

BETHEL MATTERS

Volume 22 Issue 11 (November 2016)
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Inside This Issue

The Importance of a Process for Spiritual Formation

Coming in
December

One of the most important questions that a church needs to answer is how do we help people with “*spiritual formation.*” If that phrase is new to you, it comes from the passionate longing of the Apostle Paul for his spiritual children in Galatians 4:19. *My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!* Spiritual formation is the process every believer goes through to be inwardly formed and changed into the likeness of Christ. Paul uses an intensive form of the same word in Romans 8:29 when he says that believers are “*to be conformed to the image of his Son.*” Conformed means “*to be fashioned like unto.*” Spiritual formation is the process we go through to become more and more like Jesus Christ in our character. It is also called spiritual growth, the process of sanctification or being disciplined as a Christ-follower. Several things about this are very important.

AWANA
Information

First of all, spiritual formation is God’s goal for every believer. Romans 8:29 makes it clear that God wants every believer to be conformed to the likeness of Christ. In Colossians 1:28 Paul says his goal was no less than presenting “*everyone mature in Christ.*” Every church must call and encourage people to this goal as God’s priority for every believer. At Bethel, our mission statement says that all are to be “*becoming Christ-followers who grow*” as of first importance.

Primetimers
Event

Another idea involved is that spiritual formation is a process. There is no such thing as instant maturity. It takes time. Hebrews 6:1 says, *Therefore leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity.* Clearly maturity (spiritual formation into the likeness of Christ) is something that takes time. But it was also clear that it was an attainable goal. Earlier in Hebrews 5:14, the apostle called some believers “*the mature.*” They had grown to the place that they were like Christ and were modeling His life. It had taken time but they had followed a process that had led them there. The less mature were expected to move on in that process as well. Stagnation was unacceptable to the apostle. Stagnation in a church should never be acceptable to us either.

Operation
Christmas Child

Another essential element in spiritual formation is that it takes training. The mature are “*those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice,*” Hebrews 5:14. We get our word “*gymnasium*” from the Greek word used here for trained. It means “*to exercise vigorously...either the body or the mind.*” The word “*practice*” means “*a power acquired by custom, practice, use.*” Spiritual formation is obviously not a passive process. It involves engaging the mind in spiritual exercise so that new powers can be developed by use and practice.

Bible Studies

One of the sad things a person may hear from Christians is that “*no one ever disciplined me.*” “*I was left to figure out the Christian life on my own.*” “*I struggled along making little progress because no one ever came alongside of me to help me grow.*” How many believers have that sad tale? That is often the result of a church giving little thought to spiritual formation and a process that people can be trained in so they can grow. Here at Bethel we are in the early stages of implementing a simple training process called *The 1st Principles* that can help believers engage in hands-on spiritual formation guided by mature believers who have grown themselves. You will be hearing more, but for now ask yourself, “*What spiritual formation process have I been thru, need to go thru, or need to take others thru to mature me or them in Christ?*”

Food Fundraiser
for
Salvation Army
results

Your friend, in training with you,
Pastor Brian (:~:).

From the Family Life Pastor:

Various thoughts:

As I write this article, it is still October, and as most of you likely know, October is Pastor Appreciation Month. I am truly grateful for a number of pastors here at Bethel who have helped me grow in my faith.

When Ann & I started here at Bethel in 1974, the late **Pastor Deane Thompson** was the pastor. Pastor Thompson led in the actual physical building of this building that we use as our church building. He was the pastor who did some one on one discipleship with me and a group of others in the church, and placed some great jewels into our spiritual belts. Pastor Thompson also was the one who challenged Ann & I to get baptized and was the pastor who dedicated our two sons.

Our next pastor was **Pastor Joel Goff**. Pastor Joel was a great preacher of the Word, and was an excellent teacher of the Word. He encouraged me and many others in our spiritual walk, and we became friends. He had a huge impact in my early walk as well.

Next was **Pastor Tim Haugen**. Pastor Tim also became a good friend and would challenge me in my personal walk with the Lord, and also put things in place for our church constitution and changes in the area of church leadership to Elders.

The next was **Pastor Bob Donaldson**. Pastor Donaldson and I became very good friends and hunted and fished together. He and his family would come to our home and do Christmas Carols. Pastor Bob was the one who saw the potential of pastoral ministry in me, and was instrumental in bringing me on staff as an associate pastor.

And last, but not least is our current senior pastor, **Pastor Brian Oberg**. Pastor Brian has been a great encouragement to me and has also become a friend. We work well together and I have learned and will continue to learn a great deal from him.

I could go on about each of these men, and some of our interim pastors that we had here at Bethel, but suffice to say that my life was changed because these men of God chose to lead and invest into the life of a new believer. Thank you to each of you!

