



The Tower

March 2016

563 Bethel Green Road * Staunton, Virginia 24401 * (540) 886-6041
bethelpc@gmail.com * www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org



Dear Church Family,

It is my sincere hope that you have had a meaningful Lent so far. Lent is an incredible time when we are preparing for the most important event. Like Advent which prepares for Jesus to be born, Lent prepares our heart, mind, and soul for his work on the cross and his resurrection.

But Lent is not simply something that happens. It is something that we must actively do. When I had my (incredibly brief and unsuccessful) experience playing baseball as a kid the coach would always remind the hitter to keep his eye on the ball. From when the pitcher is just holding it to when he winds up to when it is in the air all the way to when it comes into contact with the bat.

It is that level of focus that we aim for during Lent. Our concentration throughout these weeks is focused on preparing for what Jesus is about to do both on the cross and in our lives.

And so I do hope that Lent has been meaningful for each of us so far. But, if we have been lax in focusing on the Lenten season, then I have good news: We are only about half way through. And as they say, better late than never. Let us all prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for what Jesus is about to do for us.

God bless,
Pastor David

As I See It

Lent is a time of preparation and repentance. And there are many ways that we can do that. Some people choose to fast or to give up something for Lent. Others recommit to daily prayer. And those are wonderful ways of participating in Lent.

But I wanted to remind you of another thing that we can do during Lent which is our Lenten Community Worship Services. These are a great time for different traditions to come together and worship their Lord and Savior. And they also provide for a weekly reminder of the importance of this season.

So I encourage you all to come out for these beautiful services. They are on every Thursday throughout Lent at 7:00 pm. Please check your weekly bulletin for the location. I hope to see you there!

March Worship Service

March 6, 2016

4th Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

Read: Joshua 5:9-12 II Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



March 13, 2016

5th Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

Read: Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4-14 John 12:1-8

March 20, 2016

Passion/Palm Sunday

11:00 am

Read: Isaiah 50:4-9 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 23:1-49

March 27, 2016

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

11:00 am

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Read: Isaiah 65:17-25 I Corinthians 15:19-26 John 20:1-18



Communion will be held on March 27th, Easter Sunday.

Lenten Worship Service Schedule - 2016

All services are on Thursday evenings and begin at 7:00 pm



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

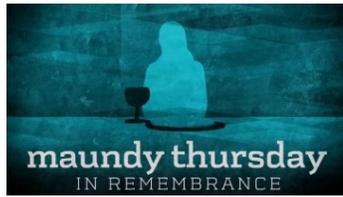
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Sunday, March 20th, 2016



Bethel will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during the worship service on Palm Sunday, March 20th, 2016.

Since 1949, Presbyterians have been giving from the heart in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to help those in great need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.



Maundy Thursday - Meal & Service

On March 24th, Bethel will have a Maundy Thursday service. Reminiscent of the disciples' meal with Jesus in the Upper Room, our meal will be followed by the Eucharist. Plan to come to this special service: everyone is invited! So that we might be able to make adequate preparations, please fill out the enclosed reservation form below so that we might know about how many are coming. *Please make your reservation by Sunday, March 20th, 2016.*

Also, we need help in setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the meal. If you would like to and would be able to serve in any of those capacities, please let Jill Webb or the Church Office know. Thank you!

MAUNDY THURSDAY RESERVATION FOR DINNER AND
WORSHIP AT THE TABLE

March 24th, 2016 - 6:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

NAME _____

NO. OF ADULTS _____ NO. CHILDREN ATTENDING _____

Please place your reservation in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office (563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401) to be received by Sunday, March 20th, 2016. If you have questions please contact the Church Office at (540) 886-6041.

"he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19)



A community Good Friday service will be held at St. John's Reformed Church on the evening of March 25th. The service will begin at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited!

