



Dear Bethel Church family and friends,

Grace and peace to you all. I pray you are well and staying cool in this oppressive heat. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to contact me or your shepherding team. While the original plan for this month was to provide an update on the 52nd PCA GA, we will instead use this space to introduce Bethel's newest assistant pastor, Rev. Mark Kozak. As they move onto the field in the next few weeks, I pray you will extend that famous Bethel hospitality to Mark and Debra. And don't worry, my update on the goings-on in Chattanooga will come in August.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Chris

Not having been raised in a fully Reformed, covenantal ministry, I was not aware of the possibility of "never knowing a day where I didn't trust in Christ as Savior." I prayed the "sinner's prayer" Aug. 26, 1973 at 6 years old, after evening worship. But as I now see, in the very first moment where the gospel became personal, that I was a sinner and I needed a Savior, I trusted in Christ as mine.

Having been given every possible benefit of the gospel—raised by faithful parents who were consistent worshippers in the church, attending Christian school, graduating Bob Jones University, other believers who poured their lives into mine—I always had the sense of my obligation to serving Christ. This translated into working with youth and serving as an elder.

My first call to ministry came as I was completing 20 years as a CPA. I had the best job imaginable but found myself asking, "Is this all there is to life? Do I do this till I die?" A person who poured into my life made a suggestion, "You should try out a seminary class." My reaction was "NNOOOO!!!" But God got me there, by His gracious work in me. It was in that first class where I began my journey of becoming fully reformed in my theology and realizing I didn't know exactly how or where it would lead me, but the opportunity of serving Christ in His church satisfied my soul, as nothing else could. I completed seminary and have served as the solo pastor in 2 PCA churches, by God's help and enablement.

The details of Debra's coming to faith in Christ are quite different, but no less, show His great power and mercy. She was raised in a family that had no outward evidence of the power of the gospel. She compares her life story to God's call of Abraham, choosing to call him due to nothing in himself, but that "in His great love He saved us." Debra worked to pay for Christian high school, where she first heard the gospel, and came to faith in Christ. Though her family experienced the hardships of addictions, she is a new creation in Christ. With color-coded highlights for almost the whole book of Deuteronomy in her Bible, her favorite verse is Deut. 6:5, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

While she retains her Eagles and Phillies devotion, she is ultimately devoted to her Savior, and with God's help, to her husband. It was largely her hard work and love for God's work in Mark that got him through seminary and made his ministerial track possible. Along the way, she has achieved a valued position and reputation in the insurance industry over the last 25 years.

Mark has exhibited a long-term inability to pick a single hobby—trying everything from mountain biking to road biking to motocross racing to woodworking to home improvements—but finally settling on the shooting sports. Debra's hobbies include home décor, hospitality, and card making. Mark and Debra have had a variety of pets over the years, presently enslaved to maintaining a mini palace suited to 2 self-absorbed cats.

In Christ, Rev. Mark Kozak

this week	volunteer schedule	events
Sunday's sermon:	Infant Nursery Harper Harvell & Lee Coble	GriefShare 7/29 at 6:30 pm
A Great Awakening	Toddler Nursery Cullie Mounts & Lindsey Hall	Senior Citizens Lunch 7/30 at 12:00 pm
Jonah 3:5–10	Worship Training Brittany Neely & Abby Chidester	GriefShare 7/30 at 1:00 pm
		Don't forget, the Young Adult Sunday School class will start meeting this Sunday in the education building.