

The Bethany Bell



Bethany Congregational Church

Volume 5

September

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Foxborough, Massachusetts



Rally Sunday will be September 13th. We are excited to kick off the year of Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, Small Groups, and Adult Fellowship Events. Worship on September 13th will be at 10:00 a.m., and Ellen Dean is organizing the Rally Day Cook Out following the worship service. Call her at 781-201-0331 if you can help out!

A Praying Church is a Powerful Church

Prayer Group meets Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Come pray for our church community, for our leaders, volunteers, committees and all who are part of our greater church family. We meet for 30-45 minutes starting with listening to some worship music and entering into communal prayer as well as silent prayer. Come one time or as often as you are able. If you are not able to join us, please be in a spirit of prayer at this time each week. If you have any questions or would like to be added to an email list, please contact Pamela Hogan at pthogan@verizon.net.



Join us on Saturday, October 17th!

Adult Fellowship Night! Join us on Saturday, October 17th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. for appetizers, dinner, and entertainment in the beautifully transformed Fellowship Hall! Cost is \$16 per person with tickets going on sale September 13th during Coffee Hour. We hope you can join us!



Adult Fellowship Night

“An educational system isn’t worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living but doesn’t teach them how to make a life.”
-Wolfgang Riebe, *A Further 100 Quotations to Think About*

A Message from the Pastor: Be of Good Courage

As I was flying back from Chicago I watched Joel Osteen on the inflight TV. Joel had a good message and it encouraged me. He shared the fact that things go dormant, but that is not the eternal state God has for us. It is during the time that things seem dormant that God is preparing us for new life that will flourish with blessing.

As I reflected on this message I thought about all the times Jesus went to be by himself in the wilderness or to have alone time. He needed time to recover, get his strength back, talk to his Father in heaven, and prepare his heart to re-engage in ministry.

When I broke my arm 3 years ago I was depressed that I couldn't do all the things that I loved doing. The hardest part was not being able to hold Levi when he was born and having others lay him on my chest. But as I prayed to God through that difficult time in my life I said "God, thank you for slowing me down because I wasn't listening to you and honoring the Sabbath." God wanted me to work through some things in my life, and to help me to live healthier.

In life we have to pass through some valleys. But the kingdom of heaven is like a city on a hill. Joel reminded me that God walks with us through dormant valleys in our life but the final stop is that city on a hill.

I saw a sign in a store in New Buffalo Michigan while I was on vacation and it said, "Smooth seas never made a skilled sailor". I saw that sign and said, "God, I know you wanted me to see that". Even when things seem hard it is a blessing. I think of Joseph in the Bible and how God revealed to Pharaoh there would be 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of want. Joseph understood the dream because his life had its highs and lows. He was the favorite son. Then he was imprisoned. Then he became Pharaoh's right-hand man. Joseph knew the mountain peaks and the dark valleys in life.

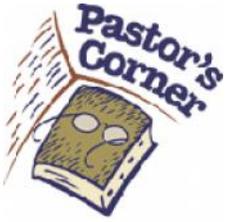
In hard times don't think the sky is falling. Professor of Business at Harvard, John Kotter says people and organizations usually are only willing to make hard decisions when there is a sense of urgency to change. God wants to give us good things. Maybe this dark valley I am going through is God saying some changes need to be made in my life so I can make room for this blessing God has waiting for me.

Hard and difficult times are a sign that things are going to get better. All of us are just passing through this world. We are climbing mountains and making our way through dark valleys. The Holy Spirit is guiding us to that final city on a hill that Jesus promised is awaiting us at the end of the journey.

Pastor Derek White



to everything
there is a season



For the past year staff and church leadership have been working to bring back a lot of the things we used to do, as well as introduce some new things. There are several prayer groups in the church

that have started up again. We believe it is important to be a praying church. Pam Hogan has been taking the lead on this. The confirmation program is set for the year. Steve Randal will be leading the first year confirmation program and I will be leading the second year program, which begins on September 24th with our “Illuminations Dinner”.

