



# Bethany Banner

Bethany Community Church, 201 Birch Avenue, Grandview, Washington, December, 2018

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR MIKE

At the last Session meeting we voted to reduce the number of elders for Bethany Community Church from 10 to 6. The Session will now include 6 elders, the Pastor, the Family and Youth Ministries Director, and the Clerk of Session. We hope this change will improve the quality and unity of our Session since in smaller congregations there are times when it is difficult to fill all positions with qualified elders.

Elders hold a very important job in our church. They are responsible for the spiritual health of our congregation and much more, so they must be selected and trained with great care. Elders are called by God to serve as shepherd-leaders of a flock. The shepherd knows the sheep, has their best interest in mind, and works to keep them safe and healthy. The sheep know and trust the shepherd, so they follow where the shepherd leads.

God holds elders to a very high standard and expects them to set an example for others to follow. The biblical qualifications for elders are listed in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, 1 Peter 5: 2-3, and Acts 20:28. Elders must know the Bible and be spiritually mature. However, the most important qualification for an elder is a calling from God because when God calls us, he equips us for the calling. The job of elder is so important and demanding that we cannot do it without God's help. We must be called and equipped by God and we must be in tune with Holy Spirit because we are working out God's plan, not our own.

With fewer elders we will need more help from covenant partners. Each elder will lead a ministry team consisting of several people from the congregation. The work of the church is done in the ministry teams and then Session acts on the recommendations that come from the ministry teams. Our ministry teams are Trustee, Missions/Outreach, Christian Education, and Worship. Please consider if God is calling you to serve on one of these ministry teams and talk to an elder about joining the team.

Session decided to have the ministry team meetings on Wednesday after the potluck. On one Wednesday each month we will have team meetings instead of a Bible study. The ministry teams meet each month prior to the Session meeting. The Session meets on the third Monday of each month, so the team meetings will be on the Wednesday prior to that. We hope to encourage more participation by having ministry teams meet on an evening when many people come anyway. Plus, we hope to involve some of the youth on our teams.

We do not want to exclude anyone who wants to serve, so if you are interested but do not drive at night, or have any other restrictions that limit you, let us know and we will try to help so you can participate.

## **A NOTE FROM YOUTH DIRECTOR DANNY SNIDER**

### **Engage...The Youth Ministry of Bethany Community Church**

**It looks as though 2018 is in the history books. With this being the final month of the year I thought it would be nice to look back over the year to see what has been happening in the youth ministry.**

**There is no doubt the youth ministry has experienced triumph and tragedy this year. We have dealt with homelessness, suicides, suicide attempts, fatal and near fatal car accidents. We have seen the impact of a murder, sexual assault, and abuse in the home. We have walked alongside these youth and their families as they struggled to make sense of these needless events as well as helping them see that God is at work in these horrible situations. All of our students have been affected in some way by these tragedies and have been offered help for their specific situation.**

**Even though the youth ministry has seen such tragedies, we have also been blessed with many triumphs in 2018. Some have graduated and moved on to careers or to college. We have seen a reduction in interaction with police and the juvenile court system. There has been more parental involvement with the youth ministry because parents are seeing the positive effects of their children serving others in a Christ-like manner and how the Holy Spirit works in our lives when we allow Him to. Our youth are serving on student leadership teams and in their communities because they see the reward of giving back and serving those who need help.**

**This year “Engage” has done so much in our community and neighboring towns. Students have served in ESL classes at Prosser Covenant Church. A few young men attended a men’s conference weekend in Pasco, where we joined 1200 men in praise and worship and participated in many of the outdoor/indoor events available. One of them was an archery battle with a bean bag for an arrowhead. Several times that weekend the young men went forward for prayer for struggles and blessings upon their lives. Additionally, several students went to Camp Ghormley this year. One has been asked to serve on the camp’s student summer staff. What a PRAISE! Students were able to attend bible studies that we had in a wilderness setting.**

**Our students have a heart for the hurting and they have left a very positive impression on those we have been blessed to serve this year. I stop by Camp Hope at least once a week, to pray for people who have become our friends. The overwhelming statement I hear from them is “Thank you for making us feel human again.” This is a testament to the core of the youth ministry, being Christ to those who are lost, hurting, and in need. We are making disciples, who make disciples. Thank you to everyone who has dropped off food, candy, donated money, and prayed for the youth and youth ministry this year.**

