



Covenant Partner News

Sunday, October 27, 2024

Volume 4

Issue 43

Message From Evangelistic Outreach

*(Excerpt from EVANTELL, Pause and Ponder Blog by R. Larry Moyer,
September 12, 2024)*

He Sent You

I love the illustration of the believer who complained to God about all the evil and injustice in the world and yelled out to God, “Why don’t you do something?” God answered, “I did. I sent you.” That’s right. He sent us. Regeneration has to come before reformation. There has to be a change on the inside before there can be lasting change on the outside. People need Jesus. (Act 1:8) Ask God today, “Make me more zealous in sharing my faith than I have ever been.”

BETHESDA ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 20, 2024		
Sunday School	No Prayer Meeting	No Bible Study
Men (8)	Tuesday (0)	Tuesday (0)
Women (24)	Prayer Focus	Wednesday (0)
Phone (9)		Thursday (0)
Children (2)		

On Prayer by James Banks

(A Pastor and Writer for the Daily Bread)

Now sometimes we might mistakenly think that prayer has something to do with skill. Sometimes you hear someone who is very well meaning say “I don’t have the Spiritual gift of prayer.” But did you know that of all the spiritual gifts listed in Scripture, prayer is not among them? And there’s an excellent reason for that. Prayer is meant for all of us. “Why Pray?” “Because you prayed!” “Bend down, O LORD, and listen!” Isaiah 36 and 37. That doesn’t mean things will go our way every time we pray, but if we learn to pray proactively---making prayer our “first resort” and not “a last resort” ---we will or may see God do breathtaking things. He wants us to help us lift our eyes above our circumstances so that we can catch a glimpse of His goodness and love. He wants us to pray so that we will get to know Him---and that really is the best part about prayer. True prayer is about so much more than just request or answers---it’s about a relationship with the One who will love and sustain us even when the answers don’t seem to come.

ODBU.org/SF120 is worth reading on prayer. Listen to his lecture on “Why Pray” by James Banks.

- Why Pray
- Why Not Ask?
- When You Don’t know What to Say
- Obstacles to Prayer
- Praying for Others
- Prayer and Fasting
- What about “Unanswered” Prayer
- Persevering in Prayer
- Living a Prayer-Filled Life
(Course Completion)

RECURRING EVENTS

Hour of Power & Bible Study *No Bible Study Tuesday 29*

Each Tuesday at 6:00pm followed by Bible Study at 7:00pm via *ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83096366206?pwd=J7wZ8bwAcBA1snP5SgRuYhW4E2DsU.1>

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206 Passcode: 199366

To use your cell phone or land line, *please dial: 1. 301. 715. 8592

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206#; Passcode: 199366#

We encourage all members to submit prayer requests as the Holy Spirit leads by 12:00 Noon on Monday.

Open Praise Forum & Bible Study

Every Tuesday leading up to Communion Sunday at 6:00pm followed by Bible Study at 7:00pm via ZOOM and on conference line referenced above. *

Bible Study Young Adult Edition

Each Wednesday at 7:30pm EST and 6:30pm CST via Zoom.

Register by text at 202-262-4476 or email kgoady07@gmail.com.

Men's Prayer Hour

Each Wednesday at 9:00pm via conference call: 1.717.908.1972; Access 875378#

Women's Prayer Hour *Prayer hours will resume January 2025*

Each 4th Saturday at 9:00am via conference call: 1.605.313.5143; Access code 654522#

Questions and Answers *No Q & A Session Sunday, October 27*

Held each 4th Sunday at 6:00pm via conference call: 1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

Please submit your questions *today* by email to: SoulCare@BethesdaWeb.org or in Q&A box located on the table outside of the church office.

Bible Study

Each Thursday at 12:00 Noon via conference call: 1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

THIS WEEK EVENTS

Sunday, October 27

4:00pm Breast Cancer Awareness Program

Thursday, October 31

6:00pm Harvest Night – “Trunk or Treat”

Friday, November 1

6:00am – 6:00pm Corporate Day of Prayer and Fasting

6:00pm Good News Club, Rooms 118 and 120

Saturday, November 2

9:00am Leadership Training (in-person)

10:00am DC Aglow, Room 128

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

The 6:00 PM Christian Education Ministry zoom call on Thinking Biblically is cancelled on Sunday October 27th. The final session will be held on Sunday November 23rd. The subject will be "Thinking Biblically About Politics" and will include an additional review about what the Bible says about lying/integrity.

Thanks for your participation! Join us via zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83096366206?pwd=J7wZ8bwAcBA1snP5SgRuYhW4E2DsU.1>

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206 Passcode: 199366; or

Call number: 1-301-715-8592.

