



# BPC REVIEW

Bethel Presbyterian Church Newsletter

February 2019



Reflections and questions on John 4:6-29

In his encounter with the woman at the well, Jesus broke three Jewish customs: 1) he spoke to a woman; 2) she was a Samaritan woman, a group the Jews traditionally despised; and third, 3) he asked her to get him a drink of water, which would have made him ceremonially unclean from using her cup or jar. She was shocked but as the woman began to grasp the reality of her encounter, she begins to see her own life differently even if the disciples do not.

I have had many conversations over the years where I have heard. If “those people” wouldn’t drink so much pop, booze or smoke cigarettes, or buy their kids those video games then they might be able to do better for themselves. Those people are like that because of their, race, sexual orientation, gender, nationality, religion, income level, etc. You know how “those people” are. The woman at the well knew that was who she was and yet Jesus talked to her anyway.

Jesus was offering to see her through the eyes of God. He was offering to give her life changing, soul transforming water that would give her eternal fulfillment. The same thing Nicodemus was offered but wasn’t able to or chose at that moment not to accept or understand. This is the water we too are called to offer to the thirsty to lead them to a sense of eternity through Christ. Often instead of offering it we often hoard it because we are unable to see “those people” as us. She immediately shared her living water with others and didn’t hoard it. The kicker is she shared his words with people that despised and hated her.

## Reflection Questions ...

**We always need to ask ourselves how easy is it for us to pass judgment on someone drastically different and even offensive to us?**

**Why do we still cast a pall of judgment on others?**

**How hard is this especially when people don’t respond to the sharing and living of our faith positively?**

Food for Thought ...  
~ Pastor Todd

## Events at a Glance

- |      |                                                                 |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2/03 | Scouts Sunday                                                   |
|      | Recognition of Agricultural Professionals                       |
| 2/10 | Guest Minister and Afternoon Lecture<br>Rev. Amy Plantinga-Pauw |
| 2/17 | Recognition of Health Professions                               |
| 2/24 | Guest Speaker<br>David McKenzie                                 |

## In This Issue

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happy anniversary

Jacob Holt ~ 02/02

Audrey Dick ~ 02/04

Robert Boyd ~ 02/05

Jordan Comer ~ 02/05

Susan Wyatt ~ 02/05

Sarah Wiley ~ 02/06

Wendy Benson ~ 02/07

Daniel McRee ~ 02/07

Travis Galliher ~ 02/10

George Cowman ~ 02/11

Mark DiBastiani ~ 02/12

Gail Thomas ~ 02/16

Gregory Thomas ~ 02/16

Shirlee Nystrom ~ 02/17

Shelby Jones ~ 02/20

Jessica Messenger ~ 02/22

Lindsay Saneman ~ 02/22

Gary Lowe ~ 02/23

Kelley Saneman ~ 02/23

Sarah Fielder ~ 02/24

Ruth Walker ~ 02/24

Jack Mory ~ 02/26

Keith & Kristin Comer  
February 14<sup>th</sup>

David & Sue Hinkley  
February 16<sup>th</sup>

Eric & Wendy Benson  
February 27<sup>th</sup>



Our Office Professional,  
Melissa Dick, is a Notary.  
If you are in need of having  
documents notarized, please call  
Melissa to set up an appointment.  
This is a **FREE** service to  
the members of Bethel.

## DEACON'S UPDATE

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

### Ongoing Prayers:

Gretchen Shanklin, Billy Gross, Jack Shaul, Leonora Rose, Jerry Wiley, Dorothy Goldstein, Dot Gemmill, and George Reeves.

Bruce Snyder, friend of the Morrrows and the Louderbacks.

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.

Gary Dillard, friend of The Swifts.

Charlie Rozek, Sandy Hughes' nephew.

Olivia Demmler, friend of Carol Morrow.

Sophia Roseau, friend of Gail Thomas.

### **Into the Church Triumphant:**

Robert Bruce Young  
January 14, 2019

*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*



Dear Bethel Church,

We are deeply grateful for the kindness you all have extended to me and my family during this sad time on the death of Marvel. Thank you all for your prayers, food, and cards ... all were so very much appreciated. I do have a wonderful church family.

