



The Tower

June 2017

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The Session's View . . .

I Corinthians 2:12-13 states, *"Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual."*

Serving Bethel as an elder requires nurturing Bethel members and their spiritual needs. Elders are teachers and lead by example. During Session meetings, praying for direction and making decisions for the future of the church are important but ultimately the most important work involves the spiritual health of the church members. This time of year, we look around and appreciate the spiritual newness of what God has created outside in new blooms, baby animals and green grass. But, there is also a joy of finding symbols within us of the Risen One and his presence in our path of life. Being spiritual requires hard work, just like having a productive garden. Let's work hard together to be our reflection of Christ.

- The Bethel Session



Please continue to pray for . . .

The Interim Pastor and the new Pastor that God has already chosen for Bethel, Bethel as we prepare for those pastors, and for those who are looking for whom God has chosen for us.

Communion will be held during the worship service on June 4th, Pentecost Sunday.



Lemonade on the Lawn will be held on Sunday, June 11th, following the worship service. Be sure to join us for this special time of fellowship!



June Worship Services

June 4, 2017

Day of Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Read: Acts 2:1-21 I Corinthians 12:3-13 John 20:19-23

June 11, 2017

Trinity Sunday

Read: Genesis 1:1-2:4 II Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

June 18, 2017

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Father's Day

Guest Minister: Rev. Bill Painter

Read: Genesis 18:1-15 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 25, 2017

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Read: Genesis 21:8-21 Romans 6:1-11 Matthew 10:24-39



Worship & Fellowship in April & May





Bethel Vacation Bible School 2017

Bethel's Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 5th through Wednesday, June 7th, from 6:00 pm until 8:30 pm. A light supper will be served at 6:00 pm.

The 2017 VBS theme is "The World is Us- one earth, one people", with emphasis on showing compassion, practicing tolerance, and demonstrating concern for our community and world. Our VBS will be family-based, and all ages are invited! There will be lessons for all ages, along with crafts, music and other activities. There will be an opening assembly each night with a short presentation by guest speakers. Please bring your children, grandchildren, or neighbors. Please note that there will be an adult class offered each night.

In keeping with our theme of caring and sharing, there will be a collection of canned goods for Kingsway on June 5th, 6th, and 7th, beginning with the congregation on Sunday, June 4th.

If you would be willing to be a part of our VBS or have any questions, please contact Marion Simmers at 540/337-0342, 540/476-1944, or m_simmers@yahoo.com.

Please make plans to attend with your family, and let's make this year's VBS like "old times"!

Presbyterian Women - June 2017

Emphasis - Christian Family Education



The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, June 13th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be at the church.

The Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday, June 13th, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at the church.



Annual Catered Dinner

All women are invited to the Annual Catered Dinner. It will be held on Tuesday, July 11th, at the Middlebook Community Center at 6:30 pm. The meal will be catered by Country Kitchen of Christiansburg and the cost will be \$15.00 per person.

Please RSVP for yourself and your guests as soon as possible to Irene Elliott, Louise Hoy, Barbara Gough or Jackie Law. The PWCT will collect personal care items for the Valley Mission that night. Items the Valley Mission needs include: Shampoo/Conditioner, Shower Shoes, Feminine Hygiene products, Body Wash, Deodorant, Reusable Shopping Bags, and Diapers - sizes 5 & 6. Please join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship!



"Doughnuts for Dads"

This Father's Day, Bethel would like to treat all Fathers to a doughnut in Memorial Hall. All doughnuts will be put out before the worship service so plan to come early to pick up one and enjoy! It is our way to thank all fathers or men that fill that role in any capacity. Happy Father's Day!



"Muffins for Mom" on Mother's Day

Witness Committee News & Upcoming Projects . . .