Another thought:

Every other Friday we have home schoolers here at Bethel doing group activities. It is such a joy to watch them interacting and having such a great time while they learn and study together. I think that it is such a blessing

to watch them interacting and having a great experience together.

Another thought:

In November we will have twelve (12) or thirteen (13) children dedicated by their parents. That is very exciting! I have been asked by some folks what a parent/child dedication is all about. Here is just a quick summary:

1. For the parents to first dedicate themselves to God, committing themselves to faithfully follow the principles mentioned from the Scriptures. – Deuteronomy 6:5-7 & 3 John 4 *For the parents to dedicate their children to God, acknowledging their desire for their children, of their own choice, to love God, personally trust Jesus Christ for salvation from their sins, and live according to the truth of God's Holy Word. 1 Samuel 1:27-28 & - Luke 2:22 Joseph and Mary took (Jesus) to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.*
2. For this assembly (family, friends, church family) to dedicate ourselves to God, committing ourselves to assist these parents as we are enabled, and to be good examples to their children. From Deuteronomy 6:5-9 – *“Love the lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on your doorframes of you houses and on your gates”.*

Thank you all!
God Bless you
Pastor Hank

Discipleship Training

Bethel's discipleship program is underway with the Antioch School's First Principles Series! For more information on how you can be involved in future classes, please contact Chris Mauser via email at christopher.mauser@gmail.com

Youth Events & Activities

Junior High Youth Group

6th - 8th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Dave Dahlstrom
or Brian Steede

Senior High Youth Group

9th - 12th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Jon Motta

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries
330-550-0141

christopher.mauser@gmail.com

**Watch for special activity notices &
information through SLACK.**

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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 or Ellen in the church office at 228-7589.

**Items for the December Issue
of Bethel Matters
are due in the office
by, Saturday, November 19th.**

**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 October Birthday/Anniversary to:

2. Leanne Mackey, Sarah Bagley
4. Gwen Timmons
7. Terry Gould, JoAnn Buhl, Judy Place
8. Debbie Napier, Lizzie Tireman
10. Don Salo
11. Cindy Pawley
15. Wes DeGarmo, Danielle DeGarmo
17. Thomas Bagley
20. Nick Smaby
24. Emelia Motta
25. Jim Perko
26. Dave & Susan Michels, Rick & Mim Newman
27. Jeb Farnsworth
28. Jim Ferris
30. Judy Caldwell

Congratulations to:

Alli LaVigne on her recent engagement.

Kendyl, Aden, Gage, & Harmony Dahlstrom for their successful audition for Superior Arts Youth Theater's production of Lion King Jr. The production is scheduled for November 18, 19, & 20 at Forest Roberts Theater on the campus of NMU.

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In Sympathy to:

Chris & Laura Mauser following the recent death of Chris' Grandpa Mauser. The funeral was held in Ohio.

Ulrickson family following the October 12th death of their dad, Mark Ulrickson. The funeral was held in Ishpeming.

Bible Studies

For Men

Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Coachlight Restaurant

Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

For Women

Tuesdays, 6:15 PM at church

“Jesus - the One and Only” by Beth Moore
a study of the Gospel of Luke

Questions: contact Sarah Goupil at 250-6130

Thursdays, 9:30 AM at church

Questions: contact Bethany Jentoft at 458-9310

Childcare is provided on Thursday morning.

Adult Bible Fellowships

Sundays at 10 AM

Group #1 College - 29 years old

Meets in the church library

Topical Studies

Group #2 Ages 30-42

Meets in Room #2 in Family Life Center

Studying the Gospel of John

Group #3 Ages 43-55

Meets in Room #6 in Family Life Center

Studying “Daniel”

Group #4 Ages 56-69

Meets in Room #3 in Family Life Center

Studying the book of Thessalonians

Group #5 Ages 70+

Meets in the Wheat Room

Studying “Daniel”

AWANA Information

Workers’ Meal – Mondays at 5:30 PM

AWANA meets on Mondays from 6:30 – 8:05 PM
throughout the school year for grades K-6

Monthly Schedule

* November 7th – regular club night

* November 14th – regular club night

* November 21st – Theme Night (wear camo or
orange and receive a candy treat)

* November 28th – regular club night

Questions: contact Josh Vissering at 360-0201

AWANA will not meet on Monday, October 31st.

From the Mailbox:



Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you so much for the gift card to Red Lobster and kind words spoken. We are so appreciative of you, our Bethel Family.

Love You All,
Pastor Hank and Ann

Dear Friends at Bethel Baptist Church,

It was a real blessing having many of your men here to help put new siding on the office. We are so grateful for your help. We are thanking the Lord for his provision as the cost of the siding for the office and chapel were paid for by an anonymous donor and then the siding was stained by a group of men from Lower Michigan. There were multiple people who helped with the siding on the chapel before summer and your church put up the siding on the office this fall. All praise and glory goes to God as he continues to provide through faithful servants like you.

