



The Tower

July 2016

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Dear Church Family,

As the farmers have been pulling in the hay over the last several weeks I have been reminded of God's blessing to us through the earth. Genesis chapter 1 tells us that God created the universe and called it good and Genesis 2 and 3 tells the stories of the first man and woman who cared for the earth, first tending the Garden of Eden and then wrestling with the thorns and thistles of the ground so that it would produce a harvest for their own sustenance.

And I think about these stories of the first farmers as I drive around Augusta County and see the fruits of the field and the domesticated animals. We follow God's command when we tend the earth and use it to provide for humanity.

And so I hope that as you pass the fields of Augusta County you remember to lift up a special thanks to God for his providence in providing for the rain and the sunshine and the soil and all of the other ingredients that make our fields produce and our animals grow.

God bless,
Pastor David

As I See It

Our country has once again come under attack as a gunman declaring his allegiance to ISIS killed 49 people in a gay bar in Florida. And this tragedy brings to the forefront so many different issues facing the Christian community, and I wanted to address one of them. Christians in our denomination are struggling to figure out what our Christian response should be to homosexuality. And our own congregation has people that believe strongly on both sides. But one thing is for sure and I know for a fact, all of us condemn such a horrible act of violence.

And whatever our stance on same-sex marriage may be, I think that right now after such a horrible tragedy, we as Christians should reach out to the LGBTQ community, a community that often feels neglected by Christians, and express to them what we already know: that actions like this attack in Florida are ungodly; that whatever our stance on homosexuality is, that God loves them and wants to be in relationship with them; and that we will be praying for those affected by this horrible loss of life.

July Worship Services

July 3, 2016

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Read: II Kings 5:1-14 Galatians 6:1-16

Luke 10:1-20

July 10, 2016

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Read: Amos 7:7-17 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37

July 17, 2016

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Read: Amos 8:1-12 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42

July 24, 2016

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Read: Hosea 1:2-10 Colossians 2:6-19 Luke 11:1-13

July 31, 2016

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Read: Hosea 11:1-11 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21



Communion will be held on Sunday, July 10th, during the worship service.



Fellowship Following Worship

Please note that during the month of July there will not be a time of fellowship following the worship service. But we are still looking for people to provide refreshments during the month of August. Would you look at our sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall and see if there is a date you can sign-up to bring refreshments? Light refreshments, something to drink and a friendly face are all the ingredients required!



Lemonade on the Lawn will be held on Sunday, July 31st, following the worship service. Come and join us for this time of fellowship!



Witness Committee News & Upcoming Projects . . .



As you know, Bethel is sponsoring a team on the Summerlee Mission Trip to Fayetteville, WV in July. As part of the mission, a donation is made to the local food pantry there. Each participating church contributes 50 of a single item. This number assures that every family who typically visits the pantry receives one of each item. They asked Bethel to bring 50 cans of green beans. The Witness/Mission Committee is asking for your help by donating a can, or more, of green beans by Sunday, July 3rd. You may put them in the basket located beside the Kingsway donation basket in Memorial Hall. Thank you in advance for your help!



The Women of the Church and the Witness/Mission Committee are going to serve breakfast to the residents of the Valley Mission again on Saturday, July 30th. We are asking for your help in donating the following items: breakfast casseroles in disposable pans, grapes or oranges and gallon jugs of juice. This is what we served to them last time, and they loved it! Typically, their breakfast is store-bought pastries, doughnuts and such, so this menu is a real treat! Please leave your items in the church kitchen by 7:00 pm on Friday, the 29th, or you may bring hot casseroles to the Mission by 9:00 am on the 30th. Please let Rhonda Johnson (292-4441 or crkjohnson@ntelos.net) know, by July 23rd, what you would like to provide. Your help and generosity are greatly appreciated!

Please remember to pray for . . .

The Mission Teams going to Fayetteville, WV. They will be leaving Sunday, July 10th and returning Friday, July 15th.

