

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church

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Website – bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org



September, 2015

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Church Family,

When I was young September always seemed to be a very mundane month to me. I don't really know why that is because when I was a boy that was the month in which school started and my family has several birthdays and other celebrations in September. But nonetheless, it always *felt* like just a neutral month to me with nothing major going on.

Of course, that all changed in 2001. Now I cannot think of September without remembering exactly where I was when America was attacked on September 11th. I have heard older generations say that they will never forget where they were when they heard that JFK had been assassinated and I think that September 11th is my version of that.

I remember the flurry of patriotism following that day and I remember the remarks of 'never forget' and I hope that that is true. I hope that we never do forget the massive loss of life needlessly sacrificed for some perverted understanding of Divine Will.

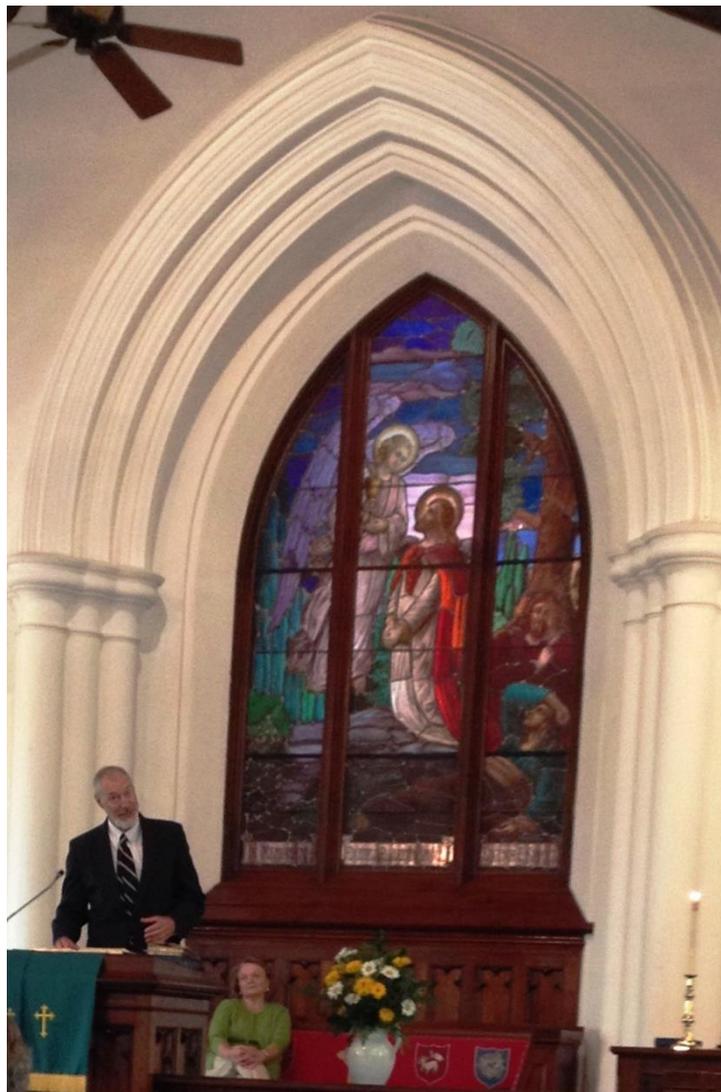
I hope that you all can join me in my prayer for the families that still mourn the loss of loved ones both on September 11th and in the military actions that followed. I also pray that the senseless violence that is terrorism comes to an end.

God bless,
Pastor David



As I See It

I have noticed a trend in society. Or rather two different trends. On the one hand our society seems to be moving toward increased secularization. And that has given us all the impression that people are less and less interested in the divine. But watching trends closely reveals that while society as a whole is turning more and more secular, there is simultaneously what seems to be an increase in individual interest in spirituality. This is particularly true among our young people who seem to be yearning for something to connect with. In light of that, the Church has a unique opportunity to provide that spirituality. I encourage us all to think about our own connection to God. Do we spend enough time in personal prayer? How about reading Scripture? We can all become closer to God, and as a church we can and should provide for a place where people can grow spiritually.