Bethany Challenge: Welcome 300

Some encouraging news for the church is we have had 27 new visitors to Bethany Church this summer as we kicked off the Bethany Challenge to welcome 300 new people to the church. We haven’t counted the community supper or VBS program yet. Rally Sunday is a great time to bring someone new to church. The drawing for the Patriot tickets for the Monday Night game will be in November. Every visitor card (with the name of the Bethany person who invited the visitor) goes into the drawing and the winner gets 4 tickets on the 50 yard line 20 rows up. If your friends or neighbors need encouragement, tell them you will take them to the game if you win the tickets.

PRAISE THE LORD!

Sunday Nights 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Dates: August 30, September 6, 13, 20, & 27

This is a praise group that will gather to sing spiritually uplifting songs to the Lord. Our goal is to learn to make a joyful sound to the Lord. If you are a singer or musician who would like to learn music with other singers and musicians, we hope you will join the group. We will begin with prayer, scripture, and then spend time learning new songs in parts. The final part of the night will be singing and playing the songs together as a group. Come and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

MAN 2 MAN:

Men’s Ministry has changed its name to “Man 2 Man”. The group seeks to be a Christian brotherhood that gathers month to month in fellowship. For those who have never been part of the Men’s Ministry before, we want you to be part of this new focused ministry. If you are trying to navigate big decisions in your life, we want to be a group that you can turn to for prayer and support. Contact Gary Hobel, Jim McKinney, or Pastor Derek for upcoming events.



BYG! Bethany Youth Group

Kickoff is Sunday, September 20th!

Jr. High meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and Sr. High meets from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. Please register online at www.bethanychurch.org - click on the “Youth @ Bethany” tab on the home page and scroll down to “Youth Group Registration”. Contact our interim co-leaders, Liz Myerson at ebmyerson313@gmail.com or Brett Jackson at speejackson@yahoo.com for more information.

Youth volunteers are needed to help with our BYG Cookie Decorating Table and to hand out goodie bags at the McGinty Family Fun Day on September 12th. Let Liz or Brett know if you can help!

Sing! Sing! Sing!

In order to keep our voices smooth and continue to lead the congregation in singing to the glory of God, the Choir will begin fall rehearsals on Thursday, September 3, at 7:00 p.m. We’ll rehearse the hymns that are chosen for our “Welcome Back” Sunday, September 13th. We’re also going to try other songs to sing during the service. If you’ve been singing with us, if you once sang with us, or if you’d like to sing, please join us at the September 3rd and September 10th rehearsals.



Tuesday Evening Faith and Fellowship Series!

Set Tuesday evenings aside September 29 – November 17 this fall! Join friends for dinner and then participate in a class or small group. Look over the offerings below – one of them is sure to pique your interest! We'll have more information and sign-ups starting in September, but you'll want to get this on your calendar now!

6:30 - 7:00 – gather and eat together

7:00 - 7:15 – worship

7:15 - 8:15 – Classes/Activities

There is a class for you no matter where you are on your faith journey:

Starting Point – A small group conversation about faith by Andy Stanley. Whether you are new to faith, curious about God, or coming back to church after some time away, this study is meant to help people reflect on central questions of faith and life.

Network/Spiritual Gifts – A course designed by Bill Hybels, Bruce Bugbee, and Don Cousins to help Christians understand serving as a key part of growing in faith, to discover their spiritual gifts, and to mobilize them to Godly service in the church.

Bible Study – The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul – This study by Adam Hamilton follows the journeys of Paul as he spread the Gospel through modern day Greece and Turkey.

Women's Study: The Armor of God – this study on prayer by Priscilla Shirer equips women to develop practical, purposeful prayer strategies; turn challenges and discouragement into opportunities for prayer; and grow spiritually as they dig deeper into scripture and expand their understanding of prayer.

