

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church

563 Bethel Green Road
Staunton, Virginia 24401
540-886-6041 or bethelpc@gmail.com
Website – bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

March, 2014



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

I began work among you in April of 2012 as your Interim Pastor. Bethel had been through (and was still going through) a very difficult time in your history. As you welcomed this “Jersey Boy” with clerical collar, ear jewelry, long hair and who talked too fast into your midst you were not sure what the future would hold. The first thing I shared in “The Tower” was the “5 Tasks of the Interim Ministry”.

1. **Coming To Terms With History:** I think we have done a lot of work with recent history and back into the past of Bethel's foundation.
2. **Discovering A New Identity:** I'm not sure Bethel found a “new” identity than it clarified who you are and found the words to say so. This happened through the “Mission Study” and examination of Bethel's important work and ministry and mission.
3. **Leadership Changes During An Interim:** Both veteran and new leaders stepped up. And most of this work happened in the “Reorganization & tightening up of Bethel's Committee Structure,” identifying purpose, goals & objectives for each part; and strengthening procedures like yearly audits, etc.
4. **Renewing Denominational Linkages:** This is a work in progress. Bethel has appreciated the assistance of Shenandoah Presbytery provided with Session Moderators, Mission Study Consultant, work behind the scenes of Presbytery Executive Randy Webb and PNC Consultant John Peterson; as well as continuing in the Presbytery-sponsored Baja Mission Project. But there lingers some mistrust as to Presbytery & National Church motives. Perhaps with time and continued involvement Bethel will see more clearly the strength of our connectional system as Presbyterians.

5. **Commitment To New Directions In Ministry:** There is no question in my mind that Bethel is already working hard and looking to improve the facility (21st Century Fund); updating existing programs and ministry; AND looking to new ways to be engaged in the Ministry of Jesus Christ in Augusta County and beyond.

Very soon, my time among you will end. It will be sad because we have come to respect and love each other. But more importantly, as I fade away, it is the light and excitement of anticipating your new pastor who will join you and lead you and go with you into your bright future.

See you in church.

With Love & Peace, I remain,

Phil Sommer

As I See It

I began “As I See It” in the Tower for the purpose of reflecting on all of the good things about Bethel I have been observing. I could go on and on and on. But a better plan is for one of you to take over this assignment. Bethel has so many good parts and qualities about it. And it is important that you keep highlighting them and reminding yourselves about the best of who you are.



March Worship Services

March 2, 2014

Transfiguration of the Lord

11:00 am

Children's Time

Read: Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2, II Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17: 1-9

Sermon

March 9, 2014

1st Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

Children's Time

Read: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Homily: "The Desert"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

March 16, 2014

2nd Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

Children's Time: "God is Lord"

Read: Genesis 12: 1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

Sermon: "Unconditional"

March 23, 2014

3rd Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

Children's Time

Read: Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Sermon

March 30, 2014

4th Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

Children's Time

Read: I Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

Sermon

Special Meeting of the Congregation

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, March 2, 2014, immediately following worship, for the purpose of hearing the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

By order of Clerk of Session

Elder Bill Brubeck

Communion will be held on Sunday, March 9, the 1st Sunday in Lent.

Don't forget that Lent and Easter are fast approaching! Wednesday evening Lenten services in conjunction with area churches are being planned. Bethel will be hosting the Ash Wednesday Service which will be on March 5th, at 7:30 pm. It is hoped that you will attend the services each week at the community churches. A schedule of the locations for each week is coming soon . . .

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

The Bethel Communications Committee will meet Sunday, March 9th, at 9 am. We will be making logo samples available for voting.

Please remember that if you miss church you can access the sermons, bulletins, and announcements on the church website: www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org. If you have any ideas or content for the website or if you have anything that you would like to be on the website please contact any Communications Committee member. Thank you!

WITNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

Prime Rib Dinner and Dessert Auction
March 22nd, 2014 6:00 PM Bethel Fellowship Hall

The Prime Rib Dinner and Dessert Auction will be on Saturday, March 22nd, 2014. The meal will start at 6:00 pm with the Dessert Auction to follow. Always a crowd pleaser, the Prime Rib, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Rolls and Desserts galore! We look forward to a great evening of fellowship and fun! Sponsored by Derek Almarode and Laura Barmore to benefit Bethel's Missions.

Thanks to all who came to the Pizza Dinner/Silent Auction to support our Baja Mission. Through your generosity, we raised \$2,222.00 for this worthy cause.

Thanks, too, for coming to our Chili Luncheon. We hope that you were able to learn more about what Bethel's contributions do in our many local missions and our two international ones.

