

Altar Ministry



The goal of altar ministry at Bethany is to connect with new believers in a relational way, help them feel welcomed into the family and know what is next in their walk with Christ. The Lord desires to use you during this very important time in the life of this new believer.

Your Role:

See yourself as standing in the gap between this individual's decision to follow Christ and the enemy's attempt to pull them back into the world. The first hurdle they experience is making a move from their seat to the altar. Once that battle has been won, it is so important that they meet a smiling face that is happy to see them respond. Remember their story and experience is very significant to them so it is very significant to us.

Step by Step:

- Altar Teams will be on rotation. You will not be asked to serve every weekend but will receive a request to serve from Bethany inquiring about your availability. Please respond promptly to the request so that we can make sure we have an adequate number of team members for each weekend.
- Prior to serving, be sure to attend the pre-service rally. Rallies are held before each service and locations vary depending on the campus you attend so check with your ministry team leader for location and time.
- Be sure to stop by the A-Team room and pick up a ministry lanyard. This will help us to identify you as a ministry team member.
- Sit where you will have easy access to the front during the altar call.
- Once those who are responding to the altar call have made their way to the front for ministry, make your way to the front also. Please be sure to wait until people have responded to the call. We do not want to block the isles or interfere with those who are coming to make a decision.
- Try to select a person with whom you would more naturally connect, someone who is your gender and close to your age. One of our team leaders may assist with placing you with an individual.
- Stand directly behind the person (the moment the speaker begins to pray)

- Stay aware and sensitive to what is happening in the room as ministry is taking place.
- Once the prayer is concluded the person responding to the altar will be asked to turn around and meet you.
- Remember to smile and introduce yourself.
- Kindly request that you would like the individual to walk with you to the altar ministry area for just a few minutes so that you can speak with them. Stay engaged as you walk asking them their name and about the experience they just had.
- Once you are in the altar ministry area pick up a follow up packet for the person you are ministering to. Each packet should contain:
 - A Life 01 Book
 - A “3 Things” card
 - A Decision Card
 - A Pen

(Bibles will also be available for those who request one)
- Have the individual fill out the follow up card.
- Once they have completed the decision card, direct their attention to three things you want them to know before they go.

3 Things:

1. You responded to Jesus...

The truth is that we all have sinned and need forgiveness. Complete forgiveness is available because of what Jesus did when He died on the cross and rose from the dead. When we believe in our heart that Jesus paid our sin debt, ask him to forgive us and receive His forgiveness, we have a new, fresh beginning. Now we have a relationship with Jesus and can talk to Him at any time in prayer. (ref. Romans 10:9)

2. Your Water Baptism is Next...

In Water Baptism we witness to the world that we have died to sin. We are being symbolically buried with Christ in the water of baptism and are raised with him as we come out of the water to live a new life for Jesus as our Lord and Savior. To help you get ready for this amazing event in this new journey just visit bethany.com/baptism (ref. Romans 6:4)

3. You need to Grow...

All through the Bible we can see an expectation that we will grow in our knowledge and understanding of God. As a church we are here to help believers along the way by providing tools that will aid you to grow and mature in this Christian life. Next Steps is a great place to connect to Bethany Church and learn more about who we are. The Life 01 Book is also a great resource to begin growing in your knowledge of Christ and we would love to walk through that book with you. We look forward to talking with you more about this and other awesome resources available to you at Bethany Church. (ref. Colossians 1:28)

Next

- Write your contact info on the bottom of the 3 things card.
 - Place the card in their copy of Life 01.
 - Let them know that you would like to give them a call in the next couple of days to follow up and answer any questions they may have from the book.
 - If they are a first time guest, offer to walk with them to the guest table in the lobby. (this could allow more time to chat with them as you walk)
- Please write your name in the space provided on the follow up card and leave the completed card with the team leader prior to leaving the altar area.
- Please contact them within 24-48 hours of their decision just to reconnect and encourage them in their next step of water baptism. They can sign up at bethany.com/baptism
- Encourage them to read Life 01. The full content can be read in about 30 minutes.

