



The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

10:30 AM Worship Service & Children’s Church during sermon

6:00 PM Church Quarterly Prayer Meeting

Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

Sermon

Speaker: Pastor Peter

Scripture: 1 Cor. 7:7-9

Faithfully Following Jesus in Every Season of Life

OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

A-B → Lyndon Unger
C-D → Tim Archibald
E-H → David Street
I-M → Pastor Peter Erratt

N-R → Tom Smith
S → Cory Leniuk
T-Z → Dennis Burriss

According to the first letter of your last name, feel free to bring any questions or concerns to your assigned elder or email them at elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

GET TO KNOW US

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 ☎ 403-347-7900
 📍 3901 44 St. Red Deer, AB T4N 1G7

Lead Pastor:
Peter Erratt
peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Assistant Pastor:
Daniel Lara
daniel@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Church Admin & Children’s Ministry Coord:
Lilian Lara
lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

• Health Needs: Lorraine Hort, Gord Rue
→ Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Nominating

Every year, the Nominating Committee endeavours to match the talents, gifts, skills, and abilities of members with appropriate ministry positions within the church. Please pray for the Nominating Committee as they seek God’s wisdom and discernment in selecting ministry leaders. Pray also for Pastor Peter, the chairperson, as he leads the ministry with wisdom, grace, and humility. In addition, pray for all those who will be given the opportunity to serve, that they may do so with faithfulness, humility, strength, and endurance in the work of the Lord.

JOIN OUR LIFE GROUP

EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

• Tim & Michelle Archibald
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

• Martin & Lorna Scholz
• Tom & Tina Smith
• Peter & Nancy Erratt

EVERY WEDNESDAY

• Don & Jan Collier
• David & Laurel Street

EVERY THURSDAY

• Mark & Shannia Guenther
EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

• Lyndon & Leah Unger

TUESDAY JUNE 2

6:30 pm Youth Group
6:30 pm Adventure Club

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3

6:30 am Men’s Breakfast

THURSDAY JUNE 4

9:30 am Youth for Christ Moms Group
10:30am Staff Meeting

SATURDAY JUNE 6

8 am Elders Breakfast
2 pm Wedding Shower for Annelieke

SUNDAY JUNE 7

9 am Fellowship Coffee

SUNDAY JUNE 14

After the Service Church Picnic

FRIDAY JUNE 19

2 pm Annelieke & Laine’s Wedding

SUNDAY JUNE 28

After the Service VBS Volunteer Meeting

July 6 - July 10

9am to 12 pm VBS
(Age 4 to Grade 6)

“Perhaps we should consider the special, holy work of pregnancy as the truer picture of all that human beings do, all our actions in this world. All that we are and are capable of is a gift... We simply watch in wonder for God’s work to unfold into its vast and intricate completion.” -Debra Rienstra

March Financial Report

| General Fund Donation | Monthly Budget | Received |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | \$31,835 | \$26,382.62 |
| Missions Giving | First Quarter Received | March |
| | \$13,835 | \$3,625 |

OFFERING

E-TRANSFER: treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

OR DROP OFF YOUR ENVELOPE AT THE OFFICE

Donation Policy

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.

Tony & Tsering Malik

As “return gifts,” many came to visit us as well. And what a mutual blessing and encouragement each one was.

A short while ago, Ruata, with two of his ministry colleagues, all from the state of Mizoram, dropped in. We have been connected to his parents and their ministry for over 40 years. In conversation, Ruata shared how he, as a young boy, accepted the Lord at a church camp in Mussoorie where Tony was involved. It was God’s encouraging reminder that our witness for Him, however big or small, is not in vain—it counts!

Hospitality—God’s Way!

Hospitality, which we believe includes visiting, has remained our routine, ministry pattern, “... be hospitable...” Titus 1:8 (NIV). Some, like shared above, are highlights. Other day-to-day visits with neighbors, friends, colleagues, Woodstock staff and students, and, yes, even strangers, are equally important in the purposes of God.

And, oh yes! We are truly grateful to be able to visit you as well, albeit via this newsletter.

Please pray for us as we open our hearts, home, and lives to others for His use and purposes.

Dear Friends,

This year, spring made an early escape and summer an early arrival for Tony in Rajpur. However, for Tsering in Mussoorie, a late spring has the garden in full bloom. How is it in your part of the world?

Visits—Friendships and Fellowship!

Visits are important! It is important for us to receive others and to be received. It is God’s way to build true friendships and fellowship. Remember, Jesus chose to call His disciples friends. “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” John 15:15 (NIV). It was this verse that led to the naming of the evangelistic team “Friends and Followers,” with whom we served the first 11 years of our ministry in India. Unhappily, we fall short of this ideal, choosing only to remain mere functionaries in memberships, churches, missions, boards, even as donors. There is a rule of thumb in architecture, “Form follows function.” In Christian circles, it ought to be “Friends before function.”

