

BEBC NEWS—MAY 5, 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.”



This month we have scheduled two opportunities for you to listen to a **special presentation** and ask any questions you may have. The agenda will be the same for both meetings. You may attend one or the other...even both, if you wish.

The purpose of the **congregational Q&A meetings** is to present a proposal (discussion-only at this point) regarding an **amendment to our Church Constitution**. The potential change affects the area of church membership. A summary is provided below and will be posted at church. Full details will be distributed at the Q&A meetings. The Church Leadership looks forward to your interaction.

PROPOSAL SUMMARY:

The Pastor and Deacons recommend that we amend the Membership section of our Church Constitution by establishing a **Basics of Belief** document. This foundational statement will be in full agreement with the more detailed Church Statement of Faith. Furthermore, (1) the **Statement of Faith** will remain unchanged and continue to be the

foundation for all public and private instruction sanctioned by the Church; and (2) adherence to the full Statement of Faith shall remain a requirement for anyone serving as a pastor or deacon.

The purpose of the **Basics of Belief** document is to allow believers to pursue membership at BEBC with a clear conscience and open spirit, even though... (1) they may be uncertain of what they believe on some minor doctrinal issue(s); (2) they may have been taught differently elsewhere on some matter(s) but are very open to solid doctrinal teaching; or (3) they have a settled belief on a minor doctrinal issue(s) that is different than what is included in our Statement of Faith.

Here is the **tentative schedule** we plan to follow:

- **May 7** Public announcement (summary) & post FYI on bulletin board [Not a formal proposal yet at this point.]
- **May 21** FYI presentation (full details) w/ Q&A time (Option #1) [post Sunday AM]
- **May 28** FYI presentation (full details) w/ Q&A time (Option #2) [post-Sunday AM]
- **June 18 & 25** Official posting & announcement of formal proposal (tentative)
- **June 28** Vote on formal proposal at Annual Business Meeting (tentative) [Wednesday evening]

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Q3 Business Meeting Results

The 3rd Quarter Business Meeting (FY 2023-2024) was held on April 26. Documents are posted in the main foyer. Here is a summary of the action taken:

- **Clerk minutes Q3** (Approved unanimously)
- **Financial Report**—General Fund & Missions (Approved unanimously)
- **Summer Ministry Intern, FYI update**—Dropped for 2023; housing not available.
- **IRS Tax Lien & Parsonage Escrow, FYI update**—See below for a brief summary.
- **Special proposal Re: consolidation of select designated funds** (Approved unanimously)—The full updated details of the special proposal are posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer. See below for a brief summary.

IRS Tax Lien & Parsonage Escrow:

Our treasurer and the tax attorney have interacted considerably over the past month. And the tax attorney has had repeated contact with the IRS agent assigned to our case. They have come to a preliminary resolution plan.

At the direction of our tax attorney, we processed and delivered to the IRS on April 14 a check for \$4,521.99.

However, there are still some final verbal commitments made by the IRS agent that must be enacted for the record. Those involve the posting of tax abatement credits and documenting waivers for accumulated civil penalties.

The tax attorney is continuing to follow up on the issue diligently.

Consolidation Select Designated Funds:

The Pastor and Deacons recommend that the three designated funds marked with an asterisk (*)—i.e. Memorial Fund; Memorial Landscaping Fund; New Van Fund—shall be combined into a general-use designated **Special Projects Fund**. Those three

funds will cease to exist and will no longer be listed on future financial reports (after the end of FY 2022-2023). Future donations made to any of those funds will be directed to the Special Projects Fund.

The newly formed **Special Projects Fund** shall be used initially for one or more of the following efforts: (1) ladies' restroom upgrade; (2) nursery upgrade; (3) auditorium projector & screen; (4) widening main entrance & adding a retainer wall; (5) additional kitchen upgrades.