Please continue to pray for us as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the people who attend camp and retreat. Lake Ellen is a special place to meet with Jesus.

Thanks Again,
Ralph Peterson, Director
Lake Ellen Camp

PRIMETIMERS'

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
November 5
5:30 at Bethel



Time again to celebrate and enjoy great fellowship over a delicious meal.

A free will offering will be taken to aid the Salvation Army's Food Pantry. This will be our 9th year participating in this fundraising project donating approximately \$15,000 to feed our hungry neighbors.

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NMU Students

All NMU students are invited for dinner on Sundays at 6pm at Matthew & Laura Songer's home, 2645 West Grove Street, MQT. The study is "The Truth Project". Invite another student for a great meal, great fellowship, and great study.

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Senior Discounts

To help out our Seniors, Rick & Cindy Pawley have put a list of local restaurants/businesses that give a discount to Seniors. Put this list in your wallet to have it handy when you are out. You will have to ask for the discount, the retailers will not offer it to you.

Senior Citizen Discounts:

- * Applebees - 10%
- * Arby's - 50 cent drinks
- * Avis & Budget Rent a Car - 25%
- * Big Boy - Senior Breakfast \$5.59, punch card 10 punches = \$4.50 off next meal
- * Burger King - free soda or coffee
- * Culver's - 10%
- * Denny's - 15%
- * Donckers - 10% off restaurant
- * Econo Foods - 5% off on Wednesdays
- * Huron Mountain Bread Company - 10%
- * Jeffrey's - 10% (request it)
- * KFC - 10%
- * Kohl's - 15% on Wednesdays
- * McDonald's - 33 cent off small drink
- * Michael's - 10% off everyday
- * Shopko - Discounts 1st Wednesday of month
- * Subway - 10%
- * Taco Bell - free small beverage
- * Walgreen's - 20% 1st Wednesday of month
- * Wendy's - free Value Size Drink

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Secret Keeper Girl's Purple Party Tour
Tuesday, November 8th, 6:30 PM
Lake Superior Christian Church

Tickets:

Available online at secretkeepergirl.com

Does your daughter know that she is a Masterpiece created by God? Will she believe it in a few years, or will she succumb to the photoshop of lies of culture? Secret Keepers Girl's Purple Party Tour invites moms and daughters to think and act differently. Through worship, fun Bible teaching and memorable stories, tween girls will be told unequivocally that they are each a masterpiece created by God.

Operation Christmas Child

Once again Bethel will be the drop off location for Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes" Last year Bethel filled 218 boxes. Make it a family adventure and help us reach 250+ this year. Boxes are available in the Sanctuary and are due back on Nov 13.



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Music Open House

Thursday, November 10th, 6-8 PM

The Worship Board and Praise Teams will be hosting a Music Open House at the church. If you are currently involved in the Music Ministry, would like to become involved, or want to know more about this ministry and those involved in it, please join us for this event. You will have a chance to worship and visit with the teams and get information on how to become involved as well as watch demonstrations by each area of the ministry. There will be music, food, and a couple of different worship-themed devotionals and discussions in the Wheat Room and library. We look forward to seeing you there.

Coming in December

All Adults Christmas Party

Saturday, December 3rd, 5:30 PM
at U.P. Bible Camp

Christmas Hymn Sing

Saturday, December 10th
Lake Ellen Camp

Crosswalkers ABF Christmas Party

Saturday, December 10th, 6 PM
at Bob & Yvonne Leaf's home

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11th, 10 AM
(No Sunday School or ABFs)

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24th, 6 PM

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25th, 10 AM
(One Service only & no Sunday School or ABFs)

If any of the other ABFs or Youth Groups are planning Christmas Parties, please let Ann know in the church office so we can get it on the calendar, in the Happenings, and Bethel Matters.

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Food Fundraiser Results

In 2015 we collected and donated 425 pounds of food to the Salvation Army's food pantry. This year we more than doubled our donation amount. **We brought in 867 pounds of food.** As Pastor Hank would have us say, **"YAY GOD!!!!"** The Salvation Army was very thankful for our donation and said that we did very well. A special thank you to our senior & junior high youth who participated in the Food Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, October 15th.

Pumpkin Cheesecake

Yield: 8 servings

Ingredients:

- 8 oz package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 8 oz container whipped topping, thawed
- 9 inch prepared graham cracker crumb crust

Preparation:

1. Beat cream cheese, pumpkin, sugar and pumpkin pie spice with an electric mixer until smooth
2. Gently stir in the whipped topping
3. Spoon into the graham cracker crust
4. Refrigerate at least three hours before serving

