



The Gift that Keeps on Giving...Let's open it together!

Dear Bethel Family,

If we consider past Christmas gifts, there are many that would probably pop in our heads as some of our favorites. Go ahead . . . think of one. For me, I remember getting an NFL football uniform and a Care Bear one Christmas at the same time. As a young boy, I guess I was in touch with both my tough and sensitive side! But nothing compared to one Christmas: the year before, while in college, someone stole movies from my dorm room, including my prized VHS Rocky Series collection. I was so distressed because you couldn't just go to Best Buy and get them all again; they were hard to find. So, a year went by and then Christmas came again. My mom had planted a card in the Christmas tree that sent me on a scavenger hunt. I was led to the shed and under a tarp in the wheelbarrow was a new Rocky Series Collection! I remember being so surprised by the gift because I knew that my mom had to look everywhere to find them all.

Why do I tell this story? For two reasons. First is to state the fact that we are in a season that commemorates the most thoughtful gift ever to be given. Sadly, the Rocky Movies were

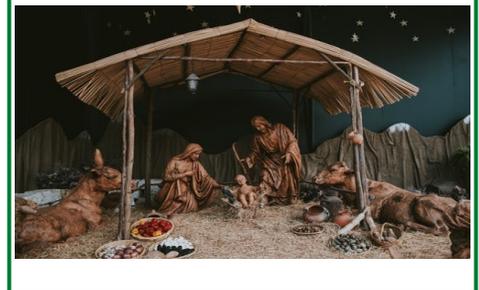
replaced by some other present and many other gifts we have received don't last. But we need only look to Ephesians 1:1-14 to see God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit making plans to give us this eternal gift that will never perish. We think of this season that highlights the culmination of God's promises in the form of a baby in a manger. Yet, we know that the story continues today for all who believe in the babe that grew to be our perfect sacrifice, and our King.

Second, we see what King Jesus told us to do in Matthew 28:18-20. He said that we are to be disciples who make disciples. In the "how" section of the Great commission, he tells us that disciples *observe everything* that he commanded. This sounds like a difficult thing when we think of commandments, but Jesus promises that if we trust and follow him, he makes our burdens light! (cf. Matthew 11:30).

In essence, I want to invite you to consider observing what Christ did. **I want to invite you to join me and other Bethel church families by reading Matthew in the month of December.** It is one of the gospels that has many of Jesus' teachings including Jesus' largest recorded sermon (the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7). I believe that if you join us in reading Matthew this December,

Sermon Schedule

- 12/5 "God's Power is Made Perfect in Weakness"
Isaiah 9: 1-7
- 12/12 "Born of a Virgin"
Matthew 1:18-23
- 12/19 "Born as a Savior"
Matthew 1:18-23
- 12/26 "Responding to the King" *Matthew 2:1-12*



the blessings will keep coming well after we finish as we are taking God's Word into our hearts and minds together. Like the gift of forgiveness, it will be one of those gifts that truly keeps on giving!

Blessings from your Bethel brother,
Trent

***If you want a basic reading plan, please reach out to me at trentthomaspc@gmail.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	01	02	03	04
			BSRT	Caroline Payne Basement Rsv'd-Bible Study BSRT Men's Basketball	FLC Reserved-Set up for... Jackie Schropp BSRT	FLC Reserved-Set up for... Debbie McDowell Christmas Play Practice
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Deacon's Fund Collection Christmas Play-FLC reserved	Claire Allen Paul James Robinson BSRT Men of the Covenant	Peggy Whitesides Ladies Bible Study FLC-Rsv'd - Circle #1 Luncheon BSRT Circle #2 Christmas supper Diaconate Meeting Men's Basketball	Kenneth Whitesides BSRT Colleen Riddle Circle	Ada Pursley Amber Lee Basement Rsv'd-Bible Study BSRT Men's Basketball	Rachel (Meek) Wood BSRT	Andre Burns
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Westmoreland Christmas Lunch Session Meeting	Jody Sorey BSRT Circle #3	Corey Clinton BSRT Men's Basketball	FLC-Rsv'd BSRT	Good Samaritans-FLC Rsv'd Basement Rsv'd-Bible Study BSRT Men's Basketball	Nancy Martin BSRT	Bill Keller Tommy McCall
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
David Long WIC Meeting	Micah Brummett Cameron Miller	Betsy Clinton Men's Basketball		Sanctuary and FLC... Scott Wallace Basement Rsv'd-Bible Study Men's Basketball	Christmas Eve Candlelight...	Christmas Day Ann Woodruff FLC Rsv'd-Love Family...
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
Sanctuary Rsv'd-Britt Wedding Thomas Chidester III		Gary Seaford Men's Basketball	Brenna Clinton Kirsten Allen Malize Wallace	Chris Griesman Emma Culbertson Basement Rsv'd-Bible Study Men's Basketball	Rett Mounts Larry McCormick	

Children's Christmas Play: Dec. 5, 6:00 pm, FLC.
Men of the Covenant: Annual Christmas meal with wives invited Dec. 6, 6:30 pm in the FLC.

