

Bethany

loving with the heart of Jesus

January 8, 2012

8:15 & 10:45 o'clock

Sermon: "The Greatness of Grace"



"I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the life of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:18-19 (NRSV)

Our Mission

To trust in Jesus...

love like Jesus...

grow in Jesus...

bring others to Jesus.

WELCOME

“Enter this Church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May the blessings of God rest upon you, both in your coming in and your going out.”

We are delighted to have you in worship. We ask you to please sign the Fellowship Pad at the end of the pew. For your convenience, we have a warm and loving nursery adjacent to the sanctuary, complete with an available paging system. We also have a Cry Room at the back of the Sanctuary (near the usher’s table) on the pulpit side with a speak so that you can see and hear the service. If you have any questions or need literature regarding the life of Bethany Presbyterian Church, please visit the Welcome Center, located next to the sanctuary.

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

WE GATHER BEFORE GOD

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

THE WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

THE PRELUDE *“How Brightly Shines the Morningstar”* D. Buxtehude

Please take time during the Prelude to meditate & prepare for worship.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*THE HYMN NO. 242 “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

WE GIVE TO GOD

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please sign the Fellowship Pad and return it to the center aisle.

THE OFFERTORY

8:15 *“How Brightly Shines the Morningstar”* J. Pachelbel

10:45 *“Lord, Lead Me, Lord”* J. Martin

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER:

Please let us know if you are going into the hospital, having surgery or will be an outpatient. Also, let us know when you return home.

In the Hospital as of January 6:

Patty Black – Surgery January 10

Linda Karns – Surgery January 10

George Whoolery – Jefferson Regional (Mike Whoolery's father)

Charlotte Guisewite – Florida

(Marlene Haley, Maxine Berton & Joy Heaps' mother)

Discharged:

Jack Wilcox

LaVonne LeMal

Tom Woodward – Lifecare Hospital Care of Pittsburgh

Emily Brady – came home Wednesday

Remember in Prayer:

Zach Noel (Shirley Ellis' grandson)

Brandy Stevens

Albert Eisenbeis – (Jean Roemer's father)

Jimmy Slack

Sean Clifford & Family (Tom & Pam Lambert's Grandson)

Little Sean Clifford – Sean is Tom and Pam Lambert's 28 month old grandson who was found in his parent's pool on Christmas Eve afternoon, in Jacksonville, FL. As of today (Jan. 5), Sean is off life support and his family is waiting for the Lord to take him home. If anyone wants to send a donation for Sean's care or to simply send a card to the Lambert family, here are the addresses: Pam and Tom's home address is 118 Saddlehorn Drive, Guyton, GA 31312. Sean's parents, Chris and Sara Clifford, along with Sean's sisters Alanna and Ava, reside at 5524 Blackjack Grove Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32258. The Lambert family thanks you for your thoughts and prayers.

The Blue Fellowship of Prayer Request Cards are for those having a prayer request, interested in being a part of this group, or wanting more information.

Respite Care: Did you know that your church family can cook a meal, shop, drive or just visit for a few hours to give your family or caregiver a break. We are not a permanent or long term solution but we can help. For information or to volunteer please call Margie Smith at 412-221-3730.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Baptism dates for 2012:

January 29

March 22

May 22

July 29

September 30

November 25

Call the Church Office to request a date for Baptism.

Communion dates for 2011:

February 26

April 5

May 6

June 25

August 5

September 9

October 7

December 2

Children wanting to receive Communion must first talk with the pastors. Call the pastor to make an appointment.

Look for the next New Members Class to begin soon. If you are interested in joining the Family of God here at Bethany please note this on the Fellowship Pad along with your name, address and phone number or fill in the red card in the pew and drop it in the offering plate.

