



BETHANY ROAD

AUGUST 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE



- A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BILLY
- ICE CREAM THEOLOGY
- YOUNG LIFE
- BAPTISMS
- FOAM PARTY
- WILLOW BANQUET
- WEST VIRGINIA
- BETHANY YOUTH
- JUST FOR LAUGHS
- HELLO AUGUST
- COOKING CLASSES
- PROVERBIAL MIX-UP
- WATER DAY
- FINANCIAL REPORT
- BLOCK PARTY
- AUGUST CALENDAR

The Blessing of an All-Generations Church

Pastor Billy Woodman

It's been said that eventually you reach a point in your life when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it. I haven't quite reached that point yet, but with each passing year I'm getting closer. How can you tell if you're comfortable with being older?

You know you're comfortable with being older when fewer and fewer things seem worth waiting in line for. You know you're comfortable with being older when you have no interest in "turning back the odometer" because you've traveled a long way in life. You know you're comfortable with being older because while being young is fun and beautiful, old is nice and comfortable!

The truth is that there are good and bad things about every stage of our lives. Young people have boundless energy and Lord willing, a lifetime to look forward to. Older people have years of accumulated wisdom and in many cases, more time on their hands. Young people may feel anxious about what lies ahead in a forever changing, constantly challenging world. Older people may be anxious about a world that's changing so fast they feel left behind and a measure of regret for opportunities lost.

Old or young, what we have in common is a desire to make the most of our time here on earth. How can we help each other make the most of our lives? In the Body of Christ, there are many different gifts, but there are also a wide variety of ages. For the Body of Christ to thrive and grow, we need to maximize not only the use of our spiritual gifts for the common good, but our different ages as well. Bethany Church is a spiritual family, and we're blessed with family members who are young, old and everywhere in between. We need the wisdom of the ages, the energy and risk-taking of youth, and the desire to engage in relationships that cross generations so that we can help each other grow in faith.

(continued on page 2)

As Paul tells his beloved protégé Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:5: “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.” This verse says that Christian faith thrives when generations of believers are in relationships with one another, inspiring, discipling, and passing on our faith.

It’s been such a joy to witness this intergenerational mix of young and old, children and adults interacting at Bethany this summer. From shared fellowship activities like the Ice Cream Social, the Church Picnic, VBS, and Playdates where members of all ages helped lead, teach, and provide needed support services, to the multi-generational mission trip to West Virginia. We’re a church that likes to play, serve, and worship together in Christ. What a blessing we shared this past Sunday when members of every age group were baptized and renewed their baptismal vows in the waters of Lake Latonka!

It’s been said that the gospel is just one generation from extinction so we can’t afford to be complacent. As it says in Psalm 100:5, “For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.” God makes no distinction between generations, so why should we? It is the responsibility of each generation to play their part in ensuring that the Body of Christ not only survives but thrives.

Brothers and sisters, as it says in Psalm 145:4, may Bethany Church be the church where “One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.”

Ice Cream Theology

There are two kinds of people in this world. Those who walk into an ice cream shop and confidently say, “Vanilla, please.” And those who stand in front of 47 flavors, ask for six samples, and still can’t decide. Fortunately, God loves both kinds of people.

Think about it. Ice cream would be pretty boring if every carton in the freezer was vanilla. (No offense to vanilla lovers...it’s the dependable friend who always shows up.) But chocolate, strawberry, butter pecan, mint chocolate chip, cookies and cream, black raspberry, and rocky road all bring something special to the table. The church is a lot like that.

God didn’t create us to all be the same. Some people sing in the choir. Others would rather sit quietly in the pew and make a joyful noise only when everyone else is singing loudly enough to cover them. Some teach Sunday School. Some bake cookies for every church event. Some greet visitors with a warm smile. Others faithfully pray behind the scenes, never asking for recognition.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that the church is one body with many members. Every part matters. Imagine if everyone wanted to be the pastor...or if everyone wanted to be in charge of the potluck desserts! We need every gift, every talent, and every willing heart.