With Love and Gratitude,  
Polly and Winskowski family

Check out all the events

on our website

[bethel-md.org](http://bethel-md.org)

Come see all the wonderful things we have to offer



**2019 Per Capita**

Please be sure to submit your  
Per Capita fee of  
**\$35.73**  
by the end of the year

# Church Groups

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Are you interested in donating flowers to decorate the Sanctuary for Sunday services? Please call Betty Rogers at 410-692-6579 to learn how you can have an arrangement made in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a birthday/ anniversary, or to show your kindness to a friend.



## THE BREAKFAST BUNCH

The Men's Bible Study Group will begin a new series on Solomon. They will meet on **February 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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 more information, please call Bob Horn at 443-807-0563, or send an email to [hornsrb@aol.com](mailto:hornsrb@aol.com)



## CHANCEL CHOIR

If you love to sing and would like to be part of the Bethel Chancel Choir, we ask that you come to rehearsals held on Sundays at 11:50 a.m. or you can contact our Music Director, Kirsten Fitzsimmons via email at [kirstenfitzsimmonsmusic@hotmail.com](mailto:kirstenfitzsimmonsmusic@hotmail.com)



## BETHEL CROSS STITCHERS

The Bethel Cross Stitchers will meet on **February 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** in the Foyer of the CE Building.



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

## 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](mailto:melissadick@bethel-md.org) to schedule a Home Visit.

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



## MARY'S CIRCLE

We welcome you to join the Women of Bethel on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Foyer of the CE Building to share your love for God as well as your knowledge of the Bible.

The next meeting will be held on **February 12<sup>th</sup>**.





Bethel Presbyterian Church  
4135 Norrisville Road  
White Hall, Maryland 21161  
410-692-5282  
www.bethel-md.org

Dear Friends and Family of Bethel,

Bethel Presbyterian Church is now celebrating our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a congregation. For two and a half centuries, we have served our congregation, community and our God with commitment, courage, and patience. For this we give thanks and praise to all who have kept the faith through the years.

One service to our members and their families that has been provided from our beginning in 1769 is our beautiful and peaceful cemetery that surrounds the back of the sanctuary building. With the oldest marked grave dating to 1777, many generations rest in eternal peace, with their families knowing that the church is committed to perpetual care for their loved-ones.

As with all aspects of Bethel, this care is funded by the generosity of the members and friends of the church and the nominal cost of gravesites. With rising expenses for maintenance and very low interest rates on our dedicated cemetery funds, we are finding it increasingly difficult to meet our obligations without drawing down our reserved capital.

As one who has family and friends buried at Bethel, we are asking you to consider a fully tax-deductible gift to our cemetery fund. These gifts will remain in a dedicated fund for the maintenance and upkeep of our cemetery and will be conservatively invested. Checks in any amount will be greatly appreciated and should be made out to the *Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery Fund* and mailed to:

*Bethel Presbyterian Church  
4135 Norrisville Road  
White Hall, MD 21161*

So that we can acknowledge all gifts with a return letter for your records, please include your name and address.

Our cemetery remains open at all times for visits from family and friends. Gravesites remain available for sale for members of the congregation and their families, as we have reserved plenty of space for future generations. We thank you for your past support of Bethel and sincerely hope that you will consider this need as you plan your charitable giving. May God's blessings continue to support you and all your loved ones.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Saneman  
President, Bethel Cemetery Committee



# Church Events

## *Christmas Party Fun*

The Christian Education Committee hosted their annual Sunday School and Youth Group Christmas Party on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed games, music and building their own gingerbread house. A very special thank you goes out to all the teachers and committee members who make this event so wonderful year after year.





# Church Events

## Harford County Council Proclamation

Harford County Councilman for District D, Chad Shrodes presented Bethel Church with a Proclamation from the Harford County Council. Chad presented the Proclamation to the congregation during our Worship Service on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. The Proclamation will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall. We welcome you to stay after Worship Service on Sundays to join us for our Hospitality Hour to see this wonderful recognition.



Rev. Kimberly Secrist Ashby was our guest minister for our Women in the Church Service. We are very grateful to her for being able to be part of our Worship Service on January 20<sup>th</sup>. We were thrilled that she could be with us when Chad Shrodes presented Bethel Church with our Proclamation. She brought good tidings from Fallston Presbyterian Church with her. We would be delighted to have Rev. Ashby come back to visit us and be part of our celebratory year.



