

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (The Story 11—David) 11:30am BBYOL	4	5 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting	6 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: The Story 11— David (led by Helen) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	7	8	9 1-4pm Baking Club
10 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (The Story 12—David) 11:30am BBYOL	11	12 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting	13 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: The Story 12—David (led by Helen) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	14	15	16 5-8pm AIM BBQ 7:30pm UGM
17 10am Worship – Tim Auld 11:30am BBYOL	18	19 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting	20 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: TBD (led by Pastor Yuri) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	21	22	23
24 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (The Story 13—Solomon) 11:30am BBYOL	25	26 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting	27 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: The Story 13—Solomon (led by Ed & Joy) 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	28	29	30 8:30am Men’s Prayer Fellowship
	PASTOR YURI AWAY					
31 10am Worship – Howard Moore 11:30am BBYOL						



Bethesda Church
Newsletter

Congregational letter

August 2025

“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”
–Matthew 7:24

“Let’s get building!”

Those are the final words in the new vision I presented to our Council on July 5, entitled *Building for Glory*. Building is what I believe God expects from us over the next three years. Over the course of our previous vision document (called, *Committed to Glory*) God has helped us reaffirm our foundational commitments: to the Bible, to prayer, and to an agreed approach toward how the church should operate (AKA Bethesda’s *Constitution*). God has also blessed us with restored financial stability, renewed love for one another, and a revitalized children’s ministry...as well as new couples and families, and new believers!

Building for Glory outlines ONE Missional Priority, THREE Missional Objectives, and FIVE Measurable Indicators.

Our Missional Priority is PRAYER. Why prayer? Because the “glory” in the vision’s title is not *our* glory. We are to build only for *God’s* glory! It is easy to busy ourselves with activities that we just assume are for God’s glory, that we assume he will bless, but in the end we find only frustration and failure. Maybe you can think of examples from your own life when this has happened to you. (The Bible is full of them!) Paul puts it this way: “each one should be careful how he builds” since “fire will test the quality of each man’s work” (1 Cor 3:10,13). Solomon is even more blunt: “unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain.” (Ps 127:1) No matter how clever, or organized, or talented we are,

we will be ineffective if we do not rely completely on God. We can do nothing on our own!

This is why prayer is so important. It’s not just that we need to hear from God about *what* we are to do, although that is very important. But even after we know what we’re supposed to do, all along the way we need his power to *actually do it* since we generally can’t do as much as we like to think we can! Plus, we need to keep checking in with God. We need his wisdom to show us *how to proceed* day by day, and we need his regular comfort and encouragement. We so often find ourselves at a loss! So, to succeed in the Missional Objectives God has given us, prayer is the priority. The missions God calls us to are beyond us!

So what are the three Missional Objectives in *Building for Glory*? The first two seek to grow areas where we already have solid experience. They are **Preaching/Teaching**, and **Hospitality/Care**. The third objective is **Evangelism**. This should be central to every church’s mission. But it is also an area where we should challenge ourselves to learn, to grow, and to do more!

There are many ways to share the Gospel. But one thing’s for sure: successful evangelism strategies in the 21st century will look different than they used to. In earlier centuries, you could count on the fact most people retained some residue of biblical truth. This is no longer the case. The age of stadium crusades and altar calls is mostly over. People these days usually won’t decide to become a Christian in



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one night, which means we must be especially prayerful, patient, and persistent...saving faith is a *process* as much as it is an event! Tim Keller put it this way: “In a post-Christendom setting [...] people simply do not have the necessary background knowledge to hear a gospel address and immediately understand who God is, what sin is, who Jesus is, and what repentance and faith are in a way that enables them to make an intelligent commitment.”¹ You will hear me speak more and more about what he called “every member Gospel ministry” in the coming months.

Regarding **hospitality and care**, the love that we have for each other has always been distinctive. Our passion for community has found a wonderful expression in the Sunday lunch ministry. We want to encourage more people to share their time and talents so that

we linger longer and foster an ever-greater sense of family! Do you think God might be calling you to get involved before or after church to make others feel welcomed and loved?

God intends **preaching and teaching** to be one of the main ways that he inspires, builds up, and matures Christians. Good instruction is essential for believers to learn to live with integrity, so that the church stands firm as “the pillar and foundation of truth”. (1 Tim 3:15) And Bethesda has a long history not only of solid preaching, but of solid teaching ministry to young people. Does God want you to be involved in teaching a Faith Formation class, or helping in the Nursery, or with Youth Ministry?

But again, the priority is to PRAY! Pray boldly that God would demonstrate his favour according to five Measurable Indicators: more **new believers**, **baptisms**, and **new members**, which will naturally lead to increased **attendance** and **giving** through which the Lord would sustain what he is doing here at Bethesda!

