

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

“ENDING WELL”

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” ---Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7-8

As we close out 2011 many in our congregation are painfully aware of the reality of deadlines. By my count our congregation has had eight funerals or memorial services this year. We hope that that the Apostle Paul’s comments in 2 Timothy apply to each one of these saints.

Because we are a somewhat older congregation, that death deadline is not so far off for many of us. But first we expect to experience “retirement.” Retirement is a relatively new concept in the grand scheme of things. Otto von Bismarck was the first leader to develop a pension system. He introduced a pension for German workers who reached age 70. Most workers in 1889 didn’t live that long. So the program wasn’t too expensive.

In 1935 President Roosevelt proposed the Social Security system. In the intervening years that system has taken on other responsibilities besides providing money in retirement. It is also becoming financially unsustainable in its current form. But other sources of funding have developed to sustain us in our older age: pensions, 401ks, reverse mortgages, annuities, etc. For some of us these retirement plans enable us to retire even in our 50s and to live quite well financially.

The big question is: What does God think of all of this? In Numbers #4 in the Old Testament the Lord relieved priests of their duties in the tabernacle at age 50. Originally these priests were charged not only with the work of dealing with animal sacrifices but also with hauling around in the wilderness the parts of the tabernacle. So certainly God recognizes that as we age we may lose some energy and physical strength which obviously can limit our abilities. But otherwise the Bible does not recognize a time this side of the grave when we are supposed to cease from work.

Perhaps the most subtle and perfidious temptation is to think of retirement as our reward for an earlier life of hard work. Pastor John Piper (*Rethinking Retirement*, 2009) observes that Americans so often believe that “we must reward ourselves now in this life for the long years of our labor.” The retirement life of ease and pleasure and travel and golf is “the world’s substitute for heaven since the world does not believe there will be heaven beyond the grave.”

The Apostle Paul recognized that Christians should look for a reward beyond the grave. In the meantime we are to be about the Lord’s business, whether we have an employer who pays us a salary or not. For those of us who find ourselves in “retirement” that means serving our family, volunteering in the community, helping out at church and promoting the kingdom of God. Let’s finish well. We will have eternity to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Pastor Kurt



Bethany's 50th Anniversary Celebration

JANUARY 7, 2012 - SATURDAY – MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:15 AM

Men, join together in Emmaus Hall for a hearty breakfast and a chance to hear from one of our former youth students, who now serves as a full time pastor at Calvary Chapel in Boulder City. **Jason King** will be speaking at this breakfast. There is no charge and a chance to fellowship as well as hear a great speaker. You'll find a sign up sheet in the church foyer.

JANUARY 7, 2012 - SATURDAY – LADIES LUNCHEON AT NOON

Ladies, come and enjoy a Baked Potato & Salad Bar Luncheon. We'll have **Anna Skaggs**, former member of Bethany Baptist Church. Anna was our pianist and Women's Ministry Director for many years. It will be a delight to have her with us for the weekend! We ask that you sign up in the church foyer to bring toppings for the potato bar and salad bar. There is no charge for the luncheon. It will be an enjoyable afternoon and a great time to remember the past and fellowship with each other.

JANUARY 8, 2012, SUNDAY

This is the day we have been building up to this 50th Anniversary Celebration since September. We will have special guest speaker, **Jeremy Rinne** (a former youth student who now is the Senior Pastor at a church in MA). Former Youth Pastor **Garrett Holmes** will also be here to share with us. The service will begin at **10:00 AM** (this Sunday only). The mayor of Boulder City, **Roger Tobler**, will be joining us and we have some special music planned. There will be a slide show during the service and many photos to look at.

After the service is over, we will move to Emmaus Hall for a catered meal (approximately 11:30 AM). Please sign up in the church foyer or call the church office so that we have enough food for everyone. While there will be no cost to you for the meal, we would be happy to allow you to help us defray the catering cost of \$14 per person. If you would like to make a donation write 50th Anniversary Meal on your check and drop in the offering plate on Sunday or at the church office during the week. This is an opportunity to visit with many friends and a chance to share your memories of Bethany.

Plan now to join us. Invite others who used to attend Bethany and new friends that are looking for a church home.

Be sure to reach out and welcome folks that day as they may be new or they may have been former members.

Children's Church

9AM Sunday Mornings



XYZ

Our next XYZ Potluck will be on Thursday, the 19th.

Bring a healthy dish to share and come for the Potluck at 5PM. We'll have a program at 6PM.

The XYZ Group is for those aged 50 years & older...
Come join us!



HIKERS WANTED

Join us at Emmaus Hall on Saturday, the 21st, at 8:15 a.m., for our monthly church hike. We usually attempt a hike that is not more strenuous than participants want to try. We usually are back in town by early afternoon. Bring water, camera & snacks.

The Cancelled Stamps for Missionaries Program that Laurie Coffey has managed over the last few years is getting ready to end.

