



BPC REVIEW

Bethel Presbyterian Church Newsletter

January 2020



I came across this story from an anonymous source in the book 150 Answered Prayers. It spoke to me about being mindful of God's presence even at times when I feel him not. A woman writes:

My prayers are always answered; sometimes the answer is a "yes", sometimes it is a "not now" and sometimes it is "no". If you are asking for me to describe a time when my prayer was answered with a "yes", I will tell you of a time when an unspoken prayer, as in a prayer was not prayed because I didn't know that was what was needed, was answered yes."

My late husband had died over 2 years before; he had been ill for 10 years, and I had nursed him by myself the entire time. Five years into his diminishing health, he had a stroke which caused significant cognitive damage to his brain. After that time, I had to support him physically when he needed to walk to the bathroom--day or night. I also had to take over the management of all our affairs. By the time he died, I was more tired than I had realized. I thought I did o.k. for the first 1 ½ yrs.; then my spine began causing great pain.

I had developed serious orthopedic problems, and had 2 lumbar surgeries, one of them a fusion of 3 disks. Because of the pain, I'd lost my appetite and also lost 60 pounds in 4 months. My adult children became concerned when a friend from my church called them and asked them, when was the last time they'd seen me? (All of my grown children live great distances away)

I moved into an assisted living facility so that I could concentrate on the healing process. I had 9 surgeries in 10 months, and gradually I became stronger. While I was there, I met an interesting, intelligent man who was also there to get a handle on his health. Dining was at tables of 4, and before long we were eating 3 meals a day at the same table, along with 2 others.

I was not looking for a husband; he was not looking for a wife. Yet our friendship led to love, and a month after I moved out, we married at the church where I'd been a member for over 20 yrs. He transferred his membership to that same church a month after we married. Had God not led me into that assisted living facility, where He had also led my friend, our paths would never have crossed. We have a mutually rewarding relationship; our marriage is a source of constant joy.

God answered a need that had not even been recognized by me. Every night I was living in that facility, I would ask God: "Why am I here?" I chafed at the loss of control over so many things, and I didn't like it one bit. It took considerable time before I was able to recognize that it was part of God's plan for my life.

As we begin the New Year can we look at our lives and see times when God answered Yes, Not Now, No, or even was working for our own good even when we could not see it. Indeed we are reminded that God is always there even when we feel not his presence and we can be assured of his promise that he will never leave us or abandon us for indeed for all of us he has a plan.

Food for thought ... Pastor Todd

Maryland State Boychoir Concert

Sunday, March 1st
4:00 p.m.



Please be sure to mark your calendars for this much anticipated event

We will be having a reception following the concert

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- Prayer Chain and Thank You Notes
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Barbara Shaul ~ 01/01

Eric Edie ~ 01/06

Elizabeth Henderson ~ 01/07

James Boyd ~ 01/08

Ruth Calary ~ 01/10

Rachel Mitchell ~ 01/10

Hope Smithson ~ 01/13

Jack Rogers ~ 01/22

John Saneman ~ 01/24



Sam & Margie Fielder

January 27th



2020
Per Capita

The Per Capita fee for 2020 will be **\$35.73**. You can find your blue envelope in your Offering Box. Please turn in your portion by the end of 2020.



If you would like to send Carolyn Mattheiss a card or your well wishes, please forward all mail to:

Carolyn Mattheiss
800 Southerly Rd.
#HH112
Baltimore, MD 21286

She would love to hear from her Bethel Family.



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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, Jerry Wiley, Dorothy Goldstein, George Reeves, Carolyn Mattheiss, Sam Brooks and Barbara Thompson.

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

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

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

Dan Garey, brother of Sandy Louderback.

Lynn Zeichner, friend of Sandy Louderback.

Charlie Rozek, Sandy Hughes' nephew.

Olivia Demmler, friend of Carol Morrow.

Gail Kimble, niece of Tom & MaryLee Swift.

Hazel Liff, friend of Andi & Ron Holmes.

Kim Rutledge, wife of Jim Rutledge, fiend of Dan & Mary Beth Scott.

The Wilson Family and The Comer Family.

Linda Rodarmel, cousin of Marsha Brooks.

The families of Don and Sarah Scott.

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

Thank You



Dear Friends,

Please know that your gift of \$1,000 for Disaster Relief for Hurricane and Typhoon Relief blesses those who walk the hard road toward recovery, letting them know they are not alone, helping them to find hope in the midst of chaos.

In Christ's Peace,
Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus
Director
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the patients at the Perry Point VA Medical Center, I wish to express my appreciation for your recent contribution of \$500 and donated items for our residents.

Sincerely,
Susan A. Kern
Voluntary Service Officer
Program Manager
VA Maryland Health Care System

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting is being called for on **Sunday, February 2, 2020** immediately following Worship Service for the sole purpose of reviewing the Annual Report, 2020 Budget, and hearing from appropriate committees. Please mark your calendars to attend this meeting.



John and Rita Cairnes are starting a Bible Study Group on Tuesday evenings. All are invited to attend. The meetings will be at their home. The first meeting will be held on ...

**Tuesday, January 7th
7:00 p.m.**

The Home of John & Rita Cairnes
1670 Jarrettsville Road
Jarrettsville, MD

Church Groups

CHURCH FLOWERS

Are you interested in donating flowers to decorate the Sanctuary for our 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.



BETHEL CROSS STITCHERS

The Bethel Cross Stitchers will meet on **January 8th & 22nd 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.



