

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church

563 Bethel Green Road, Staunton, Virginia 24401

540-886-6041 or bethelpc@gmail.com

Website –bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org



November, 2015

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Church Family,

November is one of my favorite months because it has Thanksgiving in it. And you all know how much I love to eat. A nice tender turkey with cranberry sauce on it. Mashed potatoes and sweet potatoes with pecans on top. Oyster stuffing. Followed, of course, by a generous slice of cherry pie. Mmmm.... mmmm...

But more than the delicious food, Thanksgiving is a time for family and of course, a time of thanks. And I have a lot to be thankful for. I have a loving family, a wonderful wife, and a daughter that is *just* beginning to understand God's love for her (you should hear her rendition of Jesus Loves Me).

And I am also very thankful to be here at Bethel. As God continues to expose me to new things and as I continue to learn and make mistakes and try to learn from those mistakes I am very thankful that I have the opportunity to journey through faith with you all.

This November, I encourage you all to think about what you are thankful for. What opportunities has God given to you?

God bless,
Pastor David



As I See It

We have seen an upsurge in cultural tensions around the world. From the rise of ISIS in the Middle East and the refugee crisis caused by that situation to an increase in racially motivated violence in our own country we are living in a time of increased hostility.

And in this Thanksgiving Season I am reminded of the legends surrounding the optimism of the very first Thanksgiving. In this beautiful story Native Americans and Pilgrims set aside their numerous differences to break bread together in fellowship.

I hope that one day our modern world can do a similar thing. The violence and hatred must stop. The people of this world must learn how to respectfully acknowledge our differences while acknowledging that those differences should not cause hatred.



November Worship Schedule

November 1, 2015

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

All Saints' Day

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Isaiah 25:6-9 Revelation 21:1-6 John 11:32-44

November 8, 2015

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

November 15, 2015

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

I Samuel 1:4-20 Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8

November 22, 2015

Christ the King/Reign of Christ

II Samuel 23:1-7 Revelation 1:4-8 John 18:33-37

November 29, 2015

1st Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Jeremiah 33:14-16 I Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

Communion will be held on Sunday, November 1st and Sunday, November 29th.



All Saints Day - November 1st, 2015

On Sunday, November 1st, Bethel will be observing “All Saints Day” during the worship service. This is the day in the church calendar when we celebrate all the saints, who have served their Lord faithfully on earth and now live eternally in God’s presence. During the worship service we will honor all who have gone before us in past year. Please make plans to attend this special service.

The annual Hanging of the Greens program will be held on November 29th during our regular worship service. Please make plans to attend this wonderful and meaningful service.

After church get-togethers:

Our gatherings after church continue to provide an opportunity for pleasant conversations among friends and good, light refreshments. There is a new signup sheet on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall for the after church fellowship time. The dates are November 2015 through February 2016. Please consider taking a turn in providing refreshments for this special time. Refreshments can be as simple as coffee and doughnuts. Thanks go out to all who have provided the "goodies", as well as their time to prepare the set-ups.



Congregational Meeting Scheduled

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 15th, following the worship service for the purpose of hearing the report of the Church Nominating Committee and electing new Church Officers.



Bible Study at Bethel

Thursday Nights during the Month of November
7:00 pm in the Bethel Fellowship Hall

Bible Study theme continues to be the Gospel of John

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





ATTENTION ALL! There will be a Potluck Dinner on Thursday, November 19th, 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 November 19th!

Stewardship Season!

School is back in session. Thanksgiving is almost here, and it is time again for Bethel to make plans for next year. Yes, Stewardship Season is here. Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 8th, 2015. If you cannot be present please use the copy of the pledge card below and mail it to the attention of the Receiving Treasurer (Church Address: 563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401). You may also place the pledge card in the offering plate any Sunday. Bethel needs all of you to help if we are to reach our goals. Please carefully and prayerfully consider your pledge for next year. Thank you for your continuing support!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FOR 20_____

Grateful for God's love in Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church through our congregation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.

\$ _____ per week month other _____

(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)

I (we) wish to receive information about giving through Estate Planning

Keep this portion as a record of your financial stewardship commitment for the year 20_____.

My (our) financial stewardship commitment

\$ _____ per week month other _____

(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)



The December Tower Deadline will be Thursday, November 12th.

Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon.

Articles and announcements for the December 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!

