

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church

563 Bethel Green Road

Staunton, Virginia 24401

540-886-6041 or bethelpc@gmail.com

Website –bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

November 2013

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Friends,

Say “NOVEMBER” to an American and one of the first things that comes to mind is our National Holiday of Thanksgiving. Our wonderful nationwide pause, observed in many ways, but all express our gratitude for our country, its liberties, our way(s) of life, and our abundance. Say “November” to American Christians and the month overflows with our expressions of gratitude, all aimed in God’s direction.

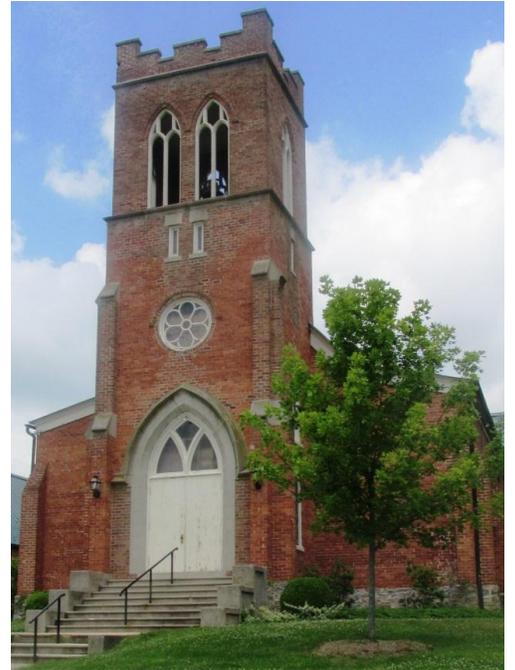
First, our gratitude on November 1 (or the 1st Sunday in November) as we remember and celebrate “All Saints Day”. It is a time to remember all who have gone on before and taught and showed us how to be God’s faithful disciples.

Second, the 2nd Sunday in November is the traditional day to dedicate the ways we intend to keep our partnership covenant in the coming year. We take time during worship with prayer and action to place our promises of Time, Talent, and Resources to the cause of the Ministry of Jesus Christ and the ways in which we live the coming of God’s Kingdom on earth.

And third, how can we forget our planned feasts of food, families, traditions, games, memories and prayers that “Give Thanks” for God’s great and loving abundance, spiritual and material, that we all enjoy.

See you in church.

Phil Sommer



As I See It

Pastors are never very adventurous. They take time to learn their congregations' personality, likes and dislikes. We observe reactions to all kinds of things and events. We try very hard not to suggest or promote anything upsetting. This is especially true with worship services. There is nothing worse than forcing unfamiliar hymns and unknown rituals on congregants.

In light of this, it took me a while to include the "Passing of the Peace" as a part of morning worship at Bethel. I should have known better! I should have known sooner that because you are a very welcoming congregation, you would so love this time to say hi and with words and looks and hugs and handshakes to say to all present, "glad you are here"!

I should have known better! Even experienced pastors continue to learn to trust God's People to love and appreciate friend and stranger alike.

Pastor Nominating Committee News

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is meeting regularly to discuss more than 36 pastor applications.

The PNC members all appreciate your confidence in the search process. We thank our Interim Pastor, as well as the congregation, for your patience, cooperation and prayers.



November Worship Schedule

November 3, 2013

24th Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Observance

11:00 am

Children's Time

Stewardship Minute: "Promises to God"

Read: Haggai 1:1-4;2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 II Thessalonians 4:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19: 1-10

Sermon: "Lost & Found"

November 10, 2013

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

11:00 am

Children's Time

Stewardship Minutes: "God of the living"

Read: Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 98 II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

Sermon: "Time to Marry Brains & Imagination"

November 17, 2013

26th Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 am

Children's Time

Stewardship Minute: "Reporting In"

Read: Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 II Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

Sermon: "Now Is The Time"

November 24, 2013

Christ The King

Thanksgiving

11:00 am

Children's Time

Read: Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

Sermon: "Hurrah For The Pumpkin Pie"



Stewardship Season!