Follow up:

We ask that anyone who serves at the altar commit to making a follow up phone call to the individual they minister to. The purpose of the call is to reconnect with the individual and help them understand the four short chapters of Life 01. You could do this over a phone call. (In some instances you may be able to touch base with the individual over coffee or even before a service.)

Sample call script:

Hi this is _____ from Bethany Church. I am giving you a call to follow up with your recent decision. Is this a good time for you to talk? (If the time is not

convenient, try to schedule another time to return the call) *First of all I want to tell you how proud we are of you. Tell me about your experience.*

When you responded to the altar we gave a Life 01 book. Have you had a chance to look over the Life 01 book? Do you have any questions about what you have read? If they have any questions, take the time to answer them to the best of your ability. If they have a question that you cannot answer, respond by saying “That’s a great question, I’m not really sure how to answer that right now but I’ll find out and get back to you on it.” I do want to encourage you to take your next step of water baptism. In scripture we see baptism follow a decision to follow Christ. Note: some may have been baptized/christened as an infant or even baptized previously. In any case you can help them understand that Water Baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision and is not limited to a one time event.

Note: You will receive an email from Bethany Church with the follow up information reminding you about the call and asking you to report on the success of that call (how they responded to water baptism and taking them through the Life 01 Book). Remember your response is a vital part of an effective follow up process.

Accessing your follow up information: At any time you can access any follow up contacts assigned to you by texting “Me” to (225) 293-2100. You will be connected to a link that will access your “churchteams” user profile.

To sign up:

If you would like to sign up to serve on the Altar Ministry team at your campus, just sign up at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhXNe89q8g2kXy6M4EwYb_Qnnj0BOE505Y7QADXj0L80GSUg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

Here is what your email from Bethany will look like:

Charles Stearns

Dates: 12/28/2022 to

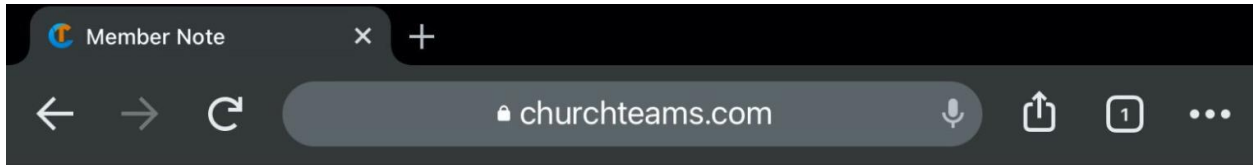
Follow Up

| Contact | Due | Notes | Status |
|--|---|--|----------|
| Betty Ann Thompson <input type="button" value="Map"/> | 01/ 04/ 2023 <input type="button" value="Log Note"/> | - Salvation/Rededication Follow-up - 01/04/2023 Hey Charles, Please follow-up on Betty Ann, be sure to click the blue log note button to enter your follow-up results. Thanks!! | Complete |
| Joey Thompson <input type="button" value="Map"/> | 01/ 04/ 2023 <input type="button" value="Log Note"/> | Betty Ann Thompson - Salvation/Rededication Follow-up - 01/04/2023 Hey Charles, Please follow-up on Joey, be sure to click the blue log note button to enter your follow-up results. Thanks!! | Open |

Schedule

You are not currently scheduled for any volunteer positions

Groups



Member Note

Original Note: Betty Ann Thompson - Salvation/Rededication Follow-up - 01/04/2023
@Heil Charles, Please follow-up on Joey, be sure to click the blue log note button to enter your follow-up results. Thanks!!

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|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Date | Created By | Type | Due By | Assign Follow Up To | Time Spent (in minutes) |
| <input type="text" value="01/04/2023"/> | <input type="text" value="Charles Stearns"/> | <input type="text" value="Salvation/Re ↕"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text" value="Search by name"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="button" value="..."/> | | | <input type="button" value="..."/> | | |

Notes

Thank you so much for helping us “hold the harvest” that the Lord is sending to Bethany. Your ministry is making an impact in the lives of believers!