

563 Bethel Green Road * Staunton, Virginia 24401 * (540) 886-6041 bethelpc@gmail.com * www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

From the Music Director's Desk . . .

Shalom!

This month, I want to highlight some important Music History in the life of the Church. Did you know that many of our favorite hymns and old gospel tunes originally found their roots in the spiritual songs of black and brown slaves? Some of these songs were known as sorrow songs, which shared about the turmoil of those in captivity. One famous example would be the melancholy, "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," which laments the suffer-



ing experienced by enslaved peoples. Other spirituals share the same message through the imagery of the Old Testament, such as "Rock My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham." This spiritual is often sung representing safety in the arms of a fatherly figure, but originally referred more to death and final judgment. Enslaved people were overwhelmed by the emotional and physical pain they were experiencing daily, and used biblical stories to express their feelings about the torment they were experiencing.

Some of the spiritual songs were even known to be codified protest songs, which enslaved people could use to communicate with each other about the Underground Railroad and their journey to freedom. These songs were used as messages of hope, both in a religious sense (hoping for a future with God in heaven, away from earthly turmoil), and a literal and practical sense (hoping and planning for securing their freedom from slavery). One of these spirituals is "Go Down, Moses," which Harriet Tubman herself is said to have used to identify herself to slaves looking for freedom. This song and many like it utilize the imagery of Moses leading the Israelites out of their captivity in Egypt, found in the book of Exodus.

Likewise, many of the hymns that we grew up with were also pinnacles in the Civil Rights movement. Most of you who were growing up or were fully grown during the 50's and 60's will remember how songs like "This Little Light of Mine" and "We Shall Overcome" became anthems for the black and brown community. "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is often referred to as the Black National Anthem, and is still one of the most moving hymns included in modern liturgy.

(continued on the next page)

(From the Music Director's Desk continued . . .)

February is Black History Month, and it is important to note how much music in the church came from the oppression, struggle, and triumphs of the black community. We as the Body of the Church should uphold God's promise through Jesus Christ to break people's chains, support marginalized communities, and do so with the love of Jesus in our hearts! How can we do that, you ask? Well, thankfully, God sent the Holy Spirit to us so that we might go out and do God's work in the world. One way I know to do this is through music. Let's remember our history and use music as a way to free God's people from the sin and darkness in our world, and spread God's neverending message of Hope, just as the great leaders of the Underground Railroad and the Civil Rights movement have done for marginalized peoples before us!

Selah, Eli

<u>Epiphany Season Sermon Series</u> <u>"A Light to Enlighten"</u> January & February 2019

February 3, 2019 4th Sunday after Epiphany Sacrament of Holy Communion Souper Bowl of Caring Congregational Meeting following Worship Scripture: Psalm 71 and Luke 4:21-30 Message: "The Hometown Kid: Part 2"

February 10, 2019 5th Sunday after Epiphany Boy Scout Sunday Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-13, Psalm 138, and Luke 5:1-11 Message: "Catching People"

February 17, 2019 6th Sunday after Epiphany Scripture: Psalm 1 and Luke 6:17-26 Message: "Emptiness"

February 24, 2019 7th Sunday after Epiphany Scripture: Psalm 37 and Luke 6:27-38 Message: "Agape Love"



Pastor Kelly-Ann's Office Hours

Tuesday12:00 pm - 3:00 pm*Wednesday1:00 pm - 6:00 pm*Thursday11:00 am - 2:00 pm*



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

One of the themes Bethel is looking at in 2019 is "Jesus is always with us". So we are starting a new activity in the Tower to help remember this theme. The activity is similar to "Where's Waldo?" but instead will



be "Where's Jesus in the Bethel Tower?" See if you can find where Jesus is hidden in the Tower.

"I am with you always." - Matthew 28:20



Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- 1 John 4:8

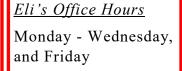
Musical News & Notes . . .



Are you looking for a new way to serve and worship the Lord during the important time of Lent and Easter? Then think about joining the Bethel Choir!

CALLING ALL SINGERS/NOISE MAKERS! The Bethel Choir has open seats and would Love for **you** to share your gifts and talents with God. They have begun to work on anthems for the Lenten season and will begin working on

Easter music soon so it's the perfect time for you to join in! The Bethel Choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. We will see you there!