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206#; Passcode: 199366#

PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

There will be no Bible study on Tuesday, October 29, prayer meeting only.

BETHESDA'S 2025 ANNUAL BUDGET

Greetings Saints! As unbelievable as it seems, we are approaching the end of 2024, and it is time to begin planning for Bethesda's 2025 Annual Budget. Please submit your 2025 budget requests, with justifications for increased budget levels, via email to Frcope@aol.com or place them in the Budget Committee Mailbox in the lounge today, Sunday, October 27, 2024. If your 2024 budget level will be sufficient to meet all planned 2025 activities, you do not have to submit a 2025 budget request. However, any planned activities not listed in the 2024 budget must be spelled out in your budget request. To reduce the overall budget, please note that for 2025, if your ministry did not use your allocated 2024 level, we may decrease the level available for 2025. Thank you and please keep the 2025 Annual Budget development process in prayer.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Women's Ministry will host an annual Breast Cancer Awareness Concert today, Sunday, October 27th at 4:00pm. All are welcome to come. During the month of October, the Women's Ministry is asking each member and friend of Bethesda for a financial gift to the Howard University Breast Cancer Center and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Your gift can be sent by mail to the church, or you can bring it each Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Online donations cannot be used for this purpose. Checks are to be made payable to: Bethesda Baptist Church and on the memo line indicate "Cancer Awareness." Thank you for your support.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

BREAST CANCER/THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Please be sure to stop by the tables outside the church office or in the foyer and pick up the following two envelopes: Breast Cancer Envelope and the Thanksgiving Envelope (we are asking for a minimal \$25 offering for Thanksgiving).

HARVEST NIGHT “TRUNK OR TREAT”

Hello all available saints: if you are available come out to help pack the treat bags for Harvest night on Wednesday, October 30th at 11am. Come out and join the fun!!

The Sunday school is hosting Trunk or Treat on Thursday October 31st from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm as an alternative to Halloween. If you would like to donate treats for this event, please bring them to the church by Sunday, October 27, 2024 and place in the bins outside the sanctuary. Any individually wrapped goodies would be fine but some favorites are Skittles, Takis, Reese’s, Airheads, and Jolly ranchers. If you would like to participate by decorating your trunk, please see Sister Marisha Pennington. Thanks for your support!

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYING—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024, 6 AM TO 6 PM.

Please use the “7 Steps to Prayer and Fasting Guidelines” as the construct for our upcoming Prayer and Fast next Friday. Our focus will be on the following items: the November 5 election and that God will provide more workers, financial resources, greater giving, more tithers, salvation of my family and wisdom regarding health concerns.

Inasmuch as there are many Christians who are apathetic about the political process and candidates in this election and have decided not to vote, we want to remind ourselves of the sacrifices that have made it possible for us as African-Americans to participate in the electoral process. We must never take this for granted. We also want to be reminded of the fact that our God is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. “The King’s heart is in the hand of the Lord He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases.” (Proverbs 21:1) This verse encourages trust in God’s ultimate control over world affairs and even the most powerful rulers.

Please consider the language below as part of your meditation regarding the segment of this fast pertaining to the election:

I recognize that my country, the United States of America, is in need of moral and spiritual repair. And I confess that my own sin has, at times, contributed to the current state of affairs. However, I firmly believe in the truth of

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

Scripture and trust God when He promises, "[I]f my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). Therefore, I pledge today to pray, vote, and stand for my country.

I will PRAY for my country and its leaders as commanded by Scripture (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We are in a spiritual battle. We need God to touch our hearts, guide our steps, and strengthen our hands. No matter how difficult the circumstances may seem, I know God promises to answer when I pray to Him.

I will VOTE in local, state, and national elections for leaders who will stand for biblical truth. The Lord has said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" (Luke 12:48). As a Christian and an American, I recognize the great responsibility I have to steward the republic with which we have been entrusted, one nation under God. I will vote in a manner that seeks the good of the city in which God has placed me (Jeremiah 29:7).

I will STAND for biblical truth, both when it is popular and when it is not. I realize that it may be uncomfortable and even costly to stand. As God gives me strength, I will stand anyway. I desire to be strong and have courage in the Lord, "taking up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:13). The apostle Paul tells us, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good... (Galatians 6:10).

I will filter all issues, candidates, and party platforms through the Bible. I will seek godly counsel when necessary as I vote (Romans 13:1, 5).

As I have opportunity, I will MOVE FROM THE PEWS TO THE POLLS AND PRAY, VOTE, AND STAND IN 2024.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Leadership training will be held at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 2, in person.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH YEARBOOK

We are creating a yearbook for the church. This yearbook will include Pictures of members.

