



# The Tower

February 2018

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## From the Stated Supply Pastor's Desk . . .



Some of you know that genealogy and the search for family history are hobbies of mine. I have been researching my family tree ever since my daughter, Caroline, was born 30 years ago. I maintain a family tree on Ancestry.com that now has 41,000 names on it (turns out I have a lot of 5<sup>th</sup> cousins three times removed!). As a result of that research, I joined several hereditary societies and currently serve as chaplain of two of them and Governor General of a third. Yes, I take this hobby seriously.

I take it seriously in part because I believe our past helps to inform our present and guides us toward our future. Our history, both individual and collective, has a great deal to teach us about who we are through what our ancestors passed down to us.

One of the observations I've made over the years as I've read family histories and observed the lives of my ancestors is that the most successful among them moved the needle forward. Whether it was their pioneer spirit that called them to "go west, young man," or the groundbreaking occupations they undertook, or the fact that they made it financially possible for their children to have a better start in life than they had, they were, generally speaking, not satisfied to live in the past. They were willing to take some risks.

The Bible is full of stories of people like that: Moses leading the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery to a land flowing with milk and honey, young David stepping forward to slay a giant with a sling-shot, the Apostle Paul preaching the gospel to people who wanted to stone him, just to name a few.

What risks are we at Bethel willing to take to move the needle forward that will amply demonstrate our willingness to trust in God despite what obstacles stand before us? I ask you to give serious thought to this question. Later in February, I will be engaging the Session in some goal-setting. I have no idea what they will come up with but I pray that you will support them in every way possible. I believe God has great things in mind for Bethel Presbyterian Church if we will just open our hearts, minds, and spirits to God's leading. Let's make our ancestors proud!

- Roy

February Lectionary Schedule

February 4, 2018

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Boy Scout Sunday

Souper Bowl of Caring

Guest Minister: Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao,  
Associate General Presbyter

Isaiah 40:21-31 I Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Congregational Meeting following Worship



February 11, 2018

Transfiguration of the Lord

Sacrament of Holy Communion

II Kings 2:1-12 II Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

February 18, 2018

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 I Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

February 25, 2018

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-16 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

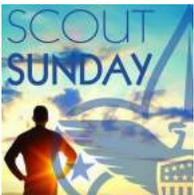


Communion will be held on Sunday, February 11th, Transfiguration of the Lord.

Congregational Meeting Scheduled

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 4th, following the worship service for the purpose of hearing the report of the Church Nominating Committee and electing new Church Officers.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**



Boy Scout Sunday

Boy Scout Sunday will be Sunday, February 4th. During the worship service, the Boy Scouts will be recognized for their contribution to the community and to Bethel. All are invited to this special service!

Super Bowl Sunday - Souper Bowl of Caring

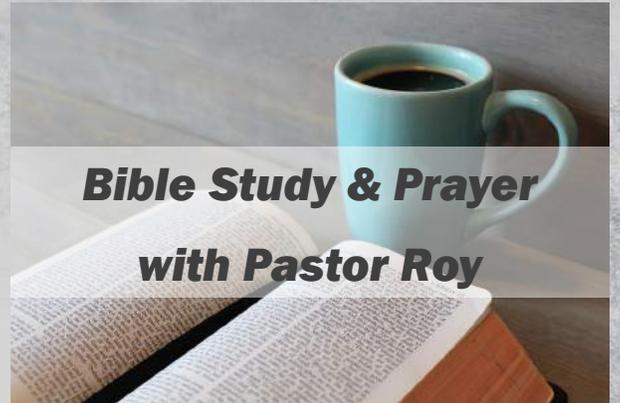
The Bethel Witness/Mission Committee is asking you to tackle hunger with them on Super Bowl Sunday with the Souper Bowl of Caring. The congregation is asked to bring non-perishable food or make monetary donations for Kingsway on Sunday, February 4th, 2018. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated in this annual service project which benefits many of our neighbors.



