

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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Website – bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

September, 2013

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends:

As we enter this Fall of 2013 Bethel is in a very good place. We have spent the last 18 months or more, doing some deep soul searching as a congregation. Church leaders and groups have prayed and studied and talked about all aspects of Bethel's life and ministry. Bethel finds itself in a clearer and more defined way forward. Here is why I say this.



Bethel's PNC after only 3 months since its election has done the preparation work needed to gain approval to start seeking your new pastor. Even as you read this, procedures are in place to start sorting through the applicants that are coming their way. This will take a while, BUT the search is under way!

Hard work and choices have gotten the 21st Century Renovation Committee to the point where we will be seeing some activity toward the restoration of our facility. Your demonstrated and continued financial support will make this happen. Look in this Tower (page 7) for a report on how far along we are in reaching our \$235,000 Goal.

Church Committees are having regular and active and creative planning sessions to continue good programs and ministry and coming up with strategies to address our shortcomings. This "can do" attitude is also evident in groups from PW to Mission Efforts to Music, Youth, Sunday School, Worship, Bethel Preschool and Fellowship. It also includes a renewed effort to reach out in Christ's name to our community.

Program and budgetary challenges are still with us. But Bethel is well positioned toward the future.

See you in church.

Phil Sommer

As I See It

Written Vision Statements and Mission Statements have been the norm for churches for quite a while. They are used to define who we are as a People of God, as a congregation. They are useful shorthand to use in communications. And not just churches, business and secular groups and institutions also develop and use them.

But it occurs to me, if the words of such statements are not backed up by commitment, activity and deeds, they amount to nothing other than a bunch of nice sounding words.

Bethel has clearly stated its commitment to youth and community and openness to all as top priorities; AND defining who we are. It seems to me it is time to put ourselves, each of us, behind the words.

God's work needs our hands and feet and hearts and time and resources. The Fall of each year is a great time to look around AND jump in. Time to show up, Bethel.



September Worship Schedule, Sundays 11 AM

September 1, 2013, 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Time

Read: Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16,
Luke 14:7-14

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Pat Hunt

September 8, 2013, 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Rally Day

Children's Time

Read: Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1-21,
Luke 14:25-33

Sermon: "Potter's Clay"

September 15, 2013, 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Children's Time

Read: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalm 14, I Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15: 1-10

Sermon: "Doubtful Reputations"

September 22, 2013, 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Time

Read: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9, I Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

Guest Preacher: The Rev. William Painter

September 29, 2013, 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Children's Time

Read: Jeremiah 32:1-3a 6-15, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, I Timothy 6:6-19,
Luke 16:19-31

Sermon: "Blind Spots"



The Ministry Information Form, recently completed by the Pastor Nominating Committee, was accepted by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. The PNC will review applications from potential pastors very soon. Please remain mindful of the team's need for your prayers and support.

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 8th, at 9 am is Bethel's traditional kick-off of the Sunday School year. Following breakfast and fellowship, everyone will participate in an inter-generational lesson to celebrate the ways God blesses us. If you enjoy "Time With the Children" during worship, you will have the opportunity for hands on study of God's word with our most precious ones. All are encouraged to join us for fun, fellowship, and Bible study.



"The Bells of Bethel" Handbell Choir will resume practice on Wednesday, September 4th, at 5:45 pm. Anyone interested in joining please contact JoAnn Pendley (540-324-0152).

The Communications Committee will meet at 9 am on Sunday, September 15th.



WITNESS COMMITTEE FOOD BOOTH

**The Meating Place
Friday, September 20th and Saturday, September 21st
8 am until 5 pm**

The Witness Committee will work in the Food Booth at The Meating Place on Middlebrook Road on Friday, September 20th and Saturday, September 21st from 8 am to 5 pm. We will serve Country Ham Buns: Ham, Egg and Cheese; Cheeseburgers, Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Pulled Pork BBQ and Ice Tea. We make the most money from the baked goods we sell. We need lots of donated homemade fruit pies, homemade rolls and loaf bread, brownies, chocolate chip cookies, oatmeal and raisin cookies, peanut cookies, half cakes (that do not need to be kept cold), banana bread, pumpkin bread and muffins. If you would like to help, please see or call Peggy Smith at (540) 292-0885. The shifts are from 8 am to Noon and Noon until 5 pm. We will need 4 people per shift. If you would like to donate baked goods please leave them in the church kitchen by 7 pm on Thursday, September 19th. **Please come and support the Witness Committee either by donating or eating a meal with us.**

Bethel Presbyterian Church Logo

Bethel Presbyterian Church needs a logo! The Bethel Communications Committee is currently seeking submissions and suggestions for a logo that would be used on our website, Facebook page, t-shirts, caps, letterhead, etc. Please submit your creative design and tell your friends! Submissions can be given to any member of the Communications Committee (Tabby Moore, Tim Turner, Jill Webb, Joyce Miller). No deadline has been set for submissions but they would like to make a decision by the end of this year. Thank you!



