili. Over 50 bags were handed out to the children with Bethany information, a postcard about "A Night In Bethlehem," a 3 Circle pamphlet, kids Christian coloring pages, a "find-a-word puzzle," and a mini Gospel Story book. So many people came that the team ran out of handouts. We will definitely be

putting this event on next year's calendar.

New Bethany Employee



We are very happy to welcome a new employee to Bethany Church. Jarrett Smith will be working on Wednesday mornings to do some cleaning duties around the church. It's great to have him helping us out.



Deacon Christmas Ministry

Many thanks to our faithful Deacons who are sharing the love of Christ by delivering Christmas flowers and homemade soup to Bethany members and friends.

Bethany Friends to Remember...

Throughout the year, please remember our members and friends who are home-bound or in nursing homes. Please let the church office know if we are missing anyone from the list.

The Baker Family
813 Cowlitz Trail
Mercer, PA 16137

Sally & Pam Barner
229 E. Venango Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Fran Bish
680 N. Stone Base Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Gail Burns
632 W. Poplar St.
Grove City, PA 16127

Joyce Cuyar c/o Keith Cuyar
113 Majestic Drive
Mars, PA 16046

Wayne & Tami Iman
8265 Lamor Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Mae Shaffer
Lakes at Jefferson
7271 West Market St.
Mercer, PA 16137

Eleanor Masters
P. O. Box 186
Mercer, PA 16137

Dorothy Maxwell
231 S. Otter Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Virginia Miller
1341 Mercer New Wilmington Road
New Wilmington, PA 16142

Dorothy Nan
792 Sarsi Trail
Mercer, PA 16137

Delores Palmer
347 S. McClelland Road
Mercer PA 16137

Becky Pears
148 Courtney Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Lee Ramsey
133 Center Church Road
Grove City, PA 16127

Bruce Shannon
38 Shannon Drive
New Wilmington, PA 16142

Susan Shawgo
301 S. Broad Street Apt 601
Grove City, PA 16127

Kelly Holloway and Carol
167 Pinehurst Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15229

Elizabeth Shillito
Whispering Oakes Room 325
260 Buhl Farm Drive
Hermitage, PA 16148

Russ Smith
238 W. Market Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Mary Thompson
202 N. Otter Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Janice Vinroe
Quality Life Services
8221 Lamor Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Dorothy Wester
3107 James Buchanan Blvd
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Springhill Rehab & Nursing
Tina Holloway
2170 Rhine Street
Pittsburgh PA 15212

Beverly Geiwitz Owens
Greystone Delaware St.
Fredonia, PA 16124

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

New Office Hours

Starting in January, Bethany will have new office hours. The new hours will be Monday to Friday, 8 am to Noon. The office will be closed in the afternoons. The new hours will better serve the activity level and needs of the church. We do not anticipate any reduction in service to our congregation because of the change.

Merry Christmas 2014

Even tho we're ninety three.

We still love a Christmas tree.

We hang a star on upper limb

Reminds us of the birth of him.

He is asking for our love

Lavish it to Him-far above.

If you do this, you will learn

And feel His power, in return.

Be sure your slate is pure & clean.

We're sure you know, just what we mean.

Just be nice, as you can be.

Then decorate Your Christmas tree.

-Joe & Geri Burns