Serving Breakfast at Valley Mission

On Saturday, June 10th at 9:00 am, the Women of Bethel and the Witness/Mission Committee will again serve brunch at the Valley Mission. This mission is always well-received and appreciated by the residents there. We will serve breakfast casseroles, fruit (oranges and grapes) and quick breads (such as banana bread) and need donations of these items. Please prepare the casseroles in disposable pans and do not include nuts in the breads. If you can help, please call Rhonda Johnson at 292-4441 or Doris True at 885-4526 for details. If you would like to help us at the Valley Mission, please come. We would love to have you join us and we appreciate your donations!

Thank you to the Bethel Congregation & Friends!

Once again, you made our annual Prime Rib Dinner and Dessert Auction a great success! Because of your generosity, we raised \$5,805.00 and we hope that everyone enjoyed the food, fun and fellowship. The Witness/Mission Committee is blessed to be able to hold these events, blessed by the great support and generosity you give us and blessed to be able to use your donations to help those in need in our community and beyond. Thank you so much!



iCARE Reminder

iCARE - This is a reminder to those who help sponsor the child in the orphanage at Gore in Ethiopia. Her name is Derartu Fite. In order for the school to know how many students they will have in the fall, we need to get our payment to them in June. The total cost is now \$850.00 per child. Several people donate whatever they can and we usually get enough to cover this cost. If you have never donated, please consider doing so now. If you remember Cliff Gilkerson's talk during worship a few months ago, you will remember what a worthwhile mission this is. Your check can be sent directly to Presbytery or you can give them to me and I will send them in. Please pray about this mission. Thank you for your generosity!

- Doris True

July Tower Deadline



The July Tower Deadline will be Thursday, June 15th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the July 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!

Worship Through Summer Vespers Service & Concert



Save the dates on your calendar for Bethel's new Summer Vespers and Concert series. We'll have a hymn sing by request (just call out a number of your favorite), read a scripture, pray together in the evening prayer, and enjoy a guest musical group. Arrangements are still in progress for the groups, so watch for further announcements. We'll start at 7:00 pm and be finished by about 8:00 pm. The dates are June 21st, July 5th, and July 19th. The Faithful Men will be the guest musicians on June 21st and The Stonewall Flutes of the Shenandoah will be the guest musicians on the July 19th.

News & Notes

Session News & Notes

The Session met on May 7th, 2017 with ten Elders and the Moderator, Pastor Joe Condro, present.

Tammy Barbour gave the Deacons' report: they are working on Bethel's fire safety; the refinishing of the floor in the new Deacons' room is almost complete; one tree has been removed from the manse yard; the manse renters will move out in two weeks; an estimate to replace the manse roof came in at about \$6,000 and has been covered by donations; they will work with Bob Moody on organ repairs; and they requested that Bethel secure a Lowes account for necessary purchases.

Stephany Morgan, Bethel's liaison with Presbytery during our transition, discussed our progress in finding an interim pastor. We have received two applications from persons interested in a part-time position. Stephany and the Presbytery's Committee on Pastoral Transition feel that we may need to hire a full-time interim. The Personnel Committee will explore both options.

Installation of a water line to the Scout Hut was approved.

Bethel's framed Memorial Flag will be rehung in Memorial Hall.

The Christian Education Committee reported that our children will sing during worship on Mother's Day (May 14th); bibles will be presented to Jarod Davis and Harleigh Lee on Graduate Recognition Sunday (May 21st); we will recite the pledges to the Christian and U.S. flags, with the Scouts presenting the colors, on the Sunday before Memorial Day (May 28th); Vacation Bible School will be held June 5th, 6th, 7th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.; and the Middle School Conference at Massanetta Springs will be held June 22nd - 25th with two youths attending.

Laura Barmore and the Congregational Care Committee will look into doing a blood drive at Bethel, probably in mid-August.

Handbell Choir



The Bells of Bethel will be taking a vacation for the next few months. They will resume practice on Wednesday, August 2nd. Thank you!



The Summer Choir will be leading the congregational hymns and responses in worship during June and July. All singers are welcome, especially those who can sing harmony parts. Our regular choir members will welcome all who wish to join us. We will meet in the Choir Room at 10:40 am each Sunday for a brief look at the service outline and then line up to walk in to the choir loft. We will not wear robes for this. The special music in June and July will be solos or duets from our choir and from guest singers or instrumentalists. If you have questions, contact Bob Moody at 540/294-9791 or rbobmoody@gmail.com.