Presbyterian Women

September 2013 - Emphasis: Christian Education
"Links of Love" - Project

In September, the Presbyterian Women of Bethel urge you to support the **Links of Love** program. The **Links of Love** is a partnership between the Sunnyside Communities and the Women of the Presbyterian Church. Your Links of Love contributions are a lifeline that provides security and attentive care for those who can no longer provide for themselves. The special offering will be collected during the September Circle Meetings.

***The Afternoon Circle will meet at 2:30 pm** at the church on September 10th, 2013.

***The Evening Circle will meet at 7:00 pm** at the church on September 10th, 2013.

September 1st - PWCT Meeting

September 29th - PWCT Meeting

New Bethel Presbyterian Church Website

The new Bethel website is now live at bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org. We hope that you, the users, will find it informative and a valuable communication tool. New features include a Home page with a clickable featured pages slider, a switch to Google calendar where events are easily imported into your own calendar, Google Maps for location and directions, Find-A-Grave links have been incorporated into the cemetery page and pages with picture galleries now open in a slideshow. There is a blog page that our new pastor can use along with other contributors and comments are enabled on most pages. The capability to add event sign-up or registration forms for events is also there. Content is still being developed for the Outreach and Mission pages and the Tower is not being posted or archived yet due to privacy concerns.

Behind the scenes the site is powered by an online content management system so that edits can be made by an administrator from any location with web access which means there is no specialized (expensive) software required.

Future goals include making available sermon audio and adding online donation capability. Please take a look and let us know what you like and what you would like to see because we aren't finished yet.

- Communications Committee

SESSION NEWS

The Session met Sunday, August 11th, 2013, for a stated meeting with 10 members and the Moderator present.

- The Minister Information Form from the Pastor Nominating Committee was approved and will be sent to Presbytery.
- The Stewardship and Finance Committee advised that John Howell is resigning as Treasurer of the Memorial Committee and Tom Heizer will be filling that position.
- Derek Almarode reported on the 21st Century Renovation Committee's first stage of work plus a new sound system study for the church.
- The next Session meeting will be September 8th, at 6:00 pm.



Deacons Notes – Summer 2013

The Deacons have had an active summer. We have begun work on improvements around the church including the replacement of some portions of the concrete sidewalk. We have also continued to manage the landscape and mulched the playground.



For the 21st Century Renovation Committee, we have met with multiple contractors and received bids for all phases of work. We are in the final stages of recommending a contractor to the session and hope to begin improvements this fall. With the help of Pastor Phil we began a fundraising campaign and have been very successful during our initial phase.

We have scheduled a Church Cleanup Day for August 24th at 9:00 am in advance of Homecoming. We have also scheduled the church-wide trash pickup for Howardsville Road for October 19th.

As always, please contact a Deacon if you have any areas you would like to assist or particular issues that you see that could be resolved. Thank you.

Trash Pick-Up Day - The Deacons pick up trash along Howardsville Road on October 19th. Please meet at the church at 9 am and bring gloves! Trash bags will provided. A great deal of help is needed with this project so please make plans to attend and help if you can! Small children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Capital Finance Campaign Treasurer Report - Through August 11, 2013, there have been 28 Capital Finance Campaign pledges received in support of the 21st Century Renovation Fund. The total pledged is \$35,590. Total cash received on these pledges is \$13,675. Brochures explaining the purpose of the campaign and pledge cards are available at the church office and the center hallway of the church. Thank you for your support.

The goal of the 21st Century Renovation Fund is \$235,000. The Fund was established in 2012 and through August 11, 2013, it has received a total of \$59,475. This total includes the amount received, noted above, from the Capital Finance Campaign, which began in July.



