

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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Staunton, Virginia 24401
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Website –bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

October 2013

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends:

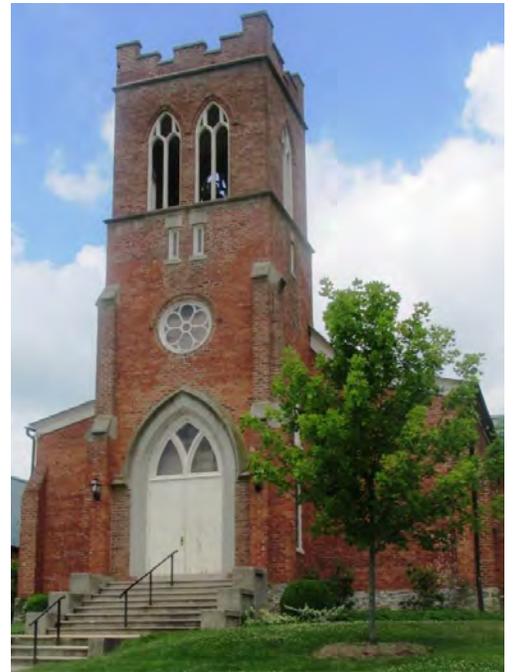
I have always believed, and learned over the years that this is true: “The more clear information Church Members have, the quicker and better response they give to any situation.” Sometimes clergy and Church Officers spend so much time debating and deciding the “ins and outs” of a church’s ministry, they forget that everyone hasn’t been in on the whole conversation. We forget to make clear vital information and needs.

October 6th – November 10th is designated by the Session as the “2013 Stewardship Season: ‘We Love To Tell The Story’”. During this time every member and friend of Bethel and its Ministry will receive through the mail and bulletin inserts and Stewardship Minutes in worship and The Tower, a lot about Bethel’s Stewardship needs for 2014. All of us, hopefully, will use these six weeks to give serious and prayerful consideration of our place and contribution in Bethel’s Ministry. All will have the opportunity to make choices about our talents, experience, time and monetary support as we move forward into a new chapter in 2014 in this Ministry for Jesus Christ.

Bethel will welcome a new Pastor as Partner in its Ministry in 2014. Our Stewardship Commitments will be the underlying foundation for this Ministry, as we “Love To Tell Our Story” calling all to join us in confessing the Living Christ as our Lord and Savior.

See you in church.

Phil Sommer



As I See It

I have been Interim Pastor at Bethel for 18 months. Over that time period, and even before it, I have witnessed a Community of Faith look deeply at itself. I have seen you struggle with naming again, who you are as a People of God. I believe this has been time well spent.

I believe Bethel is on the edge of its future as a faithful part of the Church of Jesus Christ, ready to proclaim him in word and deed to all. Bethel has a better understanding who it is and what its ministry is and needs to be moving forward. Your strengths are evident; and your short-comings are being addressed realistically and with courage. With confidence and joy, I am proud to be a part of you.



The Pastor Nominating Committee has met weekly since May 29th, advancing through many stages of the search process. The team appreciates your prayers and patience as it receives and reviews pastor applications.

October Worship Schedule

October 6, 2013

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Worldwide Communion

11:00 am

Children's Time

Stewardship Minute: "Baja 2013"

Read: Lamentations 1:1-6 Psalm 137 II Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10

Homily: "Doing What We're Told"

October 13, 2013

21st Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am

Children's Time

Stewardship Minutes: "Local Mission – Kingsway"

Read: Jeremiah 29:1,4-7 Psalm 66:1-12 II Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19

Sermon: "The Outsider"

October 20, 2013

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 am

Children's Time

Stewardship Minute: "Time & Talent Promises"

Read: Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104 II Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18: 1-8

Sermon: "While 'The Boss' Is Away"

October 27, 2013

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday

Service of Banners & Creeds

11:00 am

Children's Time

Stewardship Minute: "2014 Budget Challenge"

Read: Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65 II Timothy 3:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

Communion will be held on October 6th, 2013, World Communion Sunday.

Pastor Phil is asking for anyone, especially Elders and Deacons, present or past, to participate in worship services as liturgists. If you are interested in leading part of the service, please call the Church Office or tell Pastor Phil or Jill Webb. An orientation class or two, explaining the different parts of the service and why we do what we do, will be held so you know what is expected. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour. Dates to be determined, based on interest.

Have you ever wanted to know more about the Apostle's Creed? How about the Westminster Confession of Faith? The worship service on Sunday, October 27th will revolve around the creeds and confessions found in the Book of Confessions. We are again borrowing 8 banners from Highland Memorial Presbyterian Church in Winchester, thanks to Pastor Phil and Kathleen. Our children and youth will be helping with the service. Contact Sally Brubeck 885-5871 to be a part of this service. See you Reformation Sunday!

