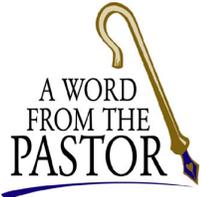




BPC REVIEW

Bethel Presbyterian Church Newsletter

September 2018



Bruce Larson tells of the guide who was hired by some hunters to take them into the backwoods of Maine. After some days, they became hopelessly lost and quite naturally began to doubt the competence of their guide. "You said you were the best guide in Maine," they reminded him. "I am," he said, "but I think we're in Canada now." You are no longer a "guide" when you yourself are lost. It is just as hard to decipher our Christian identity when we cannot recall what it is that makes us Christians in the first place.

For those of us who would be followers of Christ, the most basic question we need to ask ourselves is "What is a Christian?" We are living in a world where there is now virtually a "Christian" everything. Look around you. There are now Christian Counseling Centers, Christian Comedy Clubs, Christian Dance Clubs, Christian Athletes, Christian Coalitions, Christian Bookstores (where you can find sections on Christian Aerobics and buy videos entitled Firm Believers). In the Christian Yellow Pages, you can find Christian schools, Christian plumbers, Christian doctors, Christian bakers, Christian bankers, even Christian lawyers.

The church is no different we have, Christian Pentecostals, Christian evangelicals, Christian Liberals, Christian Conservatives, Mainstream Christians, Christian Charismatics, and the list can go on and on. One minister even went so far as to call himself a Christ follower instead of Christian, and because he has departed from that term some of the more fundamentalist brethren in his denomination now look upon him with suspicion.

Since I have been in ministry I have been confronted by those who have examined my theology and called it too evangelical, I have had others in the community faith look at that same theology and call it too liberal. It causes me to ask my self how the Christian faith can be described in so many ways?

Why is it dangerous to regularly use the word Christian as an adjective? It's back to fourth-grade elementary school. What do adjectives do? They modify nouns. Adjectives modify things that are larger and more important than they are. Adjectives limit nouns; they qualify nouns; they distinguish nouns. Adjectives are ornaments and lights you hang on nouns so that nouns become more alive and meaningful.

It stems from the fact that using the word as an adjective minimizes its meaning. The word "Christian" began as a noun, not as an adjective. The word, used three times in the New Testament, means literally "disciple of Christ."

It used to be that when politicians like Barry Goldwater, John F. Kennedy, Linden Johnson, and Richard Nixon, regularly debated issues by flying in the same planes, staying in the same hotels, eating at the same tables and in the same restaurants. Getting that kind of comradery today is nigh on impossible.

Sadly, the same is true among those who call themselves Christian. If you try to get a Christian liberal and conservative to come together in fellowship with comradery you find yourself fighting an uphill battle. Why? because when we make our faith an adjective it becomes very easy to make the dangerous step of beginning to believe that our brand of the faith is the only valid flavor.

The truth is we are not Christian Pentecostals, we are not Christian evangelicals, we are not Christian Liberals, we are not Christian Conservatives, we are not Mainstream Christians, we are not Christian Charismatics, we are not Christian men or women, we are not Christian scholars, we are not Christian parents, we are not Christian patriots, we are Christians. Period!

Food for thought ... Pastor Todd



Birthday!

Reilly Saneman ~ 09/05

Doris Lytle ~ 09/08

Nelson Berigtold ~ 09/09

Zachary Clayton ~ 09/12

George Reeves ~ 09/12

Bob Horn ~ 09/15

Dave Hinkley ~ 09/16

Bruce Mattheiss ~ 09/18

Brandon Saneman ~ 09/18

Nancy Berigtold ~ 09/20

Kathleen Fowler ~ 09/22

Christopher Mitchell ~ 09/23

David Thomas ~ 09/24

David Amos ~ 09/26

Michael Schwarz ~ 09/27

Keith Comer ~ 09/28

Kathleen Clayton ~ 09/29

Gretchen Shanklin ~ 09/30



Eric & Wendy Benson
September 2nd

Tony & Debbie Saneman
September 16th

Dave & Sherry Kirchner
September 24th

Christian & Theresa Sachs
September 30th

Don't forget to LIKE us on



Bethel Presbyterian Church



For all committee members,
please be sure to check the
September calendar for your next
scheduled committee meeting.

