

BETHEL MATTERS

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One of the great joys of studying the Bible with others is seeing connections in Scripture you had not realized previously. The Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study at Perkins Restaurant just began the Acts of the Apostles. The author Luke mentions that the Gospels teach us about *all that Jesus began to do and teach*, 1:1. The Book of Acts then is the continuation of Jesus' ministry from heaven thru the work of the Holy Spirit on earth. The Holy Spirit is introduced immediately by Luke in verse 2 in fulfillment of Jesus' repeated promise in the Gospels. Many have said that the book might more aptly be renamed the Acts of the Holy Spirit because it is His ministry that guides and enables the early church.

In response to Peter's great confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus said in the Gospels, *I will build my church*, Matthew 16:18. When we reach verse 8 of Acts 1 it becomes clear that the Book of Acts is the story of Jesus fulfilling that promise. Acts 1:8 reads: *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and all Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* This verse not only gives us the theme of Acts but also the outline of the whole book.

Theme of Acts: *The empowerment of believers by the Holy Spirit to establish and expand the Church just as Jesus promised.* **Outline of Acts:** *The witness of the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit in 1) Jerusalem (chapters 1-7), 2) in Judea and all Samaria (chapters 8-12), and 3) to the end of the earth (chapters 13-28).* What lessons can we learn for our ministry today from this brief introduction to Acts?

The building of the Church is the most significant work God is doing in the world today. The disciples wanted to know about future events in Acts 1:6. Jesus immediately said the times (length of history) and seasons (events yet to come) are known only by the Father, verse 7. God will bring future events to pass according to His plan as revealed in Scripture. In the meantime, the establishment and expansion of His church is His number one priority in this age. Someone has well said that Plan A is the Church and there is no Plan B.

We are wasting our lives if we are not involved in the establishment and expansion of the Church. If every Christian is a member of Christ's body, and if this is God's main work in the world today, then our lives find their great purpose in participating in the work of the Church. We all have our calling in the world to represent Christ in our various walks of life as He has appointed. But even there our purpose is to so represent Christ that people will be drawn to Him and want to be part of His Church. And then within His Church we have a part to contribute so the work of God on earth is done.

This gives meaning, purpose, excitement and perseverance to our daily lives and church ministries. A friend of mine who works as a pharmacist in Lower Michigan used to say to me that the only two things that will last into eternity are the souls of people and the Word of God. Everything else will perish. Bringing the souls of people into connection with the Word of God is the most lasting work anyone can do. That is what we get the chance to do as we represent Christ well in everyday life and then participate in the life of the Church. That means every day is filled with meaning and purpose because we are involved in that great work. It helps us persevere because we know that no matter what happens otherwise *our labor is not in vain in the Lord*, 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Your friend, part of the great story of Acts with you, Pastor Brian (-:-)

From the Family Life Pastor:

Some thoughts:

In our Tuesday morning Bible study, we have begun studying the book of Acts. This morning we read the verses from Acts 2:1-13 the heading in the NIV Bible is The Holy Spirit Comes At Pentecost. I believe that this was and is the most significant event in the life of a Christian because unless the Holy Spirit comes we are incapable of understanding the finished work of Jesus Christ as the final atonement for our sins.

Jesus told us about that in John 14:15-18 ***“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans”***. Jesus is God the Son, and He and God the Father knew that people do not have the ability to understand what it is that God has done for us in sending His Son to die on that cross for us – even the disciples who walked with Jesus on a daily basis did not fully understand – so Jesus was going to send God the Holy Spirit to come and dwell in all who would accept Him so that He can reveal truth to us, including the way of salvation – which is through Christ and Him alone – in John 14:6 Jesus says – ***“I Am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”***. I know that I say this often, but Jesus is not one of many ways, He is not a way, He says of Himself I am THE way to heaven, and we must believe what He says, and that is where the Holy Spirit comes into play – He says in John 14:20 Jesus says ***“On that day you will realize that I Am in my Father and you are in me, and I am in you”***. We can only realize a spiritual truth when we have the Holy Spirit in us to reveal that truth to us.

Jesus continued the thoughts about the God Holy Spirit in John 14:26 ***“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you.”***

Now, back to Acts 2 – God The Holy Spirit comes upon the believers at Pentecost and they are filled with the Spirit, and immediately there is a change in them. Peter who had earlier stood among some regular people – in Luke 22 one of them was a ***“servant girl”*** asks Peter three times if he had been one of Jesus’ followers, he denied it three times, even calling down a curse in his denial. But then God’s Holy Spirit comes and fills Peter, and he boldly stands in front of thousands there in Jerusalem and loudly proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ – what else can explain this huge transformation other than a God intervention – God’s Holy Spirit has now come to live in

Peter and the Holy Spirit reminds Peter of the things that Jesus taught, he reminds him of what Jesus had said about Himself and who He is, and gave Peter the power to stand up and share this good news with these people, and since we can now read these words under the revealing power of the Holy Spirit, we can now see and understand it as well.

