

# BETHEL MATTERS

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## Inside This Issue

### *The 1<sup>st</sup> Essential in an Election Year*

Driving around in my car I like to listen to talk radio for a couple of reasons. One, most radio hosts are very knowledgeable and effective at what they do and keep their audiences informed about the major issues of the day, whether one agrees with the hosts or not. Two, the call-in conversations give an idea of what the average person in America is thinking at least from the conservative side and how they are wrestling with the issues that are confronting our country.

Quarterly  
Congregational  
Meeting

One thing I notice is that many in the “conservative movement” have slipped into the same mindset that I used to see among “liberal progressives.” That mindset is that personal character does not count as long as someone agrees with basic conservative policies. One of the most popular so-called conservative radio hosts has been married four times. I have often thought to myself, “*What person do I know who has been married four times who I would take advice from?*” None that I know of. A person with that marital history would be considered morally and ethically challenged and unfit to advise others how to conduct their lives. Yet this host has millions of listeners who apparently do not see the contradiction or dismiss it as irrelevant if they do. The host articulates the policies they believe in despite his lack of personal character.

AWANA  
Information

All of this brings me to a very arresting statement in James 3:17, “*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.*” James is known as the “Apostle of Practical Christianity.” Here he lays down the principle that heavenly wisdom which leads to effective living in any community is first pure. “First” is not used here numerically as the first in a list, but rather it means “the main quality; the overarching attribute, the key to all the rest.” All the other qualities of wise living that James lists, flow from this very first one, “purity.” Pastor John MacArthur says “*this refers to spiritual integrity and moral sincerity.*” So this is foundational, and without it none of the rest can be developed or sustained. Look at them. Can you imagine a culture existing very long that is not peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere? That is what we are flirting with when we separate pure character from any attempt to live wisely.

Upcoming  
Activities

Fall Fest  
Results

A girl in Sunday School had read the Beatitudes in Matthew and was asked which of the things mentioned there she would most like to have. She said, “*A pure heart.*” When asked why she preferred that, she said, “*If my heart were pure, I believe I would have all the other virtues mentioned in this chapter.*” “And she was right,” wrote Spiros Zodhiates. “That is what James is driving at.” (*Faith, love & hope: An exposition of the epistle of James*)

Bible Studies

I do not know how you have resolved the issue of who you will vote for this November; nor is it my place to tell you how to vote. My own personal belief is that our major candidates reflect who we have become as a nation. They are a symptom of a people who no longer believe that “*the wisdom from above is first pure.*” That doesn’t mean that this election is without consequence and that one candidate may be the lesser of two evils. But it does mean that the healing of our nation goes much deeper to who we are as a people. At a pastors meeting Billy Graham was asked how people could pray for him. He replied, “*Pray that I will be holy; have a pure heart; and live a clean life.*” That is the only hope for America to bring lasting renewal.

Family  
Harvest Party

Your friend, seeking heavenly wisdom with you,  
Pastor Brian (:~).

## From the Family Life Pastor:

### Various thoughts:

This past Sunday we had our annual Pig & Turkey roast, and as always, it was very good. As Ann & I came into church that Sunday, there were men who had been up all night cooking the meat, and then quickly there were people who were here working in the kitchen preparing the food, several came and set up tables and chairs, and got everything ready. What a blessing to be a part of a ministry that encourages people of many different ages to come in and work together to help provide opportunities for fellowship around the table. A big thank you to all who worked to make this all happen!

Last week, I was in Wausau for a meeting of the Board of Overseers for our District of churches (about 120+) in all of Wisconsin and half of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It is interesting to me to observe the differences that are present when you have people from the larger communities in Wisconsin coming together with people from the smaller communities in Northern Wisconsin and UP. One dynamic that is fascinating to me is how church leaders from these various backgrounds and communities can come together for a common cause – to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the whole world. The Converge Great Lakes *"exists to glorify God by strengthening churches so that they may reach those who do not know Jesus Christ locally, nearby, and around the world."* It is good to be a part of the larger Christian community that is seeking to minister not just locally, but nearby and around the world as well. Locally is our home town, neighborhood etc, while nearby for us could be the UP, or the District or wherever we can serve, while around the world points out to us that we have a ministry to people all over the world and though we may not be having direct ministry in places throughout the world, our involvement in the local church and District afford us the privilege of being involved in worldwide ministry!

As I contemplate our ministry, I always think about what it must have been like for the early church that was ministering in Jerusalem and as it says in Acts 2:41 and then in 2:47 – *"Those who accepted his (the apostle Peter) message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."* (47) *"Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved"*. I believe that there is a deep desire within many people even today to trust in our awesome God for their salvation, but many do not know how to go about it. That is why we all need to be doing our part in the Great Commission – Matthew 28:19-20 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name*

*of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* So, whether we are those who are out in front preaching and or teaching, or whether we are the ones who are "setting up the tables" or whatever our role is, we should do these things in such a way that people ask the question that those who heard Peter preaching in Jerusalem who asked the question *"What shall we do?"* We serve an awesome and amazing God who drew thousands to the early church, and is still working in the hearts and lives of many today drawing them to a saving knowledge of Him, and we all have a part in helping them come to know Christ as savior, whether it is here, nearby, or around the world.

One of the ways that we can "speak" to people without saying a word is with the way we live our life. I think of people like Stephen in the book of Acts. In Acts 6, we read about an issue that came up to the Apostles, and they set up a plan of action. In verses 3-5 we see why Stephen was chosen *"Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom... this proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit."* We see the qualities that were being looked for in the people who were being selected – but notice the term – they were to be *"known"* to have these qualities. These were men who had demonstrated that they were Christ Followers who were so full of His Spirit that the people around them recognized it in them and had taken notice of these qualities. When we live our life in such a way that people take notice of us, we must endeavor to live it in a way that points them to Christ.

