



The Tower

August 2018

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Greetings from the Pastor's Desk . . .

You Are Called into the "Communion of Saints"

The word communion can be broadly defined as the sharing or exchanging of an intimate spirituality. Communion therefore is a beautiful marriage of souls, which share a certain commonality. In the Christian reformed understanding, that commonality is Jesus Christ and our fellow believers. A mysterious, yet familiar bond is almost palpable. This communion is described in the Westminster Confession of Faith (WC, 6.147) as "being united with one another in love;" it is only love professed in Christ Jesus that describes the intimacy of the unity articulated by this confession.



In the 2nd Helvetic Confession, a saint is described as a "Citizen of One Commonwealth" (2nd HC, 5.125). This all-encompassing phrase is a compelling way to describe our collective unity as a body of believers. It has been my observation that the chaos of the world we live in can become overwhelming, in turn projecting a world too small. This worldview often causes us to become isolated. When we separate ourselves from the "One Commonwealth," we forget the big picture of God's universe....

I came across a beautiful journal entry from John Donne's Meditations. I was deeply engaged by how profound and provocative it was and I was immediately grateful for the "saint" John Donne and all the saints that dare to "call" us into our duty of sainthood manifested in the communion of the God-head. In honor of the "communion of saints" that walked before, for the "communion of saints" that walk today, and for the "communion of saints" that are yet to come, I share this with you in humble thanksgiving.

The Church proclaimed in the Apostles' Creed is said to be holy, catholic, and universal, so are all her actions; all that she does belongs to all.

When she baptizes a child, that action concerns me; for that child is thereby connected to that body which is my head too and engrafted into that body where I am a member.

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(Greetings from the Pastor's Desk continued)

And when [the church] buries a person, that action concerns me.

*All of humanity is of one author, and is one volume; when one [person] dies,
one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language;
and every chapter must be so translated.*

*God employs several translators; some pieces are translated by age, some by sickness,
some by war, some by justice; but [the Lord's] hand is in every translation,
and [God's] hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again
for that library where every book shall lie open to one another.*

*Therefore, the bell that rings to a sermon calls, not upon the preacher only,
but upon the congregation to come, so this bell calls us all. . . .*

No one is an island entire of itself; everyone is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.

*If a man, whatever his status, be washed away by the sea, we are the less, as well as if a cliff
stretched out into the ocean were, or a house of a friend, or if your own were.*

Written by John Donne in 1624, Meditation 17, from Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions and is prose. *Please note that the original Old English was smoothed out for better reader accessibility.

August Lectionary Schedule

August 5th, 2018

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

II Samuel 11:26-12:13 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35

August 12th, 2018

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Jessica Townes

II Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51

August 19th, 2018

13th Sunday after Pentecost

I Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 5:51-58

August 26th, 2018

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Homecoming Sunday

I Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69



Communion will be served during the worship service on the first Sunday of every month beginning in September.

Pastor Kelly-Ann will be out of the office from the end of July through Monday, August 6th. She is at Union Presbyterian Seminary to continue her course work for her Church Administration Certification. Please contact one of the Elders if you have a pastoral need.



Pastor Kelly-Ann's Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm*

Wednesday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm*

540-886-6041 (office) 434-327-7330 (cell) bethelpcpastor@gmail.com

**The listed office hours may vary due to the daily pastoral needs of the congregation*

Summer Vespers Service & Concert - August 1st

Save the date on your calendar for the next Summer Vespers Service and Concert. On Wednesday, August 1st, at 7:00 pm we will host the St. James Baptist Church Choir from Waynesboro. We'll have a hymn sing by request (just call out a number of your favorite hymn), read scripture and pray together. Elder Derek Almarode will preside. Join us for our final Vespers service of this summer season!



The first day of the 2018-2019 school year for Augusta, Waynesboro, and Staunton will be Tuesday, August 7th. Please be aware of the children walking to and from school and the school buses on the roads.

Tuesday Afternoons

(except on Tuesdays when the
Presbyterian Women circles meet)

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, and others in our community. Please contact Barb Gough if you have any questions (540) 255-6521. Everyone is invited!



The Bells of Bethel
Practice Resumes

The Bells of Bethel will begin practice again on Wednesday, August 8th, at 7:00 pm. New bell ringers are always welcome! You do not have to be able to read music to learn how to ring bells. Bethel youth are welcome to join the bell choir. If you would like to ring bells, please contact JoAnn Pendley at (540) 324-0152.



Adult Choir Practice
Resumes in August!

Attention: Adult Choir members and anyone who would like to help sing during the worship services. The Adult Choir will resume practice on August 8th after taking the months of June and July off. Choir practices are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. They are looking for more singers in every section. Everyone is welcome!



Serving Breakfast at Valley Mission

On Saturday, August 11th, at 9:00 am, the Women of Bethel and the Witness/Mission Committee will again serve brunch at the Valley Mission. This mission is always well-received and appreciated by the residents there. We will serve breakfast casseroles, fruit (oranges and grapes) and quick breads (such as banana bread) and need donations of these items. Please prepare the casseroles in disposable pans and do not include nuts in the breads. If you can help, please call Doris True at 540/885-4526 for details. If you would like to help us at the Valley Mission, please come. We appreciate your donations and would love to have you join us!

Presbyterian Women August 2018
Emphasis - Church Conferences, Homecoming



The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 14th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

The Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 14th, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

August 5th - PWCT Meeting

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The September Tower Deadline will be Thursday, August 16th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the September 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. All announcements, which are subject to editing, should include Who? What? When? Where? Why?.

Y'all come!!! Homecoming Sunday will be August 26th!
Make plans now to attend our special Homecoming Sunday worship service on August 26th! Pastor Kelly-Ann will be preaching and following the worship service there will be a covered dish luncheon. What better day to invite a friend, neighbor or member we have not seen lately than on Homecoming Sunday. See you in church!





