



# The Tower

November 2017

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## *The Session's View . . .*

“Your heart will always be where your treasure is.”  
Matthew 6:21

The main principle behind tithing is what we do with our money shows where our heart is. Our tithes represent how we recognize everything that has been given to us has been given by Him. He has given us the ability to do our jobs to make a living. The word “tithe” means tenth. When we give at least 10% of our income back to God, our money does not have tight control and hold on us. We then realize God is in control of us and our relationship with God gets stronger. Those who grasp what God has truly given them seem to agree that 10% isn't enough.

“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”  
Proverbs 3: 9-10

Our church is at an important point in its life in the face of declining active members and income. We need a leader to take care of our members and to help to grow the church. We need to be able to afford a full-time pastor and to be able to hire the pastor that God has chosen for us and make a future for Bethel. The Session had to make a decision to hire part-time help until we can find a full-time pastor but there is concern that we may not be able to afford the full-time pastor that we need. Please consider your blessings and where your treasure is. Help Bethel's mission to continue to spread the good news of our Lord and Savior and be diligent in your giving.

- The Bethel Session

## November Lectionary Schedule

*November 5, 2017*

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints' Service

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Joshua 3:7-17 I Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

*November 12, 2017*

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Joshua 24:1-25 I Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13

*November 19, 2017*

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Kate Rascoe

Judges 4:1-7 I Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

*November 26, 2017*

Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Guest Minister: Rev. Ann Held

Ezekiel 34:11-16 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46



### All Saints' Sunday

#### All Saints' Sunday - Sunday, November 5th, 2017



On Sunday, November 5th, Bethel will be observing "All Saints Sunday" during the worship service. This is the Sunday in the church calendar when we celebrate all the saints, who have served their Lord faithfully on earth and now live eternally in God's presence. During the worship service we will honor all who have gone before us in the past year. Please make plans to attend this special service.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

#### Sunday, November 12th

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 12th, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect five members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee. By order of the Session.



*Autumn display in Memorial Hall*

### Fellowship Following Worship Volunteers Needed!

The Congregational Care Committee is looking for people who would be willing to provide refreshments for the "Fellowship Following Worship" in 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!





### 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. Thank you!

The Church Office will also be closed Wednesday, November 22nd & Thursday, November 23rd for the Thanksgiving holiday.



### Church Wide Clean Up... Roadside Trash Pick-Up Saturday, November 4th from 9:00 am until ?

On Saturday, November 4th, the Deacons invite all the members of our congregation to help us in our annual church wide clean up. We will be clipping bushes, removing debris, spreading mulch, maybe even moving a little furniture from one place to another in the church to find more storage space in our unused rooms above Memorial Hall. We are also asking for help with the removal of a huge hornet's nest in the maple tree just outside the Sanctuary doors. Please let one of the Deacons know if you have suggestions for removing this nest safely. All of these activities will be going on from 9:00 am until we are done or decide we are just too tired to do any more. Anyone interested in helping or fixing our lunch will be welcomed with smiles and open arms.

On that same day from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm we will have our roadside clean up from Route 11 to Middlebrook Road. This is in conjunction with the Virginia Dept. of Highways who provide our safety vests and garbage bags. (Please bring your own gloves!) Having our roadway to Bethel free of litter from either direction says a lot for our church and benefits all who attend as well as those just driving by.

Please mark this day on your calendars and come out to help us keep Bethel and our roadway clean and beautiful.

The December Tower Deadline will be Thursday, November 9th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the December Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to her at bethelpc@gmail.com. When writing announcements for the newsletter please keep in mind the 5 W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why?. Answer all of these in your announcement and you can be sure that your news will be communicated well. Remember if you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower.



Please note that the December Tower will be mailed out a week early due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you!



Stewardship Season & Stewardship Sunday

*Stewardship Sunday*

School is back in session. Thanksgiving is almost here, and it is time again for Bethel to make plans for next year. Yes, Stewardship Season is here. Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 12th, 2017. If you

cannot be present on Stewardship Sunday please use the copy of the pledge card below and mail it to the attention of the Receiving Treasurer (Church Address: 563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401). You may also place the pledge card in the offering plate any Sunday. Bethel needs all of you to help if we are to reach our goals. Please carefully and prayerfully consider your pledge for next year. Thank you for your continuing support!

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FOR 20\_\_\_\_\_**

Grateful for God's love in Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church through our congregation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  week  month  other \_\_\_\_\_

*(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)*

I (we) wish to receive information about giving through Estate Planning

Keep this portion as a record of your financial stewardship commitment for the year 20\_\_\_\_\_.

My (our) financial stewardship commitment

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  week  month  other \_\_\_\_\_

*(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)*





## 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 are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. All shoeboxes will be due by Sunday, November 12th. Please contact Kathy Swisher (kswisher@gmail.com) if you any questions. Thank you for all the past support of this project!



### Presbyterian Women - November 2017

Special Offering - Thank Offering

\*The Afternoon Circle will meet at Bethel on November 14th, at 1:30 pm.

\*The Evening Circle will meet at Bethel on November 14th, at 7:00 pm.

PWCT Meeting - November 5th



### Thank Offering 2017

In February 2017, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women met to review 92 applications submitted for grants from the 2016 Thank Offering. Fifteen of the projects were chosen for grants. Ten of the projects are ministries that serve people in need in the United States. Five of the projects are international. More than half of the funded projects are health ministries.

