



The Tower

April 2018

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The Session's View . . .

As most of you know, I volunteer at Kingsway Help Center, a food pantry and clothes closet located nearby in Spottswood. It is a local, grass-roots organization that benefits the neediest members of our community. There is a base group of about twelve people who do most of the work necessary to keep Kingsway running: helping clients sign up for services, sorting and displaying donated goods and food, ordering food, picking food up at the food bank, unloading, storing and disbursing food, handling the finances and preparing inventories and reports.



The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, with which Kingsway is affiliated, calls us a “faith-based” organization. Yes, we have selections of Scripture displayed on our walls, such as: *“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (Hebrews 13:2)* We also have devotions at the beginning of each day when we distribute food. However, Kingsway differs from other groups that the food bank designates as “faith-based” in that we are not from a single church or religious organization. We are members of Bethel, Vesuvius Baptist, Old Providence Presbyterian, Redeemer Lutheran and others.

So, what makes this diverse group of people “faith-based”? It is our belief in God and our desire to follow Jesus’ teachings, which is strengthened by our participation in our home churches. Having Jesus in our hearts causes us to care for those who need help and makes us work to provide them with food, clothing and household goods. But, we could not exist without a huge “faith-based” network of people who also share our beliefs. When you, members of Bethel, donate to Kingsway, or any other such organization, it is evidence of your belief and faith in God and your desire to help others. *“And don’t forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.” (Hebrews 13:16)*

Rhonda Johnson, Clerk of Session

April Lectionary Schedule

April 1st, 2018

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Guest Pastor: Kelly-Ann Rayle

Isaiah 25:6-9 I Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18

April 8th, 2018

2nd Sunday of Easter

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Acts 4:32-35 I John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31

April 15th, 2018

3rd Sunday of Easter

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Acts 3:12-19 I John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36-48

April 22nd, 2018

4th Sunday of Easter

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Acts 4:5-12 I John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

April 29th, 2018

5th Sunday of Easter

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Acts 8:26-40 I John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8



There will be a cross outside the front entrance of the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday



(April 1st).

Please bring fresh flowers to church on Easter to place on the cross.

Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 1st, 2018

Bethel Youth with the assistance of adults would like to invite you to a Sunrise Worship Service at Bethel's Chapel in the woods at 6:30 am on Easter morning. Derek Almarode will be the speaker. We would like to continue the tradition of having the service with breakfast to follow. Please bring your favorite breakfast dishes prepared and ready to share after the service. We had 80 people attend last year and would like to exceed that number this year.



Church Office Closed Easter Monday

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 2nd, the day after Easter. Adrienne will be back in the office on Tuesday, April 3rd, at 9:00 am. Thank you!



Resumes April 5th and
continues each Thursday
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Bumgardner Classroom

Studying the Gospel of Mark

Come join us as we continue to study the book of Mark and as we pray for the Bethel congregation, officers, community and our future pastor whomever that may be. Everyone is invited!



Presbyterian Women - April 2018 Emphasis - Christian Higher Education

*The Afternoon Circle will meet on April 10th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be at Bethel.

*The Evening Circle will meet on April 10th, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at Bethel.



April 29th - PWCT Meeting



The 2018 Birthday Offering will be collected at the May Circle Meetings. After receiving numerous proposals, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee chose three projects to receive grants from the 2018 Birthday Offering. Your gift to the 2018 Birthday Offering will allow help to these three ministries: The Cottage Village in Cottage Grove, Oregon (tiny homes for low income residents); Village of Grace in Honduras (center for physical and spiritual health), and The Dwelling Place in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota (provides support and housing for women and children who are victims of domestic violence).

Bethel Presbyterian Church - Continuing Education 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 15, 2018. Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to a member of the committee.

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



DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

May Tower Deadline

The May Tower Deadline will be Thursday, April 19th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the May 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?. Thank you!

Adopt - A - Highway

The Diaconate has scheduled the Spring Roadside Trash Pickup on Howardsville Road for Saturday, April 21st, at 9:00 am.



Trash bags will be provided but please bring gloves! Children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Please join the Diaconate and volunteer to help with this special service project that benefits our community!