The Bethel Presbyterian Scholarship/Loan Fund was established some years ago due to the generosity of an anonymous donor to assist young people in furthering their education. Aid from this fund is available for any post-high school education, including vocational schools, nursing, etc. Applications are available in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact David Schooley, Dan Gano or Sarah Frances Ralston. The deadline for return of the completed applications together with attachments is April 15th, 2014. Completed applications may be left in the Church Office.

Presbyterian Women - March 2014

Emphasis - Lent, Easter

***The Afternoon Circle will meet on March 11th, 2014, at 2:30 pm at Bethel.**

***The Evening Circle will meet on March 11th, 2014, at 7:00 pm at Bethel.**

March 2nd - PWCT Meeting

March 30th - PWCT Meeting

Upcoming Events at Massanetta Springs:

April 12th, 2014 - Spring Gathering

June 5th - 8th- Mid-Atlantic Synod Summer Gathering

An inspirational time of prayer, worship, reflection and fellowship.

September 12th - The Big Event

More information will be in the Church Bulletin regarding registration and details.

Sewing for Missions (but you don't really need to sew!)

The Presbyterian Women are collecting items to be distributed by Church World Service.

Items needed for relief throughout the world include:

Sheets and Blankets (New Only)

Flat Sheets (Twin or Double)

Blankets (Twin or Double)

Baby Caps (Newborn) May be purchased, knitted or crocheted

A bin for the collection of these items will be placed in Memorial Hall. Items will be collected through March.



Kroger Cards

Have you been using your Bethel-issued Kroger Gift Card for buying groceries at Kroger stores?

Many Bethel members acquired the gift cards in 2010. You have been reloading them with cash, debit card, or a credit card at the Kroger service desk. It has not cost you anything extra to pay for your purchases with the gift card.

Bethel receives a donation of 5% of the money we spend with our gift cards. Kroger donations to Bethel so far were more than \$3000. This money has helped support many Bethel programs.

If your Kroger Gift Card goes 90 days with a **ZERO** balance – the card deactivates and becomes no longer usable, but it can be replaced!

If you shop at Kroger and need a card or a replacement card or you have questions, please call Joyce Miller at 540-337-0828 or Ken Wilkinson, at 540-886-9375.



SESSION NEWS

The Session met Sunday, February 16th, 2014 with seven members present.

The Session approved Ken Wilkinson and Tish Folsom as Receiving and Disbursing Treasurers for the year 2014.

Questions have been received from the congregation concerning the Articles of Incorporation. Please direct your concerns to Kenneth Miller or a member of the Session.

A Congregational Meeting will be held on March 2nd after the morning worship to hear the Pastor Nominating Committee Report concerning the call of a new pastor.

Jill Webb reported her attendance at the Presbytery meeting on February 8th, at First Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, VA.

A decision was made to transfer \$1,500 and \$500 from the Youth Fund to the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts to help with their finances.

An amount of \$500 from the Youth Fund will also be transferred to the Bethel Preschool account.

