



Embracing the World

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16

Martin Luther declared that a new Christian must withdraw from the world for a season, but upon reaching spiritual maturity he must embrace the world as the theater of redemptive activity. His message was, “Away with the cowards who flee from the real world and cloak their cowardice with piety.”

Perhaps the greatest need for our day is the need to

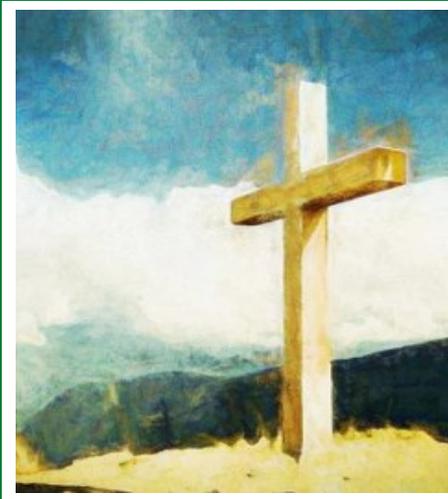
market Jesus Christ. The church must become expert in marketing, not in the slick Madison Avenue style but in an aggressive, yet dignified way. The marketplace is where we belong. It is where needy people are found. It is not enough for the church to hang a welcome sign on her door. We dare not wait for the world to come to us.

God never intended the Christian community to be a ghetto. The church is not a reservation. Yet the pervasive style of modern evangelicalism is that of a reservation or a ghetto. We can argue that it is the secularist agenda to put us there and keep us there. But such arguments won't do. We are there because it is safe and comfortable to be there.

The secularist hates the light and is quite willing to offer us a bushel for it. Shame on us when we buy custom-made bushels and willingly place them over our candles. To hide the light or to restrict it to a

Sermon Schedule

- 1/3 “2021 Resolution: Worship and Serve the Lord Only”
Matthew 4:1-11
- 1/10 “Christ’s Sacrificial Love is Mutual Christian Love”
John 13:31-35
- 1/17 “The Truly Blessed”
Luke 6:17-26
- 1/24 “Harvest Workers”
Matthew 9:35-38
- 1/31 “Following Jesus”
Matthew 16:21-28



reservation is to do violence to the gospel and to grieve the Holy Ghost.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
					Winter Ridgehaven Joe LeMoynes Sherri Mizell	Winter Ridgehaven
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Deacon's Fund Collection Colin Clinton	Men of the Covenant	Ken Long Larry Falls Circle #1 Girls Basketball Practice Diaconate Meeting Men's Basketball	Susan Joyner	Girls Basketball Practice Men's Basketball	Cheri Jackson Cindy Love Nathalee Cuffman Jack Bean Roddy Beard	Cathy Britt Ginger Johnson Stewart McCall
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Installation of WIC Officers Jacob Howland Session Meeting WIC Annual Meeting	Circle #3	LaVerne Beard Circle #2 Men's Basketball	Andrew Long Tommy McCall Jr. Colleen Riddle Circle	Girls Basketball Practice Men's Basketball	Jim Black Geri Ulatowski	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Susan Flanagan Bob Richards Sheridan Miller	Men's Basketball		Christina Deal Marissa Robinson Girls Basketball Practice Men's Basketball	Walker Love	Evey Coble Paul Byars Ruth McCormick Juliet Sorey
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Ruben Trevino Scott Harrell Suzanne McCall		Men's Basketball		Girls Basketball Practice Men's Basketball	Carol Davis Bill Boyd Brenda Seaford	Debbie Meek
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
Brandi Icard						

Men of the Covenant: Jan. 4, 6:30pm, FLC for a meal, devotional and program.

Diaconate Meeting: Jan. 5, 7:00pm.

Session Meeting: Jan. 10, 2:00pm, Sanctuary.

Installation of WIC officers: Jan. 10, during worship service.

WIC Annual Meeting: Jan. 10, 2:30 pm, Covenant SS classroom.

Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room of the Family Life Center with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake.

The purpose of the meeting was to ordain and/or install the new officers.

The Moderator then explained and reviewed the procedures for the ordination and/or installation of the following officers, to take place during the morning worship service: Elders to be installed – Dan Love and Hamp Stowe. Elder to be ordained and installed – Chris Griesman. Deacon to be installed – Tom Cuffman. Deacons to be ordained and installed – Tom Chidester and Austin Griesman.

MSA to adjourn the meeting with the Benediction following morning worship, and the Session and officers-elect were dismissed to Sunday school with prayer by the Moderator.

During morning worship, Dan Love and Hamp Stowe were installed as Elders to the Class of 2024, Chris Griesman was ordained and installed as Elder to the Class of 2024, Tom Cuffman was installed as Deacon to the Class of 2024, and Tom Chidester and Austin Griesman were ordained and installed as Deacon to the Class of 2024. After prayer by Calvin Reese and the Moderator, the Session extended the right hand of fellowship to the newly ordained and/or installed officers.

Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake then pronounced and declared the men had been regularly elected, ordained and installed as Rulings Elders and Deacons in this church, agreeable to the Word of God, and according to the Constitution of the PCA; and as such that they are entitled to all encouragement, honor, and obedience in the Lord: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction at the conclusion of the morning worship service by Rev. Van Vlake.

Pursuant to the call of the Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church, a Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, December 13, 2020, following morning worship with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake.

The Moderator stated that the purpose of the meeting was to (1) consider a Session recommendation to sell land to Duke Energy, and (2) to direct Bethel's Trustees to consummate such land transaction via signatures to an Option Agreement ("Option To Purchase Real Estate").

MSA to vote using paper ballots.

MSA to sell approximately 33.53 +/- (depending on final survey) acres of land contained in York County Tax Map # 465 000 0008 to Duke Energy, and to direct Bethel's Trustees to consummate such land transaction via signatures to an Option Agreement ("Option To Purchase Real Estate"). All proceeds from the transaction will go into the Church General Fund.

Bobby Love made several remarks regarding the Session's decision to recommend the sale and also answered questions from the congregation.

The Communicant members of Bethel were instructed to circle either "Yes" or "No" on the paper ballot. The ballots were then distributed to the congregation. After the congregation voted, the Elders collected the ballots for counting.

MSA to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

After the meeting, the Elders counted the votes, and the motion was adopted by a majority vote.

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, for the regular monthly meeting.

Adam Coble gave the Deacons Report and reviewed the minutes of the December 1, 2020 Deacons meetings. Additionally, he reviewed the Financial Report dated November 30, 2020 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 then dismissed from the meeting by Corey Clinton.

MSA the minutes of our regularly scheduled Session meeting held November 22, 2020, to include the Executive Session minutes, plus our Congregational Meeting minutes from our meeting held November 29, 2020, as emailed to the Session.

The Session then devoted 15 minutes in an update/accountability breakout session with each Elder discussing how contacting and "relational knowing/being known" was progressing. Each breakout group spent time in prayer for a few specifics together.

Marcus then devoted 20 minutes to our shepherd leader training, reviewing chapter 11 of *The Shepherd Leader* written by Tim Witmer.

MSA our review of the Bethel Church membership roll to include the changes made in 2020.

Neil Allen provided a brief update on the building plans.

Marcus led a discussion regarding our Shepherd Groups for 2021. MSA to have the Class of 2020 Elders (Neil Allen, Brent Clinton and Chris Wallace) to each have continued participation in and providing shepherding oversight in 2021.

MSA to offer a word of thanks and to commend the Elder Class of 2020 (Neil Allen, Brent Clinton and Chris Wallace) for their servant leadership.

MSA Bobby Love as Clerk of Session effective January 1, 2021.

Marcus and Bobby provided an update from the Personnel Review sub-committee. A lengthy discussion was held regarding Bethel Church staff.

MSA Marcus' vacation January 17, 2021.

MSA to commend Neil Allen for his serving as the Clerk of Session for three years.

Marcus offered the following for information only: Update to the FLC mask only (during worship and congregational meetings) to include following SCDHEC guidelines to include children ages 2 and up. December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (and will be streamed online). Observance of the Lord's Supper to be held on January 10, 2021.

MSA to approve the WIC / Presbytery meeting be held at Bethel Church using (weather permitting) the picnic shelter or the Family Life Center from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM on Saturday March 27, 2021.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2021.

MSA to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Chris Wallace.

Neil D. Allen, Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

MULTIPLY Building fund

Balance Nov. 30: \$1,293,665

November: \$9,316

Tithes and Offerings

2020 Budget: \$671,274

YTD Nov. 30: \$446,037

November: \$51,777

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!

Ministry Spotlight

Palmetto Women's Center

Rock Hill, SC



As we have just celebrated the birth of Christ during the Christmas season, it seems fitting to inform the Bethel community of a local 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 - 12 month
 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 and 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.

Church Wide Collection of Need Items Sunday, January 24, 2021

What: Deacons will be hosting a congregational collection of needed items for Palmetto Women's Center

When: Sunday January 24, 2021 before and after the service

Where: The Deacons will be positioned in front of the church receiving items

Collection Items:

Onesies or outfits for 3-9-month-old for boy or girl
 Baby wipes
 Newborn Diapers
 Baby wash and lotion

Let's get on board and make these boxes overflow with much needed items for these families and babies!

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
- New Assistant Pastor search
- Intern Gunther Griffin and his wife Sam
- 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, especially for wisdom and safety in dealing with Covid-19
- 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
- Rick Duke (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, 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) and Adam Stowe (leukemia).