

BETHANY HIGHLIGHTS

January 2016

Ben's Pen

It is hard to believe that we are already beginning a new year. The adage about time picking up speed as we get older seems very true. 2015 brought changes to Bethany from the passing of some long-time faithful members to the addition of some new friends to some physical changes. I am sure that 2016 will bring change as well, some of it unexpected and some of it planned. How will we handle that change? Will we try to go back in time and cling to something we fondly remember from the past or do we look forward to what God has for us this year? John 21 addresses this question. After the resurrection, Peter is back on the water fishing, his comfort zone, and Jesus comes to him and challenges his choices about where he is fishing. Jesus' spot causes the nets to nearly burst with results. God has possibilities in abundance in His plans for us in 2016. The question is will we cast our nets on the other side or will we just keep on as we have in the past. 2016 should not be a year we are caught in the same old habits. We need to use God's direction for our service and outreach and ministries and time. In just a few weeks we will be looking at 2016 in the past tense. It will fly by. Will we grieve what we lost and missed or will we celebrate?

Have a Blessed New Year,

Ben

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January is a great time to start new habits and ministries and grab opportunities. What if you let God use you in our choir, Bible study, shut-in visitation or food ministries in 2016? Those are just a few of the possibilities, if you let God. Your list might include something we have not thought of at all. The question is not can God use us, but rather it is how will God use us?

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On Sunday, January 10, immediately following the morning service, there will be a called business meeting for the purpose of electing deacons. The current deacon body has nominated two individuals to fill vacancies in the deacon body for two year terms. (There are currently four vacancies for terms that will end in the fall of 2017.) The two that are nominated are Lora Faulconer and Nelson Reid. There will be a paper ballot for the voting that day.

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In case of severe weather, any decisions to suspend church activities will be made and announced at least two hours prior to the scheduled times. You may check our church website and the local radio stations for announcements about cancellations.

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Received thru December 13, 2015	\$ 79,851.76
Needed thru December 13, 2015	\$101,705.52
Budget shortfall as of December 13, 2015	\$ 21,853.44
Expended thru November 30, 2015	\$ 84,052.91
Needed thru December 31, 2015 (Complete budget)	\$105,740.00

As you can see we are running behind budget for 2015. You will also note that we have not spent our complete budget. We are only spending about 86% of our budget, but we still need your help. You should receive this newsletter before the end of December 2015 and can still contribute to help cover our shortfall. Thank you.

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BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Ben Thomas, Pastor

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Bethany Baptist Church
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January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship & Communion 11:00 am					1 	2 Adult 1 SS Class Party – 6:30 pm
3 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	4 Men's Ministry 7:00 pm	5	6 Bible Study 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	7	8	9 
10 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Called Business Mtg – Deacon Election	11	12 Church Council 7:00 pm	13 PRIME TIMERS 12:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	18 Food Bank Ministry @ Massaponax BC	19 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20 Bible Study 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm		22	23
24 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	25	26	27 Bible Study 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	28	29	30 

January Birthdays

3 – Sue Terry	19 – Amy Marshall
5 – Jonathan Thomas	24 – David Anderson
6 – Troy Allen	24 – Julie Newberry
6 – Jordan Irving	25 – Marion Marshall
7 – Arlene Williams	26 – Jackson Sepulveda
14 – Matt Faulconer	27 – Donald Marshall
15 – Mary Lee Bullock	30 – Junior Bowles
17 – Samantha Corthon	31 – Claude Corthon
18 – Joanne Lee	

January Anniversaries

7 – Herbert & Jeanette Gatewood

If we fail to post a birthday or anniversary in our church family that you know of, please contact the church office with the date.

Homebound List

Joe Anderson	Herbert & Jeanette Gatewood
Claude & Dorothy Corthon	Pearl Haislop
Dorothy Gatewood	Kathleen Howard
Frank Gatewood	Ida Sanders

Deacon of the Month:

Emmitt Marshall

The mission of Bethany Baptist Church is to make a positive impact for Jesus Christ with people who live in our community by sharing the message of eternal life through Jesus Christ and by growing together as the family of God.

Just a thought... What the New Year brings us will depend a great deal on what we bring into it.

