



The Tower

February 2016

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bethelpc@gmail.com * www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S



Dear Church Family,

February is usually thought of as the 'love month' because of Valentine's Day. But I also want to remind you that this year Lent is starting very early. Ash Wednesday is February 10 and that makes the first Sunday of Lent Valentine's Day itself!

And that's actually very appropriate because Lent is a penitential season. A time when we prepare ourselves for the Cross event and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ by recognizing our sins and turning to God for forgiveness.

And all of that, from the repentance all the way through the miracle of Easter, is about love. Jesus' love for us in his willingness to face the cross for our sins and our love for him in our efforts to live a more God centered life.

Recently I have been talking a lot about spirituality and that will continue to be a big push for us throughout the Lenten season. And at it's root spirituality is all about getting closer to God, feeling his love for us and demonstrating our love for him.

And what could be more appropriate than that in the 'love month'? So as we enter into February and start our preparations for Lent and eventually Easter, I encourage us all to evaluate our own spirituality. Are we spending enough time with our God and Creator, the one that "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son"?

God bless,
Pastor David

As I See It

Valentine's Day is not just a day to send flowers. It also celebrates Saint Valentinus, known in English as Valentine. Well, actually, there were at least *three* different saints named Valentine, and all of them died for the faith. This is even more confusing because we know basically nothing about any of their lives and the earliest books of Saints and martyrs simply list them as being important.



But there are some legends that eventually came about and whether they are historically true or not they are inspiring. One of the ones that has the most to do with our modern celebration of Valentine's Day is the story in which Valentine continued to perform marriage ceremonies for Christians despite that being illegal. But the most interesting one is when he was under house arrest and healed the judge's daughter of her blindness, convincing the judge to have his whole household (44 members including the servants!) convert to Christianity and free the other Christians that he was investigating.

Let that sink in. The most detailed story that we have about St. Valentine isn't about romantic love, it is about Christian love. What a good example and Valentine's Day message that is for us.



Ordination & Installation of Church Officers on January 10th.



Reception following the Ordination & Installation of Officers on January 10th.



Lenten Worship Service Schedule - 2016

All services except for Ash Wednesday are on Thursday evenings and begin at 7:00 pm



Date: February 10th - Ash Wednesday

Location: Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church

Speaker: Rev. Joe Condor, Interim Pastor - Pines Chapel Presbyterian Church

Date: February 18th

Location: Redeemer Lutheran Church

Speaker: Pastor David

Date: February 25th

Location: St. John's Reformed Church

Speaker: Pastor Isca Mitchell

Date: March 3rd

Location: Bethel Presbyterian Church

Speaker: Rev. JoAnn Bunn, Pastor - Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church & Redeemer Lutheran Church

Date: March 10th

Location: Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church

Speaker: Rev. Dennis Russell, Pastor - St. John's Reformed Church

Date: March 17th

Location: Pines Chapel Presbyterian Church

Speaker: Pastor David

February Worship Schedule

February 7, 2016

Transfiguration of the Lord

Boy Scout Sunday

Sacrament of Holy Communion

11:00 am

Read: Exodus 34:29-35 II Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-43

February 14, 2016

1st Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

Read: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13

Congregational Meeting Following Worship

February 21, 2016

2nd Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

Guest Minister: Pastor Isca Mitchell

Read: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35

February 28, 2016

3rd Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

Read: Isaiah 55:1-9 I Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9



Sara Ann Lamb
(Organist) & JoAnn
Pendley (Pianist) work
together on a piece on
Sunday morning.

Communion will be held on February 7th, Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday.



Boy Scout Sunday will be Sunday, February 7th, 2016. During the worship service, the Boy Scouts will be recognized for their contribution to the community and to Bethel. All are invited to this special service!



Congregational Meeting



There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 14th, 2016, following the morning worship service, for the purpose of presenting the 2015 Annual Reports and approving the 2016 Budget.

Super Bowl Sunday Souper Bowl of Caring



The Bethel Witness/Mission Committee is asking you to tackle hunger with them on Super Bowl Sunday with the Souper Bowl of Caring. The congregation is asked to bring non-perishable food or make monetary donations on Sunday, February 7th, 2016. Our young people will be collecting the food and money for Kingsway after the worship service. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated in this annual service project.

