



Update from Jorge Aleman

“Be strengthened by the grace...entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”
2 Tim. 2:1-2

GREAT NEWS IN DIFFICULT TIMES

The pandemic has stuck with us for a long time. In Mexico right now, we are deep in the third wave. Our hospitals are full and a lot of people have been infected. Our government has been opening businesses and then closing them; and the church has not been the exception. Therefore, we are really living in difficult times where we have to make quick decisions all the time due to the changes in the regulations. Do we have our worship services with people or just online? Do we encourage people to come to small group meetings or not? The great news in the midst of all this madness is that our church planting movement continues forward to extend the Kingdom of God. We haven't shut down any church planting project thus far. Some of them have been growing, others have been steady, and others that started right in the middle of the pandemic have seen the Lord bless them through the struggles.

TRAINING

After more than one year since this past June, we had our first Incubator training for church planters in person

in conjunction with CTC. It was a great time seeing each other and for praying together and sharing our battles. Church planters from 6 different cities (Mexicali, Guadalajara, Acapulco, Hermosillo, Cd. Juarez, Durango) came to Monterrey for three intensive days. We don't know if this is going to happen again in September. Since everything is so unsure, I ask you to **please pray** for wisdom and to see what is best for the future.

After 16 months of not traveling, this past July I had the privilege of being the speaker in a retreat for pastors, leaders and wives in Cancun. It was such a blessing to share the gospel of grace in these times where people are looking for answers. After being in a pause, we will continue the training of the leaders of this presbytery next month to grow a church planting movement in the area.

PRAYER REQUESTS

In September we will visit the city of Chihuahua. We have 2 candidates for two new projects in the second largest city in Northern Mexico. Pray that the Lord will confirm the calling.

The CPI will have changes in the leadership next year 2022. Pray for a good transition, for recruiting new leaders and missionaries for our office.

Pray for our church planters. We are living in a completely different time and we quickly need to learn strategies to

Sermon Schedule

- 11/7 “The Path to Freedom”
Exodus 14:1-14
- 11/14 “Patient and Persevering Faith”
James 5:7-12
- 11/21 “Praying Faith”
James 5:13-20
- 11/28 “How a Christian Should Live in a Dangerous World”
Daniel 6



connect with new people, to have safety meetings, and to share the same powerful gospel of grace.

Pray that the Lord keeps us healthy and safe as a family. Keila has been in Reynosa for 2 1/2 years, Katia is in her 4th year of college and Keren has changed her work by becoming a math teacher in a junior high. Mary and I continue working hard to lead the church.

Jorge Aleman

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| 31 | 01 BSRT | 02 Ethan Coble Ladies Bible Study Circle #1 BSRT Diaconate Meeting Men's Basketball | 03 Jack Howland BSRT WIC Council... | 04 Keith Brackett Mentors & Moms Bible Study - Basement Rsv'd-Bible Study BSRT Men's Basketball | 05 Lisa Allen BSRT | 06 |
| 07 Daylight Saving Ends-turn... Operation Christmas Child... Deacon's Fund Collection Hamp Stowe Session Meeting Kids Quest & Catechisms | 08 BSRT Men of the Covenant Circle #3 | 09 Brenda Glenn Ladies Bible Study BSRT Circle #2 Men's Basketball | 10 Dennis LeMoyné Don Johnson BSRT Colleen Riddle Circle | 11 Hannah Parker Mentors & Moms Bible Study - Basement Rsv'd-Bible Study BSRT Men's Basketball | 12 Fall Camping Trip BSRT | 13 Fall Camping Trip Shelly VanVlake |
| 14 Fall Camping Trip Cary Grant Dean McCarter Marianne Falls Kids Quest & Catechisms | 15 BSRT | 16 Zach Woolard Mason Cuffman Matt Falls Ladies Bible Study BSRT Men's Basketball | 17 Jessie VanVlake BSRT | 18 James Sorey Kathleen Payne Mentors & Moms Bible Study - Basement Rsv'd-Bible Study BSRT Men's Basketball | 19 Mary Love BSRT | 20 Anne Adams Kay Stewart Lena McFalls |
| 21 Congregational Meeting Hanna Moore Kevin Burton Nathan Holben Youth Leadership Team Meeting Chili Cook-off | 22 Lawson Brackett Gray BSRT | 23 Lilia McKinnon Ladies Bible Study BSRT Men's Basketball | 24 Falls Thanksgiving Gathering Lorie Rohrer | 25 Falls Thanksgiving Gathering Thanksgiving Day | 26 | 27 Robert Henderson |
| 28 Cathy Robinson | 29 BSRT | 30 Ladies Bible Study BSRT Men's Basketball | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 |

Diaconate Meeting: Nov. 2, 7:00 pm, conf. room.
WIC Council Meeting: Nov. 3, 6:30 pm, Covenant SS Classroom.
Session Meeting: Nov. 7, 2:00 pm,

conf. room with Deacons to attend.
Men of the Covenant: Nov. 8, 6:30 pm, FLC for a meal, devotional and program.
Fall Camping Trip: Nov. 12-14.

Congregational Meeting: Nov. 21, following worship.
Chili Cook-off: Nov. 21. 5:00 pm.
Youth Leadership Team Meeting: Nov. 21, 3:45 pm, Basement.

Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 2:00 PM in the conference room of the FLC with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, for the regular monthly meeting.

Chad Louis McKinnon, Julie Rebecca McKinnon, Isaac William McKinnon, and Declan Louis McKinnon were examined for membership on transfer of letter from Christ Covenant Church, PCA in Matthews, NC. All candidates for membership gave their personal testimony and answered in the affirmative the questions for membership from the Book of Church Order, Chapter 57-5. MSA the examination of Chad, Julie, Isaac, and Declan McKinnon, and to receive them as communing members of Bethel. Non-communing children of Chad and Julie include David Timothy, Cherish Eve, Micah Paton, Nathaniel Boaz, and Lilia Beth McKinnon. The Session offered the right hand of fellowship, and the McKinnon's were dismissed, with prayer by Dan Love, from the meeting.

