

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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February, 2015 Website –

bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Church Family,

In the secular world February marks the month of love. February 14 is, of course, Valentine's Day, a holiday that celebrates love. For those of us that are lucky enough to have a significant other, February provides us with a special time to express that love.

But I also want to remind you of our love for each other. It may not be the primary point of Valentine's Day, but as we are inundated with red heart balloons in stores and cards with Cupid on them, I encourage you to remember not only the romantic love that the holiday usually represents but also the Christian love that Jesus commands us to have for each other.

Since God has made us all members of the body of Christ we should love, respect, and support each other in all things. The Church talks a lot about loving our enemies, that famous command of Jesus. We are told to love those that persecute us, love the ones that are hard if not impossible to love.

But I would also like to remind you of what *should* be easier, but often times gets forgotten. In John 13:34 Jesus says this: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

We often focus on loving the people that are difficult to love, and that's great, we should love them. But we forget that love is something that takes work. Love is not something that just happens. And we need to remember that Jesus has commanded us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ and continually work on that love.

Let February, the month of love, remind you of that. Let it remind you that we all must nurture and care for our love of each other.

God bless, Pastor David Shearer

As I See It

February has always been a tough month for me. It's cold and dark. The days are short and everything always seems so gloomy. The enchantment and beauty of winter has disappeared and I am left with just feeling cold.

Fortunately for me, it only has 28 days in it.

But February doesn't have to be like that. There are also some very important things that go on in the church in this month. On February 15th, we will be celebrating the Transfiguration of our Lord Sunday. This memorializes the miracle on top of the mountain when Jesus' divine glory manifested and transformed his body.



Like the transformation of winter to spring that I so long for in February, Transfiguration Sunday demonstrates to us that there is more than meets the eye. Jesus Christ, who was fully human, was also fully divine, being the Second Person of the Trinity.

And that reminds us of the miracle of his incarnation: that God chose to live among us because his love for us was simply that strong. February doesn't have to be dark and deep winter because God's glory is eternal and his love for us never fades.



February Worship Schedule

February 1, 2015
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
11:00 am
Read: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

February 8, 2015
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Boy Scout Sunday
11:00 am
Read: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 15, 2015
Transfiguration of the Lord
Sacrament of Holy Communion
11:00 am
Read: II Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
Congregational Meeting Following Worship

February 22, 2015
1st Sunday in Lent
11:00 am
Read: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Communion will be held on February 15th, Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday.

Boy Scout Sunday will be Sunday, February 8th, 2015. During the worship service, the Boy Scouts will be recognized for their contribution to the community and to Bethel. All are invited to this special service!

Remember the Lenten season is fast approaching! The season will begin with the community Ash Wednesday service on February 18th. More details on the 2015 Lenten Schedule will be available at a later date.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 15th, 2015, following the morning worship service, for the purpose of presenting the 2014 Annual Reports and approving the 2015 Budget.

Super Bowl Sunday
Souper Bowl of Caring

The Bethel Youth are asking you to tackle hunger with them on Super Bowl Sunday with the Souper Bowl of Caring. The congregation is asked to bring non-perishable food or make monetary donations on Sunday, February 1st, 2015. Our young people will be collecting the

food and money for Kingsway after the worship service. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated in this annual service project.

**MISSION FUNDRAISER!
HOMEMADE PIZZA and SHOW!**

February 8, 2015

The Witness/Mission committee is hosting an evening of homemade pizza and fun on Sunday, February 8th with the first pizzas ready at 4:00 pm. This event features homemade pizza galore, by Tish and Keith Folsom. We would love for anyone wishing to help (and learn how to make delicious pizza!) to come into the kitchen. Pizza making is a great social event! We take requests and can even do take out. Please place a take-out order in advance if at all possible, to avoid a long wait.

A free will offering will be collected that goes to fund all mission efforts of our congregation. We will also be having our **Silent Auction from 4:00 to 6:30**, when the bidding closes. Please consider an item or two to donate to this fun afternoon. What a great way to thin out the excess in your home. Any new or gently used item can be placed on the stage where we will get them set up for display by noon on the 8th of Feb. If you can't come back for pizza, you can still place a bid on an item.

So what about the show part? We are very lucky to have a **contemporary Christian band** from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro coming to perform. They will start at the conclusion of the silent auction. The band is called **Refuge**. They are a very talented group of musicians, playing a nice variety of Christian music. We know you'll love what they bring to their worship every week. Please plan to stay for this uplifting performance to conclude our kickoff fundraiser for 2015.

Invite your friends for pizza and a show! This event is open to the community. As always, the pizza and live show is held for a freewill offering that benefits all of the Missions in which Bethel involved.

**Presbyterian Women
February 2015
Emphasis: Witness Season, Lent**

***The Afternoon Circle will meet** at the church on February 10th at 1:30 pm.

***The Evening Circle will meet** at Gypsy Hill Place on February 10th at 7:00 pm.

Please contact Irene Elliott or Yvonne Goodson if you have questions.



February 1st - PWCT Meeting

SESSION NEWS

The Session met Monday, January 12th, with ten members and the Moderator present.

At our Session meeting, we were privileged to have the Rev. Dr. Roy Martin present. He is the Transitional Presbyter of Shenandoah Presbytery. Dr. Martin spoke about actions taken by the last General Assembly which gave us an opportunity to discuss the General Assembly and Presbytery functions.

The 2015 budget was approved.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 15th, to approve the budget and the annual reports.

The Statistical Report for 2014 was approved.

The Treasurer's Report was received.