Parking for Sunday Services – it is requested that members not use the parking spaces nearest the church entrance. The Property Team would like to reserve the front row spaces for the elderly, for those with special needs and for visitors. Those who may have a greater need than others just might get discouraged from attending church because they have to walk so far.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Bethany Church will be having only one worship service on Sunday, January 22, 2012. The service will be held at 10:00 AM, at which time, Robbie Ytterberg will be leading the service as a candidate for the position of Associate Pastor of Discipleship.

The Session has called a Congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 11:00 AM, immediately following the 10:00 AM worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to affirm the recommendation of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for the calling of Robbie Ytterberg to the position of Associate Pastor of Discipleship.

Need Scrip? Stop at the Welcome Center after worship or at the office during the week and purchase a card(s) for Home Depot, KMart, Wal-Mart, Lowes, Target, and many more cards are available. How about going out to eat after a busy day – we have cards available for several restaurants. We even have cards for BP and Sunoco for vacation trips. You can also purchase Giant Eagle and Shop n Save cards. This is the easiest fundraiser you will ever participate in because it doesn't cost you anymore than you already spend. Thank you for supporting the mission work of the church through this program. **Niki Ciaramella will be in the Welcome Center this morning after the 8:15 service. Look for Earl & Pat Swanson after the 10:45 service.**

Suggestion Box Reminder: Did you really like the music or the sermon today? Do you have a comment or concern for one of the pastors? Is there something else on your mind that you'd like to share? The Suggestion Box, located in the Welcome Center, allows you to have a voice while remaining anonymous. It is checked regularly, and all comments are kept private. Please take a moment to let us know what you are thinking, whether it's a praise or concern.

Fellowship of Prayer Participants can pick-up their updated prayer list from Carolyn Garretson who will be in the Welcome Center.

The Session Teams will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9th in the Welcome Center. **The Deacon Teams** will also meet at 7:00 p.m. and the Deacons Meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. following Teams' meeting.

The Thank Offering has long been a tradition of Presbyterian Women. It has provided and continues to provide much-needed financial assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Each year, domestic and international projects are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee to help meet a crucial need. Forty percent (40%) of this offering is used to support hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God's community. The remaining sixty percent (60%) is used for new creative ideas for mission, undesignated in advance. The generosity of Presbyterian women and their families and congregations as demonstrated through their Thank Offering gifts help chosen recipients find real solutions for projects related to health, education, economic development, and needs of women and children.

In 2011 Bethany collected \$1,653 for this Thank Offering. Presbyterian Women at Bethany seek to minister to women and children through a variety of means. Thank Offering is one of them. We appreciate the continued support of the congregation for this offering. Look in the bulletin and newsletter for more ways that Presbyterian Women are making a difference.

A donation has been made to honor the P.W. of Bethany for their amazing strength and efforts to prepare and serve a bereavement luncheon in honor of Lisa Jo Colwell's mother, Eve Pozzi, on Friday, December 23, 2011, which was Christmas week. This was a critical time for my family and me, and Bethany was on the ball. A special thank you goes to Nikki O'Brien, Caroline Poiche, and Judy Gardner. Our Presbyterian Women support each other's families, and are true outstanding ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

Thank you Bethany Presbyterian Church body for standing in the gap with my family and me during the recent death of my mother, Eve Pozzi, on December 19, 2011. Thank you church body for each and every prayer, kind word, visitation, and sympathy cards concerning this challenging time. Bethany, this church is the **BEST** home on this side of heaven. Your very heartfelt concerns are appreciated. Sincere appreciation, Lisa Jo Colwell and sons, Bruce Colwell and Jonathan Colwell.

Thank you so much for your continued kindness and generosity to our boys. Every year you go out of your way to include us and have made our boys feel included in the community. We appreciate everything you do and how you help elevate our boy's moods!

Thank you, The Southwood Bridgeville Team.

JAMES: MERCY TRIUMPHS – Women's Bible Study

On Friday, January 27 at 9:30 am we will begin a new and very different Bible study for women. It is a study on the life and the New Testament book of James, and the title is *Mercy Triumphs*. A Thursday evening group will begin in early February.

