

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

6966 West SR 14

Winamac, IN 46996

Lead Pastor: Don Whipple

whip1030@gmail.com

765.404.6070

Director of Kid's Ministries: Kelly Hines bethelbiblekids@gmail.com

765.210.1206

Ministry Assistant: Melody Perez

bbcwinamac@gmail.com

574.225.0288

THE BETHEL CONNECTION

March 10, 2021

Bethel's Associate Pastor Search Update

Don Whipple



When I became lead pastor at Bethel in December 2019, I was hired with the understanding that our time at Bethel would be limited and intentionally strategic. The primary component of the 'intentionally strategic' part is finding an Associate pastor with potential to be mentored into the lead pastor role over a few years' time.

Bethel is familiar historically with this approach of developing someone for ministry. Bethel invested in Scott Teide several years ago as a young man with evidence of the hand of God on his life. After a few years of seminary and ministry experience with seasoned pastors, Scott is serving as a lead pastor today and doing a fine job. Matthew Dodd has 10 years experience as a youth pastor, a Bible college degree and has completed about 1/3 of his seminary training. Here's more of an update:

When did it begin? In April a year ago, a job description was approved by the Elders and Council for use in our search. The job description calls for this pastor to oversee youth and worship ministries and possess the potential of growing into a lead pastor role. In May, that job description was posted on a national job board and sent out to about 50 ministry leaders looking for names. Last Fall I was introduced to Matthew Dodd through a mutual friend. I reached out to him and a process began. A search committee consisting of the Bungers, McKay's, Hines and Whipple's was appointed to interact with any candidates and make recommendations to the Elders.

What happened then? The Search Committee interviewed the Dodd's twice via Zoom and invited them to visit Bethel on two occasions in November and February. After the Dodd's recent visit, the Search Committee unanimously recommended to the Elders to take the next step in the process of considering the Dodd's for the position of Associate Pastor. The Elders, at our last meeting, decided unanimously to invite the Dodd's for a weekend of more formal interviews and exposure to the church family. The weekend of April 9-11 was agreed upon and the Dodd's accepted our invitation to come.

What's the plan? Our plan to inform and answer questions for our church family, to get to know the Dodd's, and to allow the Dodd's to get to know Bethel better is below. The objective is for us as a church family to prayerfully and wisely discern God's direction in this major decision.

Sunday March 28 Combined adult Sunday School class with the Elders to discuss the Job Description and address any questions or concerns about the 'grow your own pastor' model. Job descriptions and Dodd resumes will be made available at this meeting. If you would like a copy before the 28th, contact the church office.

April 9-11 Friday and Saturday will focus on meetings with the Elders and Dodds to interview on topics of theology, ministry philosophy, marriage, family and logistical issues regarding completing seminary and job expectations. Sunday, Matt will preach in the AM service, followed by a combined adult Sunday School session for the church family to hear their testimonies and have a Q&A.

After the interview weekend, the Elders will want to get feedback from the church family and determine if God is directing us to have them back for a candidating Sunday when the church family would vote to extend a call for them to come as Bethel's Associate Pastor.

How can I help? Thanks for asking! Pray. Direct your questions to Elders and search committee members. Pray. Attend the March 28th and April 11th meetings to learn all you can. Pray that both Bethel and the Dodds will together through this process sense the leading of God in an unmistakable way.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Connie Davis: Connie is home after having surgery to remove her kidney. Pray for Connie to be able to get the rest that her body needs. Pray for the next steps in this journey, that God will direct the doctors with wisdom and compassion.

Joie Grenner: Joie is still in the hospital in Chicago. She is enduring another round of chemotherapy. At the end of March, they will do another bone marrow biopsy to determine if this has gotten rid of the cancer again. If so, they will begin the process of a bone marrow transplant. A donor has been secured for her. As you can imagine, this is a trying time for the entire family. Please pray for them by name: Eddie & Rochelle (mom & dad), Joie and Jack (brother). The family covets your prayers! Please don't stop praying for them!

Brad Garling: Continue in prayer for Brad as he is going through his cancer treatments. Pray endurance and for God to continue guarding his mind.

Pray for those on the Nominating Committee and the Pastoral Search Committee as they seek the Lord's guidance for Bethel. Pray for a special wisdom from Him as we prayerfully look ahead.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- Today, Wednesday March 10—Simple Supper @ 5:30 pm; Family Night classes @ 6:00 pm
- Today, Wednesday March 10—Council meeting @ 7:45 pm
- Saturday, March 13—Ladies Bible Study @ 9:00 am
- Sunday, March 14—Worship @ 9:15 am/Sunday School @ 10:30 am
- Monday, March 15—Men's Bible reading @ 7:30 pm

THE BOOK LOOK



By MaryAnn Fritz

Does listening to a book count as reading? You bet it does! In this month's *Book Look*, I'll introduce you to a couple of ways you can access audiobooks (and ebooks) for free, through our public libraries.

First thing to know: you need a library card. If your choice is the Pulaski County Library in Winamac, their website is www.pulaskicounty.lib.in.us. Across the top of the page, click on "digital media" and you will find that you can get an e-card without having to visit the library. If you use the Francesville library, you will need to visit in person to obtain a card.

Next, you will need to download an app. The two app choices are "Hoopla Digital" (supported by Francesville and Winamac) and "Libby by Overdrive" (Winamac only). I have both, because they have different strengths. You will go through a list of questions to link your library card to the app. If you can't figure it out for any reason, call the library, and the staff will be glad to help! I'll include the phone numbers at the end.

Let's take a look at Libby first. When you open the app, you'll see a search bar (you can search for specific books or authors), and underneath, "preferences" and "explore". In "preferences," you can set everything from format (book, audiobook, magazine) to availability (everything, or available now). "Explore" shows what's new, popular, etc. Clicking on "subjects" brings you to genres, and there are a lot of them! "Religion and Spirituality" is where you'll find Christian resources, but you have to be discerning; because it's a public forum, much passes for spirituality. There are books by Paul David Tripp, Francis Chan, Priscilla Shirer, Lisa TerKeurst, David Platt, Tim Keller, and others. There is also a large category of Christian fiction, if that's your jam! One thing I like about Libby is that if I want to "read" a book, there is an option to read on my Kindle.

That's where I'll start the discussion of Hoopla. I use it only for audiobooks, otherwise I'd have to read an ebook from my phone. Too much scrolling for me. When you first open Hoopla, your choices are along the bottom. Touching "books" brings up the choice of audiobooks or ebooks (or comics), and right next to that you'll find genres. You can find "Christian Living", "Christian Non-Fiction", and other Christian subgroups, along with loads more. Available on Hoopla right now is *Family Discipleship*, which was reviewed in last month's *Book Look*, *In His Image* by Jen Wilkin, *Myths About Singleness* by Sam Allberry, *Pursuit of God* by Tozer, *We Will Not Be Silenced* by Erwin Lutzer, and more. I think the Christian section may be stronger in this app.

I hope I've given you a new hobby! Welcome spring by cleaning up your yard and listening to a book!

Pulaski County Library: 574-946-3432

Francesville-Salem Library: 219-567-9433