- Memorably, page of people who have passed on from 2020-2024.

The memorial page is only for former members.

- If you have family members who have passed away between the years 2020-2024, please send a good quality photo of that person and

- pictures of all the activities the church has held for the years 2023-2024. Please send all pictures to Tiista792@GMAIL.COM.

How should we dress for the picture day? This is up to you; how you want. Just be mindful, people will be seeing these photos.

When are these picture days taking place?

Saturday, November 23 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm is the **last day** to take your photos.

Money- How much the yearbook will cost will be disclosed at a later date.

What will we do with the money? We will pay the company for printing the yearbook, and the rest of the money will go toward the John D. Bussey Scholarship Fund. If you have any questions, contact Tigist Ashaka by email at igista792@gmail.com. Thank you, *the Yearbook Committee*.

TO BETHESDA MEMBERS

1. The Church office is closed on Sundays.
2. If your ministry has a need for Armed Guard Services, please contact the Chair of the Trustee Board.
3. Funeral Repasts will not be held at the church, until further notice.
4. A meeting of the church body will be held at a future date so that our Armed Guard personnel can provide an overview of safety protocols.

WORSHIPING NURSERY

Praise the Lord Bethesda, we have been blessed to have several children under the age of five come to church. The Worshiping Nursery rooms have been cleaned and are ready for them. Now we need volunteers to bring the love, energy, and share the word of God with them. Pray that the Lord will use you and volunteer as a worker. Please contact Sister Denise McPayten-Nedab at 202-306-2420.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

BIBLE STUDY/EVANGELISM CLASS

Bethesda is invited to join the continuation of a Bible Study/Evangelism class entitled, "How to Share Your Faith." Every Saturday, at 8:00pm via zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81561367106?pwd=viO5Ikb0bJEEhRg7IuqXCUZS8pEnf.1> Meeting ID: 815 6136 7106, Passcode: 662370; or via conference call number: 1.301.715.8592 Meeting ID: 815 6136 7106#; Passcode: 662370#

The teacher is Brother Larry Butler. For those of you who don't know Larry, he came out of Catholicism and became a Christian while studying at the University of MD in the early 70's. Since his conversion, he has devoted his life to evangelism and reaching the lost especially on college campuses. Description: This is an introductory Bible study class focusing on how to not only clearly understand what it means to be saved but how do we share what we believe about Jesus Christ with others. Invite as many family members and friends you wish.

WHY MARYLAND CHRISTIANS SHOULD VOTE NO TO MARYLAND QUESTION1: "RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AMENDMENT ACT (2024):"

- It's Deceptive
- It's Ambiguous
- It removes protections for minors
- It takes away Parental Rights
- It opens the door to covering other reproductive procedures beyond abortion with Maryland taxpayer dollars.
- It violates God's will

Maryland Question 1



Maryland Question 1, the **Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment**, is on the ballot in Maryland as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 5, 2024.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

A "**yes**" vote supports adding a new article to the Maryland Constitution's Declaration of Rights establishing a *right to reproductive freedom*, defined to include "the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy."

A "**no**" vote opposes amending the state constitution to establish a *right to reproductive freedom*.

Overview

What would Question 1 do?

Question 1 would amend the Declaration of Rights in the Maryland Constitution to add a new section that guarantees a right to *reproductive freedom*, defined to include "the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy." The ballot measure is designed to prohibit the constitutional right from being denied or infringed unless there is a compelling state interest, which would need to be achieved using the least restrictive means.

Currently, abortion is legal in Maryland until viability. Abortion is legal after viability if the woman's life or health is endangered or there is a fetal anomaly. In 1991, the Maryland State Legislature passed Senate Bill 162, which said "the state may not interfere with the decision of a woman to terminate a pregnancy" before fetal viability. A veto referendum was filed to repeal the law, and the question went before voters in November 1992. [Question 6](#) was approved upholding SB 162 by a vote of 62% to 38%.^{[3][4]}

Looking More Closely at The Right to Reproductive Freedom Act:

It's Ambiguous; The problem is, the term "Reproductive Freedom" is **not defined**.

It's not defined in the Amendment **and** has no official definition in law, medicine or the dictionary. Rather, it's a political term that, depending on who you talk to, could mean a variety of things, not just abortion.

The Amendment

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment reads:

That **every person**, as a central component of **an individual's** rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to **reproductive**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

freedom, including but not limited to the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy.

The State may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden, or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling **state interest** achieved by the least restrictive means.

