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“Meet me at the cemetery!”

Dave invited me to be involved in the Memorial Day observance this year. It hadn't been publicized because of COVID-19. But it is part of our local fiber to gather and remember those who lost their lives in service to our country. Dave suggested we meet at the Bethany Cemetery. I said, “Huh? Bethany Church has a cemetery?” Remember, I'm new around here.

That's how I happened to spend some time wandering amid some ancient, barely readable headstones. I listened to stories of the origins of the community of Bridgeville. I looked for any sign of the former building I had heard was nearby, but found none. But the cemetery is high on a hill, and could easily imagine a church placed there, overlooking the countryside, and not getting in the way of the farmers and their crops.

Then my imagination began to play with me. Because the church used to be on that hill, but now is on a busy street, passed by thousands each day. How did that happen? I imagined the session meeting when an elder said, “You know, we really should be down there, by the side of the road.”

Maybe there were howls of laughter. “You mean you want to move the church?” A quiet response could've been, “Yep.” Then I imagine a long conversation. Maybe a couple years long. Our leaders of yesteryear imagined the reasons Bethany Church ought to move.

I would love to have been a ghost of the future during those days.

That picture is one way I explain to myself the vitality of the elders, deacons and members of Bethany Church. We must have the vision gene. It must be a deeply ingrained habit to imagine God's future in whatever present moment are in. It thrills me to be present during this important time, when churches everywhere are praying for God to help us effectively share the Living Jesus with new generations. Bethany Church leaders have a wonderful adaptability. We are looking for things to change in order to love and serve with the heart of Jesus.

Just yesterday, the rhododendron in my yard broke into a riot of color. It took my breath away. I'm thinking of now, because this shrub looks old and gnarly most of the year. But, each year, it bursts out in color. The kind of beauty that is so fresh and surprising, considering its age and wear.

Maybe we're like that: rooted, sturdy and steady. And season by season, we burst into spectacular color! What a great picture of God's people! See you in church!

Pastor Bill





Our youth did a great job at Youth Sunday Service on May 3rd. We received a lot of positive feedback from students, parents, congregation members and non-members who watched our service. Some of our youth watched this service twice so they didn't miss any of it. One parent mentioned that their whole family was engaged throughout the service. Some members also mentioned that this was the best Youth Sunday they ever saw with 29 of our youth serving during the worship. We also had 2 of our modern worship band members playing guitar. By my estimates 37 people played a hand in working together for our Youth Sunday service to come alive through the livestream. Special thanks to Joan Kundra with helping coordinate the testimony speakers, Mike Segeleon for coordinating the modern worship band, to Shaun Martinec for editing the worship service together.

The Youth Group Virtual Meetings are going well on Sundays. We also have a dedicated, core group of youth joining on Wednesday Prayer lunch. This coming fall we will have 4 new student leaders that will be joining our Youth teachers to share ideas to build our youth group even stronger. These four student leaders are Grace Trotta, Emma Sysak, Cole Johnson, and Tyler Nicholson. They were faithful members of our BYG last year and also have shown leadership throughout this past year. They served with our BYG Pittsburgh Mission Trip last summer and some were vital volunteers at VBS. These four students will continue to build relationships with our Youth teachers and students and I look forward to working with them.

We are planning to shift to our BYG Summer schedule as our season ends on June 7th. We will have Virtual youth group the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month and our Prayer Lunch will be 2nd and 4th Wednesday every month. Our youth teacher's and students leaders training will also be twice a month. Also our youth are invited to the Summer of Youth Conference sponsored by J-Gen (Joshua Generation). For over 20 years it was hosted at Taylor University, but this year it will be streaming for free. There will be praise, prayer, and a relevant message the theme this year is "You Are With Me" in Psalm 23. The sessions will be LIVE on these dates: May 29, June 5, June 12, June 19, from 8-9 PM @ <https://www.youtube.com/jgenconf>

This past month I have been connecting with our congregation over the phone and virtually. I've also been slowly reaching out to some of our young adults. It's also been a joy connecting with Jeana our new communications specialist weekly to ensure good communication flow is happening with our youth, families, and discipleship opportunities. Virtual worship has been going well, with few problems. I have received lots of good feedback on my sermons and worship leading. People were blessed by the "Heart of Faith" sermon as it paid tribute to Fred Gossic's faith that was lived out here at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Our discipleship team has several projects in the works with bible journey curriculum that is being ready to be delivered over the summer for K-6th grade and working on strengthening discipleship expectations for each grade for this upcoming year. As a family, we are doing our best to stay safe and healthy. We hope that the church moving forward would do its best to keep safety as the number one priority for the staff and congregation members during this pandemic. Let's remember to continue with Christ's mission with an eternal perspective here in Bridgeville and to all nations.