Men's Outdoor Cookout Fellowship

We have one more men's fellowship time scheduled this spring. Our next meeting will be held outdoors at the church, Lord willing. The May meeting has now been moved to Thursday, **June 1** at 6:30 p.m. That will give us an opportunity to invite friends and enjoy a special outdoor cookout fellowship, and perhaps some games. Watch for more details later this month.

Photo Gallery Playing in the Foyer

This month on the video monitor in the church foyer, we will be featuring photos from two recent events. By the end of the month we should be able to display photos from a third event. Photos will be playing before and after Sunday AM, PM and Wed.

Easter Sunday, April 9—Photos are included for Outdoor service; (2) Fellowship Breakfast; and (3) Morning Worship Service.

Ladies-Girls Luncheon, May 6—Hopefully, you ladies will be able to attend the luncheon and then reminisce about all the good times as you view the photos. If you are unable to attend (or you are a guy and did not get invited 😊), I hope it will encourage you to praise the Lord and enjoy talking with others who did attend.

Church Work-Day May 13—Come join the crew! We will have plenty of areas needing help.

WORK DAY

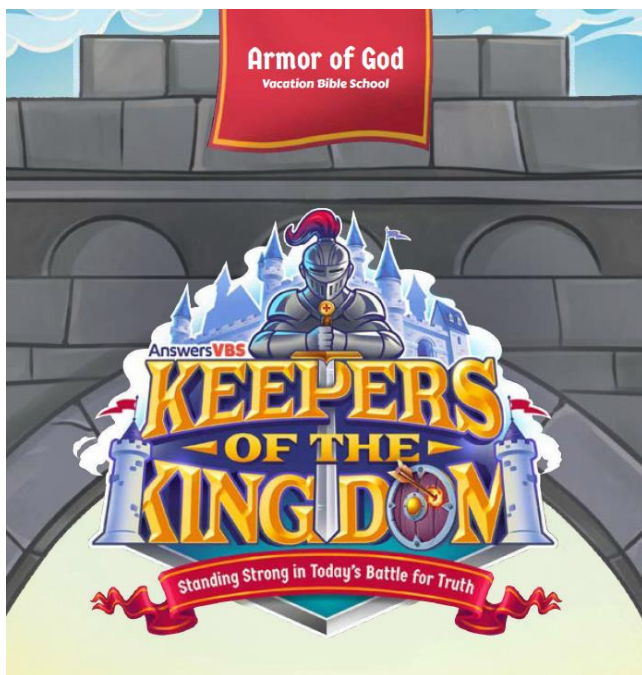
Spring Church Work-Day Moved to May 13

Our spring church work-day has been rescheduled for **Saturday, May 13**. We will have refreshments ready to go by 8:00 am for those willing to get an early start. If 9:00 am or later works better for you, we will still have plenty of tasks to choose from when you arrive.

We have a good mix of indoor and outdoor projects planned. There will be light cleaning and organizing of both inside rooms and outside storage buildings. And there will be lots of seasonal outdoor clean-up, along with a few heavier outdoor projects. Feel free to bring the whole family and serve together.

Praying about Community Outreach

In just under three months, we will be holding our **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** youth outreach effort on July 24-28. But the ministry of VBS starts long before then. In fact, several folks are already busy with VBS planning and preparation. And others will soon join the hard-working ranks. Please PRAY!



In just under one month, on Tuesday, June 6, we will launch our 2023 **Pray & Go!** outreach. This summer we are going to "double dip" by distributing Pray & Go! Fliers and VBS promotional fliers. We will also be scheduling some Saturday **VBS Blitz** opportunities during June and July. After VBS we will be directing much of our efforts to follow-up with children and their parents. Please PRAY!



