



GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!

This year marks the 257th anniversary of the founding of Bethel Presbyterian Church. Due to COVID we probably will not have our "Traditional" Homecoming celebration, but we want everyone to know that Bethel Presbyterian Church remains a Historical Church and that we still cherish our heritage!

The church was organized in 1764 by Rev. William Richardson, who was at the time the minister at "The Waxhaws" in Lancaster County, but who engaged in extensive missionary work in the regions of the Catawba and Broad Rivers. The building that we are worshipping in today is the fourth building. The site for the first building was selected in the following matter: Mr. Andrew Floyd, Mr. Adam Baird, and Col. Samuel Watson were appointed as a committee to select a spot for the location of the building. All of these men were Revolutionary War Patriots and served as Elders at Bethel Presbyterian Church. These men resided at extreme points from each other. In some way they agreed to meet at the spring which now flows from the hill on which the church stands. On the occasion of their meeting, and upon comparing notes, they discovered that they all had traveled about the same distance, and so were near the center of the congregational boundaries; and as the spot was pleasant to look upon, and water was near, they fixed upon this as the site of the building.

For those of you who are not aware, we have a Historical Room with all sorts of artifacts about Bethel

Presbyterian Church. We have photos of our former Pastors, beginning with Rev. Samuel Lytle Watson, our fifth pastor. We also have photos of our Associate and Assistant Pastors. The Historical Room is located in the back part of the building where the sanctuary is located. You are welcome to walk through this area when you have time.

Our cemetery is also very historical. Our first marked burial was in 1774. This burial was that of William Watson, young son of Rev. Samuel L. and Elizabeth Watson. The Bethel Cemetery Association has just recently installed a Columbarium at the back part of the cemetery for the inurnment of cremated human remains. This provides individuals with an option when planning for end of life decisions. The Bethel Cemetery Association is presently working on the Policies and Operating Procedures regarding the Columbarium.

All graves in the Bethel Cemetery are listed on the cemetery website which is: www.bpccemetry.org

We have copies of the History of Bethel Presbyterian Church available for \$10.00 each. This was written for our 250th Anniversary. We also offer tours of the Sanctuary, Historical Room, Spring Area and the Historical Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

If you are interested in a copy of the History Book or would like to take a tour of any or all of the above mentioned areas, please contact: Cary & Helen Grant @ 803 962-2112 or email us @ caryegrant@bellsouth.net

We thank God for His Faithfulness and we pray that we will always be faithful to Him.

Sermon Schedule

- 5/2 "When God Does Not Answer" *Psalm 88*
- 5/9 "Unrivaled Authority" *Luke 8:26-39*
- 5/16 "Confident Completion" *Philippians 1:1-6*
- 5/23 "Gospel Love and Gospel Living" *Philippians 1:3-11*
- 5/30 "Great are His Works in Planting" *Psalm 111:1-10*



"THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD NEVER CEASES, HIS MERCIES NEVER COME TO AN END. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING: GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS."

Lamentations 3: 22-23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	01 Lindsey Hall
02 Deacon's Fund Collection Children's Catechism	03 Janice Currence John Mark Flanagan Men of the Covenant	04 Jordan Weatherby Patsy Black Circle #1 Diaconate Meeting Men's Basketball	05	06 Anna Drechsler Men's Basketball	07	08 Nicholas Whitesides
09 Cullie Mounts Joy Payne FLC and Picnic Shelter... Children's Catechism	10 Circle #3	11 Macie Hall Circle #2 Men's Basketball	12 Colleen Riddle Circle	13 Men's Basketball	14 Sara Weatherby	15 Ella Riddle Forrest
16 FLC Rsv'd-Harper Family... Session Meeting Children's Catechism	17 Shirley Coker Linda Johnson	18 Men's Basketball	19	20 Michelle Stowe Men's Basketball	21	22
23 Harry Compton Peggy Long William Flanagan Don McCarter New Member/Inquirer Class Children's Catechism	24	25 Jim Jackson Wayne Ensley Calvin Reese Men's Basketball	26 Bobby Meek Todd Meek	27 Duree Burnett PWC Virtual Banquet Men's Basketball	28 Sarah Johnson Ainsley Miller Bill Johnson	29
30 Virginia Johnson	31	01	02	03	04	05

Men of the Covenant: May 1, 9:00 am, will have a cleanup at the Spring Area. Then on May 3, we will have a hamburger/hotdog cookout at the picnic shelter at 6:30 pm. This will be our last meeting until September 13. All Bethel men are encouraged to attend for a meal and fellowship.

Diaconate Meeting: May 4, 7:00pm, Sanctuary.
Session Meeting: May 16, 2:00pm, Sanctuary.
New Member/Inquirer Class: May 23, June 6 and 13, during the SS hour.

PWC Virtual Banquet Fundraiser: May 27, 6:00—7:45 pm, FLC. Join us for a meal and consider making a financial gift to support their life-saving work. Please RSVP to Lara in the church office.