Refreshment Schedule



We have been enjoying our after church refreshments! Thanks to so many in the congregation who have provided our snacks. It is always a great pleasure to visit with our church family and share news, laughter and good things to eat. There will continue to be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall and all those interested in taking a turn are encouraged to sign up. Please let a member of the Growth & Strengthening Committee know if you need help in any way. Again, we are grateful for food provided and friends to talk to.



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 8th, while Adrienne is on vacation. Thank you!

Presbyterian Women February 2016 Emphasis: Witness Season, Lent



- *The Afternoon Circle will meet at the church on February 9th, at 1:30 pm.
- *The Evening Circle will meet at the church on February 9th, at 7:00 pm.

February 28th - PWCT Meeting

You may remember that during November the PWCT sponsored a gift card collection to benefit the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands. The total amount of gift cards collected was \$535.00! Thanks so much to everyone who participated in this important project!



The March Tower Deadline will be Thursday, February 18th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the March Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. When writing announcements for the newsletter please keep in mind the 5 W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why?. Please remember if you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower. Thank you!

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!



**2016 Baja Mission Trip
July 17th - 23rd, 2016**

Registration is now open until deadline - March 1, 2016

For more information, contact Doug Sensabaugh at doug@shenpres.org

Need a Ride to Church?

Call the Bethel Deacon's Taxi Service!

If you need a ride to worship or to church activities please contact the Church Office at 540/886-6041 or at bethelpc@gmail.com. You can also contact any Deacon. We will make sure transportation is provided for you.



Thank you!



Church Directory Updates

The Lee Family - Brian, Penny, Harleigh, Moose, Bayleigh, Lydia and Trevor
111 Spring Meadows
Staunton, VA 24401

Dale and Kay Thompson
45 Spring Meadows
Staunton, VA 24401

Session News and Notes



The Session met on December 14th, 2015 for a stated meeting with eight Elders and the Moderator, Pastor David, present.

- The 2016 budget was approved.
- A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 14th, 2016 for the purpose of presenting the annual reports and approving the budget.
- Stated Session meetings will now be held on the second Sunday of each month at 7 p.m.
- Chris Schooley will step down as Chairman of the Deacons for 2016.
- The hiring of Harold Coiner as Choir Director was approved.
- The Communications Committee is looking at placing Bethel on the News Leader's Local Sunday Services page.

The Session also met on January 10th, 2016 for a stated meeting with eight Elders and the Moderator, Pastor David, present.

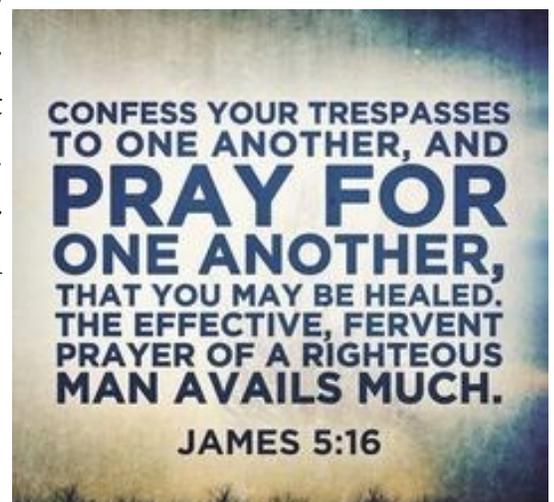
- Marty Simmers and Tammy Barbour have been elected co-chairpersons of the Deacons.
- The Witness/Mission Committee will hold the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 7th, 2016.
- Bonnie Shearer of the Youth Task Force presented a proposal to hire a part-time Youth Leader to prepare and teach Sunday School and Children's Church weekly and to plan and hold one youth event monthly. The Leader would work approximately four hours per week and ten hours per monthly event. The proposal was approved by Session.
- The Growth & Strengthening Committee will be split into two committees: "Growth" and "Outreach and Evangelism."
- Pastor David will emphasize spirituality among our officers and congregants this year. He also distributed new committee report guidelines and asked that Bethel complete the incorporation process this year.
- The Elders chose which committees they will serve on this year.

