

July/August, 2017
Volume 3, Issue 7-8

Bethesda Church
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Dear Bethesda,

Summer is finally here and for many of us, it is a season of rest. Programs and choirs stop for a season. We travel to see family, friends, or just an ocean! But it can be a much needed time for reflection and refreshment.

God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. Think about that for a moment. God calls us to rest for one seventh of our lives! As a workaholic myself, I find this commandment to be a challenging one. How can we do worshipful rest?

Life can become so busy that we miss God in the midst of us. We get so bogged down in the details and the “bus-y-ness” of life and the church that we are not resting in the presence of Christ our King. Consider the word of Jesus:

“Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” Mark 6:31

Bethesda Beacon

By and for the members and friends of Bethesda Church

What if resting is an act of worship? The first four commandments speak to our relationship with God and our worship of Him. Do not have idols or other gods, do not use His name in vain and rest on the day of worship! Sabbath rest – worshipful rest – is important enough that God writes it as LAW!

In our Reformed Catechism that we teach confirmation students, the issue is addressed upfront:

Question. 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

Answer. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

We are good at glorifying God on Sundays in song and word, but how do we enjoy him forever while resting? This already sounds like a lot of work!

Perhaps the answer is discovered in the command Christ gave to the disciples just before He ascended into heaven? Wait for the gift my Father promised (Acts 1:4).

Waiting for God's direction, for God's power, and for God's presence is an act of worship. Realizing that we do not have the answers to much of what life presents, we come to God and

wait for answers of how He calls us to respond.

When we are incapacitated due to sickness or impairment, often we respond with impatience and frustration. Life is not moving the way *we* intended. However, it can become a season of receiving more of God.

This summer will be a season of listening for me. I want to wait on God to hear how *He* wants to use us, Bethesda Church, to impact this community for Christ. I want to hear who *He* is calling to lead ministries. I want to hear how *He* wants us to move because moving with God is much easier than moving on our own!

God raises people up for ministry and He also gives a season of rest (furlough) to people in ministry. Whatever season you are in, spend some time waiting on the presence of God this summer, discern where *He* is calling you and then obey.

Let us wait on Him for His direction, wisdom and love. Let us be open to receiving compassion, kindness and healing from Christ our Savior.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Heidi

Mariners

The Mariners will meet in July and August. Look on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall for upcoming events.



Musical Notes

Many thanks to all participants in the musical program of Bethesda Church for the 2016-2017 Season. Our Praise Team, Choir, Soloists, Ensemble, Narrators, Instrumentalists and Pianist have done an awesome job. We are also thankful for the willingness of "Spreadin' the Word" to share their talents with us.

Volunteer Choir has begun and will favor us in song beginning Sunday, June 25. Rehearsals are every Sunday after the 11:00 o'clock worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us and expand your singing from the shower to the sanctuary (fully clothed).

The 2017-2018 choral season will begin with a Welcome Back Picnic on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 7p.m.

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. If you still would like to sponsor a child, please talk to Ken Alexy.

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

Coins For Jesus: For all you M&M fans we have started 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.

We are currently working on two fund raiser in July. One for Bertucci's Restaurant and 1 at Chick Fi La. Stay tuned! Both of these should be confirmed within the next week.

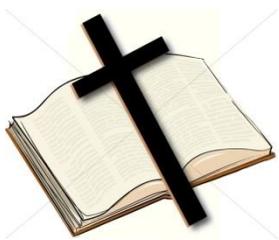
VBS is a great way to share the love of God with children and sow seeds in their lives with the hopes that they will develop a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Help us, Help them!



Women's Circle

Our first Circle Meeting of the fall season will be held earlier than usual. We're meeting 1 week earlier on Tuesday, September 19th at 10 a.m. Carol Caputo will be giving the lesson. All ladies are welcome to join us!



Scriptures for Summer

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people". The king's delight is a wise servant, but a shameful servant incurs his wrath. Proverbs 14:34,35.



Kingdom Keepers

Kingdom Keepers came to a close on June 16th with a party that included two visitors. We are hopeful to be starting up again in the fall. Thanks to Freda Fulton, Joan Stewart, Jean Feraco, Carol Caputo and Donna Popp who served as the Kingdom Keeper keepers.