Deceptive

- Notice how the Amendment applies to **everyone**.
- Notice how the Amendment makes **no distinction between adults and minors**.
- Notice how the Amendment guarantees the right to “reproductive freedom,” **including but not limited to...**
- Notice how the term “reproductive freedom” is not only **undefined**, but **unlimited**.

Current Law

In Maryland, abortion is legal *for any reason* through six months of pregnancy (viability); after six months, abortion is legal to protect the life or health of the mother *or* for fetal anomalies.

The current law also provides protections for minors, since minors may not have the maturity to consent to medical procedures and risks.

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment will enshrine unrestricted abortion, **up to the moment of birth**, into the Maryland Constitution, and it will be **funded with your tax dollars**.

The Amendment also **removes protections for minors**.

No Protection for Minors

Minors will have **the same** “reproductive freedoms” as adults.

This means minors will have the ability to obtain abortions, contraceptives, sell their eggs or sperm, participate in experimental reproductive research or act as surrogates for compensation, **and all without their parent's knowledge or consent**.

Loss of Parental Rights

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment opens the door to minors obtaining gender-affirming treatment, like puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, binders, and counseling, ***all without their parent's knowledge or consent.***

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment opens the door to minors obtaining sex-reassignment surgery, ***without their parent's knowledge or consent.***

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment could affect what our children learn in school about sex, gender and reproduction, ***regardless of their parent's wishes.***

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment could affect the rights of parents and custody of their children if they disagree with the gender or reproductive choices their children make.

Loss of Religious Liberties

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment could also affect our religious liberties or conscientious objections, especially for doctors, health care professionals, and teachers.

Cloning

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment even allows for **cloning!**

Dangerously Ambiguous and Deceptive

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment, as written, is **ambiguous** and **unlimited**.

Even though it does not specifically say "abortion," "surrogacy," "gender-affirming," "sex re-assignment," "religious liberties," and so on, its language leaves the door open for nefarious purposes.

Taxpayer Funded

Abortions in Maryland are already funded with our tax dollars through Maryland Medicaid.

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment will cover unrestricted late-term abortions, and will open the door to covering other reproductive procedures with Maryland resident tax dollars.

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER

MINISTRY LEADERS 2025 CALENDAR AND OFFICERS

Ministry leaders please submit your 2025 calendar events and ministry officers no later than October 27.

TO ALL MINISTRY HEADS OR FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Please check your ministry mailbox that's located in the lounge for any mail or reports you may be expecting from the Finance Office.

COPIER IN THE LOUNGE

When using the copier in the lounge please be sure to log in your name or ministry name and the number of copies you are producing. Thank you for your cooperation.

IT SUPPORT MINISTRY

Dear Ministry Leaders,

As we continue to promote our church events, we want to make sure that we are doing so in the most effective and efficient way possible. To help us achieve this, we are introducing a new form that will allow you to upload flyers for your events and have them posted on our social media platforms. Please use the following form to submit your promotional materials:

<https://form.jotform.com/bbcitsupport/ministry-submit-form>

Please ensure that you submit any promotional flyers at least one week in advance of your event to allow enough time for us to post them.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us spread the word about our events. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

BBC IT Support Ministry

MINISTRY ACTION PLAN

Ministry Leaders, this is a reminder to complete the Ministry Action Plan Special Event Form for any major events six (6) months in advance of the planned activity for approval. The objective of this process is to help ministries of our church plan activities prior to committing resources to them. Please see the church office if you are in need of a form. The pastor will meet with each leader to review the proposed activity. Thank you.

ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER CONTINUED:

MINISTRY LEADERS

If you would like to hold your ministry meetings or events on Zoom, please contact Sister Bobbie Taylor at 202.635.2883 or submit your request by email: btaylor@bethesdaweb.org.

MINISTRY MAILBOX

All ministry heads or secretaries, please remember to check your mailbox.

RECRUITMENT

1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Therefore encourage one another and build up one another,"

We are seeking volunteers to join our comfort ministry. The cause and effect of comfort is biblical when we comfort others with the comfort that we have received from God and others. Please contact the church office to express your interest.

ROOF REPLACEMENT FUND

We have established a goal of raising \$62,000 over the next 12-months for replacement of the church's roof Section M. We are asking each member to give an extra \$62 per month or \$15.50 per week to the church's Building Maintenance Fund. If 100 members do this on a regular monthly basis over the course of 1-year, we will raise the \$62,000 necessary to finance the first phase of roof repairs. Please use the special "Roof Replacement" envelopes found outside of the church office and Sanctuary vestibule. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving, Bethesda!

"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27