

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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

October, 2014

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Church Family,

The school year has begun and fall is practically upon us. And with it comes exciting new church events. As summer ends and we return to a more normal day to day schedule I encourage you to take a look at the church's calendar to see all that we offer.

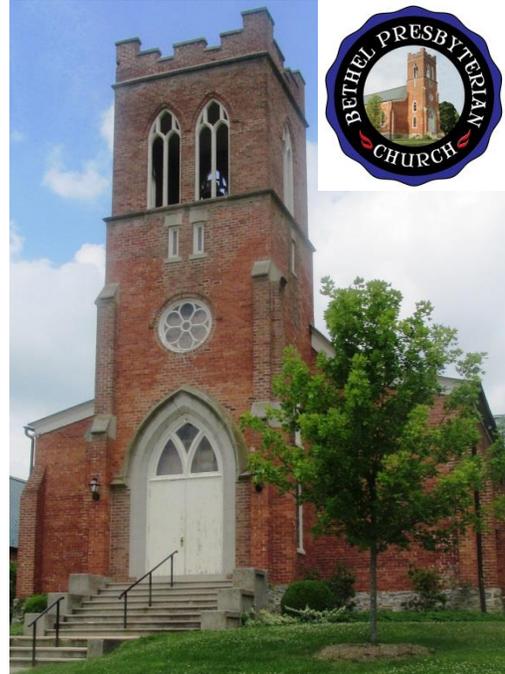
To highlight a few things, Sunday School Rally Day was on September 7th and we have kicked off a new Sunday School year. No matter what your age or interests, we offer a Sunday School for you.

We also recently held a back to school evening vespers service. It was a huge success and we are looking into doing more evening services to celebrate important moments and events in the life of the church.

I am also personally looking forward to our upcoming community Bible study. We will be studying the world and context of Jesus Christ, focusing on his interactions with other groups of people in the first century. It promises to be an interesting discussion where we will learn more about Jesus' mission to the world. It will begin on Thursday, October 2nd, at 7:00 pm.

There are many more events scheduled throughout the next few months. Please keep an eye out for anything that interests you so that we can fellowship together while worshiping God.

God bless,
Pastor David



As I See It

I was chatting with a friend of mine from another state here recently. We were comparing notes on what was going on in our churches. He lamented that his pastor was encouraging the congregation to stay completely out of politics. Even to the point, it seemed, that the pastor would encourage people to not vote.

Taking comments from 1 Peter about obeying worldly institutions and Jesus' own comments about rendering unto Caesar that which is Caesar's this pastor believed that it was important to support whatever government happened to be in place at the time and support in this pastor's opinion meant never working against them, which would include, it seems, any political activity that might remove a person from office.

Needless to say, my friend and I who both majored or minored in politics found this distressing. And I was showing him how our tradition did not support this radical separation of Christians and the political world. In fact our Book of Confessions contains an entire document, *The Theological Declaration of Barman* that teaches that we can be involved in politics.

It was written in the midst of Hitler's tyrannical rule by some of the most important theologians of the 20th Century. It provided the theological rationale for them to oppose the Nazis. However, the PCUSA has seen fit to include this Declaration in our own Book of Confessions. For us, it provides the theological rationale to take part in everyday political life in general.

I am sure that most of you do not need a theological rationale for why we should be allowed to take part in the political arena, but clearly, as demonstrated by my friend's pastor and the PCUSA's inclusion of the Barman Declaration, Christians have and continue to struggle with this question.

In our tradition, however, we see it as our Christian responsibility to take part in the public arena. Fortunately, in this nation, we have the right and opportunity to do that very thing. It is distressing, however, how many of us decide not to exercise that right. Next month we will have the incredible opportunity to select our leaders by voting for them. In the history of human civilization we are, by far, in the minority by being able to make this choice. Whoever you vote for, this is an incredible right and responsibility. I encourage you to prayerfully consider what type of leaders will be best for our civilization and I encourage you to vote.