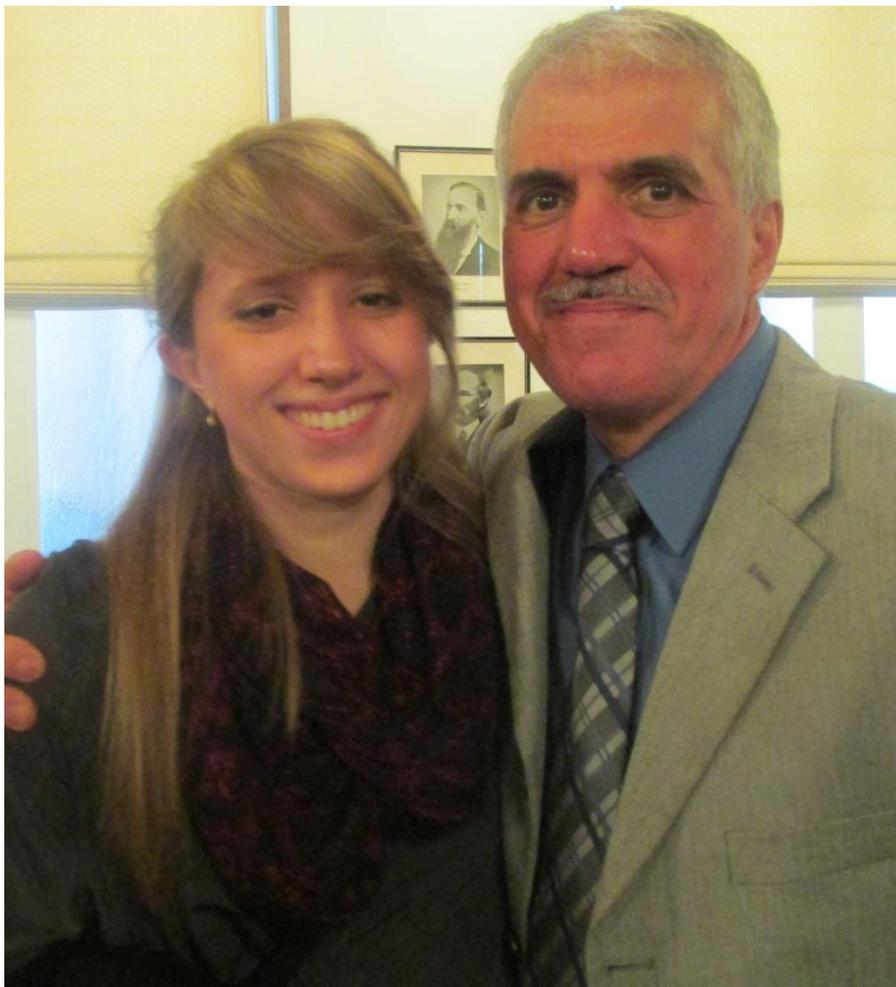
Growth and Strengthening Report

We sent Valentines and Love to our college students, thanks to Jackie Law.

Our first meeting of the year will be February 25th. We look forward to an exciting year.

To introduce you to one of our newest families, I asked Penny Lee, the Mom, to write about the family. Penny is also the daughter of Dale and Kay Thompson, and grew up at Bethel. She is very enthusiastic. You may have seen her around with her camera, taking pictures and posting on Facebook. You can read the Lee family information below.

- Barb Gough, Co-Chair Growth & Strengthening Committee



The Lee Family

Brian works for UPS. He will have 21 years in May. He served in the Marine Corp. in communications as a Morse Code Intercept Operator. I work from home, I am a self-employed graphic designer. My business is Penny Lee Signature Typography & Design. And I'm the executive mom and chief chauffeur at the House of Lee.

Our kids....

Harleigh Lee, 14, Fort Defiance High School
Harleigh loves music, food, reading, sleeping, animals and her space. Did I mention she loves food?



Moose Lee, 12, Stewart Middle School
Moose really likes himself, a lot! He loves VT. He loves FFA. He loves football, baseball, and basketball. He loves to hunt and everything camouflage.

Bayleigh Lee, 12 Stewart Middle School
Bayleigh loves to sing and plays clarinet in the band. She loves to read and crafting. She loves little kids. She plays softball. Her volume level is epic. She loves to help people and has a big heart.

Lydia Lee, 11, Verona Elementary Lydia describes herself as “weird with a side of freakish” ...she’s a little clown. She loves basketball, softball and herself. She likes to read and cook.

Trever Lee, 1, The Lee Academy of Home Learning Trever came to us when he was 4 months old. Quite an unexpected blessing. He loves cars, trucks, birds and balls. He loves, loves, loves balls. Any kind, shape or color. And he has quite an arm for a little guy.

Brian and I both graduated from Riverheads. We are a blended family. Brian had Moose. Brian adopted my girls and Trever was a gift to all of us. Hence the matching last names. Our family likes to hang out at home and have friends & family over and eat! We have Sunday Suppers. Summers are at the ball field or fishing. And lots of corn hole. That’s our FamiLee :) Penny



If you would like additional information about the two events below you are welcome to contact Irene Elliott, Chairman of the Christian Education Committee (540/885-3554; IPElliott@aol.com).

**“Glory To God”
Massanetta Springs Bible & Church Music Conferences
August 3 - 8, 2014**

Glory to God is the title of the new Presbyterian Hymnal. This will be the theme of the upcoming Bible Conference and Church Music Conference. The Bible Conference, a retreat of preaching, teaching, and praise, is powerful and inspirational. The Church Music Conference is one of the finest in the nation offering training for all church musicians.

The conferences provide programming for all ages--children through adults. This allows Bible Conference adults to attend the Bible study led by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull entitled *Creator and Creation in the Psalms* and workshops on a variety of current issues. It enables Church Music Conference adults to participate fully in the clinics that hone skills in choral, hand bell, harp, and organ music.

Uplifting and life-changing preaching anchors worship that is filled with musical gifts offered to the glory of God!

