

April 2020

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH



“Finding Balance in Time of Crisis”

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...” Hebrews 10:25
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus in Mark 12:31

A primary Biblical responsibility of Christians is to fellowship and worship together. A few churches that I have read about are appealing to this admonition as a reason for ignoring government restrictions not to have public services. They have also appealed to the constitutional right to freedom of worship and freedom of assembly.

Jesus also told his followers to love their neighbors as themselves. The medical evidence seems clear that the coronavirus is spread by person to person contact. So it would seem that loving our neighbor requires limiting those personal contacts. Martin Luther criticized Christians in his day who regarded taking precautions against the Black Death as evidence of a failure of faith. He rebuked those who make “no use of intelligence or medicine. [This] is not trusting God, but tempting him. God has created medicines and provided us with intelligence to guard and take good care of the body so that we can live in good health.”

We are blessed with modern technology that enables us to still connect with each other in some kind of fashion. Use the phone. Talk to people on social media. We have a couple of Bible studies that are using Zoom. Call the church if you want to be connected with them. Sunday messages are available at our website (bcbethany.com) by audio format and written manuscript. We are talking about other media improvements. We are hoping to have a stay-in-your-car Easter service. We will keep you updated about that.

We also must face the emotional stress of the constant news focus on the pandemic and its economic consequences. We need some kind of balance in dealing with that. So far the death rate of those who contract the virus in the US is about 1.5%. Dr. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Disease, thinks that ultimately that mortality rate will be less than 1%. Those statistics must be balanced with the fact that those who are most endangered by this disease are those who are older and who have underlying health difficulties. Our community and our congregation are disproportionately represented by people in that category. So we need to be sensitive to their (our) vulnerability.

Our effort not to spread the coronavirus by limiting our contact with other people must also be balanced by our responsibility to serve other people. Our example is Jesus who “came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45) The health care workers and food providers and package deliverers among us have a certain risk in the jobs that they do. As the pandemic worsens around us, we may need to take certain risks to help needy people.

In the great epidemic of the second century (debated whether smallpox or measles was the cause) the famous physician Galen fled Rome because he did not want to become a victim. A century later there was another great epidemic in the Roman world that at its height was killing 5000 people a day in the city of Rome. By this time Christians were becoming a more significant presence.

Dionysius, the bishop of Alexandria wrote an Easter letter (how appropriate for us this month) in which he observed, “Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbors and cheerfully accepting their pains. Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead. ... The best of our brothers lost their lives in this manner...” *...continued inside...*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2nd Joe Folk
4th Linda Ronnow
12th Clive Bevan
16th Kathy Sloan
17th Betty Fishburn
18th Nancy Quinn
19th Linda Burns
Christina Nycek
30th Mike Barth



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

1st Steve & Betty Fishburn
17th Kurt & Suzy Hedlund
28th Irv & Patti Childress

MISSION OF THE MONTH APRIL 2020



Pray for Nogales Baptist Seminary Ramon Rodriguez, Director

NBS was begun in 1957 by Missions Door missionaries to train leaders for ministry in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries.



...CONTINUED FROM FRONT...

Shortly before this, Cyprian, the bishop of Carthage, wrote, "How suitable, how necessary it is that this plague and pestilence, which seems horrible and deadly, searches out the justice of each and every one and examines the minds of the human race; whether the well care for the sick, whether relatives dutifully love their kinsmen as they should, whether masters show compassion for their ailing slaves, whether physicians do not desert the afflicted." Few among us will be called upon to make this ultimate sacrifice. But the example of our spiritual forbears should not be lost to us.

We deal with anxiety in all of this by trusting God. Our lives belong to Him. Paul encouraged us by saying, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:6-7) - Pastor Kurt

You may remember that many months ago Ramon's wife, Ana, had a severe stroke. Praise God Ana has made good progress recovering. She is able to function quite well. Her eating and swallowing problems have greatly decreased.

Thank God that Ramon's children and grandchildren are walking with God and doing well.

Pray for the 'practical work' of the students, which usually involves evangelism, discipleship and other ministries in conjunction with local churches. This is very important to the development of the students and their preparation as pastors, as well a being important to the people who benefit from these labors.

The seminary income is \$2,500 per month less than expenses. Pray for God to raise up supports to assistant with this shortfall. They also need money for 120 chairs, roof repairs, and washroom repairs. There is a continuous need for money to cover routine maintenance items.

Pray for the 43 full-time students who daily attend classes in person. Pray for their wives and children, for safe traveling, for their learning of God's word, and for the effectiveness of the teachers who teach them.

Pray for the 38 students who attend extension classes on a part-time basis, for God to guide and use them.

Pray for staff teacher Hector Escobar who has been with the seminary 15 years. Pray for God to use him mightily in his teaching of God's word to the students. And pray for his wife, Arcelia, who has served as secretary, treasurer and teacher of Christian Education.



April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Easter Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

EASTER SUNDAY AT BETHANY

Stay in your car Easter Services



@ 9:00 a.m.

And

@ 10:30 a.m.



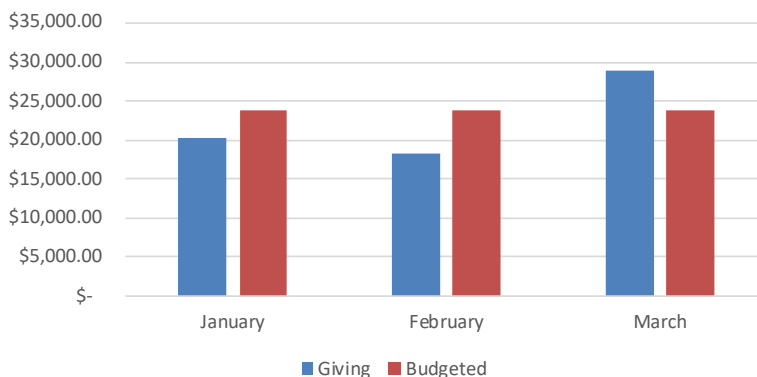
Bethany's 2020 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$23,733.67 each month. Year to date budget requirement was \$71,201.01 Year to date giving, through March, totaled \$67,414.29. The difference is (\$3,786.72).

WEEKLY EVENTS

GO TO BCBETHANY.COM FOR LINKS

- Sunday:** Prayer Time - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday:** Women's Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday:** Prayer Meeting - 7:30 a.m.
Ladies Book Club - 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday:** Women's bible Study - 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday:** Men's Group - 7:00 a.m.

Bethany Financials





Senior Pastor - Kurt Hedlund kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Music Director - Don Scott don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Administrative Assistant - Donald Scott don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Service Time: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.

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

Telephone:
702.293.1912

Web Site:
www.bcbethany.com

E-Mail:
don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

2020 Boards

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

The **Communicator** is published monthly as a ministry of Bethany Baptist Church. For birthday and anniversary additions; changes in address; or removal from our mailing list please contact the church office at 702-293-1912 or e-mail don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com.