



The Tower

September 2018

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Greetings from the Pastor's Desk . . .

My friend and pastor Jessica Townes, after presiding over worship and visiting with the Bethel congregation, reported to me that she “loved my people” and she would be back to worship with us! I am not surprised, but grateful that Jessica, her mom, and her friends felt comfortable and loved in an environment with a worship liturgy so unfamiliar to them. Jessica also commented on The Apostles’ Creed and its impact on her, plainly stating, “I LOVED your Creed!” Marion, our Worship Committee chair, presented her with a bookmark to take as a memento. As I reflected on Jessica’s attention to the beloved creed we know so well, I revisited the timeless peace for this month’s communication.



It is important to note that The Apostles' Creed was not written by the apostles themselves, but is a brief summary of their teachings. This confession sets forth the apostles’ beliefs *“in sublime simplicity, in unsurpassable brevity, in beautiful order, and in liturgical solemnity.”* In its present form, it is dated no later than the fourth century, and more than any other Christian creed, it best represents an ecumenical symbol of faith.

As I pondered the value of this *“ecumenical symbol of faith,”* I could see why Pastor Jessica was so deeply moved by it while reading it aloud with the Bethel congregation for the first time. It simply and eloquently encapsulates our faith, speaking clearly to our ecumenical biblical truths. As I further reflected on Pastor Jessica’s and my own experiences with this masterpiece, I was reminded of a question that was posed to me by an exam writer a few years ago who asked me to react to this statement. *“Sure, we say that God is “almighty, because it is our belief that God has created everything that is possible to create. However, even God cannot create a square circle. If God were really “almighty,” there would be a way for God to do the impossible.”*

This is quite a provocative statement and it still gives me pause, because it is a realistic depiction of what many folks think. So how might we answer to this thought process? First, we can say God is almighty by looking at the mysteries of the creation and God’s generosity of provision. The statement that *“God could not create a square into a circle”* would not be uttered from mouth. However, we only know a circle to be a circle, and a square to be a square.

(“Greetings from the Pastor’s Desk” continued)

("Greetings from the Pastor's Desk" continued)

Second, I have discerned that the Bible speaks of a different type of almighty. It articulates profoundly time and time again of God's almighty attribute through His parental and generous qualities, made clear in His loving gift of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This gift eloquently shows a God who dares to be present in our own suffering and in the suffering of the world, even if it is not, and because it is not, fully understandable.

This portrayal of God opens the door for the "*community of saints*" to be a part of God's liberating power through the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ Jesus. This is the Holy Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because the "ALMIGHTY" power of God is fully disclosed in the life and actions of Jesus, God has turned a square into a circle – LOVE! "God so loved the world...", accomplishing the "seemingly" impossible through the saving act of Christ Jesus. (John 3:16)

- Pastor Kelly-Ann

September Worship Schedule

September 2nd, 2018

Labor Day Weekend

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sermon Title: "Just Do It"

Psalm 45 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27

September 9th, 2018

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Body and Soul"

Psalm 125 Isaiah 35:3-7 James 2:1-17

September 16th, 2018

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Taming the Tongue"

Psalm 19 Proverbs 1:20-33 James 3:1-12

September 23rd, 2018

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "The Good Life"

Psalm 1 Micah 6:6-8 James 3:13-4:3

September 30th, 2018

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Powerful Prayer"

Psalm 124 I Kings 18 James 5:13-20





"Share the Bounty" Sunday is September 16th, 2018

Sharing the bounty. Summer is almost over and fall is on the way. Gardens have provided vegetables for our tables for months. The Worship and Witness Committees are designating Sunday, September 16th as "Share the Bounty" Sunday. The Witness Committee will gather the fresh vegetables and fruit you donate and take them to Kingsway. An extra basket will be placed in the vestibule. Please share what you can with those in need. Thank you for your generosity!

"Fellowship Following Worship" in September

"Fellowship Following Worship" will be on Sunday, September 16th. Many thanks to Sally Williams for providing the refreshments! Make sure to stop by the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and a chance to chat with friends! Everyone is invited!



There is a volunteer sign-up sheet for "Fellowship Following Worship" on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall. The Congregational Care Committee has placed monthly Sunday dates under the name of each month. Please put your name beside the month you are willing to provide refreshments and circle the date of the Sunday you have chosen. We are still looking for someone to provide refreshments one Sunday during October! Thank you!

Presbyterian Women

September 2018 - Emphasis: Christian Education

“Links of Love” - Project



Committed to
nurturing faith,
supporting mission,
working for justice,
and building community.

*The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 11th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

*The Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 11th, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

September 2nd - PWCT Meeting

September 30th - PWCT Meeting



As Bethel begins a new year of Sunday School classes, the Presbyterian Women also begin a new year of Circle meetings in September. If you have not attended Circle, please join us for Bible study, fellowship and food on the second Tuesday of each month. There is an Afternoon Circle that meets at 1:30 pm and an Evening Circle that meets at 7:00 pm. We usually meet at the church but check the bulletin for changes.

