

Blessed
to Be a
Blessing

Bethany Road

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2020

A Message from Rev. Bob Stauffer

Membership Class

Beginning on January 10th we will begin a membership class at Bethany. Now you notice I am calling it a "membership class" and not a "new members class." That is because we are going to do something a little different this year. We will use this time as a new members class but we would like to invite anyone who would like to join us from the church as well.

The reason for that is that we are going to study a few things in the class that would be helpful for everyone to know. We will look at what it means to be a part of our denomination, our presbytery, and our church ministries. We will look at our spiritual gifts and how we can apply them to our church life. We will have a chance to get to know one another a little better as we sit around lunch together after church.

So beginning on January 10th the class will go for five or six weeks. We will have lunch together after church and then cover these topics until about 1:00 p.m. or so. Babysitting will be provided.

So please let Lois in the church office know if you will be coming so that we can plan for food and we hope that you will join us for this exciting time together.

Small Groups

Life in the church was never meant to be lived alone. And one of the best ways to live life together in the church is in small groups where we can learn, grow, and be accountable to each other and to God. So beginning in January we will be restarting the small group ministry of Bethany Church. We will be starting with a few groups and hope then to continue expanding to more groups as leaders are raised up and trained. The Small group leaders will be in the January Bethany Road.

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Committee Meetings

- Personnel
December 1 at 10:30 a.m.
- Property
December 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Safety Team at 7:30 p.m.
- Christian Education
December 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- Deacons
December 2 at 6:00 p.m.
- Outreach/Member Involvement
December 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Worship & Memorials
December 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Finance
December 10 at 7:00 p.m.
- Session
December 17 at 7:00 p.m.



On Sunday, November 22nd we collected 90 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Adding 29 boxes purchased online, our grand total is 119 shoeboxes. 119 children will have a better Christmas because of your generosity!

THANK YOU!

Dear Bethany Members,

Thank you for the donations for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Thank you to everyone who helped to provide this wonderful meal to the Mercer Community.

Sincerely,

The Bethany Deacons

Small Groups (cont.)

Over the next weeks leaders will be asking folks from Bethany to be a part of their group. And if you are interested in being a part of a group please contact a leader or call the church office.

Each group will pick a night and time that they will meet and each group will also pick their individual study. So we hope that you will join a group as they begin the adventure of exploring life together at Bethany.

Session Updates from October

Christian Ed Committee - Session approved Lisa Wishart to teach a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Class in January 2021.

Personnel Committee - Session approved the hiring of Mrs. Emily Forton as the Nursery Supervisor.

Vision Team - Session approved adopting the following as the new mission statement for Bethany Church:

Bethany Church is blessed to be a blessing, and God is calling us to:

Serve our community

Build relationships with our neighbors

Share the Gospel with all those we meet

Specifically we will be focusing on the areas of the Colonial Inn Apartments, the Pine Grove Trailer Park, and the Brandy Springs Apartments as well as partnering with Brandy Springs Park in some ways. An Implementation Team will be formed in the next several weeks to facilitate moving this vision to reality.

Thankoffering Sunday ~ Nov. 29th 2020

Please join the Bethany Women as we celebrate our annual Thankoffering Service on Sunday, November 29, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. Whether in person or online we believe this is a message that is important for each of you today. The title is, "Develop an Attitude of Gratitude," with the scripture passage—Luke 17:11-17. There will be a special Thankoffering collection which will go to AWARE, Mercer County Children's Aid Society and Joshua's Haven. These three local organizations serve men, women and children in need in Mercer County. If you would like to make a donation, you may place it in the collection plates on that Sunday—special envelopes are provided—stop and leave it at the church or drop it in the mail. Every gift is graciously received. None of your gifts given to our Thankoffering go to the social events of Bethany Women, they go straight to the organizations. Over the years you have been so faithful and generous and we know this year will be no exception.

Merry Christmas

Ask 100 people what
Christmas means to them.
And you will get
100 different answers.
This is because we are all
In different situations
But most people will agree that:
Christmas is a birthday party.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

"Merry Christmas"

Joe Burns Sr.

Sept. 20, 1921~Oct. 18, 2020

2021 GIVING ENVELOPES

Giving envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick up at the Welcome Center starting Sunday, November 29th. Please stop by after the morning service or at a convenient time for you. The box of envelopes is for the entire year. Envelopes will not be mailed. The boxes are alphabetical by last name and marked with your giving number.

If you are not able to pick up your envelopes please call the office (724-662-4340) and they will be delivered to you.

Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting Bethany, especially through this very different time.

Attendance/Prayer Cards

Attendance cards can be found on the tables when you enter the sanctuary along with the weekly bulletin. If you forget to pickup a card, you can find one at the end of each pew. Thank you for filling these cards out because we rely on them to keep track of attendance. Prayer requests will either be put on the prayer chain if requested, or it will be prayed for at Thursday morning prayer.

Bethany's 2020 Financial Statement through October

Income	\$374,981
Expenses	\$273,939
Net Income	\$101,042

Egg Outreach in the Mercer Community

130 dozen eggs were donated to Bethany and the Vision Team distributed them to the community on Friday, November 6th to those in need. Thank you to those who dropped off empty egg cartons at the church for this outreach.



Bethany Presbyterian Church
100 West Venango Street
Mercer PA 16137

Regular Office Hours

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(724) 662-4340

Fax: 724-662-1080

Prayer Chain: bethanyprays@yahoo.com

Web: www.bethany-presbyterian.org

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Mercer, PA 16137

PERMIT No. 39

TO: Or Current Resident



BETHANY'S NEW VISION STATEMENT

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and God is calling us to:*

***SERVE** our community*

***BUILD** relationships with our neighbors*

***SHARE** the Gospel with all those we meet.*

Specifically we will be focusing on the areas of the Colonial Inn Apartments, the Pine Grove Trailer Park, and the Brandy Springs Apartments as well as partnering with Brandy Springs Park in some ways. An Implementation Team will be formed in the next several weeks to facilitate moving this vision to reality. Look for a letter in the mail with more details.