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](mailto:christopher.mauser@gmail.com)

## Youth Events & Activities

### Junior High Youth Group

6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Dave Dahlstrom  
or Brian Steede

### Senior High Youth Group

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Jon Motta

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

[christopher.mauser@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.mauser@gmail.com)

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

### Food Drive for Salvation Army

Jr & Sr High Youth will be participating in a food scavenger hunt for the Salvation Army's Food Pantry on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Watch for specific time information. The hunt will go throughout the church's neighborhood.

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### Prayer Chain & Official Notices

[bethelemail@gmail.com](mailto: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 November Issue  
of Bethel Matters  
are due in the office  
by Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**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](http://www.bethelmarquette.com)

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

### Happy October Birthday/Anniversary to:

1. Brian Goupil, Cliff Maier, Bethany Jentoft
4. Gabriel Lacar
6. Mim Newman
8. Dick Goodwin
10. Jan Brondyke, Alee Spagnotti
11. Ester Buhl
12. Don & Mary Wernholm (A)
14. Eyn Nye
18. Brianna Steede, Ann Sarkela
21. Dick & Sue Goodwin (A)
23. Jen Farnsworth, Karl & Emily Thomsen (A)
24. Paul Nelson
25. Jean Johnson
27. John Thomsen, Julie Wilkinson
28. Marcy Houlmont (90 yrs)
30. Walley Helmila, Rick & Cindy Pawley (A)
31. Olivia Millin, Jeff Marker, Paul Dionne

### Congratulations to:

**Walley Helmila** for getting his first Hole In One at Greywalls Golf Course recently.

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# 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, but we are in need of one more worker. If you are interested and available, contact Bethany.

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## 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”

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# 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

- \* October 3<sup>rd</sup> – regular club night
- \* October 10<sup>th</sup> – regular club night
- \* October 17<sup>th</sup> – Theme Night (wear your favorite team’s colors and receive a candy treat)
- \* October 24<sup>th</sup> – regular club night
- \* October 31<sup>st</sup> – regular club night

Questions: contact Josh Vissering at 360-0201

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## From the Mailbox:

With special thanks to all of you. “To know you is to know people who are kind, considerate, and thoughtful. To know you is to be grateful for the special things you do.” For everything you’ve done...for being the special people that you are...thank you so very much.



To be a part, the focus, of a church and nationwide effort in prayer and fundraising for our benefit is truly humbling. Our family truly cares about us and in turn we will continue to go out and serve our great God.

Our connection through the Holy Spirit is like no other. As the bride of Christ, together we strive as one to fulfill the great commandment.

Our hearts have been knit even tighter into the fabric, which is Bethel Baptist Church. We are so thankful to you and for you.

Truly we could not be more blessed. We love you and look forward to the future with you.

In Christ’s Joy,  
Gary, Amy, & Elise Wixtrom

For Your Information:

A Total of \$12,762.00 has been raised and paid to them.

**HELP THE SALVATION ARMY'S  
FOOD PANTRY**

If you didn't get a chance to bring any food items for the Salvation Army food pantry fundraiser, you can still participate by bringing in an item or two. Our youth will be having a Food Scavenger Hunt to add to the cart.



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**Family Harvest Party**  
Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 PM



Food  
Games  
Hay Ride  
Photo Booth  
Maze



**Bring a Friend!**  
This is for the entire family.

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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. **Please meet at the home of Cliff & Eleanor Maier (1903 Mildred, MQT) on Sunday, October 2nd.**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month
  - \* Subway - 10%
  - \* Taco Bell - free small beverage
- \* Walgreen's - 20% 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month
- \* Wendy's - free Value Size Drink

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**Hymn Sing**  
**Sunday, October 30, 6 PM**



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**Wedding Reception**  
for Andy & Beth Larsen  
on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>  
2-5 PM  
at Bible Baptist Church  
615 S. North Lake Drive  
Ishpeming, MI

Andy & Beth are registered at Kohl's and Amazon.

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**Fall Fest Results**

Fall Fest was another very successful event this year.

Four hundred and seventy-four students came by, threw darts, and filled out a questionnaire. Two hundred and forty indicated on it that they would be or maybe would be interested in a discussion about spiritual matters. Of that number about twenty are not useable because the information provided is not adequate.

Visitation restrictions that Northern has adopted makes it difficult for us to contact students; therefore we urgently request your prayers that we will be able to make contact with a good number of these students in other ways and that the students will be receptive.

We also want to thank all of those faithful Christ followers who helped out at the Fall-Fest event. I would like to list all of the names but am sure I would miss some, so will refrain from doing that. It could not have happened without

you. So thank you again. Remember your reward is awaiting you in heaven!!

-- Eleanor Maier

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**Quarterly Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM**

A light lunch will be provided beginning at 12 noon for those attending the meeting.

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**Camp Retreats**

**Lake Ellen Camp**

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 Women's Retreat  
Oct. 20-23 Scrapbooking & Craft Retreat

**Upper Peninsula Bible Camp**

Sept. 30 - Oct. 4 Autumn Adventure Camp for All Ages & Families

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**Mark Your Calendar**  
**for These Upcoming Activities**

Primetimers Thanksgiving Dinner  
Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

Music Open House

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

All Adults Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 PM  
at U.P. Bible Camp