

January 2020

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

“Does God Change His Mind?”

“Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind (naham); for He is not a man that He should change His mind (naham).” 1 Samuel 15:29

One of the fundamental characteristics of God is His immutability. He does not change. That truth is asserted in the verse above. Yet earlier in the same chapter the same Hebrew word (*naham*) is used to describe God’s reaction to the sin of King Saul. In 15:11 God says through Samuel, **“I regret (*naham*) that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands.”** The impression we might get is that God thinks that He has made a mistake in choosing Saul to be king.

In Exodus #32 the Lord tells Moses that He is so upset with the fact that the Hebrews have made a golden calf that he wants to wipe them all out and start over with Moses. Moses pleads with God not to do this. In v. 14 we read, **“So the Lord changed His mind (*naham*) about the harm which He said He would do to His people.”** But we just read that God does not change His mind. How do we make sense of this?

The Hebrew scholars tell us that *naham* originally meant “to breathe deeply.” It then came to be used of physical displays of emotion, which might include compassion, sorrow, or comfort. Usually the verb in the Old Testament is used of God. In some usages of the term in the Old Testament it has the idea of “comfort.” Isaiah 40:1 reads, **“‘Comfort, O comfort (*naham*) My people,’ says your God.”** The name Nehemiah is understood to mean “Comfort of YHWH.” See also 2 Samuel 10:2; 12:24; Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 61:2; Jeremiah 16:7.

Sometimes the word has the idea of great sorrow. That is its meaning in 1 Samuel 15:11. The Lord felt deep sorrow about Saul’s disobedience and how His choice of Saul has led to this state of affairs. Another example of this usage is Genesis 6:6. The author is describing the wickedness of people on the earth that results in God bringing a universal flood. **“The Lord was very sorry (*naham*) that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.”**

Out of this usage of the word *naham* involving a deep sorrow about a given state of affairs, there developed an additional meaning of “to change one’s mind.” Thus we have God’s declaration cited above in 1 Samuel 15:29. Psalm 110:4 says of the coming Messiah, **“The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind (*naham*), You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”** In these instances God is referring to His unchanging decrees and/or His sovereign purposes. They do not change.

In instances where God pronounces judgment, those declarations are often conditional. Judgment will be delayed or stopped if people repent or respond in a certain way. Thus it was in Exodus 32 that God’s threatened judgment was stopped because of the intercession of Moses. In the Book of Jonah in #3 the prophet pronounces a message upon Nineveh given to him by God: **“Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”** The people did repent. Thus we read in Jonah 3:10, **“When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented (*naham*) concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.”**

So it is that we can trust an unchanging God who always keeps His promises and acts according to his virtuous character, yet also graciously forgives us when we turn to Him in faith. - Pastor Kurt

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Pastor Kurt and Don and families thank you for your generous gifts to us in this Christmas season. We appreciate your kind and supportive spirit.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Guys, join us on Saturday, January 11, at 8:15 AM in Emmaus Hall for a tasty breakfast. Bob Jarrard will bless us with an encouraging word.

SUPER BOWL BASH

The Super Bowl is scheduled for Sunday, February 2, at 3:30 PM. If you can’t make it to Miami, Florida, show up at the Hedlunds’ house at 1133 Endora Way. Bring a snack to share and a drink. If you show up early, you can make predictions about the score after each quarter. The best guessers will receive valuable (???) prizes.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7th Bob Miller
 8th Samuel Buchanan
 10th Dan Bunch
 Tina Selb
 Carlos Suarez
 26th Doris Roederer
 30th Sharon Daniel
 31st Barbara Forcum

Children's Ministry

A great big thank you to Bethany Church for the generous donations to the children for their Christmas gifts. I was able to give 30 children a gift, a gift card to either McDonalds or Subway and also help out 4 families with a food gift card.

We had a Happy Birthday Jesus party also.

The church has been so supportive of the Children's Ministry: not only with donations of money, time from our teachers (24 volunteers) and prayer support from the whole church.

The children are eager to be here - they call Bethany their church and they are learning about the Bible, memorizing verses, learning the books of the Bible, Ten Commandments and about accepting Jesus as their Savior.