September Worship Schedule

September 6, 2015, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 James 2:1-17 Mark 7:24-37

September 13, 2015, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Proverbs 1:20-33 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38

September 20, 2015, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Proverbs 31:10-31 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

September 27, 2015, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Baja Sunday
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

Communion will be held on September 13th, the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Baja Sunday - September 27th, 2015

The **2015 Baja team** will be leading the Sunday worship service on September 27th. Since 2000, teams from churches within the Shenandoah Presbytery have gone to Vicente Guerrero, BCN, Mexico to build homes for displaced Oaxacan Indian families. This year we completed three houses, making a total of 53 homes provided over the years. This was an extra special year for the team as one member accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized on the beach during our Communion Services the last evening. Join us for Worship!



After church get-togethers: Our gatherings after church continue to provide an opportunity for pleasant conversations among friends and good, light refreshments. Thanks go out to all who have provided the "goodies", as well as their time to prepare the set-ups. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall if you would like to take a turn. September is open for those who would like to help the Growth & Strengthening Committee continue this reception time.

ATTENTION- RALLY DAY CHANGE

Sunday, September 13, is the traditional Rally Day to begin the Sunday School year. Please note the change in the schedule this year. Instead of breakfast we will have a short program during the worship service to present Bibles to the children who are eligible to receive them. Following the worship service, please join us for fellowship and refreshments.

Sunday School is for all ages. Classes meet from 9:45 am - 10:45 am. All are encouraged to make a commitment to join us for this time of fellowship and Bible study.

Bible Study Resumes . . .

Thursday Nights Starting September 10th
7:00 pm in the Bethel Fellowship Hall

Bible Study theme will continue to be the Gospel of John

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

Potluck Dinner on Thursday, September 17th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish and join us for a meal and an evening of activities for all ages. At 7:00 pm the adults will attend David's Bible study group. The young adults, youth, and children will then go to three assigned areas for appropriate age level activities. Bring a friend and join us for this special event and time of fellowship. We look forward to seeing you on September 17th!



The October Tower Deadline is Thursday, September 17th. Please have articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or emailed to: bethelpc@gmail.com. If you turn in items after the deadline they may not be included in the Tower. When writing announcements for the newsletter please keep in mind the 5 W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why? Please remember that all announcements and information are subject to editing. Thank you!



Witness Committee Food Booth at The Meating Place - The Witness Committee will work the Food Booth at The Meating Place (Middlebrook Road, Staunton) on Friday, September 25th and Saturday, September 26th. The Food Booth is open from 8 am until 4 pm. Ways that you can help include volunteering to work in the Food Booth on Friday and/or Saturday for shifts from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Also, you can help by providing homemade baked goods: fruit pies, homemade bread and rolls, brownies, cookies, 1/2 a cake, candy, and peanut butter or chocolate fudge. If you would like to volunteer to help in the Food Booth or can provide baked goods, please contact Peggy Smith (540-292-0885; jug27peg@yahoo.com). If you are providing baked goods and would like to leave them at the church, please leave them in the Church Kitchen by 7 pm on Thursday night, September 24th. All proceeds go towards Bethel's mission projects. Please tell your friends and come and enjoy breakfast or lunch or both with us!

BASICS of READING MUSIC - Jill Webb will again offer a basics of reading music class starting Sunday, August 30th, after the Congregational Meeting. The class will meet in the Choir Room for about an hour. This class is designed to teach the names of the notes, counting rhythms and terminology. If you have thought about playing in the bell choir, singing in the adult choir or just want to learn your way around the hymn book, this class is for you. A workbook will be provided, let Jill know if you are interested, 337-4311 or if you need more information. If this class time does not suit your schedule, another time can be arranged. Yes, Jill will even do one on one instruction.

Presbyterian Women
September 2015 - Emphasis: Christian Education
"Links of Love" - Project

***The Afternoon Circle will meet** at 1:30 pm at the church on September 8th, 2015.

***The Evening Circle will meet** at 7:00 pm at the church on September 8th, 2015.

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.

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.



Adrienne Barker will be out of the Church Office from Monday, August 31st through Thursday, September 3rd. Penny Lee will fill in as 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 Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 7th, for Labor Day.