School is back in session. Thanksgiving is almost here, and it is time again for Bethel to make plans for next year. Yes, Stewardship Season is here. Our Stewardship Theme this year is: "I Love To Tell The Story" and Bethel is ready to have a very good and productive year in 2014. Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 10th, 2013. If you cannot be present please use the copy of the pledge card below and mail it to the attention of the Receiving Treasurer (Church Address: 563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401). You may also place the pledge card in the offering plate any Sunday. Bethel needs all of you to help if we are to reach our goals. Please carefully and prayerfully consider your pledge for next year. Thank you for your continuing support!

NAME(S) _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FOR 20_____
Grateful for God's love in Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church through our congregation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.
\$ _____ per ___ week ___ month ___ other _____
<i>(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)</i>
___ I (we) wish to receive information about giving through Estate Planning
<hr/>
Keep this portion as a record of your financial stewardship commitment for the year 20_____.
My (our) financial stewardship commitment
\$ _____ per ___ week ___ month ___ other _____
<i>(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)</i>

All Church Officers Meeting - Sunday, November 3rd, 2013

All Church Officers: Elders, Deacons and Trustees will meet on Sunday, November 3rd in the Fellowship Hall following Morning Worship. A light lunch at 12:30 pm is scheduled. The topic of this "All Church Officer Meeting" will be Church Incorporation. The Rev. Dr. Fred Holbrook will be present as our Resource Person for this discussion of Church Incorporation and the issues that need discussion and decisions. Dr. Holbrook is uniquely equipped to be our resource person as Shenandoah Presbytery Parliamentarian; author of "Church Incorporation Directives and Guidelines" for Shenandoah Presbytery as posted on the Presbytery Website: shenpres.org. As well as being a good friend to Bethel, Fred Holbrook is also Executive Director of Massanetta Springs Conference Center.

Communications Committee will meet Sunday, November 10th, at 9 am.

There will a "Manse Open House" on Sunday, November 17th, following the worship service. The Growth & Strengthening Committee will be providing refreshments and Deacons Tammy Barbour and Mac Williams will be providing tours of the Manse. Come and enjoy the refreshments, the fellowship, and see all the improvements the Deacons have made to the Manse over the past year and a half!

The Church Office will be closed Monday, November 25th through Friday November 29th for vacations and Thanksgiving holiday. Please contact Elder Ken Miller (540/255-6864) if you need anything.

The annual Hanging of the Greens will be held on December 1st during our regular worship service. Please make plans to attend this wonderful and meaningful service.



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.

This year, our church is providing you with the unique opportunity to share Christ with a needy child using a simple shoebox. Your shoebox will reach a child in a troubled country and with the Gospel message. Operation Christmas Child, is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian ministry led by Franklin Graham, son of Dr. Billy Graham. The shoeboxes are delivered to a needy child overseas along with Christian literature in his or her own language. Please be a part of this opportunity. The deadline for the shoeboxes is Sunday, November 17th. There will be a cart in the vestibule for shoeboxes. Complete instructions on how to pack a shoebox follow below. For more information please pick up an Operation Christmas Child brochure in Memorial Hall. If you have any questions, please see Peggy Smith.

How to Pack a Shoe Box Gift

1. Find an empty shoe box (standard size, please). You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required.
2. Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or girl, and the age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Include a note on the outside of your shoebox stating whether the box is for a boy or a girl and the age (2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 years old).
3. The first ingredient to pack in your shoebox is **PRAYER** (1 John 5:14).
4. **Fill your show box with a variety of gifts:**
 - School Supplies: pens, pencils, crayons or markers, coloring books, writing pads or paper, etc.
 - Toys: small cars, dolls, balls, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, etc.
 - Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, washcloth, etc.
 - Candy: hard candy in plastic bag, lollipops, mints and gum, etc.
 - Other: sunglasses, ball caps, socks, hats, T-shirts, toy jewelry, etc.
5. **Please DO NOT INCLUDE the following items:**
 - Used or damaged items
 - Chocolate or food
 - War-related items: toy guns, knives, military figures
 - Liquids or lotions
 - Medications or vitamins
 - Breakable items: snow globes, glass containers
 - Aerosol cans
6. To help cover shipping and other costs, please enclose a check for \$7 or more in an envelope. **Place the envelope so it is clearly visible on top of the gift in your shoebox. Checks should be made payable to Samaritan's Purse. Please write "OCC" on the memo line. Place a rubber band around your shoebox and lid.**