**Beginning February 8th and  
continuing each Thursday at 2:00 pm**

**Location: Bumgardner Classroom**

**Studying the Gospel of Mark**



**Bible Study & Prayer  
with Pastor Roy**

“The purpose of Mark’s Gospel is to bear witness to Jesus Christ as proclaimer and embodiment of the kingdom of God, and to challenge readers to follow him in anticipation of his final coming as the Son of man.”

Lamar Williamson, Jr.  
Mark  
Interpretation Series

**Join us each Thursday as we explore what the Gospel of Mark has to say to us today!**

Presbyterian Women

February 2018

Emphasis: Witness Season, Lent



\*The Afternoon Circle will meet at the church on February 13th, at 1:30 pm.

\*The Evening Circle will meet at the church on February 13th, at 7:00 pm.

February 4th - PWCT Meeting

You may remember that during November the PWCT sponsored a gift card collection to benefit the Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands. The total amount of gift cards collected was \$530.00! Thanks so much to everyone who participated in this important project!



March Tower Deadline

The March Tower Deadline will be Thursday, February 15th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the March Tower can be left in Adrienne’s mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to: [bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:bethelpc@gmail.com). When writing announcements for the newsletter please 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!

Monthly “Fellowship Following Worship”



“Fellowship Following Worship” will be held on Sunday, February 18th. Many thanks to Doris True who will be providing the refreshments. The Congregational Care Committee is still looking for people who would be willing to provide refreshments once a month for “Fellowship Following Worship” in 2018. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall if you can help out (you choose which month and Sunday). Thank you!

**Continuing  
Education**

Bethel Presbyterian Church  
Continuing Education Loan Fund (formerly the Scholarship/Loan Fund)

The Bethel Presbyterian Church Continuing Education Loan Fund (formerly the Scholarship/Loan Fund) was established a number of years ago due to the generosity of an anonymous donor to assist young people in furthering their education. Aid from this fund is available to church members for any post-high school education, including vocational schools, nursing, etc. Applications are available in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following Continuing Education Loan Fund Committee members: Bill Brubeck, Dan Gano or David Schooley. The deadline for the return of the completed application together with attachments is April 15th, 2018. Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to a member of the committee.

Community Lenten Schedule - 2018  
(tentative schedule - subject to change)



Ash Wednesday Service with light refreshments

Date: February 14th

Location: Pines Chapel Presbyterian Church; Greenville, VA

Time: 7:00 pm

First Week in Lent

Date: February 22nd

Location: Bethel Presbyterian Church

Time: 7:00 pm

Second Week in Lent

Date: March 1st

Location: Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church; Staunton, VA

Time: 7:00 pm

Third Week in Lent

Date: March 8th

Location: Redeemer Lutheran Church; Staunton, VA

Time: 7:00 pm

March 15th through Good Friday: TBA

## NEWS & notes

### Bethel Session News & Notes

The Session met on Sunday, January 14th, 2018 with 10 elders and Pastor Roy Martin, moderator, present.

The Staunton Choral Society was pleased with the Christmas concert they held at Bethel and will hold a spring concert here on May 19th.

A congregational meeting will be held on February 4th for the purpose of electing new officers.

The Deacons reported that Joe Williams and Alex Sproul will be their 2018 co-chairs; Wade Cash replaced the damaged floor in the Memorial Hall bathroom; and Dale Thompson will close in the pass-through between the kitchen and the choir room.

Pastor Roy will oversee the development of a church manual of operations.

Officer training and workshops will be held in February, prior to the installation of new officers to be effective on March 1st.

### Receiving Treasurer Report

*Pledges 2018:* 19 pledges for a total of \$74,380.00 have been received. Thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2018 - it is never too late! Pledge cards are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. 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.



