

Milton's Good News

December – “At a Glance”

December a time for preparing the church and our hearts for our Saviors birth in the Advent Season. The church was beautifully decorated by members. An Advent Bible Study called “Down to Earth” was done each week during Advent. Poinsettia Flowers ordered and placed at the altar. Thank you Shelly Sholley for taking care of the flowers. Delicious cookies and candies were sold at the Cookie/Candy Sale. A huge thank you to all the ones who prepared the delicious treats & volunteered. Something new this year was a Christmas Movie Fellowship after the Cookie Sale. —Cheri Buss

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

“At a Glance”	1
Devotional	1
Traditional Worship Schedule	2
Contemporary Worship Schedule	2
Missions/Outreach	4
Lay Leader	4
Trustees	5
Ad Board	5
Announcements	6

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

LUKEWARM PEOPLE probably drink and swear less than average, but besides that, they really aren’t very different from your typical unbeliever. They equate their partially sanitized lives with holiness, but they couldn’t be more wrong.

- Francis Chan

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness” ([Matt. 23:25-28](#)).

It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that a few less vices and a little more church on Sunday mornings is enough to be Christian. The problem is that it is in fact a trap. Being Christian is not about avoiding vices and attending worship. In fact in many ways it’s the opposite. God calls us to live into our greater potential. This means that rather than trying to avoid vices, we should be working toward building virtues such as charity, patience, honesty, humility, mercy and justice. It is about creating positive changes not avoid negatives. At its core, Christianity is about love of God and love of neighbor. Our vices typically have little to do with our love of God or neighbor unless our vices are taken to the extreme and destructive levels. In order to be an “on fire” Christian then we need to stop using what we don’t do as a measure of our faith and focus on the things that we do accomplish. Have you fed the hungry, healed or visited the sick, visited the imprisoned, clothed the naked, sheltered the homeless? Have you opened up your heart to someone outside of your close circle of friends and family and really cared for someone you didn’t know? The world will know we are Christian by our love, not by our “clean living.” It is time for us, for you to start thinking about being in mission to the world. Find ways to serve and to love, the people in this community beyond your usual friends. Serve your neighbors.

Special points of interest:

- Bethany Officers & Committee Members (pg 3)
- Secret Prayer Pal (pg 5)
- Altar Steward Volunteers (pg 5)
- 2017 Altar Flower Chart (pg 5)
- Sharing the Table (pg 5)

Traditional Worship Team Report

The following is the work of the Traditional Worship Team did not meet on Tuesday, December 6th due to weather, but we did accomplish our work over the phone. Here are January's songs, Scriptures, and sermon titles.

January 1st – New Year's Day/Epiphany – We Would See Jesus (256); We Three Kings (254); Hail to the Lord's Anointed (203); *Matthew 2:1-12*, "God Before the Ages"; **Communion**

January 8th – Baptism of the Lord – Fairest Lord Jesus (189); Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters (605); Spirit Song (347); Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (500); *Psalms 29, Matthew 3:13-17*, "Us"

January 15th – Rescue the Perishing (591); I Know Whom I Have Believed (714); You Are My All in All (insert); Just As I Am (357); *Psalms 40, John 1:29-42*, "Where Are You Staying?"

January 22nd – Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (348); Tu Has Venido a la Orilla (344); Jesus Calls Us (398); Lord of the Dance (261); *Psalms 27, Matthew 4:12-23*, "Too Much Fishing"

January 29th – Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (402); Trust and Obey (467); We Are Called (2172); Be Thou My Vision (451); *Psalms 15, Matthew 5:1-12*, "To Be Blessed or Not to Be"

Happy New Year – 2017!

May you all grow closer to God, have good health, happiness, peace, good fortune, love, and hope in 2017.

God bless you all and have a Happy New Year!



Contemporary Worship Report:

The Contemporary Worship Team met on December 14th plan for January's worship gatherings. We are beyond excited to begin 2017 together! Along with the start of the New Year, January will have some new songs. Take a look! We hope to see you there!