10:00 am - 3:00 pm



Bethel Office News & Notes . . .



SLET, The March Tower Deadline will be Thursday, February 21st. Please have all arti-¿ cles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. Articles and announce-

ments for the March Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. Please remember if you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower.



Session News & Notes . . .

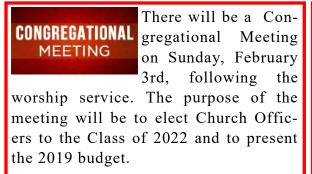
The Session met on Tuesday, January 8, with ten elders and the moderator, Pastor Kelly-Ann, present.

Pastor Kelly-Ann reported that at least thirteen youth will participate in confirmation this year. They will meet each Sunday before worship and each youth has chosen an adult mentor to work with him or her.

A draft of the second half of Bethel's funeral guidelines was approved.

The 2019 church budget was approved.

The Deacons presented a plan and estimates for additional air conditioning units to be installed in the choir area of the sanctuary and upstairs rooms in Memorial Hall.



New Officer Training will be on Sunday, February 10th from 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm. All officers for the Class of 2022 (Elders and Deacons) are



required to attend this training even if you have served in the past. Materials and dinner will be provided. If you may have a conflict on the 10th please contact Pastor Kelly-Ann immediately!

Christian Education Committee News & Notes . . .

When: Meets every Tuesday (except the 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Time & Place: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Bumgardner Classroom

Topic: Studying the Gospel of Luke

Leader: Pastor Kelly-Ann



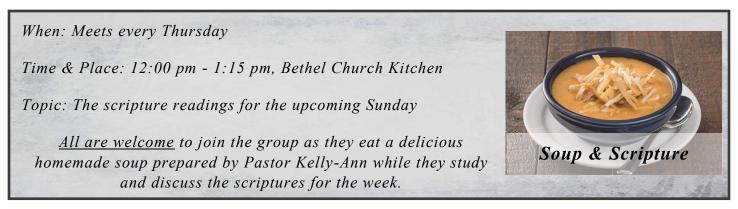
<u>All are welcome</u> to join the group as they have a cup of coffee or tea, study and discuss what Dr. Luke has to say, and then pray for those in the congregation, community, and world.



<u>Tabletalk Theology</u> The format is simple: food, beverage, conversation, and God. <u>The group will meet at 7:00 pm on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Thursday of</u> <u>each month and the topic/discussion facilitators will be Steve and Kelly-Ann</u> <u>Rayle</u>. Before each scheduled meeting Steve Rayle will email participants a gathering location and discussion topic based on a current news event to review and ponder. Then, Come!!! Bring your questions, your curiosities, and pull up a chair at the table!

February 5th at 7:00 pm at Giovanni's in Greenville. Since we are meeting at a restaurant make plans to have your dinner, a drink, a dessert, or even all 3 at Giovanni's while we discuss the topics for the week! (The topic will be the same one scheduled for January 17th.)

February 21st at 7:00 pm (Location: TBA)



Communications Committee News & Notes . . .

One Coll Now The Communications Committee has implemented a mass communication system called One Call to distribute messages quickly to Bethel's members. You can receive text messages, emails and/or phone calls from an automated system about church service cancellations, meeting notices, and events. To be able to receive text messages, you must text "ALERT" to 22300. The phone calls will have the church phone number (540-886-6041) as the caller ID so you will know it is a Bethel message. Check in with your family and friends to make sure they are receiving the messages so they can be added to the system if needed. Also, please be patient while the Church Office & the Communications Committee is learning the new system and working out the best ways to use it effectively.

Congregational Care Committee News & Notes . . .

don't worky about anything; instead very about everything tell God what you need. and thank him for all he has done. Bethel Prayer List (updated January 28th) ...

Call Tammy Barbour @ 540-471-0450, Barb Gough @ 540-255-6521, or the Church Office @ 540-886-6041 with any additions or updates. Please don't forget to call and let us know when people have improved enough to be removed. Thank you!