Of course, every ice cream sundae needs toppings. Some prefer sprinkles, others hot fudge, caramel, whipped cream, nuts, or the all-important cherry on top. In the same way, each of us adds something unique to the life of our church. A kind word, a helping hand, a listening ear, a faithful prayer, or an encouraging smile may seem small, but together they create something beautiful.

And let’s be honest, sometimes life feels like it’s melting faster than an ice cream cone on an August afternoon. Schedules get busy, temperatures rise, and patience can wear a little thin. That’s when we need to remember that God’s love never melts away. His grace is fresh every morning. His mercy never runs out, and His promises never expire. So, the next time you enjoy a scoop (or two...or three—we won’t judge), remember that God delights in variety. He created each of us with different personalities, talents, and stories, yet He brings us together as one family in Christ.

Whether you’re vanilla or rocky road, whether you come with sprinkles or extra hot fudge, there’s a place for you in God’s family.

Now, if you’ll excuse me, all this talk about ice cream has made me hungry.
Have a sweet August, and don’t forget to invite someone to church...perhaps over a cone of ice cream!





YOUNG LIFE CAMP AT TIMBERWOLF LAKE!

Eighty-four campers (grades 9-12) and leaders from schools all across Mercer County and Slippery Rock went to Timber Wolf Lake Young Life Camp in Michigan for a week they will never forget!

Thank you to so many of you who have prayed and have donated to help make sure each one of these kids made it on the bus!

Fourteen students accepted Jesus for the first time at camp. Praise God! And, many other students came home from camp excited to tell their friends about Jesus!

Thank you to so many of you who have prayed and have donated to help make sure each one of these kids made it on the bus.



**WYDLIFE CAMP (MIDDLE SCHOOL) IS COMING UP
JULY 25-30TH AND CAPERNAUM CAMP
(STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES) IS AUGUST 6-10.**

 younglife

SAVE THE DATE!

 younglife
**SPORTING
CLAYS
FUNDRAISER**

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12TH, 2026

Sandycreek Conservancy | 688 Polk Cutoff, Polk, PA 16342



SPONSOR THIS EVENT!

We are in need of both private and business sponsors to help cover the cost of this event. Event, Food, Ministry, and Station sponsors are an essential part of supporting our area and making this vital event a success!

Email pennwestyl@35463093.mailchimpapp.com to find out more about how you can sponsor this event, or call Jen Wambolt at 724-813-3795.

Event Sponsor - \$3,500

Main Signage at the Event, 6 Shooter Spots, 6 Young Life Hoodies, Recognition at Young Life's Fundraising Banquet, and in all Area Newsletters.

Food Sponsor - \$1,750

Company Name & Logo at the Event during dinner, 4 Shooter Spots, 4 Young Life Hoodies, Recognition in Young Life's Fall Newsletter.

Ministry Sponsor - \$1,000

Company Name & Logo at the Event, 2 Shooter Spots, 2 Young Life Hoodies, Recognition in Young Life's Fall Newsletter.

Station Sponsor - \$250

Signage at a Shooting Station.

BETHANY

BAPTISMS

Celebrating New Life in Christ

Over the past few weeks, our church family has had the privilege of hearing powerful stories of God's faithfulness through our baptism interviews. Each testimony was unique, yet they all pointed to the same truth—that God is continually at work in the lives of His people.

We heard stories of simple invitations that changed the course of someone's life, testimonies of God bringing hope through tragedy, and accounts of His steady, faithful work over many years. Each story reminded us that God calls people to Himself in different ways, but His grace is always the same.

This month, we celebrated one infant baptism, four adult baptisms, and five rededications as individuals publicly declared their faith and commitment to Christ. What a joy it has been to witness these milestones together as a church family and to celebrate God's ongoing work among us!

Please continue praying for each person who took this step of faith—that they would continue to grow in their relationship with Christ and that our church would faithfully encourage them as they walk with Him.





AUGUST EVENTS



SUMMER *Playdates!*

We're four playdates into the summer, and it has already been an incredible season! We've loved welcoming children and their families each week for mornings filled with laughter, creativity, and fun.

While the games, activities, and themed adventures are exciting, the real purpose of our Big Summer Playdates is much deeper. We want to create a place where families can make wonderful summer memories together while building meaningful relationships with one another and with our church family.