Presbyterian Women - Special Emphasis

In September, the Presbyterian Women of Bethel urge you to support the *Links of Love* program. The *Links of Love* is a partnership between the Sunnyside Communities and the Women of the Presbyterian Church. Your *Links of Love* contributions are a lifeline that provides security and attentive care for those who can no longer provide for themselves. The special offering will be collected during the September Circle Meetings.



DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
The October Tower Deadline will be Thursday, September 20th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announcements for the October 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? Please remember that all announcements and information are subject to editing.

Note from the Congregational Care Committee

The Congregational Care Committee tries to keep in contact with our College Students throughout the year. Please help us by sending your college age children's contact information. Telephone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses are all important ways that Bethel can stay in touch with them.

Please send the information to Barbara Gough (barbsgough@gmail.com or (540) 255-6521).



Coming Soon . . . New Christian Education Offerings

- "Text of the Week" Luncheon
- Theology on Tap
- "Overbooked" Book Club



Stay tuned for more information, if you are interested in any of these new offerings and would like more input on their development please contact Pastor Kelly-Ann at bethelpcpastor@gmail.com.

Prime Rib Meal & Dessert Auction

Saturday, September 29th at 6:00 pm

Make your favorite dessert to donate!

MENU *Prime Rib* *Green Beans*
Mac & Cheese *Rolls*



Sponsored by four families from the Bethel Witness/Mission Committee

All money raised goes to Bethel's mission work!

Come & join us for an evening of fun & fellowship!

NEWS & NOTES

SESSION NEWS & NOTES

The Session met on Tuesday, July 14th, with nine elders and the moderator, Pastor Rayle, present.

Kathy Swisher and Pastor Rayle will attend the next Presbytery meeting on August 25th in Warrenton, VA.

Celebration Sunday (formerly known as Rally Day) will be celebrated on Sunday, September 9th, with a cookout at the Scout shelter following worship.

The organ will be rewired and updated with a digital board. The current wiring was found to be a fire hazard and the digital control system will provide flexibility for changes or updates in the future.

The annual Prime Rib Meal/Dessert Auction will be held on September 29th.

The Manse lease was renewed for another year.

The Scout Hut will be named the Pilson Scout Hut in honor of John and Wallace Pilson for their long service and dedication to Troop 13.



Financial Report through July 31st, 2018

Estimated Budget: \$107,610.00

Actual Received: \$92,020.00

Actual Expenses: \$89,638.00

iCare-Gore School

A new school year is beginning in Ethiopia, which means we need to send our payments to Presbytery for the children we sponsor. The cost is \$925 per child but many small donations add up quickly! If you have never donated, please consider doing so now. There is an optimism in Ethiopia now that a new leader has taken over. With this new leadership the government seems much more interested in helping the people. For more information please contact Doris True (540) 885-4526. Thank you for your generosity!

“The Big Event: A Coming Together of All Shenandoah Presbytery Congregations”

Saturday, September 15th 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Massanetta Springs (Harrisonburg, VA)



The Big Event will offer worship, music, a mission fair, and workshops to interest adults, youth and children as we celebrate our oneness in Christ. To discover what workshops are offered this year or for more information please check out the Shenandoah Presbytery website at: www.shenpres.org/big-event-resources/. Brochures and registration forms are also on the table next to the Choir Room. Make plans now to attend!



Michael & Rachel Weller

Conversation with the Missionaries from Ethiopia

Michael & Rachel Weller, the missionaries Bethel sponsors from Ethiopia, will be speaking at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Staunton on Tuesday, September 25th, from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm. They will be having a light meal (with a free will offering) and conversation with the Wellers. Bethany Presbyterian has said that Bethel is welcome to come and participate but they need to know how many are attending for the meal. If you are interested in attending please call Mimi Moring at (540) 487-3717 or (540) 337-6547 by Sunday, September 16th. Bethany Church is located in Staunton at 2501 Fifth Street, across from Ware Elementary School. If you have any questions please call Kathy Swisher at (540) 885-7397. We hope you will make plans to attend!

Shenandoah Presbytery Ethiopian Partnership Dinner

The Ethiopian Partnership Dinner will be on Friday, September 28th, at Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church (4517 Rockfish Road, Grottoes, VA). There will be a covered dish meal and a freewill offering will be received to cover costs. The guest speakers will be Michael & Rachel Weller, PC (USA) mission coworkers in Ethiopia. Everyone’s invited!