Diaconate Meeting: Dec. 7, 7:00 pm, Conf. room
Session Meeting: Dec. 12, 2:00 pm, Conf. room.
Good Samaritans: Dec. 16, 5:00,

FLC.
WIC Meeting: Dec. 19, immediately following worship, Sanctuary.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Dec. 24, 6:00 pm, Sanctuary.

Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church, with the Deacons invited to attend, met Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, for the regular quarterly joint meeting.

Adam Coble gave the Deacons Report and reviewed the minutes of the November 2, 2021 Deacons meeting. Additionally, he reviewed the Financial Report dated October 31, 2021 all of which are appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. MSA the Deacons Report, Financial Report, minutes, and actions/recommendations.

MSA the minutes of the Session meeting held on October 17, 2021 as written, and emailed to the Session, as well as action taken by email on October 24, 2021.

A brief update was provided on the building renovation project. A communication on the project will be presented to the congregation on November 14, 2021.

Bobby Love provided an update on the Duke Energy land transaction. A York County Zoning Hearing is scheduled for November 11th, and assuming that goes as planned closing on the transaction is anticipated by the Contract date of December 15, 2021.

Marcus and Trent provided a staffing update regarding Gunther Griffin, and plans for additional time in service at Bethel during 2022. Marcus provided an update on Chad McKinnon as Pastoral Intern. He and his family are settling into the community well. Trent Thomas gave an update regarding his RTS studies including plans to complete his coursework this coming week. Marcus encouraged the Session to pray for the Youth camping trip in Chester next weekend, that it would be safe, enjoyable, and spiritually fruitful.

A discussion ensued regarding Trent Thomas pursuing ordination in Fellowship Presbytery in early 2022. To that order, MSA to amend the business of the November 21, 2021 called Congregational Meeting, to include a proposal to have the Session serve as a Pulpit Committee to search for an Associate Pastor. Additionally, MSA to call a Congregational Meeting for December 12, 2021 for the purpose of acting on a Session recommendation, serving as a Pulpit Committee, regarding the Call of Trent Thomas as an Associate Pastor. A discussion was held regarding the 2022 budget. MSA the 2022 budget at a total of \$667,052, a copy of which is appended to the file copy of these minutes.

MSA to call a Session meeting for December 12, 2021 at 9:30 AM to ordain and/or install officers to the Class of 2025.

MSA the WIC determined slate of officers for 2022.

The next regularly scheduled Session meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2021.

Pursuant to the call of the Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church, a Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, November 21, 2021, following morning worship with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake.

The Moderator stated that the purpose of the meeting was (1) to elect Elders and Deacons for four-year terms for the Class of 2025, (2) to elect additional Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCA Trustees, (3) to hear a presentation of the 2022 budget for endorsement and to approve resulting changes to the Senior Pastor's call, and (4) to consider a proposal to have the Session serve as a Pulpit Committee to Call Trent Thomas as Associate Pastor.

The Moderator stated that all the men on the officer election ballot had been duly nominated, trained and had been examined and approved by the Session. The officer ballot contains the names of the nominees as follows: Elder: Steve Britt, Larry Falls, Cary Grant, Dean McCarter and Bobby Meek. Deacon: Kyle Mounts, Paul D. Robinson and Paul J. Robinson.

The officer election ballots were then distributed to the congregation.

After the congregation voted, the Elders collected the ballots for counting.

The congregation then proceeded to consider the election of additional Trustees. The Trustee election ballot contains the names of both Session recommended additional Trustees, Cary Grant and Bobby Love.

The Trustee election ballots were then distributed to the congregation.

After the congregation voted, the Elders collected the ballots for counting.

The Deacons then distributed copies of the 2022 budget to the congregation. Adam Coble made several remarks regarding the budget, which totals \$667,052. The congregation was encouraged to ask questions about the budget to any member of the Session or Diaconate.

MSA to endorse the 2022 budget and to approve the change in the call of the Senior Pastor.

