

Being Disciples...



Making Disciples...

The Encourager

A Newsletter from El Bethel Baptist Church

January 2018

A new year filled with so many opportunities and challenges. I hope you will pray for this to be the year that we reach out to more people than ever before with the Gospel. I don't think that we set out not to witness to people – it's just that we don't set out to witness to people. We MUST become Missional in our thinking.

When was the last time you had a conversation and the person with whom you were talking shared a problem, issue or concern? It happens a lot. These interactions are gospel opportunities, we must come to the place where we recognize them and seize them.

There was a Church member who was sitting in a hospital waiting room with only one other man. The man was somewhat unkempt and seemed irritated and unapproachable. Plus, the man's size was a bit intimidating. He looked fully capable of hurting anyone who bothered him. The Church member prayed for the man and thought about God's arms not being too short to save. The he mustered up his courage and spoke to the man saying, "Sir, I know you don't know me, but I'd

like to share some good news with you." The man responded by saying he sure could use some good news. He came over and sat next to the Church member, who shared the gospel with him using John 3:16. The man repented and believed in Jesus right there in the hospital waiting room.

In Scripture, we encounter many who may have seemed uninterested in hearing the gospel. Here's a list of the least likely people to repent and believe:

Paul – who persecuted the church and killed Christians to stop the spread of the Gospel. (Acts 8:1)

Man possessed by demons (Mark 5)

Woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11)

Thief on the cross (Luke 23:32-43)

It's interesting that many times the people we think will follow Christ don't, and those we think will reject him choose to follow Him? How do we know who will respond

to the Gospel? We don't! That is why we are commanded to take the Gospel to every person. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who doesn't believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15-16) The Gospel is not only Good News it is Important news. Jesus is real, Heaven is real, Hell is real, and a decision must be made.

Let's be found telling someone about Jesus this week.

Love and prayers,
Pastor Ron

Meet Our Staff

Pastor	Rev. Ron Cooper
Associate/Youth Pastor	Justin Cunningham
Worship Leader	Tracy Hicks
Children	Tammy Kerley
Senior Adult	Barbara Hart

Join us this Sunday

Sunday	
Sunday School	9:30 am
Worship	10:30 am
Adult Choir	5:00 pm
Children's Time	6:00 pm
Worship	6:00 pm
Tuesday	
Care & Grow	6:30 pm
Wednesday (August-May)	
Meal	5:00pm
Awana	6:00 pm
Youth Led D-Groups	6:00pm
Youth	6:30 pm
Worship	6:30 pm
Wednesday (June-July)	
Children	6:30pm
Youth	6:30pm
Bible Study	6:30pm

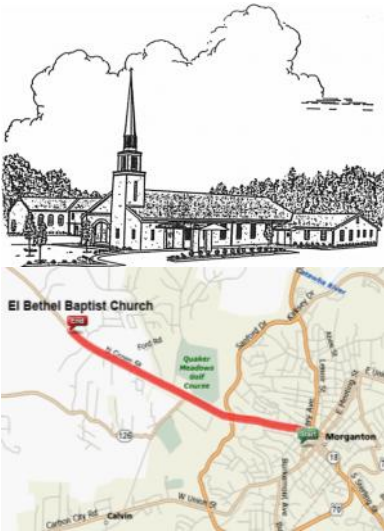
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If you are seeking a place to serve, worship, and contribute to the Kingdom of God, we sincerely pray that God will lead you to join our fellowship at El Bethel.

Business Meeting Minutes by Gayle Walden

El Bethel Baptist Church Business Meeting – Sunday, December 17, 2017

I. Call to Order:

Larry Leonhardt called the church into business conference.

The minutes were read from the previous business meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

There were no objections or corrections and the minutes were approved as read.

III. Reports of Treasurer, Organizations, Ministries, Others:

Treasurer, (2) Children, (3) Youth, (4) Seniors (5) Brotherhood (6) Music, (7) Committee Updates, (8) Others

IV. Old Business Pending

None

V. Deacons' Information

Deacons are in the process of deciding how to replace 35 Bibles that are missing from the pews. They are working on a special emphasis for the replacement.

VI. Deacons' Motions

None

VII. New Business from the Floor

Motion was made by Debbie Copper to only cut the Senior Budget \$500 instead of the proposed cut of \$1,000. A vote was taken with 10 yes and 12 no. Motion failed.

Budget discussion took place over the 2018 yearly budget. Lisa McGinnis explained why cuts were made. Request were made for specific explanations on cuts. Motion was made to accept the 2018 budget. Vote was taken with majority in favor. Motion carried.

As a matter of information, during the morning worship service on Sunday, December 17, 2017 Pastor Ron Cooper read a letter of resignation to the church body.

VIII. Church Letters:

Don Russ has requested that his name be removed from the church roll. Motion carried.

IX. Motion to adjourn made and seconded

God used you in my life...

We would like to honor Pastor Ron & Debbie by letting them know how God has used them in our lives during their service here at El Bethel. During the next few weeks you are asked to write down a few ways that Pastor Ron and/or Debbie have touched your lives for Christ. There is special paper in this edition of the Encourager and on Joanna's desk that you can use! Please have all papers turned in by Sunday, January 28th so that they can be compiled into a book that they can keep!