BETH EDEN
BAPTIST CHURCH

WE LOVE OUR
COMMUNITY.
SO WE ARE
praying
FOR OUR
COMMUNITY.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

If you have a question, or want to share something you'd like us to pray about, please let us know by contacting us at

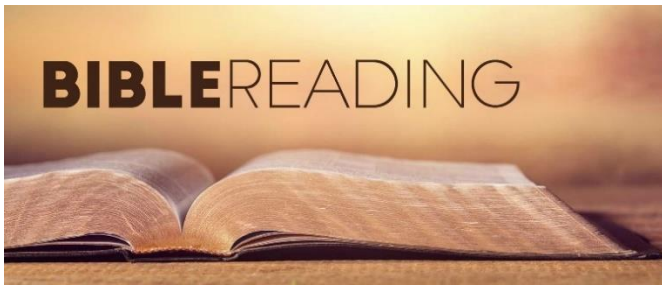
info@betheden.net

978-400-3370

MEETING ON SUNDAYS
at 10:45AM & 6:00PM

350 Ashburnham St., Fitchburg, MA 01420

BETHEDEN.NET



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.

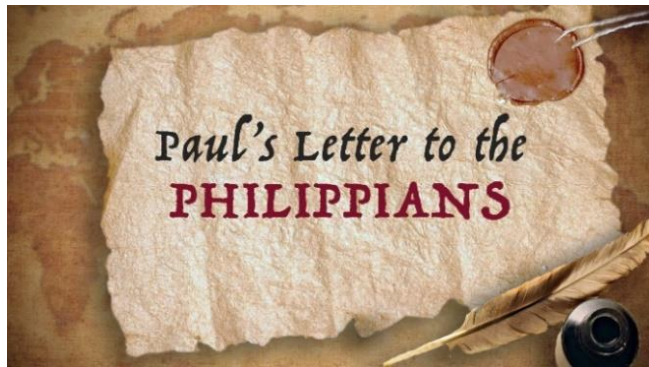
Here is the summary of reading chapters for **April 23-29 (Sun-Sat)**.

Three Sections at a Time:

OT Law, History, Prophets	1 Samuel 15-28
OT Poetic Books	Psalm 91-95
New Testament	Acts 2-6

Chronological Order

2 Samuel 7-12; 1 Chronicles 17-20; Psalm 25, 29, 33, 36, 49, 50, 53, 60, 65-67, 69-70, 75



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
May 2023—Philippians 2

April 30-May 6

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

May 7-13

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

May 14-20

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

May 21-27

¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

May 28-June 4

¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without murmurings and disputings:



This Weekend:

9:30 am	Sunday School
10:45 am	Morning Worship
6:00 pm	Evening Service

Looking Ahead:

May 7	Ministry update from Bil Pearce (PM)
May 13	Church Work-Day (Saturday)
May 28	Ministry update from Krista Webb (PM)
June 1	Men's Outdoor Cookout Fellowship

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS in MAY:

- 2 Diana Clark
- 5 Jim Babineau
- 7 Ann Desrosiers
- 14 Bonnie Scouten
- 15 Deb Chura
- 16 Olivia Chura
- 17 Judy de Mare
- 22 Cindy Gouldrup
- 23 Becky Galvin
- 28 Pastor Bob Daulton
- 29 Kristina Huber
- 29 Lisa Casselli
- 30 Joe Dwyer

ANNIVERSARIES in MAY:

- 6 Victor & Iraida Ramos
- 7 Jay & Margaret Villagomez
- 10 Jaime & Evelyn Bosworth
- 25 Herb & Barb Turner
- 30 Wayne & Christine Hoyt



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 April 23-29:

Morning Service (4/23)—Pastor Wiggins preached from 1 Timothy 3:1 on “The Motivations and Responsibilities of a Pastor.” The text uses the term translated “bishop,” and meaning “overseer.” It is one of several terms (e.g. pastor, elder, bishop/overseer, minister, teacher) used interchangeably to describe the primary role of spiritual leadership in the local church. It is a good thing to desire the work of a bishop. But 1 Peter 5:1-4 clarifies what are pure and appropriate motivations.