All Saints Observance

On Sunday, November 3rd, Bethel will be observing "All Saints Day". This is the day in the church calendar to honor all of the saints, who have served their Lord faithfully on earth and now live eternally in God's Presence.

During Morning Worship we will honor all who have gone on before us. This will include all members of Bethel who have died in the past 12 months. It will also include anyone you wish to remember in prayer who has died in the past 12 months. All names will be listed in the bulletin and there will be a time of prayer with candle lighting conducted by our Deacons.

Please list all you wish remembered on the form provided in the bulletin on the Sundays leading up to "All Saints Sunday".



The Church Office will be closed Monday, October 7th through Wednesday, October 9th while I am on vacation. Please contact Ken Miller (540/255-6864) or Bill Brubeck (540/885-5871) if you need anything.

Thank you!- Adrienne Barker, Bethel Office Manager

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR!!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

You will find a brochure on how to pack a shoebox included in your bulletin on Sunday, October 20th. If you choose you will be able to track your shoebox this year. Just read the directions in the brochure for details. The shoeboxes are due Sunday, November 17th. If you have any questions, please see Peggy Smith, (540) 292-0885.

Advent Workshop Sunday, December 1st, 2013

Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ. This workshop consists of lunch following the morning worship service, craft activities representing each Sunday of Advent and an Advent wreath to be used during the Advent Season. We invite everyone to be a part of this Advent Workshop. If you would like to help or have questions, please see Peggy Smith.

Remember that stewardship season is fast approaching! Be thinking about the programs, ministry, and outreach of our congregation and how you might support them. Our theme for the 2013 stewardship season is: "I Love To Tell The Story".



Congregational Email

During our pastor transition period many changes are being made at Bethel. The Communications Committee is making some changes to the email distribution. Ken Miller has faithfully handled the email for a while now and we thank him for his service. We are transitioning to a web-based email that supports sharing the administration duties and a seamless hand off when the time comes for someone else to take over.

Several address books have been combined. If you receive email from the church, you are listed as a member of Bethel or a Friend of Bethel. If you wish to remain on the Bethel email list we are happy and you do not need to do a thing. If you do not wish to receive Bethel email just email Adrienne at bethelpc@gmail.com with a note saying *Unsubscribe me please*. Also, if you would like to begin receiving Bethel news by email or if you are no longer receiving emails from us, please inform Adrienne.

Yours in Christ,
The Communications Committee

The Men of the Church will meet for dinner and fellowship on October 15th, at 6:30 pm. There will be a speaker from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Bring your friends for a fine meal and an informative discussion.

Presbyterian Women - October 2013 : Project - Blanket Offering

*The Afternoon Circle will meet at the church on October 8th, 2013, at 2:30 pm.

We are using Horizons Bible Study for 2013-2014 which is titled **An Abiding Hope** (The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy). We will discuss Lesson 3 during the October Circle meetings but it is never too late to join us. Come enjoy fellowship, food and fun as well!

Cold Feet - Warm Hearts - Sock donation for the needy (all ages), In cooperation with the Valley Mission, empty your sock drawer of gently worn or new socks you never wear (fasten with a safety pin) and drop off at Grandma's Bait at 24 E. Beverly Street in downtown Staunton. Thank you for your generosity!



Christian Education NewsOctober 2013

Harvest Party

Come join us for Bethel's annual Harvest Party on Saturday, October 26th, from 6 pm to 8 pm. We will share snacks, play games, and also have the ever popular pumpkin carving contest. The evening will end with "Trunk-or-Treat". Those that would like to participate in decorating your vehicle for trunk-or-treat need to be set up in the parking area by the playground before 7 pm. Gift cards will be awarded for several categories in the pumpkin carving and the vehicle decorations. See you on the 26th for fall fun and fellowship!

New Preschool Teacher

Bethel Preschool has a new Assistant Teacher! Suzanna Burkholder has been hired as the new assistant to Preschool Teacher Pam Kirchman. Suzanna is a graduate of Rosedale Mennonite Bible College with an Associate Degree in Biblical Studies and a concentration in Music and Worship. She is experienced in working with preschool age children. We welcome her to the Bethel family!

Receiving Treasurer Report

General Fund: Estimated Budget through 9/1/2013: \$127,575; Receipts \$107,886; Expenses \$107,070

Capital Finance

Campaign: Received through 9/1/2013: Pledges 35; Pledged \$44,790 (The Capital Finance Campaign has been established to support the 21st Century Renovation Fund).

21st Century Renovation

Fund: Received through 9/1/2013: \$64,384; Expenses to date \$3,395 (The goal of the 21st Century Fund is \$235,000).



SESSION NEWS

The Session met Sunday, September 8th, 2013, with nine members and the Moderator present.

A decision was made to have Bethel's Treasurer provide budget versus expenses information the first Sunday of each month in the church bulletin and this information will also be included in the Tower.

Chris Schooley gave the Deacons report.

