

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 27th - December 3rd

•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!

•Today is Bethel's traditional Hanging of the Greens service. Thanks to everyone who will be participating in today's worship service and to those who helped plan the worship service!

•The Advent Workshop will be today following worship. All ages are welcome! We will have a light lunch and activities will include crafts representing each Sunday of Advent. Each family will receive an Advent calendar to be used at home during the Advent season. Hope to see you there!

•Reminder: Gift Cards for the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands are due today. Gift cards can be given to Barbara Gough, Jackie Law, Irene Elliott, or Louise Hoy. Thanks for your participation and generosity with this special project!

•The Church Office will be closed Monday, November 28th through Thursday, December 1st, while Adrienne is on vacation. Please contact Bill Brubeck ([brubeck@mgwnet.com](mailto:brubeck@mgwnet.com)) or Laura Barmore ([laura@alllabs.com](mailto:laura@alllabs.com)) if you have a need. Thank you!

•A Community Advent Study will start next Thursday, December 1st, at St. John's. 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!

•Look for the Salvation Army tree that is in Memorial Hall. Please take a gift tag off of the tree and sign your name on the sheet next to the tree. When you return your gift please make sure it's wrapped and the tag is attached. (Remember that while elaborate bows on the presents are pretty they get mashed when the gifts are packed for delivery.) Gifts are due next Sunday, December 4th. Contact Doris True if you have any questions. Thanks for your generosity with this annual project!

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

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

•There will be a Congregational Meeting next Sunday, December 4th, following the worship service for the purpose of hearing the report of the Church Nominating Committee and electing new Church Officers.

•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](http://www.stauntonchoralsociety.org) or their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/StauntonChoralSociety](http://www.facebook.com/StauntonChoralSociety).

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 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 on 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 on 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.

•FROM YOUR DEACONS:

Our coat/blanket give-away on November 19th brought enormous participation from our generous congregation. We had men's coats, women's coats, coats for children and toddlers. There were new and used items, warm blankets and even a couple of pairs of children's shoes. We feel the attempt to reach out to needy families in our community was a success, although there weren't as many people/families as we had hoped for stopping by Bethel to pick up something to help keep them warm this winter. Those families who visited us were thankful for what we could give them. We invited them all to participate in our church services and tried to tell them a little bit about Bethel. We are offering our left over items to Riverheads coat closet and to other organizations with the opportunity to distribute them to those in need. We are so grateful to all who contributed....thank you.

•ALSO FROM YOUR DEACONS:

Needed repairs are being carried out to the church manse. There was ceiling damage due to a leaking AC unit which required patching and replacing some of the ceiling as well as a segment of the old unit previously installed some years ago. There is also some cleaning to be carried out and we would like to enlist the help of the congregation in carrying out some needed tasks. A sign up sheet will be in Memorial Hall with specified tasks to be completed. We will plan on a day the week after Thanksgiving for this needed work day at the Manse. Please help us in bringing our pastoral living quarters back to a condition ready for occupancy.

•There is now a lamp in Memorial Hall that is set on a timer to turn on around 5:30 pm in the evening and turn off around 10:00 pm. This has always been such a dark area at night when there are meetings and choir practice and we hope the light will be helpful for those traveling through Memorial Hall. Flashlights do not always work and we don't want anyone to fall or trip. Please don't turn the lamp off at any time. Thanks!

•The Communications Committee would like to remind everyone to take pictures at their Bethel events and activities. The pictures can then be shared with Communications Committee members who will post them to the website and Facebook. Thank you!

•Don't forget that Bethel Hats & Shirts are now available!

Polo Shirts are available in sizes small to XXXL and are priced according to size - \$21-\$25 each. Hats are \$17 for fitted hats and \$13 for adjustable hats. Email Tom Whitaker at: [whit2153@gmail.com](mailto:whit2153@gmail.com) with your order. You can also add your order to the order sheet in Memorial Hall following the worship service. If you have any questions please see any member of the Communications Committee (Tabby Moore, Penny Lee, Tim Turner, Jill Webb, Tom Whitaker). Show your support and pride in Bethel and place your order today! The order will be placed when significant volume is reached.

- Communications Committee

•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!

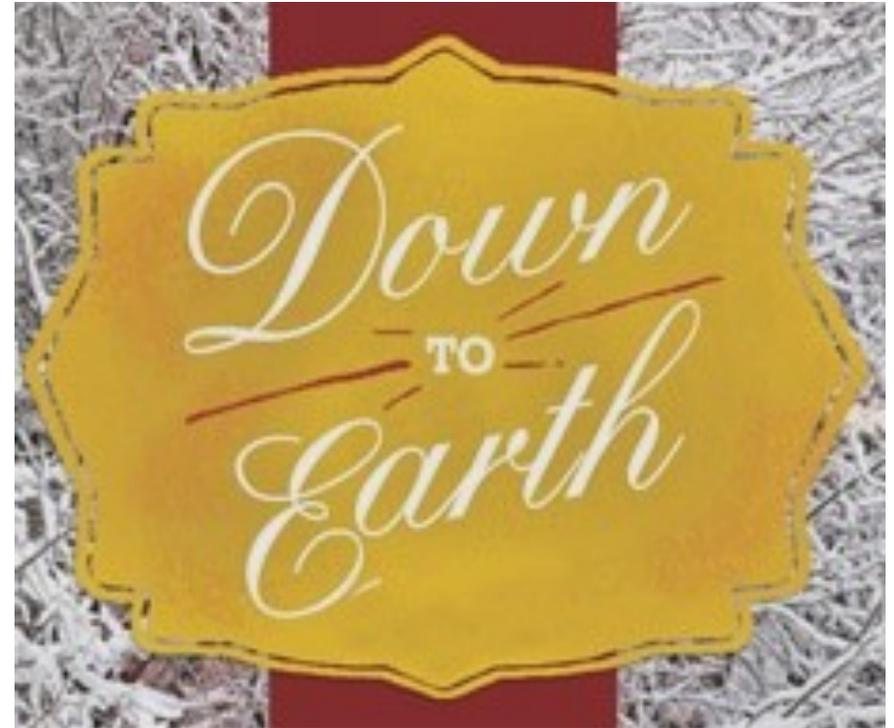
November 20th

Attendance: 85

Weekly Budget: \$3,679.00 Received: \$5,044.00

## 2016 Advent Study

### **THURSDAY EVENINGS AT ST. JOHN'S**



### **DECEMBER 1ST, 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](mailto:prdennisrussell@gmail.com)

HAVE YOU TAKEN YOUR SEAT YET?

NOW IS THE TIME to share your story. We need to know how you think and feel about your experiences at Bethel. We are asking for 35 minutes of your time to help shape the future of our church. HOW ABOUT MAKING IT A PRIORITY TODAY if you haven't already shared your perspectives by participating in this important process. Remember that all answers are completely anonymous.

If you need a paper copy, please stop by the church's office, and we will provide one for you. All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way to match any completed assessment to a particular person. All assessments are due by December 11th. Completed paper assessments should be enclosed in the original envelope and deposited in the CAT box outside the church office.

On Friday December 2nd from 12 pm-4 pm and Sunday December 4th from 1 pm-5 pm the CAT Team will be available to help those who would like to complete their assessment either online or on paper. We will have several computers available and will be available for any questions.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Barmore at 540-462-7794 or [laura@alllabs.com](mailto:laura@alllabs.com).

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