Officer nominees for the Class of 2025 (listed above) were examined. The officer nominees were examined in the areas of Christian experience, personal character and family management, knowledge of Scripture and of the system of doctrine as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Book of Church Order (BCO), and duties of the office of elder or deacon, respective to the office for so nominated. All officer nominees affirmed the questions required for ordination from BCO 24-6. Each nominee affirmed his willingness, as an officer, to lead by example. MSA the examination of all listed officer nominees. Additional Elder nominees include Steve Britt who is currently filling an unexpired Elder term (so no examination deemed necessary), and Larry Falls. Larry will be contacted by Rev. Van Vlake, with a following recommendation to the Session. An additional Deacon nominee is Kyle Mounts who is currently filling an unexpired Deacon term (so no examination deemed necessary). The officer nominees were dismissed with prayer by Ross Love.

Adam Coble gave the Deacons Report and reviewed the minutes of the October 5, 2021 Deacons meeting. Additionally, he reviewed the Financial Report dated September 30, 2021, all of which are appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. A brief financial report to the congregation was scheduled for October 24, 2021. MSA the Deacons Report, Financial Report, minutes, and actions/recommendations. Adam was then dismissed with prayer by Chris

Griesman.

MSA the minutes of the Session meeting held on September 12, 2021 as written, and emailed to the Session, as well as actions taken by email on October 8, 2021 and on October 11, 2021.

Neil Allen provided a building renovation update, and a MSA his report and to schedule a November 14, 2021 progress update report to the congregation. Neil was dismissed with prayer by Joe LeMoyno.

Marcus took some time in Elder Shepherd training in a discussion of Chapter 11, A Gospel Coaching Conversation, dealing with Calling, of the Session's study of the book, Gospel Coach.

Bobby Love provided an update on the Duke Energy land transaction. All due diligence is now completed, with the exception of a York County Zoning Hearing which is anticipated to take place in November. That should then provide for a December closing date on the transaction.

Marcus Van Vlake gave a brief staffing update for Trent Thomas and Chad McKinnon in their absence. Chad is leading the Providence Sunday School class and helping with Sunday evening catechisms. Trent's RTS classes will be completed soon and he is leading the Sunday School pursuit and regathering process, as well as planning a small group soft launch early next year. Gunther Griffin provided an update, including that RTS classes are going well, and that Youth Group Discipleship groups are in various stages of progress with the high school boys group going especially well.

MSA to recommend to the congregation that Cary Grant and Bobby Love be elected as additional Church Trustees at a scheduled November 21, 2021 Congregational meeting.

MSA to call a Congregational meeting for November 21, 2021 for the purpose of (1) electing Elders and Deacons to the Class of 2025, (2) electing additional Church Trustees, (3) congregational endorsement of the 2022 budget, and (4) for approval of change to the Senior Pastor's Call.

MSA a Sabbatical for the Senior Pastor for May – July, 2022.

Calvin Reese provided a report from the Fellowship Presbytery meeting held September 23, 2021 at Trinity Van Wyck in Van Wyck, SC. MSA the report and to

commend Calvin Reese and Bobby Love for their attendance and diligence.

The Session performed its annual review of Church Rolls via its Elder Shepherding lists, with an ensuing discussion of how to address concerns and to consider BCO 38-4 requirements. MSA to remove from the Rolls James and Jillian Heard as they have transferred their membership, and to remove Amber Weatherby and Randy Millen per their request.

The Session discussed the preliminary 2022 Budget "Regional Missions" line items, and "Staffing Compensation" including a 5.8% cost of living adjustment.

MSA a request by Lindsey LeMoyno to use a Bethel facility for meetings on October 21, October 28, and November 4 for an abortion recovery Bible study called "Surrender The Secret", by Pat Layton.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2021, and will be a joint meeting with the Deacons invited to attend.

MSA to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Steve Britt.

Robert C. Love, Jr., Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

MULTIPLY Building fund
Balance Sept. 30: \$1,502,368
September: \$3259

Tithes and Offerings
2021 Budget: \$601,407
YTD Sept. 30: \$396,609
September: \$36,717

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!

International Missions Spotlight

Eduardo and Stephanie Escobar
 Encuentro (Encounter) Presbyterian Church
 Mexico City, Mexico



Recovering the Community

This month has been one of challenging decisions. As a family of faith, we have decided to recover the community by prioritizing worship in homes and public spaces. We still broadcast the preaching and encourage families to hold family services by providing them with suitable materials. We are also emphasizing celebration with the Encuentro Family.

Meeting Points

As a family of faith, every Sunday we celebrate the Gospel at two meeting points: the Toro family's house and at Tagle Park. During these services, we sing praises to our Lord, pray, read from the Word, preach the Gospel, and live briefly together once again. We recognize that the church is more than a building. It is a family of apprentices of Jesus. We want to bless the city with the message and works of the gospel. Because of this, we emphasize community and discipleship time.



Plans

This month we want to integrate as many members

as possible to the meeting points. We will emphasize spaces for evangelism and discipleship for the growth of believers and preaching to non-believers.

Prayers

We ask for protection and courage to participate in the Meeting Points (face to face services). We petition for God's wisdom and guidance to those who preach and collaborate in the Meeting Points.

We pray that the Lord will give us wisdom in sharing the gospel in a courageous and comprehensive way.

PRAYER Requests



- The Van Vlake 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 (breast cancer) and Norm West.