The Shenandoah Presbytery Mission Teams going to Baja, Mexico. They will be leaving Friday, July 15th and returning Sunday, July 24th.



Baja Yard Sale on June 18th



Church Directory

UPDATE



Bethel Pictorial Directory

The new pictorial directory is in its final stages but we need your help! The committee would like you to proofread your information and let us know if you would like prints of your pictures. The directory will cost \$20 which you may give to the committee now or upon delivery of your directory. Marty Simmers, Jackie Law, and Barb Gough will be available after church through June and July 3rd to discuss the above information with you. We hope to send the directory to the printer in July and have it before Homecoming in August! It's been a long process, but we're almost done! Thanks for your help and patience. - Barb Gough

Presbyterian Women July 2016



July 3rd - PWCT Meeting July 31st - PWCT Meeting



Annual Catered Dinner All women are invited to the Ladies Annual Catered Meal. It will be held on July 12th, at the Middlebook Community Center at 6:30 pm. The meal will be catered by Country Kitchen of Christiansburg and the cost will be \$14.00 per person.

The Presbyterian Women will also be collecting items needed in the kitchen of the Valley Mission (vegetable oil, vegetable spray, coffee, coffee creamer, napkins and paper towels) that evening. If you would like to make a donation, please bring it with you to the dinner. Thank you!



NEWS & Notes

Session News and Notes

The Session met on May 31st, 2016 for a called meeting with 9 Elders and Pastor David present.

The Session, on the recommendation of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, who researched the system and the means of financing it, decided to install air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall, Youth Room, offices, Bumgardner Room and Memorial Hall. The work was completed on June 13th. The system will also provide heat in the cold months.

Also, a new audio/video system will be installed in the sanctuary, with work to begin later in the summer.

These improvements will enhance our worship and fellowship experiences here at Bethel.

Notes from the Church Office . . .



The August Tower Deadline will be Thursday, July 21st. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the August Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. If you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower.

When writing announcements for the newsletter please keep in mind the 5 W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why?. Please remember that all announcements and information are subject to editing. Thank you!

If you borrowed the Choir Room key from the Church Office please return it as soon as possible! You can leave it on Adrienne's desk or in her mailbox in Memorial Hall. Thank you!



Congratulations to Jarod Davis of Troop 13 on becoming an Eagle Scout! Jarod received his award on June 5th at a ceremony held in Bethel's Fellowship Hall with 130 people in attendance.

Congratulations to the Goodson family on the birth of Ashton Goodson who was born on Monday, June 6th, 2016. Ashton is the great-grandson of Yvonne Goodson and the grandson of the late Doug Goodson.



Congratulations to the Cash family on the birth of Lucas Macon Cash who was born on June 8th, 2016. He is the son of Jonathan & Helen Cash and the grandson of Wade & Phyllis Cash.

Congratulations to Kelley Tuennermann and Jared Hartness who were united in marriage on June 18th at 4:00 pm. The wedding took place in Roanoke at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church followed by a reception at the Maridor. Kelley and Jared are both graduates of Radford University. Kelley is an RN at Lewisgale Hospital in Salem and Jared is employed in marketing at Meridium in Roanoke. Kelley is the daughter of Karen Koogler of Staunton and Steve and Lori Tuennermann of Middlebrook.



We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, calls, cards, and well wishes during the illness and passing of our brother (Murphy Cash). The kindness and thoughtfulness we experienced was overwhelming and greatly appreciated. God Bless Everyone!