October Worship Schedule

October 5, 2014

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 12, 2014

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

October 19, 2014

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; I Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 26, 2014

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; I Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

Communion will be held on October 5th, 2014, World Communion Sunday.

The Session, Deacons, and Trustees will be meeting on Sunday, October 19th directly after worship to discuss the process of incorporation. Lunch will be provided. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

New Bible Study Beginning!

Thursday Nights Starting October 2nd

7:00 pm

Bible Study Theme: The Life and Times of Jesus Christ

Questions: Contact Pastor David at 540/490-2258 or jdavidshearer@gmail.com



“Share the Bounty” Sunday

Sharing the bounty. Summer is over and fall is here. Gardens have provided vegetables for our tables for months. Are you tired of them? Want to share? The Worship and Witness Committees are designating Sunday, October 12th as “Share the Bounty” Sunday. Here is your chance to share with others in the community. The Witness Committee will gather the fresh vegetables/fruit you donate and take them to Kingsway. An extra basket will be placed in the vestibule. Don’t have a garden? That’s OK. The Cub and Boy Scouts from Pack 13 and Troop 13 will pass out bags that Sunday for canned goods and other nonperishables that will also be donated to Kingsway. The emphasis is on food most needed for nutrition, such as peanut butter, baby formula, complete packaged meals, and canned goods such as tuna, chunky soups, stews, meats, fruits and vegetables. Bags will be collected on Sunday, October 19th. Please share what you can with those in need.

All Saints Observance

On Sunday, November 2nd, Bethel will be observing “All Saints Day”. This is the day in the church calendar when we celebrate 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”.



Congregational Meeting News

During the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 14th, 2014, the following people were elected by the Congregation to the Nominating Committee for 2014:

Sally Brubeck

Penny Lee

Wayne Swisher

John Wooddell

Nominations for the Class of 2017 are due Sunday, October 5th and Nominating Forms are included in the Sunday worship bulletins. Thank you.

Christian Education News October 2014

Harvest Party

Come join us for Bethel's annual Harvest Party on Saturday, **October 25th, 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 25th for fall fun and fellowship!



**Presbyterian Women - October 2014
Project - Blanket Offering**

***The Afternoon Circle** will meet at the church on October 14th, 2014, at 1:30 pm.

***The Evening Circle** will meet at the church on October 14th, 2014, at 7:00 pm.

October 5th - PWCT Meeting

The Men of the Church will be meeting for dinner and fellowship on October 21st, at 6:30 pm.



**IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR!!
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES**

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has distributed over 113 mission shoebox gifts to boys and girls around the world in Jesus' name through Operation Christmas Child. Each shoebox gift can bring joy and the good news of Jesus Christ to a child in need. Please be a part of this effort by filling a shoebox this year. An information sheet and brochure on how to pack your shoeboxes will be in the bulletin on Sunday, October 19th. All shoeboxes will be due by Sunday, November 16th. Thank you for all the past support of this project. If you have any questions, please see or call Peggy Smith (292-0885 or jug27peg@yahoo.com).

**Advent Workshop
Sunday, November 30th, 2014**

The 2014 Advent Workshop will be on Sunday, November 30th, following worship. We will have a light lunch and activities will include crafts representing each Sunday of Advent. Each family participating will receive an Advent wreath and Advent calendar to be used at home during the Advent season. Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ. Please be a part of this Advent Workshop. If you have any questions, please see or contact Peggy Smith (292-0885 or jug27peg@yahoo.com).

SESSION NEWS

The Session met Monday, September 8th, 2014, with eight members and the Moderator present.

Approval was given to purchase sixty-four chairs and eight tables for the Fellowship Hall which will be paid for from the Memorial Fund.

The 21st Century Renovation Committee was given approval to begin the third phase of the renovation project. This will include completing exterior painting, repairing a water problem in the downstairs Sunday School area, and replacing the floor in the restrooms.