Numerous visits have taken place since our newsletter last Christmas. But let us pause to remember—it began with celebrating the visit of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Without that visit, our willingness to invite Him in, first, perhaps, as a guest, then permanently, the business of visiting has no significant spiritual meaning.

It started with a visit with Tanya and family. Following their arrival in Delhi, they made a detour to Agra, which is not only the home of the Taj Mahal but also Tony’s birthplace. Then spent Christmas and New Year’s in Rajpur. While in Agra, a dinner at the Mughal Hotel was part of their “pilgrimage.” Tony was a proud part of the architectural team that designed this 5star, awardwinning property.

Other Important Visits:

- It was a joy to visit the Tibetan Christian family who played an important role during Tsering’s childhood days.
- Christian (Sweden) and Fern (Thailand), who lead the Central Asia Fellowship. We were a part of this Tibetan networking ministry since its inception, close to 40 years ago.
- Equally lovely was to visit Yip and Frieda, a Canadian missionary couple, who, in their ministry among disadvantaged children, have chosen to make India their permanent home. Tony’s younger sister, Aarti, arrived on Easter Sunday for a weeklong visit. She and her husband, Israel, have a medical practice in Sydney, Australia.

Got Questions Article

If an unmarried couple has sex, are they married in God's eyes?

The Bible says that marriage happens when “a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). It is the “one flesh” aspect of marriage that has led some people to assume that, if an unmarried couple has sex, then they are married in God's eyes. Is it as simple as that? Or is there more to marriage than the physical act of sex?

We do not believe that the act of sex alone constitutes marriage. We have three reasons for saying so.

First, a reason based on logic. If it were true that premarital sex makes a couple married in God's eyes, then there would be no such thing as premarital sex. The instant an unmarried couple have sex, they would lose their “premarital” status, becoming each other's de facto spouse. The Bible's warnings against premarital sex—a type of fornication—would thus be rendered irrelevant. Premarital sex could not be considered immoral because, the moment sexual intercourse occurred, it would become marital sex. To avoid immorality, couples are counseled in 1 Corinthians 7:2 to get married; but if sex equals marriage, the counsel simply becomes, “To avoid immorality, have sex.” And that's not the advice Paul was trying to give.

A second reason that the act of sex alone does not constitute marriage is based on the meaning and significance of marriage. The biblical picture of marriage involves the union of a man and woman in every way possible: mentally, emotionally, morally, spiritually, economically, and, yes, physically. Sex joins a man and woman physically and to some extent emotionally, but there is no other union that results. To reduce marriage to the physical union of two people is to disrespect God's design and ignore most of what marriage is.

Third, marriage requires commitment, and sex does not. In fact, sex cannot provide a sufficient basis for establishing an ongoing relationship. The 1994 movie *Speed* closes with the two main characters, Jack and Annie, embracing. Jack tells Annie, “I have to warn you, I've heard relationships based on intense experiences never work,” to which Annie replies, “OK. We'll have to base it on sex then.” And they kiss, and the credits roll. Such dialogue is comically fictitious and only works in Hollywood. Committed relationships are grounded in the union of will and intellect and material resources. That's why cultures worldwide have developed accepted ways of formalizing the marital relationship to make it socially and legally binding.

If an unmarried couple has sex, does that mean they are married? No. The idea is foreign to the Bible, in which premarital sex is considered the sin of fornication. Sexual intercourse may have joined the couple physically for a moment, but that is quite different from God joining them together as husband and wife. It could be that premarital sex will lead to a “shotgun wedding” and a ceremony that “makes an honest man” of the groom. But it's the ceremony that ties the knot, not the act of sex.

Sex is an important aspect of marriage according to God's design of intertwining a man and a woman in a committed, lifelong relationship. Sex between unmarried people, though it mimics the physical act of marriage, does not equal marriage.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think people are tempted to find their identity in their relationship status rather than in Christ? What are some signs that this might be happening in your own heart or others?

2. Paul describes both marriage and singleness as gifts from God (1 Corinthians 7:7). How does viewing your current season of life as a gift from God change the way you think about it?

3. Have you ever found yourself believing that a different life situation would make you happier or more complete? What does the gospel say to that way of thinking?

4. How can churches unintentionally make single, widowed, divorced, or childless people feel invisible or on the margins? What practical steps can we take to ensure everyone feels valued and included in the family of God?

5. Paul teaches that our circumstances are not indicators of our spiritual value before God. Why is it so easy to compare ourselves to others, and how does the gospel free us from comparison?

6. What does it mean to live faithfully for Christ in your present circumstances rather than waiting for life to change? What is one specific area where God may be calling you to greater faithfulness right now?

7. What would it look like for you to more fully devote your time, relationships, resources, and energy to Christ in this season of life?
