



Covenant Partner News

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Volume 4

Issue 17

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Message From Evangelistic Outreach

(Excerpt from EVANTELL April 2, 2024 Blog)

“Sharing the Celebration of Easter”

Thanks to what Christ did on the cross, salvation from our sin is available. We can be saved through faith in Jesus Christ. For by grace (undeserved favor) you have been saved (delivered from sin’s penalty) through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Eph. 2:8-9).

The Easter message of the Bible is not difficult to understand. It can be captured in just three words: Jesus saves sinners. It’s just as easy to share as well. Who can you share the message with this Easter season?

BETHESDA ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2024		
Sunday School	Prayer Meeting	Bible Study
Men (3)	Tuesday (30)	Tuesday (29)
Women (18)	<i>Prayer Focus: Psalm 91:1-5</i>	Thursday (14)
Phone (13)	1) <i>He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. – Psalm 91:1; Pray for help to draw so close to God that no enemy dares to approach you as you rest in His shadow. 2) I will say to the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God in Him I will trust. – Psalm 91:2; Pray to trust God with anything and to always run to Him in times of trouble; 3) Surely, He shall deliver from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. – Psalm 91:3; Pray for God to guard your heart against anything that would rob you of your joy and confidence in Him. 4) He will cover you with His feathers. He will shelter you with His wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. – Psalm 91:4; Thank You Lord for providing all I need in times of trouble. 5) Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. – Psalm 91:5; Pray for help to remember there is nothing that can touch your life apart from God’s loving purpose. 6) Pray for our sick & shut-in and those asking for prayers and other expressions of compassion and comfort.</i>	
Children (2)		

On Prayer by James Banks

(A Pastor and Writer for the Daily Bread)

Now sometimes we might mistakenly think that prayer has something to do with skill. Sometimes you hear someone who is very well meaning say “I don’t have the Spiritual gift of prayer.” But did you know that of all the spiritual gifts listed in Scripture, prayer is not among them? And there’s an excellent reason for that. Prayer is meant for all of us. “Why Pray?” “Because you prayed!” “Bend down, O LORD, and listen!” Isaiah 36 and 37. That doesn’t mean things will go our way every time we pray, but if we learn to pray proactively---making prayer our “first resort” and not “a last resort” ---we will or may see God do breathtaking things. He wants us to help us lift our eyes above our circumstances so that we can catch a glimpse of His goodness and love. He wants us to pray so that we will get to know Him---and that really is the best part about prayer. True prayer is about so much more than just request or answers---it’s about a relationship with the One who will love and sustain us even when the answers don’t seem to come.

ODBU.org/SF120 is worth reading on prayer. Listen to his lecture on “Why Pray” by James Banks.

- Why Pray
- Why Not Ask?
- When You Don’t know What to Say
- Obstacles to Prayer
- Praying for Others
- Prayer and Fasting
- What about “Unanswered” Prayer
- Persevering in Prayer
- Living a Prayer-Filled Life
(Course Completion)

RECURRING EVENTS

Hour of Power & Bible Study

Each Tuesday at 6:00pm followed by

Bible Study at 7:00pm via *ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83096366206?pwd=J7wZ8bwAcBA1snP5SgRuYhW4E2DsU.1>

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206

Passcode: 199366

To use your cell phone or land line, *please dial: 1. 301. 715. 8592

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206#; Passcode: 199366#

We encourage all members to submit prayer requests as the Holy Spirit leads by 12:00 Noon on Monday.

Open Praise Forum & Bible Study

Every Tuesday leading up to Communion Sunday at 6:00pm followed by

Bible Study at 7:00pm via ZOOM and on conference line referenced above. *

Men's Prayer Hour

Each Wednesday at *a new time 9:00pm* via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access 875378#

Women's Prayer Hour

Each 4th Saturday at 9:00am via conference call:

1.605.313.5143; Access code 654522#

Questions and Answers

Held each 4th Sunday at 6:00pm via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

Please submit your questions *today* by email to: SoulCare@Bethesdaweb.org or in Q&A box located on the table outside of the church office.