This particular Bible study offers a 5-tiered approach, so that more women will be able to participate...and participate at the level they want/need/choose. Tier one involves coming to class and watching the teaching dvd by Beth Moore, followed by class discussion. Tier two adds a workbook, with 5 daily lessons. Tier 3 adds writing out the entire Book of James. Tier 4 brings the opportunity to complete a "What could I do to go deeper?" section (a response to many requests for increased scholarship...original languages, cultural setting, etc.). And tier 5 offers the challenge of memorizing the Book of James as you study it. We will order study books for all those who will be choosing tier 2 and higher. If you choose to come to class but not take on the daily studies, we will print out the viewer guides for you to use as you watch the dvd lesson...but you will not need a study book. It is important that we have an accurate number of participants, and know how many will need study books. The cost of the book is \$16.

We will have childcare for the Friday morning class.

If you have never participated in an in-depth group Bible study before, why not start now? You can choose your level of involvement. Please call the church office to let us know if you would like to participate, and if you will need a study book.

If you have any questions, contact Melany Hamilton at mhamilton@bethanypresby.org; or 412-276-1013.

Beginning in the fall of 1826, the minutes of the Session of Bethany only records one action – the trial of Laird v. Wilkeson. Mr. Laird is being accused of slander for telling people that Mr. Wilkeson had stolen his wheat which was stored in Mr. Isaac Walker's mill. We have heard the depositions of several witnesses including a fun one last week where they described meeting at the frolic being held for taking out the manure (sounds like fun!). We continue this week with the minutes of March 29th, 1827:

John Nesbett, Elder, being sworn, saith:

Last fall, about the time I was hauling in my corn, Mr Laird asked me in my care if I had heard the rumors between him and John Wilkeson about wheat that was taken out of Isaac Walker's mill. I told him that I had heard it and that I was sorry for it- that I had heard he had taken three bushels and that Laird had given him permission to take it. And my advice, said I, would be to you, to try and compromise the matter, as it is not yet widely spread. He said he could not, for he had been in Noblestown and the people there told him that Wilkeson had taken 6-8-10, some say 15, and I don't know, said Mr. Laird, but 20 bushels. He also said that the people in Noblestown threatened to prosecute him, if he did not prosecute Wilkeson.

Q. by Session – *Did Laird give you the names of any of those persons in Noblestown who threatened to prosecute him if he did not prosecute?*

A. –*He told me there was three, two of whom he did not put much confidence in, but one of them was a respectable man, and he could tell me his name. I told him I did not want to know his name and he did not tell me.*

Q. –*Do you now know who this respectable man in Noblestown to whom Mr. Laird referred is?*

A. Yes, Joseph McMurry.

Q. by Laird. –*Did not this conversation about the 6-8-10-15& 20 bushels take place before the arbitration?*

A. Yes

Q.– *Did I not tell you of a drunk man in Noblestown, asking me if Wilkeson had not taken six or eight bushels of my wheat out of the mill and declaring that one of us, Wilkeson or me, should be prosecuted?*

A. No! I don't remember farther than I have already stated.

Q. *Who informed you of the first disturbance about the wheat?*

A. I don't recollect - **to be continued**

Soup n Sandwich – Homemade delicious chicken noodle, green pepper soup, chicken salad and ham salad sandwiches will be available after the service on the January 22nd. Any adult interested in serving on the WV or Tapestries of Life mission trip is invited to help prepare the food on Friday, January 20th at 7:02 p.m.

LOGOS is back Tuesday, January 11th

Yes, on January 11th we're back for a cup-stomping, spoon-hanging, gopher-running, Spirit filled good time on Tuesdays! Please register for the winter session of LOGOS from 4:30 -5:00 in the Welcome Center on January 11th. If you attended in the fall you will not need to fill out the paperwork, but there will be a small fee, \$10 per child or \$15 per family, to go toward the cost of dinners and supplies. If you weren't able to participate this fall, come see what LOGOS is all about!