HAITI HAPPENINGS

Fundraisers:

Sheets:

Our medical mission team is selling bed sheets. We have Twin, Twin XL, and Full for \$25.00 per set. We have Queen, King, and California King for \$30.00 per set. These are all deep pockets and keep their shape after washing. There is a large variety of colors to choose from. See any member for details. Sput Powell has them at his house and can get them to you quickly.

We are also selling handmade bookmarks for \$1.00 each. All the money raised from these sales go directly to Pastor Sandue and his wife to help run the orphanage in Pignon. Madam Sandue made the bookmarkers. Please see either Hannah Clark or Barbara Powell to purchase these.

We still have T-shirts for sell. We have limited supplies in both dark blue and light blue. The price has been dropped to \$10.00 each. We will not be reordering these so see Hannah Clark to get yours while they last.

To help Sister Phyllis and the people of Haiti, we are collecting different items for 2 months at a time. You may donate any item at any time but we will be focusing on certain items each month. There is a tote in the vestibule that you can drop the items in. Most of the items can be bought at the Dollar Tree. The following items are what we are collecting:

Feb./March- Lotion

April/May- soap/body wash

June/July- deodorant/sunglasses (kids and adults)

August/Sept.- Underwear/socks

Oct./Nov.- toothbrushes/toothpaste



We greatly appreciate your support and prayers as we continue to try to do what God has laid before us.

El Bethel Medical Mission Team and Hearts, Hands, and Hope for Haiti

January Birthdays

Louise Burkett January 1
Haliee McCoy January 3
Todd Gerrmann January
Kathy Amos January 5
Kendall Griffith January 5
Nicholas Bruinsma January 7
Emma Moneyham January 8
Roger Miller January 12
Loren Scott January 13
Daniel Bailey January 16
Mike Evitt January 16
Junior Hollifield January 20
Anthony Person January 20
Tammy Kerley January 23
Robbie Stamey January 23
David Turbeville January 23
Turner South January 24
Amanda Highley January 25
Jenna Cook January 26
Debbie Cooper January 27
Caleb Skaar January 27
Billy Hillenbrand January 28
Aubrey Clark January 30
Carolyn Eller January 30

A Note from Tracy

A Look Back and A Look Ahead

I don't know about you, but the start of a new year has always been a challenge for me. First of all I can never remember to write the correct year on my checks or get the date right on special documents requiring the year until well into February! And then there is the decision to make about New Year's Resolutions. I start with good intentions but things slowly make their way back into the old normal. My workouts get shorter & less often and my new eating habits get slowly replaced by the old. So this year I decided to take every day as a challenge. Not just because it is a new year but because I want my everyday regardless of the date to be holy and acceptable to Him that gave me life. I have decided to look at every day as a fresh start, another opportunity to live better for Him and grow as a Christian. Instead of counting time in years going by, I'm counting the days until I will see Him face to face. And you know it makes the time go faster and easier. "One Day at a Time Sweet Jesus that's all I'm asking from you. Just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do. Yesterday's gone Sweet Jesus and tomorrow may never be mine. Lord help me today. Show me the way one days at a time!"

My love and prayers are with you El Bethel!

Prayer List

Are available for you in the front foyer and under the cross in the sanctuary. Please join us as we pray for these request.

Burke United Christian Ministries Food Box

There is an ongoing collection of non-perishable food items for the BUCM. The food box is located in the hallway on the organ side of the sanctuary. Please make note of this next time you go to the grocery store and pick up a few extra items for the BUCM!

Women's Missionary Union (WMU)

The WMU of El Bethel would like to invite ALL ladies to their meetings on the first Sunday night of each month at 6pm. The ladies will be starting a special Bible study on Heaven! Plan now to join!

Pastor Selection Process

How does El Bethel go about choosing the next pastor? The process is detailed in our Church Constitution (complete copies are available in the church office). Here is simple outline of the plan.

1. **Prayer:** We ask everyone to be praying for God's will to be done in this decision, especially for the Pulpit Committee, the church, and the candidates.
2. An **Interim Pastor** will be called to fill the position during the search process as it normally takes months to fill the position.
3. The church will nominate and vote on a small number of church members to serve on the **Pulpit Committee**. They will be trained on how to do the search.
4. The Pulpit Committee will advertise the position, receive resumes, and narrow the field to the one candidate they feel is best for our church.
5. The Pulpit Committee will **present this candidate** to the Church. After hearing a trial sermon, the Church will vote. With 3/4ths vote, he becomes our new pastor. If not, the Pulpit Committee will seek another candidate.

Our Church Constitution says:

Article 5 Church Officers, Section 2:

A – Pastor: Whenever a vacancy occurs, a pastor shall be called by the Church...

The Call of the Pastor shall take place at a meeting especially called for that purpose, of which at least one-week's notice has been given the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a special committee elected by the Church to seek out and nominate as pastor, a minister of the Gospel whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office of this Church, and no nomination shall be made except that of the committee. Election shall be by secret ballot with an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting necessary for a call. Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive three-fourths vote, the committee shall be instructed to seek another minister, and the meeting shall be adjourned without debate.

