



# The Tower

August 2016

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Dear Church Family,

The famous and clever writer and satirist Jonathan Swift penned these words: "May you live all the days of your life." What wise words these are. When we talk about our lives it is easy to think of them in the large terms. In other words it is easy to think about our lives in terms of the years we have lived instead of the days we have lived.

Swift was trying to explain to us that every day, every moment is valuable. And he is absolutely right. However many years we have been around, what matters most is the moments that we do things. And I would relate this to our Christian lives.

In our Christian vocation God calls us to live every moment for him. Every morning is a new opportunity to wake up and praise our maker. Every instant that he has given us is another instant that we can rejoice in his name.

God bless,  
Pastor David

## As I See It

As more and more reports of violence erupt in our country we are all concerned. What is the cause of all of this? Who is to blame? Could anything have been done differently? Could that person or this person still be alive?

At this point in time I offer us all encouragement. The sad truth is this: there has been so much violence that it has become hard to see each case individually. It is too easy for us to assume that all of these acts of violence are exactly the same.

This is particularly true in the cases of officers of the law and people of color. It is easy to fall into the habit of thinking that because one side was innocent in this instance that same side must be innocent in that instance and vice versa.

I urge caution. As we are evaluating the news there is not much that we can individually do to stem the tide of violence, but we owe it to ourselves, the victims (whomever they may be), and to justice itself to evaluate each case objectively.

## August Worship Schedule

*August 7th, 2016*

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 1:1-20    Hebrews 11:1-16    Luke 12:32-40

*August 14th, 2016*

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7    Hebrews 11:29-12:2    Luke 12:49-56

*August 21st, 2016*

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-10    Hebrews 12:18-29    Luke 13:10-17

*August 28th, 2016*

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Homecoming Sunday

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Jeremiah 2:4-13    Hebrews 13:1-16    Luke 14:1-14



## ***Y'all come!!! Homecoming Sunday is August 28th, 2016!***

We are honored to have as our guest on Homecoming Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin, Jr., Transitional Presbyter, Presbytery of Shenandoah, who will deliver the sermon. Roy was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Virginia. His father was an active member in the Disciples of Christ Church and his mother was a member of The Presbyterian Church. Both served as elders within their congregations. During his childhood Roy attended both churches regularly, until age 11, when he was confirmed and joined The Presbyterian Church. He attended the University of Mary Washington and Union Presbyterian Seminary. Roy served as pastor at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Bayonet Point, Florida; Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware; and First Presbyterian Church, Lake City, Florida. He has also served the denomination at the Synod, Presbytery levels. We are pleased that Roy has taken time from his busy schedule to join us on this special day.



The 11:00 am worship service will be followed by a covered dish dinner. What better day to invite a friend, neighbor or member we have not seen lately than on Homecoming Sunday. See you in church!

Communion will be held  
on August 28th, 2016,  
Homecoming  
Sunday.



"The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy."

Psalms 126:3



## AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENTS



The summer of 2016 is going by amazingly quickly. July will soon be gone, school will be starting on August 9th this year, and after church refreshments will begin again on August 7th. That first Sunday in August is covered but the sign-up sheet looks pretty empty the rest of the month. Homecoming is August 28th, so that date is covered as well. All of your willingness and spirit of generosity has been something the Congregational Care Committee has been extremely grateful for in the past and we are looking forward to getting together again with our church family. Please remember the fun we have, the conversations shared, and the relaxed atmosphere we hope to encourage. This is an opportunity to leave the cares of this strange world we are living in today and be with those who share our faith, and our love for Bethel. So make your way out to that sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall! We will be putting up a new one soon.

## **Newsletter DEADLINE**

The September Tower Deadline will be Thursday, August 18th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the September Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to: [bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto: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!

The Bells of Bethel will begin practice again on Wednesday, August 3rd, at 7:00 pm. New bell ringers are always welcome! You do not have to be able to read music to learn how to ring bells. Bethel youth are welcome to join the bell choir. If you would like to play bells, please contact JoAnn Pendley at (540) 324-0152.



Adult Choir Practice Resumes in August!



Attention: Adult Choir members and anyone who would like to help sing during the worship services. The Adult Choir will resume practice on August 3rd after taking the months of June and July off. Choir practices are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. They would love to have new and returning choir members!

## **Presbyterian Women      August 2016**

The Afternoon Circle will meet at Bethel on Tuesday, August 9th, at 1:30 pm.

The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Judy Olson (2016 Old Greenville Road; Staunton) on Tuesday, August 9th, at 7:00 pm.