Cole Herndon has chosen to build a chapel at the Bethel Picnic Pavilion as his Eagle Scout Project. The cost is approximately \$1,600 of which he has raised over \$1,000. The Session approved \$600 from the Youth Fund to complete this project.



Approval was given to remove the carpet from the Bumgardner classroom and the hallway at the handicap entrance involved in repurposing the use of Memorial Hall.

Jill Webb reported on her attendance at the meeting of Presbytery at Camp Paddy Run on Saturday, August 23rd, 2014.

Adrienne Barker will be out of the Church Office from Monday, October 6th through Thursday, October 9th. Penny Lee will be filling in as Church Office Manager that week. Office hours will still be Monday through Thursday from 9 am until 3 pm. Many thanks to Penny for filling in while Adrienne is on vacation!

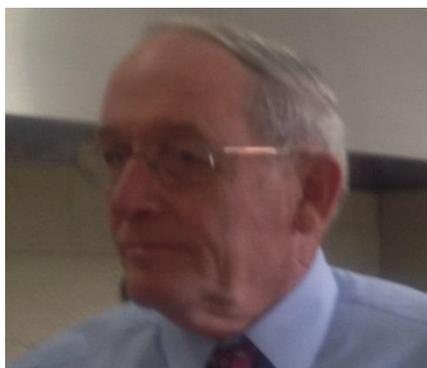
The Communications Committee reminds everyone that if you have an event or announcement that you would like to have on the Bethel website or Facebook, let us know and we can help advertise! Members of the committee are: Tabby Moore, Tim Turner, Jill Webb, Joyce Miller, Penny Lee, Chris Schooley and Tom Whitaker.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Once again, Bethel is able to benefit from contributions by Kroger when we make purchases at their stores. To qualify for the benefits, Kroger shoppers should register online at krogercommunityrewards.com, and follow these instructions:

- Click on Sign In/Register
- Click on SIGN UP TODAY in the ‘New Customer?’ box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address, creating a password, and agreeing to the terms and conditions.
- You will then be asked to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address. Create a new password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter our organization number, 83198 or Bethel Presbyterian Church, or select Bethel from the list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, look for Bethel’s name on the right side of your information page.
- If you use your phone number at the register in place of your Plus card, get your Kroger Plus card number by calling 800-576-4377, option 4.
- To benefit Bethel, you must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card for purchases or use the phone number that is related to your Kroger Plus card.
- For assistance in the registration process, please call Bethel’s Community Rewards administrator, Joyce Miller, @ 540-337-0828.



Deacons' Notes

In September, the Deacons completed a few important tasks and began planning for important fall activities. Additional chairs and tables have been purchased to augment our current stock. The goal of phasing out the older, heavy tables and having all new tables has been completed. We also have added enough padded chairs that some of the older chairs can be donated to the Middlebrook Fire Department. We have kept metal chairs to be loaned out as needed. A sign-out system has been completed and can be found in the Fellowship Hall.

We have also begun planning for painting and improvements in the Youth room upstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Susan Smith has been a big help working with the Youth and lining up Deacon help. If you would like to assist, please let Susan know. We have also scheduled the Trash Pickup for Howardsville Road for November 7th and 8th. Details follow below. Please join us!

Trash Pick-Up Days

The Deacons will be picking up trash along Howardsville Road on Friday, November 7th at 5:00 pm and Saturday, November 8th at 9:00 am. Please meet at the church and remember to 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.

Bethel Prayer List: Catherine Armstrong (Kay Thompson's mother and Penny Lee's grandmother), Friends and Family of Covie Brandt, Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Friends and Family of 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 Pam Boone (Jill Webb's neighbor), Jessie Earhart, Sissy Guerrieri (friend of Sally and Bill Brubeck), Joe Hagee (uncle of Laura Barmore), Danielle Hanger, 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, Christ Glover Pilson (John Pilson's niece), Carly Pond (12 year old great niece of John Pilson), Pam Prickett and her Florida parents, Friends and Family of Winnie Simmers, John Sproul, Charlotte Swortzel, Brenda Earhart Tankesley, Jerry Utz (Cynthia Williams brother), Chloe Vint and her mother Tosha (friends of Briana Lawhorne), 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

Dear Friends of Bethel Preschool,

I want to thank you so very much for your amazing generosity in the form of the bonus check you sent to me recently. This is a great blessing to my family and reminds me of the continued support Bethel Church has given me during the last ten years at the preschool!