What is this message that Peter shares with the crowd? Let’s look at some selected verses from Acts 2 – 22-25 ***“Men of Israel, listen to this; Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs which God did among you through Him as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Hi from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him.***

Jumping ahead, in Acts 2 Peter says ***“God has raised this Jesus to life and we are all witnesses of the fact... God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.*** And the people responded as we all must as some point in our life – ***“What shall we do?”*** and Peter replied in ***“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of you sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”***. Now to bring this full cycle – that same Holy Spirit that Peter and the other disciples received at Pentecost is the same Holy Spirit that those to whom Peter was speaking would come to them, and that same Holy Spirit comes also to us if we repent and are baptized! Praise the Lord!

In Christ – Pastor Hank

Youth Events & Activities

Junior High Youth Group

6th - 8th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Jon or Julie Motta

Senior High Youth Group

9th - 12th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Dan or Becky Nelson

If you have questions, contact the church office at 228-7589 or by email at bethel.admin@bbcmqt.org

Prayer Chain & Official Notices

bethelemail@gmail.com

If you have a prayer request or information that you want shared, please send that to the email address above. If you are not receiving email prayer requests or notices, please contact Ann in the church office.

**Items for the April Issue
of Bethel Matters
are due in the office
by Friday, March 18th.**

**Items for the Happenings
are due in the office
by Wednesday noon.**

Have you visited our Bethel Website?

Check it Out at:

www.bethelmarquette.com

Audio Sermons are posted weekly
along with items of interest,
Bethel Matters, Calendar,
and Happenings.

Happy March Birthday/Anniversary to:

5. Jedediah White
6. Patti Lingle
7. Matt Frazier, Myrna Peters
10. Eric Farnsworth
12. Joy Oberg
13. Susan Moore
14. Dorothy Patrick
16. Tim & Judy Larson
18. Dan Johnson, Pete Glover, Karl Kytta, Scott Loukinen
19. Frankie Bailey, Violet Hallberg
22. Allyson Kytta
24. Lowell Hintsala
25. Shelley Gould, Kathy Millin
26. Madison Kytta, Brittany Wetton
27. John & Irene Janofski (A)
28. Judy Taylor, Laura Ferris, Laurel Perko
30. Vicki Purdon

Bible Studies

For Men

Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Perkins Restaurant
Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

For Women

Tuesdays, 6:15 PM at church
"Faithful, Abundant, & True"
video series by
Kay Arthur, Beth Moore, & Priscilla Schierer
Questions: contact Sarah Goupil 250-6130

Thursdays, 9:30 AM at church
"Twelve Ordinary Men"
by John MacArthur
Childcare is provided.
Questions: contact Bethany Jentoft 459-9310

Congratulations to:

Brianna Steede and teammates on the 6th grade Negaunee Nets Girls Basketball Team on their 1st place win in the Lanse Invitational Tournament.

Ed Deyo on his retirement from State of Michigan Department of Health & Human Services.

Brianna Steede on her second place finish in the 6th grade spelling bee at Negaunee Middle School. She qualified for the regional spelling bee and placed fifth.

Marilyn Morrison on her retirement from Arcadia Home Health & Hospice.

Brianna Steede on a successful swim meet in Iron Mountain February 13th. She finished each of her 6 races ahead of her best personal time. It has been a busy February for Brianna.

David Paul & Sandra Norton on their recent engagement.

Joshua & Rebekah (Newman) Edwards on their February 21st wedding. A larger reception will be held this summer.

Adult Bible Fellowships

Sundays at 10 AM

Group #1 College - 29 years old
Meets in Room #1 in Family Life Center
Topical Studies

Group #2 Ages 30-42
Meets in Room #2 in Family Life Center
Studying the book of James

Group #3 Ages 43-55
Meets in Room #6 in Family Life Center
Studying "The Red Sea Rules"

Group #4 Ages 56-69
Meets in Room #3 in Family Life Center
Studying the book of Ephesians

Group #5 Ages 70+
Meets in the Wheat Room
Studying the Feasts in the Bible

Newcomers Class
Meets in the Church Library

AWANA for Grades K-6

Mondays from 6:30 - 8:05 PM

- * February 29th, Grand Prix (**NOTE TIMES**)
(Check in begins at 5:15 PM
Design Judging at 6:15 PM
Race at 6:30 PM)
- March 7th - regular club night
- March 14th - regular club night
 - March 21st - theme night
 (wear your clothes backwards for a special treat)
- March 28th - no AWANA (Easter Break)
- April 7th - Penny Wars begin

Questions: contact Commander Josh at 360-0201

From the Mailbox:



Dear Friends,
To all who called, visited, sent cards, made meals and brought soup - thank you so much! It was all appreciated. I especially enjoyed the vase of beautiful flowers from all of you. May the Lord smile on each of you today for your kindnesses to Dick and me. My recovery is progressing well
Sue Goodwin

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your cards and prayers after the recent loss of my Mother, Helen Ray. Mother was a faithful Christian, and member of this church for many years. I am grateful for her lifelong example to me. Her memorial service will be held at the Church on April 23, 2016.

