

# Milton's Good News

## January – “At a Glance”

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January a time for reflection of 2016 and to renew ourselves to be closer followers of Jesus Christ and grow in love with one another in the year 2017.

*“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”*  
Philippians 2:5 (NIV) -Cheri Buss

## “A devotion from the Pastor’s desk...”

As the new year begins, so begins a new devotional... “Profile of the Obsessed”

### Lovers

I think sometimes we assume that if we are nice, people will know that we are Christians and want to know more about Jesus. But it really doesn't work that way. I know a lot of people who don't know Christ and are really nice people--nicer and more fun to be with, in fact, than a lot of Christians I know.

There has to be more to our faith than friendliness, politeness, and even kindness. Jesus teaches in Luke's gospel:

*If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even "sinners" love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even "sinners" do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even "sinners" lend to "sinners," expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. -- [Luke 6:32-36](#)*

True faith is loving a person after he has hurt you. True love makes you stand out.

- Francis Chan

Being a follower of Christ, a Christian, is not a partially “in” endeavor. We are expected to be all “in”, completely immersed, partly why baptism used to be done with complete immersion. The first quality of being completely immersed in Christ, is to love as Christ loved. Christ loved all persons, even those who ended up rejecting Him and crucifying Him. Now, I am sure you have heard stories about amazing acts of forgiveness, such as the mother who lost a child in the parking lot, among others. How many of these stories have you lived though? Do you love those who wrong you? Are you ready to become obsessed with Jesus, with God, and start living as such?

### Special points of interest:

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## Traditional Worship Team Report

The following is the work of the Traditional Worship Team which met on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. Here are February's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles.

**February 5<sup>th</sup>** – Gather Us in (2236); It Is Well with My Soul (377); As a Fire Is Meant for Burning (2237); This Little Light of Mine (585); *Matthew 5:13-20*, “*Salt of the Earth*”; **Communion**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** – Freely, Freely (389); Breathe on Me, Breath of God (420); Blest Be the Tie That Binds (557); The Gift of Love (408); *Psalms 119:1-8*, *Matthew 5:21-37*, “*Our Vows*”

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Let There Be Peace on Earth (431); O Young and Fearless Prophet (444); Where Charity and Love Prevail (549); Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (402); *Psalms 119:33-40*, *Matthew 5:38-48*, “*Won't You Be My Neighbor?*”

**February 26<sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration Sunday**– Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus (349); Be Thou My Vision (451); I Stand Amazed in the Presence (371); Shine, Jesus, Shine (2173); *Psalms 99*, *Matthew 17:1-9*, “*Mountains and Molehills*”

## New Staff Member....

Dan Holmes has resigned as our Sexton and we wish him the best in his future plans. Bethany UMC wants to welcome Jack Stockdale, our newest Sexton staff member to Bethany UMC.

([Jack Stockdale Bio](#)) Hi, my name is Jack. I've lived in the area all my life, now residing in New Columbia. I'm a Lewisburg High School graduate. My wife's name is Peggy and we have one son, Curtis. I have 2 wonderful grandchildren, Taelyn, age 5 and Cohen, age 3. I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, hunting, fishing, bowling, and going to my cabin in western Union County.

## Contemporary Worship Report:

The Contemporary Worship Team met on January 11, 2017 to plan for February's services. We invite anyone and everyone to join us on Sunday nights in the Contemporary Sanctuary to enjoy great times of fellowship and worship together! We hope to see you there! Below, the songs, scriptures, and sermon titles are listed for the month of February. The Contemporary Worship Team meetings will take place on the first Friday of every month at 6:00pm and practice will continue to take place at 7:00pm.

**February 5<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Spirit; Lead Me to the Cross; Worthy, Worthy; Let There Be Light; Spirit Speaks; *1 Corinthians 2:1-12*; “*Words of the Spirit*”

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** – Set a Fire; You Are My All in All; Give Me Faith; Jesus Loves Me; All Consuming Fire; *1 Corinthians 3:1-9*; “*Adulting in Christ*”

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Cornerstone; Be Thou My Vision; It Is Well; King of Glory; From the Inside Out; *1 Corinthians 3:10-23*; “*Our Temple*”

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** – Great Are You Lord; Majesty; Famous One; You Are Love and Love Alone; Your Glory; *2 Peter 1:16-21*; “*Witnessing Transfiguration*”

## Trustees' Report.....

At their January meeting the Trustees received a report from Michael Hudock of Hudock Capital Group. Current value of the investment portfolio is \$966,731. It was noted that the withdrawals in 2015 totaled \$160,500 and in 2016 it was \$245,000. (Note: over \$60,000 each year has been needed for the deficit in Current Expense.) The Trustees plan to receive a report regarding the Prudential investment accounts from their representatives during their February meeting.