The Thank Offering will be collected at the November Circle Meetings.

### The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands Bethel Presbyterian Women "Together in Service" Project

The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (PCHH) is a long-term residential care facility located in Wytheville, Virginia. As a "Together in Service" project the Bethel Presbyterian Women are sponsoring a gift-card drive to benefit PCHH in time for the holiday season. PCHH has a particular need for gift cards from Wal-Mart and McDonalds. If you choose to participate in this mission project you can give the gift cards to Barbara Gough, Jackie Law, Irene Elliott, or Louise Hoy. Although this project originated in the PW organization, all members of Bethel are invited to join in this effort to meet needs at PCHH. In order to assist with the equitable distribution of the gift cards please write the purchased amount on each card or envelope. All gift cards need to be received by Sunday, November 26th so that they can be mailed to PCHH and arrive in time for holiday shopping and outings in December.



## Salvation Army Christmas Tree

Watch for the Salvation Army tree which will be on the table in Memorial Hall soon. Everyone at Bethel is always so generous with this event that last year some people did not get to participate. This year Bethel will again be helping three families so that more people can take part in sharing with those less fortunate. Additional details will be available in the December Tower.



The Bethel Communications Committee is seeking more members! We need help and ideas in spreading the good news about Bethel and our activities in the community! If you are interested in being a part of this committee or would like more information please contact Tabby Moore ([moore@blueridgeequine.com](mailto:moore@blueridgeequine.com)).



### Session News & Notes

The Session met on September 14th, 2017 with ten elders present and on October 8th, 2017 with eleven elders present.

The Deacons reported that they will redo the beds in front of the sanctuary with Japanese maples, boxwood and mulch. The manse septic system has been repaired; wiring in the church is being upgraded; some trees were removed at the manse and the wood is available to any Bethel members who want it; and the moisture problem in the sanctuary is being addressed.

Bethel's property insurer has made new requirements to maintain the policy, so the Deacons and Dean Caldwell are working to either meet the requirements or find a new insurer.

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Staunton generously donated twenty-five maroon robes to our choir.

The Staunton Choral Society will present a Christmas concert at Bethel on December 2nd, 2017.

The Personnel Committee has received forty-four information forms on candidates for our Stated Supply position. They are working to examine and research these candidates to determine if any may be a good match for Bethel.

The Worship Committee is working to revise Bethel's wedding rules and contracts.

A congregational meeting will be held after worship on November 12th, 2017 to elect new members of the Nominating Committee.

The Witness/Mission Committee reported that they made three recent donations: \$2,000 to Food on Fridays for children in need at Riverheads Elementary, \$550 to Kingsway to replace a defective freezer and \$2,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help those affected by the recent hurricanes.

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.

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. Thank you!



Are you looking for a birthday gift? A Christmas gift? Don't forget that Shenandoah Awards and Apparel in Staunton has the Bethel logo and can put it on a hat, shirt, or anything you might want. You can walk in and order on your own without a group order. Help yourself and get Bethel's name out there!



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](http://www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org)

Nursery Schedule November 2017

November 5th - Mac & Emily Williams  
November 12th - Bayleigh Lee,  
Luanne Leonard  
November 19th - Barbara Gough, Judy Olson  
November 26th - Briana Lawhorne,  
Libby Smith

Flower Schedule November 2017

November 5th - JoAnn Pendley  
November 12th - Cindy Almarode  
November 19th - Lee Ann Heizer  
November 26th - Bettie Swisher



Offering Schedule November 2017

Ellen Fitzgerald  
Briana Lawhorne  
Brian Lee  
Joe F. Williams

Financial Report through September 30th, 2017

Estimated Budget: \$129,753.00  
Actual Received: \$124,460.00  
Actual Expenses: \$96,190.00



November Greeters:  
Marion & Marty Simmers









### Volunteers Needed!

Younglives which is a program, started by Young Life more than 20 years ago provides weekly support, spiritual guidance, teaching and training for teenage mothers in our community. Childcare workers are needed for one Monday evening each month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm while the mothers have their meetings in Fishersville. If you have additional questions and/or are interested in volunteering please contact Linda Lamond at (540) 294-5058. Thank you!

Worship on Sunday,  
October 15th



### Prayer Requests

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, Michael Cochran (*Marty Simmers son*), Nancy Cook (*friend of Judy Olson*), Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis & Family, Todd Gibson (*friend of Louise Hoy*), Bill Hanger, Don Hanger, Mariann Hilenbrand (*mother-in-law of Ben Brown, Jr.*), 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, (William) Frank Law (*at Augusta Nursing & Rehab Center*), Sam Leonard, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (*sister of Anne Jones*), All Military Leaders & Personnel, Moore & Hewitt Families (*death of Eloise Moore's sister-in-law, Peggy Hewitt*), Bob Olson (*surgery on October 26th*), Jennifer Wilk Perry & Family (*death of Jennifer's husband Rodney Perry*), John Pilson (*at Kings Daughters Nursing & Rehab Center, Room 221A*), Wallace Pilson, 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, Dale K. Smith (*fall from roof*), Michael Somers, Kelly Sprouse (*friend of Emily Williams*), Mitchell & Holly Sutton, Bill & Marguerite Whitaker (*Tom Whitaker's parents*), MISSIONARY: Michael & Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends



November 5th - Daylight Saving Time Ends  
November 7th - Election Day  
November 11th - Veterans Day  
November 23rd - Thanksgiving Day