DEACON'S UPDATE

We uphold the following members, relatives and friends in our prayers and pray God's healing upon them:

Prayer Concerns

Gretchen Shanklin, Billy Gross, Bruce Young, Leonora Rose, Jason Rowley, Dorothy Goldstein, George Reeves, Jack Shaul, Bill Pullen, Jerry Wiley, and Andi Holmes.

Bruce Snyder, friend of John and Sandy Louderback and Carol Morrow.

Rev. Bruce and Barbara Barstow, former pastor at Bethel and his wife.

Dan Kelleher, brother-in-law of Jack and Betty Rogers.

Jay and Martha Elliott's grandson, James Kennedy, friends of Dan and Mary Beth Scott.

Howard Eisner, brother-in-law of Carol Morrow.

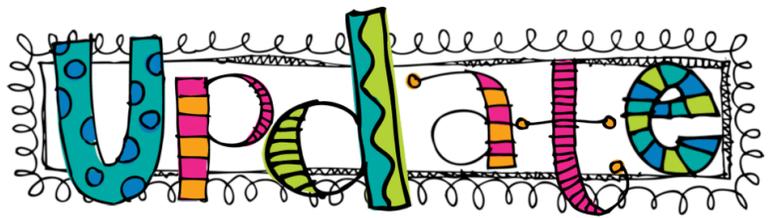
Dan Garey, brother of Sandy Louderback.

Lynn Zeichner, friend of Sandy Louderback.

Into the Church Triumphant:

Nancy Jane Sacks
August 23, 2018

Gail Lowe will be updating the Prayer Concerns. If you would like to add someone or you feel someone can be removed from the list, please call Gail at 443-567-0150 or email her at gggalowe@aol.com



Eagle Scout, Tyler Sambor, was able to raise \$1,100 from his Pit Beef Sale during our June Flea Market. The money he raised helped with the cost of building our swing and fire pit pagoda. Congratulations Tyler! Your hard work and diligence paid off and we all have a beautiful place to rest and relax while enjoying a fire all year long. Thank You!



Rev. Melissa McDade and Nancy Rose are heading up a Sunflower Committee that will be selling the sunflowers that are planted in the Jarrettsville Lions Club Field. The projected weekend for viewing and buying the sunflowers will be September 21-23.

For more information, please contact Pastor McDade at 410-459-0894.



Per Capita Dues for 2018 \$34.38

Please be sure to turn in your dues before the end of the year. You will find a BLUE envelope in with your contribution envelopes for your Per Capita. This fee is per person.

Church Groups

CHURCH FLOWERS

Interested in donating flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Sunday mornings? Please feel free to call Betty Rogers at 410-692-6579.

Let her know if the donation is in memory of a loved one or in celebration of birthdays or anniversaries.



BETHEL CROSS STITCHERS

The Bethel Cross Stitchers will be meeting on **September 5th & 19th at 9:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to enjoy the fellowship of other Christian women while learning a craft, we welcome you join in on the fun.

Cross Stitch Heaven

MARY'S CIRCLE

Women of Bethel, come and expand your knowledge of the Bible. This Woman's Bible Study Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

If you would like to feel the love of other Christian women, you are cordially invited to attend the next meeting on **September 11th** in the Foyer of the CE Building.



THE BREAKFAST BUNCH

The men's bible study group will meet on **September 20th at 7:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. A continental breakfast will be available. The lesson will end at 8:00 a.m. If you would like information regarding this group, please call Bob Horn at 443-807-0563, or send an email to hornsrbbaol.com



CHANCEL CHOIR

If you love to sing and would like to be part of the Bethel Church Chancel Choir, we ask that you contact our Music Director, Kirsten Fitzsimmons via email at ... kirstenfitzsimmonsmusic@hotmail.com



Rehearsals will be starting soon and we hope you would like to share your love for music with us.

HOME VISITS

If you need a little extra support and guidance, are having an upcoming surgery, or you need some one-on-one time with Pastor Todd, please feel free to call Melissa Dick in the Church Office at 410-692-5282 or you can email her at melissadick@bethel-md.org to schedule a Home Visit.