MARY'S CIRCLE

Women of all ages ... join us in Bethel's Foyer the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Discussion topics are based on Joyce Meyer's book "20 Ways to Make Every Day Better". How do we cope in our world today? Come, share in this hour of encouragement and enlightenment as we search through Bible verses together. If you would like to learn more about this group, please contact Ruth Walker at 410-692-2224 or email at ... ruth.walker341@gmail.com

The next meeting will be held on **January 14th**.



THE BREAKFAST BUNCH

Bethel's Men Bible Study Group would like to invite you to join them in the Fellowship Hall on **Thursday, January 2nd & 16th at 7:00 a.m.** A continental breakfast will be available. The lesson ends 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



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 12:00 p.m. or you can contact our Music Director, Kirsten Fitzsimmons via email at ...

kirstenfitzsimmons@hotmai.com



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.



Church Events

The Giving Tree

Bethel has been helping our community this holiday season with the organizational help of the Deacons with a Giving Tree. With your donations of **\$1,550.00**, the Deacons will purchase Walmart gift cards that will be distributed to our local elementary schools for families who are in need of financial support. Thank you to those who were able to help make a difference in the lives of so many children in our community this year. You truly are doing God's work!



Concert with Quorus

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we look forward to spending time with family and friends and sharing in each other's joys and supporting each other in our tribulations. The wonderful evening we had planned with joyous music from Quorus had a little wrinkle where the men's A Capella group was not able to make it for our event. Instead, our Music Director, Kirsten Fitzsimmons lead us in singing our favorite Christmas hymns followed by a delicious reception in the Fellowship Hall. Though we were disappointed the gentlemen from Quorus were not able to sing for us, our guests made the most of the evening by spending some quality time together. Thank you to those who shared in this wonderful time at Bethel and for your donations that will go towards our Giving Tree. We hope the spirit of Christmas be with each of you throughout the coming year and let us all be thankful for the family and friends we have here at Bethel.



Church Events

Advent Luncheon

The Christian Education Committee hosted our annual Advent Luncheon on Sunday, December 1st. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal while singing Christmas carols. We thank MaryLee Swift for playing the piano. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to all the members of the committee for all their hard work all year long. Please enjoy some of the photos that captured the spirit of Christmas



Church Events

Caroling & Christmas Party

Our Christian Education Committee organized Caroling at the homes of some of the Bethel members followed by a celebration in the Fellowship Hall. The children and Bethel members enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and singing ending the afternoon with fun activities and a movie. It looks like everyone had a wonderful day together.



Session Summary

The Session held a regular meeting on November 21, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Todd Smith devotion led by Ruling Elder Ruth Walker who also led us in prayer.

Clerk's Report

Approved October 17, 2019 session meeting.
Communion held Sunday November 3, 2019 in pew.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Approved Melissa request for time off 11/27/19, 12/26/19 and 1/2/20.

Elder Marsha Brooks, co-chairman of the Nominating Committee presented proposed Class of 2020.

Elder Sherry Kirchner accepted role as session representative CAROT (Care and Reach Out Team).

Habitat for Humanity- was discussed, put on January agenda.

Moved and seconded to cancel December Session meeting. Appd.

Care and Reach Out Team

Adult Fellowship – discussed the need for small adult fellowship group meetings, John and Rita Cairnes have started a Bible Study in their home on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and extend an invitation to all Bethel members to attend.

Visitor Packets have been approved. They will be placed at the back of the church for ushers to hand out to first time visitors.

Mission

Unanimous decision made for the following:

Provide \$1,500 to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. for the Garden Well. This is a well and hand pumps that provide clean water for drinking, washing and irrigation to a entire community.

SBC Task Force

All agreed this would be S B C Task Force last meeting. Time capsule materials will be collected through end of November of 2019. The stone should be sealed shortly after December 1, 2019.

Finance and Stewardship

Discussed budget issues for 2020 including possible salary changes. Details concerning this discussion will be forwarded to Session.

Elder Robert Horn approves Terms of Call for Pastor Todd Smith.

Worship and Music - N/R

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Todd at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Polly S. Winskowski
Clerk of Session

2020

JANUARY

SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 12:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 5:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Deacons Meeting	31 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 Trustees Meeting	01  Office is CLOSED	02 7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch 5:30 pm DCYC Auditions Office is CLOSED	03 Office is CLOSED	04 Venturing Crew #265 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
05 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 12:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	06 5:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Deacons Meeting	07 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 Trustees Meeting	08 9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers 7:00 pm Care & Reach Out Team	09 5:00 pm DCYC Rehearsals 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:00 pm Deer Creek Board Mtg.	10 Office is CLOSED	11
12  9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 1:00 Scouts Meeting 6:00 Blue Ribbon 4-H Club	13 1:00 AARP Board Meeting 4:00 Mission Committee 7:00 Worship & Music	14 10:00 am Mary's Circle 6:30 pm DCC Rehearsals 6:30 pm Bridge Group	15	16 7:00 am The Breakfast Bunch 5:00 pm DCYC Rehearsals 7:00 pm Session	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Hospitality Hour 12:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 5:30 pm Staff Meeting	21 6:30 DCC Rehearsals 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 CE Committee Meeting	22 9:00 am Bethel Cross Stitchers	23 5:00 pm DCYC Rehearsals NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TODAY	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Pulpit Supply - Bill Pullen 11:30 Hospitality Hour 12:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal <i>Pastor Todd - Continuing Ed</i>	27 1:00 AARP Monthly Meeting 7:00 Admin & Personnel	28 6:30 Bridge Group 7:00 DCC Rehearsals	29 <i>Pastor Todd - Continuing Ed</i>	30 5:00 pm DCYC Rehearsals <i>Pastor Todd - Continuing Ed</i>	31 <i>Pastor Todd - Continuing Ed</i>	01 <i>Pastor Todd - Continuing Ed</i>