If you have any unusual stamps that you would like to contribute, please drop them in the envelope on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary before the end of January. Thanks!

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

We recently learned that the Lakeview Terrace assisted living home in BC overlooking the lake does not have any church group providing services or Bible study. One of the owners is a Christian. If any of you would sense the direction of the Lord to take advantage of this opportunity, let us know.

BYG (Bethany Youth Group)

Join us on Sunday afternoons at 5:30 PM for our Collide meeting for teens.

We have games, food and Bible study.

BETHANY CARES

The latest report is that our church is providing food for 37 students in the BC middle school and elementary school for weekends and school vacations. If you would like to help with funds to help these needy children in our community, include a check or money in the offering to the church and include a note indicating "Bethany Cares."

CARE CENTER VISIT

Our next Care Center and Hospital Long Term Area Visit will be on Saturday, the 7th.
Meet at Emmaus by 9:45 a.m.

Take time to share with those not able to attend a Sunday service!

From the Bethany Elders Board...

As we continue to discuss our Church's health we would like to update our church body on continuing activities including:

Our monthly Men's Breakfast will begin again on Saturday, January 7, 2012, at 8:15 am, in Emmaus Hall. We will have great food, fellowship and our guest speaker will be Jason King, who grew up at Bethany and is now a local pastor in Boulder City.

Starting Sunday, January 15th, 2012, we will be having a Marriage Seminar based on a DVD series entitled "Laugh your way to a better marriage" led by Lidija Baker and Pastor Kurt.

We continue to evaluate and reach out to you as part of our Sheparding Program.



January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Ladies' Bible Study Bunch 9AM	4	5 Missions' Meeting 5:30 p.m.	6	7 Men's Breakfast 8:15 a.m. Women's Noon Lunch
8 50th Anniversary Celebration and Lunch 10AM	9	10	11 Deaconess Meeting 9AM CE Meeting 10AM	12	13 	14
15 Property Maintenance 11:30 a.m.	16	17 Open Prayer Time 5:30 p.m.	18	19 XYZ Potluck 5PM	20	21 All Church Hike 8:15 a.m.
22 	23	24 Open Prayer Time 5:30 p.m.	25	26	27	28 Elders' Meeting 8:30 a.m.
29	30	31				

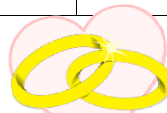
Sunday: Prayer Time - 8:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.
Children's Church - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.
BYG - 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

Monday: Praise Team Practice - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday: Ladies' Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Meeting - 7:30 a.m.
Choir Practice - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: Men's Group - 7:00 a.m.



"Marriage Class"

Because the response to our adult class during the Sunday school hour on marriage was so positive last spring, and because some of the attendees missed some of the sessions, we will do the class again beginning on Sunday, January 15. The class is based on the DVD series "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage." It will meet in Emmaus Hall.

January Birthdays

- 1st Mary Jones
4th John Barth
6th Alan Cole
7th Bob Miller
10th Dan Bunch
Tina Selb
11th Adam Katzenbach
12th Joanne Good
16th Logan Holmes
Julie Jules
Joyce Murphy*
20th Val Davis
Sharon Disselkoen
22nd Walter Moffatt
26th Doris Roederer
30th Shari Daniel
31st Barbara Forcum

January Anniversaries

- 15th Jeff & Lillian Diehl
Carl & Barbara Murphey-Framke
16th Bill & Doris Roush
Randy & Cherry Aton
27th Pastor Jose Nilson & Tiana do Nascimento*

*indicates a missionary family.

February Missionary Birthdays

- 20th Eathen Paul Yazzie (son of Ben/Tillie)
26th Alexandre Winston (1992, son of Ted/Malia)

Missionary birthdays and anniversaries are listed a month in advance to allow for mail delivery.

Missionary addresses are found on the Missions Bulletin Board in Emmaus Hall.

Greetings from the Mission's Board

As Bethany's *Mission's Board* begins a new year we would ask everyone to please try and remember to pray for the many missionaries we support. As you probably are aware, from the founding of Bethany 50 years ago, missions have always held a high priority. And we believe that one reason Bethany has been blessed through all these many years is because of their strong commitment to giving to the work of missions.

A substantial percent of church income goes to missions, not to mention the time and efforts of some who take their burden for missionaries a little further than money and pitch in with their precious time on various opportunities that present themselves.

There are about 16 different missionaries we support, twelve of those being in different countries. Then there are about twelve other areas of mission support that fall under *Seminaries-Agencies-Education*.

The *Mission's Board* usually meets once a month to bring updates and needs to the front and depending on our budget at the time we dispense funds according to need. We, too, would appreciate prayer, as our desire is to use any and all monies wisely.

We also read the latest missionary letters, which we wish everyone would read as well since they are really meant for everyone. Many of these letters are downright inspiring! Check it out on the table along the wall in the foyer that's all set up with missionary literature and information.