We welcome the newest members to the Bethel Family: Frank & Brenda Shiflett! Frank & Brenda joined Bethel by Certificate of Transfer in May.



Frank & Brenda Shiflett
540/886-7011
403 Summerdean Road
Middlebrook, VA 24459



Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

We wish all the graduates God's blessings as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Graduating from High School:

Jarod Davis - Son of John & Stephanie Davis; Graduating from Riverheads High School on May 22nd; Going to post-high next year at Wilson

Harleigh Lee - Daughter of Brian & Penny Lee; Granddaughter of Dale & Kay Thompson; Graduating from Riverheads High School on May 22nd with honors; Attending Blue Ridge Community College in the fall

Ryan Sensabaugh - Son of Eddie & Marsha Sensabaugh; Grandson of Irene Elliott; Graduating from Riverheads High School on May 22nd; Attending Blue Ridge Community College in the fall; Plans on majoring in Agricultural Science

Graduating from College:

Sarah Elliott - Daughter of Philip & Laura Elliott; Granddaughter of Irene Elliott; Graduating from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry

Joseph Katt - Son of Peter & Pam Katt; Grandson of Joe & Shirley Heizer; Graduating from Belmont Abby College in Charlotte, NC with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a minor in Theater Arts



We welcome God's miracle, Marcus Gabriel Lennon, who was born in April. Marcus is the son of Phil & Lindsey Lennon, grandson of Bruce & Linda Lamond, and he has a big brother Francis. Congratulations on this new addition to your family!

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and prayers while I was in the hospital, and at home recovering. You don't realize how much that support means until you experience it yourself. Thanks again!



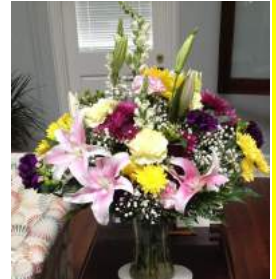
- Shirley Heizer

Our sympathies and condolences are extended to Jerry & JoAnn Pendley in the death of Jerry's sister.



Flower Schedule June 2017

- June 4th - Sally Brubeck
(Pentecost Sunday;
Communion)
- June 11th - Barbara Damico
- June 18th - Pat Quick (Memorial)
- June 25th - Judy Olson



Nursery Schedule June 2017

- June 4th - Briana Lawhorne; Libby Smith
- June 11th - Joyce Davis; Louise Hoy
- June 18th - Cindy Almarode; Karen Koogler
- June 25th - Mary Ann Anderson;
Maggie Rivers

Offering Schedule June 2017

- Wade Cash
- Barb Gough
- Marty Simmers
- Dale Thompson



June Greeters:
Tom & Tammy Barbour



Need a Ride to Church?

Call the Bethel Deacon's Taxi Service!
If you need a ride to worship or to church activities please contact the Church Office at: 540/886-6041 or at: bethelpc@gmail.com. You can also contact any Deacon. We will make sure transportation is provided for you.



The Bethel Website

Have a question about what is going on at Bethel? Did you miss church on Sunday or forget what day or time an event is? Did you misplace your Tower? The Bethel website can help! The Sunday bulletin and announcements are on the website, in addition to the Tower, an online calendar of church events, audio of worship service sermons and more! The Bethel website is there for you. www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

Financial Report (through April 30th, 2017)

Estimated Budget: \$59,886.00

Actual Receipts: \$51,299.00

Actual Expenses: \$47,899.00



Upcoming Events this Summer at Massanetta Springs

*Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Women
Summer Gathering
June 15th - June 18th*

For more information and registration forms for this event look on the Massanetta Springs website www.massanettasprings.org, click on the programs tab, and click on the “Presbyterian Women” tab.



*Annual Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Men Summer Conference
July 14th - July 16th*

For more information and registration forms for this event look on the Massanetta Springs website www.massanettasprings.org, click on the programs tab, and click on the “Presbyterian Men” tab.