It is my pleasure to serve God and our church as we reach out to children and families that need to know Jesus.

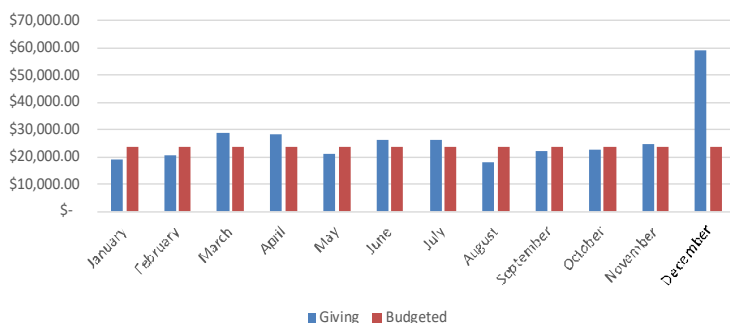
Thanks again for all of your support.
 Jenny Fletcher - Children's Ministry Director

Bethany's 2019 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$23,610.48 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was \$283,325.76. Year to date giving, through December 29th, totaled \$312,974.22. The difference was \$29,648.46.

Bethany's 2019 general budget, through November, was underspent by \$27,650.19.

Bethany Financials



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1st Don & MaryJo Scott



Bethany Ladies 3rd Saturday Fellowship

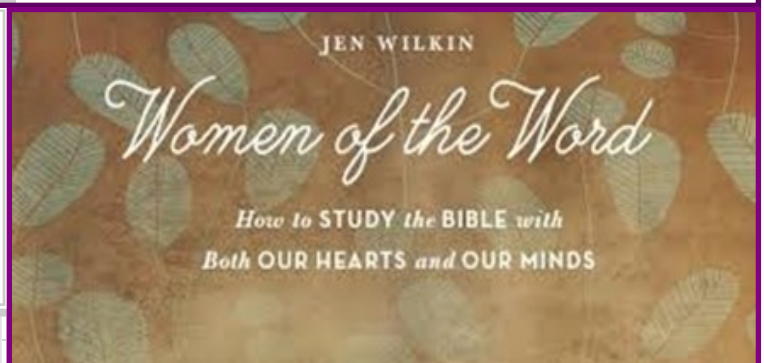
Saturday, January 18, 2020 – 9AM to 11AM
Breakfast will be served.

Guest Speaker – Tracy Brailsford
 from LIVING GRACE HOMES

Disadvantaged populations are one illness, one crime, one missed rent payment from disaster. These are not just words. We live it on a daily basis.

Living Grace Homes is a foundation recognized as an indispensable evidence-based program on the front lines, providing a safe haven for young, pregnant, homeless women between the ages of 14-24. LGH provides food, clothing, shelter, transportation, parenting skills, guidance and education.


Instead of a prayer mug swap, we will collect items for the Living Grace residents: razors, black haircare products, toothpaste, size 4, 5 & 6 diapers, and pull ups.



Bethany Ladies Sunday School Class

Beginning Sunday, January 5, 2020
 Please reserve your book with Sue Wilbur
 Books are \$8 –2019 Edition

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed 	2	3	4 Care Center Visit 9:45am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Men's Breakfast 8:15am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Ladies Event 9:00 am
19 Christian Ed Meeting 12:30 pm	20 Martin Luther King Day	21	22	23	24	25
26 Blackwood Quartet Concert	27	28	29	30	31	

WEEKLY EVENTS

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 time - 7:30 a.m.
Women's Book Club - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday: Ladies' Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

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



CARE CENTER VISIT

Our next Care Center & Hospital Long Term Area Visit will be on Saturday, the 4th. Meet at 9:45 AM. @ Mtn. View. Come share time and sing some songs with the residents.

Spend a small amount of time with those not able to attend a Sunday service!

Bethany Baptist Church
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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.

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702.293.1912

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2020 Boards

Board of Elders - Mike Barth, Chairman

Board of Deacons - George Fletcher, Chairman

Board of Deaconesses - Sue Willbur, Chairwoman

Christian Education Board - Jenny Fletcher, Chairwoman

Property Maintenance Board - Lary Street, Chairman

Missions Board - Rob Hedlund, Chairwoman

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.