Diane Cash Wright and Penny Cash



Financial Report - May 31st, 2016

Estimated Budget: \$80,912.00

Actual Receipts: \$61,516.00 Actual Expenses: \$72,237.00

Net Checking Balance: \$43,717.00

Flower Schedule July 2016

July 3rd - Mary Ann Anderson

July 10th - Lee Ann Heizer (*Communion*)

July 17th - Libby Smith

July 24th - Drury Whitaker

July 31st - Tammy Barbour



Nursery Schedule July 2016

July 3rd - Mary Ann Anderson;
Maggie Rivers

July 10th - Joe & Tabby Moore

July 17th - Jackie Law; Stephanie Rivers

July 24th - Barbara Gough; Judy Olson

July 31st - Bayleigh Lee; Luanne Leonard

Offering Schedule

July 2016

Charlie Johnson

Briana Lawhorne

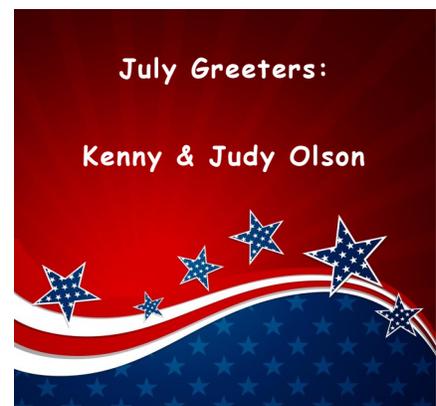
Marty Simmers

Dale Thompson



July Greeters:

Kenny & Judy Olson



Bethel is in need of volunteers to help in the Nursery during the Sunday morning worship services. If you would be willing to volunteer in the Nursery during worship services, please contact

Briana Lawhorne (540-294-3467 or blawhorne7@gmail.com).

Volunteers serve once every three months. Thank you to all the volunteers who help with this valuable ministry!



Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Murphy Cash who passed away on June 4th, 2016.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Maurice Smith who passed away on June 15th, 2016.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Jim Crosby who passed away on June 17th, 2016.

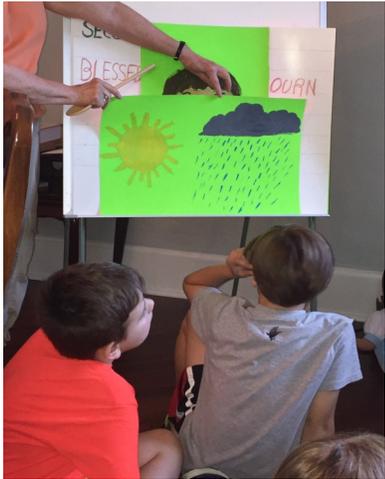


Bethel Prayer List Mike Alford (brain cancer; husband of Mary Alford), Mike Almarode (Betty Schooley's brother-in-law), Phil Balsey (friend of Bob & Louise Hoy), Mildred Barmore & Family (Bob Barmore's mother), Barry Blacka (Joyce Miller's brother), Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Dan Burroughs (friend of Laura Barmore), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Debbie Callison & her sister-in-law Patricia Stiles & great-niece Reese Burdette, Friends & Family of Murphy Cash (brother of Penny Cash & Diane Wright), Ann Christian, Clifton Family, Betty Crosby, Friends & Family of Jim Crosby, Jarod Davis & Family (please send cards to home address), Friends & Family of Mary (Williams) Dransfield, Larry Dubyk (nephew-in-law of Ben & Faye Brown), Friends & Family of Meredith Furr, Danielle Hanger, 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), Evelyn LaPorte, David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Friends & Family of Bonnie Messinger, Michelle Murphy (friend of Kymberlee Schneider), Linda Orebaugh (diagnosed with breast cancer), Christy Glover Pilson (John Pilson's niece), John Pilson, Carly Pond (14 year old great niece of John Pilson), Presbyterians in South Sudan, Africa (as peace negotiations continue), Nickie Rutledge (cousin of Louise Hoy), Irene Sarnelle (has lung cancer - friend of Linda Tenney), Friends & Family Maurice Smith, Charlotte Swortzel, Jerry Utz (on hospice - Cynthia Williams brother), MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

HAVING FUN AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE AT MASSANETTA SPRINGS!



Bethel Vacation Bible School 2016
Theme: The Beatitudes



May the God of **HOPE**
fill you with *all*
JOY & PEACE
as you trust in him,
so that you may *overflow*
with **HOPE** by the
power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

 July 4th - Independence Day

