

# THE TOWER

## **Bethel Presbyterian Church**

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

**September, 2014**



## **From the Pastor's Desk . . . . .**

Dear Church Family,

As a Minister of Word and Sacrament I try not to get too political. As I mentioned in my sermon on Sunday August 17th, faithful Christians all try to follow Jesus' teachings, but it is entirely possible that they end up believing entirely different things about how best to do that in the political sphere. The example that I use most often is that both Democrats and Republicans want to follow Jesus' command to help the poor, they just have a difference of opinion on how best to do that.

I myself am very interested in politics, but I do believe that good people can disagree with me, and they can do so with the full intent of following God's morality.

All of that being said, I want to bring to your attention a political issue that is very important to me. And that is the horrific things that IS/ISIL/ISIS are doing in the Middle East. If you haven't heard, the Islamic State (previously the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, previously the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) is a terrorist organization that is plaguing the Middle East.

They are known for their incredibly strict interpretation of Sharia law as well as their poor treatment of anyone that oppose them. This includes the persecution and execution of minority religions including Christians, Shia Muslims, Yazidis, Druze, Shabakis, and Mandeans. While it is difficult to nail down specifics, it appears that thousands have been killed and many more wounded and there is no doubt that many more thousands are in imminent danger. This includes reports of crucifying children and other unspeakable acts.

The religious minorities have reached out to the West asking for help, but so far little has been done to permanently stop the violence against them. Again, I draw the line at encouraging you to endorse any specific policy or candidate, but it does seem that the United States, partnering with other like-minded countries, could do something. I personally feel that the actions of IS are absolutely reprehensible and I believe that the Gospel, which points to Christian freedom, should compel us to do something to help these minorities and save them from what is clearly certain and horrific destruction.

If you have any ideas I encourage you to write your congressman. For most of you that would be Congressman Bob Goodlatte. He uses a web based server for contact services. It can be found at <http://goodlatte.house.gov/contacts/new>.

If you are interested in contacting your congressman but do not have internet capabilities, I would be more than happy to assist you.

I apologize for the somberness of this “From the Pastor’s Desk,” but sometimes the Lord’s work is not pleasant.

God bless,  
Pastor David



### *As I See It*

Here soon you may be seeing, or rather tasting, something new in church. At my request and encouragement, Session recently authorized the use of wine in Communion. I recognize that this is quite the change for many of you and that there may be concerns over using alcohol in the service. To those who may be concerned I want to reassure you that grape juice will continue to be offered at all Communion services.

While it is usual in the Presbyterian tradition to only offer grape juice, the Book of Order does allow the use of liturgical wine, provided that grape juice is also offered. As I am sure that you have learned by now, I am encouraging Bethel to think seriously about symbolic action. The way that we worship: what we say, do, see, hear, touch, and taste is important to how we worship. Those actions truly matter in our worship of God.

I mentioned in a sermon recently that almost universally when bread is talked about in the Gospels we should understand that as a reference to Jesus' last supper. A similar thing can be said for wine. It is important in our tradition that Jesus turned water into wine, used wine as examples of the kingdom of God, and, most importantly, proclaimed that the wine at the Last Supper was his blood shed for us.

Wine has symbolic value that grape juice does not. Namely, while grape juice is sweet, the alcohol in wine is bitter and harsh to the throat. When we gather together to celebrate the death of our Lord, the harshness of wine seems appropriate.

Wine also has the advantage of being in line with the long tradition of Christianity. The use of grape juice in the communion cup is a relatively new phenomena from the 19th century. In a very real sense we believe that the communion that we participate in is the communion with Jesus and all believers from all time. It is a wonderful gift that our liturgy has remained relatively unchanged since ancient times, and now the communion elements themselves will reflect that history as well.