Have you seen our chapel in the woods? This year we plan to hold our Easter Sunrise Service at the chapel



followed by a covered dish breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. We ask that you drop off your food at the church kitchen and gather at the chapel at 7:00 am. The chapel is located behind the Scout Hut. As you turn on Bethel Green Road, take the first lane to the right. There is limited parking near the chapel and plenty of seating. In case of rain, the service will be held in the sanctuary. Join us for this special service and time of fellowship. Tell your neighbors and friends. Better yet, bring them with you! All are welcome!

There will be a cross outside the front entrance of the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Please bring fresh flowers to church on Easter to place on the cross.



Fellowship Following Worship:

Our gatherings after church continue to provide an opportunity for pleasant conversations among friends and good, light refreshments. Thanks go out to all who have provided the "goodies", as well as their time setting-up. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall if you would like to take a turn. Dates in March through the spring are available for those who would like to help with this fellowship time.



Presbyterian Women - March 2016

Emphasis - Lent, Easter

*The Afternoon Circle will meet on March 8th, 2016, at 1:30 pm at Bethel.

*The Evening Circle will meet on March 8th, 2016, at 7:00 pm at Bethel.



Committed to nurturing faith, supporting mission, working for justice, and building community.



Evening Circle Meeting February 2016

Church Office Announcements . . .



The April Tower Deadline will be Thursday, March 17th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the April 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!

Please send your announcements for the weekly bulletin and updates for the Prayer List to the Church Office by noon each Wednesday (unless otherwise noted in the bulletin). Feel free to email the information to: bethelpc@gmail.com or you can place it in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall. Please remember that all announcements are subject to editing. Thank you!



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, March 28th, the day after Easter.

Copies of the 2016 budget and copies of the 2015 Annual Reports are available in the Church Office. Please contact Adrienne if you would like a copy. Thank you!



Bethel Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 19th, 2016 (Rain or Shine)

1:00 pm till 3:00 pm

Bethel Presbyterian Church

All ages are invited, young and old!

Refreshments will be provided. The Easter Egg Hunt is for all ages and all children participating need to bring their own basket. Make plans now to attend this fun annual event!



Easter
Sunday
2015





Easter Lilies and BERF Donations Form

You may order lilies at a cost of \$10.00 (tax included) each or you may make a monetary donation to BERF (Bethel Emergency Relief Fund). The Easter Lilies purchased and the donations made to BERF will be acknowledged in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. 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 lily 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 Sunday, March 20th.

*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 bulletin on Easter Sunday. Also, if you would like to order a lily and make a donation please use two forms (one for the lily and one for the donation). Thank you!

Easter Lilies and BERF Donations Form

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 lily 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 Sunday, March 20th.

Number of Lilies _____ Check or Cash Total _____

or

Donation to BERF _____ Check or Cash Total _____

In Honor Of : _____

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given By: _____

Deacon's News

Adopt - A - Highway

Spring Roadside/Trash Pickup on Howardsville Road on:

Friday, April 15th at 1:00 pm (Picking up trash from the church west to Middlebrook.)

Saturday, April 16th at 9:00 am (Picking up trash from the church east to Rt. 11.)

Trash bags will be provided but please bring gloves! Children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Please join us for this special service project that helps our community!



Bethel Presbyterian Church

Continuing Education Loan Fund (formerly the Scholarship/Loan Fund)



The Bethel Presbyterian Church Continuing Education Loan Fund (formerly the Scholarship/Loan Fund) was established a number of years ago due to the generosity of an anonymous donor to assist young people in furthering their education. Aid from this fund is available to church members for any post-high school education, including vocational schools, nursing, etc. Applications are available in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following Continuing Education Loan Fund Committee members: Bill Brubeck, Dan Gano or David Schooley. The deadline for the return of the completed application together with attachments is April 15, 2016. Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to a member of the committee.

New Disbursing Treasurer!

Welcome to Lori Miller who is Bethel's new Disbursing Treasurer!

