

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

December 13th - December 19th

- Today:** 3rd Sunday of Advent
9:00 - Communications Committee Meeting
9:45 - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship
12:00 - Covered Dish Luncheon/Joy Gift Program
- Monday:** 3:00 - Poinsettia Order/Christmas BERF Donations
Deadline
6:30 - Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 - Boy Scouts
7:00 - Session Meeting
- Tuesday:** 6:30 - Dinner
7:00 - Advent Worship Service
- Wednesday:** 7:00 - Adult Choir
7:00 - The Bells of Bethel
- Thursday:** January Tower Mailing

Next Sunday, December 20th: 4th Sunday of Advent

- 9:45 - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship
12:00 - Lunch and Christmas Caroling
12:15 - Stewardship/Finance Committee Meeting
12:15 - Worship Committee Meeting*

Greeters: Joe and Tabby Moore

*The poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by Bettie Swisher in honor of her daughter Kay Swisher and in honor of her son Wayne Swisher and his wife Kathy.

*Good morning and welcome to Bethel! Whether you are a member, a friend or a visitor please take a moment to 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!

*The Joy Gift Offering will be collected during the worship service today. 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. Envelopes are available in your bulletin if you choose to give to the Joy Gift Offering.

*The Joy Gift program will be held today 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 Deadline for Christmas BERF donations and Christmas Poinsettia orders is tomorrow, Monday, December 14th at 3:00 pm. An order form is included in your bulletin and in the December Tower. Please give your orders to Libby Smith or turn them into the Church Office. Thank you!

*The Session will meet tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm.

*The Stonewall Brigade Band will present its Annual Christmas Benefit concert tomorrow, Monday, December 14th, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church (2000 Shutterlee Mill Road; Staunton). Doors open at 6:00 pm. The Stonewall Flutes will play from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. The band concert will begin at 7:30 pm. The band will be joined by the 5-octave Handbell Choir from Main Street UMC, Waynesboro for one selection and the Chancel Choir of St. Paul's UMC by a medley of carols arranged by Dr. Larry Taylor, Chairman of the Bridgewater College Music Department. An offering will be received to benefit the Valley Mission and the Salvation Army. The 105-member band is the oldest continuous community band in the nation.

*There will be a Christmas Benefit Concert for SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association) tomorrow, Monday, December 14th, 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.

***Mid-Week Advent Services** Bethel and St. John's Reformed are partnering to do a midweek service during the Advent Season. The service will be this Tuesday evening, December 15th. Soup will be served at 6:30 pm followed by worship and discussion at 7:00 pm. Bethel will host dinner and the service this week and St. John's Reformed will host dinner and the service next week on December 22nd. Everyone is welcome!

***CHRISTMAS CAROLING!** Everyone “Let’s Go Christmas Caroling”, on Sunday, December 20th! Following the worship service we will have lunch and then carpool to the homes of our members who are homebound. Let’s join together to make the Christmas holidays more special for our homebound members!

*The Stewardship/Finance Committee will meet next Sunday, December 20th, following the worship service.

*The Worship Committee will meet next Sunday, December 20th, following the worship service.

*Our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 9 pm. (The prelude will be played beginning at 8:30 pm.) The service is always a moving and beautiful experience as we hear the Good News both read and sung. Come and take part as we sing, pray, and praise God for the birth of our Savior!

*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!

*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.

***Church Inclement Weather Information** 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. If church is cancelled a congregational email will also be sent out to all active members. For weekday activities please follow the Augusta County Schools. If school is cancelled, all events for that evening at the church are cancelled. The Church Office may also be closed due to inclement weather if Augusta County Schools are closed (Monday through Thursday). If the Church Office is closed due to inclement weather and you have a need please email bethelpc@gmail.com. Adrienne will be checking email messages throughout the day even if she is not in the Church Office. 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!

December 6th Attendance: 92
Weekly Budget: \$3,589.00 Received: \$4,301.00

Estimated Budget through November 30th, 2014: \$165,056.00
Receipts: \$163,628.00 Expenses: \$162,757.00

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: 26 pledges for a total of \$70,424 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 today 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.****