# Church Events



Bethel Sunday School Students and Youth Group Members are asking for you to make a monetary donation on ...

**Sunday ~ February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Your donations will be used to support local food banks.

With your help we can make a difference ♥

## *Boy Scouts Sunday*

The Boy Scout Troops that Bethel Church charters will be ushering for our Worship Service on ...

**Sunday ~ February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

We greatly appreciate the service and dedication they provide to the church throughout the year.

Please be sure to join us for this special occasion to learn more about their organization





# Church Events

## Confirmation Ceremony

Please be sure to mark your calendars for ...

**Sunday ~ March 3<sup>rd</sup>**



We will be celebrating the hard work, dedication and commitment of our Youth Members who will be participating in their affirmation of faith to Bethel Church

## Puppet Show

Please join us for an exciting adventure with the Yadah Ministries Puppet Show on ....

**Saturday ~ March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

We will have a Free-Will Offering to help support the mission work Yadah Ministries do through the art of puppetry to teach the word of the Lord in our communities

Feel free to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to this joyous event.

We hope to see you there !



# Recognizing Our Community

You are invited,

We continue Bethel's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration as we recognize the ways that we affirm our faith and stewardship in the various occupations of our community and our congregation.

In January, with the cancellation of our worship service due to snow, we were unable to recognize those in the **Agricultural Profession** as planned, so we have rescheduled that recognition for Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please join us as we worship together at 10:30 AM.

On Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, we plan to recognize those in the **Medical and Health Profession**. Remembering those who presently serve, those who are retired and those who have joined the Church Triumphant as physicians, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, psychologists, social workers, dentists, dental hygienists, hospice care, and lab technicians as well as those who have worked in specialty fields such as cardiac care, oncology, orthopedics, neonatology, renal, geriatrics, pediatrics, neurology, intensive care, internal medicine, family medicine, etc.

Won't you join us as we worship, giving thanks to our Lord for the varied forms of service He has blessed and encouraged throughout the years.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

Rev. Todd D. Smith

Minister

Ruth Walker

SBC Committee Member



# Moments in Time

The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bethel Presbyterian Church Celebratory Year has started off on a slightly different path than we would have liked with the inclement weather but this has not stopped us from moving forward with our events and activities. This is the second installment of our ***Trip Down Memory Lane***. Please enjoy your walk back in time.

## Bethel Presbyterian Church — 1801-1820

At this time George Luckey was still the pastor, having started in 1784. He was defined as "a fine classical scholar, an intellectual preacher and in his labors unwearied". Under his tenure the first stone church was built in 1802. This was either the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> building, as there is some debate as to whether there were 1 or 2 log cabins. The cornerstone from this church is embedded in the present building to the left of the left front door.

In 1804, Bethel formed a corporation called the Trustees of Bethel Church. According to Laura Cairnes book, "They had perpetual succession, power to receive and own property and were to be elected only by male members over 21 years of age". It also very carefully stated that the trustees were not personally liable for the minister's salary.

In 1806 the church property was officially deeded from Thomas Hope to the Trustees. While the land had previously been given to and used by the church it was not legally church property until the corporation was formed.

## Nation's History — 1801-1820

- 1801 Thomas Jefferson is elected President  
First Chief Justice of Supreme Court -  
John Marshal
- 1802 First comic book published in Hudson,  
New York - The Wasp  
Political satire attacking President  
Jefferson
- 1803 John Hawkins and John French patent  
reaping machine  
Louisiana Purchase
- 1804 Lewis and Clark Expedition begins
- 1807 Robert Fulton builds first steamboat
- 1808 U.S. ends slave trade with Africa
- 1809 James Madison elected President
- 1811 First rubber factory established
- 1812-1815 War of 1812
- 1813 British attack Havre de Grace
- 1814 Francis Scott Key writes Star Spangled  
Banner  
British burn Washington and attack Ft.  
McHenry
- 1815 First U.S. natural gas well discovered
- 1817 James Monroe was elected President



# Session Summary

The Session held a regular meeting on Jan. 17, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Todd, devotion led by Ruth Walker, who also led us in prayer.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

Approved December 20<sup>th</sup> with one correction, Dennis Kirkwood was not present for December meeting, will be corrected.

