

Bethel Focus

Bethel Presbyterian Church, Organized 1764

TIME IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Time is a resource, a tool, and a gift from God. So why do we usually feel like time is an enemy? We usually use phrases like “we’re losing daylight here,” “she’s growing up so fast,” or “Mom, just *five* more minutes” to express our frustration with the ever-marching passage of time. There never seems to be enough of it, and we are always wishing for more.

I’ve been thinking a lot about time as 2020 has begun. I have been wondering how to obey God’s commandment in Ephesians 5:15-17, which Pastor Marcus preached on recently:

“Be very careful,



then how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”

Helpfully, I also came across this petition in a prayer from *The Valley of Vision*, a collection of Puritan prayers:

“Give me a holy avarice to redeem the time, to awake at every call to charity and piety, so that I may feed the hungry, clothe

the naked, instruct the ignorant, reclaim the vicious, forgive the offender, diffuse the gospel, [and] show neighbourly love to all.”

We think of time as an enemy because we think it belongs to us, so we need to be often reminded that time is a gift from God that we can use to glorify and enjoy God. The first step in using it well is simply to pray that God would give us a desire to use our time for his glory. The second step is to re-

February 2020

Sermon Schedule

- 2/2 “Biblical Stewardship of Our Time” Ephesians 5:15-17
- 2/9 “Biblical Stewardship of Our Talents” 1 Peter 4:7-11
- 2/16 “Biblical Stewardship of Our Families” Ephesians 5:1-2, 5:21-6:4
- 2/23 “Biblical Stewardship of The Gospel” 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

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spond in the Spirit’s strength to his call to use it for his glory.

May we trust the Father’s will for our time, labor to follow his will in the Spirit’s strength, and trust in the grace of Christ when we choose our will over God’s.

Grace and peace,
James

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01 Jennifer Forrest
02 Choir Practice Deacon's Fund Collection Grant Thomas Miller	03 Judy Ferguson Renee Wilmoth Victoria Linder Nathan Weatherby BSRT Men of the Covenant Basketball	04 Suzanne Johnson BSRT Circle #1 Diaconate Meeting Basketball	05 Bill Jackson BSRT	06 Sam Hall Mentors & Moms Bible Study - BSRT Basketball	07 Tyler Britt BSRT	08
09 Choir Practice Wes Jackson Bob Ferster FLC reserved-Love Family... Wedding Shower-Amber Lee... Session Meeting Sunday Evening Celebration!	10 Victoria Broughton Helen Bean BSRT Circle #3 Basketball	11 BSRT Circle #2 Basketball	12 Gram Marsh Heath McMullan BSRT Colleen Riddle Circle (FLC)	13 Sarah Drechsler Annagrace Marshall Mentors & Moms Bible Study - BSRT Basketball	14 Kaelin Clinton Trinna Meek Jason Payne	15 Emma Sorey
16 Choir Practice Lindsay LeMoyné Thomas Chidester II	17 Kim Drechsler Basketball	18 James Spangler Garrett Hall BSRT Basketball	19 Griffin Marsh BSRT	20 Lorie Holben Mentors & Moms Bible Study - BSRT Basketball	21 Spencer Forrest Ruthanna Marshall Charlotte Jackson BSRT	22 FLC Reserved
23 Congregational Meeting Choir Practice Cane Hoffman Sunday Evening Celebration!	24 Helen Grant Nicole Lawton BSRT Basketball	25 BSRT Basketball	26 David McFalls BSRT Senior Citizens Luncheon	27 Mentors & Moms Bible Study - BSRT Basketball	28 BSRT FLC reserved-Set up for...	29 FLC reserved-Quinn Birthday...

Men of the Covenant: Feb. 3, 6:30pm, FLC for a meal, program and fellowship.
Diaconate Meeting: Feb. 4, 7:00pm, Conf. room.

