

BEBC NEWS—JANUARY 13, 2023

Beth Eden Baptist Church—Fitchburg, MA

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MISSION STATEMENT: “Beth Eden Baptist Church exists to glorify God by making, maturing and mobilizing disciples who are becoming more like Jesus Christ.”



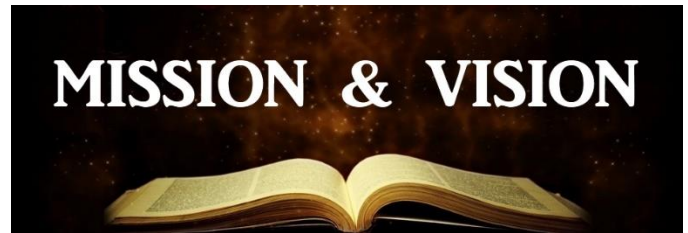
Prayer Week Ends this Sunday

We have profited from a special emphasis on prayer throughout this week. We will officially conclude our Prayer Week (not our commitment to prayer) this Sunday. The morning service will focus on the necessity and privilege of prayer. And the evening service will be a “Concert of Prayer,” incorporating music, scripture reading, and multiple forms of group prayer.

I want to thank all those who have invested this week in honoring God, interceding for others, and offering up petitions to the Lord for the needs of our church family now and for the future.

We need God to grow us spiritually, shape and equip us for ministry, and then increase our passion and commitment to reaching those around us for Christ. All of that requires God-honoring, scripture-saturated, soul-stirring prayer.

Let's all be purposeful! Let's all be prayerful! Then we can all be praise-full!



Our Ministry Mindset in 2023

Ministry Mission and Vision—This year, instead of one longer Vision Meeting, we are going to spend several Sunday mornings in January looking in God's word at the mission of the church.

That will provide an opportunity for us to then discuss in a variety of contexts the biblical implications and practical opportunities for advancing that biblical ministry vision.

We want to act in faith and with fervency to pursue a God-honoring ministry vision, so we can fulfill the mission God has established for Beth Eden Baptist Church.

January 22—A Great Commitment to the Glory of God (Do all to the glory of God!)

January 29—A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment (Love the Lord your God!)

February 5—A Great Commitment to the New Commandment (Love one another!)

February 12—A Great Commitment to the Great Commission (Share the truth of God and show the love of Christ to those around us who are without the Lord!)

Missions Emphasis & Updates



Missions Emphasis Sunday—January 22 PM; Sid & Susie Messer (GFA Missions, Ecuador)

Sid & Susie Messer will be with us during the evening service on January 22. They were able to make a brief last-minute “bonus visit” back on October 5.

Sid will be preaching and presenting a ministry update that evening. This will be a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with our faithful ministry partners and to praise the Lord together.



Answered Prayer for Toby Stevens

Update re: Toby Stevens’ surgery on January 11.

NOTE: As of publishing time for the newsletter, we have still not heard an update. We hope to know more soon so we can share an update on Sunday morning. Please continue praying for Toby and his recovery, and for strength and wisdom for his family (wife: Susan; children: Curtis, Clayton).



Krista Webb in El Salvador

January 12, 2023

Dear Beth Eden family,

I hope you all are having a great start to the New Year and enjoyed the holiday season! Although it wasn’t easy being away from family during the holidays, I’m thankful for the friends and “family” that have warmly embraced me as part of their own. It is amazing how much love the family of believers can share despite culture, language and length of friendship. As Galatians 3:28 says, we are one in Christ. The oneness and fellowship with the Christians here in Cojutepeque has enabled me to see such unity with clarity.

After returning to Cojutepeque after my brief trip home in November, it did not take long before I was back to work at the school with the other interns and church staff members. Although the students were not at school due to the school vacation, there was certainly much to be done to prepare for the upcoming school year. (In El Salvador the school year ends in October and begins again in January). Some of the main projects were painting classrooms and student desks. With some Christmas music and a variety of hands on deck, the days of painting passed by quickly.