Our community children have received so much from Bethel providing the wonderful rooms and playground, as well as many individual scholarships over the years. It is sad to see the era close but, I too sensed the timing to be right.

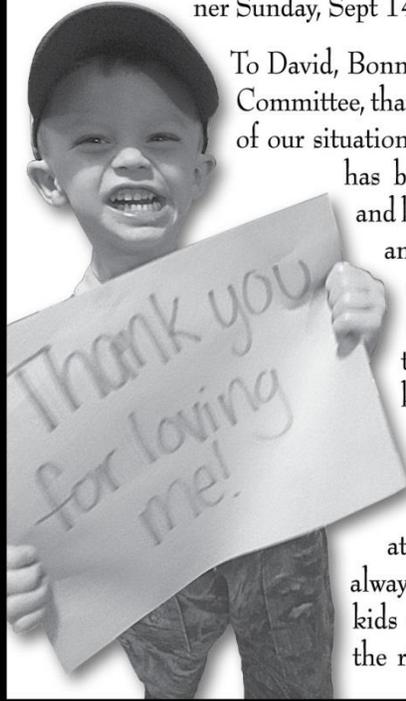
This will always be my favorite job, and I will miss seeing many of you through the school year - in the halls of your beautiful church. Thank you again for letting me be your partner in ministry, and God bless you abundantly in the years of ministry ahead!

Sincerely,
Pam Kirchman



With heartfelt GRATITUDE

Words seem so small to thank you for the outpouring of love shown to Trevor & our family at the Bring Trevor Home dinner Sunday, Sept 14th.



To David, Bonnie and the Witness Committee, thank you for thinking of our situation at all. Our family has been through a lot and keeping it protected and intact has never been cheap but always our priority. Not many folks know our business and you all know more than you probably care to at this point :) We've always hoped that our kids will see that doing the right thing is never

easy, and no matter the struggle, it is still the right thing. We appreciate your concern, your time and your efforts in organizing such a big event to help expedite Trevor's adoption.

Many thanks to the ladies that made the cupcakes for the kids to decorate and to all the kids that came to decorate (& the parents that brought them!)

To Rhonda, Kathy, Sarah Frances, Peggy, and the fellas... Wayne, Jug and Charlie and anyone else that was a part of the food fest, thank you for all the time and work you spent preparing, serving & cleaning up after such a wonderful meal.

To our Bethel family and friends in our community, your tremendous generosity towards Trevor is still unfathomable. You all have shown so much love towards our family and have welcomed us into Bethel with open arms. What a truly amazing place to raise our family, as a branch of the Bethel family tree.

We will keep you posted as we progress.

Peace and love,
The Lee's

Dian Jenny Harleigh
MOOSE Banleigh Lydia and Trevor



EVENTS AT MASSANETTA SPRINGS THIS FALL

Massanetta Springs Family Conference October 10th - 12th, 2014

Play

Families of all ages draw closer when they play together - and with others! Enjoy recreating through play that offers fun for everyone!

Pray

Families of all ages grow closer to God with creative and meaningful times for connecting with God. Enjoy a Sabbath Space where prayer will be engaged in many ways.

Give

Families of all ages grow in their love of one another, of God and of the world when they roll up their sleeves and serve! Enjoy hands-on projects for others in need.

Meet our Theme!

We have a new flow to our retreat! We will play, pray, and give each day! There will also be time for rest and to enjoy fall fun.

Friday: Special times of recreation will welcome you and the Sacred Space will be open for those who want some quieter time.

