



# The Tower

July 2019

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## *As This Elder Sees It . . .*

Dear Friends,

As Bethel faces another chapter in her life of ministry, we as faithful members are faced with that same chapter. As the realism of our change sets in, we ask ourselves what does tomorrow look like? The definition of the word “tomorrow” is quite simple, “the day that follows today”. It is also defined as a “future period of time”. Turn your attention to “the future period of time”. All congregants in this family of faith, those of yesteryear and those remaining today must have either looked into the future or are looking into it as we speak. Their questions were likely the same, if not identical. In fact, it is so prevalent in our daily walk that scripture speaks to the future. In Jeremiah 29:11 we are taught that God has a plan. “For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a “FUTURE”.



Trials and tribulations will befall us every day as believers. It is incumbent upon us as followers of Christ to hold true to His word and convey his message to the world. As sinners, we are often engrossed in the happenings of the world around us. We seek little council from God especially when we believe we are justified.

I believe - these are the important things we should always remember as faithful servants of God:

A. Our Character should always be stronger than our circumstances. We cannot control what happens in our lives but we can control how we respond.

1 Thessalonians 5:15-18: *“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in ALL circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

B. Our Struggles will always lead to Strength.

Every difficulty in our life, whether big or small, is something God will use to produce more strength, faith and perseverance in the believer, if we simply let Him!

Romans 8:28: *“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

*(continued)*

*(continued)*

C. God's timing is always perfect, regardless of our perception.

Being truthful with ourselves and looking back on many things in our lives, God's plans are almost always different than our plans, but His plans are always perfect! I spoke to this earlier.

Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord; plans to prosper you and to not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

D. God will never leave us.

Generally we seem to feel isolated in our feelings, and maybe you do? I personally do not know, but what I can say is this. Scripture says that the very second you ask Jesus to bring you in, He will be by your side. It is in this where we find HOPE!

Deuteronomy 31:6: *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you or forsake you."*

So on to tomorrow ...What to do? ...Where to begin? ...What to say? ...Those are likely the questions. Well, before you know it, tomorrow will be today and then it will become yesterday. Soon it will be a month ago and then a year ago. Life here will not stop, it will also pass you by if you are not careful. Put your trust in the Lord. Each of us is different, we will never see matters the same way but what we do see the same is the grace, mercy, hope, and love of Jesus. If we called on God today we would expect a response. Well, He is calling on us to live today in faith so that tomorrow is as equally great! As my grandmother used to say, "There is no time for why, only time for how".

I leave you with these thoughts as a family of faith.

Just because we face difficulties in our lives doesn't mean we face impossible odds! If you read our last Session minutes you will see in there that the Stated Clerk recorded my statement about being more evangelistic. If you have served with me on any body or committee within this ministry you will know that I keep repeating myself about this issue. It's only because Jesus instructed us to be "fishermen of men". One door has closed in our church and several more have now opened. Don't sit idly by and wait for opportunity, go create it! When we quit trying we automatically fail.

Tomorrow is full of opportunity, seek it and you shall find it! Ask and it will be given unto you! Look beyond the obstacles of yesterday and today and focus on the goals set forth in tomorrow.

Blessings to you all!

In Christ,  
Derek Almarode

## *Session News & Notes . . .*



The Session will meet Sunday, July 7th, following worship for a called meeting.

All Elders need to make every effort this meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 11th, at 7:00 pm.

## *Session News & Notes (May) . . .*

The Session met on Tuesday, May 14th, with all Elders present except Daniel Gano and David Schooley. Also present was Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle, Moderator, Wade Cash, Co-Chair of the Deacons, and special guest Rev. Joe Condro.

A motion was made and approved to make climate control improvements to the Music Director's Office, and make electrical upgrades to the Bumgardner Room, Memorial Hall and the Fellowship Hall.

We have contacted VDOT about installing a culvert between the church and the Scout Hut to improve the issues of runoff and displacement of rocks.

The Session asked the Deacons to investigate installation of electrical service at the Eagles Roost Pavilion area.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee formally recommends that the Session approve by letter of appointment Ms. Sarah Williams to assume the duties of retiring "Receiving Treasurer" Ken Wilkinson effective immediately. Ms. Williams has agreed to assume the duties on a trial basis. The Stewardship & Finance Committee has agreed to follow-up with her in 3 months and again in 6 months.

Pastor Kelly-Ann reminded the Session of a special meeting to accept new members Kenneth Olson, and Beth Miller, and the transfer to accept new members Aaron & Martha McFarlane, on May 19th.

Mac Williams announced there will be a youth pool party on June 23rd, at his house, time is yet to be determined.

## *Session News & Notes (June) . . .*

The Session met June 11th at 7:00 pm with 11 members present.

From where I'm looking, we have only one path to go. We will follow our Lord Jesus Christ. Please ready yourself for this journey.

David Schooley, Clerk of Session.

## *Music News & Notes . . .*

### *Eli's Office Hours & Contact Information*



Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Email: [BethelPCMUSIC@gmail.com](mailto:BethelPCMUSIC@gmail.com)

Phone: (919) 649-0855

Eli will be on vacation from Thursday, June 20th through Saturday, July 6th. He will be back in worship on July 7th and back in the office on July 9th. Congratulations to Eli & Sarah on their marriage on June 22nd! We wish them many happy & blessed years together!