The Christian Education Committee is looking for ways to improve the Bethel Sunday School Program. Below you will find a survey asking what can be done to help get you and your family involved in Sunday School. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate by August 21st. If you would be willing to

teach a Sunday School class or volunteer to help with Sunday School please put your name and contact information on the form. The Christian Education Committee has been working on trying to find teachers for our Children Sunday School Classes especially for children in the fourth and fifth grade and the Youth Class (grades 6-12) so if you would like to volunteer make sure to sign up below or talk to Peggy Smith. We would love to have more children in our Sunday School Program. Please prayerfully consider where you may have a part in this process. Any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Peggy Smith. Thank you!



### *Getting U into S\_ nday School!*

**Our Sunday School program has really been suffering lately from your absence – what can be done to get U and your family involved again?**

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#### **Check one (or more):**

- ☐ **Materials need to be improved.**
- ☐ **I'm excited! Count on me to teach.**
- ☐ **A family setting might work.**
- ☐ **Maybe meet twice a month.**
- ☐ **I loved Sunday School when I was a kid!**
- ☐ **More activities for all ages.**
- ☐ **It's hard to get everyone ready for Sunday School.**
- ☐ **I don't feel that Sunday School is that important.**
- ☐ **Sometimes it's boring.**

#### **Comments/Suggestions:**



### Volunteers Needed!



The Women of the Church are asking for your help. We will be placing a sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall requesting help with food preparation, set-up, and clean-up when church events occur. This will cover funerals, the Homecoming meal, the Rally Day meal, and other events not covered by Committee sponsored projects. (Committee sponsored projects will provide their own staffing.)

In the past, church circles have provided the necessary help. Now we want to open the opportunity to help with these important events to the broader congregation. Please consider in which area(s) you might be willing to volunteer and add your name and phone number to the sign-up sheet. Men are also welcome to sign-up! A master list of all volunteers along with their contact information will be created and you will be contacted when help with events is needed. Our church get-togethers bring us all closer, to each other and to our Christian community. Thank you!

- Women of the Church

### Kroger Plus Cards

Bethel church members, thank you for linking your Kroger Plus cards to our church!



We now have 13 households whose Kroger Plus cards are earning money for Bethel! During March to May, our donation from Kroger increased from \$50 to \$133. Such Kroger donations are designated to be deposited to the Bethel Emergency Relief Fund.

If your household still needs to connect its Kroger Plus card to Bethel, please log in to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://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 at : [rimcorp@msn.com](mailto:rimcorp@msn.com) or 540-337-0828.

### Financial Report - through June 30th, 2016

Estimated Budget: \$95,628.00

Actual Receipts: \$71,413.00

Actual Expenses: \$92,157.00



## New Kingsway Closet

Did you know we have a new Kingsway Closet? Thanks to Tim Turner and his brother David, what was the stairway to the old men's room is now a closet. It is located just inside the side ramp entrance to the church near the Bumgardner Classroom. Please place your donations in this area instead of Memorial Hall. We thank you for your continued support of this local food pantry. Kingsway Help Center works in conjunction with The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and local organizations and individuals. Pantry Hours: Tuesday 9:00 am - noon and the 3rd Wednesday of each month 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Check with Rhonda Johnson or Kathy Swisher if you need more information.



We will also be storing our sidewalk signs and banners in this closet. If you need to use any of these, please let the Communications Committee (Tabby, Tom, Tim, Chris, Penny or Jill) know.

### Flower Schedule August 2016

August 7th - Evelyn LaPorte

August 14th - Sarah Frances Ralston

August 21st - Keedie Leonard

August 28th - Libby Smith/Communion/  
Homecoming Sunday



### Nursery Schedule August 2016

August 7th - Eloise Moore

August 14th - Mac & Emily Williams

August 21st - Chris & Therese Schooley

August 28th - Briana Lawhorne; Libby Smith  
(Homecoming Sunday)

### Offering Schedule August 2016

Tammy Barbour

Brian Lee

Bob Olson

Joe F. Williams



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](mailto:blawhorne7@gmail.com)). Volunteers serve once every three months. Thank you to all the volunteers who help with this valuable ministry!



### August Greeters:

Marion & Marty Simmers



## MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE 2016

Thank you for letting me chaperone our girls at the Massanetta Springs Middle School Camp this year. Samantha Moore, Bayleigh and Lydia Lee, and their friends Emma Staton and Kylie Snead were great campers, participating in all the activities. We learned a lot and had a lot of fun. They asked if we could go again next year. Bayleigh will be in 9<sup>th</sup> grade so she will be old enough to go to Montreat Senior Camp next year. So, of course we're looking for chaperones to go along. Do you remember going to Massanetta or Montreat in the past? I do, and they are wonderful memories. I thank all the chaperones who went with my groups. That's why I couldn't say "No", to the invitation to join them this summer.

This year we explored **Luke 5:1-11** at "the Netta" Middle School camp. FISHING!

On an ordinary day several fishermen had an extraordinary encounter. What looked like a lousy night of fishing turned into an abundant catch. Simon and his friends would never be the same. Jesus asked them to drop everything to follow Him. He promised they would do more than catch fish.

