



The Tower

October 2017

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The Session's View . . .

I recently attended a Presbytery meeting where a new General Presbyter, Bronwen Woodson Boswell, was elected to replace Roy Martin. Rev. Boswell grew up in Alexandria, Virginia and often visited her grandparents, who lived on a farm near Lexington. Most recently, she and her husband, Rev. Dr. Howard Boswell, lived in upstate New York, where they raised four children. She pastored churches for fourteen years and, during that time, began serving three different New York Presbyteries in various capacities.



I also attended the March 2017 Presbytery meeting where Nancy Meehan Yao was elected to the new position of Associate General Presbyter. Rev. Yao is a second-career pastor, having begun her working life as a Head Start teacher. She and her husband, Rev. Jim Yao, are from upstate New York, have moved to Staunton and have two sons. Jim has served as a supply pastor at Bethel.

The Presbytery has filled their two most prominent positions and we at Bethel must do the same for our most important position. We are at a crossroads. Our three most recent installed pastors all left under less than desirable circumstances and our membership and attendance suffered, either during their tenures or after their departures. Yes, we are hiring a Stated Supply pastor, which, by definition, is a temporary position, but it is critical that we hire the right person. If we hire someone who turns out to be unsuitable, can we withstand yet another unpleasant separation? This could become a long-term relationship, as no one can predict when we will be able to afford an installed pastor. It would be in our best interest to find someone who could help us to get to that point. We cannot afford to hire someone who will simply fill the pulpit each week.

The Personnel Committee is working hard to find our next pastor. They have received four applications. Of these, they did not choose either of the first two and are currently examining the two they just received. We need to be patient, as finding the right person will take time, but is crucial to our future.

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Jeremiah 6:16 tells us, "The Lord said to his people, 'You are standing at the crossroads. So, consider your path. Ask where the old reliable paths are. Ask where is the path that leads to blessing and follow it.'"

Blessings to all of you,
Rhonda Johnson, Clerk of Session

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.

October Lectionary Schedule

October 1, 2017

17th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Guest Minister: Rev. Joseph Condro
Exodus 17:1-7 Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32



October 8, 2017

18th Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley
Exodus 20:1-20 Philippians 3:4-14 Matthew 21:33-46

October 15, 2017

19th Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee
Exodus 32:1-14 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14

October 22, 2017

20th Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Minister: Rev. William Painter
Exodus 33:12-23 I Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22

October 29, 2017

21st Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley
Deuteronomy 34:1-12 I Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46



Communion will be held on October 1st, 2017, World Communion Sunday.

World Communion Sunday

fellowship

Fellowship Following Worship

The Congregational Care Committee is looking for people who would be willing to provide refreshments for the "Fellowship Following Worship" in October or November. Would you look at our sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall and see if there is a date you can sign-up to bring refreshments? Light refreshments, something to drink and a friendly face are all the ingredients required!

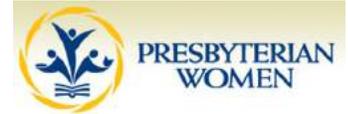
Meeting Time Changed

The Prayer Fellowship Group will now meet at 2:15 pm on Thursday afternoons. Please contact Barb Gough if you have any questions or would like more information about this group. Thank you!



Presbyterian Women - October 2017

Project - Blanket Offering



*The Afternoon Circle will meet at the church on October 10th, at 1:30 pm.



*The Evening Circle will meet at the church on October 10th, at 7:00 pm.

October 1st - PWCT Meeting

Save the Date!

The Men of the Church will be meeting for dinner and fellowship on Tuesday, October 17th, at 6:30 pm.



November Tower Deadline

The November Tower Deadline will be Thursday, October 19th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the November 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!

Annual Harvest Party

Saturday, October 28th 6:00 - 8:00 pm



Come join us for Bethel's annual Harvest Party on Saturday, October 28th, from 6 pm to 8 pm. We will share snacks, play games, and also have the ever popular pumpkin carving contest. The evening will end with "Trunk-or-Treat". Those that would like to participate in decorating your vehicle for trunk-or-treat need to be set up in the parking area by the playground before 7 pm. Gift cards will be awarded for several categories in the pumpkin carving and the vehicle decorations. See you on the 28th for fall fun and fellowship!