Recently, we were reminded that several families who first visited through our summer playdates in past years are now active and valued members of our church community. That's an encouraging reminder that something as simple as a fun morning together can open the door to lasting friendships and a place where families can grow in faith.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, invited a friend, or prayed for this ministry. We can't wait to see what God continues to do through the rest of the summer!

The Big Summer Playdates included a Happy Birthday USA party, a Foam Party, and a Puppy Appreciation Day. And Summer isn't over yet! More fun to come in August!







THE GREAT SUMMER SLOWDOWN...OR IS IT?

Welcome to August...the month where we all ask the same question: "Where did summer go?"

It seems like just yesterday we were saying, "This summer is going to last forever!" Now the stores are selling backpacks, notebooks, and pumpkin-flavored everything while we're still trying to finish the potato salad from the church picnic.

August is a funny month. The gardens are producing vegetables faster than we can eat them. If you leave your car windows down around here, don't be surprised if someone lovingly slips a zucchini onto your front seat. It's not vandalism—it's gardening!

Speaking of gardens, isn't it amazing how weeds grow with almost no effort, while tomatoes require constant attention? There's probably a sermon in there somewhere.

And then there are vacations. You spend weeks planning them, months paying for them, and when they're over you need another vacation to recover from the first one!

Church life in August has its own special personality.

You know it's August at church when...

- Half the congregation has a beautiful tan... and the other half has an impressive collection of mosquito bites.
- Someone says, "We'll be back from vacation next Sunday," and you haven't seen them since Memorial Day.

- The fellowship table mysteriously features three zucchini casseroles, two zucchini breads, and one brave soul who insists zucchini belongs in chocolate cake.
- Everyone enjoys sitting on the side of the sanctuary where the air conditioning works best.
- You suddenly realize Christmas is only a few months away...and nobody is emotionally prepared for that news!

Even with all the laughter, August gives us a chance to slow down before life shifts into high gear again. School schedules return, calendars fill up, and the pace of life seems to speed up overnight.

The wonderful thing is that God doesn't operate on our hectic schedule. He isn't rushed. He isn't surprised by our busy calendars. He simply invites us to stay close to Him every day.

Isaiah 40:31 reminds us: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength..."

Whether your August is filled with vacations, family reunions, canning vegetables, mowing grass for what feels like the hundredth time, or simply trying to stay cool, remember to make time for the One who gives every season its purpose.

So enjoy the sunshine, laugh often, share a slice of zucchini bread (whether you wanted one or not), and join us each Sunday as we worship the God who blesses every season of our lives. Have a joyful, and hopefully not-too-hot, August!



cooKING CLASSES 101

Our first cooKING Class 101 began on Tuesday, July 21st. (This class currently is being offered to Haven clients only.) The series will consist of four classes beginning at 10:00 A.M. in the Bethany kitchen. We are teaching basic cooking skills and sharing recipes. Twelve participants who have received food from the Haven have expressed an interest in this cooking class.

In our first class, we prepared a one sheet pan meal and no-bake Peanut Butter Cookies. We will also take home samples and cooking tips.

We look forward to sharing, meeting new people, and making new friends. One of the current participants has asked for unspoken prayer and commented, "Ladies, you've done a Great Job!"

Bethany cooKING Class Teachers are:

Pam Muehlman

Beth Unger

Beverly Gallagher

Mary McElfresh



SAVE THE DATE

**The Willow Women's Center
Annual Fundraising Banquet**

"STAY THE COURSE"

When: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 or Thursday September 17, 2026

Where: Corinthian Event Center, 47 Vine Ave., Sharon, PA 16146

*Free parking at the Sharon Parking Garage at the corner of Vine Ave. and Pitt St. (diagonally across from the Corinthian)

Time: Doors open at 5:30 P.M., dinner & program at 6:00 P.M.

- Please Register by Thursday, September 3, 2026
- The banquet is subsidized and there is no cost.
- An opportunity to donate to Willow will be given.