**Blessings, Danny**

## WORSHIP HELPERS – DECEMBER, 2018

<u>Lay Assistants</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Communion Servers ,</u>
12/2 Dale Burgeson	12/2 Edsel & Pat Olsen	12/2 Jim & Judy Rice	12-2-18 Maxine & Dave Ballinger, Sue Johnson, Kathy Ellertson
12/9 Maxine Ballinger	12/9 Ann Bentley & Betty Minnich	12/9 Graf Family	<u>Children's Church</u>
12/16 Kathy Ellertson	12/16 Jim & Judy	12/16 Refugio & Fela Lara	12/2 Bonnie Copeland
12/23 Barbara Olmstead	12/23 David Skinner, Mark Longfellow	12/23 Gail & Becky Boose	12/9 Sue Johnson
12/30 David Rider	12/30	12/30 Youth	12/16 Peggy Brewer
			12/23 Bonnie Copeland
			12/30 Sue Johnson

### From Joan Souders, Visitation Pastor

This past month I have enjoyed so many visits with those unable to get out and enjoy fellowship, and worship with us. Throughout the month I have shared from 1 Peter 5:7 about casting all their cares on Him...because He cares for them. A number of them shared what peace that gave them. I stand in awe at the number who ask about various church members, about each other, and how contented they are in their present circumstances. The more time I spend listening to them share their life stories, the more I realize how God has been their best friend, the sustainer of their life and they have been faithfully casting all their cares on Him.....because they know He cares for them. I challenge you to send them a Christmas card this year, a small gesture in saying .....we care!

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**Monday, 4:00 p.m.**

### **BETHANY FINANCES**

**2018 to date**

**143,895 income**

**138,858 expenses**

**5,037 net income**

**Your Trustees**

Received from our Compassion Child, a 17-year old girl.

Letter to my dear sponsor

*Dear Friends, how are you? How's the weather there? It's all fine here. My sister, Jadielly, is 6 months pregnant with a baby girl who'll be named Mirela. I'm living with my grandmother now because I've had some issues with my mom. I ask you to pray for our relationship. The seamstress course starts next month and hope it'll be fine. I'm learning about emotional intelligence and this way I can learn how to solve my own conflicts. We talked about eating disorders on health week and now about suicide prevention. That's great! Thanks for the letter and affection. I know I can always count on you.*

## FELLOWSHIP GROUP

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: Friday, December 14, 6:30pm

Where: Bethany Fireside Room.

Hosts: Fellowship Group

EVERYONE IS INVITED. Please call Jean at Church office, 882-3576 and she will suggest which potluck dish to bring. Lots of singing and fun.

Dear Bethany friends,

It was my pleasure to visit your church last weekend, and to share with Priscilla circle and the Sunday school class.

Being in your church I am feeling at home with brothers and sisters in Christ.

I have appreciated many years of prayers and support for the Mission in Bulgaria. I am now spending six months in Florida and six months in Bulgaria where I am counseling, teaching in different churches and evangelizing.

The members of Bethany church served for many years and left lasting memories in the lives of the people they served. The people in Bulgaria are continually praying for their American friends who came to serve in my country.

Special thanks to Pastor Mike who invited me to pray with individuals after worship.

Love in Christ

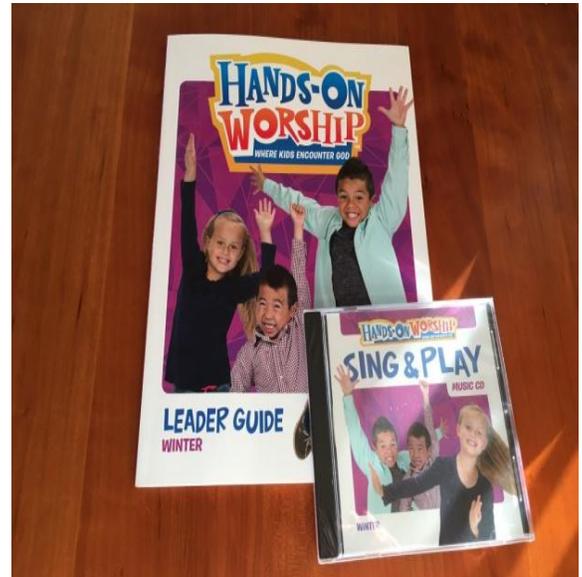
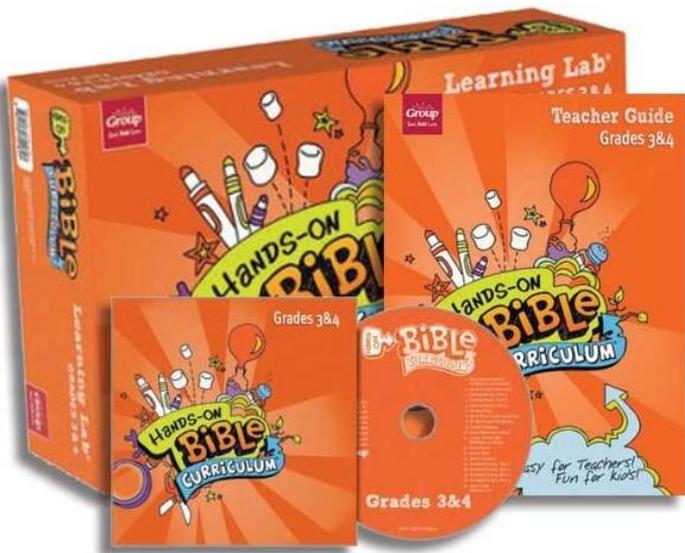
Tania Krastanova