Session Meeting: Feb. 9, 2:00pm, Conf. room, joint with Deacons.
 A **Congregational Meeting** will be held following morning worship on Feb. 23 for the purpose of electing a

Deacon to fill the unexpired term for the Class of 2021. The following men are candidates: Tommy Chidester and Kyle Mounts.
Senior Citizens Luncheon: Feb. 26, 12:00pm, FLC.



Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 9:30am in the Conference Room of the FLC with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, for a called meeting.

The Session examined Cane Franklin Hoffman and Lindsay Bowman Hoffman for communing membership. Each gave a profession of faith, and answered in the affirmative the questions for membership from the Book of Church Order, Chapter 57-5. MSA the examination and to receive them as communing members based upon transfer of letters from Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

MSA to adjourn after the Session extends the right hand of fellowship to our new members and prayer by Tim Marsh.

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 2:00pm in the Conference Room of the FLC with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, for the regular monthly meeting.

Adam Coble, Chairman of the Diaconate, gave the Deacons Report and reviewed the minutes of the January 7, 2020 Deacons meeting. Additionally, he reviewed the Financial Report dated December 31, 2019, all of which are appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. MSA the Deacons Report, Financial Report, minutes, and actions/recommendations. Adam was dismissed from the meeting with prayer by Ross Love.

MSA the minutes of the Session meetings held the morning of December 15, 2019 (Ordination and Installation) and the afternoon of December 15, 2019 as written and emailed to the Session.

Peter Scheidt provided an update. He and Bekah are doing well having just finished the holiday season meeting many of the Bethel members. Peter says the Sunday Evening Celebration is up and running for the spring semester and he is coordinating with Meredith Clinton on that effort. Peter mentioned he is going to begin a "guys" small group soon and that the Youth Group is going to attend the RYM Conference in Colorado this summer. Peter and Bekah have been attending the Fellowship small group on Wednesdays. The Providence and Fellowship Sunday school classes will be combined for a time to allow James to focus on the Youth Sunday school class. Peter is also helping James complete the Presbytery Internship requirements. MSA to recommend that Fellowship Presbytery approve the completion of James Heard's internship.

James Heard provided an update. He will be in Atlanta this week as part of his studies. Jillian resumes her classes and is on schedule to finish this Spring. James' plan is to com-

plete his studies in December. James asks for continued prayer for him and Jillian.

Larry Falls provided a report from the Community Outreach/Evangelism committee. A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve two new events – a summer musical event, time and date to be determined, and a fall festival event, time and date to be determined. MSA the annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held April 11, 2020, and for Vacation Bible School to be held July 20 thru July 24, 2020.

Neil Allen provided a report from the Session appointed nominating committee. MSA to call a Congregational Meeting for February 23, 2020 for the purpose of electing one deacon to fill the unexpired 2021 deacon class term.

The Session reviewed 2019, to include a review of church attendance and a church roll review. Marcus also mentioned a potential change/adjustment to our Vision statement. Marcus discussed the Session approved priorities and timing noting that the personnel review committee will meet January 20, 2020. Priorities in order are 1) NEW Assistant Pastor, 2) Building/Multiply, 3) LKW Plant.

Marcus provided the Session a written 2020 Elder Equipping Plan, a copy of which is appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. Marcus also handed out to each Session member a copy of *The Shepherd Leader*, by Timothy Z. Witmer. The Session will devote 20 minutes of each monthly meeting to an "Equipping" discussion and review of each book chapter during the year. Marcus also asked that the Session make plans to attend The Shepherd Leadership Conference in September at Bethelwoods. Marcus also handed out new shepherd lists to each Session member, with plans to implement accountability of specific shepherd list as identified in the plan.

MSA to authorize Hannah Buckner (granddaughter of Bob and Jenny Richards) to contact individual Bethel members in hopes of raising funds for a mission trip to Bolivia.