Operation Christmas Child

This year, our church is providing you with the unique opportunity to share Christ with a needy child using a simple shoebox. Your shoebox will reach a child in a troubled country and with the Gospel message. Operation Christmas Child, is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian ministry led by Franklin Graham, son of Dr. Billy Graham. The shoeboxes are delivered to a needy child overseas along with Christian literature in his or her own language. Please be a part of this opportunity. The deadline for the shoeboxes is Sunday, November 15th. There will be a cart in the vestibule for shoeboxes. For more information please pick up an Operation Christmas Child brochure in Memorial Hall. If you have any questions, please see Peggy Smith.

**Valley Mission Meal
November 21st, 2015**

The Women of the Church and the Witness/Mission Committee are going to provide and serve the breakfast meal at the Valley Mission on Saturday, November 21st. We need donations of the following items:

Breakfast casseroles (in disposable pans)

Grapes or oranges

Gallon jugs of juice

Loaves of quick breads, such as banana bread (Please make a note on each whether or not they contain nuts)

If you would like to provide any of these, please contact Rhonda Johnson at 540-292-4441 or crkjohanson@ntelos.net. Everything needs to be dropped off at the church by 7:00 pm on Friday, the 20th, with any baking instructions for the casseroles if they are the "overnight" type. Your help with this worthwhile mission is greatly appreciated!

Advent Workshop
Sunday, November 29th, 2015 following worship
All ages welcome!

The 2015 Advent Workshop will be on Sunday, November 29th, following worship. We will have a light lunch and activities will include crafts representing each Sunday of Advent. Each family will receive an Advent wreath and 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 part of this Advent Workshop. If you have any questions, please see or call Peggy Smith (540/292-0885 or jug27peg@yahoo.com).

Salvation Army Christmas Tree

Watch for the Salvation Army tree which will be on the table in Memorial Hall soon. Everyone at Bethel is always so generous with this event that last year some people did not get to participate. This year Bethel will be helping three families so that more people can take part in sharing with those less fortunate. Additional details will be available in the December Tower.

Presbyterian Women - November 2015
Special Offering - Thank Offering

*The Afternoon Circle will meet at Bethel on November 10th, at 1:30 pm.

*The Evening Circle will meet at Bethel on November 10th, at 7:00 pm.

November 1st - PWCT Meeting

Thank Offering

In March 2015, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women met to review sixty-two applications submitted for grants from the 2014 Thank Offering. Thirty-two of the projects were chosen for grants. Twenty-two of the projects are ministries serving people in need in the US. Ten of the projects are international. More than forty percent of the projects funded are health ministries.

The Thank Offering will be collected at the November Circle Meetings.



**The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands
Bethel Presbyterian Women "Together in Service" Project**

The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (PCHH) is a long-term residential care facility located in Wytheville, Virginia. As a "Together in Service" project the Bethel Presbyterian Women are sponsoring a gift-card drive to benefit PCHH in time for the holiday season. PCHH has a particular need for gift cards from Wal-Mart and McDonalds. If you choose to participate in this mission project circle members can turn in gift cards to circle leaders Yvonne Goodson or Libby Smith at the November meeting, or you may give the gift cards to Jackie Law. Although this project originated in the PW organization, all members of Bethel are invited to join in this effort to meet needs at PCHH. In order to assist with the equitable distribution of the gift cards please write the purchased amount on each card or envelope. All gift cards need to be received by Sunday, November 29th so that they can be mailed to PCHH and arrive in time for holiday shopping and outings in December.



The Bethel Personnel Committee would like to thank Tish Folsom for her outstanding work as Disbursing Treasurer for the past 11 years! Tish has resigned this position effective December 31st of this year. We need someone to fill this important position in our church. It involves entering information into a simple accounting program, writing checks and maintaining a schedule of certain recurring payments, such as benevolence. This is a great opportunity to give back and fill a need at Bethel. This is a paid position and the amount of time worked per week will vary. Payroll of all church employees is currently taken care of by an independent company. Please contact Rhonda Johnson (540/292-4441 or crkjohnson@ntelos.net) if you are interested or would like more information. Thank you!

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, November 25th through Friday, November 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Church Office will also be closed on Monday, November 30th, while Adrienne is on vacation.

Session News and Notes

Your Session met on October 12th with eight elders and the moderator, Pastor David, present.

A Congregational Meeting will be held on November 15th for the purpose of voting on the class of 2018 officer nominees.



The transfers of membership for Linda Tenney and Bonnie Shearer to Bethel are complete. Welcome to our new members!

Wes McElveen's (husband of Katie Johnson McElveen) membership request was approved.



Chris Schooley, Deacon Chairman, gave a report on their activities: Exterior lighting is being added and/or worked on. A roof leak appeared at the back of the sanctuary during the recent heavy rains. It was probably the result of saturation from the unusual amount of rainfall, but will be monitored in the future. Five dead trees on the church lawn will be replaced. The 21st Century Committee is looking at audio/visual systems.