### General Fund Report - 2017

Estimated Budget through December 31st: \$172,770.00

Actual Budget Expenses: \$142,602.00 Actual Budget Receipts: \$186,222.00

## volunteers NEEDED

### Volunteers Needed!

Many of you know long-time Bethel members Jon & Donna Bush. Not only are they the Bethel Custodians, they also volunteer at many church events, and Donna teaches the Children's Sunday School Class. They would like to attend worship one Sunday a month and are looking for someone who would be willing to stay with Donna's mother, Margaret Liptrap at their home. If you would be willing to stay with Margaret so Jon & Donna can attend worship please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall. Circle the Sunday you would be willing to serve along with your name and phone number. Donna will contact you with more details before you are scheduled to serve. Thank you for your consideration in volunteering!

Bethel  
Congregation  
& Friends:



Please submit any changes to your address, phone number, email, etc. to the Church Office. If we do not have your correct information, you may miss out on Bethel events and news. You can send update information to the Church Office at: [bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:bethelpc@gmail.com). Thank you!





## *Giving & Caring Go A Long Way*

Through your time and generous spirit the members of Bethel have made a wonderful contribution showing God's love to our community, congregation, and people in other countries throughout this past year.

In January a donation box for used glasses was placed in our vestibule for the Lions Club International. In the first month alone Bethel members donated a total of 104 eye glasses and lenses. These recycled glasses are distributed to people in need in low and middle income communities where they will have the greatest impact. Remember you can donate your eyeglasses even if the frames are broken as they can reuse the lenses.

In February the Casserole Connection was formed as a way for Bethel members to come together for fellowship in the kitchen while we whip up meals for anyone in need. This year twenty four meals consisting of 85 servings were prepared along with dozens and dozens of cookies and treats. These meals were then placed in the freezer outside the kitchen and can be taken by anyone for any reason, even if you have a neighbor who is ill but you don't have time to cook for them. All we ask is that you cross off the meal you've taken from the list above the freezer. This way as the supply goes down we know to meet and cook more.

Since the month of March we have been stressing the American Red Cross Sound the Alarm Home Fire Safety Campaign. The Home Fire Campaign helps save lives by installing free smoke alarms. Volunteers from the Red Cross will come to your home on an agreed upon day and install up to 3 smoke detectors where needed. Several members have had new smoke alarms installed and reported it was a good experience. Please check the expiration of your smoke alarms and give Viviana Cristian a call at 540-886-9151. Tell your friends, it can save a life!

In April, in honor of Earth Day we purchased two recycling containers, one for aluminum and one for plastic and have placed them outside the kitchen. Let's keep recycling.

In May & June to thank our Mothers and Fathers or anyone that fills that role in any capacity, we were treated to Muffins for Moms on Mother's Day and Donuts for Dads on Father's Day.

Also in June we finished our collection of flip-flops for Friends of Barnabas. We collected over 50 pairs of flip-flops, filling a whole suitcase to be distributed to children in Honduras and Guatemala. These children now have protection against the parasite infested ground. Thank you Bethel for making the world a little better one child at a time!

You also made a difference for a family of 7 who received a new house in Mexico. The Bethel Baja team along with 11 churches in the Shenandoah Presbytery completed a total of three houses, held an eyeglass clinic and distributed approximately 100 pairs of glasses. It was an incredible experience to witness someone being able to read his Bible with his new glasses. The joy and smile on his face was heartwarming.

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Many Bethel members continued the tradition of Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign during the months of November and December. By volunteering, this reduces the amount of money used to pay workers and allows it to go directly to our community. Plus it is proven that the volunteer Red Kettle ringers raise more in donations than the paid ringers. Just to give you an idea of the impact that your kindness made to families in Virginia:

386 Children were provided toys and clothing

169 Families were provided food

568 Nursing home patients were provided gifts

41 Senior adults were provided gifts

2726 Area inmates & patients received socks

For a total of 4008 persons served this past Christmas season. The Salvation Army was able to assist many families who otherwise may not have had a Merry Christmas.

May the Lord continue to bless you as you have blessed others with your love.

