

Bethel Focus

Bethel Presbyterian Church, Organized 1764

Bethel holds Old Fashioned VBS by Brenda Boyd

Most of you know the theme of Vacation Bible School this year was “old-fashioned.” What you didn’t know is how much I have even taken this theme into my own consideration: I’m even writing this article not on a laptop like most of my fellow 21st centuries, but with a pen and paper! After all, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it...’”

Because Bethel celebrated its 250th year, we decided to adhere to this doctrine and lead our young ones on this ancient path and bring things back to the basics.

Throughout the week, our main focus was on faithfulness; In Lamentations 3:22-23, it says, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” We realize that even though times change, the old teachings of our God and the faithfulness we learn from him is vital to our relationship with him.



A teacher in colonial dress tells VBS attendees of Bethel’s history.

Every morning, the students marched into the sanctuary for pledges to both the flags and the bible, harkening back to what those children’s parents enjoyed as a VBS student. In addition to this, their daily activities included music, bible stories, games, crafts, refreshments and tours either representing a nostalgic or vintage way of Christian tutelage. We were a bit worried that our tech-savvy students would be bored throughout the week, but we were surprisingly happy to see both the students and the workers enjoying their time together.

The average attendance was 110 students and 47 workers. And out of this attendance, the children brought donations to give to the Biblical Studies Release Time; it was a compassionate and endearing moment for the week.

In conclusion, the week was incredibly successful and one that left many of us feeling those warm, sweet feelings that only the whispers of “what it once was” can bring. What’s so amazing about our youth at Bethel is their ability to open their arms to ideas bred in the past, but integrate them into their future.

August 2014

Sermon Schedule:

- August 3 Andres Garza
- August 10 “Parable of the Weeds”
Matthew 13:24-43
- August 17 “Kingdom of Heaven”
Matthew 13:44-52
- August 24 Will Milks
- August 31 “More than a Carpenter”
Matthew 13:53-58

Inside this issue:

August Calendar	2
Sunday School Celebration	3
July Session Minutes	3
Prayer Requests	4

All Events

August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02 FLC Reserved Beth Wyatt
03 Choir Practice Deacon's Fund Collection Chrishe Wallace Todd Bowman	04 Staff Meeting	05 Circle #1 Diaconate Meeting	06 Joe Lee McCarter FLC Reserved Basketball	07 FLC Reserved Ice Cream Supper	08	09 FLC Reserved
10 Choir Practice Mary Warlick FLC Reserved-Barnett Reunion Joint Session & Diaconate... FLC Reserved	11 Hannah Holben Helen Harvell Staff Meeting Circle #3	12 Circle #2	13 Coleen Riddle Circle Basketball	14 Anna Long	15 Brice Brackett	16
17 Choir Practice James Long	18 Staff Meeting	19	20 Larry Wilmoth Basketball	21	22	23
24 Choir Practice Kay Jackson	25 Jacob Lee Staff Meeting	26 Sara-Kate Dixon	27 Basketball	28	29	30
31 Choir Practice Caroline Richards Lili Dixon Steve Linder	01	02	03	04	05	06



July Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, July 13, 2014 at 2:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Family Life Center with Moderator, Rev. John Gess, for the regular scheduled monthly meeting.

The meeting was called to order and opened with the reading of the Scriptures from Psalm 1 and prayer by the Moderator.

A quorum was present. Elders present: Neil D. Allen, J. Brent Clinton, Christopher L. Wallace, Robert N. Boyd, Frank C. Falls, Robert C. Love, Jr., D. Ross Love, Steven H. Linder, W. Hampton Stowe, III, James G. Long, Timothy G. Marsh, and Robert B. Meek, Jr. Also present were Pastoral Intern, Will Milks, Diaconate Chairman, Steve Britt, and Don Johnson.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2014 Session meeting, and June 29, 2014 Congregational meeting, as written and mailed to each Session member.

Steve Britt gave the Deacons report and financial report, and reviewed the

minutes of the July 8, 2014 Deacons meeting, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve the Deacons report, Deacons minutes (with the exception of giving away the vehicle currently owned by the church, and with refinements by the Diaconate to their approved changes to the Church Usage Policy), financial report, and actions taken. Steve was dismissed from the meeting with prayer by Rev. Gess.

