

**OUR MISSION
AND MINISTRY**

January 21st - January 27th



•Good morning and welcome to Bethel! Whether you are a member, a friend or a visitor please take a moment to fill out the friendship pad at the end of your pew. Don't forget to give the friendship pad to others to sign when you are done. Thank you!

•The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by Penny Lee.

•*You're Invited! Mission Appreciation Luncheon*

The Witness/Mission Committee invites everyone to its annual Mission Appreciation Luncheon after worship today. There is no need to bring anything - we want to thank you for your generous support of our mission projects and share with you our plans for the coming year. Please come to learn how you have helped those in need in our community and beyond and the volunteer opportunities you can help with this year.

•*2017 Annual Reports*

The deadline for the Annual Reports for 2017 is *this Tuesday, January 23rd, 2018*. If you were a chair of a committee for 2017, please have your report and statement to the Church Office by the above date.

•The Massanetta Springs Board of Trustees cordially invites you to a Service of Installation for Rev. Clayton Rascoe as Executive Director of Massanetta Springs next Sunday, January 28th, at 4:30 pm with dinner to follow. The service will take place at Massanetta Springs in Stewart Hall and there will be an offering collected to support playground improvements at Massanetta Springs. Dinner will be served immediately after the service of installation to celebrate the occasion. *Please let them know if you plan to attend!* There is no charge for the dinner, but please RSVP to Nola Avery at: nolaa@massanettasprings.org or (540) 434-3829. *The deadline to RSVP is today.* (If you let them know of dietary requests at the time of your RSVP, they will be happy to accommodate.) Thank you!

•*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!

•*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.

•*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.

•*Monthly "Fellowship Following Worship"*

The Congregational Care Committee is still looking for someone who would be willing to provide refreshments for "Fellowship Following Worship" one Sunday in February (*you choose which Sunday*). Please sign-up on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall if you can help out in February or any other month in 2018. Thank you!

•*Receiving Treasurer Search:* Bethel is looking for a financially qualified member of the congregation to fill the position of Receiving Treasurer for the General Fund. Ken Wilkinson is retiring in the near future after serving in this position for many years. The General Fund receives donations from the Bethel congregation and others to fund the annual budget, the 21st Century Fund, the Youth Fund and other funds. The Receiving Treasurer maintains complete and accurate records of donations by church members and others. With confidentiality in mind, the records are kept in ledger form on paper. No individual members donations or accounts are entered on any computer program. A weekly email report of total donations is made to the Disbursing Treasurer using Microsoft Excel. Also, a weekly bank deposit of all money received is made by the Receiving Treasurer. Other responsibilities to accomplish the above actions will be made available upon request. Please contact Ken Wilkinson.

•*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.

•If you would like to join Bethel Presbyterian Church, please feel free to contact the Church Office or a Session member. We would love to hear from you!

January 14th

Attendance: 75

Weekly Budget: \$3,606.00 Received: \$2,174.00

General Fund Report - 2017

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

Actual Budget Expenses: \$142,602.00

Actual Budget Receipts: \$186,222.00

Financial Stewardship Information

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.

Offering Envelopes for 2018: ATTENTION OFFERING ENVELOPE USERS – There are now numbered offering envelopes available in the vestibule for those who used offering envelopes in 2017. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to or have been using them but no longer want them, please contact the Church Office with your request.

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.

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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.

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.