Report from the Session

Session met June 13, in the library. The elders dwelt on the Word, 1 Peter 5:1-6. The session received the pastor’s report and approved a recommendation to create a Grief Support Group lead by Rev. Karyn Jean Dickhoff of Lutheran hospice services and Rev. Heidi Hankel. The group will begin in the fall, and take place in the evening and be open to the community. A grief support group will be available at Paul’s Run during the daytime for those who do not like to drive at night. The elders received reports from the missions team, education team, member care team, and the worship team. The Session is excited to host a combined Thanksgiving Eve service with Elkins Park Presbyterian Church on November 22nd at 7pm. It will be held at Bethesda in 2017 and then at Elkins Park in 2018. We will combine choirs and musical talents for the service! The elders voted to hold one combined service on November 19th to celebrate 150 years of continuous worship as a Bethesda Congregation will be followed by a luncheon. More details will be coming. The Session received a report from the technology team and the property team. The elders approved the purchase of several private property signs to be posted around the property in order to be in compliance with our insurance company. We will be continue to install windows in the interior doors of the church throughout the summer. The

Session received the finance, treasurer, and memorial reports. Bethesda will have their financial books audited by the financial team from Elkins Park at the end of 2017. Our financial team will audit the financial books of Elkins Park at the end of 2017. After sharing joys and concerns, we prayed. We adjourned until the July 11 meeting.

Report from the Deacons

Our last meeting was held on Wednesday, June 14th. Pastor Heidi supplied us with new Prayer Request forms. They are green and will be put in the pew holders. The request will be put into the offering plate and given to Pastor Heidi during the Doxology. She will then read them during Prayers and Concerns. Carol Caputo supplied us with lots of pens that have now been placed in the pews. Joan Case purchased lighters since many did not work or were missing. At our May meeting the Deacon’s suggested that a card be sent to Joan and Howard Wilson. The Wilson’s sent us a thank you card which was shared with us. Pastor Heidi gave us a list of members to whom she wished cards sent. Joan Case will send out these cards. After our meeting was over we went into the Sanctuary and checked all pew holders. Pew envelopes, prayer request forms and new pens were added. The attendance books were also checked. Even though we try to keep on top of the pew holders please let us know if anything is missing. There will be no

meetings in July and August. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 13 at 7 pm. The Deacon’s wish everyone and very happy and safe summer.

Minutes for Missions

Bob and Ana Biederman of Literacy and Evangelism International have been serving at the Tulsa Literacy Center overseeing the local outreach. They are training up others for the mission field through the International Literacy Training Institute (ILTI). In 2017, the ILTI launched their online training program that can be used globally. Kim, one of the students who graduated, was called to missions in Vietnam where she used literacy and teaching English as a second language to lead 26 people to the Lord! Kim herself was a refugee of Vietnam and came to know God in a refugee camp in Thailand. We, Bethesda Church, have committed to financially supporting Bob and Ana Biederman with \$2,000 for 2017. Please pray about how God may be calling you to contribute to this mission. Please pray for Bob and Ana Biederman as they lead a team going to Macedonia in creating a Bible content curriculum. Pray for their children while Bob and Ana are traveling. Pray that they would continue to train up and encourage those who are also traveling to the far corners of the earth to teach literacy and the Gospel.

July/August

A Big Thank you!

A big thank you to all my wonderful friends at Bethesda for all the prayers, cards and transportation during my 12 week” shoulder adventure”.

“*You’re the best*”. **Jean Feraco**

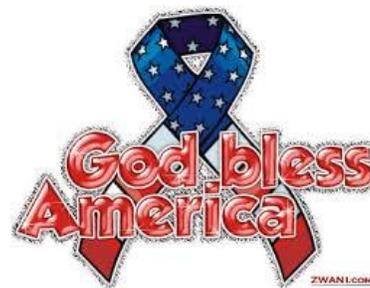
Congratulations... to Ashley Vance on her graduation from Anne Frank to Baldi Middle School. We wish Ashley the best in all she does.

Financial Update

Income from June 1- 18:
\$9,210

This includes \$1,735 in rentals.

Everyone have a wonderful summer. The Beacon will return September 1.



