

BETHANY

COMMUNITY CHURCH



BETHANY COMMUNITY CHURCH

was founded in 1986, and is located in Laurel MD, midway between Washington DC and Baltimore MD. We formed with the vision of helping people to begin and grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We do this through discipleship, small groups, engaging worship, counseling, hospitality to the “least of these,” cross-cultural missions, ministry opportunities, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines that open us to God’s grace and power in our lives.

OVERVIEW

Bethany Community Church serves about 150 families. Current weekly attendance is approximately 160. The church owns a 33,000 ft² facility on 24 acres of land that includes a pond, a barn, and a historic log cabin.

Laurel is a suburban community conveniently located near all the historical, cultural, commercial, educational and recreational resources of the nation’s capital and the Baltimore-Washington corridor. Most Bethany members reside in [Prince Georges](#), [Howard](#), [Anne Arundel](#) and [Montgomery](#) counties but some commute from D.C. or Baltimore. Our unique ministry to the Deaf makes Bethany a destination for the Deaf throughout the Baltimore-Washington area.

People come from all over the world to live, work, learn and play in the Washington, D.C. area. Major employers include the federal government, the U.S. military, government contractors, the public school system, and local small businesses. Many Bethany members work at the Fort Meade military base, which is about 15 minutes from the church, and other government-related businesses.

The Laurel area is racially and ethnically diverse. According to 2016 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, the [Laurel](#) city population of 25,700 is about 51% African-American, 29% Caucasian, and 7% Asian. About 17% of Laurel identifies their national origin as Hispanic or Latino. Bethany shares its facility with two Latino churches.

BETHANY AND THE DEAF COMMUNITY

Bethany's involvement with the Deaf community in the D.C. area dates back to the 1980s and is a key distinctive of our congregation. The Washington, D.C. area has one of the largest Deaf communities in the country and is home to Gallaudet University, where many Deaf and hearing Bethany members work and study. Worship services feature both ASL interpretation and CART captioning, and we work hard to integrate the Deaf and hearing communities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Bethany provides several paths to foster spiritual growth that respect different stages of the spiritual journey.

STARTING POINT: A small group experience suitable for anyone, but especially those just beginning or returning to a life of faith in Jesus.

FOUNDATIONS: A one-on-one or small group discipleship curriculum focused on discovering and living out the basic tenets and practices of our faith through relationship and study.

SMALL GROUPS: A variety of small groups meet for study, fellowship, prayer, etc. Some are established for groups like Deaf or Young Adults. Others are geared to meet a particular need like those who have family members struggling with mental illness.

MINISTRY TEAMS: Since we grow as we serve one another, joining and leading ministry teams (e.g., worship, greeting, compassion, finance, facilities, youth, children) help us to deepen our relationship with God and with one another.

LAY COUNSELING: Several Bethany members are trained as lay counselors through the Lay Counselor Institute in Northern Virginia. They meet with individuals and couples who may be struggling with relational conflict, addiction, trauma, anxiety, etc. Training is available for those who wish to be better equipped to comfort and walk alongside those who are struggling.

BETHANYNEXT

In 2016, Bethany engaged in a strategic planning process that became known as BethanyNext. Some important initiatives emerged from that process. Two key initiatives are:

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION: We recognized a desire to see BCC grow in ways that will reach and engage the next generation. Not only did we want to see more young adults step into leadership roles, but we also recognized the desire to foster an environment of vulnerability and authenticity where young people can form deeper connections with God and with their community.

SPIRITUAL SHEPHERDING OF LEADERS: Leaders at Bethany are busy and sometimes notice that their spiritual health suffers amid a flurry of activity. The Spiritual Shepherding of Leaders group was established to provide spiritual nourishment by introducing and practicing various spiritual disciplines that we can adopt to grow in intimacy with God and fruitfulness in our spiritual lives.

Bethany Community Church is:

- An inclusive evangelical, non-denominational church affiliated with Converge and other like-minded organizations.
- Active and well-respected in the local community—particularly in establishing coalitions of churches to serve the local public schools and the homeless community.
- Uniquely integrated with the Deaf community offering worship services, small groups, and ministry involvement in American Sign Language (ASL).
- Contemporary in worship style with three volunteer music teams that rotate worship leading responsibilities.
- Racially, ethnically and politically diverse.
- Involved with mission projects in the Bahamas, Tanzania, New Zealand, and throughout the world as our founding pastor transitions to the role of Director of Church Engagement for Converge Worldwide.

BETHANY: GROWING IN GRACE

The racial, ethnic, political and linguistic diversity within Bethany is fertile ground for us to grow in grace. Our members and attendees come from all types of church backgrounds and many have no church background at all. We don't always agree with one another. When we disagree, a statement that has helped hold us together is an ancient one that goes like this:

“In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things charity.”

This helps us to love well those we disagree with both inside and outside the church. This is a challenge in American culture today, but we believe God's grace is sufficient for us to continue to meet that challenge.

CURRENT STAFFING:

- Interim Pastor (FT)
- Director of Youth Ministries (FT)
- Director of Cross Cultural Ministries (PT)
- Office Administrator (FT)

BETHANY'S SEARCH FOR A NEW SENIOR PASTOR:

We are in the process of discerning who will be the next pastor of Bethany Community Church. This is an exceptional opportunity for someone who develops kingdom-oriented leaders who experience deep intimacy with God that overflows into joyful mission and service to others.

Our next senior pastor will have five or more years of experience in pastoral ministry, preferably in roles that included preaching and staff supervision. Other preferred attributes and qualifications include:

- Master's-level or higher seminary degree
- Conversational-level ability in American Sign Language or willingness to acquire this
- Ability to provide and effectively communicate visionary leadership and develop a diverse team
- Commitment to seek the unity of the church body and exhibit Christ's love by developing positive and encouraging relationships
- Sound Bible teaching and preaching that is inspiring, persuasive and motivational



BETHANY
COMMUNITY CHURCH

See the [official job description](#) for the full list of qualifications and requirements.