



**BETHANY
CHURCH**

BETHANY ROAD

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

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Bethany Family,

As I consider the summer and the realities of the expectations, hopes, and dreams that I have; I am reminded of the need for rest. Life can be very busy. We often hop from experience to experience without stopping to rest and reflect. Kids, grandkids, family expectations, work, vacations, summer league, birthdays...they all add up to a very full life. All of this is wonderful and part of what God intended for us. Our society lives at a dizzyingly pace. At the touch of a finger or voice command, we can learn about anything, talk to anyone, and be distracted from whatever we need distraction from. This can be both a wonderful tool and a temptation. Never before has it been so hard to find silence and solitude or even know that you need silence and solitude. Simply slowing down and resting must become a discipline we seek out. For if we don't, then we can lose our grounding and forget to listen to our God.

I am talking about stopping, resting, and taking a sabbath in order to recharge and seek God.

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(continued from page 1)

Sabbath has become a foreign word in our society and in many Christian circles. The idea that we would take a specific and regular time that is set aside in order to rest and refocus upon God just seems unnecessary for many. For the Jew, sabbath is the last day of the week. For the Christian, it is the first day of the week, as this is the day that Christ rose from the grave. We can argue over when and even the specifics on how to take a sabbath. These questions can be fruitful and are worth our time in order to most effectively rest and use our time to honor God. Yet, I find myself asking a more basic question. Am I taking a sabbath rest at all? Are you taking a sabbath rest?

The sabbath concept can be found throughout both the Old and New Testaments, but it is Exodus 20, from the Ten Commandments, that most people think of the sabbath. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work... (Exodus 20:9-11)." The Sabbath is not just a good idea, a lofty ideal, but a command. Something that God has required of us. We must make the

time to rest, reflect, and refocus. What a blessing it is that our perfect and gracious God desires us to recharge. He knows better than we do what we need. So, I repeat, are you taking a sabbath rest? The excuses are many with our busy lives, schedules, social media, and technology, yet the command remains. Rest.



Obey the command of God and choose to take a break. Truly rest and relax from work. This work looks different for each of you. Jobs are different, phases of life are different, your needs for rest are different from season to season. As a parent you never seem to rest, but this means you should rest all the more. Get creative and build rest into your schedule. If you think you don't have time to rest, perhaps begin by only resting for a few hours and see how God might mold and change you in that time. I suspect this will encourage you to find more time to rest. (continued on page 3)

Sabbath is more than just rest; it is a time to seek God and renew our relationship with him. We rest in relationship. Don't forget the words of Christ. Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." (John 6:35) We find true rest in Christ. When we spend time with God praying, worshipping, and learning about God; we are fed. We are fulfilling a basic need we have just like food fulfills a need we have. We receive heavenly food that sustains us in ways normal food and rest can never sustain us. Don't neglect this food and rest that you need and are commanded to have. If you are not regularly resting and refocusing upon Christ, what is holding you back? How can you build this discipline into your life? How can you prioritize Christ? Take a sabbath because it is what we need to follow God, recharge, stay grounded, and because God has called us to do so! You won't regret this change in your life. It will drive you to be even more productive and focused in other areas of your life.

Pastor Bob



YOUR NEW SUMMER INTERNS

SAMANTHA AND SARAH WILL BE AROUND ALL SUMMER HELPING WITH OUR YOUTH AND KIDS' MINISTRIES. WELCOME TO BETHANY!



BIG SUMMER PLAYDATES

THURSDAYS 9:30-11:30AM
JUNE 15-AUGUST 10TH
BETHANY CHURCH PLAYGROUND



OUR DAILY BREAD

**COPIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE
IN THE CHURCH LOBBY. READ
A PAGE EACH DAY. SOME TOPICS
IN THIS ISSUE ARE AGING, GRIEF,
GUILT, SERVING, AND UNITY.**



Financial Report

Income	\$189,209
Expenses	\$205,919
Difference	-\$ 16,709

Property expenses were high due to the construction of the playground and bathroom.

PAIRS IN THE BIBLE

JULY 2023 PAGE 5

Using a pen or pencil, draw lines to connect well-known pairs in the Bible.

SAMPSON

WATER

LOAVES

ADAM

PAUL

DAVID

MARY

CAIN

LEAH

MOSES

JACOB

FISHES

GOLIATH

ESAU

WINE

RACHEL

SILAS

MARTHA

AARON

DELILAH

ABEL

EVE

**MEN'S BREAKFAST
THURSDAY
JULY 6 @ 7:30 A.M.**



just for fun

All the moms when pastor mentions disobedient kids



Implementation/Outreach Team Update

Currently the Implementation/Outreach Team members include Earl Runcan: Elder and Chairman, Gary McElfresh: Co-Chairman, Mark Hayes, Gloria Podlaski, Lori Phillips, and Linda Wishart.