Please send your announcements for the weekly bulletin and updates for the Prayer List to the Church Office by noon

each Wednesday (unless otherwise noted in the bulletin). Feel free to email the information to: bethelpc@gmail.com or you can place it in Adrienne’s mailbox in Memorial Hall. All announcements are subject to editing.

Bethel Congregation & Friends:



Please submit any changes to your address, phone number, email, etc. to the Church Office. We must have correct information to get Bethel events and news to you. Please send update information to the Church Office at: bethelpc@gmail.com



Many thanks to those who helped with the breakfast at Valley Mission on August 11th! There was ample food and the residents seemed to enjoy it, with some coming back for seconds. There were new faces among our volunteers which was gratifying! When we serve the next breakfast, please think about what you can do to help! Thanks again to everyone who brought food and everyone who served! - The Witness/Mission Committee and Presbyterian Women

I would like to thank my Bethel Church family for all of the visits, phone calls and work done around our house during Wayne's illness. That includes mowing, cutting firewood and other yard work. Thanks also to everyone who has checked on me since Wayne's death. I have appreciated the visits, phone calls and text messages. Thanks very much to Pastor Kelly-Ann for all of the times she has checked on me. Especially all of the prayers she has texted to me. Bethel is such a great church family and I don't think I could have made it without everyone. - Kathy Swisher



Nursery Schedule September 2018

- September 2nd - Cindy Almarode,
Karen Koogler
- September 9th - Mary Ann Anderson,
Maggie Rivers
- September 16th - Jackie Law,
Stephanie Rivers
- September 23rd - Chris & Therese
Schooley
- September 30th - Joe & Sally Williams

Directory Updates

- Betty Cash (540) 292-9392
815 Lyndhurst Road, Apt. 13
Waynesboro, VA 22980
- Wes & Katie McElveen
158 Walnut Hills Road
Staunton, VA 24401
- Isaac & Ashley Nelson
5419 Cove Road
Roanoke, VA 24019

Flower Schedule
September 2018

- September 2nd - Cathy Hill
- September 9th - Jill Webb
(Memorial)
- September 16th - Lucy Sproul
- September 23rd - Jackie Law
- September 30th - Ginny Gano (Memorial)



Offering Schedule
September 2018

- Wade Cash
- Katie McElveen
- Linda Tenney
- Dale Thompson



*Need a Ride to Church?
Call the Bethel Deacons' 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!

September Greeters
Charlie & Rhonda Johnson



**PRAYER
LIST**

Bethel Prayer List

Mildred Barmore, Catherine Bryan (*friend of Stephanie Rivers*), Reese Burdette (*great niece of Debbie Callison*), Lorine Caldwell (*Dean Caldwell's mother*), Family of Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon & the UPSeminary Community, Betty Cash, Christopher (*Marion & Marty Simmers' grandson*), Jarod Davis & Family, Ronnie Davis (*Joyce Davis' son*), 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*), Devin Scott (*preparing for brain surgery - nephew of Kelly-Ann*), Tara Perrotti & Family (*Devin Scott's mother & Kelly-Ann's sister*), 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, Bill & Marguerite Whitaker (*Tom Whitaker's parents*), Alice Wooddell,
MISSIONARIES: Michael & Rachel Weller and Ethiopian friends



September 3rd - Labor Day
September 11th - Patriot Day
September 22nd - Autumn Begins

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




Serving Breakfast at the Valley Mission on August 11th



“The Faithful Men”
performing at the
Vespers Service
on July 18th

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship/ Communion 12:15 - Diaconate 12:15 - PWCT	3 Labor Day Church Office Closed 	4 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer	5 6:00 - Worship Committee 6:30 - Cub Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:30 - Young Life	6 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:30 - Young Life	7	8
9 Celebration Sunday 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 12:00 - Church-Wide Picnic at Eagles Roost Picnic Shelter	10 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life	11 Patriot Day 1:30 - Afternoon Circle 7:00 - Evening Circle 7:00 - Session	12 6:00 - Christian Education Committee 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:00 - Youth Committee 7:30 - Young Life	13 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:00 - Youth Committee 7:30 - Young Life	14	15 8:30 - The Big Event at Massanetta Springs
16 "Share the Bounty" Sunday 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 12:00 - Fellowship Following Worship	17 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life	18 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer	19 6:00 - Congregational Care Committee 6:00 - Outreach & Evangelism Committee 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:00 - Stewardship & Finance Committee 7:30 - Young Life	20 12:00 - October Tower Deadline 	21	22 Autumn Begins 
23 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship/ Four Cents A Meal Offering 12:15 - Witness/Mission Committee	24 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life Meeting	25 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer 5:00 - Conversation w/Missionaries at Bethany P. C., Staunton	26 6:00 - Communications Committee 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:30 - Young Life	27 9:00 - October Tower Mailing	28	29 6:00 - Prime Rib Meal & Dessert Auction
30 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 12:15 - PWCT						