Adrienne will be out of the Office Monday, August 27th - Thursday, August 30th. Please contact Pastor Kelly-Ann if you have a need.

Pizza with the Pastor Youth Event (6th - 12th grade) will be Friday, August 24th, at 6:00 pm! All youth and their friends are invited!



Financial Report - through June 30th, 2018



Estimated Budget: \$89,675
 Receipts: \$77,120
 Expenses: \$75,184



Session News & Notes

The Session met on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 with nine elders and the moderator, Pastor Kelly-Ann Rayle, present.

Problems with the sanctuary sound system were discussed. Two deacons and two elders will meet with the owner of the company that provided and installed the system to correct the problems.

Renewal of the manse rental contract was discussed.

Pastor Kelly-Ann will be off from July 23rd to August 7th to attend a previously scheduled class.

Communion will not be served in August.

The Communications Committee is working on a survey of the congregation to learn how members would like to receive messages from Bethel.

An anonymous individual has donated \$2,500 to the church to purchase new hymnals.

Flower Schedule August 2018

August 5th - Mo Kyle	August 12th - Evelyn LaPorte
August 19th - Sally Williams	August 26th - Keedie Leonard

(Homecoming Sunday)



Nursery Schedule August 2018

August 5th - Barb Gough, Judy Olson

August 12th - Eloise Moore, Elizabeth Mulcahy

August 19th - Brian & Penny Lee

August 26th - Joyce Davis, Louise Hoy
(Homecoming Sunday)

Offering Schedule August 2018

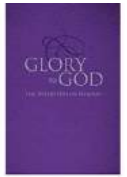
Ellen Fitzgerald
 Brian Lee
 Joe Moore
 Joe Williams

August Greeters:

Bob & Jackie Law

Coming Soon . . .

The new “Glory to God” hymnal! Late this summer we will be ordering the new hymnals for Bethel! Details will be available in the coming weeks if you would like to donate a hymnal in memory or in honor of someone. Be watching for more information!



Prayer Requests



Bethel Prayer List Mildred Barmore, Catherine Bryan (*friend of Stephanie Rivers*), Reese Burdette (*great niece of Debbie Callison*), Lorine Caldwell (*Dean Caldwell's mother*), Betty Cash, Christopher (*Marion & Marty Simmers grandson*), Jarod Davis & Family, Henley Gabeau, Don Hanger, 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*), Matt Koogler, Sara Ann Lamb, Evelyn LaPorte, David Law, Sam Leonard, Margaret Liptrap, Meade Loomis (*sister of Anne Jones*), Pam Massie (*friend of Faye Brown*), Virginia Massie (*friend of Faye Brown*), Preston McCallistar & Meredith McCallister (*friends of Drury Whitaker*), All Military Leaders & Personnel, Friends & Family of Bob Moody, John Pilson, Wallace Pilson, Van Pirkey, Carly Pond (*great-niece of John Pilson*), Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers, Bob Robinson & wife Shirley (*friends of Stephanie Rivers*), 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*), Friends & Family of Wayne Swisher, Jill Webb, Bill & Marguerite Whitaker (*Tom Whitaker's parents*), Alice Wooddell, Hannah Wright (*Marion & Marty Simmers granddaughter*), MISSIONARY: Michael & Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends

Old Providence Preschool in Spottswood, VA has openings for new students for the school year beginning September 2018 through May 2019. There are openings in the Tuesday, Thursday class for 3-year-old students, and in the Monday, Wednesday, Friday class for 4-year-olds. Class meets from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm each day. Parents may call the Church Office at (540) 377-2911 or Mrs. Barbara Marsh at (540) 886-8685 for questions and application forms. You may also visit the Old Providence Church website at www.oldprovidencechurch.org for Preschool information and applications to print.



Sessional Ministry Committees

Christian Education - John Davis

Communications - Tabby Moore

Continuing Education Loan Co-Chairs - Bill Brubeck, Dan Gano

Nominating - Bob Olson

Personnel Committee Co-Chairs - Cindy Almarode, Bill Brubeck

Outreach & Evangelism - Dean Caldwell

Stewardship & Finance Co-Chairs - Derek Almarode, Mac Williams

Witness/Mission - Kathy Swisher

Worship - Marion Simmers

Youth - Derek Almarode



Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this year's Vacation Bible School a success!



Presbyterian Women's Annual CATERED Dinner - July 10th







Marty Simmers & Barb Gough showing off their dancing skills!



The musical group "Sanjojo" performing



August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 12:15 - Diaconate 12:15 - PWCT Meeting 12:15 - Worship Committee Meeting	6 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life Meeting	7 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer First Day of School for Augusta, Staunton, & Waynesboro 	1 7:00 - Summer Vespers Service & Concert	2	3	4
12 9:00 - Communications Committee Meeting 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship	13 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life Meeting	14 1:30 - Afternoon Circle 7:00 - Evening Circle 7:00 - Session Meeting	8 6:00 - Christian Education Committee Meeting 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:30 - Young Life Meeting	9	10	11 9:00 - Serving Breakfast at Valley Mission
19 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 12:15 - Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting 12:15 - Witness Committee Meeting	20 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life Meeting	21 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer	15 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:30 - Young Life Meeting	16 12:00 - September Tower Deadline 	17 5:00 - Wedding Rehearsal	18 Wedding
26 Homecoming Sunday 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship/ Four Cents A Meal Offering 12:00 - Covered Dish Luncheon 	27 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life Meeting Adrienne out of the Office (August 27th - 30th)	28 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer	22 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:30 - Young Life Meeting	23 9:00 - September Tower Mailing	24 6:00 - Pizza with the Pastor Youth Event 	25