LOGOS is a long running program for kids ages 4 years old - 5th Grade that is aimed at helping children discover their faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with other children and volunteers in a fun, friendly environment. We meet from mid-September through mid-April on Tuesdays from 5-7pm. The program each week consists of bible lessons, music, crafts and recreation followed by a dinner hour of family style dinner and games. We hope to see you there!

We can always use more adult and teen volunteers! Would you like to help out in a classroom or the kitchen, with crafts or table games, or are you able to come fellowship with the LOGOS youth during the dinner hour? If you are interested in finding out more about helping with LOGOS, please contact Karen Verduci at 412-221-3209 or jkverduci@juno.com.

FROM THE BETHANY CHURCH OFFICE

Attendance for Sunday, January 1 10:00 a.m. 152

Stewardship Report – As of January 3rd there were 220 Estimate of Giving cards returned for a total of \$536,269. The final tally will be in the year-end Stewardship letter and in the Annual Report. If you have not returned your card as yet please do so as soon as possible.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Sunday January 8 (Psalm 45:1-17) Communion / Name Tag Sunday

Pray for Mackenzie Smith

8:15 A.M. – Worship – Sanctuary

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School Rally – Sanctuary

10:45 A.M. – Worship – Sanctuary

6:00 P.M. – Junior High Youth – Youth Room

7:15 P.M. – Senior High Youth – Youth Room

Monday, January 9 (Psalm 46:1-11)

Pray for Jason, Richelle, Noah & Andrew Sommerfield

7:00 P.M. – Session Teams – Welcome Center

7:00 P.M. – Deacon Teams

7:30 P.M. – Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, January 10 (Psalm 47:1-9)

Pray for Laurie Steedle-Sysak

9:15 A.M. – Staff Meeting – Rev. John's Office

5:00 P.M. – LOGOS – various rooms

7:30 P.M. – Senior High Bible Study – Youth Room

Wednesday, January 11 (Psalm 48:1-14)

Pray for Harry & Dolores Stefanski

7:00 P.M. – Adult Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

7:00 P.M. – Young Adults Bible Study – Youth Room

8:30 P.M. – Bethany Ringers – Choir Room

Thursday, January 12 (Psalm 49:1-20)

Pray for Ben & Peggy Strain

9:00 A.M. – MOPS – Fellowship Hall

9:15 A.M. – Quilting – Room 144

12:00 P.M. – Thursday Knitters – Room 224

7:00 P.M. – Women's "Breaking Free" Bible Study – Room 244

7:00 P.M. – Dartball – Fellowship Hall

(Indians @ Giants – Tigers @ Marlins)

8:00 P.M. – Adult Basketball – Great Room

Friday, January 13 (Psalm 50:1-23)

Pray for Kevin & Ashley Strouse

12:00 P.M. – Men's Luncheon – Kings Restaurant

1:00 P.M. – Friendship Bible Study – Room 240

7:30 P.M. – Friday Night Group – Room 224

Saturday, January 14 (Psalm 51:1-19)