This year, we explored this moment where Jesus called his first disciples. We discovered our ordinary places and thought about what happens when Jesus meets us in the middle of our ordinary, everyday lives. We were challenged to think about what we needed to leave behind to follow Jesus and what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Jesus promises us a life of "catching people". What does this mean, what do we do? We put up our "GONE FISHIN" signs and explored a great fishy tale.

**We learned that "WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD" and "HE LOVES US ALL, JUST AS WE ARE"!**

Won't you join us next year?

Barb Gough

### HAVING FUN AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE AT MASSANETTA SPRINGS!







## The Big Event 2016 At Massanetta Springs

September 10, 2016 - 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at  
Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA

### A COMING TOGETHER OF ALL SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY CONGREGATIONS

The Big Event offers worship, music, a mission fair, and workshops to interest adults, youth and children as we celebrate our oneness in Christ. To discover what workshops are offered this year go to <http://shenpres.org/big-event-resources/>. You can also download The Big Event 2016 brochure and registration form and sign up to attend.

### Augusta County Fair Gospel Night



Gospel Night at the Augusta County Fair will be Thursday evening, August 4th at Expo in Fishersville. The Crestmen Quartet will be performing at 8:00 pm. Get more information about Gospel Night and all the other events going on at the Augusta County Fair at: [www.augustacountyfair.com](http://www.augustacountyfair.com).

Staunton's 90-member community band, The Stonewall Brigade Band, is having their 128th annual park concert series in Staunton's Gypsy Hill Park. The concerts are 8:00 pm every Monday during the month of August. Concerts are free and are held rain or shine. Complete program listings along with band history can be seen at [www.stonewallbrigadeband.com](http://www.stonewallbrigadeband.com). The Stonewall Brigade Band, continuous since 1855, is the oldest continuous band among 2,000 community bands in the United States.



The Summerlee Mission Team would like to thank everyone who donated green beans for the Fayetteville Food Pantry. Once again, Bethel's generous spirit has responded and we collected 104 cans of beans - more than double our request for 50! Thanks, too, to those of you who donated supplies for Old Providence Church's request for items to take to West Virginia's flood victims. You can always be counted on to help those in need!



**Thank  
You!!!**

### Summerlee Mission Trip to Fayetteville, WV





## BETHEL'S "BEATITUDES" VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



This was the first year for many years that Bethel had their own Vacation Bible School. The teachers, helpers and children were all great! We learned a lot about the Beatitudes and will be able to apply our learning to our daily living. One of the project that we had for VBS was to provide "Blessing Bags for children" to be given to children during a disaster when God's Pit Crew goes in to help and we were able to provide 32 bags. Another project that was complete was cards with flowers on them made by to the children that were mailed to our shut ins. Thanks to the parents or grandparents who brought their children! Also, many thanks to Cindy Almarode, Mary Ann Anderson, Larua Bar-more, Ashley Burke, Irene Elliott, Ellen Fitzgerald, Barbara Gough, Betty Heizer, Mo Kyle, Jackie Law, Briana Lawhorne, Harleigh Lee, Jeanne Lee, Beth Miller, Rosalee Miller, Tabby Moore, Kenneth Olson, JoAnn Pendley, Sarah Frances Ralston, Stephanie River, Maggie Rivers, Bonnie Shear-er, Pastor David, Marion & Martha Simmers, Kathy Swisher, Doris True, and Jill Webb! Without these volunteers we would not have been able to have VBS. Thank you to all who helped with Bi-ble School and made it a great experience for everyone!

### Bethel VBS 2016 Theme: The Beatitudes



Dear Bethel Friends and Family,  
Thank you so much for all the prayers and cards during our time of loss. We will always remember with deep gratitude your comforting expressions of sympathy.

- The Family of Maurice Smith



We would like to thank you for your prayers, cards, and condolences during our time of loss. We deeply appreciate your kindness and sympathy as it gives us much comfort.

- The Family of Jim Crosby



## Prayer Requests



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), Tom

Blacka (Joyce Miller's brother), Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Dan Burroughs (friend of Laura Barmore), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Alphie Canning, Ann Christian, Betty Crosby, Friends & Family of Jim Crosby, Jarod Davis & Family (please send cards to home address), Friends & Family of Mary (Williams) Dransfield, Friends & Family of Larry Dubyk (nephew-in-law of Ben & Faye Brown), 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), 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), Nickie Rutledge (cousin of Louise Hoy), Irene Sarnelle (has lung cancer - friend of Linda Tenney), Friends & Family Maurice Smith, Michael Somers, Charlotte Swortzel, Jerry Utz (on hospice - Cynthia Williams brother), The people of West Virginia especially those affected by the floods, MISSIONARY: Michael and Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