Bethel needs a logo! The Bethel Communications Committee is seeking submissions and suggestions for a logo to 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). The deadline for submissions is December 1st, 2013. Thank you!

**The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands
Bethel Presbyterian Women "Together in Service" Project**

The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands is a long-term residential care facility located in Wytheville, Virginia. It is designed to house 30 residents (20 boys and 10 girls) in a cottage setting. The facility is licensed to work with residents 5-17 years of age, providing programming for both males and females. PCHH works with abused and neglected youth who have behavioral and emotional difficulties. PCHH designs programs and services to help children, youth, and families who are experiencing low-to-moderate emotional and behavioral problems. PCHH strives to give the best possible care to children in a Christian environment with staff members whose mission is to love and care for the children.

As a "Together in Service" project the Bethel Presbyterian Women are sponsoring a gift-card drive to benefit PCHH in time for the holiday season. PCHH has a particular need for gift cards from Wal-Mart and McDonalds. If you choose to participate in this mission project circle members can turn in gift cards to circle leaders Phyllis Cash or Libby Smith at the November meeting, or you may give the gift cards to Jackie Law. Although this project originated in the PW organization, all members of Bethel are invited to join in this effort to meet needs at PCHH. In order to assist with the equitable distribution of the gift cards please write the purchased amount on each card or envelope. All gift cards need to be received by Sunday, November 24th so that they can be mailed to PCHH and arrive in time for holiday shopping and outings in December.



Presbyterian Women - November 2013
Special Offering - Thank Offering

*The Afternoon Circle will meet at Bethel on November 12th, at 2:30 pm.

*The Evening Circle will meet at Bethel on November 12th, at 7:00 pm.

November 3 PWCT Meeting

November 24 PWCT Meeting

Thank Offering

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee met in Louisville, Kentucky, in March 2013 and approved 36 grants totaling \$705,544 from the 2012 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women.

The Thank Offering supports programs that relieve pain, provide clean water, alleviate homelessness, provide educational opportunities, promote health and improve the lives of women and children throughout the world.

The Thank Offering will be collected at the November Circle Meetings.

Men of the Church

The Men of the Church meet for dinner and interesting talks by guest speakers.

Future Men's Dinners are scheduled for: **January 21st, April 29th, and July 15th, 2014.**

Please save the dates! Contact Mac Williams if you have an idea for a program.

ILLUBABOR / iCARE

You will see Illubabor / iCare as a line item in the Witness Budget. Many of you may be wondering what this is. (Illubabor is a region in Ethiopia). About twenty-four years ago Shenandoah Presbytery entered into a partnership with the Illubabor Bethel Synod (IBS) in Ethiopia. This synod is part of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). When established in 1959, the Mekane Yesus church had approximately 20,000 members. Now it numbers more than 6 million. Much of that growth has taken place in the Illubabor region. The orphanage at Gore continues to provide educated leaders for the church, region, and the country, making it an important part of the growth. Bethel sponsors one child, which is the \$500 line item in the budget. The cost has gone from \$500 per child to \$700 due to inflation. Some individuals as well as the Seekers Class also are sponsors. A letter from the girl which the Seekers sponsor indicates that she is hoping to be able to work in the church when she finishes school. You will be hearing more about the Illubabor/iCare project in the future.