And finally, as I mentioned last Sunday (July 27), we ought to be praying for something less measurable, but no less vital. We want God to bring REVIVAL! (Ps 85:6) This is why ought we to “get building”! Because what I want to see, what I hope you are all longing for more and more —what we should expect and prepare for—is a colossal outpouring of God’s Spirit among us!

Pastor Yuri

This was a *praying Church*. In the Jordan while Jesus prayed, the Spirit descended upon Him; and in the Upper Room while the disciples prayed, the blessed Spirit descended upon them. The Spirit comes upon praying people. That which He did in the past, that He will do again.

This was a *contrite Church*. In the Upper Room these men were plagued with their own spiritual infidelity. They had failed Him; some had lied about Him; some had doubted Him; all had forsaken Him. What a wailing wall that Upper Room must have been! These people were rending their hearts and not their garments. Their harps were on the willows. An old mystic once said, “There are only two places for God’s people—in the dust and in heaven.” Only in one or the other are we safe.

This was a *confessing Church*. In that Upper Room no one ran theological inch tape over his neighbour. They were all *with one accord*. No lip shot out in criticism; no finger pointing hindered the coming of the promised power. *All* were self-admitted bankrupts. Here is a classic example of God’s people, called by His name, humbling themselves and seeking His face; and God in turn hearing them and sending through an otherwise paralyzed arm a wave of supernatural power. They waited on the Lord and renewed their strength.

Today no one has time to wait. Some argue there is no need to wait for the coming of the Spirit because He has already been given. I am sure they are right. But I am equally sure there is need to wait so that we can take a Spirit-conducted tour around our own hearts. We need to say:

*“Spirit of God, descend upon my heart,
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.”*

August 2025 Bible Reading Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1 Sam 14:47-52○ 1 Pet 3:1-7○ Dan 3○ Matt 10:1-16○ *Dan 4○ Ps 138○ 1 Pet 3:8-16○ Dan 5○ Matt 10:17-25○ 1 Sam 15:1-11○ 1 Pet 3:17-22○ 1 Pet 4○ 1 Sam 15:12-35○ Matt 10:26-11:1○ 1 Sam 16:1-13○ Dan 6○ 1 Pet 5○ 1 Sam 16:14-23○ Ps 141○ Matt 11:2-19○ 2 Pet 1:1-11○ 1 Sam 17○ Matt 11:20-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1 Sam 18○ Dan 7○ Matt 12:1-14○ 2 Pet 1:12-18○ 1 Sam 19○ Ps 59○ Matt 12:15-29○ *2 Pet 1:19-2:3○ 1 Sam 20○ *Matt 12:30-37○ 2 Pet 2:4-22○ 1 Sam 21-22○ Ps 52○ Dan 8:1-14○ 1 Sam 23:1-14○ Dan 8:15-27○ Matt 12:38-50○ 2 Pet 3○ 1 Sam 23:15-29○ Ps 54○ Dan 9○ Matt 13:1-23○ 1 Sam 24○ Dan 10:1-19○ Matt 13:24-43	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dan 10:20-12:4○ *Matt 13:44-52○ 1 Sam 25○ Dan 12:5-13○ Matt 13:53-14:12○ 1 Sam 26○ Ezekiel 1○ Matt 14:13-21○ 1 Sam 27-29○ Ezek 2:1-3:9○ Matt 14:22-36○ 1 Sam 30○ Ezek 3:10-21○ *Matt 15:1-20○ 1 Sam 31○ Ezek 3:22-5:17	<p><i>and the peoples of the earth [...] everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”</i></p> <p>#2. 2 Peter 1:20-21 <i>...no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.</i></p> <p>#3. Matthew 12:35; 15:18-20 <i>“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. [...] the things that come out of the mouth come from</i></p>
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THE UPPER ROOM CROWD

— LEONARD RAVENHILL (ADAPTED by Pastor Yuri)

God-hungry men and women find God. “As the deer pants for streams of water”, so the souls of the Upper-Room crowd panted for the living God. Empty, they craved to be filled. Powerless, they waited until they were infused. Bankrupt and beggar-like, they pled the riches of His grace. Swordless, these soldiers of Christ fought the might of imperial Rome and won. Without ecclesiastical prestige, they opposed frozen orthodoxy and pierced it to the heart. Unlettered, they unblushingly declared the whole counsel of God and staggered the intellectual Greeks. This *fear* filled crowd became *fire* filled messengers.

Having seen the Master recently ascend to heaven in a cloud, these disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy: a happy people, an obedient people, a worshipping people, a praying people. The waiting host in the Upper Room never anticipated the rushing, mighty wind, were staggered by the tongues of fire, and were all amazed that they had utterance they could not define.

(continued, next)

¹ Keller, Tim. *Center Church*, 281.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR,
ELLY! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING THAT GOES ON AT BETHESDA, PLEASE SEE HER AT CHURCH, EMAIL HER AT OFFICE@BETHESDACHURCH.CA, OR CALL 204-987-2890!