



# Bethel Baptist

May 2015

## Thoughts from Pastor Gene

*Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies. **Proverbs 31:10 (NLT)***

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise. **Proverbs 31:30-31 (NLT)***

Rachel Held Evans has written "that *Proverbs 31* is a poem, meant to remind us of what wisdom looks like in action." Instead of reading it as a to-do list, she suggests that we view it as a "celebration of everyday women faithfully performing everyday tasks."

Like all women and mothers, my mom was not perfect. However, I think she earned high marks at being a woman who was "*virtuous and capable*." She knew right and wrong and her way of life was an example to others. She deeply valued being a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother to her family. Although she was never very outgoing, she had a remarkable capacity for caring for others, especially children who needed a delicious breakfast, a strong hand, and a sweet smile. She had a genuine faith and a determined spirit that served her well during times of adversity and heartache. She fulfilled her station in life with honor and skill.

The everyday tasks of women and women with children vary greatly today. Some are stay-at-home moms, some are nurses, some are CEOs, some are missionaries, some are baristas at Starbucks, and some are worship leaders. Some are rich and some are poor. Some are single and some are married. Most impressively, many of them are also following Christ, demonstrating moral excellence, doing their jobs well and being true to themselves.

They are creating their own incredible stories and they are living up to the ideal of the *Proverbs 31* woman in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

Don't miss going to church on Mother's Day. It's a wonderful way to celebrate moms and to give God thanks for the wonderful women who make our world a better place to live.



## Convergence

Bible study is essential to developing a vibrant faith. It has been a number of years since Bethel had a Bible study class for 20-year-olds and 30-year-olds. **Convergence** was launched on April 26 by Pastor Gene. The focus of the new class is exploring how to blend life and faith together in ways that make sense and are true to the teachings of the Bible. The group meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Please pray for this new outreach and ministry endeavor.

## Church Finances

It was reported during the business meeting in April that the church's General Account lost 4,270.18 and the Mission Account lost 1,228.06 in the first quarter of 2015. The financial report for the month April indicates the first gain of the year in the General Account but another loss in the Mission Account. Your faithful prayers and your cheerful giving are needed to help the church avoid any financial hardships during the summer.

*Copies of the newsletter and monthly calendar are available in the foyer. Both are also available under the **News & Events** tab on our website [www.bethelbaptistchurch.net](http://www.bethelbaptistchurch.net)*

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## Quarterly Business Meeting Notes

On Sunday, April 19, we held our second quarterly business meeting of 2015. Pastor Gene opened the meeting with a prayer, and was followed by Church Clerk Sherry Moore who read the minutes from our January 18 business meeting. Finance Committee Chair Kelly Dodd then reviewed our 1st quarter financial report. The only account that was over budget was Church Auto, due to repairs the van. All other accounts were within budget for the quarter. We continue to see losses in both our Missions account (-\$1,228.06) and General account (-\$4,270.18). These continued losses and our finances are being closely monitored by the Finance Committee. Fortunately, we saw a slight gain in our Vanguard account (\$584.48). Our biggest expense in the 1st quarter was the replacement of one of the older AC units, which was covered by funds from our Building Fund designated account, as well as from funds that had been designated for the units replacement.

Pastor Gene briefly discussed concerns about the continued decline in giving, which is impacting both our Missions and General accounts. He also updated us on the adult Sunday School classes; several of the adult teachers needed to step back from teaching for personal reasons, which resulted in combining the Cornerstone and Community classes. When one of the teachers was able to work back into the teaching schedule, it allowed us to add a new class called Convergence, for our young adults in their 20s and 30s. Pastor Gene will be leading this class, which begins on April 26.

Pastor Gene also mentioned that we still have service opportunities on both the cleaning teams, and the "back 40" team. The cleaning team, obviously, helps keep the church clean by cleaning the restrooms, kitchen, vacuuming, and whatever else needs to be done. The "back 40" is of special concern; Bill Morris and Matt Cross have been faithful in their efforts to keep it under control. They've had help on occasion, but they need more consistent help in keeping the area cleared. There was

discussion on whether we should let the area go back to its natural state, but that raised concerns that dumping at the very back would pick up again. Possible uses of the area if we can keep it cleared were offered, including the possibility of disc golf.

The last subject Pastor Gene addressed was on the issue of outreach. This is still a concern for Bethel, and an area where we all need to be more outwardly focused, following what God wants and expects us to do and be.

Pastor Gene thanked everyone for staying after church for the meeting, and closed with a prayer.



### For the Kids!

We are working on sorting through the supplies and toys used in the both the nursery and childcare areas. We have a short list of specific items we'd like to have for our kids, to replace things that are worn out or used up.

If you're interested in helping out, please check the list on the church bulletin board or talk with Karen Gardner. The kids will appreciate it!



### The Back 40

The wooded section at the back of the church property is sometimes called the "Back 40." Max Smith, a former resident in the neighborhood, spent several years clearing that area for the church without charge. It was his desire that his work on that project would be a gift to the congregation and would also help beautify the neighborhood. The church currently needs additional volunteers to help form a reliable team to do the necessary weed-eating and mowing each month on the Back 40. Please contact the church if you are available.