SESSION NEWS & NOTES

Your Session held two meetings during the last month.

On August 2nd, 2015, eight elders and Pastor David, moderator, held a called meeting. A date was set (August 30th, 2015) for a Congregational Meeting, at which a Nominating Committee will be established, and plans were approved for work to be done on the Bumgardner Room and Memorial hall floors.

On August 10th, Session held its regular monthly meeting with eight elders and Pastor David present.

The new Continuing Education Loan Fund (CELF) guidelines and application are complete.

Jeannette McCloud of the Pilgrimage community was approved as a supply pastor for Bethel.

The time and format for Rally Day on Sunday, September 13th, may be changed to an event following worship.

A back-to-school Vesper Service will be held on Sunday, August 30th, at 7:00 pm.

The remodeling of Memorial Hall will be completed with the addition of a rug and two occasional tables.

Jill Webb will lead another class on reading music.

Rhonda Johnson
Clerk of Session

Bethel Membership Pictorial Directory- Penny and Bonnie have taken lots of pictures for our directory. We have some great shots, but plan to get more through September and October. Then we will begin putting the directory together. There will be a time to choose your proof when photo shoots are completed. There is a cost of \$20.00 for each directory, which includes four 5x7 prints from your choice of proof. If you have a photo you would like to use instead- please let us know. Contact any member of the committee if there are questions. Committee members are Marty Simmers, Jackie Law, Barb Gough, Judy Olson, Bonnie Shearer and Penny Lee.

Middle School Conference at Massanetta Springs

The Christian Education committee sponsored three youth and two adults to attend the Middle School conference at Massanetta Springs on July 14th – 17th. Bayleigh Lee, Lydia Lee, Samantha Moore, Barbara Gough and Irene Elliott attended.

The Middle School Conference is attended by more than 1,100 youth from groups across the country. There were more than two hundred participants at the July conference. The event is geared to Presbyterian youth but is open to all denominational backgrounds. The conference includes workshops for youth led by youth pastors and lay leaders from around the country, as well as recreation and music events.

The theme was “Wear Love” based on Colossians 3:12-14. “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and if anyone has a complaint against another forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

We experienced a very busy but wonderful time of worship, workshops, fellowship, fun and recreational activities.

We returned home with the commitment to “wear love” and share it with our families, church, community and the world.



Baja Reunion Picnic at Springdale Water Gardens

Tish and Keith Folsom are hosting this year's Baja reunion and a special guest at their gardens on September 27th at 5:00 pm. Anyone who is interested may attend. In case of rain the Baja Reunion Picnic will be held at Bethel.

FOOD- We'll be doing a covered-dish style outdoor picnic. Please bring a favorite food to share and/or another side, a salad or a dessert. We'll arrange to have plates, utensils, cups and napkins and some drinks. Since this will be more of a picnic style event, bring your chairs, blankets, jackets etc. to enjoy the evening.

OTHER- Please bring pictures to show. We are working on getting an outdoor screen and projector to be available if you want to show your photos or movies from the trip.

WHO SHOULD COME- Everyone who has ever gone to Baja, anyone who wants to learn about Baja, and their families or guests. It is open to everyone in the presbytery and friends.

SPECIAL GUEST This year is extra special because we have invited Asher Motola, our YWAM leader, to join us here in Shenandoah for a few days before the Reunion. Asher is a powerhouse of motivation behind our work with the families in Mexico. He leads us from San Diego to the base in Mexico and supports us, once in Mexico, by translating, overseeing activities and community connection. We are excited to have Asher join us to share his story and to meet the congregations who have gone to Vicente Guerro, BCN, MX for the past 15 years.

Here is an interesting article about Asher and how he found his faith in Jesus Christ:

<http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezone01-asher.html>

General Fund Monthly Report

Estimated Budget through August 2nd:
\$107,670.00

Actual Budget Expenses: \$91,017.00

Actual Budget Receipts: \$93,972.00



The Diaconate will not meet in September. Their next meeting will be on Sunday, October 4th, following the worship service.