Pork Loin Dinner & Silent Auction

Our annual Pork Loin Dinner will be held Sunday, April 29th, 2018, at 5:30 pm. Bob and Kenneth Olson will sponsor the meal with a menu of pork loin, sauerkraut, baked potatoes, green beans, baked apples, rolls, and fried ice cream, with cooking assistance from the Bethel Witness/Mission Committee. A Silent Auction will also be held during the meal and donations of new or gently-used items are needed. You may leave your donated items for the Silent Auction on the stage in the Fellowship Hall by Tuesday, April 24th. (If you have an item that you would like to donate but are unable to transport please call Bob Olson at 255-6485 to make arrangements for pick-up.) A free-will offering will be collected for the meal. All the money donated for the meal and collected from the silent auction will go to Bethel's mission projects. Please join us for a fun evening of delicious food, fellowship and great bargains to support Bethel's missions.

Thanks for your support,
Bob Olson

Monthly "Fellowship Following Worship"

The Congregational Care Committee is still looking for people who would be willing to provide refreshments for "Fellowship Following Worship" during the month of April. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall if you can help out (you choose which Sunday). Thank you!





Bethel Historical Documents on Display

John and Wallace Pilson have donated two historical items to Bethel. The documents were passed down to them from their ancestor, Matthew Pilson, who served as an elder at Bethel from 1804 to 1822. One document is Matthew Pilson's personal recollection of Bethel's origin: our separation from Brown's Meeting House. The other is a ledger which contains the handwritten records of two early Bethel organizations: the Bethel Temperance Society and the Committee of Bethel Library. The Temperance Society records begin with the formation of the Society on December 26, 1831 and continue through January 14, 1838. They were written by Matthew Pilson, who was the secretary of the Society. The Library section of the ledger is a record of the minutes of the Committee's meetings and detail the formation of the library on August 8, 1846, continue through August 29, 1863 and were also written by Matthew Pilson. We at Bethel are extremely grateful to John and Wallace Pilson for these gifts. They are a priceless addition to our collection of historical artifacts and also to our knowledge of Bethel's history. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the Pilsons for their generosity. These items will be on display in Memorial Hall, before and after worship, on Easter Sunday, April 1st.



Session News & Notes

The Session met on Sunday, March 11th, 2018 with nine elders and the moderator, Rev. Joe Condro present.

John and Wallace Pilson graciously donated an old Bethel record book to the church which will be a great addition to our collection of historical objects and to our knowledge of Bethel's history.

Bethel will participate in a fundraising opportunity offered by Country Cookin'.

The Deacons presented their choice of contractor to repaint the sanctuary and the work will begin soon.

Derek Almarode, chairman of the Youth Committee, presented an outline of plans for a comprehensive and innovative Youth program. Session will devote a large portion of their next meeting to discussing the plans.

Stephany Morgan, of the Presbytery's Committee on Pastoral Transition, discussed various specifics of hiring a Stated Supply Pastor.

Copies of the 2018 budget and copies of the 2017 Annual Reports are available in the Church Office. Please contact Adrienne if you would like a copy. Thank you!



General Fund Report - 2018

Estimated Budget through February 28th: \$28,612.00
Actual Expenses: \$26,125.00 Actual Receipts: \$25,548.00

**PLEASE
NOTE:**

LETTER FROM THE DIACONATE

(ACTION APPROVED BY SESSION - MARCH 11, 2018)

As the Diaconate has been charged with the responsibility of maintenance, upkeep and repair of the furnishings and grounds at Bethel, beginning with this year, 2018, anyone wishing to donate, purchase an item(s), or initiate reimbursement for a project must first contact the Diaconate to determine if there is a need or use for said item or project. While items donated or bought by members of our congregation for use by Bethel are welcome and appreciated it is also necessary in some way to have control and approval for what may be purchased or donated. The Diaconate will then evaluate and inform the contributor as to whether there is acceptance of their purchase/donation. This is not meant to discourage or suggest a negative response but only to act as a filter for what may be pertinent to the positive intake of purchases/items in our church atmosphere. Personal wills, monetary donations or memorials are not affected.

