

# COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

## “Freedom and Slavery and Independence Day”

*“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36*

In 1753 a little girl was born in Senegal, Africa. Shortly afterward, she was captured, sold to a slave trader, and sent to America on a slave ship. She was bought by a Boston businessman, one John Wheatley. The girl was named Phillis Wheatley (the slave ship which brought her to America was named *The Phillis*). She was a smart girl, and her slave owner family decided to educate her. She was taught not only to read and write, but she also learned Greek, Latin, theology, literature, history, and poetry.

Phillis published her first poem when she was just thirteen. A few years later she published a collection of poems. She is believed to be the first woman of African descent to ever publish a book of poetry, and the first slave to do so. She became something of a literary sensation in Europe and the Colonies.

Phillis and her American family were positively affected by the

Great Awakening. That spiritual movement emphasized the need for literacy, especially to understand the Bible. That movement also stressed the Christian responsibility to evangelize blacks and native Americans as well as whites.

One of the poems written by Phillis was entitled “On being brought from AFRICA to AMERICA.” In it she expressed her appreciation for her capture and enslavement--- not because slavery was a good thing--- but because she came to know Jesus because of it. “Twas mercy brought me from my Pagan land,/ Taught my benighted soul to understand/ That there's a God, that there's a Saviour too...”

Phillis supported America's move toward independence from Great Britain. At the same time she pointed out the hypocrisy of those who demanded freedom for themselves while still enslaving others. In a poem she wrote called “To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth,” she wrote:

“Should you, my lord, while you peruse my song,  
Wonder from whence my love of Freedom sprung,  
...I, young in life, by seeming

cruel fate Was snatch'd from Afric's fancy'd happy seat.  
...And can I then but pray  
Others may never feel tyrannic sway?”

Phillis put the lie to people of her day who claimed that blacks were intellectually inferior. Her poetry led to opportunities to correspond with John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, John Paul Jones, and George Washington. At age twenty, her owners set her free. She married and had three children. All died in infancy, and she herself passed away at age 31. (cf. Breakpoint, 7/4/2020, Vincent Caretta, *Phillis Wheatley*)

Pastor Kurt

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Guys, join us for a men's breakfast at Emmaus Hall on the church campus at 8 AM on Saturday, July 25. Wear a mask before and after we eat so that we will all do our best to not spread the coronavirus. We will try to provide a safe and yummy and healthy breakfast and to maintain some degree of social distancing. We will also provide an excellent speaker.

# JULY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Happy 4th of July ....OFFICE CLOSED...	4 Happy 4th of July
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
26	27	28	29	30	31 Elder's Meeting @ 10:00 am	

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday:** Parking Lot Service - 8:00 a.m.  
Inside Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School - 11:30 am via Zoom w/ Mac J  
Ladies Study - 11:15 am via Zoom w/ Sue W  
Bible Study - 6 pm. via Zoom w/ Rob H

**Wednesday:** Ladies Book Club - 10:00 am  
Via Zoom w/ Tina Selb  
Prayer Meeting - 1:00 pm via Zoom w/ Rob H

## July Birthdays

10<sup>th</sup> Ginny Peñuelas  
16<sup>th</sup> Scott Hedlund  
31<sup>st</sup> Donald Moberger  
31<sup>st</sup> Don Scott



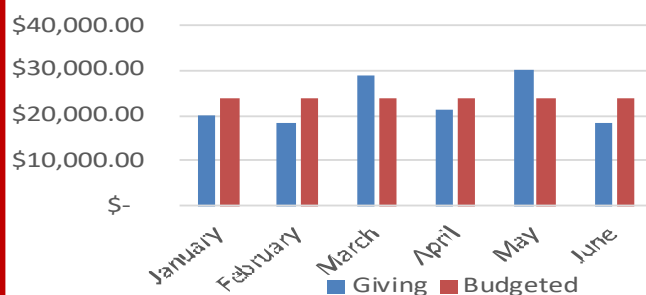
## July Anniversaries

17<sup>th</sup> Jerry & Sue Wilbur  
26<sup>th</sup> Mike & Marti Barth

Bethany's 2020 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$23,733.67 each month. Year to date budget requirement was \$142,402.02. YTD giving, through June, totaled \$137,420.39. The difference was (\$4,981.63).