Lori Miller 455 Stuarts Draft Highway Staunton, VA 24401
703-475-6743 toplinecrp@yahoo.com



Lori Miller is originally from Northern Virginia. She moved to the valley recently with her husband Ron and two daughters, Michaela and Madison. Michaela attends Mary Washington University where she swims and Madison attends Riverheads where she is on the track team. Ron and Lori own TopLine Construction Company. Lori has done the accounting for the company for 22 years.



The Communications Committee is seeking members that are interested in spreading the word about Bethel to our community and our members. Please join us! We meet the second Sunday of the month at 9:00 am. If you have any questions contact Communication Committee Chair: Tabby Moore (moore@blueridgeequine.com). Thank you!

News from the Growth & Strengthening Committee



The Growth & Strengthening Committee has been split into two committees.

One committee will focus on Congregational Care and will be called the Congregational Care Committee. One of the functions of this committee will be to keep prayer requests going. This will be done by telephone and/or email. The PRAYER TRAIN will be used to contact people who do not have email but would appreciate a phone call about prayer requests.

The leaders for the two Prayer Trains are Sally Brubeck (885-5871) and Evelyn LaPorte (886-2236). If you are currently on one of the Prayer Trains, you will be kept on, unless you contact one of them or the Church Office and asked to be removed. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Train list please contact either Sally or Evelyn or the Church Office. The deadline for being added or removed from the Prayer Train list is April 1st, 2016.

Please contact the Church Office if you have someone who has a prayer request and let Adrienne know if they would like their request to be added to the Prayer Train and/or put on the Prayer List in the bulletin and Tower.

Thank you!

The following note is from Sam Goodson (one of Bethel's many college students) for the Valentine's gift that the Congregational Care Committee sent to him:



I would like to thank all of you at Bethel so much for the thoughtful gift! It's nice to know that people are thinking about me and supporting me all the way from back home. Hope all is well.
- Sam Goodson

Longtime Bethel member Sally Brubeck following the worship service.



For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

Fellowship Following Worship on Valentine's Day



Session News and Notes



The Session met on January 31st, 2016 for a called meeting with eleven Elders and the Moderator, Pastor Shearer, present.

- Lori Miller was confirmed as Bethel's new Disbursing Treasurer.
- The schedule of special Lenten services was approved.
- David Schooley was appointed to attend the February 13th, 2016 Presbytery meeting.

The Session also met on February 14th, 2016 for a stated meeting with nine Elders and the Moderator, Pastor Shearer, present.

- Tammy Barbour presented the Deacons' report:
 - ◇ Trash pick-up will be done on April 15th and 16th.
 - ◇ Gas logs have been installed in the Manse.
 - ◇ The oil furnace at the Manse will probably need attention in the near future.
 - ◇ New handicapped-friendly handles will be installed on the front (sanctuary) doors.
 - ◇ The Deacons also requested that a replacement be found for Mitch Lathrop and this request was approved.
- Russ Rivers will be reinstated as an active member of Bethel.
- Laura Barmore will represent Bethel at the Presbytery meeting on February 23rd, 2016.
- The Worship Committee will have Adrienne design a new tri-fold bulletin.
- Bethel will invite members of our community churches to attend our Maundy Thursday Service.
- The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 7:00 am on Sunday, March 27th, at the Chapel in the woods.
- The Easter Egg Party will be held on Saturday, March 19th, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- The Communications Committee will send out an Easter mailer to community residents.
- Sarah Frances Ralston was re-elected as Treasurer of the Continuing Education Fund.
- Family Fun Night will be held on Saturday, February 27th, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
- Vacation Bible School will be held June 20th to 22nd from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Our community churches will be invited to participate.
- David Schooley reported that, at the February 13th Presbytery meeting, three additional denominations were approved as those to which churches of the Shenandoah Presbytery who wish to leave the denomination may be graciously dismissed. Those churches are: the Christian Reformed Church, the Reformed Church of America and the United Church of Christ.