Nursery Schedule April 2018

April 1st - Jackie Law, Stephanie Rivers
(Easter Sunday)

April 8th - Chris & Therese Schooley

April 15th - Joe & Sally Williams

April 22nd - Joe & Tabby Moore

April 29th - Mac & Emily Williams

April Greeters:
Tom & Lee Ann Heizer

Deacons Offering
Schedule
April 2018

Wade Cash
Alex Sproul
Linda Tenney
Drury Whitaker

Flower Schedule April 2018

April 1st - Easter Lilies

April 8th - Doris True (Memorial)

April 15th - Joyce Miller

April 22nd - JoAnn Pendley (Memorial)

April 29th - Mary Ann Anderson



Our sympathies & condolences to the family & friends of (Everette) Bill Hanger who passed away on March 6th, 2018.



Cakewalk Benefitting Riverheads WRE

Riverheads Weekday Religious Education (WRE) is sponsoring a cakewalk on Saturday, April 7th, at 6:00 pm at the Mint Spring Ruritan Building. The money collected will go towards the building fund. Ten cakes are needed from each participating church. Please contact Mo Kyle (540/292-8578) if you can provide a cake for this community event.



We would like to thank you for your prayers, cards, and condolences during our time of loss. We deeply appreciate your kindness and sympathy as it gives us much comfort.

- The family of Betty Crosby



Thank you

Many thanks to all who contributed food and helped March 10th with the breakfast that was served at the Valley Mission in Staunton! There was plenty of food and help. Breakfast was provided for fifty-eight people. They were quite appreciative of our being there.

In addition, someone asked for gloves so Barbara Gough went out and bought several pairs of gloves and those have been donated to the residents at the Mission.

As you may have read in the newspaper, the cook at the Valley Mission has left. One of the young residents is now doing the cooking, but needs some volunteer help. I know of one church in town that has done a meal. If you have any time available please consider volunteering - it's a wonderful experience! - Doris True, Bethel Witness/Mission Committee



Bethel Prayer List

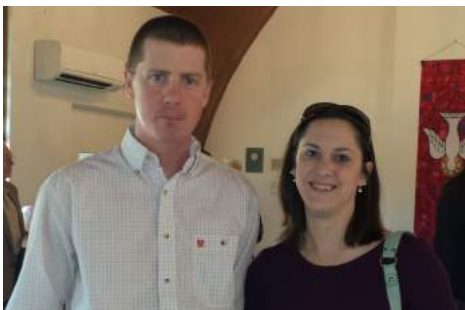
Tish Amerault (*cousin of Kay Thompson & friend of the Almarodes - has Hodgkins Lymphoma*), Phil Balsey (*friend of Bob & Louise Hoy*), Mildred Barmore, Catherine Bryan (*friend of Stephanie Rivers*), Reese Burdette (*great niece of Debbie Callison*), Lorine Caldwell (*Dean Caldwell's mother*), Betty Cash, Friends & Family of Betty Crosby, Jarod Davis & Family, Ira Deyerle, Elizabeth Eckard (*mother of Carol Byrd & friend of Mitch Lathrop*), Todd Gibson (*friend of Louise Hoy*), Friends & Family of (Everette) Bill Hanger, 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, Evelyn LaPorte, David Law, Sam Leonard, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (*sister of Anne Jones*), Preston McCallistar (*friend of Drury Whitaker*), All Military Leaders & Personnel, Laura Pahuta (*recovering from knee surgery; Marion & Marty Simmers daughter*), John Pilson, Wallace Pilson, Carly Pond (*great-niece of John Pilson*), Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers, David Ramsey, Bob Robinson & wife Shirley (*friends of Stephanie Rivers*), Friends & Family of Phyllis Cash Saunders (*Wade Cash's aunt*), Friends & Family of Alfred Sheets (*relative of John Pilson*), Michael Somers, 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 home & recuperating - Debbie Callison's brother*), Wayne & Kathy Swisher, Millie Trent (*maternal grandmother of Sam Goodson*), Bill & Marguerite Whitaker (*Tom Whitaker's parents*), Alice Wooddell, Hannah Wright (*Marion & Marty Simmers granddaughter*), Victims & Families affected by the Florida school shooting, Bethel's newly ordained & installed officers (*Elders, Deacons & Trustees*), MISSIONARY: Michael & Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

Please call Tammy Barbour @ 540-471-0450, Barb Gough @ 540-255-6521, or the Church Office @ 540-886-6041 with any additions or updates. Thank you!

*Worship and Ordination & Installation of Officers
on February 25th*



*Fellowship Following Worship
on March 18th*





April 1st Resurrection of the Lord/Easter
April 22nd Earth Day