Bible Study

Each Thursday at 12:00 Noon via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

THIS WEEK EVENTS

Monday, April 29

7:00pm Outreaching Coordinating Committee Meeting via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

Friday, May 3

6:00am - 6:00pm Corporate Day of Prayer and Fasting

6:00pm One Hour of Corporate Prayer via *ZOOM

6:00pm Good News Club Ministry Meeting, Rooms 118 and 120

Saturday, May 4

10:00am DC Aglow Ministry, Room 128

10:00am Men's Forum DC Council

10:30am Deaconess Ministry Meeting, via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ever fasted over your finances?

Fasting enables you to take your eyes off the things of this world so you can focus on the Lord. The Bible addresses fasting for repentance, sorrow, deliverance, guidance, and help. There are different types, including fasting from foods, drinks, or certain activities. Done in humility and not to show off our righteousness, fasting strengthens us to overcome sin and draw closer to God.

Bethesda is currently experiencing some financial challenges. We know that there is nothing too big for God, Amen! We have an aging physical plant and while each of the items below, may seem like a big deal to us, this is not so with God:

- Roof Replacement
- Tile repair on 2nd floor
- Plumbing leak in Mechanical Room
- Lightbulb replacement in Sanctuary
- Exterior door replacement
- Projector replacement in Sanctuary

Whenever we abstain from something, we expose how strong our desire is for certain earthly things. By denying ourselves in this way, we clean out the soul, making room for God. This is why prayer goes hand-in-hand with fasting. For when you desire whatever-it-is you're fasting from, instead of turning to that thing, you turn to God in prayer. In feeling the pain of emptiness, you take time to be filled up with God.

Now this has been my experience. Whether seeking His will in financial decisions or dealing with financial pain, try fasting. Turn to Him. Only the Lord can satisfy our deepest longings.

I am calling on all of Bethesda to join us in a church-wide Fast from 6 am to 5 PM next Friday, May 3th. At 6 PM, we will come together via zoom for one hour of corporate prayer.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83096366206?pwd=J7wZ8bwAcBA1snP5SgRuYhW4E2DsU.1>

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206

Passcode: 199366

To use your cell phone or land line, please dial: 1. 301. 715. 8592

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206#; Passcode: 199366#

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

Can we count on you to join us? Will you call at least two other Bethesda members to remind them of Friday's Prayer and Fast?

Our overall scripture for the Fast is 2 Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." Here is a list of items you can pray about during the Fast:

- That we would seek God with all our heart (Jeremiah 29:13)
- That the Trustees will be especially endowed with wisdom, keen business sense and holy purpose in all matters (James 1:5)
- That each member will seek to touch another member, motivating him or her to fully participate in giving tithes and offerings to meet our current expenses and building repairs (Hebrews 10:24)
- That peace, harmony, cooperation, oneness, and liberality shall prevail throughout the entire church membership of Bethesda. Pray that the kind of love for each other which the Bible speaks of will be a reality among us. (John 13:34-35)

His servant and Yours,
Pastor Mike

JUNE 8TH UNITY/COMMUNITY DAY

Attention: The June 8th Unity/Community Day is quickly approaching! Last year was our first experience coordinating and collaborating with other ministries, Trinity Baptist, community partners and surrounding clergy . We are praying with anticipation that God will increase our territory so that we can spread the Good News of Jesus and foster unity between community residents and the church families. We need your help to tell the story. How will you serve? There are numerous opportunities: assistance at the moon bounce/ bounce house, photography of activities, supervision at the pony rides, help with arts and crafts, doing face painting, interacting and leading games, assisting with onsite registration, praying in the prayer tent, serving lunch, assisting in the Medical tent, assisting with first aid needs, and assisting at the Take Away/Give Away tables (Church Library, VBS etc.) **Pray about how you can help make a Difference! Registration will begin Sunday, May 5, 2024, after morning service in the vestibule.**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

