

THE

# Bugle

January 2017  
A Publication of  
Bethany Christian Church

1920 N. Rangeline Road  
Anderson, IN 46012  
Phone: 765.643.5713  
www.bccanderson.org

**SUNDAY MORNING:**  
9:00 A.M.  
Worship  
Sunday School  
Kids Church

10:30 A.M.  
Worship  
Sunday School

**Volunteers  
Needed!**

Contact the church  
office if you are inter-  
ested in volunteering  
your time to help  
make this evening a  
success, 643.5713

**STAFF:**  
Bob Bell,  
Senior Minister

Chris Bell,  
Students

Steve Fair,  
Senior Adults

Tim Fair,  
Families/Community

Gabriel Ohmes,  
Worship

Tisha Schultz,  
Children

WINTER  
CARNIVALE

01.27.17



**Doors open from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

**FREE food, fun, games, & prizes.**

**Come join us!**

**Bring your family,  
neighbors & friends  
for this fantastic night!**

**Donations needed!**

*We are currently taking donations of individually wrapped candy and cookies for the upcoming carnivale. There will be a labeled collection box at the Connecting Point throughout January.*

**Your donations will help make the Winter Carnivale a huge success for the children of our church and community!**



Much of last year was spent walking through Genesis. Thank you for your willingness to walk slowly and look around a bit. What we found is that God introduces Himself to us in Genesis. If someone who knew nothing of God, nothing of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or Christianity would become curious enough to pick up a Bible and read, it would seem logical that they would start at the beginning; they would start at Genesis.

So, as we enter into Genesis, what is the first thing God wants us to know? What is the first reality God desires for this curious reader to encounter? *"In the beginning God . . ."* *"In the beginning God created . . ."* The very first truth with which we, or our curious friend, are confronted is the reality of God. From that point on, God seems to be introducing Himself to us. Verse by verse, chapter by chapter, story by story, God is allowing us to see who He is, His character and nature.

I could be wrong, but I believe there is a planned order to Genesis. I believe God allows us to see and think about who He is in a specific order. He slowly reveals Himself to us, but He does so in the order and pace that He desires. So we first learn He is Creator; this God who will describe Himself to us in the Bible is the Divine Power who spoke the world into existence and is, therefore, over and above all things. But then in Genesis 2, there is a change in the way God presents Himself to us, a change of names. Even in our English translations we see it as it moves from "God" in Genesis 1:1-2:3 to "Lord God" starting in

Genesis 2:4. The change in names moves us from the impersonal name, the Divine Power, to the personal name used to set the God of the Bible apart from all the other gods of all different time and places. God tells us His name! Not only is God Creator, but God is personal, God is relational.

And so it goes, chapter by chapter, story by story, God slowly tells us a little more about Himself as we move through Genesis. God introduces Himself to us in Genesis. But He doesn't force Himself on us, He reveals Himself to us. He does not allow us to reshape Him into what we think He should be or do or believe, He simply introduces Himself to us and, in the process, allows us to choose. God allows us to choose whether or not we will follow Him as God, honor Him as God, and submit to Him as God.

And then we come to Exodus. In Exodus, God introduces us to the salvation story, the story of what He is doing in the world. He allows us to see this story unfold in the history of the Israelites and the Exodus. The Exodus story is history, it is true, it took place, but it also becomes a picture of a bigger story, the salvation story God is working out in time and space. In Exodus, God introduces us to the salvations story.

But as with Genesis, God does not force the story on us. God does not force us to participate in what He is doing, but God invites us into it; God invites us into this salvation story. For those who will enter in, the story of Exodus becomes the story of us. The parallels and reflections are many. If

we can learn well the Exodus story, it provides a framework for understanding and living our own story.

As we begin this new year—2017—we will begin walking through Exodus. It would seem that if we want to understand this life of faith, if we want to understand Christianity, if we want to understand what God reveals to us in the Bible, that we should walk through it as God has presented it. Last year we listened to God as He introduced Himself to us in Genesis. I am confident there is much we missed in our brief study, but we captured some of what He revealed. This year we are going to move on to the next book—Exodus. In Exodus, God seems to be introducing us to the salvation story—our story. Again, I am sure we will miss much, but, hopefully, we will capture some of what God has revealed. The story of Exodus is the story of us.



**WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS:** In the event that our church services or events must be cancelled due to winter weather, the information will be listed on TV Channels 6, 8, 13 & 59. You can also check WQME radio (98.7) & [www.facebook.com/BCCAnderson](http://www.facebook.com/BCCAnderson).

## Important Bugle Update

This will be the final issue of the monthly Bugle newsletter. This decision was made primarily based upon the costs and time associated with the publication when there are more affordable and effective ways of sharing news with our members and friends. If you are a regular attender, announcements are available in the bulletin and on the screens in the Worship Center & Atrium. You are also encouraged to visit our website ([www.bccanderson.org](http://www.bccanderson.org)) and our Facebook page frequently to keep up with the happenings at Bethany. Announcements, events, pictures, bulletins, sermon podcasts and more are available online. Efforts are underway to develop an abbreviated newsletter for those who do not have computer access. If you do not have computer access and require something in print, please call the church office (765-643-5713) and let us know.