Bethel Presbyterian Church
A message from the Pastoral Relations Committee



As we approach our two year anniversary with Reverend Shearer we are sharing a brief message. Bethel's Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is an active group of church officers and members who have been charged with the responsibility of ensuring a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship between the congregation and the Pastor.

The PRC maintains an open line of communication with the Pastor and is expected to pray for him and his family. Our committee consists of Derek Almarode, Tammy Barbour, Irene Elliott, Joyce Miller, Jug Smith, Jill Webb, Drury Whitaker, and James Williams.

We are actively working with Reverend Shearer and you, the congregation, to ensure a positive ministry that is reflective of Christ's teachings, and to guarantee that the needs of the Pastor and family can be brought forward for discussion, consideration, and prayer. The PRC is the first line of any biblical church discipline in matters regarding the Pastor, and we encourage you to speak with one or more of us when you have a comment or concern, whether it is constructive criticism, positive encouragement, or praise.

We remind you of our 2014 formal agreement to maintain unity at Bethel by supporting Reverend Shearer with these promises to him:

- Pray with you and for you
- Model God's love by extending and receiving grace with you
- Offer encouragement in all aspects of your ministry
- Actively participate in the worship and work of the church
- Assist in caring for our church family
- Welcome visitors and new members
- Extend our love and support for your own spiritual growth and development
- Allow time for your personal interests and family
- Respect your privacy
- Accord you the respect, the good will and support due to your office
- Compensate you fairly
- Maintain the manse
- Be good stewards by sharing our time, talents, and financial support

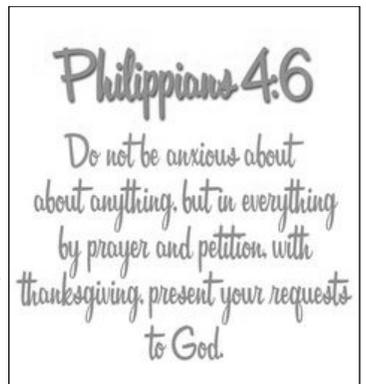
Sympathies and condolences to Vicki Miller Langdon and her family on the passing of her mother on January 22nd, 2016.



Bethel Prayer List

Barry Blacka (Joyce Miller's brother), 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 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), Danielle Hanger, Louise Hoy, Sawyer Hull (Brent & Wendy Hull's daughter), Frances Humphries (friend of Margaret Wade), 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, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Bonnie Messinger (has pancreatic cancer), Michelle Murphy (friend of Kymberlee Schneider), Bobbie Phillips (David Shearer's aunt), Christy Glover Pilson (John Pilson's niece), John Pilson, Carly Pond (14 year old great niece of John Pilson), Ridge & Family (Ridge is a 2 year old who has a brain tumor), Russ Rivers, Sr., Nickie Rutledge (cousin of Louise Hoy), Irene Sarnelle (has lung cancer - friend of Linda Tenney), Charlotte Swortzel, Jerry Utz (Cynthia Williams brother), Bruce Webb (friend of Corbett Smith), Tom Whitaker, Katie Williams & Family, Sarah Williams & Family, Friends & Family of 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!



Financial Stewardship

Receiving Treasurer Summary (as of February 2nd, 2016)
Estimated Budget Expenses: \$18,390.00
Actual Budget Expenses: \$20,311.00
Actual Budget Receipts: \$12,782.00



From the Adult Choir Director:

Thank you for the note in the February Tower regarding my position as Choir Director. I came out of retirement as I felt this was a direction that God wanted me to partake.

During the past month, I have gone through mounds of music in the Bethel files. I have been working very closely with Pastor David, Sara Ann, and the Worship Committee in order for all to be reading the “same sheet of music”.

Coming out of retirement has changed my lifestyle as I am not willing to just take off and go when I “feel like it”. Also, I have had a little culture shock. Some of the “older” music that I have reviewed has changed, including verb-age and music disposition. The average price per copy for a piece of music is about \$2.10. Each book of about 45 selections runs approximately \$17.00.