Congregation Members

Betty Cash	Jarod Davis & Family	Karen Koogler
Sara Ann Lamb	Evelyn LaPorte	Jeannie Lee
Margaret Liptrap	John Pilson	Alice Wooddell

Bethel Confirmation Class, Teachers, and Mentors Bethel Nominating Committee & Church Officers

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Catherine Bryan	Reese Burdette	Dawn Carter
Larry Clemmer	Linda Dallas	Donnie Davis
Ronnie Davis	Martha Dubyk	Bernice English
Don Hanger	Laurin Henderson & Family	Gail Hord
Jack	Ann Kellogg	Bill Klitzman
Matt Koogler	Tracy Koogler	David Law
Olivia Lewis & Family	Meade Loomis	Meredith McCallister
Preston McCallister	Lane McNortan	Maggie Peterson
Megan Pettyjohn	Roy L. Pilson	Van Pirkey
Carly Pond	Bob Robinson & wife Shirley	Devin Scott
Michael Somers	Parker Staples	Jay Theado
Buddy Thomas	Bill & Marguerite Whitaker	

Sympathy & Condolences

Family & Friends of Mildred Barmore

Family & Friends of Wallace Pilson

Community, Country, & World

All Military Leaders & Personnel Police, Firemen, and EMS workers and volunteers Michael & Rachel Weller, Missionaries in Ethiopia



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. 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!

Congregational Care Committee News & Notes (continued) . . .

"Fellowship Following Worship" will be held once a month during 2019. The Congregational Care Committee is looking for people willing to provide refreshments for one Sunday in February (or any other month later on!). There is a bulletin board of refreshment schedules in Memorial Hall where you may sign up (you choose which month and Sunday). Thank you!



Continuing Education Committee News & Notes . . .



Bethel Presbyterian Church

Continuing Education Loan Fund (formerly the Scholarship/Loan Fund)

Education 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, 2019. Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to a member of the committee.

Mission Committee News & Notes . . .

You're Invited! Mission Appreciation Luncheon

The Mission Committee invites the congregation to a chili luncheon on February 3rd, following the Congregational Meeting. The Committee will serve lunch and give a short report on Bethel's participation in mission work over the past year. Because of the generous support the Bethel congregation and community gives each year, we are able to accomplish mission work in our community and internationally. Please come and join us for lunch on February 3rd!

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." - Mark 16:15

Mission Committee News & Notes (continued)...

Super Bowl Sunday - Souper Bowl of Caring

The Bethel 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 3rd. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated in this annual service project which benefits many of our neighbors.



Serving Brunch at Valley Mission - Saturday, February 9th

The Bethel Mission Committee will be serving brunch at Valley Mission on Saturday, February 9th, at 9:00 am. <u>Everyone</u> is invited to participate in this important community project by donating a breakfast casserole (please prepare in a disposable pan), fruit plate (oranges, grapes, bananas), help serve the meal, and/or just mingle and speak with the residents. We are usually done by 11:00 am. Please contact Doris True if you are willing to donate food and/or help with serving the meal (540/885-4526 or dbtrue14@gmail.com). All donations and help will be welcomed and appreciated!



All Bethel Youth are invited and encouraged to participate with the Valley Mission brunch!

Summer Mission Trip to West Virginia

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro will again be organizing a Mission Trip to Summerlee, WV. The dates for the mission trip are July



7th - July 12th. The work can involve cleaning, painting, and carpentry work. They have a mission program for children through adults. Please mark the dates on your calendars if you are interested. More information will be available at a later date.

Presbyterian Women News & Notes . . .

<u>Presbyterian Women</u> February 2019 Emphasis: Witness Season, Lent

*The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 12th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

*The Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 12th, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.



February 3rd - PWCT Meeting

Stewardship & Finance Committee News & Notes . . .



<u>General Fund Report</u> - 2018 Estimated Budget through December 31st, 2018: \$186,500.00 Actual Receipts: \$185,446.00 Actual Expenses: \$173,216.00

Worship Committee News & Notes . . .

Communion will be received on February 3rd, during the worship service.



Boy Scout Sunday

Boy Scout Sunday will be Sunday, February 10th. 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!







Youth Bible Study & Lunch Group

The youth will have lunch and Bible Study on Sunday, February 10th, at 1:00 pm. Many thanks to Mac & Emily Williams for preparing lunch. Bring your Bibles and make plans to join us for the fun! All youth are invited!

<u>Service Opportunity ...</u>

Serving brunch at the Valley Mission on Saturday, February 9th, at 9:00 am. Please see the announcement on page 7 of the Tower for details about this important community mission project.