The battle to provide life giving counsel to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy & save the unborn is more challenging than ever! Willow chooses to "STAY THE COURSE" & continue the fight for the lives of the innocent vulnerable unborn babies. Christylee Roose, Willow's Advancement Director, will be joining us on Sunday, August 23 to share more about Willow & the exciting plans for this year's banquet. You don't want to miss hearing her dynamic message & she so looks forward to seeing & meeting all of you!

The sign-up sheet for the banquet will be at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Muehlman at 724-699-2589. Mark & I look forward to sharing a delicious meal, learning more about how God is working through Willow, His future plans for this important ministry & having fellowship with each of you attending. Can't wait to have a "cupcake"!!

Willow appreciates Bethany's Financial support, but more importantly they appreciate OUR PRAYERS! Please be in prayer for the banquet to be a success & that hearts would be drawn to supporting the mission & efforts of Willow Women's Center.

"Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong, do everything in love." I Corinthians 16:13-14



BETHANY YOUTH

Hello Bethany Family,

It's been a minute since our last update, and I apologize for that! But, our ministry over here with the youth has been busy, crazy, tiring, but most importantly... a blast! You're going to see a lot of pictures spanning a few different events, so I hope you get to see a glimpse of the awesomeness that has occurred for our group!

In June (technically the last week in May), Abby and Ruth Brownlee graduated high from school and are set to begin their adventures in their next step... college. Best of luck to the both of you as you journey into this next chapter!

Starting June 15th, there were back-to-back VBS weeks! The first week, Bethany hosted yet another successful VBS week. Then the day after Bethany's ended, we loaded up and drove down to Circleville, WV for another fun and impactful week of VBS! Yes, Psalm 8 (Hallè) is still stuck in my head as I am typing this over a month later.

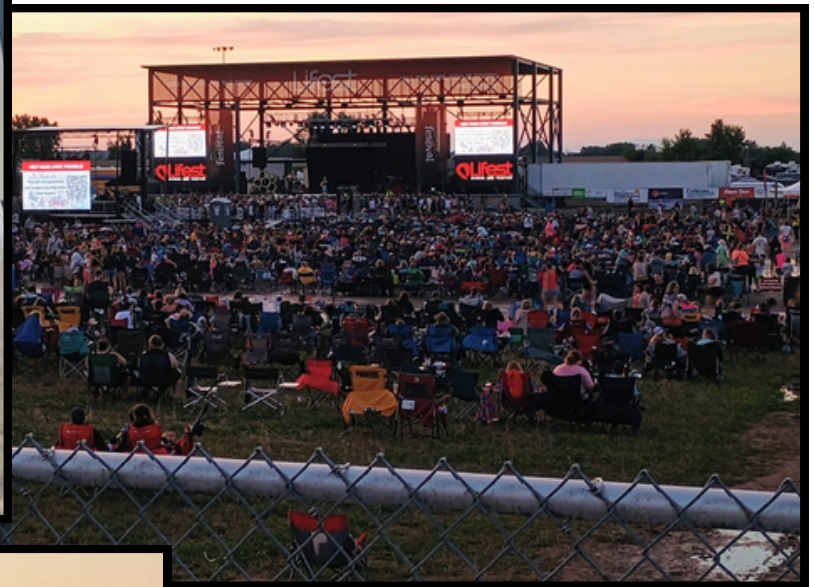
On July 8th, the eight teens and three adult leaders trekked about 10.5 hours (or 14 on the way back... don't ask...) to Oshkosh, WI to attend Lifest. Lifest is one of the largest Christian music festivals in the United States, hosting a large variety of artists, speakers, and fun. We got to see artists from Josiah Queen (Contemporary/Folk) to Skillet (Hard Rock/Metal) to KB (Rap), all with the same goal of proclaiming the name of Jesus. Several speakers talked on topics ranging from marriage to mental health to loss/grief to how do we grow in Christ... and how we can be witnesses in our areas.

We have had a crazy past month, and our lives only get crazier. With the arrival of fall sports coming soon, band camps, work, and much more, keep an eye out for our teens in any of those areas!

**With love! (and an exhausted being),
Micah Wojnowski**

PHOTOS ON THE NEXT PAGE....