And may we all go into this New Year remembering the *Great Commission*-Oswald Chambers put Jesus' command well when he said...*The special person called to do missionary work is every person who is a member of the church of Christ. The call does not come to a chosen few, it is to every one of us.*

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

If you would be interested in becoming an official member of Bethany Baptist Church, see Pastor Kurt. Our bylaws require that prospective members go through a membership class. This involves a theology study based on our church's statement of faith.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all of the prayers, concern and cards sent during Bob's illness. Also a big thank you for all of the help given for his memorial service. I love you all and will miss you. -Sharon Disselkoen

What a blessing to be part of Bethany Baptist Church Family. When you need prayer, help or encouragement, Bethany is here for you. That was the case for us.

On October 26th, I was laid off from my job after being there 4 years. It was a bit of a surprise but God is faithful. We have received much encouragement and prayer from so many.

Then on November 26, George had a mild heart attack. Once again, Bethany family was there for us. The many prayers were so appreciated. God answered your prayers and George is doing fine.

A big thank you to everyone at Bethany Baptist Church

George and Jenny Fletcher

Thank you for the cards and prayers and love offerings that I received due to my sister's passing. I appreciated it very much! -Val Davis

To the ladies at Bethany:

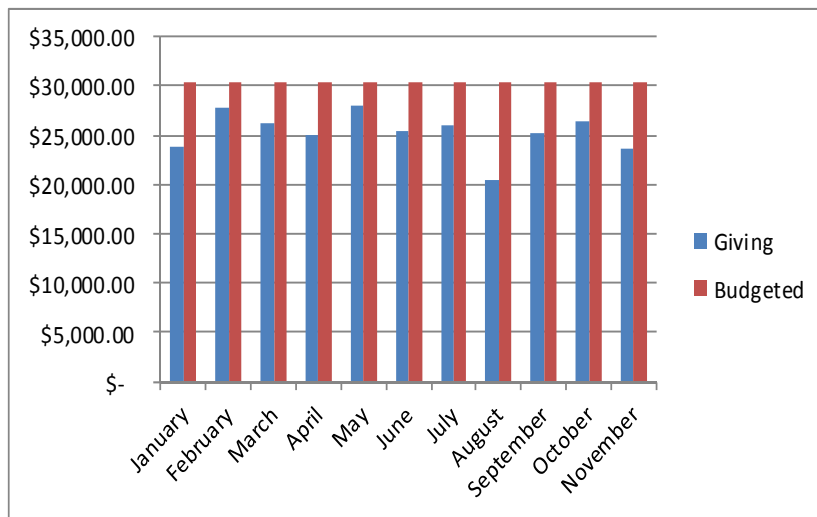
Thank you for your thoughtfulness. We are enjoying all those goodies you were so kind to bring us.

Jeff & Lillian Diehl

Marie Griffin would like to thank the carolers for coming to her home and singing the Christmas songs. She would also like to thank the Deaconess Board for the delicious basket of goodies that they brought her.

Peggy Harry called and said that she was "wonderfully blessed" by the deaconesses who came by with their presents and by the Christmas carolers and by the ladies who brought cookies.

Bethany's 2011 budget is based on receiving offerings averaging \$30,456.42 each month. Year to date budget requirement is \$335,020.62. Year to date receipts, through November, total \$277,989.32. The difference is a negative \$57,031.30. Bethany's 2011 General Budget to date is underspent by \$46,589.00.



We Can Always Use...

-Cash donations for "Bethany Cares". Help us provide food to needy Elementary thru Middle School Students. Each Friday packages of food are delivered to these kids so that they have something to eat thru the weekend.

-Food donations for BC Emergency Aid. Donations help feed the hungry in our community. This is especially useful as this year the needs of our community have been great!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Julie Belknap - Treatment for her lung disease (629 Don Vincente Way, BC, 89005)

Turbo Crawford - Continued pain in her back. (1330 Georgia Avenue, Apt. 305, BC, 89005)

Jim Hatch - Health challenges. (2050 Magic Way Space #160, Henderson, NV, 89015)

Scott Hedlund - Ongoing treatment for Lyme Disease (1330 Endora Way, BC, 89005)

Joann & Robert Kenneston - Joann's cancer. Parkinson's treatment for Robert. (1404 San Felipe Drive, BC, 89005)

Service Time: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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The *Communicator* is published monthly as a ministry of Bethany Baptist Church. For birthday and anniversary additions; changes in address; or removal from our mail-

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Senior Pastor
Kurt Hedlund

Administrative Assistant
Joann Kenneston

Choir Director
Jackie Walker

Pianist
Nita Wright

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Board of Elders
Lary Street, Chairman

Board of Deacons
Richard Walker, Chairman

Board of Deaconesses
Donna Disney, Vice-Chairwoman

Missions Board

Christian Education Board
Vern Burk, Chairman

Property Maintenance Board
Nate Crawford, Chairman

XYZ (Seniors)
Sandy Crawford and Donna Disney