Another focus for the ministry during the time of December was making more visits to church members who are not always able to make it to church due to health complications, etc., and members who could use the extra encouragement during the holiday season. Our time making visits reminded me of Proverbs 11:25, which says, “The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” Although we made visits to be a blessing to others, I myself walked away refreshed by the fellowship and encouragement from my brothers and sisters in Christ.

While the new activities/projects were happening, many of the ministry responsibilities remained the same. Despite being on December “vacation” during the last 2 weeks of the month, the church staff remained faithful to weekly evangelism and 17 individuals (10 children and 7 adults) came to know the Lord over the course of the month. New visitors also joined us at the church due to the weekly outreach efforts. Additionally, many of the staff members joined together to clean the church property and church vehicles and decorate for the Christmas season. I am happy to share that the Lord answered prayer when it came to the church bus and it was successfully repaired! After being parked on the street since about the time I first arrived in El Salvador, the bus certainly deserved a good bath with the rest of the vehicles.

In this new year, I am looking forward to continuing my role as a teacher at the school, building deeper relationships with students and staff and being used in whatever ways God would see fit to serve Him and serve others here in Cojutepeque, El Salvador. My schedule is certainly going to be full once again and I pray that God will give me wisdom, guidance and strength with all the responsibilities and tasks that He has set before me. That being said, I would appreciate your continued prayer.

Many thanks to you all for your encouragement and support. You all are truly a blessing.

Take good care and God bless,
Krista

P.S. The group of interns from Emmanuel Baptist Church here in Cojutepeque recorded the song [“Noel” in Spanish](#). Feel free to check out the link if you are interested in seeing the video.

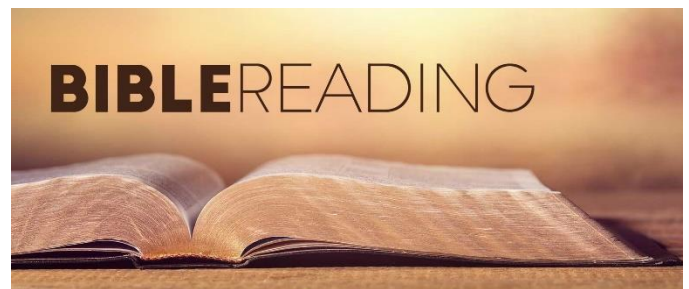
NOTE: Krista included several **photos** that can be viewed Sunday on the video monitor in the church lobby (e.g. high school graduation, graduation dinner, and team bonding hike with the church staff).

“Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.”
--1 Samuel 12:24



Ladies Fellowship Outing

All church ladies are invited to participate in a daytime fellowship & fun outing on Thursday, **January 19**. The ladies group will be taking a trip to Athol, MA for shopping at **Hobby Lobby**, followed by lunch together at Wendy’s. The church van will be used for the trip. Please meet at church no later than **9:45 a.m.** The van will leave at 10:00 a.m. A **sign-up sheet** will be available in the lobby starting this Sunday morning.



Bible Reading Plans

This year, we are placing copies of the various [Bible reading plans](#) on the [church website](#) so you can access them anytime and anywhere you have internet access.

Digital Bible reading resources. See details on the [church website](#).

- **Logos Bible Software** (FaithLife) free app
- **You Version** (adult and children’s app)

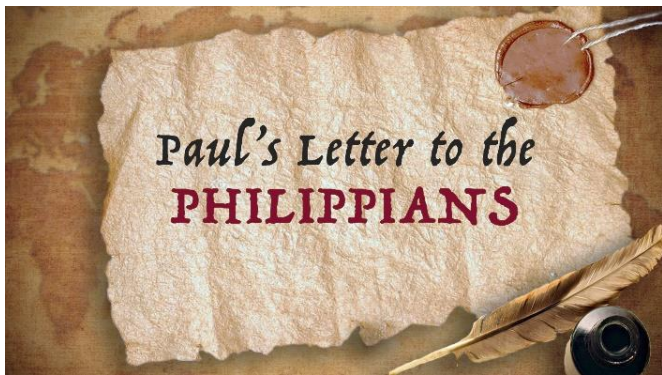
Here is the summary of reading chapters for **January 15-21 (Sun-Sat)**.