From its inception, about two years ago, Bethany's Implementation Team, which has been appropriately renamed "Outreach Team", was directed by Bethany's Vision Team to focus outreach efforts on the Pine Grove Mobile Home Park, the Colonial Inn Apartments, and the Brandy Springs Apartments.

Through a variety of past outreach events and activities, God has presented opportunities for His gospel to be shared with dozens of individuals and families. To date, we have provided financial aid to help folks keep a roof over their heads, food on their tables, and have helped several find jobs. Additionally, one individual received Jesus as her personal Lord and Savior, some have recommitted their lives to Christ, and others are still searching.

At our January 2023 meeting, we took time to reflect on Bethany's Vision Statement: Serve our community, Build relationships with our neighbors, and Share the gospel with all those we meet. Although we have made some inroads, the Outreach Team felt our vision for sharing the gospel should not end in Pine Grove, the Colonial Inn, and Brandy Springs, but should incorporate outreach opportunities that could touch the entire Mercer community. To that end, we agreed to be in prayer about how God might be speaking to each

us and come prepared to our next meeting for a brainstorming session with outreach ideas God had laid on each team members' heart.

At our brainstorming session, 25 great ideas were noted covering a wide variety of outreach opportunities. The Team felt the #1 priority was to compose a community survey to help identify the needs, concerns, suggestions, and prayer requests of families living here in Mercer.



By May 9th a total of 149 surveys were distributed to the families living in Pine Grove, the Colonial Inn, and Brandy Springs simply because the Bethany Church name resonates with these folks. We added an incentive for families to answer at least 7 of the 11 questions by offering a \$20 gift card to Walt's Groceries for all who

(Continued on page 7)

returned their completed surveys to us.

To date, 16 surveys have been returned. At first glance, this doesn't seem like a very successful response rate so far. However, God's timing and ways are perfect, and He may be providing all we can handle right now. Also, of the 16 returns, 11 families have asked for prayer and have provided names, addresses, phone numbers and/or email addresses. From our perspective, this is HUGE!

Gary McElfresh is following up with the men who responded, and Lori Phillips is following up with the women respondents. Please keep them, and the families that have responded, in your prayers and please keep praying that God will continue showing the Outreach Team how He wants us to move forward with the ideas, suggestions and information we have received from these families.

In closing, the Outreach Team would like to thank the entire Bethany Church body for your generosity in providing the financial resources that have allowed us to broaden our outreach potential to include the greater Mercer community. We have been able to remain properly focused on Bethany's Vision Statement and to also incorporate the EPC's "Revelation 7:9" challenge to reach the un-churched and de-churched (those who no longer attend church in person) within a 1-3-5 mile radius of Bethany Church.

P.S. We are seeking additional team members who feel led to join our community outreach efforts. If interested, please let the church office know and Earl or Gary will follow up with you.



**TO GOD BE THE GLORY AND
HIS PERFECT WILL BE DONE,
YOUR OUTREACH TEAM**

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

**Full Time Ministry
Opportunity**

**Student Ministries
&
Community Outreach
Director**

Mercer, PA



The search committee of Ed Lindey, Earl Runcan, Lisa Wishart, and Pastor Bob White are continuing the search for your next Youth and Community Outreach Director. To date, we have considered many candidates but have not found the person who is the right fit for Bethany. We hope and pray to have someone in place by September. Please continue to pray that we would have wisdom as we consider each candidate. Feel free to share the opening to people you know that might be a good fit in this role.



HATS OFF TO OUR LADIES



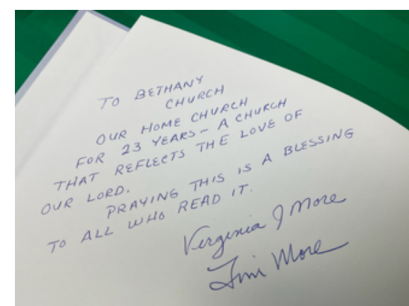
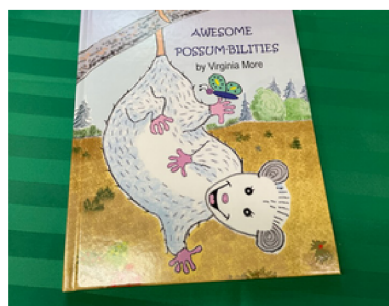
Bethany Church has a "hat lady"...Gale Court. Gale has been making the women at Bethany Church hats for years. Her goal is to offer any lady in the church a custom-made hat. They can be simple or fancy. They are custom designed for each lady in size, color, & complexity. If you would like a hat, or if you would like to decorate your own, please let Gale know.