Your spiritual well being is as important as your physical well being.





Saturday - September 15th
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

If you are interested in reserving a space,
please contact Melissa Dick in the Church Office
410-692-5282 or melissadick@bethel-md.org

Spaces are \$15

Vendors will park in their space

Call today to be part of this community event 😊

Bethel Sunday School ~ 2018-2018

The Bethel Sunday School Teachers are excited to begin another wonderful year of teaching.

Sunday School attendees will begin each Sunday in their classrooms with their age developed lessons. Then, we will meet towards the end of class for a 15-minute time period as a Bethel Sunday School Family for songs, message and a closing prayer. We hope this will allow us to instill a sense of community and family within the group.

Sunday School Registration

Sunday, September 9th

9:30 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.

Breakfast snacks provided

Sunday School Begins

Starting September 16th

9:00 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.



Church Events

Officers Training Day

The Elders and Deacons of Bethel Church are asked to participate in an Officers Training Day scheduled for

Saturday ~ September 8th from 8:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

The training seminar will be providing breakfast and lunch for all the participants. We hope that each officer will be able to attend .

Active Shooter Seminar

Senior Deputy First Class Brad Crossley from the Harford County Sheriff's Office, Community Services Division, will be hosting an Active Shooter Seminar for the Bethel Church congregation. Please be sure to mark you calendars for

Wednesday ~ September 19th from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

This seminar is meant to inform everyone on what we can do during an active shooting situation. We hope that you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to be better informed about what we can do as a congregation and community to keep our church safe.

Memorial Services at Bethel Church

The following Memorial Services have been scheduled to take place at Bethel Church:

Sunday ~ September 23rd at 3:00 p.m. Garnet Anderson

Saturday ~ September 29th at 12:00 p.m. Ed Sturtevant

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these services, please be sure to contact Melissa Dick in the Church Office at 410-692-5282 for more information.

Church Events

SBC Task Force Update

Since March, a group of Bethel members has been hard at work planning for our church's 250th Anniversary in 2019, officially called a Sesquicentennial. Co-chaired by Dennis Kirkwood and Nancy Berigtold, the task force includes Rev. Todd Smith, Ruth Walker, Bob Horn, Gail Thomas, Marianna Putnam, Melissa Dick, Laurie Falkner, and Sue Hinkley.

We are planning a yearlong celebration that will include many community events, guest speakers and worship leaders, special music, and a focus on our history and heritage as a congregation and community. Bethel's beginning in 1769 precedes our nation's birth, the creation of Harford County, and the beginning of the Baltimore Presbytery. Only two other active churches in our area can claim an older beginning, namely our sister Presbyterian Church in Churchville (1738) and St. James Episcopal in Monkton (1750).

Each month we plan to have at least one community event in which we hope many outside our congregation will want to attend. So far, we have arranged for special music from the Deer Creek Chorale, lectures from historians on the Jarrettsville area, the early establishment of the Presbyterian faith in America, and local Native American Indian cultures. We hope to add topics such as the Civil War effects on our local area, World Wars I and II, and family stories from some of the founding families of Bethel who still reside in Northern Harford County. We also are planning a Big Event that will involve food, music, kids activities, and more to be held in August.

Also each month we hope to have a guest worship leader, including several of Bethel's past ministers, Seminary leaders, pastors of other local churches, and other distinguished guests. We plan to take a Sunday each month to recognize a different occupation/profession that has made Bethel and our community a strong and prosperous place to worship, reside, and raise a family.

We are fortunate to have the complete support of the Harford County Historical Society led by Executive Director Maryanna Skowronski. The Society will partner with Bethel to publish one of their special bulletins that will focus on Bethel's unique history and heritage. They will also be helping us with guest speakers and other assistance as needed.

Three published histories of Bethel - one by Rev. Andrew Cross in 1889, one by Laura Cairnes from 1939, and one from Anna Lee Kirkwood Smith in 1969, will be republished as one booklet with some updates and photos from 1969 to the present. These will be available at cost to anyone who wishes to have a complete set.