Happy 4th of July

Bethesda Church
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Liturgist for July



- 2 – Tony Kazlouski
- 9 – Carol Caputo
- 16 – Jean Feraco
- 23 – John LaRue
- 30 – Joan Wilson

Liturgist for August

- 6 – Loreen Grose
- 13 – Joan Stewart
- 20 – Freda Fulton
- 27 – Janet Perretti

Birthdays in July

- 1 – Margie Johnson
- 5 – Ed Mitchell
- 8 – Nancy Gianfortune
- 13 – Joan Radle
- 14 – Christopher Larkin
Loreen Grose
Janet Perretti
- 15 – Elaine Brehm
- 16 – Phyllis White
- 19 – John Horn
- 23 – Jean Feraco
Carol Caputo
- 25 – Donna Popp

Birthdays in August

- 3 – Debbie White
- 6 – Courtney Hankel
- 25 – Linda Alexy
- 31 – Charlie Thiee

Anniversaries in July

- 2 – June & Howard Freeman
- 8 – Judy & Jim Baird

Anniversaries in August

- 21 – Maryanne & Gary Freeman

Calendar for July 2017

- 2 – SS & Service 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Traditional
- 6 – Prayer Meeting 10:30 a.m.
- 9 – S.S & Service 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Traditional
- 10 – Education Meeting 7 p.m.
- 11 – Session Meeting 7 p.m.
- 12 – Deacons Meeting 7 p.m.
- 13 – Prayer Mtg. 10:30 a.m.
- 15 – Mariners 7:30 p.m.
- 16 – S.S. & Service 9:30
11a.m. Traditional
- 17 – Mission Team Meeting 10:30 a.m.
Memorial Team 12 noon
Personnel Team Meeting 12:30 p.m.
- 20 – Prayer Mtg. 10:30 a.m.
- 23 – SS & Service 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Traditional
- 27 – Prayer Mtg. 10:30 a.m.
- 30 – S.S. & Service 9:30
11a.m. Traditional

Calendar for August 2017

- 3 – Prayer Meeting 10:30 a.m.
- 6 – SS & Service 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Traditional Communion
- 8 – Session Meeting 7 p.m.
- 9 – Deacons Meeting 7 p.m.
- 10 – Prayer Meeting 10:30 a.m.
- 13 – S.S & Service 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Traditional
- 16 – Worship Team Meeting 11 a.m.
- 17 – Prayer Mtg. 10:30 a.m.
- 19 – Mariners 7:30 p.m.
- 20 – S.S. & Service 9:30
11a.m. Traditional
- 24 – Prayer Mtg. 10:30 a.m.
- 27 – SS & Service 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. Traditional

Happenings around the Church...

Throughout the summer you may notice improvements to the property as we care for the building while we strive to be a safe place or sanctuary for people to come, learn about God and wrestle with their faith. One of the most noticeable changes you will see is the addition of windows into all the non-bathroom doors throughout the church. This allows for transparency, visibility in case of emergency and is a preventative measure against any type of impropriety or abuse. While our property insurance requires the installation of these windows, we also choose to take this step towards making the church safer for everyone. Please thank Stan Schofield and the property team when you see them for all their hard work accomplishing this task.

Other Notes from the Teams....

Education

- Youth group will be starting in September under the direction of Pastor Heidi.
- Children’s Sunday School will continue through the summer.

Member Care Team

- Visitations continue to minister to those who cannot make it out to church.
- We are working on updating our membership directory for 2017 to be published soon!

Worship Team

- We are looking forward to VBS in August and their presentation during the August 13th.

Technology Team

- We continue to update the website and have posted the registration form for VBS.
- The cameras are installed and working well throughout the building.

Property Team

- We are continuing to get bids for maintenance of the Rain Gardens.
- We will be putting water in the basketball net base so that it is no longer moved from the back corner of the lot.
- The pastor has given up her parking spot during worship services and gatherings so that it might be used as a drop off and pick up spot for those who are disabled.
- We will be repainting the handicapped labels on the parking spaces.
- We replaced several lights outside so that the parking lot is lit up well at night for those who park there.
- We are working on fixing or replacing the water fountain.

July/August