

June, 2017
Volume 3, Issue 6

Bethesda Church
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Dear Bethesda,

June has arrived already as we celebrate graduations and prepare for summer rest and refreshment! And each season brings a graduation to the next only to be culminated in the ultimate graduation to eternal glory. Bethesda has been through a few years of searching and plowing the field. As we enter into this new season of preparing, welcoming and growing, we look forward to the partnerships that will blossom and propel us forward as we seek to bring the Kingdom of God to this community. After the disciples had spent many months walking, learning, and witnessing with Jesus, they had their graduation day...

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. Mark 6:6-7

They were sent with instructions, in pairs, to carry out the work of Christ by driving out evil spirits, carrying the new of Jesus, and healing people. Bethesda Church, here the Good News – Today is our graduation day! It is our time to step out and carry out the work of Christ in this community together.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church has been in existence, in several

Bethesda Beacon

By and for the members and friends of Bethesda Church

locations, for almost 150 years! The Gospel has been alive and teeming throughout its history and we are the workers for this next season to carry on the Word for Christ for this generation, our children's generation, our grandchildren's generation and more.

This task cannot be done alone. We are one of many churches called to serve the Kingdom of God in the city of Philadelphia, to pray for the city and its people, to love the people of this city as God does and to be the hands, feet, mercy and grace of Jesus Christ. If this task seems overwhelming or it's giving you anxiety, I understand. I wonder if that is how the disciples felt when Jesus called them and said 'Ok now you do it!' He instructed them to take nothing but what they were wearing and all that they would need would be provided along the way. So we receive this Word of God for us today and look to the coming months and years with anxious expectation of all that God is going to do through us, the congregation of Bethesda Church!

To prepare for growth and a good harvest, the session and Pastor Vandruff created teams to help with the work of the church. Throughout the life of the church in the New Testament, we read about the apostles working together, raising up believing communities that support one another, and working together in giftings of prophets, healers, teachers, pastors, and more. The design of the Christian church was that the body works together in all its giftings following one head.

So we desire to bring together many giftings to each area of ministry. There is also wisdom in having more than one person responsible for ministries:

'Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him. If it is cold, two can sleep together and stay warm, but how can you keep warm by yourself? Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.'
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

So this moves us from individual leadership to team leadership over ministry and mission, which offers you and new members more opportunity to get involved and connected to the life of the church and the work of God! Ask yourself how you might be gifted, called, or prepared to serve God in this season.

For the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.
Matthew 9:37-38

Over the next months, Join me in this prayer daily that God will call his people to him and send out the workers to the field with Bethesda Church for another 150 years of ministry in Philadelphia.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Heidi

Mariners

Join the Mariners for A Night at the Theatre on June 17th at 7:30 p.m. The tickets are just

\$16.00 to see the show "FIVE WOMEN WEARING THE SAME DRESS."

Everyone is welcome but reserve tickets early before they are sold out. For questions or RESERVATIONS, call hosts Joan and John LaRue at 215-934-6781.

Please sign the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall if you wish to join us.



Volunteer Choir 3- Peat

Back again by popular demand. The third summer singing season will begin with rehearsal on Sunday, June 18, 2017 after morning worship in the Fellowship Hall



Christian Education

Team: Next meeting is June 5, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Library

Team Leaders: Joan Stewart and Freda Fulton

Team Members: Ken Alexy, Joe Bonsted, Donna Popp, Tony Kazlouski

Kingdom Keepers

The last meeting of Kingdom Keepers will be June 16, 2017 at 7-8:30 P.M. We will end with a party/game night or something special. We will then plan to restart our meetings in September. Donna Popp, Jean Feraco, Carol Caputo, Joan Stewart, and Freda Fulton wish everyone a fun and safe summer.

VBS: Mighty Fortress

In Jesus, the Victory is Won!

August 6-11
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



VBS Sponsor A Child; Ken Alexy, Joan Stewart, and Freda Fulton thank everyone who donated to the 'Sponsor a Child' VBS Project. We had a great response. VBS is an awesome outreach opportunity and a chance for us to share with children and families that may not have a relationship with Jesus that which we know to be true. For those children that have a home church and already know Jesus, we can help reinforce that relationship. This is also an opportunity to make new Christian friends.

To register for VBS visit:
www.bethesdaapc.com/vbs



Coins For

Jesus: For all you M&M fans we will start in June with this part of our fund raiser. VBS is a fun experience and a great way for children to learn about Jesus. Although VBS comes at a financial cost we will never charge families to tell their children about Jesus. Any money that is received through our fund raising efforts would help to eliminate money that would need to come out of the yearly budget.