OFFICE CLOSED

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed Monday, October 30th through Thursday, November 2nd while Adrienne is on vacation. Please contact Bill Brubeck (540/885-5871; brubeck@mgwnet.com), Rhonda Johnson (540/292-4441; crkjohnson@ntelos.net), or Kathy Swisher (540/885-7397; kwswisher@gmail.com) if you have a need.

Any announcements for the October 29th bulletin and/or the November 5th bulletin will need to be submitted by 9:00 am on Wednesday, October 25th. Thank you!

All Saints Observance

On Sunday, November 5th, Bethel will be observing "All Saints Sunday". This is the day in the church calendar when all of the saints, who have served their Lord faithfully on earth, now live eternally in God's Presence.



During morning worship, we will honor all who have gone on before us. This will include all members of Bethel who have died in the past 12 months. It will also include anyone you wish to remember in prayer who has died in the past 12 months. All names will be listed in the bulletin and there will be a time of prayer with candle lighting conducted by our Deacons.

Please list all you wish remembered on the form provided in the bulletin on the Sundays leading up to "All Saints Sunday".



Operation Christmas Child 2017

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR - OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES!

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has been distributing shoebox gifts to boys and girls around the world in Jesus' name through Operation Christmas Child. Each shoebox gift can bring joy and the good news of Jesus Christ to a child in need. Please be a part of this effort by filling a shoebox this year. Brochures on how to pack your shoebox will be included in your bulletin on Sunday, October 8th. All shoeboxes will be due by Sunday, November 12th. Thank you for all the past support of this project!

Financial Report - through August 31st, 2017

Estimated Budget: \$116,445.00

Actual Received: \$114,323.00

Actual Expenses: \$86,475.00



The Congregational Care Committee tries to keep in contact with our College Students throughout the year, but we need your help. We need the contact information for your college age children. Telephone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses are all important ways that Bethel can stay in touch with them. Please send the information to Barbara Gough (barbsgough@gmail.com or 540/255-6521). Thank you!



Remember that stewardship season is fast approaching!

Be thinking about the programs, ministry, and outreach of our congregation and how you might support them.





Many thanks to Covenant Presbyterian Church in Staunton for donating the new Choir robes for the Bethel Choir!
(Please see page 7 of the Tower for pictures of the Choir in their new robes.)

Wedding Coordinator Needed



The Session has approved a Wedding Coordinator position with a fee of \$150 to be paid by those getting married. This person, who will be a member of the church, will meet with every couple being married at Bethel and/or their wedding planner to answer any questions about the church and its policies. They will be present at church for the rehearsal and the wedding to help insure a memorable time at Bethel. If you are interested in this position, please contact the Church Office.

Special Landscaping Project



The Bethel Building & Grounds Committee will begin a landscaping project this fall starting with the flowerbeds and area surrounding the vestibule at the entrance of the church. They would appreciate any donations made to offset the cost of this project. If you would like to make a donation to this special project please make your check payable to Bethel Presbyterian Church and note on the check that it's for the "Landscape Fund". Please contact Wade Cash (540/294-9233 or wadesflr@comcast.net) if you have any questions. Thank you!



The Church Office has begun sending congregational emails from a new email address. Please add office@bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org to your email's contact list so you can stay up-to-date on Bethel news, congregational prayer requests, and announcements. The Church Office email address is still: bethelpc@gmail.com so please continue to use that email address if you need to contact us. Thank you!

Installation Service at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church



You are invited to the Installation Service for Mount Tabor and Redeemer Lutheran Parish's new Joint Parish Pastor, The Rev. Lance Karl Braun, on Sunday, October 1st, 2017. The service will begin at 3:00 pm and will be at Mount Tabor Lutheran Church (334 Mount Tabor Road; Staunton).

