

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

December 6th - December 12th

- Today:** 2nd Sunday of Advent
Deadline: Salvation Army Gifts
9:45 - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship
12:00 - Fellowship Time
12:15 - Diaconate Meeting
12:15 - PWCT Meeting
- Monday:** 6:30 - Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 - Boy Scouts
- Tuesday:** 11:00 - Afternoon Circle (at the home of Libby Smith -
180 Howardsville Road; Staunton)
6:30 - Evening Circle
6:30 - Dinner at St. John's Reformed
7:00 - Advent Worship Service at St. John's Reformed
- Wednesday:** 7:00 - Adult Choir
7:00 - The Bells of Bethel
- Thursday:** Human Rights Day
7:00 - January Tower Deadline
7:00 - Bible Study
- Saturday:** 2:00 - 4:00 - Celebration of Life for Pearle Rowe
(Fellowship Hall)

Next Sunday, December 13th: 3rd Sunday of Advent
 9:00 - Communications Committee Meeting
 9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship
 12:00 - Covered Dish Luncheon/Joy Gift Program

 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!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

December 6th - December 12th

- Today:** 2nd Sunday of Advent
Deadline: Salvation Army Gifts
9:45 - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship
12:00 - Fellowship Time
12:15 - Diaconate Meeting
12:15 - PWCT Meeting
- Monday:** 6:30 - Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 - Boy Scouts
- Tuesday:** 11:00 - Afternoon Circle (at the home of Libby Smith -
180 Howardsville Road; Staunton)
6:30 - Evening Circle
6:30 - Dinner at St. John's Reformed
7:00 - Advent Worship Service at St. John's Reformed
- Wednesday:** 7:00 - Adult Choir
7:00 - The Bells of Bethel
- Thursday:** Human Rights Day
7:00 - January Tower Deadline
7:00 - Bible Study
- Saturday:** 2:00 - 4:00 - Celebration of Life for Pearle Rowe
(Fellowship Hall)

Next Sunday, December 13th: 3rd Sunday of Advent
 9:00 - Communications Committee Meeting
 9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship
 12:00 - Covered Dish Luncheon/Joy Gift Program

 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!

***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. Today refreshments will be provided by Bob & Jackie Law. 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.

*The Diaconate will meet today following the worship service.

*The PWCT will meet today following the worship service.

*The Afternoon Circle will meet this 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 this 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.

***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 8th at St. John's Reformed. Soup will be served at 6:30 pm followed by worship and discussion at 7:00 pm. Bethel will host the service on December 15th and St. John's Reformed will host the service on December 22nd. Everyone is welcome!

Thank you to all of the over 60 people who attended the Advent Workshop. Thank you to Faye Brown, Susan Smith, Libby Smith, Mary Ann Anderson, Mo Kyle, Cindy Almarode, Penny Lee, Keedie Leonard, Isabelle Leonard, Tabby Moore, Kay Thompson, Ellen Fitzgerald, Jug Smith, Brian Lee, Moose Lee and Derek Almarode for all the help and food that were provided to make the Advent Workshop a great event to start preparing for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks to everyone!!!

***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. Today refreshments will be provided by Bob & Jackie Law. 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.

*The Diaconate will meet today following the worship service.

*The PWCT will meet today following the worship service.

*The Afternoon Circle will meet this 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 this 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.

***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 8th at St. John's Reformed. Soup will be served at 6:30 pm followed by worship and discussion at 7:00 pm. Bethel will host the service on December 15th and St. John's Reformed will host the service on December 22nd. Everyone is welcome!

Thank you to all of the over 60 people who attended the Advent Workshop. Thank you to Faye Brown, Susan Smith, Libby Smith, Mary Ann Anderson, Mo Kyle, Cindy Almarode, Penny Lee, Keedie Leonard, Isabelle Leonard, Tabby Moore, Kay Thompson, Ellen Fitzgerald, Jug Smith, Brian Lee, Moose Lee and Derek Almarode for all the help and food that were provided to make the Advent Workshop a great event to start preparing for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks to everyone!!!

*Remember that the Salvation Army gifts need to be returned to the church today and need to be wrapped with the tag attached. Thank you!

*The January Tower Deadline will this 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 this Saturday, December 12th, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Pearle's last request was that the mood at this event should be one of remembrance and fond memories. There will be food and music... 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 next 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!

*The Session will meet on Monday, December 14th, at 7:00 pm.

*Remember that the Salvation Army gifts need to be returned to the church today and need to be wrapped with the tag attached. Thank you!

*The January Tower Deadline will this 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 this Saturday, December 12th, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Pearle's last request was that the mood at this event should be one of remembrance and fond memories. There will be food and music... 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 next 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!

*The Session will meet on Monday, December 14th, at 7:00 pm.

*There will be a Christmas Benefit Concert for SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association) on 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.

*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!

*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, as we pray, and as we 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!

*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 29th
Attendance: 91
Weekly Budget: \$3,589.00 Received: \$2,570.00

(Financial Stewardship Report on the next page)

*There will be a Christmas Benefit Concert for SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association) on 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.

*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!

*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, as we pray, and as we 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!

*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 29th
Attendance: 91
Weekly Budget: \$3,589.00 Received: \$2,570.00

(Financial Stewardship Report on the next page)

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 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.

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. Our thanks to all who helped decorate the church over the Thanksgiving weekend; to Bill Francisco for donating the beautiful tree and to Justin Swisher, Laura Swisher and Jesse Resnick for decorating it; to Bill and Sally Brubeck for hanging the garland and wreaths. To Keedie and Isabelle Leonard for decorating the windows and adding live greenery to the garland and to all who provided the greenery. Another special thank you to all the children and youth who took part in the Hanging of the Greens service, Isabelle, Cole, Maggie, Bayleigh, Ashlyn, Samantha, Cate, James, Moose, Lydia and Will.

...Thank You!

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 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.

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. Our thanks to all who helped decorate the church over the Thanksgiving weekend; to Bill Francisco for donating the beautiful tree and to Justin Swisher, Laura Swisher and Jesse Resnick for decorating it; to Bill and Sally Brubeck for hanging the garland and wreaths. To Keedie and Isabelle Leonard for decorating the windows and adding live greenery to the garland and to all who provided the greenery. Another special thank you to all the children and youth who took part in the Hanging of the Greens service, Isabelle, Cole, Maggie, Bayleigh, Ashlyn, Samantha, Cate, James, Moose, Lydia and Will.

...Thank You!