Now all that being said, I recognize that there may still be concerns. I would like to address two of them here. First, there is concern over having children partake of liturgical wine. Second, there is concern over making alcohol available to individuals that may struggle with alcohol addiction. Generally, these two concerns are why the Presbyterian church has correctly mandated that grape juice must still be offered for communion. More specifically, for the first concern, I would encourage concerned parents to talk with their child's pediatrician and perhaps consider using the grape juice. To the second concern, I encourage everyone to make healthy decisions which may include abstaining from alcohol, even when used for religious reasons.

As we continue to think about how we worship God, I encourage everyone to think very seriously about communion. I do a lot of things in the service to awaken the senses to the worship of God. From hearing the baptismal waters to seeing the bread breaking to tasting the harshness of the wine, our senses can and should be a doorway to the worship of God.

As always, if you have concerns or questions please don't hesitate to bring them to me. I would be more than happy to discuss them with you.



## September Worship Schedule

*September 7, 2014*

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

*September 14, 2014*

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

*September 21, 2014*

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

*September 28, 2014*

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32





**Communion will be held** during the worship service on September 14th, the 2nd Sunday of the month.

**There will be a Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, September 14th, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect four members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee. By order of the Session.

**Rally Day!**  
**September 7th, 2014**  
**9:00 am**

**The kick off for the 2014-2015 Sunday School year** will be Sunday, September 7th, 2014. Join us for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am, followed by a short program by Susan Smith to recognize the achievements of the children by presenting them with certificates and Bibles. Then attend your age appropriate Sunday School Class. All are encouraged to join us for fun, fellowship, and learning in Sunday School this year!



**September Committee Meetings**

- September 7th - Deacons                      September 7th - PWCT
- September 8th - Session                      September 14th - Communications
- September 14th - Worship                      September 16th - Growth & Strengthening
- September 21st - Stewardship/Finance
- September 22nd - Christian Education
- September 28th – Witness



## WITNESS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES



Witness Committee Food Booth at The Meating Place  
Friday, September 19th and Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
8 am until 4 pm

The Witness Committee will be working the Food Booth at The Meating Place on Friday, September 19th and Saturday, September 20th. The Witness Committee needs 2 people to help work from 8 am until noon and 2 people to work from noon until 4 pm. The following baked goods are needed: fruit pies, homemade bread and rolls, brownies, cookies, 1/2 cake, and peanut butter or chocolate fudge. If you would like to volunteer to help in the Food Booth please let Peggy Smith know (540/292-0885) and if you would be willing to provide baked goods please leave them in the Church Kitchen by 7 pm on Thursday, September 18th.

## Rebuilding Together Project

The Witness Committee will have a Rebuilding Together Project workday on Saturday, October 4th. All ages are invited to help! More details about this project will be available in the next few weeks.



## **Pulled Chicken and Pork BBQ Fundraiser for a Great Cause!**

**When? Sunday, September 14th, 5:00 PM**

**Where? Bethel Boy Scout Pavilion**

**What? Pulled Chicken and Pork BBQ**

**Why? Fundraiser for Trevor Lee**

### Trevor's Story

Trevor was born in March 2012 to a single woman with a history of poor life choices. When Trevor was four months old, God lifted him out of a rough situation and dropped him into the laps of a slightly bewildered, but incredibly loving, family, the Lees.

Penny and Brian, and their children Harleigh, "Moose", Baileigh, and Lydia have embraced God's call and the unexpected blessing that is Trevor. They have worked extensively with the court system and social services, obtaining the medical records from his first months of life, and eventually being granted legal custody. Trevor's birth mother wants nothing to do with Trevor, and Brian and Penny's dream is to adopt Trevor into their family permanently. Brian and Penny feel it is important that the adoption be final before time to enroll him in school, so that he is never confused about his name or where he belongs.



Trevor's status in the social services system is complicated by a number of factors, which mean that Brian and Penny have had to pay large sums of money to social services as well as expensive court and lawyer fees in order to work through these complications with the end goal of adoption.

Brian and Penny Lee are a wonderful model of Christ's unconditional love and personal sacrifice towards Trevor. They have spent thousands of hard earned dollars fighting for Trevor's well-being, and will continue to do whatever it takes to secure Trevor's future.