Pastor David will fill in as minister at Pines Chapel on November 29th and December 27th. He will not teach Sunday School at Bethel on those days, but will lead worship.

Pastor David and the Worship Committee are considering asking congregation members to lead certain parts of the worship service, such as the Call to Worship, in addition to reading scripture.

The Communications Committee will begin putting weekly announcements on the monitor in Memorial Hall.

Sally and Bill Brubeck recently completed an inventory of our pew Bibles and noted that approximately fifty of them need to be replaced, which will be done in the spring.

The Cemetery Trustees and Deacons have jointly completed a repaving and/or repair of driveways at the church and manse.

The Personnel Committee is actively seeking a new Disbursing Treasurer to replace Tish Folsom and has received one response thus far.

General Fund Monthly Report

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Estimated Budget through October 1st: | \$139,971.00 |
| Actual Budget Expenses: | \$109,579.00 |
| Actual Budget Receipts: | \$117,916.00 |

Welcome to Bethel's newest member Linda Tenney!

Linda Tenney
540/414-4479
Po Box 35
Middlebrook, VA 24459
outriding4@gmail.com



Schedules November 2015

Flowers

November 1st - Shirley Heizer/Communion
November 8th - JoAnn Pendley
November 15th - Eloise Moore
November 22nd - Keedie Leonard
November 29th - Bettie Swisher/Communion



Nursery

November 1st - Cindy Almarode; Karen Koogler
November 8th - Evelyn LaPorte; Libby Smith
November 15th - Joe and Sally Williams
November 22nd - Brian and Penny Lee
November 29th - Joyce Davis; Louise Hoy



Offering

Charlie Johnson
Chris Schooley
Joe Williams
Mac Williams



Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Melva Piland who passed away on October 2nd, 2015. Mrs. Piland was the widow of Rev. Piland. Rev. Piland was Interim Pastor at Bethel several years ago.

The Witness Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed baked goods and produce and came to eat with us at The Meating Place. Thanks to Jug and Peggy Smith, Ellen Fitzgerald, Irene Elliott, Kathy Swisher, Rhonda Johnson, Doris True, Beth Miller and Rosalee Miller for working the Food Booth. The amount raised for Bethel Mission Projects was \$750.00. Thanks so much for all the support!

Remember the community-wide Thanksgiving Service will be held at St. John's Reformed Church on Sunday, November 22nd, at 7:00 pm. Everyone's invited to this special service!



**Hospice of the Shenandoah
Quilt Auction**
Benefitting the Gifted Care Program

The Hospice of the Shenandoah is having the Third Annual Quilt Auction to benefit the Gifted Care Program on Saturday, November 7th, 2015 at August Expo (in Fishersville). The doors open at 7:30 am for the silent auction and to view and vote on live auction items; a breakfast buffet will be served from 8:00 am - 9:30 am; and the live auction begins at 10 am. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 for children ages 6 to 12 years (children five and under get in free). Ticket price includes: admission to the auction and a hot breakfast provided by Kathy's Restaurant. To purchase tickets call (540) 932-5037 or visit their website at: www.quiltsofcomfort.org.

Come bid with your heart on beautifully quilted items from your community!

Bethel Prayer List

Lou Allen (melanoma), 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), 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, Jim & Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis (please send cards to home address), Friends & Family of Mary (Williams) Dransfield, Meredith Furr (9 year old with malignant liver tumor), Doug Goodson, Danielle Hanger, Wes Harlow & Family, Frances Humphries (friend of Margaret Wade), Chris Jarvis (recovering from West Nile Virus), Tom Jeffrey (friend of Laura Barmore), Bill Klitzman (nephew of Louise Hoy), Sara Ann Lamb, Don Latta (sepsis), David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Michelle Murphy (friend of Kymberlee Schneider), Katie Parker and Family, Friends & Family of Melva Piland, Nevin Pilson & Christy Glover Pilson (John Pilson's nephew & niece), Carly Pond (14 year old great niece of John Pilson), Ridge & Family (Ridge is a 2 year old who has a brain tumor), Pearle Rowe, Irene Sarnelle (lung cancer), Charlotte Swortzel, Jerry Utz (Cynthia Williams brother), Bruce Webb (friend of Corbett Smith), Katie Williams & Family, Sarah Williams & Family, Isaac Wolfe, MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

Don't Forget!

November 1st - Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 3rd - Election Day

November 11th - Veterans Day

November 26th - Thanksgiving Day

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