This service will begin a month-long Reformation Celebration with Holy Communion and special instrumental music. An offering for Lutheran Disaster Response (Harvey and Irma Recovery) will be collected as well.

There will be a reception and covered dish dinner following the service at 4:30 pm. Make sure to bring your favorite dish to share and we look forward to seeing you on October 1st!



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Has Sent National Response Teams to Texas & Florida



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in touch with presbyteries in the affected areas of Texas and Florida offering assistance. We have sent and continue to send resources and National Response Team members to areas affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. For those who wish to support PDA's emergency response and recovery efforts, gifts can be designated in two ways: Hurricane Harvey (DR000169-Harvey) or Atlantic Regional Hurricanes (DR000194). We need your help. Please give generously.

To donate online please go to:
presbyterianmission.org/GIVE-Irma or presbyterianmission.org/GIVE-Harvey

If you prefer to mail a check, you may send it to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) PO Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700

You may also call us Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (EST), at 1-800-872-3283 and donate by phone.

For updates, please go to pda.pcusa.org.

Please join us in praying for courage for those who are suffering; wisdom and diligence among agencies and individuals assessing damage and directing relief efforts; and for generosity to flow as powerfully as rivers and streams, as we respond to the deep human needs left in the wake of the storms.

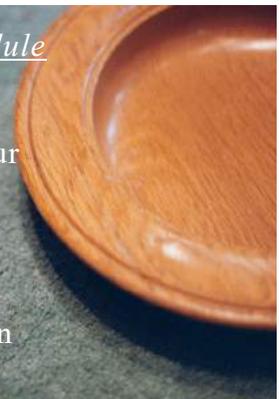
Flower Schedule October 2017

- October 1st - Ginny Gano
(Communion/Memorial)
- October 8th - Drury Whitaker
- October 15th - Faye Brown
- October 22nd - Jane Law (Memorial)
- October 29th - Laura Barmore (Memorial)



Offering Schedule October 2017

- Tammy Barbour
- Barb Gough
- D. W. Miller
- Dale Thompson



*October Greeters:
Wade & Phyllis Cash*



Nursery Schedule October 2017

- October 1st - Eloise Moore; Elizabeth Mulcahy
- October 8th - Jackie Law; Stephanie Rivers
- October 15th - Chris & Therese Schooley
- October 22nd - Joe & Sally Williams
- October 29th - Joe & Tabby Moore



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*), Michael Cochran (*Marion & Marty Simmers son*), Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis & Family, Larry Edwards, Todd Gibson (*friend of Louise Hoy*), Bill Hanger, Don Hanger, Mariann Hilenbrand (*mother-in-law of Ben Brown, Jr.*), Friends & Family of Charles W. Jordan (*Tim Jordan & Mary Kate Law's grandfather*), 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, Evelyn LaPorte, David Law, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (*sister of Anne Jones*), All Military Leaders & Personnel, Jeannette Moran (*friend of Kym Schneider - complications from surgery*), Jennifer Wilk Perry & Family (*death of Jennifer's husband Rodney Perry*), Christy Glover Pilson (*John Pilson's niece*), John Pilson (*recovering from surgery*), Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers, Carly Pond (*fifteen year old great niece of John Pilson*), Kristofer & Tracie Ranstrom (*cousins of Beth Miller*), Alfred Sheets (*relative of John Pilson*), Frank Shiflett (*treatments*) & Brenda, Michael Somers, Alex & Lucy Sproul (*death of Lucy's brother - Miles Sisson*), Mitchell & Holly Sutton, Tim & Julie Turner (*death of Julie's father - Harry McCray*), Bill & Marguerite Whitaker (*Tom Whitaker's parents*), Ben & Tessa Williams (*death of Tessa's grandmother - Norma Davis*), MISSIONARY: Michael & Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends



The Bethel Choir wearing their new Choir robes



Tree Removal at Church Manse



Bethel Homecoming - August 27th, 2017



"The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy."
Psalm 126:3



October 9th - Columbus Day

October 31st - Halloween