Kids' Corner, Homework Room, Nursery Care – We'll have something fun for elementary school kids each week while their parents are in an adult group, nursery care for little ones, as well as a quiet space to complete school work.



A heartfelt thank you to all our summer Sunday school volunteers! We had a great time this summer “traveling through the

Parables”. Children love stories, and in Jesus’ parables we found much more than just stories! Each Sunday simple ideas like mustard seeds and lost sheep taught us something more about God’s character and His kingdom – and, everyone had a “travel journal” over the summer in which to keep mementos of the lessons. Although the summer was fun, we are looking eagerly forward to the regular church school year! Below is a list of the classes starting September 13 and where they’ll meet:

Pre-school and Kindergarten – 304

1st and 2nd grade – 302

3rd and 4th grade – 303

5th and 6th grade – 101

7th and 8th grade - 305

On Sunday, **September 6th**, we'll have a *Blessing of the Backpacks* during the children's message! Most of Bethany's children will have just started back to school, and we want to send them into the new year with prayers and a blessing! Kids should bring their backpacks to church that morning and put them up on the chancel before the service starts (this will save confusion when they come up front).



Missed a Service?

Our Worship Services are taped and are scheduled to air each week on Foxboro Channel 08 and Verizon FiOS Channel 39. Check cable listings for times.

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

The deadline for the next edition of *The Bethany Bell* is **Friday, September 18th**

at 8:30 a.m. Material may be submitted to haney@bethanychurch.org. Thanks!



Mission Outreach News

Mission Outreach's Community Dinners have been a great blessing for our community, and we thank all the cooks and servers and cleanup crew that have volunteered. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer at any of the dinners that are served the second Saturday of each month, please contact Jane Michelmores at 543-7187. At our August dinner we had 68 guests (the largest number so far). Our next serving date is Saturday, September 12th.

It has been a great summer. Here is a recap of what Mission Outreach has been doing:

Harvest Hands Ministry: Student Sponsorships were our June focus. Thank you to all who sent sponsorship money to Harvest Hands. Money is always needed to keep the students in school, especially those that reside in the orphanage. Please help if you can. There is information on the MOC Bulletin board or you can ask Ann Conaty. Also in June, MOC sponsored Gail and Devan Tierney to go on the mission trip organized by Eric DeLong's church. There will be more about their trip this fall. In July the focus was on School Supply Bags for the children that Harvest Hands assists. Thank you to all who filled bags and all who gave donations. The money was sent to Harvest Hands so they could purchase notebooks and/or other needed school supply items. Thank you to the special person who took care of shipping the box. Also thank you to Carol Fraser for organizing and partially filling bags.

Attleboro Area Council of Churches (AACC): This summer AACC sponsored a lunch program at the 4 playgrounds and donations of non-perishable items were needed. Our church sent juice boxes and snacks and a monetary donation. AACC also provides a breakfast bag for families staying in local motels. So we also collected cereals and items that could be used for breakfast or lunch. Anyone interested in donating to AACC's programs could see Ann Conaty or any MOC committee member. Gift cards to local area stores such as CVS, Walgreens and Stop & Shop are welcome as well as snack items.

Mansfield Food Pantry: In August our Mission focus was assisting at the Food Pantry on Saturday mornings to help the clients choose the food items. Anyone interested in helping in the future should go to their website www.mansfieldfoodpantry.org. See Jane Michelmores if you need further information on this project. Thank you to Jane for organizing the August sign-ups.

LYNN Ministries: Bethany will be helping LYNN Ministries serving the homeless in Attleboro & Brockton during the month of November. We will need: donations of cooked turkeys, veggies, gravy, etc. a lot of hands to prepare the Thanksgiving meal and older teens/adults to go out and serve. Keep reading the Bell/Bulletin & web for dates and details or you may contact Angela Maynard at 543-2256 or hillstreetcrew@verizon.net.