Gale can be contacted at 724-877-0012.

Library News

Former Bethany member Virginia More authored a children's book and recently donated a copy to Bethany's library. The book, titled AwesomePossum-bilities, is described as the "Thought-provoking story of a possum trying to be everything he isn't. It is only when this little possum understands his true purpose that he finds contentment and shines brightest for his Creator. "

The book can be found on the large table in the library.



The hand-written inscription reads:

To Bethany Church,

Our home church for 23 years – A church that reflects the love of our Lord.

Praying this is a blessing to all who read it.

Virginia J. More

Tim More



MISSION STATEMENT:

Hope for Renewal seeks to serve, build relationships, and share the love of Christ with those living in the Glenwood Corridor.

WHO WE ARE:

We are a non-profit 501C3 consisting of a Community Outreach Ministry, Worshipping Community Ministry, and a Café Outreach Ministry. Hope for Renewal was created and continues to operate as an Evangelical Presbyterian Church Plant. The purpose of Hope For Renewal's activities is to build community and personal relationships extending the love of Christ to all. Hope for Renewal will operate from a ministry center which has been given the name "Glenwood Grounds".

Glenwood Cafe Outreach

Glenwood Grounds Café will serve by providing a place to gather, share life, and to experience the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ lived out in dignity, love, listening, and service.



Hope for Renewal also has ministries to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the community, such as: Prayer Walks, Playground Community Picnics, Vacation Bible School, Community Meals, a Worshipping Community, and many other events at Glenwood Grounds.



Please continue to pray for all of the areas of ministry of Hope for Renewal. They specifically asked for prayer that all areas of ministry would be empowered by God's authority and power to reach and to save the lost through the power of the Gospel message.

Bethany's July Wordsearch

J M B L K I C T A B Z F G E R
 U G S I F F R E E D O M D G V
 L C Y T N J P R A Y I N G S S
 Y O G H R D J E I M K X S U W
 W U G A D I E D T O G H N M I
 O F F R R T P P O W E Z X M M
 R I V I A D S E E I K D N E M
 S R U A R D E L S N S H S R I
 H E P F C E U N I G D T K Q N
 I W I R D A F A S D R E A N G
 P O C I G K T L T C E T N R C
 I R N E O O F I I I V S S C S
 N K I N S L L X O E O M J Z E
 G S C D Z S A W J N S N T J T
 U U S S T X G M E Z N L S J K

independence

graduations

worshiping

stars

fireflies

swimming

vacation

flag

fireworks

picnics

gardens

July

freedom

praying

stripes

slides

friends

mowing

summer

Your July Calendar of Events



July

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 11:45 AM DEACONS MEETING	3 6:30 PM CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE	4 6:30 PM MISSIONS COMMITTEE	5 7:30 AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:30 AM MOPS PLAYDATE	6 9:30 AM SUMMER PLAYDATE	7	8
9 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE	10 6:30 PM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	11 6:00 PM SAFETY COMMITTEE 7:00 PM PROPERTY COMMITTEE 7:00 PM WORSHIP TEAM	12 8:00 AM BETHANY QUILTERS 6:30 PM MILITARY PRAYER 7:00 PM WORSHIP BAND	13 9:30 AM SUMMER PLAYDATE 6:30 PM GARDEN CLUB	14	15
16 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE	17	18 6:30 PM CLUB COMMITTEE	19 8:00 AM BETHANY QUILTERS 7:00 PM WORSHIP BAND	20 9:30 AM SUMMER PLAYDATE 7:00 PM FINANCE COMMITTEE	21	22
23 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE	24 12:00 PM MY LADIES LUNCH	25	26 8:00 AM BETHANY QUILTERS 7:00 PM WORSHIP BAND	27 9:30 AM SUMMER PLAYDATE 7:00 PM SESSION	28	29
30 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE	31					



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 and Deacons

Elders:

Frank Carolas, John Inman, Chuck Kite,
Ed Lindey, Valerian Moeller, Earl Runcan,
Bruce Wamboldt, Bill Woodman

Deacons:

Madalin Huff, Tami Iman, Doug Lindey,
Lynda McQuown, Delores Palmer, Ed
Pears, Lynn Runcan, Betsy Rust, Rita
Thompson, Kim Watson, Carol Wiggins,
Linda Wishart

Bethany Staff

Pastor

Pastor Robert White

Financial Secretary

Kim Watson

Visitation Pastor

Pastor Bill Woodman

Treasurer

Beverly Gallagher

Church Administrator

Steve Amsler

Music Director

Andrew Kraus

Administrative Assistant

Beverly Crawford

Organist

Denny Horkey

Maintenance Manager

Dayle Wilkins

Pianist

Jane Deitrick