January 1st – Before the Throne of God Above; Give Me a Song; How He Loves; You Are My King (Amazing Love); Seasons Change; *Hebrews 2:10-18*;

January 8th – How Great is Our God; Spirit Speaks; Breathe; One Desire; Alive; *Matthew 3:13-17;4*

January 15th – Called Me Higher; Amazing Grace (My Chains are God); Love Came Down; I Will Follow; Ever Be; *1 Corinthians 1:1-9; You Have Been Prepared*;

January 22nd – We Are Blessed; Lead Me to the Cross; Christ Be All Around Me; Your Love is All Around; Creation Sings; *1 Corinthians 1:10-18; One in Christ*;

January 29th – You Are My All in All; Everything and Nothing Less; You Are Love and Love Alone; Your Glory; Worthy, Worthy; *1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Foolish Wisdom*;

Bethany 2017 Officers

Pastor:	Damien C. Brooks	<u>Staff:</u>	
Lay Leader:	Roderic Moore	Administrative Asst:	Cheri Buss
Ad Board Chair:	Cynthia Mohr	Music Director:	Calvin Hoffman
Ad Board Vice Chair:	Dorothy Hower	Contemp Worship Tech	Megan Snyder
Lay Member to Annual Conference:	Roderic Moore	Organist/Pianist:	Karen Heimbach
Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference:	Joan Warburton	Sexton:	To be hired
Recording Secretary:	Roderic Moore	Treasurer:	Donna Riccio
Finance Chair:	Amy Snyder	Financial Secretary	Shelly Sholley
Trustees Chair:	James Aurand		
PSPRC Chair:	Joan Warburton		
UMW President:			
Missions/Outreach Chair:	Michael Longenberger		
Congregational Life Chair:			
Member at Large:			
Trustees Treasurer:	Donna Riccio		
Head Usher:	Cynthia Mohr		
Adult Sunday School Coordinator:	Sharon Foust		
Prayer Chain Coordinator:	Sarah Heimbach		

Bethany 2017 Committee Members

PSPRC Committee Members:

Joan Warburton (Chair), Richard Krebs, Roseann Longenberger, Roderic Moore (Lay Leader)

Trustees Committee Members:

James Aurand (Chair), Michael Longenberger, William Scott, Cynthia Mohr, Roderic Moore

Finance Committee Members:

Amy Snyder (Chair), Donna Riccio (Treasurer), James Aurand, Michael Longenberger, Cynthia Mohr, Shelly Sholley (Financial Secretary), Roderic Moore (Lay Leader), Joan Warburton (PSPRC Chair)

Worship Committee Members:

Pastor Damien Brooks (Chair), Dorothy Hower, Judy Campbell, Cynthia Mohr, Judy Carl, Roderic Moore (Lay Leader)

Contemporary Worship Team Committee Members:

Calvin Hoffman (Music Director), Shelly Sholley, Roderic Moore (Lay Leader)

Christian Education Committee Members:

Dorothy Hower, Sharon Foust, Joan Warburton, Shelly Sholley, Roderic Moore (Lay Leader)

Leadership Development (Nominations) Committee Members:

Joan Warburton, Roderic Moore (Lay Leader)

Congregational Life Members:

Joan Warburton, Shelly Sholley, Kathryn Martin, Dorothy Hower, Roderic Moore (Lay Leader)

Missions/Outreach Committee Members:

Michael Longenberger (Chair), Shelly Sholley, Thereasa Hinderliter, Roderic Moore (Lay Leader)

Older Adult Ministries Committee Members:

Judy Carl (Chair), Donna Gundrum, Barney Price, Thereasa Hinderliter, Roderic Moore (Lay Leader)

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

There will be a Community Dinner on **February 12th, 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 Community Dinner Planning Meeting will be on Thursday, January 12th 2017 at 6:30 pm at Christ Evan. Lutheran Church.

Lay Leader's Report

I have successfully completed all of the course requirements for my certification as a District Lay Speaker. Two other candidates from the five-county area will join me at a later date for a final interview before a team of District officials, and that will bring the qualification process to a close for all of us.

Bethany played a much-appreciated key part in the 2016 HandUp Feed-A-Friend campaign, with our donations of non-perishable foods and turkey purchase funds reaching the Foundation well ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

When Pastor Damien takes vacation time from December 26 through January 8, I will conduct the full traditional worship services on the mornings of January 1 and 8, the two Sundays that he'll be away. There will be Holy Communion on the 1st, in keeping with our normal scheduling.

