

December 4th - December 10th

THIS WEEK AT
BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 4th - December 10th

Today	2nd Sunday of Advent Deadline: Salvation Army Gifts 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Congregational Meeting 12:30 Diaconate <i>(following Cong. Meeting)</i> 12:30 PWCT Meeting <i>(following Cong. Meeting)</i> 5:00 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Youth of Kingsway
Monday	7:00 Boy Scouts
Wednesday	6:30 Cub Scouts <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i> 7:00 The Bells of Bethel 7:00 Adult Choir
Saturday	9:00 Youth Serving Breakfast at Valley Mission & Christmas Shopping for Kingsway

Next Sunday, December 11th: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Joy Gift Sunday

9:00 Communications Committee Meeting

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship/Children's Christmas Program

12:00 Covered Dish Luncheon

5:00 Congregational Assessment Tool

Deadline

7:00 Session Meeting

•The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Bettie Swisher in memory of Mr. & Mrs. M. B. Swisher and Don B. Swisher.



•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!

•Rev. Malcolm Brownlee will be preaching and leading the worship service this morning. Malcolm Brownlee grew up in Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, and moved back there 10 years ago to retire. He has been pastor of churches in Hazard, Kentucky; Riverdale, Georgia; and Huntersville, North Carolina, and interim pastor of churches in Lexington, North Carolina; Beckley, West Virginia, and Fairfield and Rockbridge Baths, Virginia. From 1973 till 1984 he and his wife Sarah were missionaries in Indonesia. Bethel Presbyterian Church was one of their supporting churches during that time. Please let Rev. Brownlee know how much we appreciate him being with us this morning!

•A Community Advent Study is being held at St. John's on Thursday evenings. Supper will be at 6:30 pm and the study will begin at 7:00 pm. For more information please see the special "Down to Earth" flier in your announcements. Everyone is invited!

•Please remember that all Salvation Army gifts are due today! Gifts should be wrapped and have the tag attached. If you have any questions please contact Doris True. Thanks for your generosity with this annual project!

•There will be a Congregational Meeting today, following the worship service for the purpose of hearing the report of the Church Nominating Committee and electing new Church Officers.

Make fellowship part of your Christmas season and join us...

Sunday, December 4th at 5:00pm for a

Spaghetti Supper

PREPARED AND SERVED BY BETHEL YOUTH!

A love offering will be taken and all donations go to purchase Christmas gifts for the Youth of Kingsway the following Saturday.



•The Staunton Choral Society will present their 2016 Christmas Concert “The Promise of the Ages” next Sunday, December 4th, at 7:00 pm. The concert will be at Christ Lutheran Church (2807 N. Augusta Street; Staunton, VA). There is no admission cost but a free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Staunton Choral Society, a 501(c)3 organization. Snow date will be December 11th at the same time and location. For more information please check out the Staunton Choral Society website at: www.stauntonchoralsociety.org or their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StauntonChoralSociety.

Saturday, December 10th the youth will be shopping for Christmas gifts for the Youth of Kingsway.

Before they go shopping they will be serving breakfast at the Valley Mission.

We are in need of breakfast casseroles, grapes & oranges for this meal. If you would like to bring food, please leave at the church Friday evening (with heating directions) or bring to the mission by 9am. Please contact Rhonda Johnson @ 292-4441 or crkjohnson@ntelos.net if you plan to bring food so we can make sure we have enough.

{PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL FOODS ARE IN DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS}



•Children's Christmas Program December 11th, 2016

The Children's Christmas Program is scheduled as part of the 11:00 am worship service next Sunday, December 11th, 2016. Also, during this time the congregation will sing beautiful and traditional Christmas hymns. Invite grandparents, neighbors, and friends to share in this Advent season.

•Joy Gift Sunday & Fellowship Meal December 11th, 2016

The Joy Gift Offering will be collected next Sunday, December 11th. A covered dish meal will be held immediately following morning worship, so bring your favorite dish to share!