Pray for Bonnie Stuckert

9:00 A.M. – PW Bible Study – Welcome Center

10:00 A.M. – Saturday Knitters – Room 224

Sunday January 15 (Psalm 52:1-9) *Ordination & Installation*

Pray for Mike & Lynne Suchoza

8:15 A.M. – Worship – Sanctuary

9:30 A.M. – Sunday School Rally – Sanctuary

10:45 A.M. – Worship – Sanctuary

6:00 P.M. – Junior High Youth – Youth Room

7:15 P.M. – Senior High Youth – Youth Room

The flowers are given in loving memory of William Kreitzer – we miss and think of you often – with love from Marlene & Bill Rankin.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. John Hamilton, Senior Pastor	hamilton@bethanypresby.org
Rev. Melany Hamilton, Interim Associate	mhamilton@bethanypresby.org
John Henninger, Director of Music	henninger@bethanypresby.org
Kim McCann, Financial Accountant	finance@bethanypresby.org
Barb Crawford, Interim CE Director	crawford@bethanypresby.org
Matt Fricker, Youth Director	fricker@bethanypresby.org
Janet Marlett, Secretary	marlett@bethanypresby.org
Bill Stephan, Custodian	custodian@bethanypresby.org
Tim Michel, Custodian	custodian@bethanypresby.org
Jenny Smith, Sunday School / Worship Nursery Coordinator	
Patty Johnson, Week-day Pre-School director	412-206-0166
Web site – www.bethanypresby.org	Church Phone – 412-221-5132
Fax Number – 412-220-9107	

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO ARE SERVING THE LORD

Lay Readers: 8:15 – Alice Sherwin 10:45 – Ruth Doyle

Ushers: 8:15 – Beckie, Catherine, Gregory and Matthew Price
10:45 – Bill and Libby Just & Ed and Meredith Stewart

Fellowship Greeters at 10:45 are Randy, Barb, Danielle and Maria Druchniak

Good News Greeters at 10:45 are John and Becky Yanak, Don and Deb Kaminski

In the Nursery

8:15 Service – Jason & Richelle Sommerfield

10:00 Service – Jenny Smith, Lynne Suchoza, Tara Krieger

2, 3 and 4 year olds (room 149) –

Children's Worship & Wonder for 4 and 5 years old thru 2nd grade (room 144) – Jack & Nikki O'Brien, Paula Naples, Sarah Paviol, Megan Shildt

Welcome Center: 8:15 – Domenic and Caroline Poiche
10:45 – Michael Suchoza

Assisting with name tags is Carrie Emerson.

*THE RESPONSE “Joy to the World” (All sing verse 1 together)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE COMMISSIONING OF THOSE SERVING IN “UPWARD”

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament – Psalm 139:1-11

New Testament – Ephesians 3:14-21

L: “*The word of the Lord*”

Lay Reader

Page 974 in pew Bible

Page 1820 in pew Bible

P: “*Thanks be to God*”

THE SERMON

Rev. John Hamilton

“The Greatness of Grace”

*THE HYMN NO. 61 “There is a Wideness in God’s Mercy”
(to the tune of “Galilee”)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PRAYER OF

CONFESSION, INTERCESSION AND CONSECRATION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Please **hold the bread** until all have received it, signifying our unity as the Body of Christ as we take it together.

Please **drink the juice** as soon as you receive it, signifying our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pray and reflect on Christ and his sacrifice as the elements are shared.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*THE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (In unison)

As the new year begins, there is so much to hope for...fear for...yearn for. A year, which can go by so quickly, can also hold so much that is unknown. As I face the year ahead, keep my heart turned toward You.

Help me to see the blessings
You unfold before me,
both big and small.
Help me to cherish the loved ones around me,
never taking them for granted.
Help me to trust to Your care
all that is dear to me
and all who are dear to me.
And whenever difficulties or tragedies come,
as they surely will, give me a faith filled
with wisdom, patience and hope.
Lord, help me to live with vision and not fear,
to live for others and not self,
to live with joy and not regret,
to live with compassion and not resentment.
In other words, help me to live
fully and abundantly in Your grace.
Give me the confidence that,
no matter what I face in this new year,
“nothing will be able to separate us
from Your love”...
nothing.

Amen and amen.

Rev. Dr. John G. Hamilton

*THE HYMN NO. 72 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE RESPONSE 10:45 “*Fourfold Amen*” I. Jennings

*THE POSTLUDE “*How Brightly Shines the Morningstar*” D. Buxtehude

* All who are able and wish to do so, please stand.

Sermon for next week: “The Power at Work Within Us”
Ephesians 2:20-21