Bethel Prayer List: Louale Almarode (Derek Almarode's mother), Evan Annese (Riverhead's Elementary School student), Family of Marie Blackwell (Evelyn LaPorte's aunt and Peggy Smith's great-aunt), Covie Brandt, Polly Bundy, Dr. David Burgess (Med Mission), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Jean Callison, Jim and Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis, Ronald Davis (Joyce Davis' son), Jessie Earhart, Tina Farris, Doug Goodson, Nellie Hamilton, Danielle Hanger, Bob Hoy (had surgery on August 12th), William Koogler (Bill Brubeck's nephew-in-law and Linda Rosen Koogler's husband, Mt. Carmel), Charlie Lamb, Friends and Family of Joyce Lamond, David and Flora Law, Frank Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Howard Pilson (John Pilson's brother), Pam Prickett and her Florida parents, Joe Sholes and Family (coworker of Derek Almarode), Dale C. Smith, Jonathan Smith (firefighter), Frankie Sours (policeman), Mac and Emily Sterrett, Charlotte Swortzel, Richard Turner (Greater Augusta), James Williams of Fishersville (Wayne Swisher's friend), the people of Ethiopia and our missionaries the Rev. Michael Weller and Rachel Weller, the Pastor Nominating Committee, the New Pastor whom God has chosen for Bethel, and Bethel as we prepare for the new pastor.

Greenville, Virginia Elementary School Reunion

All who attended - any year

Greenville United Methodist Church

A free will offering will be taken to cover expenses.

September 21st, 2013 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm

Please bring a covered dish to share Drinks, plates, utensils will be provided
For planning/head count contact: Barbara (Schooley) Gough at (540) 255-6521



September 2013 Schedules

Nursery

September 1st - Joe and Sally Williams
September 8th - Joyce Davis; Louise Hoy
September 15th - Chris and Therese Schooley
September 22nd - Keedie Leonard; Cole/Isabelle Leonard
September 29th - Keith Folsom; Kayla Folsom

Transportation

September 1st - Jill Webb
September 8th - Chris Schooley
September 15th - Chris Schooley
September 22nd - Mac Williams
September 29th - Joe F. Williams

Flowers

September 1st - Libby Smith
September 8th - Jessie Earhart
September 15th - Keedie Leonard
September 22nd - Margaret Wade
September 29th - Cynthia Williams

Offering

Tamara Barbour
Bob Olson
Mac Williams
Sally Williams

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day.

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church Annual Harvest Sale and Supper

The Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church will be having its annual Harvest Sale and Supper on Saturday, September 14th, 2013, beginning at 4 pm. The Family Style Menu includes: Country Ham, Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Lima Beans, Tomatoes, Pickles, Homemade Rolls, Apple Pie and Cherry Pie and Coffee and Tea.

The price is \$13.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10. Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church is located off Rt. 252 (Middlebrook Road), South of Staunton on Route 694 (Mt. Tabor Road). Signs will be posted. The church telephone number is 540-885-4738.



"And all ate and were filled;
and they took up what was
left over of the broken pieces,
twelve baskets full."
(Matthew 14:20)

The Developmental Preschool at Bethel Presbyterian Church has openings for several more children for the 2013-2014 school year! The preschool is for ages 3 to 5. Both two and four day programs are available. School is Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am until 11:30 am. Please call Pam Kirchman at (540) 448-0387 for more information.

Our sympathies and condolences to Bruce Lamond and his family on the passing of his mother, Joyce Lamond on August 5th.

Special thanks to Jackie Law, Sally Brubeck, Tammy Barbour, and Sarah Frances Ralston for helping to get the Preschool Rooms ready for another school year. Preschool Teacher Pam Kirchman greatly appreciates your help! Thank you, Jane Law

Many thanks to the Presbyterian Women for all the snacks, popcorn, cake and cookie mixes for the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands. The kids will be most appreciative as they begin a new school year. Your generosity to help brighten other's days is greatly appreciated!

- Jane Law, Bethel Presbyterian Women Spiritual Growth



Thank you! The Growth and Strengthening Committee wishes to thank the Adult Sunday School classes, Derek Almarode, the Bethel Youth, and the Growth and Strengthening Committee members for providing and serving Lemonade on the Lawn in June, July and August. These times of refreshments and fellowship are enjoyed by all. Again many thanks!

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped with Vacation Bible School, especially those who helped with the lesson, crafts, and food: Jill Webb, Joyce Miller, Yvonne Goodson, Jeannie Lee, Sarah Frances Ralston, Susan Smith, Mary Ann Anderson, Sara Ann Lamb, Jackie Law and Irene Elliott. It was a great time with the children!

Don't Forget!

September 2nd - Labor Day
September 11th - Patriot Day
September 22nd - Autumn Begins



Baja Sunset