Did you know the Bethel website is also a blog? Pastor David is blogging fresh content not found anywhere else, so sign up for spam-free notifications to be sent right to your inbox. Lost your Tower newsletter? It is there. Miss a sermon? It is there. Forgot what day or time an event is? Check the online calendar. The Bethel website is there for you at www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org.

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 place it in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall. Please remember that all announcements are subject to editing. 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!



September 2015 SCHEDULES

Flowers

September 6th - Sarah Frances Ralston
September 13th - Cathy Hill - Communion
September 20th - Margaret Wade
September 27th - Cynthia Williams

Nursery

September 6th - Joyce Miller; Stephanie & Maggie Rivers
September 13th - Mary Ann Anderson; Maggie Rivers
September 20th - Joe & Tabby Moore
September 27th - Jackie Law; Stephanie Rivers

Offering

Tom Heizer	Marty Simmers
Chris Schooley	Dale Thompson



Dear Bethel and Extended Family,

Our family cannot express in words the love, kindness and generosity that all have shown towards us. The prayers, words of encouragement and support have been greatly appreciated.

Thank you; each of you is a gift from God and we are grateful to be surrounded by your blessings.

As God's word says; II Corinthians 12:9 - "and he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

God's blessings to all,
Devon Dransfield and The Williams Family

VALLEY MISSION PROJECT - On behalf of the Valley Mission, thank you to all who donated much needed items. The Valley Mission's work is so important in our community, helping the homeless and those who are just down on their luck. - Doris True, PWCT



Bethel Prayer List

Bentley Almarode (4 year old recovering from brain surgery), Mike Almarode (Betty Schooley's brother-in-law diagnosed with cancer), Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Barbara Burroughs (friend of Laura Barmore), Hunter Butler (son of Laura Showalter & Jamie Butler & grandson of Steve Hord & Nancy Reichard), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Debbie Callison & her sister-in-law Patricia Stiles & great-niece Reese Burdette, Gaynell Cash (Penny Cash's mother), Murphy Cash (Penny Cash's brother & Gaynell Cash's son - has pancreatic cancer), Ann Christian, Judy Clark & Tony Teague & their Families (friends of Drury Whitaker), Jim & Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis (please send cards to home address), Friends & Family of Mary (Williams) Dransfield, Friends & Family of Betty (Mrs. Frazier) Fall (aunt of James, Joe & Mac Williams), Doug Goodson, Danielle Hanger, Wes Harlow & Family, Larry Harris (Derek Almarode's uncle), Sarah Hord and her fiancé Jeff Martin (Jeff is recovering from brain surgery due to multiple aneurysms), Frances Humphries (friend of Margaret Wade), Tom Jeffrey (friend of Laura Barmore), Bill Klitzman (nephew of Louise Hoy), David Koogler (Karen Koogler's brother), Sara Ann Lamb, David Law, Friends & Family of Elizabeth Lewis (neighbor of James Williams), Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Michelle Murphy (friend of Kymberlee Schneider), Margaret Myrtle and Family (Shirley Heizer and Betty Heizer's sister), Judy Olson, Katie Parker and Family, Christy Glover Pilson (John Pilson's niece), Carly Pond (14 year old great niece of John Pilson), Carol Richardson (Yvonne Goodson's sister), Pearle Rowe, Irene Sarnelle (lung cancer), Charlotte Swortzel, Jerry Utz (Cynthia Williams brother), Bruce Webb (friend of Corbett Smith), Marguerite Whitaker (Tom Whitaker's mother), Katie Williams & Family, Sarah Williams & Family, John Wooddell (recovering from back surgery at Harrisonburg Nursing & Rehab; 1225 South Reservoir St; Harrisonburg, VA 22801), MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends



Greenville, Virginia Elementary School Reunion

All who attended - any year and their guests

Greenville United Methodist Church

A free will offering will be taken to cover expenses.

September 19th, 2015 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

**Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church
Annual Harvest Sale and Supper**

The Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church will have its annual Harvest Sale and Supper on Saturday, September 12th, 2015, 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, 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 (measures 78"x78") and a raffle for a bench (hickory 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 540-290-7619 or 540-290-7620 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.



Don't Forget!
September 7th - Labor Day
September 11th - Patriot Day
September 23rd - Autumn Begins

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