Three Sections at a Time:

OT Law, History, Prophets	Genesis 29-42
OT Poetic Books	Psalms 11-15
New Testament	Matthew 11-15

Chronological Order

Job 40-42; Genesis 12-29



Scripture Memory & Meditation

Our scripture memory and meditation effort this year will focus on **Paul's Letter to the Philippians**. We will review two verses each week and will go over all four chapters during the year. It will be a great way to build off the adult Sunday school series this fall taught by David Galvin.

A copy of the [Scripture Memory & Meditation](#) schedule can be viewed on the [church website](#). Paper copies will be provided at the start of each month as a bulletin insert.

The Letter to the PHILIPPIANS **January 2023—Philippians chapter 1**

January 1-7

¹ Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: ² Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

January 8-14

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

January 15-21

⁵ For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

January 22-28

⁷ Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. ⁸ For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

January 29-February 4

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;
¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;



This Weekend: A Preview

January 15 PRAYER WEEK conclusion
Sunday 10:45 am Prayer emphasis in service
Sunday 6:00 pm “Concert of Prayer”

Looking Ahead:

January 19 Ladies Fellowship Outing (9:45am)

January 22, 29; February 5, 12 “Mission & Vision Sundays” (more details on page 2)

January 22 Missions Emphasis Sunday (PM—Sid & Susie Messer, serving the Lord in Ecuador)

January 25 Quarterly Business Meeting
(Wednesday 7:00 pm)

January 29 5th Sunday Fellowship (luncheon & brief afternoon service; no PM service that day)



ICYMI: Recent Ministry Resources

Here are [BEBC YouTube](#) links to recent service recordings. You will also find the links posted on the [BEBC Facebook page](#). Feel free to share these links with others via social media. And remember to “Like” posts by BEBC as often as you can.

Week of January 8-14:

Morning Service (1/8)—On the first Sunday of Prayer Week, Pastor Wiggins brought a message on **“The Problem and Promise of Prayer”** based on **Matthew 6:5-8**. It forces us to honestly answer two questions. (1) **“To whom are we really praying?”** (vs. 5-6). The problem exposed is the temptation to focus on temporal rewards by being seen of men. The promise explained is that spiritual, eternal rewards are provided by our God who sees in secret and who will reward us openly. (2) **“What do we really believe about the One to whom we pray?”** (vs. 7-8). The problem exposed is thinking we can manufacture “results” by merely changing our external efforts (speak more words or repeat them more often). The promise explained is that our Heavenly Father already knows what we need even before we ask. We don’t need to wake Him up or wear Him out. As believers, it is a wonderful privilege to pray to our great and gracious God.

Evening Service (1/8)—Pastor Wiggins taught on Jesus’ prayers offered the night he was betrayed. We looked at **John 17:1-5** and **Matthew 26:36-46**. The entire service (singing, scripture reading, and prayers) was given over to the observance of the Lord’s Supper.

Midweek Service (1/11)—Pastor Wiggins taught a lesson, **“Difficult People and Hard Praying,”** based on **Matthew 5:43-48**. Key points included: (1) Hard prayers challenge us to trust God and sacrifice in our efforts to reach others for Him (43-44). (2) Hard prayers call us to remembrance of who we are and how God has treated us (45). (3) Hard prayers are designed to change us and cause us to grow more like the Lord (46-48).

Fellowship Ministry Teams

New Fellowship Ministry Team (FMT) **lists** and a **schedule** have been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby. Thank you in advance for your efforts to help us set up and clean up for our social events.

January 29 5th Sunday Fellowship Luncheon
Team: Galvin-Cordio

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays this week & next:

Jan 15 Lynn Wiggins
Jan 24 Jamie Rosa
Jan 24 Krista Webb
Jan 25 Alex Gonzalez

Anniversaries this week & next:

None



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