Preschool News

We have just finished the first eight weeks of Preschool and it has been a busy but wonderful time. The kids are settled in and are having a great time. Pam Kirchman, Suzanna Burkholder, and Kathy Swisher are our teacher, Assistant Teacher, and Treasurer this year. Thank you Pam and Suzanna and Kathy for all your hard work!

On October 3rd, the Preschoolers took a field trip to the Pumpkin Patch near the Frontier Culture Museum. The trip had been planned for the Blue Ridge Mountain Farm and picnic area but it was closed due to the U.S. Government partial shutdown. Thanks to the Frontier Culture Museum, the children were able to have their picnic, tour the American Farm of the 1820's and the African Village. It was an exciting trip for the children.

They will be busy in November preparing for more fall activities and Thanksgiving.

The Developmental Preschool at Bethel Presbyterian Church still has openings for 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](tel:5404480387) for more information.

Remember the community-wide Thanksgiving Service. It will be held at Mt Tabor Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 24th, at 7:00 pm. Everyone's invited to this special service!

The Shenandoah Presbytery will meet on Tuesday, November 12th, 2013, at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held at Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church in Grottoes, VA.



SESSION NEWS

The Session met Sunday, October 13th, with all members present.

Chris reported for the Diaconate and the 21st Century Renovation Committee. The Session agreed to move forward with the first phase of the restoration which will include the water situation on the church north side plus work on the Bell Tower.

The Session is progressing with incorporating Bethel Church which is required by the Presbytery. A meeting of Church Officers is planned in the near future to finalize this procedure.

The Advent Workshop is scheduled for December 1st, 2013.

The following changes have been made in our Membership Rolls as requested by:

Elizabeth Cash Mulcahy - move to Active

Chad Shomo - move to Inactive

Ian Dubinski, Daniel Tucker, Jesse Ludt Wimer - remove from Roll

There will be a Congregational Meeting on October 27th, 2013, to elect officers for the class of 2016.

Ken Miller will represent Bethel at the Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, November 12th, 2013, at Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church.

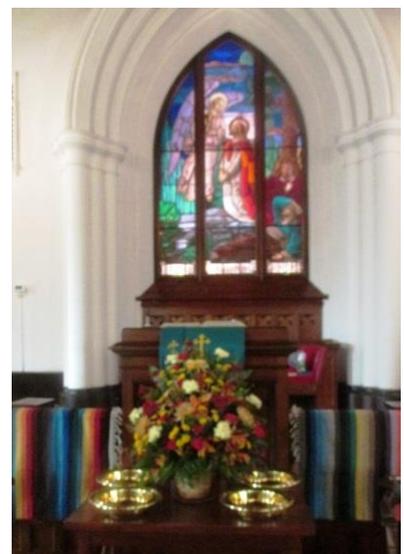
The Session is giving \$500 from the Youth Fund to the Massanetta Youth Scholarship Fund.

DEACONS' NOTES

In September, the Deacons continued improvements at the Manse. The trim has been painted, the furnace serviced and the hardwood floors downstairs are scheduled for refinishing in October. Since many Congregation members do not get to see the Manse very often, we have decided to host the Growth and Strengthening Committee's November 17th event at the Manse after the worship service.

The 21st Century Committee has reported nearly \$75,000 in funds raised for the improvements to the Church. We have contracted with Mathers Construction from Waynesboro to complete the work and we will start on the tower renovations and northside moisture infiltration issues in mid-October. We will continue to raise funds to move on to additional phases of work after the new year.

As always, if you have any needs at the Church, please contact a Deacon! Thank you.



Bethel Prayer List:

Louale Almarode (Derek Almarode's mother), Evan Annese (Riverhead's 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, Murray Campbell, Friends and Family of Dennis Clemmer (JoAnna Nichols father), Jim and Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis, 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), 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), 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), Frankie Sours (policeman), Friends and Family of Emily Sterrett, Charlotte Swortzel, Richard Turner (Greater Augusta), James Williams of Fishersville (Wayne Swisher's friend), 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

Receiving Treasurer Report

General Fund: Estimated Budget through October 1, 2013: \$142,215; Receipts \$117,002; Expenses \$115,927.