The Session approved a 5-K Run sponsored by the Witness Committee to raise money for the Baja Mission trip. The date will be announced later.

Boy Scout Sunday will be held Sunday, February 8th, during the morning worship.



KROGER DONATION PROGRAM

Thank you, Bethel congregation, for using your Kroger Gift Card to help Bethel receive more than \$3000 in donations. Kroger no longer uses the Gift Card for its charitable donations to organizations.

Kroger now uses your Kroger Plus Card. It still costs you nothing extra. Please go to krogercommunityrewards.com, register your Plus Card, follow the prompts, and choose the Bethel organization or its number, 83198. Credits will then be applied to Bethel whenever you scan your Kroger Plus Card.

Please contact Joyce Miller if you need help in the registration process (540/255-9136; or rimcorp@msn.com).

Bethel Prayer List

Alan Brown, Ben and Faye Brown, 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 & her sister-in-law Patricia Stiles & great-niece Reese Burdette, Judy Clark & Tony Teague & their Families (friends of Drury Whitaker), Jim & Betty Crosby, Ginger Damico (Larry Damico's mother), Jarod Davis (please send cards), Friends and Family of Frazier Fall (Uncle of James, Joe, and Mac Williams), Dan Gano and Family (death of his mother, Evelyn Johnson Gano), Joe Hagee (uncle of Laura Barmore), Danielle Hanger, Frances Humphries (friend of Margaret Wade), Travis Hutchinson (friend of Rhonda and Charlie Johnson), Bill Klitzman (nephew of Louise Hoy), Matt Koogler (Riverheads High School student), Mo Kyle, Sara Ann Lamb, David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Mary Ann Moffett (friend of the Schooleys'), Judy Olson, Christy Glover Pilson (John Pilson's niece), Carly Pond (12 year old great niece of John Pilson), Pam Prickett and her family, Carol Richardson (Yvonne Goodson's sister), Jeremy Shipe, Friends and Family of Tommy Stephenson, Charlotte Swortzel, Doris True, Friends and Family of Tom Tullidge, Jerry Utz (Cynthia Williams brother), Bruce Webb (friend of Corbett Smith), Keith Williams (Pam Prickett's brother), Rev. Rob Woodfin (Former Pastor - St. Paul's UMC), MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends.

In the event of bad weather on Sunday mornings, please tune into WHSV - TV3 (Harrisonburg) or log onto their website (www.whsv.com) for information on whether church has been cancelled. Thank you!



February 2015 Schedules:

Nursery

February 1st - Mary Ann Anderson; Mason Whitaker
February 8th - Joe and Tabby Moore
February 15th - Jackie Law; Stephanie Rivers
February 22nd - Barbara Damico; Eloise Moore



Flowers

February 1st - Evelyn LaPorte
February 8th - Jill Webb - Memorial
February 15th - Libby Smith - Communion
February 22nd - Ginny Gano



Transportation

February 1st - TBA

February 8th - February 22nd - Dale Thompson

Offering

Tammy Barbour	Tom Heizer
Tabby Moore	Joe Williams



Family Fun Night
February 17 2015

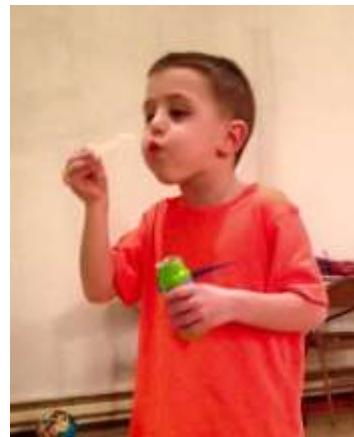


Growth & Strengthening Committee

If you'd like to help us keep up with Bethel membership and plan church activities to strengthen our congregation, please consider joining the Growth & Strengthening Committee. Talk to Barb Gough (540/255-6521) or Tom Whitaker (540/607-6165) about it, if you have questions or ideas!



More Family Fun night





Receiving Treasurer Report

Pledges 2015: 33 pledges for a total of \$92,840 have been received. Thanks to those that pledged. It is never too late to pledge. Pledge cards are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. Send completed cards to the church (attn: Receiving Treasurer) or put in the offering plate any Sunday.

General Fund 2014:

Receipts to Budget \$185,584
Actual Budget Expenses \$179,163

21st Century Fund 2012, 2013 & 2014:

Receipts \$147,602
Paid to Contractors \$90,167

Please send your announcements for the weekly bulletin to the Church Office by 3 pm each Wednesday. Feel free to email the information to: bethelpc@gmail.com or you can place it in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall. Thank you!

The March Tower Deadline will be Thursday, February 12th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the March Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to:

bethelpc@gmail.com. When writing announcements for the newsletter please keep in mind the 5 W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why? Please remember if you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower. Thank you!

Bethel Congregation and Friends:

Please submit any changes to your address, phone numbers, email, etc. to the Church Office. If we do not have your correct information, you may miss out on Bethel events and news. You can send update information to the Church Office at bethelpc@gmail.com. Thank you!

Our sympathies and condolences to the friends and family of Thomas Tullidge, Sr. who passed away on December 27th, 2014.

Our sympathies and condolences to Dan Gano and his family on the passing of his mother Evelyn Johnson Gano on January 10th, 2015.

Thank you for the prayers, card and condolences after the loss of my father. My family and I appreciate your thoughtfulness. - Stephanie Rivers



Family Fun Night



Don't Forget!
February 1st - Super Bowl Sunday
February 2nd - Groundhog Day February
14th - Valentine's Day
February 16th- Presidents' Day
February 18th - Ash Wednesday

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