These are remarkable events! Check the conference website for: schedules, bios of the speakers and clinicians, cost information, and registration forms.

www.massanettasprings.org Phone: 540-434-3829; 888-627-7774

**Massanetta Springs 2014
Mission@Massanetta
A Fantastic Mission Opportunity for Middle and High School Youth
Attention Youth and Youth Leaders!**

Mission at Massanetta - Summer 2014

Mission@Massanetta is reaching record numbers for 2014! Praise the Lord! This program is a fantastic mission opportunity for middle and high school youth. Rebuilding homes, working at the Volunteer Farm, serving at a childcare center, painting low-income housing facilities, touching lives for Christ. Over 330 youth and adults are already making plans to come and serve others in the Shenandoah Valley next summer. We have room for more "mission minded" youth and adults.

Contact us today to arrange your work-camp! Call Massanetta at 540-434-3829 or toll-free 888-627-7774.

Deacons' Notes

In February, the Deacons continued to improve the Manse. All of the windows have been replaced, which will result in significant energy savings over time. We are also installing a gas log in one of the fireplaces to augment the furnace.

At the Church, we continue to plan for a second phase of 21st Century Committee's recommended improvements for this spring. With the amount of snow we have received, we have kept busy with snow and ice removal.

The Communications Committee continues to make improvements to the Bethel website, Facebook page and overall graphics package. We received more than 25 submissions for the logo contest. Thanks to all of you who have participated.

Bethel Prayer List

Louale Almarode and Family, Evan Annese (Riverheads Elementary School student), Evie Blacka (great niece of Joyce Miller), Covie Brandt, Polly Bundy, Dr. David Burgess (medical missionary), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), 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, Reed Hagee (aunt of Laura Barmore), Rich and Marilyn Hansen (PCUSA Mission Co-Workers Ethiopia), Steve Kyle, Charlie Lamb, David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Moggie Moffett (Mo Kyle's mother), Friends and Family of Betty Jo Olson, Judy Olson, Friends and Family of Howard Pilson (John Pilson's brother), Carly Pond (10 year old great niece of John Pilson), Pam Prickett and her Florida parents, Sue and Charles Reese (Charlotte Swortzel's sister and brother-in-law), Jerry Shultz, Frankie Sours (policeman), Friends and Family of Gladys Campbell South (Pearle Rowe's sister), Charlotte Swortzel, Isaac Wolfe (son-in-law of Mary Davis), Rev. Rob Woodfin (Pastor - St. Paul's UMC), MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends, Pastor Nominating Committee, the New Pastor whom God has chosen for Bethel, and Bethel as we prepare for the new Pastor.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Betty Jo Olson who passed away on January 27th, 2014.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Howard Pilson who passed away on January 28th, 2014.



Directory Updates

Angeline Mish Bundy
540/221-2250
The Meadows 107C
144 Patton Farm Road
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

Betty Heizer
540/294-3881
13 Skyline Avenue
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

Schedules March 2014

Flowers

March 2nd - Cathy Hill

March 10th - Sarah Frances Ralston -Communion - 1st Sunday in Lent

March 16th - Joyce Miller – Memorial

March 23rd - Jean Callison

March 30th - Debbie Callison

Nursery

March 2nd - Jackie Law; Stephanie Rivers

March 9th - Eloise Moore; Barbara Damico

March 16th - Luanne Leonard; Joyce Miller

March 23rd - Barbara Gough; Judy Olson

March 30th - Bruce and Linda Lamond

Transportation

March 2nd - Jane Law

March 9th - Chris Schooley

March 16th - Tom Heizer

March 23rd - Tom Whitaker

March 30th - Tammy Barbour

Deacons' Offering Schedule

Barb Gough

Charlie Johnson

Pat Quick

Tim Turner





Card Shower

The children of Billy and Margaret Wade are asking that you help them in celebrating their parent's 50th wedding anniversary on March 21st by sending a card of celebration to:

Billy and Margaret Wade
111 Indian Ridge Road
Greenville, VA 24440

Thank you!

A big thanks to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring! The youth collected \$351.00 and numerous food items for Kingsway. The generosity of Bethel members is greatly appreciated!

Children's Church News

The children have been learning about the "Names of Jesus". In this process they have decorated the bulletin board in the Sunday School building hallway. Stop by and take a look, or better yet ask one of the children to share about it with you.



Don't Forget!

March 5th - Ash Wednesday
March 9th - Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 17th - St. Patrick's Day
March 20th - 1st Day of Spring

Church Website: www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

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