I was the Recording Secretary for Bethany during the business session of the District Church / Charge Conference in Northumberland on November 20. All of our church reports for calendar 2016 and our plans for 2017 were reviewed and accepted as presented.

There are seven Bethany members taking part in the four-week Mike Slaughter Advent Bible study known as "Down to Earth Gospel." I led the third session on December 13 while Pastor Damien was attending a District meeting, and the study is scheduled to wrap up on Tuesday, December 20.

The December 11 Community Dinner, which was part of the (currently) bi-monthly series of meals sponsored by Bethany and several other area churches, was attended by 87 people. The dinner, which was a traditional holiday spread hosted by Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Milton, was a fun gathering and a big success.

Secret Prayer Pal

If you would like to be someone's Secret Prayer Pal throughout the year of 2017 (to pray for them, send them encouraging & birthday cards, *in secret*), just simply fill out your name, address, date of birth, any allergies, and fold & place the slip in the box in the back of the sanctuary. **Deadline for slips is Sunday, December 25th, 2016.**



Sunday, January 1st your Secret Prayer Pal from 2016 will be revealed and a drawing of your new 2017 Secret Prayer Pal will be given.

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.....

Don't forget to check out the 2017 Altar Flower Chart and sign up on the days you wish to put flowers on the Altar.

Trustees' Report.....

No report from Trustees' due to not meeting in December. The Trustee Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 4th at 7:00 pm. There will be an investor from Hudock Moyer Group to meet with Trustees' at 6:30 pm prior to the meeting at 7:00 pm on January 4th.

"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-perishable 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: January 1st / February 5th / March 5th / April 2nd

Ad Board

No report from Ad Board due to not meeting in December. Ad Board will meet on Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 pm. Finance Committee will also meet on Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30 pm.

Announcements

BETHANY UMC

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

miltonbethanyumcoffice@gmail.com

Website:

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

Upper Rooms

January & February are now
available in the sanctuary

Our Daily Bread

December, January & February
are now available in the
sanctuary

Dates to Remember:

Dec 24th – 2:00 pm – Rockwell Christmas Eve Service (Communion)
Dec 24th – 4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Traditional Service (Communion)
Dec 24th – 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Contemporary Service (Communion)
Dec 24th – 8:00 pm – Christmas Eve Blended Service (Traditional & Contemporary-Communion)
Dec 24th – 9:15 pm – Carol Singing (Singing Christmas songs around the piano)
Dec 24th – 11:15 pm – Christmas Eve Candle Light Service (Communion)
Dec 25th – 10:30 am – Traditional Worship
Dec 25th – 6:00 pm – Contemporary Worship
Dec 25th – 10:30 am – Deadline for Secret Prayer Pal Slips
Jan 1st – 10:30 am – Traditional Worship “Sharing the Table” Food donations / Communion
Jan 1st – 10:30 am – Receive your new Secret Prayer Pal for 2017
Jan 1st – 3:00 pm – Rockwell Communion
Jan 1st – 6:30 pm – Contemporary Worship Service / Communion
Jan. 4th – 6:30 pm – Hudock Moyer Investors meeting with Trustees
Jan 4th – 7:00 pm – Trustees
Jan 10th – 7:00 pm – PSPRC
Jan 11th – 7:00 pm – Contemporary Worship Team Committee
Jan 12th – 6:30 pm – Planning Mtg for Community Dinner @ Christ Evan Lutheran
Jan 15th – 10:30 am – Special Offering “Human Relations Day” (Blended Service)
Jan 16th – 18th – (Pastor away for Bishop’s Retreat)
Jan 17th – 6:30 pm – Finance Committee
Jan 17th – 7:00 pm – Ad Board
Jan 20th – Deadline for February Newsletter Articles
Jan 22nd – 10:30 am - Bitting Baptism
Feb 12th – 5:00 pm – Community Dinner @ Christ Evan Lutheran

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

Praise Band Practice: 7:00 pm every Friday.

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.



BETHANY UMC OFFICE
18 CENTER ST
MILTON, PA 17847