Basket Cases: A mission-minded group which supports New Hope, a women's/ children's shelter for victims of domestic violence through monthly gift baskets of donated items from church members. For information contact Cindy Bell at 401-405-1921.

Crop Walk: The Crop Walk is October 18th, with a new location this year at LaSalette Shrine on Park Street in Attleboro. This will be our October monthly mission opportunity. For additional information see Ellen Hawrylcw.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Deb Byron at byron@bethanychurch.org for more information on these groups.



Held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Parlor. Contact Jane Michelmores at 543-7187 or Deb Byron at byron@bethanychurch.org.

Coffee & Chat

Are your kids getting to the stage where you're doing less "mothering" and more worrying? Do you want to talk with others experiencing the challenges of parenthood and find Christ-centered support? Join Libby Carter at the Commons Eatery in Foxboro before church Sunday mornings at 8:45.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Deacons

9/6 Jim McKinney

9/13 Jim McKinney & Laurel DeCoste

9/20 Bill Hughes & Dave Fisher

9/27 Margie Wheeler & Tom Garcia

Nursery Volunteers

9/6 Janet See

9/13 Aurora Pop-Vicas

9/20 Mary Lou Pike

9/27 Lily Marszalkowski

Book of Life

Chancel Flowers

July 5th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of David Joury by Neda, Kevin, Nicholas, Alex and Nyla Penders.

July 12th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Michael McGinty by Cindy, Daniel, and David McGinty.

July 19th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harry Damon by Dot, Mark and Scott Damon.

July 26th, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of George Conaty, Sr. by the Conaty family.

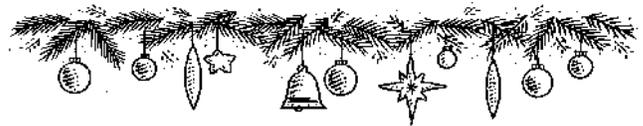
August 2nd, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Banian by his family.

Community News

The Food 'n Friends Kitchen at First Baptist Church in Mansfield will be run by our wonderful team of Jen and Maureen on Tuesday, September 1st. They are looking for people who can help out. Call Jen Murray at 508-699-7974, Maureen Driscoll at 508-339-7866 or sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.

McGinty Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday, September 12th on the Foxboro Common from 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Enjoy an affordable fun-filled day with your family and friends! There will be a moon walk, balloon art, craft tables, inflatables, live music, food for purchase, karate demonstration, raffles, games,

prizes and lots of other fun things to do. Our Bethany Youth will sponsor a table of cookie decorating. Entry fee is \$5 per person. All proceeds to benefit the *McGinty Scholarship Foundation*. The purpose of the *McGinty Scholarship Foundation* is to honor Mike McGinty, who died at the World Trade Center on 9/11. Each year scholarships are awarded to college bound students who share the same sense of community service and values as Mike did. In addition to raising money for the scholarships, Family Fun Day's intent is to celebrate our wonderful community by creating a festive atmosphere for families to come out and have a great day!



Christmas Fair News

Saturday, December 5th, 2015!

Fair Meeting

September 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in Room 303, we will meet to begin the important work of putting together the best Christmas Fair ever! Bring your ideas, questions, suggestions, whatever! Contact Dale Andersen if you need to have a time slot reserved on the agenda. (We want to allow you plenty of time to present your idea – you know the one – that one that's going to push our profits sky high!)

We have been offered a dry storage space for books, so if we find the people-power, we can continue our ten-year tradition of The Book Nook! Please note: as of right now, we CANNOT ACCEPT any book donations. We'll let you know if and when we are ready.

The Bethany Bell is posted on the Bethany website, "bethanychurch.org" the last week of each month, for the following month. To subscribe for email delivery, go to the website and click on the link to the left on the homepage. *The Bell* will be emailed to you as soon as it's done -- and you won't have to remember to go out to our website to read it!