Saturday: Will include some all-retreat recreation events, time in our Sacred Space, and hands-on service opportunities for others.

Sunday Worship: A highlight of the Family Conference is our intergenerational worship led by all ages and including communion.

For more information or if you have questions please contact Laura Holbrook: laurah@massanettasprings.org or call (888) 627-7774. Registration forms can be found at www.massanettasprings.org. You can also contact Irene Elliott (Bethel Christian Education Chair) at 885-3554 or IPElliott@aol.com for more information.



Massanetta's swan----->

< ----- Massanetta's lake



MORE MASSANETTA EVENTS THIS FALL

LIFE IS A HIGHWAY

Trusting God, Walking by Faith, Enjoying the Journey

The Shenandoah Presbytery Middle Rally

For 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and Adult Leaders

Sunday, October 12th, 2014 ~10:30 am until 3:30 pm (Please arrive before 10:15 AM)

Camp Massanetta at Massanetta Springs

\$14.00 per person (includes lunch)

Registration is due October 6th, 2014. For more information please contact Irene Elliott (Bethel Christian Education Chair) at 885-3554 or IPElliott@aol.com

The 2014 SALT (Serving And Learning Together) Event

Building the formational and informational components of a vibrant youth ministry

November 14th - 16th, 2014

Massanetta Springs

Cost: \$110/with t-shirt \$125

For Adult, Collegiate and High School Leaders of Youth

Who, Me? Yes, You!

How often do we imitate the real-life-people of Scripture reluctant to hear the call to love and serve God? How often do we wish someone else would lead, or others would have faith for us? How often are we hesitant to hear the whisper in our ear to seek a more excellent way and to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God? Come let us reason together as we explore Scripture, Call, and God's desire to have us say "YES, Me!"

Keyshop Leader: Michelle Thomas-Bush, Associate Pastor for Youth and their Families at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC

Music Leader: Jon Frost

Dynamic and Engaged Workshop Leaders

For more information and/or registration forms go to: www.massanettasprings.org



←----- Meal time at Massanetta

October 2014 SCHEDULES

Flowers

October 5th - Ginny Gano/Communion/Memorial
October 12th - Jill Webb/Memorial
October 19th - Jane Law/Memorial
October 26th - Laura Barmore/Memorial



Nursery

October 5th - James and Cynthia Williams
October 12th - Mary Ann Anderson; Mason Whitaker
October 19th - Joe and Tabby Moore
October 26th - Jackie Law; Stephanie Rivers



Transportation (Charlotte)

October 5th - Rhonda Johnson
October 12th - Mac Williams
October 19th - Sally Williams
October 26th - Pat Quick

Transportation (Jeb)

October 5th - Laura Barmore
October 12th - Sally Williams
October 19th - TBA
October 26th - Chris Schooley



Offering

October 2014

Barb Gough
Tabby Moore
Dale Thompson
Sally Williams



Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Polly Bundy who passed away on September 3rd, 2014.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Covie Brandt who passed away on September 4th, 2014.



Our sympathies and condolences to Marion Simmers and his family on the passing of his mother Winnie Simmers on September 12th, 2014.

Receiving Treasurer Report

Estimated Budget through 8/31/2014: \$118,649
Receipts: \$115,864 Expenses: \$111,835

Remember that stewardship season is fast approaching! Be thinking about the programs, ministry, and outreach of our congregation and how you might support them.

Community Announcements

The Staunton Choral Society is seeking new members so if you love to sing please join them! There are no auditions and rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7 pm until 9 pm in the chapel of First Baptist Church (406 W. Frederick St - Staunton; enter from N. Madison Street). Please call 540/248-3607 for more information.

Mark Your Calendars!

St. John's Reformed UCC will have their Annual Fall (Ham and Turkey) Supper and Country Store on Saturday, October 4th beginning at 4 pm. Make plans now to come!



Don't Forget!

October 13th - Columbus Day
October 31st - Halloween

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

ALS ice bucket challenge

Sept 21 2014