Lifest 2026



West Virginia

Bethany Family,

We had yet another amazing year for the West Virginia Mission Trip!

One of the big highlights was Julian, one of our teen boys who has been coming for about five years now, making the decision to be baptized in the river at the campground.

Continuing from last year, the kiddos in West Virginia added their God Sightings, expressing how they see God in their lives and adding to the wall that they had started last year. There were so, so many "God Sightings"! From our group seeing God's beauty in His Creation like Senaca Rock, Spruce Knob, and caving... to sharing Jesus and having so many asking Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

We are very proud of our teens who helped take charge as group and station leaders! They did such a great job being leaders, building relationships with the kids, helping them pray and grow spiritually. It was so cool to see our teens stepping up and acting in this way!

At our evening campfires, we had the opportunity to hear people from our group open up and share some of their testimonies and how God has moved through their lives.

We are so thankful for your prayer and financial support this past year. We just ask that you continue to support and pray for us and this trip, as we already start to think about next year.

With a gracious heart,

Your West Virginia Mission Team





Just For Laughs



- I ORDERED SOME GERMAN FOOD ONLINE...THE SAUERKRAUT HAS ARRIVED BUT I KNOW THE WURST IS YET TO COME.
- I'VE STARTED TELLING EVERYONE ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF EATING DRIED GRAPES ... IT'S ALL ABOUT RAISIN AWARENESS.
- EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT, BUT BIG MUSCLES IS IMPORTANTER.
- IT'S CRAZY THAT IT'S JULY 7TH AND PEOPLE ARE STILL SETTING OFF FIREWORKS - ONE OF THEM KNOCKED OVER SOME OF MY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN THE FRONT YARD.
- NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION AND THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER PEOPLE IN MY FAMILY WITH STUPID NAMES.
- I THOUGHT MY WIFE WAS KIDDING WHEN SHE TOLD ME TO STOP SINGING "I'M A BELIEVER" BY THE MONKEES ...BUT THEN I SAW HER FACE.
- I'M THE MOST OPEN-MINDED PERSON IN THE WORLD AND NOBODY CAN CONVINCE ME OTHERWISE.
- I USED TO PLAY THE TRIANGLE IN THE SYMPHONY BUT I HAD TO QUIT... BECAUSE IT WAS CONSTANTLY JUST ONE TING AFTER ANOTHER.
- MY THERAPIST'S DIAGNOSIS OF ME WAS THAT 'I CAN'T IDENTIFY MY OWN EMOTIONS' AND I'M JUST NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT.
- FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH FEELINGS OF PARANOIA THAT YOU ARE BEING WATCHED: I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Penn West Young Life Sporting Clay Fundraiser 2026 September 12th, 2026

Sandycreek Conservancy | 688 Polk Cutoff, Polk, PA 16342

Financial Report

Through June 2026

Income \$395,823
Expenses \$270,903
Difference \$124,920

Boy Scout Auction

Benefiting Mercer Troop 83
At the Mercer County 4-H Park
Saturday, September 12, 2026
4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Items Include: new and used merchandise, numerous gift certificates from local businesses, auction baskets, firewood, bales of straw, books, etc.

Food will be available at the concession stand.

PROVERBIAL MIX-UP

THE PROVERBS BELOW HAVE BEEN SPLIT IN HALF AND REARRANGED. MATCH THE BEGINNING OF THE PHRASE IN THE COLUMN ON THE LEFT WITH THE PROPER ENDING ON THE LEFT.