PRAYER LIST

Bethel Prayer List

Lou Allen (melanoma), Bentley Almarode (4 year old recovering from brain surgery), Alan & Malinda (Sproul) Brown (health problems), Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Friends & Family of Lacy Buchanan, Dan Burroughs (friend of Laura Barmore), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Debbie Callison & her sister-in-law Patricia Stiles & great-niece Reese Burdette, Mabel & Brenda Campbell & Family, Murphy Cash (Penny Cash's brother - 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), Friends & Family of Doug Goodson, Danielle Hanger, Friends & Family of Mary Hanger (mother of Bill Hanger), Sawyer Hull (Brent & Wendy Hull's daughter), Frances Humphries (friend of Margaret Wade), Chris Jarvis (recovering from West Nile Virus), Tom Jeffrey (friend of Laura Barmore), Jeannie Jones (diagnosed with breast cancer - Marion Simmers sister), Bill Kealing (friend of Laura Barmore), Bill Klitzman (nephew of Louise Hoy), Sara Ann Lamb, L. Cpl. Bertram Bruce Lamond (active military), David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Friends & Family of Earl Logan (Peggy Arehart's brother), Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Bonnie Messinger (has pancreatic cancer), Friends & Family of Phyllis Miller of Bridgewater (Vicki Langdon's mother), Michelle Murphy (friend of Kymberlee Schneider), Bobbie Phillips (David Shearer's aunt), Christy Glover Pilson (John Pilson's niece), Carly Pond (14 year old great niece of John Pilson), Ridge & Family (Ridge is a 2 year old who has a brain tumor), Nickie Rutledge (cousin of Louise Hoy), Irene Sarnelle (lung cancer), Charlotte Swortzel, Jerry Utz (Cynthia Williams brother), Bruce Webb (friend of Corbett Smith), Tom Whitaker, Katie Williams & Family, Sarah Williams & Family, Isaac Wolfe, MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

Please call Tammy Barbour @ 540-471-0450, Barb Gough @ 540-255-6521, or the Church Office @ 540-886-6041 with any additions or updates. Thank you!



The following letter is from Kroger Grocery Stores:

Dear Bethel Presbyterian Church,

The Kroger Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local communities. We do this through a variety of activities, including our charitable giving to your church through our Community Rewards Program of Mid-Atlantic.



As your neighborhood food retailer, we deeply value our ability to support local organizations like yours. Our privacy policy applies to your participation and we never share a customer's personal information.

Bethel's supporters (4 households) who shopped at our stores between September 1, 2015 and November 30, 2015 have contributed to a total donation of **\$53.47**. Thank you for your continued support of your local Mid-Atlantic store.

If your household is not one of the Bethel members who has linked the Kroger Plus card to Bethel, please log in to www.krogercommunityrewards.com, follow the prompts, and link your Kroger card to Bethel, by number: 83198 or by name: Bethel. When you scan your linked Plus card at check out, Bethel gets credit for donations, and you do not spend an extra penny. The more shoppers who link their cards, the more money Bethel will earn!

If you need assistance in linking your Plus card, please contact Joyce Miller, rimcorp@msn.com or 540-337-0828.

Thank you from Kroger Community Rewards Staff



Bethel & The Kroger Rewards Program

Bethel is fortunate that Kroger stores continue to make donations to our church when we shop with them. When Kroger linked gift cards to Bethel, 20 families participated and Kroger made substantial donations to the general fund. Kroger discontinued the use of gift cards in 2014, and now donates only when people link **Kroger Plus** cards to Bethel by registering the card number at the Kroger website. So far, only 5 Bethel families have a Plus card linked to Bethel.

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The Stewardship committee voted to direct future Kroger donations to the Bethel Emergency Relief Fund (BERF), which directly helps disadvantaged members of the community with emergency support for rents or utilities.



Please participate in the Kroger donation program by linking your Kroger Plus card to Bethel. It only takes a few minutes!

