

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**December 11th - December 17th**

•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!

•We welcome the Rev. Clayton Rascoe who will be preaching and leading the worship service this morning. Clayton is Executive Director of Massnaetta Springs Conference Center and holds degrees from Appalachian State University and Columbia Theological Seminary. Clayton is married to the Rev. Kate Rascoe and they two daughters, Ruth and Carolina, and a mischievous hound named Scoot. Please let Rev. Rascoe know how much we appreciate him being with us this morning!

•Today during the worship service "The Christmas Story" will be presented by the children and youth of Bethel. We hope you enjoy the program and thanks to everyone who is participating!

•Our annual Joy Gift Covered Dish Meal will be held today immediately following the worship service. If you would like to give to the Joy Gift Offering there are envelopes available in your bulletin. The Joy Gift Offering is a special offering of the PCUSA and the money given will be 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.

•The Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) surveys are due today at 5:00 pm. Please see the insert in your bulletin regarding the CAT survey for more information.

•There will be a Christmas Benefit Concert for SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association) tomorrow, 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 Stonewall Brigade Band will present their annual BENEFIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT tomorrow, Monday, December 12th at St. Paul's United Methodist Church (2000 Shutterlee Mill Road; Staunton). The Stonewall Flutes of the Shenandoah will perform in the lobby at 6:30 pm and the band concert will begin at 7:30 pm. Admission is free, and an offering will be taken to benefit the Salvation Army and the Valley Mission. The program listing is available at [www.stonewallbrigadeband.com](http://www.stonewallbrigadeband.com).

•The Afternoon Circle will meet this Tuesday, December 13th, at 11:00 am (*note the time change!*). The meeting will be at the home of Libby Smith and there will be a light lunch served. Please contact Libby if you have any questions.

•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 this Tuesday, December 13th at 3 pm.*

•The Evening Circle will have a Christmas Party this 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.

•The January Tower Deadline will be this 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](mailto:bethelpc@gmail.com). When writing announcements for the newsletter 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!

•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!

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

•EVERYONE "Let's go Christmas Caroling", next Sunday, December 18th! Following the worship service we will have lunch and then carpool to the homes of our members who are homebound. Let's join together to make the Christmas Holidays more special for our homebound members!

•Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 9:00 pm. (The prelude will be played beginning at 8:30 pm.) The service is always a moving and beautiful experience as we hear the Good News both read and sung. Come and take part as we sing, as we pray, and as we praise God for the birth of our Savior!

•Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Charlotte Swortzel. Charlotte passed away on Tuesday, December 6th. Family night will be this evening from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Henry Funeral Home. The memorial service will be at Bethel, tomorrow, December 12th, at 11:00 am.

•Many thanks to Bill Francisco for donating the beautiful tree in the Sanctuary. Also thank you to Laura Swisher, Justin Swisher and Jesse Resnick for decorating the tree.

•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 27th

Attendance: 96

Weekly Budget: \$3,679.00 Received: \$2,000.00

Four Cents A Meal Offering: \$287.00

December 4th

Attendance: 89

Weekly Budget: \$3,679.00 Received: \$3,430.00

### **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:** 19 pledges for a total of \$58,082 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 today 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 this 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: \_\_\_\_\_

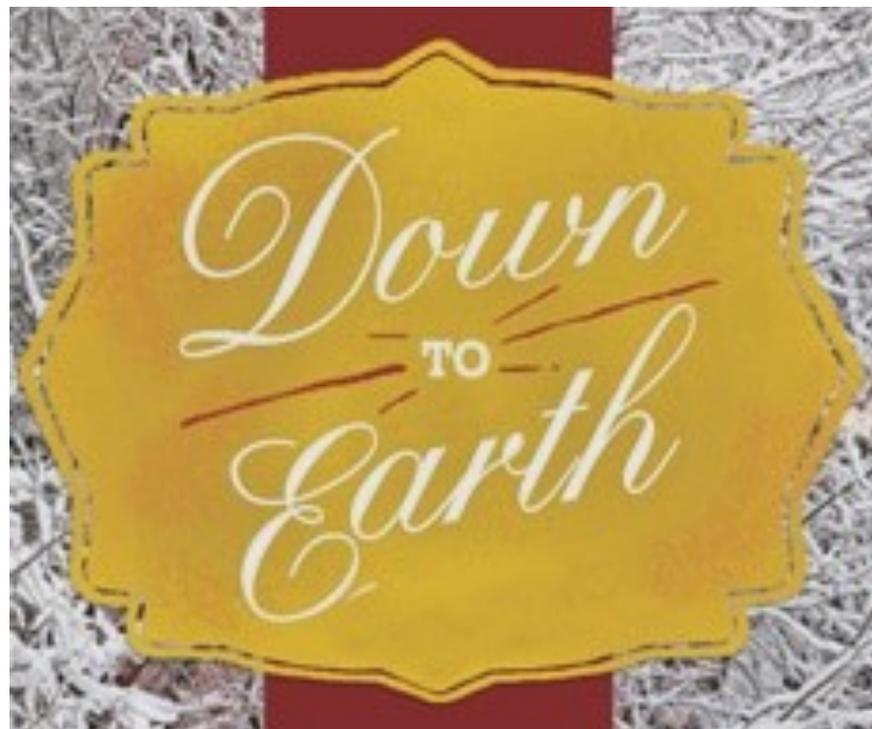
\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**2016 Advent Study**

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



**DECEMBER 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)