Let us, Bethel Church and friends, come out and celebrate this amazing family! We will enjoy great food, fellowship, and most importantly raise money to smooth the financial path for Trevor to join his forever home!



## **Presbyterian Women**

September 2014 - Emphasis: Christian Education  
“Links of Love” - Project

\***The Afternoon Circle** will meet at 1:30 pm at the church on September 9th, 2014.

\***The Evening Circle** will meet at 7:00 pm at the church on September 9th, 2014.

### **September 7th - PWCT Meeting**

As Bethel begins a new year of Sunday School Classes, the Presbyterian Women also begin a new year of Circle meetings in September. If you have not attended Circle, please join us for Bible Study, Fellowship and Food on the second Tuesday of each month. There is an afternoon circle that meets at 1:30 pm and an evening circle that meets at 7:00 pm. We usually meet at the church but check the bulletin for changes. If you have any questions or you would like to get a ride with someone, call Stephanie Rivers at 540-849-9839.



### **Presbyterian Women - Special Emphasis**

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 BIG EVENT - SEPTEMBER 13th, 2014 MASSANETTA SPRINGS, VA**

**THE BIG EVENT is coming up in Saturday, September 13th, 2014, at Massanetta Springs.** This annual event brings together Presbyterian Women, a Mission Fair, and Leadership Workshops along with worship and great fellowship for everyone throughout Shenandoah Presbytery. The day begins with gathering in the Mission Fair area to view what God is doing in mission through congregations and other groups. This is followed by worship, and workshops that include a Bible Study, Presbyterian Women training, church officer training, and discussions on how-to in mission and communications, along with much more. Register by Monday, September 8th. Registration forms and detailed information can be found in the vestibule and the table next to choir room. Questions? Contact Rev. Sarah Hill at [shill@lexpres.org](mailto:shill@lexpres.org).

**The October Tower Deadline** will be Thursday, September 18th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the October Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to her at bethelpc@gmail.com. When writing announcements for the newsletter please keep in mind the 5 W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why?. Answer all these in your announcement, and you can be sure that your news will be communicated well. Please remember if you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower. Thank you!

## **SESSION NEWS**

The Session met Sunday, August 10th, 2014 with eight members present.

The Session approved the purchase of sixty-one chairs and four tables for the Fellowship Hall to provide additional seating.

Session meetings will be changed from the second Sunday night of the month to the second Monday night of the month at 7:00 pm beginning with the September meeting.



The Growth & Strengthening Committee will prepare a welcome package to be given to visitors to include a gift and information about Bethel.

A Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, September 14th, 2014, for the purpose of electing four members to the Nominating Committee.

Penny Lee will substitute for Adrienne in the Church Office during vacation or any other absence.

The Session, Diaconate and Trustees will meet to discuss the Incorporation of Bethel Church. The meeting will be on October 12th following the worship service.

Approval was given to have the option of wine or grape juice at Communion beginning in September.

All Saints Day service will be held on Sunday, November 2nd, 2014.

## **Deacons' Notes**

In August, the Deacons focused on two issues. First, with the completion of the Family restroom in Memorial Hall, the Church has a full handicap accessible facility. The former Ladies Lounge will now function as the Family bathroom, to be used by anyone but particularly useful for those with mobility issues or for families who require a changing table. The prep room adjacent to the restroom will remain, primarily for wedding preparation.

The second issue is the current count and availability of tables and chairs at the Church. Bethel has always had a policy of allowing Congregational members to borrow certain tables and chairs (as well as kitchen implements) using a sign out system. Recently, some of the tables and chairs available for borrow have gone missing. In particular, the tables in the Seekers room have disappeared over the summer. To replenish our supply, the Deacons will be working with the Session and Jon Bush to order new tables and chairs. We will have 150 padded chairs and new tables for use in the Fellowship Hall that will not be available to borrow. We will have four to eight tables available to borrow, with eight metal chairs a piece, accessible from the basement. We will implement a new sign-out policy where Jon Bush or one of the Deacons needs to be informed by the Congregational member when the tables and chairs are borrowed. There will also be a reservation system. If you have any questions, please contact a Deacon.

