



Welcome Gunther and Sam Griffin

We are excited to introduce our new Pastoral Intern, Gunther Griffin and his wife Sam! Please read Gunther's introduction below to get to know them a little better.

Gunther was born and raised in Statesboro, Georgia. He was baptized and raised in a PCA church, where God saved him and began molding his heart for ministry. Although raised in a phenomenal church and a Christian household, Gunther did not come to know Christ until the summer before his senior year of high school. Shortly after coming to know Christ, Gunther began having a sense of a calling towards gospel ministry. He became very involved in his home church and decided to attend college in his hometown at Georgia Southern University (the Harvard of the south, some have said..). While in college, the Lord continued to grow and refine Gunther's calling to ministry. He met his wife, Sam and married her halfway through his undergraduate degree. Shortly after getting married, Gunther was presented with the opportunity to lead the youth group at Trinity. He accepted this role and labored as the youth director for two years before coming to Charlotte to attend Reformed Theological Seminary, where he is pursuing his Masters of

Divinity. Samantha was born in Miami, Florida and raised in Gwinnett county, just outside of Atlanta. Samantha was raised in an unchurched household, but she and her parents came to know the Lord while she was in high school. Upon graduating, Samantha enrolled in Augusta State University (aka Georgia Regents University) to play volleyball. After a year at Augusta State, Samantha bounced around a few different colleges before settling at Georgia Southern University, where she met Gunther. Samantha was greatly influenced both by the church and campus ministries, and desires to spend her life doing ministry. She is currently serving alongside Mark and Katherine Ashbaugh as an RUF intern at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. After her internship, Samantha hopes to attend Reformed Theological Seminary and pursue her Masters of Christian Counseling Degree. Samantha has been a steadfast supporter of Gunther's call to ministry, and they both recognize that the call to the ministry is a calling of self-sacrifice for the couple, not just one spouse. She is excited to labor alongside Gunther for (Lord willing) many years to come. Gunther and Samantha love being outside- camping, hiking, kayaking, or just hanging around and reading a good book! They are passionate about the local church and hospitality, and love getting together with people.

Sermon Schedule

- 10/4 "Blessings In Christ"
1 Peter 3:8-15
- 10/11 "The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ"
1 Peter 3:15-22
- 10/18 "Equipped to Answer"
1 Peter 3:15
- 10/25 "Equipped to Advance"
1 Peter 3:15



We are so thankful to have Gunther and Sam serving alongside us! In the coming weeks, my hope is that you will get to know this special couple, providing them with a warm welcome and embracing them into our Bethel family.

In Christ,

Pastor Marcus

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	01	02	03
				All facilities... Kim Deal	All facilities... Brenda Gess	All facilities...
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Deacon's Fund Collection New Member/Inquirer Class		Circle #1 Diaconate Meeting Men's Basketball		Jillian Heard Men's Basketball	Barbara Love Lucas Sorey	Floyd Neal
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ginger Bowman Session Meeting	Jackie Krashner Lib Jackson Men of the Covenant Circle #3	Vicky Henderson Circle #2 Men's Basketball	James Heard Colleen Riddle Circle	Elaine Moseley Men's Basketball	Kathy Compton Lee Coble	Moriah Slavens Fox Patrick Love
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
William Frommel	Brandon Harrell	Brenda Boyd Charles Flanagan Jesse Holben Neil Boyd Pat Miller Shirley Brackett Men's Basketball	Grace Alexander	Kimberly Richards Nell Martin Men's Basketball	Andy McCarter Mandy Mullis Tom Cuffman Miriam Hovis Sharan Shively	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Johna Griesman	Grayson Love	Men's Basketball	Jessica McMullan	Beckham Boyd Munn Harper Lee Munn Jennifer Boyd Munn Men's Basketball		Lucas Johnson Tom Love

New Member/Inquirers Class: Oct. 4, final class, during the SS hour (10:00-10:45am) in Pastor Marcus' office.
Elder/Deacon training: Oct. 11, 18 and

25 from 10-10:45 with Pastor Marcus in the conf. room.
Men of the Covenant: Oct. 12, 6:30pm, FLC for a meal, program and fellowship.

Diaconate Meeting: Oct. 6, 7:00pm, Conf. room.
Session Meeting: Oct. 11, 2:00pm, Conf. room.

Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 2:30 PM in the sanctuary with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, for the regular monthly meeting.

MSA to elect Bobby Love to serve as clerk for the meeting.

Adam Coble, Chairman of the Diaconate, gave the Deacons Report and reviewed the minutes of the August 24 and September 1, 2020 Deacons meetings, as well as action taken via email regarding the purchase of computer equipment. Additionally, he reviewed the Financial Report dated August 31, 2020 all of which are appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. MSA the Deacons Report, Financial Report, minutes, and actions/recommendations. A 2021 budget committee will be convened shortly, with objective to complete work, including all approvals, by the end of October. Marcus provided a brief update regarding future staff and intern positions, which will need consideration as priorities in the 2021 budgeting process. Adam was dismissed from the meeting with prayer by Calvin Reese.

MSA the Session minutes from our regularly scheduled meeting held August 9, 2020 and our called meeting held August 23, 2020 as written and emailed to the Session. Note – Action taken via email on September 1, 2020 regarding the WIC Fall gathering is no longer applicable – the in person gathering has been cancelled.

Marcus, in keeping with the plan to devote 20 minutes of each monthly meeting to an “Equipping” discussion, reviewed chapter 10 of the book “The Shepherd Leader”, by Timothy Z. Witmer.