Evening Service (4/23)—Pastor Wiggins preached from Acts 5:41-42 on “Joyful Suffering for the Name of Christ.” This account was recorded by Luke, Paul’s personal physician and the chief historian of the early church. Peter, an eye-witness to these events had much to say about suffering joyfully for Christ. Partakers of Christ’s suffering will also partake of His glory (1 Peter 4:12-16). It is what the Lord has called us to do—follow the example of Christ and walk in His steps (1 Peter 2:18-21). We shouldn’t be intimidated or agitated by those who oppose Christ and us, but rejoice. Rather, it should drive us to make sure Christ holds the full affection of our hearts and energizes our motivation to share the good news of Christ with others. (1 Peter 3:13-17).

Midweek Service (4/26)—During the midweek service, Pastor Wiggins continued the new Bible study series, Praying People in the Bible. This evening he taught on **Daniel 9:3-23, “Praying for Stuff that Is Way Bigger than Just Us.”** Daniel was praying for wisdom to understand God’s future plan for the captives exiled in Babylon. He knew the end of the prophesied seventy-year period of captivity was almost complete. As Daniel offered up his prayer of repentance and supplication (1) he recognized and rested on God’s character, and (2) he focused on and committed to seeking God’s glory. And when God answered Daniel’s prayer, He commissioned an angelic messenger to deliver that announcement directly to Daniel. The angel, Gabriel, also reminded Daniel that he was “greatly beloved.”

Week of April 30-May 6:

Morning Service (4/30)—Pastor Wiggins preached from 1 Timothy 3:2-7 on “Qualifications for Spiritual Leadership.” No two pastors are exactly the same in all respects. And no pastor is perfect (sinless). But all bishops/overseers (elders, pastors) must meet specific qualifications in order to be properly appointed and maintained in that office. Paul outlines those qualifications to Timothy: (1) individual character [vs. 2-3]; (2) family character [vs. 2, 4-5]; and (3) community character [vs. 6-7]. And because of this, every pastor is reminded he is to be “an example for the believers” (1 Tim 4:12).

Evening Service (4/30)—Since this was a 5th Sunday Fellowship weekend, there was no evening service. Pastor did bring a devotional challenge in the

afternoon service, focusing on **“Harvesting Spiritual Fruit.”** We looked at reaping the harvest of (1) the fruit of righteousness [Phil 1:9-11; Heb 12:11]; (2) the fruit of peace [James 3:17-18]; and (3) the fruit of souls [1 Pet 3:15; Col 4:5-6]. We are also reminded in the scriptures that “...in due season we shall reap if we faint not” (Gal 6:9-10).

Midweek Service (5/3)—Pastor Wiggins continued the series, Praying People in the Bible. This week we focused on **Acts 8:1-8, “When Sorrow Leads to Joy.”** In this context, the story moves from God’s people facing severe persecution in and around Jerusalem/Judea. As a result, many were “scattered abroad.” Those people, who were not apostles, were dispersed throughout Judea and even into Samaria. They “went everywhere preaching Christ” (Lit. “gospelizing” or “good news-ing”). Because of that the Lord graciously saved many people, so that “there was great joy in that city.” Lessons: (1) God uses difficult things to accomplish good purposes [vs. 1-3a]. (2) God’s people need to respond positively to difficult circumstances in life, looking for God-ordained opportunities to serve [vs. 3b]. (3) God has people on His heart and in His mind. And He is committed to using faithful, willing servants to share the good news with others to bring Him glory [vs. 5-8].

“Persecution does to the church what wind does to seed: it scatters it and only produces a greater harvest.”

--Warren W. Wiersbe



Church Office

350 Ashburnham St, Fitchburg, MA 01420
W: 978.345.4522 E: info@betheden.net
Website: www.betheden.net

Pastor Claude Wiggins

H: 978.386.1366 M: 313.717.3185
E: cwiggins@betheden.net

Church Secretary: Patty Cordio

M: 864.552.0699
E: pattywags83@gmail.com

Deacons:

David Galvin M: 978.906.3495
E: David.galvin.jr@gmail.com

Bob Morrison M: 978.503.1070
E: bobmorrison@gmail.com

Steve Allaire M: 978.870.5546
E: stevemallaire@gmail.com

Brandon Cordio M: 864.320.8344
E: bcordio@gmail.com