On the internet at krogercommunityrewards.com:

- Click on Sign In/Register; Click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Follow the prompts
- Click on **Edit Kroger Community Rewards information** and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Enter our organization number, **83198** or Bethel Presbyterian Church, or select Bethel from the list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, look for Bethel's name on the right side of your information page.
- If you use your phone number at the checkout register instead of your Plus card, get your Kroger Plus card number by calling 800-576-4377, option 4.
- Once your card is registered your purchases will count for Bethel if you swipe your card or use the phone number that is related to your Kroger Plus card.
- For assistance in the registration process, please call Joyce Miller, 540-337-0828



Please welcome Harold Coiner who began working as Bethel's Interim Adult Choir Director at the beginning of January. Most of you probably already know Harold, so please make sure to make him feel welcome at Bethel.

Receiving Treasurer Report



Pledges 2016: 29 pledges for a total of \$76,364 have been received. Thanks to those that pledged. It is never too late to pledge. Pledge cards are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. Send completed cards to the church (Attn: Receiving Treasurer) or put in the offering plate any Sunday.

General Fund 2015: Receipts to Budget \$177,621; Actual Budget Expenses \$172,856

21st Century Fund 2013, 2014, & 2015: Receipts \$159,782

Flower Schedule

February 2016

February 7th - Evelyn LaPorte
(Communion)

February 14th - Jill Webb
(1st Sunday in Lent; Memorial)

February 21st - Ginny Gano

February 28th - Cathy Hill



Offering Schedule

February 2016

Tammy Barbour

Wade Cash

Tabby Moore

Joe Williams



Nursery Schedule
February 2016

February 7th - Mac & Emily Williams
February 14th - Cindy Almarode; Karen Koogler
February 21st - Evelyn LaPorte; Libby Smith
February 28th - Joe & Sally Williams



Having fun on the slide at the Bethel playground!

February Greeter:

Tammy Barbour



Words cannot express my gratitude and thanks to all of you for the cards and gifts that were given to Justin and me for Christmas. I am blessed to be part of such a wonderful "family". I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2016!

Love in Christ,
Adrienne Barker, Bethel Office Manager



My family and I would like to thank you all for your love and support at Bethel Presbyterian Church. It is a joy to know that our Church family loves, cares, and prays for us. It was a blessing to receive a number of cards and well wishes this Christmas Season, and I would especially like to thank this congregation for their gift of the Pastor's Purse. Your generosity both to my family and to this community is greatly appreciated.

- The Shearer Family



We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and well wishes during our mother's (Gaynell Cash) illness and passing. The kindness you shared brightened so many days.

- The Cash Family (Diane, Penny, and Murphy)



Congratulations to the Law & Gutzler families on the birth of Michael Lawson Gutzler who was born on Friday, December 18th, 2015, in Fairfax, VA. Michael is the son of Michael and Emma Beth Law Gutzler and the grandson of Jane Law. He also has a big sister, Clara Noelle who is two and a half years old.

Staunton Choral Society 2016 Spring Season



Rehearsals for the Staunton Choral Society 2016 Spring Concert Season have begun. They are on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church (2807 North Augusta Street - Staunton; meet in the Social Hall on lower level, enter from back parking lot). New and returning members are welcome to join through mid-February. The fee per season is \$30.00 for music and concert cost.

The director Raymond Hebert has a great program of fun pieces picked out for the Staunton Choral Society. They are planning a Hymn Festival in April, the big concert on May 15th, probably repeat performances at "Serenity at Trinity" vespers services in the historic Trinity Lutheran Church in June, and Praise in the Park at Staunton's Gypsy Hill Park in July.

Come join the Sing - Join the Staunton Choral Society!

Bethel Christmas Eve Service - 2015





February 2nd - Groundhog Day
February 7th - Super Bowl Sunday
February 10th - Ash Wednesday
February 14th - Valentine's Day
February 15th - Presidents' Day

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



Happy Valentine's Day!

And now these three remain: *faith, hope* and
love. But the greatest of these is *love*.
--1 Corinthians 13:13