**Bethel Prayer List** Covie Brandt, Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Polly Bundy, Barbara Burroughs (friend of Laura Barmore), Family of Aubrie Bussard (daughter of David and Victoria Bussard and granddaughter of Nancy Reichard), Hunter Butler (son of Laura Showalter and Jamie Butler and grandson of Steve Hord), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Debbie Callison and her sister-in-law Patricia Stiles and great-niece Reese Burdette, Judy Clark and Tony Teague and their Families (friends of Drury Whitaker), 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, Teri Fitzgerald (friend of Polly Bundy), Sissy Guerrieri (friend of Sally and Bill Brubeck), Joe Hagee (uncle of Laura Barmore), Danielle Hanger, David Hemp, Frances Humphries (friend of Margaret Wade), Jessica Jordan (friend of Summer Barmore), Bill Klitzman (nephew of Louise Hoy), Matt Koogler (Riverheads High School student), Charlie and Sara Ann Lamb, David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Anna Losh (grandmother of Susan Smith's friend), Judy Olson, Hannah Plummer, Carly Pond (12 year old great niece of John Pilson), Pam Prickett and her Florida parents, Sayre Family (Friends of Brian and Penny Lee), John Sproul, Charlotte Swortzel, Brenda Earhart Tankesley, Jerry Utz (Cynthia Williams brother), Isaac Wolfe (son-in-law of Mary Glenn Davis), Rev. Rob Woodfin (Pastor - St. Paul's UMC), MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

## Notes from the Growth & Strengthening Committee . . .

**G & S co-sponsored a Church Picnic** on August 9th at Bethel which was attended by 40 people. Everyone enjoyed a time to visit during the covered dish meal. The big hit was the homemade ice cream thanks to Julie Turner, Kevin Dodson, and Joyce Miller.

Prizes were given at the picnic in several categories, such as “oldest member present”, “member with most grandchildren”, “longest singing in choir”, “person who lived the farthest away”, etc.



There was enough ice cream for an impromptu “Ice Cream on the Lawn” after the worship service on Sunday, August 10th. The weather was much cooler than last year’s picnic, and the much-needed rain held off until Monday.

Thanks to the G & S Committee members and all who helped make this picnic another success!

Submitted by Barb Gough, G & S Co-Chair



## A page from Bethel’s history . . .

### The Evolution of Memorial Hall

The Sunday School Building which contains Memorial Hall was added to the north side of the church in the early 1900’s. Memorial Hall was called either the Old Sunday School Room or Fellowship Hall. The space, serviced by a small kitchen on the west end, was used for fellowship or for holding receptions.

In 1963, the Christian Education Building with its large Fellowship Hall and Kitchen became the social center of the church. A committee sought to repurpose the old Fellowship Hall, and at that time Meg Haislip suggested that it be renamed Memorial Hall.

Much of the current furniture, including the table, the two ornate armchairs, and the four red velvet upholstered side chairs, was purchased by the church from the Moran estate sale.

For many years the Session met around the table in Memorial Hall, but it now meets in the Janie Bumgardner classroom.



**Congratulations and best wishes to Sarah Heizer and Dustin Smith** who were married on August 2nd at Bethel with Rev. David Shearer officiating. Sarah is the daughter of Tom and Lee Ann Heizer.



**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 13th, 2014      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 or  
Martha (Ware) Simmers at (540) 337-0342 or (540) 476-1944



**Gore School--ICare**

We have received the following letters from the orphan girls we sponsor at the Gore School in Ethiopia. They are grateful for our support. Bethel sponsors Misgone and the Seekers Class and others sponsor Derartue.

The children like to receive letters from us. If you wish to write to them, or if you want to help with a contribution, please contact Doris True at 540-885-4526.