Women's Circle

The next Women's Circle is scheduled for June 22 at 12 noon. Bring a sandwich. We'll provide a beverage and dessert.

Come sing a few of our favorite hymns, play games and just have a time of fellowship to end another great year of Circle.

All ladies are welcome! Come join in all the fun.

Calling All Fathers and Sons

Come and join the Father's Day Chorus. There's Rehearsal Sunday, June 11, 2017 after the 11 o'clock service in the Fellowship Hall.

Report from the Session

Session met May 9, in the library. The elders dwelled in the Word, Acts 2:1-13. We received the treasurer and memorial fund reports. The session voted to create a Technology team lead Joe Bonsted. The purchase of additional sensors for the security system was approved and the technology team will be looking into the possible consolidation of the citadel, fire, and security systems into one. The elders received the report from the education team that Pastor Heidi will be working to relaunch the Bethesda Youth Group this year. VBS flyers are going out to the neighborhood and apartment complexes near the church. If anyone is interested in helping, see Ken Alexy. There will be a bible study in the fall during the evening at the church. The elders approved the request of City Church to hold car washes in the parking lot on several Saturdays throughout the summer to support their youth group missions project for a small fee. The elders received the report of the property team that 4 companies including our lawn service do not do weeding. We will be contacting some other service companies in the area and the apartment complex management for other pricing to maintain the gardens. AKRF will be filming a short video about our rain gardens and Jim Baney will be bringing a crew out to spruce up the gardens in the beginning of June prior to the video. The elders approved and

empowered each department to organize and clean out their areas – education, music, women’s ministry and office staff. A team has been assembled to begin organizing and prepping historical documents to be transported to the Presbyterian Archives in Philadelphia. Pastor Heidi’s installation service will be June 11th at 4pm. After sharing joys and concerns, we prayed. We adjourned to the June 13 meeting.

Report from the Deacons

Deacon’s meeting was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017. We were very happy to welcome Pastor Heidi who joined us at the meeting. At our April meeting there was an issue that the terms of some of the Deacon’s was wrong. Their terms have now been corrected. Ken informed us that the dripless candles were costing \$39 each for a total of \$2,758.08. The cost was approved and will come out of the Memorial Fund. On Mother’s Day the Offering will be taken by the men since the women will be singing at that time. Pastor Heidi will continue with the breaking of the loaf of bread during the Communion service. Pastor Heidi informed us that on May 14th there will be a special prayer given for Jillian Massey whose brain cancer has returned. Joan Case will send appropriate greeting cards to members to let them know we are thinking of them. Georgia Hopely offered to bring Jeanne Scott to church on Sundays.

Carol Caputo mentioned that Debbie Thomas offered to supply pens for the attendance books in each pew. Joan Case offered to purchase a few candle lighters since some were missing. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, June 14th at 7pm.

Minutes for Missions

Each month, will be speaking on one or more of our missionaries. June will focus on Child Evangelism. Some of you may remember seeing Heidi and Hannah at the Presbyterian Sunday School Association. They have a wonderful ministry to young people and will run day camps or come to your home or church if requested. She is asking for teachers and helpers. They are located in the Olney/Logan section of Philadelphia. Please ask your missionary team if you can volunteer.

Installation of our Pastor

Rev. Heidi and Court Hankel cordially invite you to join with the Philadelphia Presbytery, the session of Bethesda Church and our family and friends as we celebrate her installation as Pastor of Bethesda Church.

June 11, 2017 – 4 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served after the service.

Congratulations!

Frank and I wish to share our good news with our church family.

Our grandson Timothy Baker has graduated from Rowan College in New Jersey. He was awarded the most outstanding student in computers, also top student of his class. Timothy has been offered a full scholarship to Michigan State University to complete his Master's Degree in Physics and has been offered a teaching position for the summer teaching Physics.

Tim graduated with the average of 3.95 and has overcome many difficulties over the past 2 years in losing his mother and father recently. May God continue to bless Tim!

Roslyn and Frank Ebner

YTD Financial Update through May 2017

2017 Weekly income
requirement \$3,325

Weekly average \$3,176

This includes \$1,275 in Rentals



Happy Father's Day

***Bethesda Presbyterian Church
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Liturgist for June

- 4** – Freda Fulton
- 11** – Loreen Grose
- 18** – Jean Feraco
- 25** – Joan Stewart



Birthdays in June

- 2** – Sarah Clark
- 5** – Gail Cotton
- 6** – June Freeman
- 17** – Corey Heinrich
Lillian Hamman
- 18** – Brian King
Phyllis Collar
- 24** – Catherine Collins
- 25** – Edna LaCorte
- 27** – Judy Unger
Tony Kazlouski
- 29** – Jane Lawrence
- 31** – Joan Case

Anniversaries in June

- 5** –Janet & Tom Neely
- 10** – Cheryl & Mike Jacobs
- 12** – Ernie & Jane Lawrence



In honor of Flag Day...