Communion held on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> by intinction.

Moved and seconded for Julie Culotta Deer Creek Youth Choir Director to hold an "Open Mike Night" for the youth choir on Feb. 15, and concert on June 18 to help fund the youth choir's trip to Cincinnati, Ohio. A concert at Bethel Church on the 18<sup>th</sup> June will be free to Bethel members and have a free will offering to outside guests. Julie would need to fill out facility use form and pay a fee of \$200.

A good faith donation of \$500. has been given by Deer Creek Chorale.

## **MODERATOR REPORT**

Pastor Todd will be away the week of Feb. 3 for his son's wedding. That Sun we will have a sing-a-long led by Mary Lee Swift. Communion will be held a week later, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>

## **ADMINISTRATIVE & PERSONNEL**

Bethel's letterhead will be replaced by the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo for the 2019 year.

Some changes in the Term of Call – now have website policy on Leave of Absence for a pastor and congregation.

The treasurer's bills are now paperless. The employment agreement is Melissa will be working 22 hours per week now as more time is needed to scan the bills and place in folders.

On Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup> Guest Worship Leader Rev. Dr. Amy Plantinga-Pauw, Professor of Doctrinal Theology at the Louisville Theological Seminary will be with us. At 3:00 p.m. Dr. Pauw will do a presentation "The Early History of the Presbyterian Faith in the United States."

WORSHIP & MUSIC – Moved and seconded to allow McComas Funeral Home to use our sanctuary for viewings and funeral while the former Kurtz Funeral Home is being remodeled. They would have to sign a facility use agreement and pay a fee of \$250.charge for each use. Carries.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP - Elder Bob Horn gave an end of year financial report, also budget report for 2019.

MISSION – had a conference call with members of the committee. A unanimous decision to fund the following: 2019 Shared Ministry Giving enabling new spiritual leadership. \$2,100. Thanksgiving Giving Boxes , raising funds to supply over 1200 boxes provided to families that need assistance. \$1,000.

SBC Task Force – The committee continues to celebrate and give thanks with drama, music, lectures, historical reenactments, good food and other events.


The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:45 by Pastor Todd.

Respectfully submitted,  
Polly S. Winskowski,  
Clerk of Session

# 2019

# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
<b>Boy Scouts Service</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Hymn Sing Service Agriculture Recognition 11:30 Hospitality Hour 11:50 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:00 Deacons Meeting 7:00 Admin. & Personnel Mtg. <i>Pastor Todd Out of Town</i>	6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 DCC Rehearsal 7:00 Trustees Meeting <i>Pastor Todd Out of Town</i>	9:00 Bethel Cross Stitchers <i>Pastor Todd Out of Town</i>	7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch 4:30 pm DCYC Rehearsals 7:00 pm DCC Board Meeting	<i>Pastor Todd Out of Town</i>	Scout Crew #265 11:00 am - 2:00 pm <i>Pastor Todd Out of Town</i>
03 <b>Boy Scouts Service</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Guest Minister Rev. Amy Plantinga-Pauw 11:30 Hospitality Hour 3:00 Special Lecture	04 4:00 Mission Committee 7:00 Worship & Music <i>Pastor Todd Out of Town</i>	10:30 Mary's Circle 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 DCC Rehearsal 7:00 Finance Committee	13 <i>Pastor Todd Out of Town</i>	14 4:30 pm DCYC Rehearsals 7:00 pm DCC Board Meeting 	08 <i>Pastor Todd Out of Town</i>	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Recognition of Medial and Health Professionals 11:30 Hospitality Hour 11:50 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 2:00 SBC Task Force 6:30 Bridge Group 5:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 CE Meeting 7:00 DCC Rehearsal	19 2:00 SBC Task Force 6:30 Bridge Group 5:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 CE Meeting 7:00 DCC Rehearsal	20 9:00 Bethel Cross Stitchers	21 7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch 4:30 pm DCYC Rehearsals 7:00 pm Session Meeting NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TODAY	22 23	23
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Guest - David McKenzie Hospitality Hour 11:50 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 1:00 Scout Pack #809	25 1:00 AARP Monthly Meeting 7:00 Admin & Personnel Mtg.	26 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 DCC Rehearsal	27 4:30 pm DCYC Rehearsals	28	01 02	02