The Session received an update on the building, with regards to the progress of the updated plans and county approvals. We received good news on required fire ratings, and received clarification on building permits and building codes. It is expected we may have completed and approved drawings soon. A discussion was held regarding the timing of the next steps moving forward with the building project. A Session meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2020 for the purpose of discussing various considerations and possibilities for future recommendations to congregation about moving forward with the building project.

MSA to honor the request of Katherine Taylor to transfer her membership to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, SC.

MSA the Vacation Bible School curriculum "Wilderness Escape" by Group Publishing to be ordered from Concordia Supply, as proposed by Sheridan Miller and Ilse Wallace.

MSA that Bobby Love and Calvin Reese represent Bethel at the upcoming 76th meeting of Fellowship Presbytery to be held at Olivet PCA January 25, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

Our next regular Session meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2020, with the Deacons invited to attend.

MSA to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Steve Britt.

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 2:00pm in the Conference Room of the FLC with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, for a called Session meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the building project.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding Bethel's mission and vision, the context and needs for parking, sanctuary seating, safety and connector with restrooms. The discussion also included our budget (current and future Multiply Building Fund, consideration of existing assets, and loan debt service analysis) the timing of construction, a hiring of a construction manager, and the necessity to communicate to the congregation.

MSA to authorize the Session appointed subcommittee to hire a construction manager, and to craft an engagement letter detailing the terms and conditions of the work that needs to be performed to assist Bethel with the building project.

MSA to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Joe LeMoyne.

Neil D. Allen, Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

MULTIPLY Building Fund

Balance Dec. 31: \$995,921

December: \$89,541

Tithes and Offerings

2019 Budget: \$671,275

YTD Dec. 31: \$640,170

Ministry Spotlight

Biblical Studies Released Time (BSRT)

Biblical Studies Released Time Ministries (BSRT) brings the Gospel to children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to hear and learn about the Good News of Christ.

BSRT was created as a result of a 1952 Congressional law stating that students could be released from a school period each week for religious studies provided they had parental permission. Until 1996 Clover students had devotions and Bible study time in the schools, then an individual challenged Clover School Board on the legality of having Bible education in and during the school day. Fearing they might lose the legal case those in charge of the Bible education began looking for a legal alternate avenue to continue Bible teaching to clover students and thus Released Time Ministries was discovered.

BSRT continues to provide Biblical studies to 750 Clover students in grades 3-5 every week, picking students up by bus and conducting class at one of several area churches.

Bethel PCA has been instrumental, both through volunteers and financial support, in the success of this program. BSRT is unique and effective *local* ministry that needs our help to be able to continue to impact the lives

of Clover children through hands on biblical education. One key way to support them is by attending the annual pancake supper fund raiser, details are as follows:

Pancake supper:

Date: March 7, 2020

Time: 4:30 – 7:30

Location: Clover High Cafeteria

Below are a few ongoing needs of BSRT:

Volunteer teacher's assistants for the classroom. Substitute teachers and assistance with the buses when needed. Financial. Teachers, buses and maintenance and materials.

For more information you can visit BSRT's website: <http://bsrtclover.com>



Prayer Requests:

- The Van Vlake family.
- Assistant Pastor Peter Scheidt and his wife Bekah.
- New Assistant Pastor search.
- Pastoral Intern James Heard and his wife Jillian.
- Elders and 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 throughout the country and throughout 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.
- Anna Bennett (breast cancer) and family, (friends of the Falls family), Rick Duke (cancer) and wife Judy (cancer) and wife Judy (friends of C. Davis), Judy Ferguson (healing from surgery), Margaret Ann Ferguson, Kathy Forester (E. Moseley's sister, breast cancer), Matthew Hall, Miriam Hovis, Martha Kendrick, Jan Kombs (friend of J. LeMoyne, stroke), Herb LeMoyne (J. LeMoyne's brother, Parkinson's disease), David Long (esophageal cancer), Dana Massey (advanced brain cancer, friend of S. Burns), Annie Mae McDaniel (J. Ferguson's mother), Jim Pittman (V. Linder's brother, cancer) and Adam Stowe (leukemia).