

## "The Church, Diversity and Racial Prejudice"

"...I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..." Revelation 7:9

It is clear from the Bible that God has a special love for the descendants of Abraham. But God's choice to make the Jews the object of His special blessing had a broader purpose. As the author of Psalm 67 wrote, "God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him." The Lord wants all kinds of people to be connected to Him.

Though we have a predominantly white community, we are blessed to have a disproportionate number of people in our church from different ethnic backgrounds. This is a great testimony to a watching world about the power of Christ to unite us.

Many of us come from a background where we have never experienced any prejudice because of our skin color. But it is helpful for our life together to realize that many of our fellow Christians with a different skin color have had a different experience and still sometimes encounter prejudice. Early in my life, I worked for a small business owner who was African American. He avoided driving through two towns in the area, because the police officers there tended to stop all people with darker skin who drove through their communities.

Several studies have shown in an objective fashion that racial prejudice continues to exist. One study found that African American defendants receive longer sentences than white defendants for the same crimes under identical circumstances. Innocent black people are about seven times more likely to be convicted of murder than innocent white people. Another study showed racial disparities in traffic stops during the day, when the race of the driver can be seen, but not at night. (Denison Forum, 9/26/2017)

The good news is that racially and ethnically motivated hate crimes fell by almost 50% between 1994 and 2015. In 1959 only 4% of Americans approved of interracial marriage; today 87% approve.

Jesus had a pattern of breaking through the cultural barriers of his day by showing love to tax collectors, prostitutes, Gentiles, Samaritans, children and Roman soldiers. May we as a local church reflect Jesus' example by reaching out to different kinds of people to demonstrate the transformational power of the love of God.

Pastor Kurt

#### CHURCH HIKE

At 8 AM on Saturday, January 20, meet us at the church for a hike through White Rock Canyon. This involves a round trip hike of about six miles, or a little more, from a trailhead a few miles beyond the Colorado River bridge down to the Colorado River and back. So bring along water and snacks. To see what the hike looks like, visit http://www.birdandhike.com/Hike/LAME/Trailheads/WhiteRkCynTH/\_WhiteRkCynTH.htm.

#### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Guys, join us at the church in Emmaus Hall for breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 8:15 AM. We will hear from a former NFL player about what Christian manhood is about.

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Minnie Williams
- 4<sup>th</sup> John Barth
- 7<sup>th</sup> Bob Miller
- 8<sup>th</sup> Samuel Buchanan
- 10<sup>th</sup> Dan Bunch Tina Selb Carlos Suarez
- 12<sup>th</sup> Joanne Good
- 16<sup>th</sup> Julie Jules
- 26<sup>th</sup> Doris Roederer
- 30<sup>th</sup> Sharon Daniel
- 31<sup>st</sup> Barbara Forcum



### XYZ Potluck

Our XYZ Potluck will take place on Thursday, the 18th. Over 50? Bring a dish to share and come to the 5PM meal!

Bethany's 2017 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$24,224.36 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was \$290,692.32. Year to date giving, through December 24th, totaled \$274,937.85. The difference was (\$15,754.47). Bethany's 2017 general budget, through November, was underspent by \$7,635.66.

# JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

16<sup>th</sup> Bill & Doris Roush

## WOMEN's MINISTRY

\*The Sunday Morning Bible Study begins again on January 7th. Studying the book of 1 Peter.

\*The Tuesday Evening Bible Study restarts on the 9th. Sue Wilbur leads the group as it studies from the book "It's Good To Be Queen".

Sheba Journeyed Across the Desert with a Caravan of Riches, Only to Find the Greatest Treasure of Them All. So Can You.

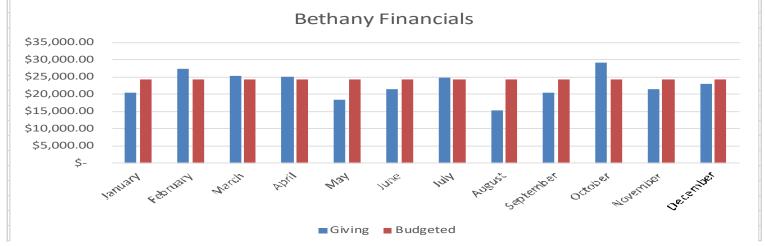
When it comes to famous queens of the Bible, we know the good one, Queen Esther, and the bad one, Queen Jezebel. Now meet the wise one, the queen of Sheba, who traveled to Jerusalem to test the mind and heart of a king.

Her quest for wisdom will surprise you, challenge you, inspire you, change you. This wealthy royal from antiquity will show you how to live boldly, seek after truth, ask the right questions, encourage others, receive graciously, and honor the Lord above all.

Shedding new light on this ancient biblical role model,

Liz Curtis Higgs unveils timeless wisdom for all who aspire to please the king of Kings.





# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	l Office Closed	2 Ladies Bible Study 9 am	<b>3</b> Prayer Time 7 am Praise Team 5:30 pm	4	5	6 Men's Bible Study 7 am Care Center 9:45 am
7	8	9 Ladies Bible Study 9 am And 6 pm	l 0 Prayer Time 7 am Praise Team 5:30 pm	11	12	I 3 Men's Bible Study 7 am Deaconess' Meeting 9:00 am
l 4 Christian Ed Meeting I 2:30 pm	l 5 Martin Luther King Day	l 6 Ladies Bible Study 9 am And 6 pm	l 7 Prayer Time 7 am Praise Team 5:30 pm	l 8 XYZ Potluck 5PM	19	20 Men's Bible Study 7 am Church Hike 8:00 am
2 I Deacon's Meeting	22	23 Ladies Bible Study 9 am And 6 pm	24 Prayer Time 7 am Praise Team 5:30 pm	25	26 Elders' Meeting 9:00 am	27 Men's Bible Study 7 am
28	29	<b>30</b> Ladies Bible Study 9 am And 6 pm	<b>3  </b> Prayer Time 7 am Praise Team 5:30 pm			

#### 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. Women's bible Study - 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting 7:30 a.m. Praise Team Practice - 5:30 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 6th. Meet at 9:45 AM. 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* 210 Wyoming Street Boulder City, NV 89005

> Senior Pastor - *Kurt Hedlund* <u>kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com</u> Administrative Assistant - *Donald Scott* <u>don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com</u>

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

*Office Hours*: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

*Telephone:* 702.293.1912

*Web Site*: www.bcbethany.com

*E-Mail:* don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com **2018 Boards Board of Elders -** Bill Roush, Chairman

Board of Deacons - Lary Street, Chairman

Board of Deaconesses - Sue Willbur, Chairwoman

Christian Education Board - Jenny Fletcher, Chairwoman

Property Maintenance Board - TBD, Chairman

Missions Board - Kathleen Hill, 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.