BAPTIST EDUCATIONAL CONGRESS OF DC AND VICINITY

The 81st Annual Session of the Baptist Educational Congress of the District of Columbia and Vicinity (BEC) will offer classes for spiritual growth and everyday living for students of all ages. The courses will convene on Monday, May 6th through Friday, May 10th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., via Zoom. The courses include Spiritual Warfare (Bishop Edwon Brown), Effective Bible Reading (Rev. Bernard Fuller), Baptist Doctrine – (Rev. Emmett Young III), Daniel (Rev. Charles Russell), When Life Hurts (Rev. Larry Hentz), Strengthening Your Prayer Life (Rev. Charles Bynum), Servant Leadership (Rev. Rodney Teal), Women in Ministry Seminar (Bishop Kecia Ford), Ministers Seminar (Rev. Terry Streeter), Introduction to Discipleship (Rev. Chris Starghill), Miracles of Jesus (Rev. Angelo Berry), Survey of Paul's Letters (Rev. Tyrone Queen), The Study of Last Things (Rev. Nat Obey), Creative Ways of Teaching (Rev. Donald Sadler) and Reaching Unchurched People (Rev. John Cox).

Please call the church office to obtain a copy of the course list with descriptions and the registration form. **Mail-in registration should be post marked by April 28, 2024**; or you may register online at www.BaptistConventionDCVicinity.com. The registration fee is \$35 per person.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

VBS is quickly approaching. We need volunteers to serve. Pray how the Lord can use you in this outreach effort. The third training session will be held on **Saturday, May 11th** at 9:00 am. The volunteer form is on the table near the church office.

VULNERABLE POPULATION POLICY (VPOP)

Vulnerable Population Policy (VPoP) trainings and screenings will be held on the following dates:

Saturday, May 11th, 9am*

Saturday, May 25th, 10 am

(*in conjunction with VBS Training)

2024 JOHN D. BUSSEY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

2024 John D. Bussey Scholarship applications are now available. If you are stepping into or continuing higher education, we invite you to complete an application. Applications can be found outside of the church office or on the church website. The deadline for submissions is May 26th.

ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER

MINISTRY ACTION PLAN

Ministry Leaders, this is a reminder to complete the Ministry Action Plan Special Event Form for any major events six (6) months in advance of the planned activity for approval. The objective of this process is to help ministries of our church plan activities prior to committing resources to them. Please see the church office if you are in need of a form. The pastor will meet with each leader to review the proposed activity. Thank you.

ROOF REPLACEMENT FUND

We have established a goal of raising \$62,000 over the next 12-months for replacement of the church's roof Section M. We are asking each member to give an extra \$62 per month or \$15.50 per week to the church's Building Maintenance Fund. If 100 members do this on a regular monthly basis over the course of 1-year, we will raise the \$62,000 necessary to finance the first phase of roof repairs. Please use the special "Roof Replacement" envelopes found outside of the church office and Sanctuary vestibule. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving, Bethesda!

"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27

IT SUPPORT MINISTRY

Dear Ministry Leaders,

As we continue to promote our church events, we want to make sure that we are doing so in the most effective and efficient way possible. To help us achieve this, we are introducing a new form that will allow you to upload flyers for your events and have them posted on our social media platforms. Please use the following form to submit your promotional materials:

<https://form.jotform.com/bbcitsupport/ministry-submit-form>

Please ensure that you submit any promotional flyers at least one week in advance of your event to allow enough time for us to post them.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us spread the word about our events. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

BBC IT Support Ministry

ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER CONTINUED:

MINISTRY LEADERS

If you would like to hold your ministry meetings or events on Zoom, please contact Sister Bobbie Taylor at 202.635.2883 or submit your request by email: btaylor@bethesdaweb.org

MINISTRY MAILBOX

All ministry heads or secretaries, please remember to check your mailbox.