What Is the Christmas Joy Gift Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost eighty years, the Christmas Joy Gift Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The receipts for the Joy Gift Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to help support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

•There will be a Christmas Benefit Concert for SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association) on Monday, December 12th, at 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). The concert will be at Memorial Baptist Church (224 Taylor Street; Staunton) and local musical artists will be featured. Come join us for a time of music, fellowship and an offering to SACRA. A “Meet and Greet the Artists” time with refreshments will follow the concert.

•The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 13th, 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 if you have any questions.

•The Evening Circle will have a Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 13th, at 6:30 pm (*note the time change!*) 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 contact Irene Elliott or Louise Hoy.

•It's time to place your order for Christmas poinsettias and/or make a special Christmas donation to the Bethel Emergency Relief Fund (BERF)! Poinsettias will be \$10.00 each (tax included). The Poinsettias purchased and the donations made to BERF will be acknowledged in the bulletin on December 18th and Christmas Eve. For more information please see the "Bethel Christmas Poinsettias or Donations to BERF" form in your announcements. The deadline for Poinsettia orders and Christmas BERF donations is Tuesday, December 13th at 3 pm.

•The January Tower Deadline will be Thursday, December 15th. 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. Thank you!

•Youth Sunday The Bethel Youth will be leading the morning worship service on Sunday, December 18th. Make plans to now to attend this special service!

•If you would like to join Bethel Presbyterian Church, please feel free to contact the Church Office or a Session member. We would love to hear from you!

Financial Stewardship Information

Offerings 2016: It is requested that offerings for 2016 be made no later than Sunday, December 25th. Thank you for your continued support.

Pledges 2016: 18 pledges for a total of \$51,842 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 2017: ATTENTION OFFERING ENVELOPE USERS – Beginning Sunday December 11th, numbered offering envelopes will be available in the vestibule for those who used offering envelopes in 2016. 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.



Bethel Christmas Poinsettias or Donations To BERF Form

You may order Poinsettias at a cost of \$10.00 (tax included) each or you may make a monetary donation to BERF (Bethel Emergency Relief Fund). The Poinsettias purchased and the donations made to BERF will be acknowledged in the bulletin on December 18th and Christmas Eve. 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 poinsettia 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 Tuesday, December 13th at 3 pm.***

**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 bulletins. Also, if you would like to order a poinsettia and make a donation please use two forms (one for the poinsettia and one for the donation). Thank you!*

Number of Poinsettias _____ Check or Cash Total _____
or

Donation to BERF _____ Check or Cash Total _____

In Honor Of: _____

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given By: _____

****Remember to pick-up Poinsettia(s) following the Christmas Eve Service or on Sunday, December 25th, following the worship service.****

OUR DESTINATION IS IN SIGHT

So many of you have shared your thoughts and feelings by completing the Congregation Assessment Tool. You have our gratitude. Rest assured that your responses are 100% confidential. If by chance you have not completed the assessment yet, you have just one more week to make your voice heard. HOW ABOUT TODAY!

If you need a paper copy, please stop by the church's office and we will provide one for you. Remember all answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way to match any completed assessment to a particular person so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences.

Today, Sunday December 4th, from 1pm-5pm the CAT Team will be available to help those who would like to complete their assessment either online or paper. We will have several computers available and will be available for any questions.

All assessments are due by 5pm on December 11th. Completed paper assessments should be enclosed in the original envelope and deposited in the CAT box outside the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Barmore at laura@alllabs.com.

Many thanks,
Laura Barmore, Tamara Barbour and Barbara Gough
Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) Team

2016 Advent Study

THURSDAY EVENINGS AT ST. JOHN'S



DECEMBER 8TH, 15TH, & 22ND

Nothing in all the vast, created universe could prepare us for God coming down as a helpless infant, positioning himself as a mere servant, identifying with the lowest of lows. It's enough to confound the mind, to make the heart contrite. God's great surprise changes everything.

Join us for a soup supper at 6:30 pm and study at 7:00 pm
Contact Pr. Dennis if you can supply soup or bread one evening. prdennisrussell@gmail.com