Renovations to the basement continue. Except for a few finishing touches the restrooms are completed. The Trustees prefer the restrooms not be used until the renovations to the Social Hall are completed. Speaking of the Social Hall, the walls are painted, and new ceiling and lighting has been installed. As of this writing we haven't been provided a date for the installation of the flooring. The finishing touch will be new stair treads on the newly painted stairway.

After prayerful consideration the Trustees have approved proposals from T-Ross Brothers and Air Tech HVAC to renovate the entire first floor of the Parish House. As our paid staff has grown it is getting more and more difficult for everyone to work out of one small office. At the conclusion of the project, for the first time in many years the Pastor will have his/her own office.

Submitted by, Jamie Aurand

## Ad Board

Bethany is again engaged in helping occasionally with the weekly Community dinners at St. Andrew's. We will assist with the meal on Monday, February 13, as servers and possibly also as cooks. More detail about the event appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Missions Team has been in touch with Milton officials about the possibility of opening up Bethany to the community as part of a special celebration on Sunday, February 26 in connection with the Borough's bicentennial, and the Board has voted to approve and pursue this outreach.

There have recently been some significant problems with the hand-held microphone that's used in the church's main sanctuary, and we have given Susquehanna Valley Sound & Vision permission, based on their diagnosis, to quote us on a replacement for it. That microphone is not only used as a mobile unit for the benefit of traditional service congregants, it also comes into play as a key component of our blended services, when our Music Director incorporates it into his hookup to sing and play worship tunes. (Here it should be noted that the handhelds in the main sanctuary and the Contemporary service area are not interchangeable, because the two systems operate on different frequencies. Hence, replacing the former is the only option.)

SVSV has also been engaged to give our whole main sanctuary sound system a thorough cleaning, which, they assure us, is all it needs to bring it to top operating condition again.

The church makes a yearly donation to the Milton Fire Department, and the Board has approved that expenditure again for 2017.

The Board acknowledges, with regret but with full understanding, the recent resignations of two members of the Pastor/Staff/Parish Relations Committee. Those folks have the great thanks of the church governance body and entire Bethany family for the jobs they did so well and the many services they rendered "above and beyond" in the execution of their respective PSPRC duties. The search for their successors begins immediately.

Cost analysis leads us to reconsider who we should have as the generation-transmission supplier of electric power to the church, the Parish House, and the Parsonage. The Board and the Finance Committee have given Trustees the go-ahead to research the matter and choose a different company.

Rod Moore

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## Missions/Outreach Committee...

### **Milton Panther Packs Program (New Mission: Monthly)**

Bethany UMC Mission Committee and St Andrew's UMC will be looking to expand the Milton Panther Packs Program to help provide weekend food items for elementary students in need in the Milton Area School District.

Bethany UMC will be in charge of providing 120 Fruit Cups, which equals ten donations of a 12 pack of fruit cup for each month.

Please bring in your (12 pack) of Fruit Cup and place in the box located in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Milton Community Dinner (Christ Evan Lutheran)**

There will be a Community Dinner on **Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:00 pm**. Location: Christ Evan Lutheran Church.

Community Dinners are between Bethany UMC, Christ Evan Lutheran, Trinity Evan Lutheran, United in Christ Lutheran, and New Hope Ministry Center HandUp Foundation to feed low income people in need.

Next month Community Dinner at Christ Evan Lutheran will be on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

### **Milton Harvest Community Dinner (St Andrews UMC)**

There will be a Milton Harvest Community Dinner on **Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:00 pm**. at St. Andrew's UMC, Milton; in which Bethany UMC will serve. Help with cooking report at 2:00 pm and servers report at 4:45 pm. Please sign up on the volunteer list in the sanctuary or by calling the church office at 570-742-9796.

### **Milton Bicentennial Worship Service**

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm Bethany UMC will host a community Milton Bicentennial Service here at Bethany UMC. Watch for more details and how you can be a part of this outreach.

## Lay Leader's Report

Pastor Damien and I paid visits to our home-bound members in the days just prior to Christmas, delivering them gifts from their church friends and joining them for fellowship and prayers. There was a gleam in every eye, and joy was in the air everywhere we went. This, for certain, is what Bethany is made of.

We were all saddened and upset by the passing of Peg Porter on December 22, but we take heart in recalling the wonderful memories that she left us and in knowing that she has gone in glory to take her specially-reserved place in God's kingdom. God has blessed our Peg, just as He blessed us with her.