The Moderator (1) explained the BCO 20-2 requirement to elect a pulpit committee to search for an Associate Pastor, (2) reviewed the need for a call to be in effect so that Trent

Thomas can be duly examined by Fellowship Presbytery, (3) and stated that the Session proposes that the Session serve as the pulpit committee.

MSA to elect the Session to serve as the BCO 20-2 required pulpit committee in considering the search for an Associate Pastor.

In order for a man to be elected, he must receive a majority of the vote of the members present. MSA to adjourn pending a full Class of 2025 officers are elected by a majority vote of the congregation; otherwise, the meeting will recess until next Sunday, November 28, 2021, to continue the election process with a run-off election.

After the meeting, the Elders counted the officer election votes, and the following men were the top 3 vote getters and were elected officers by a majority vote: Elder: Class of 2025 – Steve Britt, Cary Grant, Dean McCarter.

Deacon: Class of 2025 – Kyle Mounts, Paul D. Robinson and Paul J. Robinson.

After the meeting, the Elders counted the Trustee election votes, and Cary Grant and Bobby Love were elected as additional Bethel Presbyterian Church, PCA Trustees by majority vote.

Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, Moderator
Robert C. Love, Jr., Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

MULTIPLY Building fund

Balance Oct. 31: \$1,507,127

October: \$4,760

Tithes and Offerings

2021 Budget: \$601,407

YTD Oct. 31: \$447,998

October: \$51,389

Building Plans Update:

We are currently working on building plan options and we are making some progress. We will communicate updates with more information for congregational consideration and approval as soon as we can. Given circumstances, we do not yet know when appropriate time to begin project might be... THANK YOU for your continued patience and prayers!

Local Ministry Spotlight

Palmetto Women's Center

Rock Hill, SC



As we are entering into the Christmas season, it seems fitting to inform the Bethel community of a local faith-based ministry we support that cares for families and newborn babies in crisis.

Palmetto Women's Center (PWC) is a Christian based, 501c3 charitable organization that provides an array of services and support to mothers, fathers, (and expecting mothers and fathers) and newborns at no cost to the families. They are located in Rock Hill and also have a mobile medical clinic. Those services include the following:

Pregnancy Testing
 Limited Ultrasounds (for those who qualify)
 Mentoring for Women and Men
 Assistance with applications for pregnancy Medicaid/SNAP/FI
 Diapers/Formula/Clothing; Maternity and Newborn through 12 month sizes
 Biblical Counseling: Abortion, Miscarriage, and Abuse
 Abortion Recovery Class
 Referrals for Other Resources (ex. SC Works, Nurse Family Partnership)
 Mobile Clinic: Fort Mill, Clover, Chester, York

How can Bethel help PWC continue to protect the sanctity of life? They are in need of the following...

Volunteers: Biblical counselors, Male advocates/advisors, patient (female) advocate/advisors, data entry, cleaning and more.

Material and financial: Angel tree gifts for

newborns 0-12 months are accepted all year. This could include clothing, diapers, wipes, toys, nasal aspirators, etc. Financial contributions are always welcome for those that might not be able to help in person.

Look for details on a Deacon hosted congregational collection of needed items for Palmetto Women's Center in the near future.

For further information on helping, please contact the church office, email PWC at: Info@palmettowomenscenter.com or call them at (803) 746-4946.

PRAYER Requests



- The Van Vlakte family
- Trent Thomas and family
- Intern Gunther Griffin and his wife Sam
- Intern Chad McKinnon and family
- Elders, Deacons, WIC officers, Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders, Youth leaders/teachers, giving thanks for their faithfulness and willingness to serve
- Local ministries such as God's Kitchen, Clover Area Assistance Center and Biblical Studies Released Time
- Reformed University Fellowship
- Our missionaries serving through the country and the world
- Our community and our country
- Please pray for the lost that don't know of or believe in Jesus. Pray as well for Bethel and other bible-believing and gospel preaching churches to be blessed in our efforts to evangelize and make disciples locally and to the ends of the earth
- Our college students
- Expectant mothers and their unborn babies within the church family
- Bobby Armstrong (brother-in-law of S. McCarter Mizell, cancer), Rick Duke (cancer) and wife Judy (friends of C. Davis), Kathy Forester (E. Moseley's sister, breast cancer), Matthew Hall, Miriam Hovis, Charlotte Jackson, Mrs. Rita Jackson, Jan Kombs (friend of J. LeMoyne, stroke), Herb LeMoyne (J. LeMoyne's brother, Parkinson's disease), Dana Massey (advanced brain cancer, friend of S. Burns), Annie Mae McDaniel (J. Ferguson's mother), Jim Pittman (V. Linder's brother, cancer), Scott Wallace