



The Tower

August 2017

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The Session's View . . .

Pastor Search

The Bethel Personnel Committee continues to seek a Pastor. A specially trained Interim Pastor is required before bringing on a new Installed Pastor. We advertised for a half time Interim Pastor nationally through the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection. We had hoped that we might recruit an experienced local pastor. We have no candidates for the position at this time. In June, Transitional Presbyter Roy Martin recommended we seek a full time Stated Supply Pastor since our current budget will support that type of contract but not a full time Interim Pastor. Personnel developed a Mission Information Form and the Session approved it in its July meeting. We hope to see the form advertised nationally later in July. A Stated Supply Pastor contract would have reduced overhead costs as compared to an Interim Pastor contract. Pines Chapel and some other Shenandoah Presbytery churches have this type of pastoral relationship. Until we have a Pastor, Rev. Joe Condro has offered to help us with pastoral care, and has generously moderated our Session meetings. Please feel free to contact any session member or let Adrienne Barker know if you need support from the church.



In the absence of a Pastor, the Manse was rented again beginning July 1 with a one year lease. The previous renters, whose home was damaged by a fire, completed repairing the damages and moved back home. Rental income has been helpful in building up Bethel's financial reserves.

- The Bethel Session

Y'all come!!! Homecoming Sunday is August 27th, 2017!

We are honored to have as our guest on Homecoming Sunday, the Rev. Joseph Condro, who will deliver the sermon. Rev. Condro is the Interim Pastor at Pines Chapel Presbyterian Church. We are pleased that Joe 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!

August Lectionary Schedule

August 6th, 2017

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Genesis 32:22-31 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

August 13th, 2017

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Genesis 37:1-28 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

August 20th, 2017

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Genesis 45:1-15 Romans 11:1-32 Matthew 15:10-28

August 27th, 2017

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Homecoming Sunday

Guest Minister: Rev. Joseph Condro

Exodus 1:8-2:10 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20



Don Reid, Guest Speaker, gives the sermon during worship on July 9th.



Fellowship following the worship service on July 16th.

"Sharing the Bounty" Sunday

"Sharing the Bounty", our program of sharing our extra fruit and veggies with Kingsway, will take place on August 13th and September 17th. Thank you for helping provide fresh food for those in need in our community!



*Church Office
Closed*

The Church Office will be closed Monday, July 31st through Thursday, August 3rd while Adrienne is on vacation. Please contact Bill Brubeck (540/885-5871; brubeck@mgwnet.com) or Rhonda Johnson (540/292-4441; crkjohnson@ntelos.net) if you have a need.

Adrienne will be back in the office on Monday, August 7th, at 9:00 am. Thank you!

The Bells of Bethel Practice



The Bells of Bethel will begin practice again on Wednesday, August 2nd, 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 2nd after taking the months of June and July off. Choir practices are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. They are looking for more singers in every section, particularly men who sing harmony. Everyone is welcome!

Presbyterian Women August 2017

The Afternoon Circle will meet at Bethel on Tuesday, August 8th, at 1:30 pm.

The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Judy Olson (2016 Old Greenville Road; Staunton) on Tuesday, August 8th, at 7:00 pm.



NewsLetter DEADLINE

The September Tower Deadline will be Thursday, August 17th. 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.

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!

All are invited to participate in a weekly Prayer Fellowship Group which is on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 pm. The group meets in the Bumgardner Classroom. We share inspirational readings, pray for those in need, and for Bethel Church. This group is facilitated by the Rev. Anne M. Ross. Please contact Barb Gough if you have questions or would like more information about the group.



news & notes

Session News & Notes

The Session met on July 9th with ten elders and the moderator, Pastor Joe Condro, present.

Continuing rental of the Manse was approved.

The endowment fund posted gains for the first quarter of 2017 and these were deposited to the 21st Century Fund and the Youth Fund.

The Personnel Committee will now search for a Stated Supply Pastor and will post the opening with the PCUSA.

Bethel Presbyterian Church Committee Chairs - 2017



Audit Committee (Co-Chairs): Marion Simmers, David Schooley

Christian Education Committee: Marion Simmers

Communications Committee: Tabby Moore

Congregational Care Committee: Barb Gough

Continuing Education Loan Fund (Co-Chairs): Bill Brubeck, Dan Gano, David Schooley

Nominating Committee (Co-Chairs): Bob Olson, Mac Williams

Personnel Committee (Co-Chairs): Bill Brubeck, Ken Miller

Stewardship & Finance Committee (Co-Chairs): Derek Almarode, Ken Miller

Witness/Mission Committee: Rhonda Johnson

Worship Committee: Jill Webb

If you would like more information about or are interested in joining one of the committees listed above please contact the committee chairperson(s).

The Bethel Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team is pleased to announce the officers and chairwomen for the 2017/2018 term.