Don Johnson and Rev. Gess gave a report on the June 17-19, 2014 General Assembly meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report and to commend Don Johnson for his attendance and diligence in carrying out his duties.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the use of the Sanctuary by Alyssabrooke Taylor for her June 27, 2015 wedding, as long as all Church Usage Policy guidelines are followed, and subject to availability.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the use of the Sanctuary by Lisa Wright for a piano

recital, as long as all Church Usage Policy Guidelines are followed, and subject to availability.

Rev. Gess and Will Milks will interview a potential Intern candidate in the near term, to be followed by a Session interview if the candidate is deemed a good fit.

Sunday School Rally Day is scheduled for August 31, 2014 in the Family Life Center, with breakfast beginning at 9:30 AM.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2014 Pastoral Search Committee, which highlight that the Committee is following PCA approved guidelines in conducting the search for a Senior Pastor. Additionally, the Committee has requested prayer by the congregation, Sunday School classes, and individuals, as the search process moves forward.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Neil Allen.

Sunday School Celebration (Rally Day) by James Long

Sunday, August 31 is Sunday School Celebration (Rally Day).

The Men of the Covenant will be preparing a pancake breakfast for the entire congregation at 9:30 am in the Family Life Center. Come and enjoy delicious pancakes prepared by Bobby Boyd and his

helpers.

Then, at 10:00 am there will be a program in the FLC to recognize Sunday School teachers, to promote some students to the next higher level class, and to recognize those students with perfect attendance. At the conclusion of the pro-

gram, everyone will be dismissed to their Sunday School class for attendance, offering, and a brief lesson.

Men who are able to help set up tables and chairs and cook pancakes are asked to be at the FLC at 8:30 am on August 31.

Bethel Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church in America
Organized 1764

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Prayer Requests:

Pastor John Gess and Intern Will Milks, as they preach and minister to the Bethel congregation, and for their families, and the Ashbaugh family as they transition to leading RUF at Winthrop.

The Lees as they seek to implement the Member Care Ministry for MTW Latin America, that the Lord will enable them to minister to the MTW missionaries of Latin America with compassion and humility; for Justin Marshburn, Amber's boyfriend and Tegan's father; that the Lord will draw Justin to Himself.

Please pray for the Pulpit Committee and all facets of the search for Bethel's next pastor. Please pray that God would be glorified in the process and for His provision for the church.

Session and Diaconate members, WIC officers, Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders, Youth leaders/teachers, giving thanks for their faithfulness and willingness to serve.

Missionaries throughout the world, as well as local ministries such as Habitat for Humanity, God's Kitchen, Clover Area Assistance Center and Biblical Studies Released Time. Please pray fervently for the work in Northern Mexico.

Pray for people in western Africa who are afflicted by the Ebola outbreak, and for aid workers. Pray for effective treatment, containment and eradication of this terrible virus.

Our college students, and expectant mothers and their unborn babies within the church family.

Our soldiers serving in Afghanistan, Europe & Iraq: James Pittman, III

(nephew of Victoria & Steve Linder), John Rice (grandson of Joe & Phyllis Wysor) recovering from injuries from a roadside bomb explosion, Greg Sandifer, and Ted Trevino.

Charlotte Barnett, Knox Bennett (friend of Frank & Larry Falls, colon cancer), Monnie Blackman (C. Robinson's sister, lupus), Loma Burton, Abe Craddock (Friend of J. LeMoyné, emphysema), Susan Heffner (cancer), Sherer Gordon Hopkins, Bob Kenley, Herb LeMoyné (J. LeMoyné's brother, Parkinson's disease), Rick Lindsay (Pastor of Scherer Memorial PCA, cancer), Harold McCarter, Randy McCarter (son of Duke & Maxie McCarter, cancer), Jesse Patino (B. Love's brother-in-law, lymphoma), Jim Pittman (V. Linder's brother, prostate cancer, has spread to his spine), Bobby Wallace (effective cancer treatment). Pray for our church and the Pastoral Search Committee.