Peace,

Pastor Jae



JUNE

Birthdays

06/02 Culver Carman	06/11 Landon Mendenhall	06/24 Kayla Cellone
06/02 Debra Grossi	06/11 Brenna Mours-Gibson	06/24 Jamie Hamilton
06/02 Maxim Holzworth	06/11 Robert Pulice	06/24 Charlotte McCrea
06/02 Stacey O'Connor	06/11 Cara Salerno	06/24 Robert Sunderlin
06/02 Gianna Ramous	06/12 Charlotte Joesbury	06/25 Kimberly Gullo
06/03 Landon Muraco	06/12 Christina Morse	06/25 Bryan Matusic
06/03 Emilee Quinn	06/12 Andrea Prohaska	06/25 Kip Padgelek
06/05 Patricia Browner	06/13 Robert Krek	06/25 Luca Romanelli
06/05 Dennis Dunn	06/13 Wayne McGinnis	06/25 Luciana Romanelli
06/05 Matt Ryan	06/13 Benjamin Rackley	06/27 Reed Martinez
06/05 Edgar Shaffer	06/14 Paul Demnyan	06/28 Taylor Knapp
06/06 Sean Doty	06/14 Donald Platt	06/28 Kenneth Kundra
06/06 Elaine Gray	06/15 Amanda Evans	06/28 Nicole Loebig
06/06 Elissa Hamilton	06/15 Grace Faulkner	06/28 Courtney Ramous
06/06 Devin Nock	06/15 Mary Schafer	06/29 Christopher De Rose
06/07 Daniel Eichler	06/15 John Yanak	06/29 Connie Segeleon
06/07 Vince Lamberti	06/16 Clare Bizzack	06/30 Addison Gastgeb
06/07 Rachel Schinosi	06/16 Clayton Wilhelm	06/30 Robert Julius
06/07 Thomas Unghajer	06/16 Scott Yanak	06/30 Capri Matusic
06/08 Brandon Edwards	06/18 Lucinda Naples	06/30 Jonathan Miklavic
06/08 Mary Rinald	06/19 Ashley Farabaugh	06/30 Debra Pyle
06/08 Jeffrey Smith	06/19 Edward Kopach	06/30 Isabella Sharp
06/08 Charles Woleslagle	06/19 Brittany Matevish	06/30 Patricia Slack
06/09 Carol Grendys	06/21 Darlene Shaffer	
06/09 Mark Morelock	06/21 Madison Smith	
06/09 Ryan Wolstoncroft	06/22 Brittany Kikta	
06/10 Makenzie Briggs	06/23 Thomas Casciola	
06/10 Remington Gibson	06/23 Sergio Gonzalez	

Other Events for the month of June:

- ⇒ Daily Virtual Morning Prayers by Pastor Bill from 9-9:15 AM—See article on how to participate.
- ⇒ BYG is having a Wednesday Virtual Prayer Lunch 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 12 to 12:30 PM—email Pastor Jae for details.
- ⇒ BYG Sunday Virtual Meetings, 1st and 3rd Sundays from 4:00-5:30 PM—contact Pastor Jae
- ⇒ Friday Morning Women's Virtual Prayer Meeting - every Friday at 9:30. Contact Judi Wolstoncroft at 412-527-8210 to join.
- ⇒ As we move into our Summer Schedule, please look to Bethany's Website for the most up to date information on calendar events and our time-table to possibly reopening. If you have any questions please call the office at 412-221-5132.

Golden Oldies Updates:



It's not fun when we can't gather anywhere or go anywhere. Sadly, we have cancelled all the bus trips we have planned. Good news -- once Lenzner management decides to work again and writes a big check to Oldies we will return all money you paid for Esther. All trip money and deposits will be returned. I ask you to be patient.