Over the years, I have not been a proponent of “canned music”. However, this music has greatly improved from 10 years ago. Music is now on “YouTube”, which is out of my league. Most CD’s cost about \$35.00 per anthem and a CD with full orchestration runs about \$70.00. I will not use “canned” music except on rare occasions. However, Bethel does not have the equipment to use CD’s.

Currently, I have music that calls for “C” instruments, violin, bells, brass, etc. I have no knowledge as to who can play instruments or help enhance our musical talents. I would sincerely appreciate a note in my mailbox in Memorial Hall giving names and phone numbers of any members in our congregation that can and would be willing to assist me.

More news will be forthcoming in the April Tower.

Your Adult Choir Director - Harold Coiner

Flower Schedule March 2016

March 6th - Libby Smith

March 13th - Sarah Frances Ralston

March 20th - Libby Smith (Palm Sunday)

March 27th - Easter Lilies (Easter Sunday)

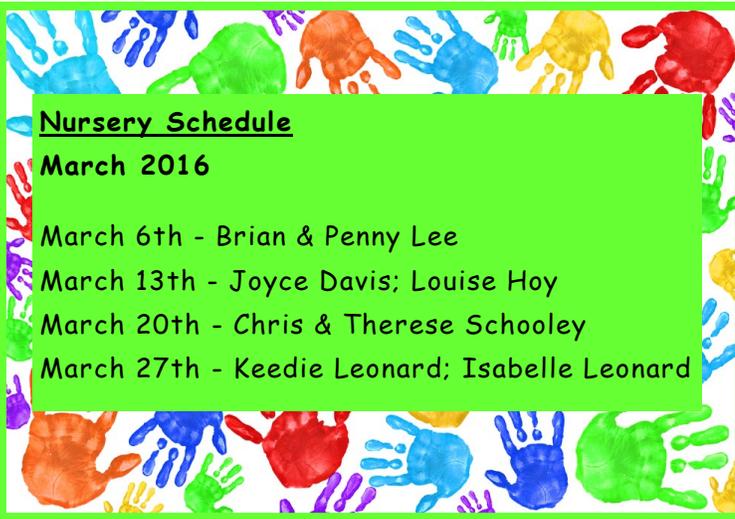


Deacons Offering Schedule

March 2016

Barb Gough
Charlie Johnson
Brian Lee
Chris Schooley





Nursery Schedule
March 2016

March 6th - Brian & Penny Lee
 March 13th - Joyce Davis; Louise Hoy
 March 20th - Chris & Therese Schooley
 March 27th - Keedie Leonard; Isabelle Leonard



March Greeters:
Tom & Drury Whitaker

A big thanks to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring! Bethel collected \$422.00 and numerous food items for Kingsway. The generosity of Bethel members is greatly appreciated!



I would like to take a moment to thank my Bethel family for your care and concern during my recent illness. The thoughtfulness of our church and its members helped to make a rough patch for me and Drury a lot more tolerable. I was back to work 5 days a week on February 8th and will continue rehab for several more weeks as my mobility improves.

Thanks to all and God Bless,
 Tom Whitaker

Jim & Betty Crosby would like to thank the Bethel congregation for your continued prayers, cheerful cards, and visits. We so appreciate your loving care!



Community Announcement



Administrative Assistant Position

Old Providence Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Spottswood, VA is looking for a part-time Administrative Assistant. The position would require approximately 20 hours per week. All inquiries in regards to this employment opportunity are asked to contact Glenn Hanger, Elder. Mr. Hanger's information is listed below.

*Old Providence Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
 1005 Spottswood Road
 Spottswood, VA 24476
 Phone: (540) 377-6706
 Contact Person: Glenn D. Hanger, Elder
 Email: shadyacresfarming@yahoo.com
 Contact Number: (540) 490-1506*



March 13th - Daylight Saving Time begins

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

March 20th - 1st Day of Spring

March 20th - Palm Sunday

March 27th - Easter

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