Capital Finance Campaign: Received through October 1, 2013: Pledges 39; Pledged \$56,290 (The Capital Finance Campaign has been established to support the 21st Century Renovation Fund.)

21st Century Renovation Fund: Received through October 1, 2013: \$68,919; Expenses to date \$3,395.00 (The goal of the 21st Century Fund is \$235,000.)

Check multi-tasking is a no no. Please, do not split the money you donate to different funds on one check. Make each check payable to Bethel Presbyterian Church and then note in the Memo space on the check only one intention - examples are Pledge, 21st Century, Memorial, or BERF, etc. Thank you. All multi-tasked checks will be returned to sender!



November 2013 Schedules

Flowers

November 3rd - Shirley Heizer
November 10th - JoAnn Pendley
November 17th - Eloise Moore
November 24th - Bettie Swisher

Nursery

November 3rd - Jackie Law; Stephanie Rivers
November 10th - Eloise Moore; Barbara Damico
November 17th - Luanne Leonard; Joyce Miller
November 24th - Barbara Gough; Judy Olson

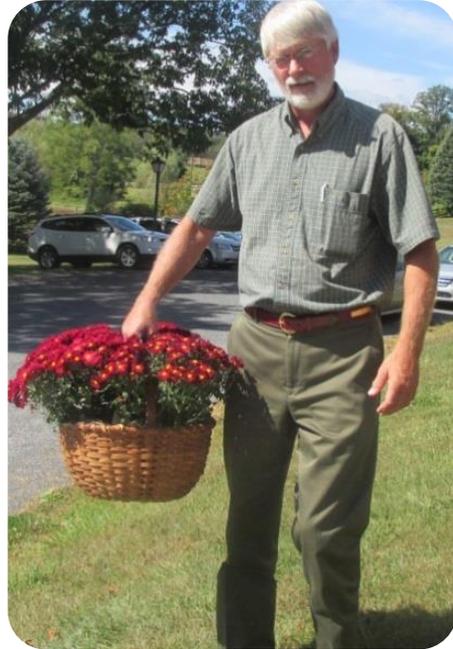
Transportation

November 3rd - Jill Webb
November 10th - Sally Williams
November 17th - Chris Schooley
November 24th - Sally Williams

Offering

Barbara Gough
Shirley Heizer
Steve Hord
Tabby Moore

Many thanks to the Howardsville Road clean-up team! We got it done in less than two hours on a nice Saturday, October 19th. It was made easier by the recent mowing by the highway department. My thanks to D.W. Miller, Tim Turner, Sally and Joe Williams, Kay Moore Agee, LeeAnn and Tom Heizer, Betty and Dave Schooley, and Steve Hord for giving their time and effort. We had a nice time of fellowship and filled Tom's truck with bright orange bags! Let's hope there will be less trash next year when we do this again! - Barb Gough



Dear Bethel Family and Friends,

Your words and thoughts and deeds through the last years our parents spent at home have meant so much to our families. We have two lifetimes filled with memories shared with them and your support and prayers were vital to this journey of love. So many of you sent cards to them for birthdays, holidays, special occasions and just to let them know you were thinking about them. Food brought to the home and your visits marked the passage of time with your expressions of devotion to them. Each of these gestures was a statement of God's love shared among us here in His community of believers. God has welcomed them home now. We are forever grateful for your loving support of our families and the kinship we share in the here and now. Words are inadequate to express the gratitude we have for the life we share in such a loving and caring church family. We have been blessed again and again by your steadfast and abiding love of our parents.

In Christian love and with great thanksgiving,
The families of Joel and Nellie Hamilton

Don't Forget!
November 3rd - Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 5th - Election Day
November 11th - Veterans Day
November 28th - Thanksgiving Day

Church Website: www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook! 