## Bethany Financials





## Mission of the Month - July 2020

### Ryan and Laura House And their Five Kiddos

Ezly, Rex, Khray, Hadassah, Lainey



#### Ephesians 1:17-19

**"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and revelation in your growing knowledge of him, since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened so that you can know what is the hope of his calling what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe, as displayed in the exercise of his immense strength."**

What a BLESSING the quarantine has been. This might not be a popular idea these days where one can quickly find himself discouraged and depressed if he is not careful. To be honest, that was me. I was discouraged, filled with stress and anxiety and to be completely real, on the brink of depression. Stress upon stress was being piled on - cooped up in the house, our suburban being in the shop more than out of it, God still not seeing fit to heal my stomach, uncertainty of our future ministry because of COVID-19, trials in our marriage, trials in being parents...there is more, but I will stop at etc. You know what is interesting though? These are all secondary things that were not the direct cause. I was stagnant. Even though we are physically stagnant most days because of the quarantine, that is not what I am talking about. I was stagnant in my faith. Stagnant in my walk with the Lord. I had no joy. I was not getting to know and communicating with my King daily. This, my friends, was the direct cause. The stressors only revealed where my heart really was at with my relationship with Jesus. Thank God, He used the quarantine to wake me up and urge me to not continue living like this. He took away tons of distractions. He woke me up with the book of Ephesians, specifically chapter 1 and the verses above. I learned that I was not growing in my knowledge of Him and thus not receiving the needed spiritual wisdom and revelation. I had lost complete sight of the hope of his calling. I had lost complete sight of the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints. I had lost complete sight of the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe. This, my friends, is what woke me up. Wait...missionaries struggle with stress and anxiety and forget the One who we are working for? Yes. Yes we do. But, oh, what a glorious future we have awaiting us one day. This is what we can hope and have joy in, in the midst of trials. This is a truth that we need to remind ourselves of every. single. day. What a blessing it has been to reconnect with the God of the universe. Am I completely healed of everything that I have been struggling with? No, but I am thankful for Him waking me up during this time of the quarantine. Thank you Jesus that it was not wasted time. **What does the future look like for us?** Well, things are changing quite abruptly for us. At this point, we still have the desire to work among an indigenous people group here in Mexico, but right now it just does not seem like the right time to pursue that. So, we have decided to put those plans on pause and will not be moving to the mountains in July. We decided this for a few reasons: 1) My health. We don't feel like it would be wise at this point to move to the mountains without a firm diagnosis. What if I am able to get a diagnosis here in Arizona and get sufficient treatment? We would still decide for the pause because of reason 2) Homeschooling and packing. Even if I were to get a diagnosis and treatment, that still wouldn't give us much time to prepare for the move among other things that are already on our plate. 3) COVID-19. Because of the virus the authorities have shut off access to the mountains, with no timetable of reopening, to protect the little villages and towns that have little to no access of medical care. How long will the pause be? Most likely, the pause will be for at least a year to allow Laura to have a full year of homeschooling without moving locations. What will we be doing in the meantime? We are looking into the possibility of a ministry at "Rancho Siloé" which is our training center that trains, equips, and disciples Mexican nationals for the mission field. Again, our desire is to be in a tribal location one day, but with everything that has gone on in the past few months, what we desire most is to walk closely with Jesus each and every moment of every day and let Him direct us to where He wants us. **What are we up to right now?** Right now, we are currently spending time at my parents house in Surprise, Arizona to see if we can get some kind of diagnosis and treatment for my stomach issues. During our time here I will be undergoing numerous tests so you can be praying for that. **Prayer Requests - Ryen's Health:** I continue to deal with stomach issues as I mentioned above and have gone through many tests and 3 doctors in Mexico that have not been able to diagnose me with anything concrete. At this point I have been on a very strict diet for a while and will undergo some tests while here in Arizona. You can be praying that God will allow a diagnosis to be found and wisdom for the doctor for the correct treatment. **- Reliable Vehicle:** In addition, we are continuing to search for a reliable vehicle that is capable of mountain travel as we continue to have the desire to be in a tribal work one day, Lord willing. At this point, we have not found the right one so be praying that God would provide the right one for our family. **- Next Steps:** Pray for us as we navigate through all the changes we have gone through these last few months. We would love your prayers for wisdom and patience in how we proceed with future plans. Also pray for the ability to look to the Lord for our identity and worth during these uncertain times. **- Current Events:** Pray for our country in this time of division, racism, police brutality, etc. It hurts us to see our country like this especially after all that it has been through with the coronavirus. Pray for healing for our nation. Pray that God would use these crazy times to draw people to Himself and that we would see a revival in the midst of this upheaval. Come, Lord Jesus. Maranatha. **"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere" - Ephesians 6:18**

Bethany Baptist Church  
210 Wyoming Street  
Boulder City, NV 89005

Happy July 4th

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**Board of Elders** - *Mike Barth, Chairman*

**Board of Deacons** - *Jerry Wilbur, Chairman*

**Board of Deaconesses** - *Sue Wilbur, Chairwoman*

**Christian Education Board** - *Jenny Fletcher, Chairwoman*

**Property Maintenance Board** - *Jerry Wilbur, Chairman*

**Missions Board** - *Rob Hedlund, Chairman*

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**Senior Pastor**  
*Kurt Hedlund*

**Music Director and Administrator**  
*Don Scott*

**Service Times:** 8:00 a.m. Parking Lot Service  
9:30 a.m. inside Worship Center

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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