David Ray

Prayer Summit for Our Nation

Sunday, March 6th, 6 PM

Special Guest: Michigan House Representative Ed McBroom
Legislative Chairman
of the Prayer Committee



**Men's Breakfast
and Boys 7 and up**
Saturday, March 19th, 9 AM
Please sign up on the sheet provided
on the bulletin board.

Imagine receiving a shoe box filled with treasures just for you! Well that is what happens when you participate in "Operation Christmas Child" We were so blessed by the many who participated this past year, with a grand total of 215 boxes from Bethel. Many items were donated and we filled an additional 82 boxes. We once again will be looking for donations that can be place in the basket found in the library. Items that are needed are: Calculator, pencil sharpener, markers, scissors, coloring books, washcloths, toothbrushes and covers, hair brushes and combs, flip flops, sunglasses, socks, yoyo's, jump ropes, balls, dolls, Hotwheels, play dough, etc. You get the idea so can you please help us fill extra boxes. And don't forget to buy extra for your own boxes.

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In Sympathy to:

Eleanor Thompson and family following the February 21st death of her husband, Pastor Deane. A memorial service will be held in Milaca, Minnesota on March 1st. Pastor & Mrs. Thompson served the folks at Bethel from October 1969 - August 1978. Pastor Thompson was the builder (along with other volunteers) of our current church building minus the Family Life Center.

Dave & Alma Thomas on the recent death of Dave's sister-in-law, Shirley Thomas. The funeral was held in Ohio.

Kurt & Shelley Janofski on the recent death of Shelley's brother-in-law, Bob Ham. The funeral was held in Indiana.

Mike Ternus following the recent death

of Mike's mother Pat. A funeral will be held at a later date.

A memorial service for **Helen Ray** will be held on Saturday, April 23rd. As of now, visitation will be at 11 AM, with the service at 12 noon, and a luncheon to follow.

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Bible Camp Information

Stop by the bulletin board above the drinking fountain for information about summer camp and winter retreats. Just a reminder that our AWANA Clubbers are earning scholarships for summer camp by passing sections in their handbook. The more sections passed, the larger the scholarship. These scholarships are useable at Lake Ellen Camp, UP Bible Camp, or Lake Lundgren Bible Camp.

SAVE THE DATE

Bethel Women's Retreat
UP Bible Camp
Friday - Sunday
May 20-22

Watch for more information
as the weekend approaches.

All Bethel Ladies are encouraged
to attend.

Half-timers ABF Activity

March 12th, 5 PM
Chili Cook-off and
Family Games at church
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Membership Class - March 5th & 12th, 9 AM

Easter Weekend Schedule

Good Friday Service

March 25th (time to be determined)
Marquette Missionary Church
1804 Wright Street, MQT

Easter Sunday

March 27th

Sunrise Service at Picnic Rocks

7:15 AM

First Worship Service

8:30 AM

All-Church Breakfast

9:00 - 11:00 AM

Second Worship Service

11:15 AM

Women Today

April 15-17

The women of Bethel (as well as friends, sisters, mothers, grandmothers) 16 years and older are invited to the 43rd annual Women Today retreat at the Cisler Center on the campus of Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The theme this year is "Freedom in Christ" with the theme verse being Galatians 5:1. The main speaker will be Gracia Burnham. She will be sharing about the ordeal she and her late husband endured at the hands of a militant group in the Philippines. She will relate the events of their capture and rescue and the spiritual lessons learned along the way.

The featured musician will be Bethel's Amy Shreve and her husband, Gary Wixtrom. Amy will be sharing her musical talent throughout the weekend.

On Saturday afternoon, there are 5 mini-sessions/breakout sessions to choose from. Many at Bethel will remember Carol Horn (we are one of her supporting church) as she shares "Freedom to Surrender Worry and Anxiety. Susie VanRyn will share in the session "Comfort in Grief and Loss". Other topics are "Freedom from Bondage and

Addiction", "Freedom for Service", and "Freedom in Witnessing".

There are different registration and meal plans available. Participants are responsible for their own hotel reservations at one of the many hotels in the Soo. Check out the website at womentodayinc.org. Feel free to contact Debbie Whitmer at 906-586-6396 with questions.

Outreach & Missions Corner

Each OMB member has been assigned missionaries to spend extra time praying for them and doing personal communication. In February, Rick & Cindy Pawley visited with our CRU Missionaries, Lori & Doug Dawe. The Dawe's are ministering at the CRU headquarters in Orlando. They were commissioned by Bethel Baptist Church 27 years ago and are very grateful for the support Bethel, through the years. They play an important part in spreading the gospel throughout the world by organizing and planning the outreach. When CRU does church planting, in other countries, CRU ensures there is follow up and support. Part of CRU's goal is to help new church plants become self supportive and learn how to raise money, in their own country to support their local church. The Dawe's have a great ministry via CRU and countless people are reached, worldwide, with the gospel of Christ and the plan of salvation. Lori is a graduate of Dollar Bay High School. The Dawe's were married at Bethel Baptist Church during their time at NMU. They will be visiting Bethel this summer. If you would like to attend an event to learn more about the Dawe's missionary projects, please contact Rick Pawley.