The Stewardship Committee will have someone speak about stewardship each Sunday from October 6th to November 10th and will also mail a letter and pledge card to all members. Dedication Sunday will be November 10th.

The Personnel Committee has hired Suzanna Burkholder as the Preschool Assistant.

John Howell requested that he be replaced as Treasurer of the Memorial Committee. Tom and Lee Ann Heizer have been approved as the new treasurers.

The Session would like to thank John Howell for his service on the Memorial Committee for the past 20 plus years. We deeply appreciate his work and dedication to Bethel.

Ken Miller represented Bethel at the Presbytery meeting held at Massanutten Presbyterian Church in June.

Jill Webb represented Bethel at the August Presbytery meeting held in Waynesboro at First Presbyterian Church.



Church Directory Updates . . .

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rivers_sd@yahoo.com

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304
Staunton, VA 24401



Deacons' Notes:

In September, the Deacons focused on work at the Manse. The exterior trim has been painted as well as much of the interior. We have contracted for the hardwood floors downstairs to be refinished and for the screened in porch to be improved. We have also prepared the Manse for the winter with general furnace maintenance.

The Deacons also continued with general maintenance of the Church. With the front door painted and the sidewalk repaired, the focus has been on checking the exterior lighting. Mac Williams also rebuilt the spigot on the east side to alleviate a steady leak.

In October, the Deacons will host the congregation-wide trash pickup on Route 701. This community service project is seen by many in our community and the process always proves to be a day full of camaraderie and fellowship. Please join us at 9 am on October 19th!

Trash Pick-Up Day - The Deacons will pick up trash along Howardsville Road on October 19th. Please meet at the church at 9 am and bring gloves! Trash bags will be 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.

St. John's Reformed UCC will have its Annual Fall Supper and Country Store on Saturday, October 19th. More details will be given soon. Make plans now to come!

Bethel Prayer List: Louale Almarode (Derek Almarode's mother), Evan Annese (Riverheads Elementary School student), Summer Barmore (studying in Spain this semester), 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), Bobbye D'Orsi and her daughter and son-in-law Pam and Jim Boone (Jill Webb's neighbor), Jessie Earhart, Doug Goodson, Friends and Family of Nellie Hamilton, Danielle Hanger, Rev. Marilyn Heishman (Pastor - St. John's Reformed UCC), Bob Hoy, William Koogler (Bill Brubeck's nephew-in-law and Linda Rosen Koogler's husband, Mt. Carmel), Charlie Lamb, David and Flora Law, Frank Law, Charlie Layne (Jane Law's great-grandson), Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Friends of family of Lee R. Miller, David Olson, Judy Olson, Howard Pilson (John Pilson's brother), Pam Prickett and her Florida parents, Joe Sholes and Family (coworker of Derek Almarode), Jerry Shultz, Jonathan Smith (firefighter), Mrs. Smith (Susan McCutchen-Smith's mother-in-law), Frankie Sours (policeman), Mac and Emily Sterrett, Charlotte Swortzel, Richard Turner (Greater Augusta), James Williams of Fishersville (Wayne Swisher's friend), Robin Williams, Rev. Rob Woodfin (Pastor - St. Paul's UMC), 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.



Schedules October 2013

Flowers

October 6th - Ginny Gano/Communion/Memorial

October 13th - Jill Webb/Memorial

October 20th - Jane Law/Memorial

October 27th - Laura Barmore/Memorial



Nursery

October 6th - James and Cynthia Williams

October 13th - Lee Ann Whitesell; Sue Whitesell

October 20th - Mary Ann Anderson; Mason Whitaker

October 27th - Joe and Tabby Moore



Transportation

October 6th - Derek Almarode

October 13th - October 27th - Tom Heizer

Offering

Tom Heizer

Steve Hord

Chris Schooley

Sally Williams



Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Lee Roy Miller who passed away August 24th, 2013.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Erskine L. Sandy who passed away on August 31st, 2013.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Nellie Hamilton who passed away on September 16th, 2013.

Bob and I want to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, cards, phone calls and food during his illness. It really meant so much to both of us!
- Bob and Louise Hoy

But for a seatbelt, airbag and divine intervention the results of my car accident would not be the same. Thanks to Bruce and Linda who went to the hospital with me, Jill who stayed with me until my release from the hospital, and Irene whom I frightened terribly. I appreciate all the prayers, cards, and caring from the Bethel family. I am truly blessed!
- Judy Olson

Come join us for A NIGHT OF PRAISE

Sponsored by the Riverheads Weekday Religious Education Program
October 6, 2013 6:00 pm
at Raphine Christian Church (5131 Lee-Jackson Hwy; Greenville)

If you would like to share a special ..., please contact
Dana Cash at (540) 377-9921

A free-will offering will be taken for the Riverheads WRE Program

“Sing your praise to the Lord”



Don't Forget!
October 14th - Columbus Day
October 31st - Halloween

Church Website: www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org
Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook!