Youth Fundraiser

The Youth will cook and serve chili, salad, and cornbread for the Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, February 23rd. Please meet in the Church Kitchen at 8:30 am. All youth are expected to participate in this fundraising project if they are able. The money raised will go to the Youth Fund for activities later on in the year.

Even More News, Notes, & Schedules . . .

Bethel Hosting Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting - Nursery Volunteers Needed!

Bethel will be hosting the Shenandoah Presbytery meeting on Saturday, February 23rd. The Bethel Youth will be serving lunch and the Women of the Church are being asked to make sweets. <u>We still need help with volunteers who</u> <u>would be willing to keep the nursery</u>. Anyone who is interested in helping with this please contact Kathy Swisher at (540) 885-7397.





Do you know Bethel will be 275 years old in 2021?! That's only two years away! Do you want to have a 275th year anniversary celebration? What would that look like? Start thinking now of activities and ways to plan to celebrate this special anniversary in Bethel's long and rich history!

Church Inclement Weather Information

In the event of bad weather on Sunday mornings, please tune into WHSV-TV3 (Harrisonburg) or log onto their website (www.whsv.com) for information on the possibility of cancellation. If church is cancelled, a congregational email, phone call, and/or text will be sent out to all active members.

For weekday activities, please follow the Augusta County Schools. If school is cancelled, all church events will be cancelled, unless otherwise notified.

The Church Office *MAY* also be closed due to inclement weather. If so, you will be notified via email. If the Church Office is closed due to inclement weather and you have a need, please email Adrienne at bethelpc@gmail.com.

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There is an adjustment with the Nursery Schedule which was started at the beginning of this year. Penny Lee has generously offered to serve as the 2nd person in the nursery since she is serving as the Children's Church teacher. So, there will be only one volunteer on the Nursery Schedule for each week.



<u>Flower Schedule</u> February 2019

February 3rd -Barbara Damico (Communion) February 10th - Jill Webb (Memorial)

February 17th - Ginny Gano February 24th - Cathy Hill

March 3rd - Libby Smith



Joe Williams

Sympathies & Condolences . . .



Our sympathies & condolences to Bob Barmore and his family on the passing of his mother, Mildred Barmore on January 16th, 2019.

Many Thanks . . .

I thank my Bethel family for the prayers, visits, calls, cards and the most delicious cookies and treats. The evergreen arrangement with the white candle for Christmas was so beautiful. I loved it! I always appreciate receiving the Tower and the bulletin. Receiving them keeps me in touch! God Bless You!



Betty Cash

1×22/142-11 Letter from Kingsway . . .

Dear Bethel Friends!

This is to acknowledge your gift of \$250 for Kingsway Help Center. I express my heartfelt appreciation on behalf of all those receiving food and help from us. We are most grateful for your participation through giving. Because of you we are able to help many people. Thank you for helping us to help those in need.

Sincerely, Carlton Truxell, Secretary/Treasurer

Excerpt of Letter from Valley Mission . . .

Dear Friends of the Valley Mission,



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Valley Mission, I wish to extend our warmest thanks for your recent financial contribution in the amount of \$500.00 . . . We are truly grateful for on-going support from our community and the faith groups they serve. Without both monetary and in-kind support Valley Mission could not exist. It is our donors who help us continue God's work to those in need. Thank you again, and best wishes for a wonderful year ahead . . .

Around the Presbytery . . .



Summer Conferences at Massanetta Springs

The following conferences are being held at Massanetta Springs for the summer of 2019. There will be more information in the coming months but make sure to add

these dates to your calendar! Make sure to go to www.massanettasprings.org or like them on Facebook if you would like information about all the exciting events going on at Massanetta Springs!

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Men's Conference July 19th - July 21st, 2019 Theme: *"Here am I Lord, send me" - Isaiah 6:8*

Massanetta Springs Bible & Music Conference July 21st - July 27th, 2019 Theme: *"Together We Serve"*



Birthdays ...