Finally, we will be marking the gravesites of the founding members of Bethel with a special ribbon and medallion to recognize their contribution and vision. While 91 individuals pledged in December of 1769 to bring the first called minister, only 19 are buried at Bethel according to our records. We also intend to mark the location of the original log structure used for worship and the 1802 stone sanctuary that preceded the current church.

The entire year's calendar of events will be published in a celebration booklet for members and for distribution to other churches and community organizations and individuals. Stay tuned for further developments, as 2019 will be a great event in our life as a congregation!

Special Session Meetings

Thursday July 26, 2018

A special Session Meeting with Personnel Committee was called on Thursday July 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the church office to discuss the recent letter to the congregation and the tension it has caused.

A discussion with Session members took place giving everyone a voice in the above matter. Session members ask for leadership to remain calm with their responses, please do not argue and take into consideration everyone's thoughts about the letter that was sent out by personnel committee.

We want to encourage everyone to meet with those who would like clarification. Anyone who wants to be part of the conversation is welcome to meet after church service on Sunday, August 5, 2018 for participation.

Respectfully submitted,
Polly Winskowski, Clerk

Members present: Rev. Todd Smith, Nancy Alexander, Bob Horn, Dennis Kirkwood, Carol Morrow, Shirlee Nystrom, Polly Winskowski

Excused: Marsha Brooks, Bob Dennison, Margie Fielder, Carolyn Mattheiss, Sherry Kirchner, Ruth Walker

Personnel present: Dennis Kirkwood, Shirlee Nystrom,

Excused: Marsha Brooks, Mary Beth Scott, Dave Thomas

Sunday, August 5, 2018

Pastor Todd Smith along with Ruling Elder Dennis Kirkwood, Co-chairman of Personnel Committee, met with Bethel's congregation on Sunday August 5, 2018 to give the opportunity to those who wanted clarification of the recent letter sent to the congregation.

There was a general discussion of why the letter was sent and concerns of individuals were answered. Now we need to support all, our staff and the congregation, and to have good relations between all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Polly S. Winskowski
Clerk of Session

2018 SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26  Blessing of the Backpacks 9:30 Worship Service	27  LABOR DAY OFFICE IS CLOSED	28 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 Trustees	29 9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers	30 DCYC Prep Meeting 5:00-8:00 pm	31	01 Private Event 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
02  Blessing of the Backpacks 9:30 SS Registration 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Care & Reach Out Team 11:30 Hospitality Hour	03  LABOR DAY OFFICE IS CLOSED 1:00 AARP Board Meeting 4:00 Mission Meeting 7:00 Deacons - Church Office 7:00 Worship & Music - Foyer 8:00 Nominating Committee	04 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 Trustees	05 9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers	06 DCYC Prep Meeting 5:00-8:00 pm	07 DCYC Welcome Event 5:00-9:00 pm	08 Officers Training Day 8:00 am - 1:30 pm
09 Sunday School Registration ! 9:30 SS Registration 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Care & Reach Out Team 11:30 Hospitality Hour	10 1:00 AARP Board Meeting 4:00 Mission Meeting 7:00 Deacons - Church Office 7:00 Worship & Music - Foyer 8:00 Nominating Committee	11 1:30 Many's Circle 2:00 SBC Task Force Meeting 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 Finance Meeting	12 7:00 pm DCC Board Meeting 7:00 pm Admin. & Personnel	13 4:30 pm DCYC Rehearsals 7:00 pm Session	14	15  THE CO-FLEA MARKET 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour	17	18 6:30 Bridge Group 6:30 DCC Rehearsal 6:30 CE Meeting	19 9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers Active Shooter Seminar 6:30-8:00 pm	20 7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch 4:30 pm DCYC Rehearsals NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TODAY	21	22 Flea Market Rain Date
23 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour Memorial Service Garnet Anderson - 3:00 pm	24 12:30 AARP - Organ Program	25 5:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Bridge Group 6:30 DCC Rehearsal	26 6:30 pm Cemetery Committee 6:30 pm Scout Crew #265	27 4:30 pm DCYC Rehearsals	28	29 Memorial Service Ed Sturtevant 12:00 p.m.