Moderator: Cindy Almarode

Co-Moderator: Emily Williams

Secretary: Stephanie Rivers

Treasurer: Sarah Frances Ralston

Assistant Treasurer: Marty Simmers

Moderator of the Search Committee: Barbara Gough

Historian: Ginny Gano

Spiritual Growth: Irene Elliott

World Outreach: Beth Miller

Together in Service: Jackie Law

Community Outreach: Doris True

Social Activities Co-Chairs: Ellen Fitzgerald & Penny Lee

Circle Co-Leaders (Afternoon): Barbara Gough, Jackie Law

Circle Co-Leaders (Evening): Irene Elliott, Louise Hoy



Thank you, Bethel friends, for your many months of love and prayers for my brother, Barry Blacka, who died on July 8th. - Joyce Miller

Financial Report - through June 30th, 2017

Estimated Budget: \$86,502.00

Actual Received: \$85,924.00 Actual Expenses: \$65,600.00



Flower Schedule August 2017

August 6th - Keedie Leonard

August 13th - Evelyn LaPorte

August 20th - Sarah Frances Ralston

August 28th - Mo Kyle

(Homecoming Sunday)



Nursery Schedule August 2017

August 6th - Mac & Emily Williams

August 13th - Bayleigh Lee,
Luanne Leonard

August 20th - Barbara Gough, Judy Olson

August 27th - Briana Lawhorne; Libby Smith
(Homecoming Sunday)



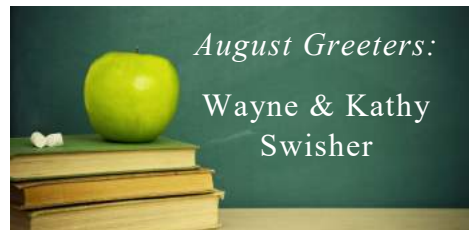
Offering Schedule August 2017

Tammy Barbour
Brian Lee
Alex Sproul
Joe F. Williams



August Greeters:

Wayne & Kathy
Swisher



Prayer Requests



Bethel Prayer List Mike Alford (brain cancer; husband of Mary Alford), Tish Amerault (cousin of Kay Thompson & friend of the Almarodes - has Hodgkins Lymphoma), Lucille Baker (Linda Tenney's mother-in-law - recovering from a stroke), Phil Balsey (friend of Bob & Louise Hoy), Mildred Barmore, Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Betty Cash, Larry Clemmer (farm accident), Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis & Family, Herbert Hamilton (Kingsway volunteer - has cancer), Bill Hanger, 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, Cpl. Bertram Bruce Lamond (deployed/south pacific), Evelyn LaPorte, David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Jeannette Moran (friend of Kym Schneider - complications from surgery), 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), Friends & Family of Marsha Roach (Bryan Lamond's mother-in-law), Alfred Sheets (relative of John Pilson), Frank Shiflett (treatments) & Brenda, 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

Also please continue to pray for . . .

The Stated Supply Pastor that God has already chosen for Bethel, as we prepare for that pastor, and for those who are looking for whom God has chosen for us.

The Möller Organ at Bethel



John Calvin did not believe in having instrumental music in churches, so early Presbyterian congregations sang the psalms with just voices, often in four part harmony. After the Civil War, the parlor pump organ became popular in homes, and worked its way into Presbyterian churches over a period of time. Bethel had such an organ, or maybe two—the Session minutes in the late 19th century mention selling an organ and putting the proceeds toward the church debt. The history of a later period mentions having an organist immediately before the pipe organ was installed. I was able to obtain from the Organ Historical Society Archives a copy of the contract from January 4, 1928 between Bethel and the M.P. Möller organ company of Hagerstown MD, signed by J.S. Callison, Trustee. The terms were \$3,000, cash on completion in church, and the organ was delivered to the B&O Railway terminal in Greenville and trucked (or taken by horse and wagon) to the church over dirt and gravel roads. It was to be ready for use on or before April 15, 1928. Moller was then the largest pipe organ manufacturer in the world, turning out one pipe organ each day. An organ of this size would be priced in six figures today.

The pipes are in two chambers behind the grille work at the front, and the connection between the console and the pipe chambers is by electric cable. When a key is pressed, the electric connection triggers a pneumatic valve which admits air to a pipe (or pipes). Each pipe plays one note at a set volume and pitch. There are eight sets of pipes, half in each chamber. There are chimes in the left side, which were added, we think, in the late 1940's. Volume control of each chamber is by shutters, like venetian blinds, but much thicker and lined with felt gaskets. The shutters open and close to allow the sound out into the church, or to block it to a whisper. The shutters are electrically controlled by "volume pedals" (called expression pedals) and operate with pneumatic bellows up in the chamber to open and close them one by one for a smooth change in volume.

Wind for the pipes is supplied by an electric motor powered blower in the basement below the parlor. Ductwork like heating ducts take the air to the pipe chambers and console.

The Bethel organ is the oldest organ in continuous weekly service use, unaltered in its original location, in the Staunton/Waynesboro/Augusta area. The oldest in Virginia is in Hebron Lutheran, Madison VA, from 1802.

For more information on the web see:

<http://database.organsociety.org/OrganDetails.php?OrganID=31516>

There is reference there to another document that is incorrect, listing Wilhelmy as a rebuilder.



The Big Event 2017 at Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center

September 16th, 2017

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

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. More details will be available in the coming weeks so make sure to check your bulletin and the September Tower for updates!

Augusta County Fair
Gospel Night



Gospel Night at the Augusta County Fair will be Thursday evening, August 3rd, at Expo in Fishersville. The Gospel Harmony Boys 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.

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. The Stonewall Brigade Band, continuous since 1855, is the oldest continuous band among 2,000 community bands in the United States.



Having fun at the Middle School Conference
at Massanetta Springs!
June 22nd - June 25th

altogether now
Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference 2017



Summer Vespers Service & Concert - July 19th
Guest Musicians: The Stonewall Flutes of the Shenandoah



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

Psalm 126:3