## Thank You ... Change ... Opportunities

Steve Fair

Ruth Ann and I want to say from the bottom of our hearts, "Thank you BCC for welcoming us into your lives." We arrived in late August, and it has been such a blessing for us ever since to start learning your names and your stories of life. We cannot wait to meet each of you and share moments of life with you. For this opportunity and time together, "Thank you!"

There is in everyone the need to change; change in order to stay active, to grow, to remain fresh and to keep moving forward in life, and Bethany Christian Church is a good example of that principle. But in truth, most of us aren't very comfortable with change at home or at church, and that discomfort increases as we age. Perhaps it's because it's disconcerting and creates insecurity. This is a season of change in my life for sure. Bethany Christian Church's history reveals how essential regular change is in order to stay sharp and prevent stagnation and complacency. Inventor Charles F. Kettering put it this way: "The world hates change, but it's the only thing that has brought progress." If the world dislikes change, sometimes I think church people dislike it even more. Francis Schaeffer said that "the church specializes in being behind the times." If that is true, perhaps it's because we're a pretty conservative bunch and we don't go with

every new fad that might compromise the Gospel.

I love Bethany's attitude about change. We are constantly changing our methods while holding fast to the Gospel message. In the coming New Year, change will occur certainly in my new area of ministry, and for that I ask you for patience and trust. It is my hope that we will continue to trust in the Lord and daily remind ourselves that God has blessed Bethany Christian Church in the past because we have been willing to change and adapt our ministry to better reach our community for Christ. As we move forward in this coming New Year at Bethany, I am reminded of this scripture that God has blessed "exceedingly beyond anything we could hope or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

Currently within the Senior Adult Ministry at BCC, there are multiple opportunities for involvement, service and ministry. In the coming New Year, new opportunities will be introduced and announced. I extend an open invitation to all those of the Senior Adult age at BCC to give us a look, attend one of our activities, go on an outing with us, become involved in one of our ministries. My door is always open; I'd love to talk with you about the Senior Adult Ministry here at Bethany Christian Church.

So, one more time, Ruth Ann and I say "Thank-you!"

## Upcoming Events

- 1/1 Combined Service, 10:30 (Donuts at 10:00)
- 1/1 New Year's Celebration (7 pm - Midnight)
- 1/2 Church Office - Closed
- 1/12 Bereavement Support, 7:00
- 1/15 Refuge Worship, 6:30
- 1/27 Winter Carnivale, 6:00
- 2/12 Night of Praise, 6:00 (Refuge & Beyond Borders from Ball State)



- Each Saturday in February, 10:00-11:00 (9:30-11:00 on Feb. 4 only!)
- Ages 3-K
- \$20 includes T-shirt & medalion/trophy
- Sign up by January 31st
- Contact Beth Sperry 317-965-7992



## Student Christmas Party

# THE BETHANY BUGLE

# THE Bugle

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JANUARY 2017

Please pray about your family's involvement in Faith-Promise.

## Faith Promise

Commitments for 2017 are  
**\$1,706/month (as of 12/25/16)**

## Coming Soon!

We are in the process of implementing new software that will soon allow you to make **text or online donations**. The software also allows us to issue each member a unique password with which you can log in to view the **church directory**, update information for you and your family (phone, address, email address, birthdates, etc), and view your personal giving record at any time. We anticipate these features to be available in January, so be watching for more details!



## Care Ministry Birthdays

Please remember the birthdays of our shut-ins with cards and visits.

### Alice Unger - 1/7/32

Alexandria Care Center, Rm. 210  
1912 S. Park Ave.  
Alexandria, IN 46001 724-4478

### Ruth Seal - 1/12/22

Bethany Pointe, Rm. 113  
1707 Bethany Rd.  
Anderson, IN 46012 643-1250

## Births

### Beau Lewis Howard - 11/23/16

Parents: Lewis & Missy Howard

### River Grace Hoover - 11/30/16

Parents: Chris & Jennifer Hoover  
Grandparents: Kent & Teresa Hoover

### Vale Avery Gipson - 12/13/16

Parents: Mike & Melissa Gipson

## Deaths

### Lois Morrison - 11/22/16

Grandmother of Toni Beatrice & Tianne Hewitt

### Norma Jean Wean - 11/29/16

Mother of Jon (Kim) Wean;  
Sister of Mary Louise Patterson

### Dale Hopkins - 12/9/16

Father of Suzy (Adam) Box

### Mary L. Parr - 12/13/16

Mother of Karen (Sid) Smith

## New Decisions

### Bill & Kitty Tilton - 12/4/16

### Modlene Campbell - 12/11/16

## Statistics as of November 2016:

### GENERAL BUDGET

- November Offerings \$64,011
- Year-to-date budget needs \$769,846
- Year-to-date actual giving \$721,721
- Amount under YTD \$48,124
- Budgeted weekly income \$16,038
- Average weekly income \$15,036

### FAITH PROMISE

Funds sent to C.M.F. for support of the Kineman Family (Individuals/classes)

- November offerings \$2,910
- YTD offerings \$28,008

### AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

- Year-to-date 531 (as of 11/27/16)

*Please contact the church office (765-643-5713) if you would like to request giving envelopes or set up your gifts for automatic withdrawal.*