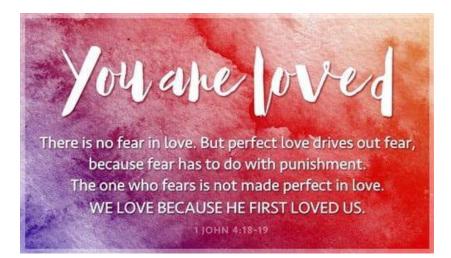
James Tate	February 1	Dustin Moore	February 15
John Davis	February 2	Jean Callison	February 17
Steve Hord	February 3	Alex Rayle	February 25
Brad Smith	February 5	Myran Moore	February 26
Nancy Reichard	February 8	Kay Swisher	February 27
Niann Cash Wimer	February 9	Maggie Rivers	February 28
Debra Callison	February 10		-
Jackie Law	February 10		
Lydia Lee	February 10	Patrick Hord	March 2
Doug Brubeck	February 11	Bobby Goodson	March 3
Kathy Swisher	February 11	Barbara Tate	March 3
R.W. Ware, Jr.	February 11	Shannon Wiseman	March 5
Yvonne Goodson	February 13		
	-		

If you have a birthday or anniversary that you would like to have appear in the Bethel Tower and we have missed it, please call the Church Office. We can include it in future publications. Thank you!





February 2nd - Groundhog Day February 3rd - Super Bowl Sunday February 14th - Valentine's Day February 18th- Presidents' Day



February Fun . . .



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SAT	2 Groundhog Day	9 9:00 - Serving Brunch at Valley Mission	vood 9:45 - Scouts Pinewood k-In Detby	23 9:30 - Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting Youth Fundraiser - Making & Serving Lunch for Presbytery Meeting Attendees	
FRI	1	œ	15 6:30 - Scouts Pinewood Derby Check-In	22	
THU		7 12:00 - Soup & Scripture	14 Valentine's Day 12:00 - Soup & Scripture	21 12:00 - March Tower Deadline 12:00 - Soup & Scripture 7:00 - Table Talk Theology (Location TBA)	28 9:00 - March Tower Mailing 12:00 - Soup & Scripture
WED		6 1:15 - Staff Meeting 6:00 - Worship Comm. 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:30 - The Bells of Bethel 7:30 - Young Life	13 1:15 - Staff Meeting 6:00 - Christian Ed. Comm. 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:00 - Youth Comm. 7:30 - Young Life	20 1:15 - Staff Meeting 6:00 - Cong. Care Comm. 6:00 - Outrach & Fangelism Comm. 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:00 - Stewardship & Finance Comm. 7:30 - Young Life	27 1:15 - Staff Meeting 6:30 - Communications Comm. 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - The Bells of Bethel 7:30 - Young Life
TUE		5 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 - Table Talk Theology at Giovanni's in Greenville	12 1:30 - Afternoon Circle 7:00 - Evening Circle 7:00 - Session	19 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer	26 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer
MON		4 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life	11 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life	18 Presidents' Day 7:00 - Boy Scouts	25 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life
SUN		3 Super Bowl of Caring 9:45 - Sunday School 9:45 - Confirmation Class 11:00 - Worship/Communion 12:00 - Congregational Meeting 12:30 - Mission Appreciation 12:30 - Diaconate 12:30 - PWCT Meeting	10 9:45 - Sunday School 9:45 - Confirmation Class 11:00 - Worship/ Boy Scout Sunday 1:00 - Bethel Youth - Bible Study & Lunch 1:30 - New Officer Training	17 9:45 - Sunday School 9:45 - Confirmation Class 11:00 - Worship 12:15 - Mission Comm.	24 9:45 - Sunday School 9:45 - Confirmation Class 11:00 - Worship/ 5 Cents A Meal

Staunton, VA 24401 563 Bethel Green Road Bethel Presbyterian Church

Return Service Requested

Sessional Ministry Committees Christian Education - John Davis Communications - Tabby Moore Continuing Education Loan Co-Chairs - Bill Brubeck, Dan Gano Mission - Kathy Swisher Nominating - Bob Olson Personnel Committee Co-Chairs - Cindy Almarode, Bill Brubeck Outreach & Evangelism - Dean Caldwell Stewardship & Finance Co-Chairs - Derek Almarode, Mac Williams Worship - Marion Simmers Youth - Derek Almarode



Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle, Pastor Eli English, Music Director JoAnn Pendley, Handbell Choir Director Ken Wilkinson, Receiving Treasurer Donna Bush & Carol Sprouse, Custodians

Adrienne Barker, Office Manager Sara Ann Lamb, Organist Rhonda Johnson, Clerk of Session Lori Miller, Disbursing Treasurer

Bethel Presbyterian Church