Session Minutes

Please note the Session did not meet in April. The following are minutes from March 2021.

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Blake, for the regular monthly meeting.

The meeting was called to order and opened with the reading of the Scriptures from Psalm 34:4-8 and 17-18 and prayer by the Moderator.

A quorum was present. Elders present: Steven T. Britt, Robert C. Love, Jr., Calvin B. Reese, Corey C. Clinton, Steven H. Linder, D. Ross Love, James G. Long, Timothy G. Marsh, L. Christian Griesman, and W. Hampton Stowe, III. Also present were Adam Coble, Diaconate Chairman, Gunther Griffin, Pastoral Intern, and Brent Clinton.

Adam Coble gave the Deacons Report and reviewed the minutes of the March 2, 2021 Deacons meeting. Additionally, he reviewed the Financial Report dated February 28, 2021 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 with prayer by Steve Linder.

MSA the minutes of the Session meeting held on February 14, 2021 as written, corrected, and emailed to the Session.

MSA to recommend that the WIC discontinue financial support of Bethany Christian Services.

MSA the WIC recommendation that Jenny Quinn serve as Nursery

Coordinator. Bobby Love and Brent Clinton provided an update on the Duke Energy land transaction.

Marcus provided an update on the Assistant/Associate Pastor search.

Marcus provided Session members with a copy of the book, Gospel Coach, by Scott Thomas and Tom Wood, and discussed plans to begin Elder Shepherd training at the May Session meeting.

MSA Bobby Love as Session Representative to the 48th PCA General Assembly meeting to be held in St. Louis, Missouri June 28 – July 2, 2021.

MSA the Bethel Cemetery Association recommendation to install a Columbarium in the grassy circle at the back of the cemetery.

MSA Hamp Stowe as the Bethel Session Representative on the Bethel Cemetery Association Board of Directors.

MSA vacation for Marcus April 5-9, 2021.

MSA Chris Hodge to preach, and to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, at Bethel on April 11th. A decision was made to continue to follow the same COVID protocol procedures for Communion as was followed for the January 10, 2021 Communion Observance.

MSA Chris Hodge to moderate the April Session meeting, if a meeting is needed.

MSA Calvin Reese and Bobby Love as Bethel's Session Representatives at the April 24, 2021 Fellowship Presbytery Meeting at Trinity Chester PCA.

A discussion was held regarding the Fellowship Presbytery Missions Committee church planting questionnaire that was sent to all Presbytery churches. Marcus and Calvin will formalize and send to the Session for approval, in response to the Committee.

A new member class is being planned for May 16th, May 23rd, June 6th, and June 13th.

The next Bethel Session meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2021. A King's Cross Temporary Session Meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2021.

MSA to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Corey Clinton.

Robert C. Love, Jr., Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

MULTIPLY Building fund

Balance Mar. 31: \$1,410,660

March: \$11,755

Tithes and Offerings

2021 Budget: \$601,407

YTD Mar. 31: \$143,248

March: \$39,666

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

Jorge Aleman

Northern Mexico



It has been more than one year since Covid-19 changed many things in our lives. The Lord has been so good to us as a family and in our work also. We give thanks because we have been without Covid. We give thanks because the Lord has opened new opportunities to share the gospel through bible studies online. Mary has 3 with women, and I have others. The on-line services of the church have reached out to people with the gospel that we may never have had an opportunity to reach.

The other side of the coin is that a lot of churches have been struggling to support themselves as a number their members have had their jobs and business shut down by the pandemic. Unfortunately, there are also those who are too comfortable not attending the church even when they can. One question that constantly remains is how to be a real community in the gospel with social distancing.

One of our biggest challenges at CPI is that we haven't been able to walk with our church planters at their work sites. Online coaching and mentoring have been an effective way to communicate but is not the same as spending time face to face with them in mentoring and counseling sessions at their in their cities. All of them report that they have been praying, working alone, struggling some, but staying faithful to God's calling in their lives to build the church.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. PRAY FOR THE TWO NEW CHURCH PLANTERS —MARCOS VALERA IN CULIACAN & BENJAMIN ROMERO IN LA PAZ, BAJA CALIFORNIA.
2. PRAY THAT PEOPLE COME BACK TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICES.

3. PRAY THAT OUR ON LINE TRAINING, MENTORING AND COACHING CAN BE EFFECTIVE IN OUR CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENT.
4. PRAY THAT THE LORD'S MERCY CONTINUE BEING WITH US TO KEEP US HEALTHY.
5. PRAY FOR A NEW CHURCH PLANT PROJECT IN NUEVO LAREDO, A BORDER CITY WITH JOSE LUIS VILLASANA.
6. PRAY THAT THE LORD RAISE UP A CHURCH PLANTER FOR THE CITY OF CHIHUAHUA.
7. PRAY FOR WISDOM.

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
- Bobby Armstrong (brother-in-law of S. McCarter Mizell, cancer), 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. LeMoyné, stroke), Herb LeMoyné (J. LeMoyné'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 Norm West.