## Zillah Choir Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 13, 7:30 pm

Faith Community Church, Zillah

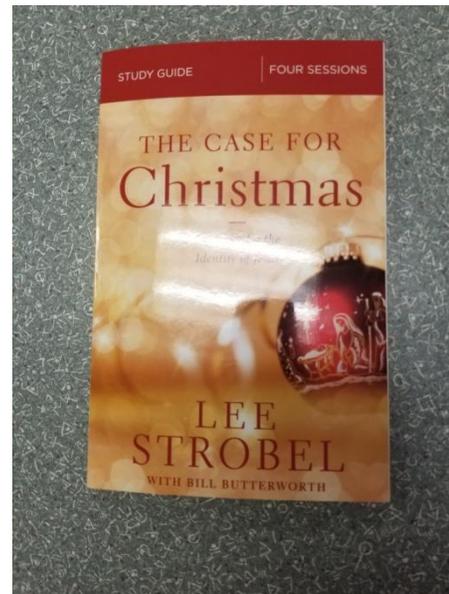
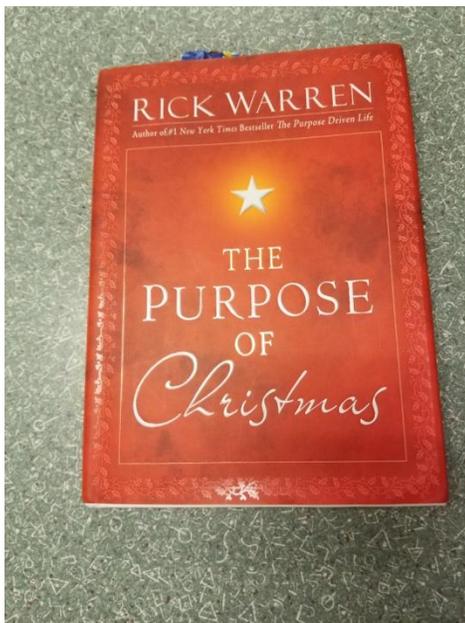
See David Skinner or Jean Eakin



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

*for children ages 4 to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Teachers will be using "Hands-On Worship".*

*SUNDAY SCHOOL children lessons from "Hands-On Bible" led by Maxine Ballinger.*



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL,**

"The Purpose of Christmas" by Rick Warren, led by Terry Dahlstrom begins Dec. 2.

**"The Case for Christmas"**

by Lee Strobel will be the Video/study beginning Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> with break on the 12<sup>th</sup> for Team Meetings.



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Aggie McPherson
- 3 Samaya Nunez (Lara's granddaughter)
- 5 Jean Michels
- 9 Barbara Olmstead
- 14 Norma Grow
- 20 Ted Carratt
- 24 Tony Cariato
- 26 Kathy Ellertson
- 27 Susan Wallingford
- 29 Dave Copeland
- 30 Pauline Shenyer

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Gay & Peggy Brewer

# DECEMBER, 2018

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

<p><b>2</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>WORSHIP and Communion</b> Advent Season</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 8 a.m. Souders Men's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>5</b> 1:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00pm— potluck &amp; study 5-8pm Engage</p>	<p><b>6</b> 8:00 a.m. Prayer team</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>WORSHIP</b> Advent Season</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> 8 a.m. Souders Men's Bible study</p>	<p><b>12</b> 1:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm- Potluck and Study 5-8pm Engage</p>	<p><b>13</b> 6:30 am— Priscilla Circle Potluck Bkfst 8:00 am Prayer team 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b> 6:30 pm Christmas Party with the Fellowship Group at Church----- Fireside room for everyone</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16</b> 9am Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>17</b> 6:00 p.m. dinner meeting-- Combined Elders-Deacons</p>	<p><b>18</b> 8 a.m. Souders Men's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>19</b> 1:30 pm Ruth Circle 6:00 pm— Potluck and Study 5-8 pm Engage</p>	<p><b>20</b> 8:00 a.m. Prayer team</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b> 9am Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>24</b> 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p><b>25</b> CHRISTMAS</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 8:00 a.m. Prayer team</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>30</b> 9 am Suday School 10- Worship</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>					









