

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

November 30th - December 6th

- Today:** 1st Sunday of Advent
9:45 - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship/Communion/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
- Thursday:** 7:00 - Bible Study
- Saturday:** 10:00 - 2:00 - Officers Training and Joint Meeting

Next Sunday, December 7th: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Deadline: Salvation Army Gifts

9:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Worship

3:00 - Private Party (Fellowship Hall and Kitchen)

Greeters: Barbara Gough and Pat Quick

*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 2014 Advent Workshop will be today in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. This workshop consists of a light lunch and craft activities representing each Sunday of Advent. Each family will receive an Advent wreath and calendar to be used at home during the Advent season. All ages are invited to attend this workshop!

*Adrienne Barker will be out of the Church Office from tomorrow, Monday, December 1st through Thursday, December 4th. Penny Lee will be filling in as Church Office Manager. 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!

*Want an idea for Christmas presents? The Growth & Strengthening Committee has new Bethel travel mugs with the Bethel logo on them for \$10.00 each. You can see the mug and sign-up to order mugs at the table in Memorial Hall. The deadline to sign-up if you want the mugs in time for Christmas is this Tuesday, DECEMBER 2nd. If you have questions please see Barb Gough or Tom Whitaker.

*There will be Officer Training and a joint meeting of the Session, Diaconate, and Board of Trustees next Saturday, December 6th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. All current officers and all newly elected officers (Elders, Deacons, and Trustees) who will be serving in 2015 need to make plans to attend. If you are unable to be there please let Pastor David know as soon as possible (540/490-2258; jdavidshearer@gmail.com).

*Watch for the Salvation Army tree which will be on the table in 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 7th 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 8th 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 9th, at 11:00 am (note the time change!). The meeting will be at the home of Libby Smith (180 Howardsville Road; Staunton). Please contact Libby at 540/337-2058 if you have any questions.

*The Evening Circle will have a Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 9th, at 6:00 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, contact Yvonne Goodson at 540/712-0678.

*The January Tower Deadline will be Thursday, December 11th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the January 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 of 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!

*The Communications Committee will meet on Sunday, December 14th, at 9:00 am.

*The Joy Gift offering will be collected during the worship service on Sunday, December 14th. The Joy Gift Offering is a special offering for the PCUSA and the money given will be distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to help support Presbyterian racial ethnic education. Inserts are in your bulletin this Sunday and will be in your bulletin next Sunday giving more details about the Joy Gift Offering. Envelopes will be available in your bulletin on Sunday, December 14th, if you choose to give to the Joy Gift Offering.

*The Joy Gift program will be held on Sunday, December 14th following the worship service. We will be having a covered dish meal so bring your favorite dish to share! Following the meal we will be having a program presented by our young people under the direction of Susan Smith. Come and join us for a great meal and the program that will follow!

*The Stonewall Brigade Band, Staunton's 80-piece community concert band, will present its annual Christmas Concert on Monday evening, December 15th at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 2000 Shutterlee Mill Road, Staunton. The Stonewall Flutes of Shenandoah will play in the Narthex of the church from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Admission is free. An offering will be taken to benefit both the Salvation Army and the Valley Mission. For further information about the band go to their website: www.stonewallbrigadeband.com.

*Pastor David is switching his days off. From now on, unless noted otherwise, Pastor David will have Mondays and Fridays off. Adrienne will continue to be in the office Monday through Thursday from 9 am until 3 pm.

*Evergreen wreaths represent the unending cycle of life and have been the symbols of victory and honor. As early as 1444, evergreen boughs were used as Christmas decorations in London. In 16th century Germany, evergreen branches were intertwined in a circular shape to symbolize God's love, which has no beginning and no end and remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus. Isaiah 60:13 says, "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the juniper, the fir and the cypress together, to adorn my sanctuary." Thank you to Betty and Jim Crosby for, again donating the wreaths that adorn the doors of the church during Advent and Christmas.

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

November 23rd

Thanksgiving Service Attendance: 55

Worship Attendance: 85

Weekly Budget: \$3,436.00 Received: \$4,006.00

Four Cents A Meal Offering: \$292.00

Financial Stewardship

Offerings 2014: It is requested that offerings for 2014 be made no later than Sunday, December 28th. Thank you for your continued support.

Pledges 2015: Pledges for a total of \$85,600 have been received. Thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2015 - it is never too late! A pledge card is included below, and they are also available at the church. 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 for 2015: Beginning Sunday, December 14th, numbered offering envelopes will be available in the vestibule. If you received numbered envelopes in 2014 you will have the same number reserved for 2015. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to, please contact the Church Office with your request.

Bethel is trying to keep you informed of people who are in need of prayer. Please take this sheet home and post it somewhere that will be visible to you. See the contact numbers at the end of the list to keep us updated with changes or additions.

- Barb Gough

Bethel Prayer List 11.30.14 Please keep these in Prayer:

New Additions:

Katie Johnson, Wes McElveen and the McElveen Family
Friends and Family of Tommy Stephenson

Friends and Family of Catherine Armstrong
(Kay Thompson's mother and Penny Lee's grandmother)

Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers)

Barbara Burroughs (friend of Laura Barmore)

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, Tony Teague and their Families
(friends of Drury Whitaker)

Jim and Betty Crosby

Ginger Damico (Larry Damico's mother)

Jarod Davis (please send cards)

Friends and Family of Jessie Earhart

Joe Hagee (uncle of Laura Barmore)

Danielle Hanger

John & Gwen Haspels (PCUSA Missionaries in Ethiopia)

Frances Humphries (friend of Margaret Wade)

Travis Hutchinson (friend of Rhonda and Charlie Johnson)

Jessica Jordan (friend of Summer Barmore)

Bill Klitzman (nephew of Louise Hoy)

(Prayer List Continued)

Matt Koogler (Riverheads High School student)

Friends and Family of Charlie Lamb

Sara Ann Lamb

David Law

Margaret Liptrap

Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones)

Anna Losh (grandmother of Susan Smith's friend)

Judy Olson

Christy Glover Pilson (John Pilson's niece)

Carly Pond (12 year old great niece of John Pilson)

Pam Prickett and her mother

Carol Richardson (Yvonne Goodson's sister)

Jeremy Shipe

Charlotte Swortzel

Jerry Utz (Cynthia Williams brother)

Friends and Family of Chloe Vint

Bruce Webb (friend of Corbett Smith)

Rev. Rob Woodfin (Pastor - St. Paul's UMC)

MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

With any additions or updates, please call Tammy Barbour,
540-471-0450, Barb Gough, 540-255-6521, or the Church
Office, 540-886-6041.

(Prayer List continued)