

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

December 1st - December 7th

Today: 1st Sunday of Advent
9:45 - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship/Hanging of the Greens
12:00 - Advent Workshop

Monday: 6:30 - Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 - Boy Scouts

Wednesday: 5:45 - The Bells of Bethel
7:00 - Adult Choir

Friday: 7:00 - 9:00 - Officers Training

Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00 - Officers Training

Next Sunday, December 8th: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Deadline: Salvation Army Gifts

9:00 - Communications Committee Meeting

9:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Worship/

“I Don’t Believe It” Christmas Pageant

12:00 - Potluck Luncheon/Joy Gift Offering

5:00 - Elders, Deacons, and Trustees Joint Meeting

Greeters: Wade and Phyllis Cash

*The poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by Bettie Swisher. One poinsettia is given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Swisher and Don Swisher. The other poinsettia is given in memory of Faye Stump and Agnes Lotts.

*Good morning and welcome to Bethel! Whether you are a member, a friend or a visitor please take a moment and fill out the attendance pad at the end of your pew. Don't forget to give the attendance pad to others to sign when you are done. Thank you!

*Today is Bethel’s traditional Hanging of the Greens service. Thanks to everyone who will be participating in today’s worship service and to those who helped plan the worship service.

*The 2013 Advent Workshop will today in the Fellowship Hall after the morning worship service. This workshop consists of lunch and craft activities representing each Sunday of Advent. Each new member for the church will receive an Advent candle wreath. All ages are invited to attend this workshop!

*Officer Training will be this Friday, December 6th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and this Saturday, December 7th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. All Officers (Elders, Deacons, and Trustees) who will be serving in 2014 need to make plans to attend this training. If you will be unable to be there please let Pastor Phil know as soon as possible.

*The Communications Committee will meet next Sunday, December 8th, at 9 am.

*Next Sunday, December 8th, during the worship service we will have the "Sermon" be the "I Don't Believe It" Pageant. Everyone is invited to participate. There is no age limit or requirement. There are no lines to learn. All you have to do is decide who/what you want to be and EITHER design & dress up in a costume you make OR come to the Fellowship Hall to be outfitted from the costumes that will be gathered there. Come between 10 am & 10:45 am to claim an outfit. We will need: Mary, Joseph, Fred the Donkey, Angel Gabriel, Inn Keeper, Shepherd(s), Sheep, Heavenly Host, Stars, 3 Wisemen, a camel. After being costumed, take your seat in the Sanctuary. At sermon time, the Narrator will tell the story of the Nativity. And the "Stage Manager" will arrange all our players as their turn comes up. We will have a wonderfully fun AND spiritual time this 2nd Sunday of Advent. This same day we will celebrate and collect the "Christmas Joy Gift" Offering of our denomination. Following the worship service there will be a covered dish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.

*The Session, Board of Deacons, and Board of Trustees will have a joint meeting next Sunday, December 8th, at 5:00 pm. All Elders, Deacons, and Trustees need to plan on attending this meeting. All newly elected officers (returning, ordained, or not yet ordained) will need to make plans to attend for examination by the Session following the joint meeting. If you will not be able to attend, please let Pastor Phil know.

*Watch for the Salvation Army tree which will be in the hallway between the Fellowship Hall and Memorial Hall soon. We need to make sure that all of those gift tags are taken so that the families we are helping can receive the Christmas that they have dreamed of and prayed about. Remember that the gifts will need to be returned to the church by next Sunday, December 8th and will need to be wrapped with the tag attached. Also, don't forget that you can "team up" to buy gifts (especially expensive ones) if you want to. Thank you so much for your great generosity! Bethel's people can always be counted on to be a blessing!

*There will be a Christmas Benefit Concert for SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association) on Monday, December 9th at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). The concert will be at Memorial Baptist Church (224 Taylor Street; Staunton; 540/885-8033). A "Meet and Greet the Artists" time with refreshments will follow the concert. Come for a time of music, fellowship and make an offering to SACRA.

*The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 10th, at 11:00 am (note the time change!). The meeting will be at the home of Libby Smith. Please contact Libby if you have any questions.

*The Evening Circle will have a Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 10th, at 6:30 pm at the church. We will eat dinner together and exchange gifts. Please bring a dish to share and a small gift. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Cash.

*If you would like to join Bethel Presbyterian Church, please feel free to contact a Session member. We would love to hear from you.

(Please turn this sheet over for Financial Stewardship Information)

Financial Stewardship

Offerings 2013: It is requested that offerings for 2013 be made no later than Sunday, December 29th, 2013. Thank you for your continued support.

Pledges 2014: 33 pledges for a total of \$92,100 have been received. Thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2014 - it is not too late. Pledge cards are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. Send completed cards to the church (Attn: Receiving Treasurer), or put in the Receiving Treasurer mailbox in Memorial Hall or in the offering plate any Sunday.

Offering Envelopes 2014: Beginning Sunday, December 15th, numbered offering envelopes will be available in the vestibule. If you received numbered envelopes in 2013 you will have the same number reserved for 2014. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to, please contact the Church Office with your request.