A discussion was held regarding our current worship and activity procedures and our near-term plans moving forward. The following actions were taken in that regard: (1) MSA to make additional seating space available in the sanctuary for worship services by (a) moving the pulpit into the choir loft area and establishing a new row of seating in the center front of the sanctuary, and (b) rearrange the back section on each side of the lower sanctuary, as well as the balcony, to no longer include any empty pews, but to utilize all pews for seating. The space from the rear center pew forward will continue to include an empty pew between each pew available for use. Those individuals/families that desire

to practice social distancing should utilize pews in the lower sanctuary, forward to the rear center pew. Additionally, the FLC will continue to be available for socially distanced seating. (2) MSA to observe the Lord’s Supper on Sunday, November 8, 2020, with the Session Class of 2023 serving as a committee to determine the best approach for that communion service. (3) MSA to restart Sunday School on October 25, 2020, including one class of 7th graders – adults meeting in the FLC, the Ladies Sunday School class, and two younger children classes including 6th grade and under.

Rev. Peter Scheidt gave a brief update regarding Bekah’s health, and the completion of his work at Bethel. Ross Love prayed for Peter, and he was dismissed to his send-off reception.

Bobby Love provided a brief update on the building plans. MSA to allow the building project sub-committee, along with the engaged consultant, Jake Joye, to select a different architect if deemed necessary.

In response to a request from the WIC Nominating Committee, MSA as a slate of potential Bethel WIC Officers, all currently active female members of Bethel Presbyterian Church.

MSA that Fellowship Presbytery approve Rev. Peter Scheidt’s resignation as Bethel’s Assistant Pastor, and the dissolution of his pastoral relationship with Bethel, as submitted to Bethel’s Session on August 23, 2020.

MSA Neil Allen and Calvin Reese as representatives to the September 24, 2020 Fellowship Presbytery meeting at Temple, PCA, York, SC, with Bobby Love serving as an alternate.

Our next Session meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2020.

Robert C. Love, Jr., Acting Clerk of Session

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday September 27, 2020 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, for a called meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the recommendation from the Personnel Review committee to extend an offer to

Gunther Griffin to fill our vacant pastoral intern position.

Gunther and Sam both shared their testimony and provided the Session some insight into their desire to make a commitment to pursue ministry in the PCA. The Session asked questions to both Gunther and Sam. At the conclusion of the interview, Gunther and Sam were dismissed from the meeting with prayer by Chris Wallace.

The Session then reviewed and discussed the written documents provided by Gunther, to include a biographical sketch-testimony, his intern application and his resume, all of which are appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. The Session also received information regarding references for Gunther.

MSA to offer Gunther Griffin a one year, annually renewable, pastoral internship with Bethel Church per the recommendation from the Personnel Review committee, in accordance with our established job description and budget for salary and housing.

Neil D. Allen, Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

MULTIPLY Building fund
Balance Aug 31: \$1,236,582
August: \$7,772

Tithes and Offerings
2020 Budget: \$671,274
YTD Aug 31: \$326,788
August: \$47,145

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

Peter and Diane Bakelaar

Nagoya City, Japan



Update on the Bakelaars

We are doing well and praising God for so many things! The COVID 19 pandemic has changed the way we do ministry in Japan, but it has not slowed down our pace. Peter is continuing to speak at churches, usually to a scaled down congregation. In one church, he felt like he was speaking from inside a fish aquarium because of all the plexi-glass barriers set up on the pulpit!

At the Nisshin Christ Church, Peter has become part of the tech team that does live streams every Sunday of the messages. When we first began live streaming, we had over 200 people one time. It is a good feeling to see a wider audience is being reached.

We are moving from Nisshin City to Seto City which is about 30 minutes away. The new location will allow us to be much more connected to the community and have a greater outreach to the rest of Nagoya City. Our moving date is set for September 30.

New expanded doors of ministry have opened up to us through the arts. Peter was trained as an artist in undergraduate school. Those gifts have now been actively engaged to make contacts in the community and to encourage other Japanese Christian artists to engage their culture. The Japanese pastors in our presbytery are very excited about partnering with us to help train and equip their members in using their gifts and interests to connect with their local communities. Art seems to be one of the love languages of most cultures. Peter has been able to talk with a number of our Japanese neighbors about spiritual matters through the work he has exhibited.

We are having prayer meetings on-line and Peter is part of a men's Community Bible Reading group that meets every Monday. We are systematically reading through the Bible and encouraging each other in our walks with Jesus.

Please pray:

1) For the intensive Church Planting training conference Peter

will attend in Tokyo from October 11-23. Please pray he would learn a lot and be able to contribute from the things God has taught us over the last 30 years in Japan.

2) For our entrance into the new community of Seto.

Please pray we would be able to serve the community in love and be a blessing to others. Please pray the residents would see Jesus in us and know His love through us.

3) For our children who are all trying to adjust to the realities of the 'new normal' that COVID- 19 has created.

4) For good communication between us and the pastors in the presbytery to help facilitate their evangelism and outreaches to their local communities.

5) Please pray for God's protection of our relationships with the community, the businesses, the Seto Town Hall and the Seto Community Development Office.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!
Peter and Diane Bakelaar

PRAYER Requests



- The Van Vlakte family
- Peter Scheidt and his wife Bekah
- New Assistant Pastor search
- Our new 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, 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 Adam Stowe (leukemia).