It was my great pleasure to conduct the full Sunday morning traditional services at Bethany on both January 1 (including the administration of the elements of Holy Communion) and January 8, 2017, in the absence of the Pastor. The sermons at the Contemporary services on those days were more than ably handled by Dave Gehrum of Watsontown UMC. Also on January 1, I conducted an afternoon Communion service for the residents of the Rockwell Assisted Living Center and dispensed Communion during that evening's Contemporary service back at the church.

Our main sanctuary pew racks have now been stocked with single-page double-sided laminated copies of the words of four worship components that are common to each of our traditional services - (a) the Lord's Prayer, (b) the Apostles' Creed, (c) the Gloria Patri, and (d) the Doxology. This is for the benefit of visitors and for the convenience of regular attendees.

## Altar Stewards Needed for 2017

The 2017 Altar Steward schedule is located in the back of the sanctuary. Looking for new volunteers to join the team!

Also for the present Altar Stewards; to check and verify the month you did last year and see if you could possible help for the months, due to we still need Altar Stewards.

Please sign up on the sheet in back of the sanctuary or call the church office and let me any changes (570-742-9796). Thank you for being a part of this mission in taking care of God's church.

## 2017 Altar Flower Chart

Reminder the 2017 Altar Flower Chart is hung up in the back of the sanctuary for you to sign up for Altar Flowers. Please remember to let Cheri, Administrative Assistant know what you want in the worship bulletin and also if you would like the silk flowers Bethany has or that you will be purchasing fresh flowers. You may also call the church office to sign up and give the information. (Note: Worship bulletins are printed Wednesday mornings each week).

## Cookie Sale Update.....

We raised \$195.60 and leftover cookies and candy were given to our shut-ins, frozen for the congregation to enjoy during Christmas Eve events, and the remainder was taken to the Community Dinner the following day and definitely brought Christmas joy to many of the less fortunate people in our town who may not have otherwise enjoyed homemade Christmas goodies, so we count that as a HUGE SUCCESS!!!

**February 14<sup>th</sup> – Happy Valentine’s Day...Wishing you all a happy Valentine’ day!**



## Thank You Notes.....

I want to thank Bethany UMC for the very delicious candy given to me by all of you. God bless you all and many blessings to you! -Cheri Buss, Administrative Assistant

Bethany Church, Thank you so much for my Christmas goodies and visits. – Nora Judy

Church Members, Thank you so much for the Poinsettia for Christmas. Also for the gifts from the one who sent them. -Peggy Shellenberger

## “Sharing the Table”



“Sharing the Table” 2017 Schedule  
(Sponsored by Mission/Outreach Ministries)

“Sharing the Table” is a way you can help those in need every month by bringing in canned goods and non-perishible food items for the local food bank.

The first Sunday of the every month during Communion Service we will be collecting food.

Next Food Collection Communion Dates: February 5<sup>th</sup> / March 5<sup>th</sup> / April 2<sup>nd</sup> / May 7<sup>th</sup>

## Announcements

### BETHANY UMC

107 S. Front St.  
Milton, PA 17847  
(570) 742-9796

[miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com)

Website:

[bethanyumc-miltonpa.org](http://bethanyumc-miltonpa.org)

Sunday Worship:

Sunday School: 9:00 am  
Traditional Service: 10:30 am  
Contemporary Service: 6:00 pm

### PASTOR DAMIEN

670 Stamm Rd  
Milton, PA 17847  
570-412-1943  
570-246-5514

[dbrooks@susumc.org](mailto:dbrooks@susumc.org)

#### Dates to Remember:

- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 pm – Prudential Reps
- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 pm – Trustees
- Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:00 pm – Contemporary Worship Team Committee
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am – Traditional Worship “Sharing the Table” Food donations / Communion
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm – Rockwell Communion
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm – Contemporary Worship Service / Communion
- Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm - Traditional Worship Team @ Parsonage
- Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Evan Lutheran
- Feb 13<sup>th</sup> – 4:45 pm - Milton Community Harvest Dinner @ St Andrew’s UMC
- Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for February Newsletter Articles
- Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 pm – Finance Committee
- Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 pm – Ad Board
- Feb 26<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 pm – Milton Bicentennial Worship Service @ Bethany UMC

**Rockwell Bible Study: 9:00 am every Thursday @ Rockwell.**

**Praise Band Practice: 7:00 pm every Friday. (No practice on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>)**

**Sunday School: 9:00 am every Sunday morning.**

**Traditional Worship Service: 10:30 am every Sunday morning.**

**Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 pm every Sunday evening.**

#### Coming up in March:

**Lenten Study “Unbinding Your Heart” Bible Study (March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am & March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm)  
“Soup & The Word” – March 8<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Damien preaches and Bethany UMC will provide soup and serve @ St. Andrew’s UMC.**



BETHANY UMC OFFICE  
18 CENTER ST  
MILTON, PA 17847