**PRAYER LIST** *Bethel Prayer List* Tish Amerault (cousin of Kay Thompson & friend of the Almarodes - has Hodgkins Lymphoma), Phil Balsey (friend of Bob & Louise Hoy), Mildred Barmore, Catherine Bryan (friend of Stephanie Rivers), Reese Burdette (great niece of Debbie Callison), Lorine Caldwell (Dean Caldwell's mother), Betty Cash, Friends & Family of William Cason, Nancy Cook (friend of Judy Olson), Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis & Family, Todd Gibson (friend of Louise Hoy), Don Hanger, Mariann Hilenbrand (mother-in-law of Ben Brown, Jr.), Gail Hord (heart issues, Steve Hord's mother), 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, Friends & Family of Donald Landes (husband of Gloria Smith Landes), Evelyn LaPorte, David Law, Sam Leonard, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (sister of Anne Jones), Michael (anonymous request), Preston McCallistar (on transplant list & in kidney failure - friend of Drury Whitaker), All Military Leaders & Personnel, Bob Moody, John Pilson, Wallace Pilson, Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers, H. O. Sandridge (diagnosed with cancer - cousin of Betty Schooley), Alfred Sheets (relative of John Pilson), Michael Somers, Friends & Family of Jo Speck, Tina Rankin Staton (colon cancer, niece of Betty Schooley), Parker Staples (student at Hugh K. Cassell Elementary School), Patricia Stiles (recovering from surgery - Debbie Callison's sister-in-law), Paul Stiles (now in rehab/physical therapy facility - Debbie Callison's brother), Millie Trent (maternal grandmother of Sam Goodson), Bill & Marguerite Whitaker (Tom Whitaker's parents), Those suffering losses in the California fires and mudslides, Those suffering losses in Puerto Rick from the hurricanes, MISSIONARY: Michael & Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends



2018 Baja Mission Trip July 8th - July 14th, 2018

Registration is now open until deadline - March 1, 2018

For more information, contact Keith Folsom

(294-0025; keithspringdale@gmail.com)

or go to: shenpres.org/baja-mission

Words cannot express my gratitude and thanks to you for the wonderful (and unexpected!) Christmas purse that you gave to me. I was overwhelmed and humbled by the generosity and kindness that you showed me. I would also like to thank all of you for the cards and gifts that were given to Justin and me for Christmas as well. I am blessed to be part of such a wonderful "family" and I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2018!

Love in Christ,  
Adrienne Barker, Bethel Office Manager



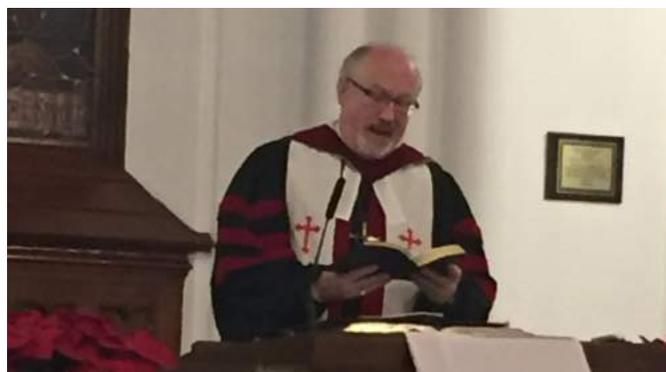
Thank You!

*From the Deacons:*

Our Deacon Room upstairs over Memorial Hall has two beautiful new tables built by Alex Sproul. These will take the place of the utility tables we have been using. We appreciate all his hard work and are still wondering how he got them up there!? Please take a minute and go see them for yourselves. Thanks, Alex.

We also want to thank Wade Cash for repairing the leak in the Memorial Hall bathroom and then replacing the flooring. We're sorry we had the leak but the flooring is beautiful and adds a great deal to this very attractive, sun-filled "necessary" room. A grateful thank you to Wade and all his helpers.

## Christmas Eve Service 2017



# Christmas Eve Service 2017



- February 2nd - Groundhog Day
- February 4th - Super Bowl Sunday
- February 14th - Ash Wednesday
- February 14th - Valentine's Day
- February 18th - 1st Sunday in Lent
- February 19th- Presidents' Day

We love because  
**HE**  
first loved  
**US.**  
1 JOHN 4:19