Harvey Radle has posted an article about the meaning of the flag draped coffin on the bulletin board. If you would like a copy, see Margie.

Calendar for June 2017

- 1** – Finance Meeting 1 p.m.
- 2** – Prayer Meeting 10:30 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
- 3** – Kingdom Keepers 7 p.m.
- 4** – SS & Service 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Traditional
- 5** – Education Meeting 7 p.m.
- 8** – Prayer Meeting 10:30 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
- 9** – Kingdom Keepers 7 p.m.
- 11** – S.S & Service 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Traditional
Pastor's Installation 4 p.m.
- 13** – Session Meeting 7 p.m.
- 14** – Deacons Meeting 7 p.m.
- 15** – Prayer Mtg. 10:30 a.m.
- 16** – Property Meeting 5:30 p.m.
Technology Meeting 7 p.m.
Kingdom Keepers 7 p.m.
- 17** – Mariners 7:30 p.m.
Langhorne Theatre
- 18** – S.S. & Service 9:30
11a.m. Traditional
- 19** – Missions Team Mtg. 10 a.m.
Memorial Team Mtg. 12 p.m.
Personnel Team Mtg. 12:30pm
- 20** – Women's Circle 10 a.m.
- 21** – Member Care Team 10 a.m.
Worship Team Mtg. 11 a.m.
- 22** – Prayer Mtg. 10:30 a.m.
- 25** – SS & Service 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Traditional
- 27** – Women's Circle 10 a.m.
- 29** – Prayer Mtg. 10:30 a.m.

Team Work Makes Dream Work!

So by now you have hopefully read Pastor Heidi's introduction of teams that will be heading up the ministry and mission of the church and reporting to session. Below are the teams with descriptions. Pray about which team you might be called to serve for a season or even just a year. Also pray that God would bring forth those whom He has called to serve.

Finance and Stewardship Team

Team Leader: Linda Alexy

Next Meeting: June 1st 1pm

Prepares budgets, financial reports, arrange for audits, encourage stewardship throughout the congregation.

Memorial Ministry Team

Team Leader: Howard Freeman

Next Meeting: June 19th 12pm

Manage Memorial Fund, record all monetary memorial gifts and make recommendations for use. Respond to all memorial gifts with appropriate letter.

Missions Team

Team Leader: Janet Miller

Next Meeting: June 19th 10:30

Connect the congregation with mission of the church and denomination, recommend mission recipients of Special offerings, create annual mission budget and distribute funds.

Member Care Ministry Team

Team Leader: Jean Feraco

Next Meeting: June 21st 10am

Assist Pastor in welcoming new members, work with deacons and elders for needed care or visitation, and assist Clerk of session in reviewing the membership rolls each year.

Personnel Team

Team Leader: Howard Freeman

Next Meeting: June 19th 12:30pm

Write job descriptions of staff, Review current staff positions annually, review compensation of staff and make recommendations to session, provide for personal hearings for staff personal matters, coordinate with Pastor as Head of Staff.

Nominating Team

Team: Jean Feraco, Carol Cardy,

Joan Case, John LaRue

Next Meeting: September 2017

Members Elected at Congregational Meeting.

Property Team

Team Leader: Stan Schofield

Next Meeting: June 16th 5:30pm

Supervise maintenance, housekeeping, repair and use of the property. Respond to requests for use of the building from church and non-church organizations; oversee insurance and protection of the property and employees as well as legal matters concerning church activities and properties

Worship Ministry Team

Team Leaders: Roslyn Ebner & Jean Feraco

Next Meeting: June 21st 11am

Assist the Pastor and Music Director in developing content, order of worship, and special services. Supervise music ministry, coordinate tuning and repair of instruments. Develop policies regarding church weddings and funerals and oversee pulpit supply when the pastor is away.

Educational Ministry Team

Team Leaders: Freda Fulton and Joan Stewart

Next Meeting: June 5th 7pm

Develop education ministries for children, youth and adults. Recruit and train teachers and leaders of the programs and follow the Safe Care Policy. Develop Youth fellowships, promote camps and conferences and oversee the children's church ministry.

Technology Team

Team Leader: Joe Bonsted

Next Meeting: June 16th 7pm

Manage the online and physical technology services including the website, social media, church networks, computer systems, Wi-Fi, multimedia systems as well as create budgets for maintenance and upkeep of church technology for the best price possible.