Dear My Family,

I am very glad when I write this letter. How are You? Are you all fine? I am fine, thanks to God. Now I am 4 grade student. I am studying hard. My favorite subject is geography, civics, and history. My future ambition is to become scientist, so I am studying hard to get my ambition. In my free time I play football and watch TV with my friend. I would like to say thank you for your support that you do for me day to day.

Until another letter good bye.

Your daughter in Christ,

Misgone

Dear My Family,

When I written this letter I am very happy. I wish you Praise and Peace from the Lord Jesus Christ. How are you? I'm fine, thanks to God. Now I'm learning in Grade 7<sup>th</sup> student. I'm working hard with all subject my favorite subject sport is football and volley ball. My top rate subject is math, English and Physics, and my free time that means after studying I like watch TV and on Saturday and Sunday I worship and pray our God with ladies at our church. My honor family I would like to say you thank you for your deep donation that you do for me day to day. Good bye until another letter.

Your daughter,

Derartu Tite

Dear Bethel,

After spending the summer teaching piano in your church, I wanted to take a moment and thank you for allowing me to do so. Teaching has long been a dream of mine that is now a reality and I could not ask for a better place to work out of. I hope to continue teaching for a long time. Thank you for being so easy to work with. You have helped me with my dream!

In Christ,

Suzanna Burkholder

## Schedules for September 2014

### Flowers

September 7th - Jessie Earhart - Memorial  
September 14th - Keedie Leonard - Communion  
September 21st - Margaret Wade  
September 28th - Cynthia Williams



### Nursery

September 7th - Joyce Davis; Louise Hoy  
September 14th - Chris and Therese Schooley  
September 21st - Keedie Leonard; Cole/Isabelle Leonard  
September 28th - Keith & Kayla Folsom



### Transportation (Charlotte)

September 7th - James Williams  
September 14th - Joe Williams  
September 21st - Dave Schooley  
September 28th - Tom Heizer

### Transportation (Jeb)

September 7th - Rhonda Johnson  
September 14th - Mac Williams  
September 21st - TBA  
September 28th - Chris Schooley

### Offering

Tom Heizer  
Chris Schooley  
Dale Thompson  
Sally Williams



**Congratulations and best wishes to Jonathan Cash and Helen Forloines** who were married on August 2nd in an outdoor ceremony in Crozet, Virginia. Jonathan is the son of Wade and Phyllis Cash.



**The Church Office will be closed** on Monday, September 1st for Labor Day.

**General Fund Monthly Report**

Estimated Budget through July 31st:	\$103,818.00
Actual Budget Expenses:	\$100,581.00
Actual Budget Receipts:	\$100,664.00

**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 13th, 2014, 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 \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10.

There will also be a raffle for a quilt (carpenter's star pattern - measures 72"x72") and a raffle for a bench (cherry wood - approx. size 48" long x 17" high). Tickets are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for 7 tickets. Please contact Joe or Karen Vecchioli at 540-886-0130 for tickets.

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.

**Augusta Regional Free Clinic Tip Night at the Depot!**  
**The Depot Grille, 42 Middlebrook Avenue, Staunton**

Have a delicious dinner while helping provide healthcare services and medicine to thousands for our community's medically uninsured. On Monday, September 8th, 2014, the Augusta Regional Free Clinic will host Depot Grille Tip Night starting at 5:00 pm at the Depot Grille in Staunton. Free Clinic Board Members and staff will greet you at the door, seat you at your table, serve you delicious drinks and dinner, bus your table, and gladly accept your tip! Your "tip" check may be made payable directly to the Augusta Regional Free Clinic to receive a tax deduction for charitable donation. Get some friends together and join us! Visit us on the web at [www.augustafreeclinic.org](http://www.augustafreeclinic.org) or call us at (540) 332-5606 to learn more. Thank you for making a difference in our community!



Don't Forget!

September 1st - Labor Day  
September 11th - Patriot Day  
September 23rd - Autumn Begins

Church Website: [www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org](http://www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org)

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