*Bible Conference & Church Music Conference
July 23rd - July 29th
A Retreat of Preaching, Teaching, and Praise*

Massanetta Springs invites you to this WONDERFUL family event that combines the finest of continuing education with programming for the whole family. The Bible Conference, which is blessed with the Church Music Conference running concurrent, is for everyone. In addition to the Bible study and sermons each morning and evening, there are forums and workshops that delve deeper into the subjects addressed by the speakers and provide information and understanding of current issues in the church and the wider society.

There are unique opportunities for children and youth. Join us for Camp Connections! Each day includes music, camp adventures, and Bible study. There will be loving caregivers for infants and preschool age children, skilled leaders for K-2nd grade, and young adult Counselors for 3rd- 12th graders. College Students will enjoy “reconnecting” with one another during the conference too.

For more information and registration forms for either of these events look on the Massanetta Springs website www.massanettasprings.org, click on the programs tab, and click on “Bible Conference” or “Church Music Conference” tab.



Let's PLAY BALL . . . It's that time of the year and Coffman Funeral Home would like to invite your family to enjoy a night with the Staunton Braves at “Church Family Night with the Braves” on Sunday, June 4th and/or Sunday, June 25th. FREE tickets are available in the vestibule at the back of the Sanctuary. Make sure to get the correct ticket(s) with the date for the game you wish to attend!



Foster Parents Needed!

Shenandoah Valley Social Services is looking for individuals who would be willing to be foster parents and possible adoptive parents for foster children in this area. Currently there are 145 children receiving foster care services through Shenandoah Valley Social Services, which services Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County. Currently there are 11 children from our local community who are waiting to be placed with their forever family! Please visit the Virginia Department of Social Services website (www.dds.virginia.gov) or Shenandoah Valley Social Services Resource Parent Home Page (www.resourcefamily.org) to learn more about foster care in the state of Virginia. For more information about becoming a foster parent, please contact Heather Hudnall at heather.hudnall@dss.virginia.gov or call (540) 245-5869.

PRAYER LIST

Bethel Prayer List

Mike Alford (*brain cancer; husband of Mary Alford*), Mike Almarode (*Betty Schooley's brother-in-law*), Lucille Baker (*Linda Tenney's mother-in-law - recovering from a stroke*), Phil Balsey (*friend of Bob & Louise Hoy*), Mildred Barmore, Barry Blacka (*Joyce Miller's brother*), Gary Bunn (*husband of Rev. JoAnn Bunn*), Catherine Bryan (*friend of Stephanie Rivers*), Lorine Caldwell (*Dean Caldwell's mother*), Betty Cash, Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis & Family, Joyce Davis, Ronnie Davis (*Joyce Davis' son*), Friends & Family of Anita Edwards, Herbert Hamilton (*Kingsway volunteer - has cancer*), Bill Hanger, Shirley Heizer, Bill Kealing (*friend of Laura Barmore*), Bill Klitzman (*nephew of Louise Hoy*), Tate Knick (*2 year old - son of Will & Cassie Knick - friends of Laura Barmore*), Sara Ann Lamb, L. Cpl. Bertram Bruce Lamond (*active military*), Evelyn LaPorte, David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (*sister of Anne Jones*), Jeannette Moran (*friend of Kym Schneider - complications from surgery*), Jerry & JoAnn Pendley (*passing of Jerry's sister*), Christy Glover Pilson (*John Pilson's niece*), John Pilson, Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers, Carly Pond (*fifteen year old great niece of John Pilson*), Therese Schooley & Family (*death of her grandmother - Maria Reyna*), Alfred Sheets (*relative of John Pilson*), Miles Sisson (*Lucy Sproul's brother - diagnosed with melanoma*), Michael Somers, Bill & Marguerite Whitaker (*Tom Whitaker's parents*), MISSIONARY: Michael & Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

Community Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service



Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service & Fellowship Breakfast





June 14th - Flag Day
June 18th - Father's Day
June 21st - Summer Begins