What I want most of all is being with everyone again. Hearing your stories, your laughter, and hopefully some hugs. If June isn't possible, then plan for our picnic on Thursday, July 16. We will have fun with the Button Boxes as they entertain us. If a June meeting does happen, it will be on Thursday, June 25 at noon. Look on the Bethany website, outdoor sign or call the church office for updates.

Be safe and get outside to enjoy the sun and warm weather.

-Judy Gardner

Now more than ever Bethany Church needs you! Please mail your offering to the church at 740 Washington Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017 or consider online donations from the safety of your own home via your phone, tablet or laptop. Join the growing number of online givers by accessing the following link: [Donate to Bethany](#) and following the simple steps to get started. Stay safe and God Bless!

Bridgeville Community Food Bank

At the May 16th distribution, the Bridgeville Community Food Bank served 125 families. That included 56 children, 100 adults, and 95 elderly. Thank you for your continued generosity to the food bank. Because of you, we are well stocked for the summer.

Morning Prayer and More

Starting Monday, March 23, each weekday morning, from 9:00 to 9:15am Pastor Bill will lead a reflection on a Psalm for the day. And follow with a prayer for the day. Anyone wishing to fellowship with one another and the pastor may sign in to the meeting at anytime from 8:50am to 9. A 15 minute devotion will start at 9:00am. You may stay after morning prayer to discuss. Our hope is to create a forum for communication of our needs and experiences during this global health crisis and beyond. You can participate via a computer with a video camera. Or you can just hear the audio and see the pastor and others using a computer without a camera. Or you can phone in to number below and hear the audio and be able to speak to others. If using your phone, you will be asked to enter the PIN below. What a great way to start the day! We have had about 10 participants.

Join Morning Prayer and More

meet.google.com/zvx-fxfi-aoz

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/zvx-fxfi-aoz

Phone Number

+1 515-519-5891

PIN: 127 260 960#

New Employees:

Please welcome our Communication and Media Specialist Jeana Dollear!

Hi Everyone,

I'm thrilled to be joining Bethany as the new Communications and Media Specialist. I've enjoyed getting to "meet" so many of the Session and Team leaders on video calls and look forward to meeting more of the wonderful Congregation in time. Over the next few weeks, as I settle into my new role, I hope to gain a better understanding of the current priorities of the Church and how they align with our values. The Engagement team is currently working on a form to submit all work requests, but in the meantime, I can be reached at marketing@bethanypresby.org.



Growing up in Mt. Lebanon, I'm excited to be back in Pittsburgh after spending more than a decade away in Washington D.C. My husband, Cory, and I live in Upper St. Clair with our two daughters Cora (3) and Jillian (1). This phase of life is keeping us very busy, but we are so grateful and are looking forward to building new relationships at Bethany!

-Jeana Dollear

New Interim Pastoral Care Associate and Team:

Session has hired Deb Gossic as the new Interim Pastoral Care Associate. The ministry is now going to be a "Pastoral Care Team" -- Ruth Doyle will be joining Deb as her official sidekick. They have already begun their ministry, so if you hear of any elderly or shut in that we need to be reaching out to, let them know.

Deb's email is dgossic720@gmail.com

Thanks to Deb and Ruth for their care to our shut-ins!

COVID-19 Update: Creating a New Task Force

During the May meeting, the session has established a dedicated task force to handle the planning and implementation of reopening the church. This task force will be represented by a member from each of the ministry teams and chaired by a member of the property team. Beckie Price, along with Pastor Bill Youmans will also be working with the team. All questions, plans and needs will be addressed over the next few weeks, and the task force will present their recommendations at the June 2020 meeting. We will extend our current closure policies until the session takes action. Once a plan has been approved, we will work diligently to begin implementation so that we can reopen our doors in the safest way possible. We will, of course, update you along the way with any changes or new developments. Please visit www.bethanypresby.org/covid-19 for more updates.

The team members are: Bob Pulice, Doug Bovard, Carl Suppo, John Henninger, Terry Kohlmyer, Karin Nass, John Turnbull, Bill Youmans, Beckie Price

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we move towards a safe and responsible opening.

Regeneration: the New Birth

Scripture Reference: John 3: 1 – 8

My plan when I began this series of articles was to present some new birth experiences through interviews with Bethany PC members. I could go to church, choir, Bible study, etc. and talk with the saints. Well God had other plans - a pandemic and quarantine! So I'll turn to the Bible for some new birth experiences.

