

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

November 29th - December 5th

Today: 1st Sunday of Advent
9:45 - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship/Communion/Hanging of the Greens
12:00 - Advent Workshop

Monday: Church Office Closed
6:30 - Cub Scouts
7:00 - Boy Scouts

Tuesday: 6:30 - Dinner
7:00 - Advent Worship Service

Wednesday: 7:00 - Adult Choir
7:00 - The Bells of Bethel

Next Sunday, December 6th: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Deadline: Salvation Army Gifts

9:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Worship

12:00 - Fellowship Time

12:15 - Diaconate

12:15 - PWCT Meeting

Greeters: Bob and Louise Hoy

*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 friendship pad at the end of your pew. Don't forget to give the friendship 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.

*There will be no Fellowship Time following the worship service today due to the Advent Workshop.

*The 2015 Advent Workshop will be today 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. All ages are welcome!

***Pictorial Directory** Our pictorial directory committee continues to work at collecting individual photographs, writing historical information and gathering group photographs of interest to the congregation. We plan two additional photo opportunities for those who may not have had their picture taken yet. Today Sunday, November 29th at the Advent workshop Penny will be ready to snap individual photographs. After these dates as we move into the Christmas season any member of the committee may be contacted if someone still wants to have their picture added to the directory; either with a photo taken by Penny or Bonnie or by an already existing photo. We will close photo submissions by the end of December, 2015 and begin compiling what we have into your finished publication. Committee members are Barb Gough, Judy Olson, Jackie Law, Penny Lee, Bonnie Shearer and Marty Simmers.

*Reminder: Gift Cards for the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands are due today. Please give cards to Jackie Law, Libby Smith, or Yvonne Goodson. Thanks for your participation and generosity with this important project!

*Adrienne Barker will be out of the Church Office tomorrow Monday, November 30th through Thursday, December 3rd. The Church Office will be closed tomorrow, November 30th. Pastor David will be in the Church Office from Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm and will be reachable at all other times at (540) 490-2258 if you have a need. Penny Lee will be in the Church Office this Thursday, December 3rd, from 8:30 am until 5:30 pm to prepare the bulletin for Sunday, December 6th. If you need to put an announcement in the bulletin please email the information to bethelpc@gmail.com by Thursday morning, December 3rd, at 9:00 am. Thank you!

***Mid-Week Advent Services** Bethel and St. John's Reformed are partnering to do a midweek service during the Advent Season. Please mark your calendars. The service will be on Tuesday evenings and will start this week. Soup will be served at 6:30 pm followed by worship and discussion at 7:00 pm. Bethel will host the services on December 1st and December 15th and St. John's Reformed will host the services on December 8th and December 22nd. Everyone is welcome!

*Check out the Salvation Army tree which is on the table in Memorial Hall. 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 6th 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!

*The Diaconate will meet next Sunday, December 6th, following worship.

*The PWCT will meet next Sunday, December 6th, following worship.

*The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 8th, at 11:00 am (note the time change!). The meeting will be at the home of Libby Smith (180 Howardsville Road; Staunton) and there will be a light lunch served. Please contact Libby at 540/337-2058 if you have any questions.

*The Evening Circle will have a Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 8th, at 6:30 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, please call Yvonne Goodson at 540/712-0678.

*The January Tower Deadline will be Thursday, December 10th. 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. The January Tower will be mailed out a week early on Thursday, December 17th due to the Christmas holiday. Thank you!

*There will be a Celebration of Life event for Pearle Rowe in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 12th, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Pearle's last request that the mood at this event should be that of remembrance and fond memories. There will be food, music, and this will be a joyful event per Pearle's wishes. All of Pearle's family, friends and the Bethel congregation are welcome to attend!

*There will be a Communications Committee meeting on Sunday, December 13th, at 9:00 am.

*The Joy Gift Offering will be collected during the worship service on Sunday, December 13th. 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 the 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 13th, if you wish to give to the Joy Gift Offering.

*The Joy Gift program will be held on Sunday, December 13th 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!

*Calling all ringers, calling all ringers! Yes it is time to reserve your time, date and location for this season of Red Kettle Ringing for the Salvation Army. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Teresa Harris at (540) 885-8157 to schedule an appropriate time and date. Ask a friend to join you and have some fun ringing for a worthy cause!

***After Church Refreshments** We have had some wonderful participation from the congregation for our after service receptions. The Growth & Strengthening Committee extends their gratitude to all those who have signed up, brought refreshments and shared fellowship. We have enjoyed being together in the Fellowship Hall and also in Memorial Hall, watching snapshots on the video screen of past Bethel events and members of the congregation. Please look at the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and see if there may be a date you and a friend could take a turn at providing light refreshments. There are still openings in December, as well as into 2016. We hope to make this a tradition as it provides another opportunity to informally be together in God's house.

*There was a mistake in the printed copy of the Bethel Tower that was mailed out. The Deacons that will be collecting the offering in December are: Tom Heizer, Bob Olson, Chris Schooley, and Joe F. Williams. I apologize for any confusion my mistake may have caused. Thank you!

- Adrienne Barker

*Attention! We have begun sending out Congregational Emails from a new email address. The Church Office has been notified that some members of the church and friends have found the church emails in either their spam or junk folders. If you have not received your December Tower by email or the December calendar please check your spam or junk folders to see if the church emails are in there. Please make sure to add bethelpc.fb@gmail.com to your contact list so you will continue to get important congregational news, updates, prayer requests, and more! Thank you!

*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 22nd

Attendance: 79

Weekly Budget: \$3,589.00 Received: \$2,794.00

Four Cents A Meal Offering: \$257.00

Financial Stewardship Report

Offerings 2015: It is requested that offerings for 2015 be made no later than Sunday, December 27th. Thank you for your continued support.

Pledges 2016: 24 pledges for a total of \$69,072 have been received. Thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2016 - it is never too late! Pledge cards are available in Memorial Hall and the vestibule. 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 2016: ATTENTION OFFERING ENVELOPE USERS – some users will have their envelope number changed due to a reduction in the total offering envelope packs available. Beginning Sunday December 13th, numbered offering envelopes will be available in the vestibule for those who used offering envelopes in 2015. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to or have been using them but no longer want them, please contact the Church Office with your request.



Bethel Christmas Poinsettias or Donations To BERF Form

You may order Poinsettias at a cost of \$10.00 (tax included) each or you may make a monetary donation to BERF (Bethel Emergency Relief Fund). The Poinsettias purchased and the donations made to BERF will be acknowledged in the bulletin on December 20th and Christmas Eve. Please fill out the form below, attach the check or cash and place in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office: Attn: Church Office; 563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401. If you are purchasing a poinsettia please make checks payable to Bethel Presbyterian Church. If you are making a donation to BERF please make the check payable to Bethel Emergency Relief Fund. The deadline is Monday, December 14th at 3 pm.

**Note: Please fill out the form completely. Sometimes forms come back not completely filled out and it can make things difficult when compiling them for the bulletins. Also, if you would like to order a poinsettia and make a donation please use two forms (one for the poinsettia and one for the donation). Thank you!*

Number of Poinsettias _____ Check or Cash Total _____

or

Donation to BERF _____ Check or Cash Total _____

In Honor Of : _____

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given By: _____

Poinsettias will be purchased from Crosby Crest.

****Remember to pick-up Poinsettia(s) following the Christmas Eve Service or on Sunday, December 27th, following the worship service.****