(FOR FUN AND A GOOD LAUGH, TRY THIS OUT ON YOUR YOUNG FOLK... 10-20 YEAR OLDS. HAVE THEM NUMBER 1-20 AND HAVE THEM WRITE THEIR ASWERS DOWN. JUST GIVE THEM THE PHRASE AND ASK THEM TO COMPLETE IT WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE COLUMN ON THE RIGHT.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ 1. ALL THAT GLITTERS... | A ...AND EAT IT, TOO. |
| _____ 2. LIVE AND.... | B ...IS NOT GOLD. |
| _____ 3. PRACTICE MAKES... | C ...MAKE LIGHT WORK. |
| _____ 4. WHERE THERE IS A WILL... | D ...PERFECT. |
| _____ 5. FROM LITTLE ACORNS... | E ...LOSE THEIR WEEPERS. |
| _____ 6. A STITCH IN TIME... | F ...OUT OF MIND. |
| _____ 7. DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS... | G ...THE BEST POLICY. |
| _____ 8. NOTHING VENTURED... | H ...THE BEST MEDICINE. |
| _____ 9. TWO WRONGS... | I ...BY BREAD ALONE. |
| _____ 10. EVERY CLOUD... | J ...IT IS EARNED. |
| _____ 11. OUT OF SIGHT... | K ...HAS A SILVER LINING. |
| _____ 12. HONESTY IS... | L ...SAVES NINE. |
| _____ 13. MANY HANDS... | M ...NOTHING GAINED. |
| _____ 14. YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR CAKE... | N ...DON'T MAKE A RIGHT. |
| _____ 15. BETTER LATE.... | O ...BEFORE THEY HATCH. |
| _____ 16. DON'T PUT THE CART... | P ...THERE'S A WAY. |
| _____ 17. RESPECT IS NOT GIVEN... | Q ...THAN NEVER. |
| _____ 18. MAN SHALL NOT LIVE... | R ...LET LIVE. |
| _____ 19. LAUGHTER IS... | S ...BIG OAKS GROW. |
| _____ 20. FINDERS KEEPERS... | T ...BEFORE THE HORSE. |

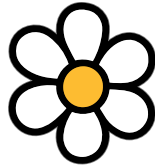
AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group	3	4 9:00 AM Worship & Mem. 8:00 AM Cooking 101 5:00 PM Christian Ed. 6:30 PM Missions Comm. 6:30 PM Outreach Comm. 6:30 PM Safety Team 7:00 PM Property Comm.	5 6:00 PM Worship Band	6 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 10:00 AM Summer Playdate 6:30 PM Garden Club	7	8 Block Party Kitchen Prep
9 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Block Party 6:00 PM Youth Group	10 6:30 PM Personnel	11 8:00 AM Cooking 101	12 6:00 PM Worship Band 6:30 PM Military Prayer 7:00 PM Worship & Memorial	13 9:00 PM Thursday Morning Prayer	14	15
16 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Block Party (Rain Date) 6:00 PM Youth Group	17	18 6:00 PM Cub Committee 7:00 PM Book Club	19 6:00 PM Worship Band	20 9:00 PM Thursday Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Finance Committee	21	22 10:00 AM The Haven
23 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group	24 12:00 PM Women's Lunch		26 6:00 PM Worship Band	27 9:00 PM Thursday Morning Prayer 6:00 PM Session	28	29
30 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM Scouts Meet & Greet 6:00 PM Youth Group	31					

Bethany Presbyterian Church

100W. VenangoStreet

Mercer, PA 16137



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Mercer, PA 16137

PERMIT No. 39

Regular Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

(724) 662-4340

Fax: 724-662-1080

Prayer Chain:

bethanyprays@yahoo.com

Web: www.bethany-presbyterian.org



TO: or current resident

Elders and Deacons

Elders:



Dave Allen, Steve Amsler, Dan Cameron,
Ken Knechtel, Gary McElfresh, Valerian
Moeller, Earl Runcan, Bob White, Bill
Woodman (Teaching Elder)

Deacons:

Samantha Faloney, Amy Hayes, Liz
Hodgkinson, Sandra Hostetler, Madelin
Huff, Tami Iman, Alex Lindey, Lynda
McQuown, Betsy Rust, Rita Thompson,
Linda Wishart

Bethany Staff

Pastor, Dr. Bob White



Visitation Pastor

Pastor Bill Woodman

Treasurer

Kathleen Daley

Church Administrator

Steve Amsler

Music Director

Mike Peterson

Administrative Asst.

Beverly Crawford

Organist

Dennis Horkey

Financial Secretary

Kim Watson

Pianist

Jane Deitrick

Director of Student Ministries

Micah Wojnowski

Director of Children's Ministries

Evelyn Dickinson