Two interesting new birth experiences can be found in the first chapter of Luke. Please read that chapter. It begins with Zacharias and Elizabeth, an elderly couple without children, and described as godly and upright. When told Elizabeth will bear him a son (vs 11, 18), Zacharias responds to the angel of the Lord with fear and worse unbelief. For his unbelief, God renders Zacharias mute (vs 20). Later, when Zacharias writes his new born son's name on a tablet, his voice is restored by God. Filled with the Spirit (vs 67), his subsequent bold prophesy radiates with confidence and clarity! A born again experience? I think so!

The second new birth experience involves Elizabeth and her baby. I'll let you figure that one out!

This month we will focus on the new birth being **comprehensive** and **cleansing**. Our physical birth is **comprehensive**. We begin life with all of our essential organs. We do not acquire arms, legs, ears or eyes in stages. Certainly we will grow, but a person is physically complete at birth. A spiritual birth is **comprehensive** as well. Because the effects of sin are **comprehensive**, God's regeneration of a sinner must be **comprehensive**. The new birth is a complete and dramatic change on the inside. We are not 'born again' in stages and we do not acquire new spiritual organs. However, we do need to grow and mature spiritually. Please read Ezekiel 11:19-20 and 36:24-28. The old heart of stone was hard, cold, and unresponsive to the things of God. The new heart of flesh is alive, loving, and responsive to the things of God. The new heart possesses new affections, desires, passions, loves, hungers and thirsts! Moreover, by His Spirit, God comes to live with his people and they become His temple. They have a new governing spirit and they walk in His ways and obey His commandments. Please read Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16 and Eph. 2:21 and 22.

A crucial aspect of the new birth is the Holy Spirit's act of **cleansing** a sinner. Please read John 3:5. Because being born of water and the Spirit is an absolute necessity, we need to know clearly what this means. We might think of Baptismal water or maybe a metaphor for God's Word. Dr. Stephen Lawson believes the phrase "born of water and the Spirit" refers *not* to two separate things, but to the powerful **cleansing** influence of the Holy Spirit. There are scriptures that support his interpretation. Please read Ezekiel 35:25-27 and Titus 3:5. When God cleanses, the recipients are truly clean. Our **cleansing** is a Spiritual **cleansing**. When we are cleansed of sin, God makes us a *beautiful* new creation. Please read Isaiah 1:18 which reveals the dramatic **cleansing** power of regeneration. Ephesians 2:10 and 2 Cor. 5:17 speak of God's **cleansing** power and its permanency in our lives. As God remakes people, His **cleansing** reveals the stunning *beauty* of His workmanship!

I will conclude with a statement about **cleansing** and questions posed by Dr. Lawson. Like a talented sculptor, God chips away the parts of His art that do not resemble the original likeness that He is copying. As He transforms you into the image of Christ, what pieces of the old you has He chipped away? How might He continue to change you in the future?

Yours in Christ,
Doug Bovard

Doug Bovard will be holding his Sunday School Class Virtually. If anyone is interested in joining please email him at dbovard@verizon.net or call/text at 412-979-9324.

Musical Notes

by John Henninger

The following scripture came to mind the morning I was writing this newsletter article. It seems very appropriate now, as we are not meeting in person for a time. The choir has been missing our fellowship and singing together for God's glory; the bell ringers are not meeting to polish our gift of music, and the Sunday School singers have not met since March to sing the joy in their hearts.

We still have each other in prayer, and, thankfully, can still meet virtually.



From Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Peace, health and safety to all!

Congratulations to the following high school seniors who have received a gift from the Bethany Educational Fund. In order to be eligible, students must:

- Be a graduating High School Senior (Class of 2020)
- Be a member of Bethany Presbyterian Church
- Be accepted to a post-secondary college or technical program
- Complete an application determined by the Educational Fund Team



🎓 Abigail Byers will graduate from Chartiers Valley High School and is attending High Point University in North Carolina.

🎓 Katie Nagy will graduate from South Fayette High School and attend the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania.

🎓 Sam Naples will graduate from Chartiers Valley High School and attend Community College of Allegheny County in Pennsylvania.

🎓 Tanner Zissis will graduate from Canon McMillan High School and attend The University of Central Florida.

If you are interested in being a part of the Bethany Educational Fund Team, please email nciaramella@prostream.net. We are looking for new members to help review applications, encourage our seniors, and pray for them as they transition to life after high school.

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