## Music News & Notes (continued) . . .

♪ “Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art” ♪

The Sanctuary Choir will resume practice on Wednesday July 31st, at 7:00 pm. Whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass they can use your voice! No experience is necessary and you don't have to be able to read music!



Come join the  
Sanctuary Choir  
on July 31st!  
EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME!



## Summer Vespers Series

“Celebrating God’s Faithfulness Through Song & Prayer”

The last Vespers service of the summer will be on Wednesday, August 21st, at 7:00 PM. The Faithful Men will be performing and the theme will be “Meditations on Hope and Eternal Life”. We hope you will join us for what will be a wonderful performance and time of worship!



## Church Office News & Notes . . .



The August Tower Deadline will be Thursday, July 18th at noon. You may leave articles and announcements for the Tower in Adrienne’s mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: [bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:bethelpc@gmail.com). We welcome and appreciate early submissions before the 18th! Adrienne cannot guarantee articles will be included in the Tower if they arrive after the deadline. All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why? Thank you!

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th, and Friday, July 5th, for the Independence holiday and while Eli is on vacation. If you have an immediate need please contact any Elder and they will be able to assist you. Have a wonderful and safe 4th of July!



Monday - Thursday  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday\*  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

\*Only Eli in the office

I wanted to take a moment and thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all the prayers, phone calls, texts, emails, cards, flowers, and for those of you who came to my mother’s graveside service. Your show of support, love, and caring was overwhelming and meant the world not only to me but to my family during the past few months. I feel so blessed and privileged to be a part of the Bethel “family”.

Love in Christ, Adrienne Barker, Bethel Office Manager





## Trustees News & Notes . . .

The Trustees continue to improve on the cemetery this summer by enhancing landscaping, cleaning tombstones, mulching, and doing general maintenance work. Please do not place any planters, flowers, wreaths, or keepsakes on the graves until the mowing, weeding, & landscaping season ends in the fall. We do not want to remove or misplace any items that may be important to you and/or your family while these projects are taking place. If you have any questions please see Guy Brooks. Many thanks!



## Christian Education News & Notes . . .



Due to circumstances the Christian Education Committee has decided to cancel Vacation Bible School for 2019. We apologize for cancelling but we do not feel we can currently give the event the time and attention it deserves. Thanks for your understanding!

We have been invited to join Pines Chapel Presbyterian Church for their Vacation Bible School this year. The dates are Sunday, July 21st - Friday, July 26th from 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm and a light meal will be provided each evening. Please contact Pastor Joe Condro at (410) 459-4290 for more information. Everyone is welcome!



Calling all Bethel bookworms! The Christian Education Committee needs someone willing to manage the Bethel library. This position would include receiving and logging donated books, managing book check-outs and continued organization of the library. Please contact John Davis if you are interested in possibly helping out with this ministry.

## Congregational Care News & Notes . . .

### LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

Lemonade on the Lawn will be on Sunday, July 28th, following worship. Make sure to stay following worship for some snacks, other goodies, and of course lemonade! **EVERYONE is welcome!**



Longtime Bethel member and friend Jeannie Lee has moved to Charlottesville but would still love to see you and have visits from you! If you happen to be in Charlottesville and near Rt. 29 please consider stopping by and visiting with Jeannie for a little while. Jeannie lives at the Monroe Center which is just off of Rt. 29 at 1150 N. West Drive. Her phone number is (540) 885-5840 if you would rather call ahead and plan your visit.

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

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.  
Isaiah 41:10

### Bethel Prayer List (updated July 11th, 2019)

#### Congregation Members

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

#### Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Curtis Foltz	Ann Kellogg	Matt Koogler
David Law	Olivia Lewis	William McFarlane
Roy Pilson	Jamie Pirkey	Van Pirkey
Devin Scott	baby William Stephens	

#### Sympathy & Condolences

Family & Friends of Joe Eavers	Family & Friends of Grey Puckett
Family & Friends of David Turner	

#### Community, Country, & World

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

Please call Tammy Barbour at (540) 471-0450 or Barb Gough at (540) 255-6521 with any additions or updates. After two months names will be removed from the Prayer List (excluding congregation members, military, first responders, and missionaries). If you would like family members or friends to remain on the Prayer List for a longer period of time or be added back to the list, please call Adrienne in the Church Office at (540) 886-6041.

## Outreach & Evangelism News & Notes . . .

We have had several awesome people join Bethel the past few months by transfer of membership, affirmation of faith, or by taking the Confirmation Class! If you do not know the people below make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the Bethel family. Updated directories (*text only*) are available in the hallway next to the Choir Room.



Marshall Bays	Larry Edwards	Debbie Forbes	Gloria Landes
Aaron McFarlane	Martha McFarlane	Beth Miller	Kenneth Olson

Also joining Bethel this year was the 2019 Confirmation Class:

Ashlyn Almarode	Breanna Bartley	Ramsey Hanger	Will Hanger
Bayleigh Lee	Harleigh Lee	Lydia Lee	Moose Lee
Madison Miller	Andrew McFarlane	Samantha Moore	Cate Schooley
James Schooley			

## Presbyterian Women News & Notes . . .

### PWCT Yearbook

*Attention All Women of the Church:* The PWCT is starting the process of updating the Bethel Presbyterian Women Yearbook which lists all Bethel women and their phone numbers. They need your help. Please make sure your correct phone number is listed, especially if you no longer have a home number and only use a cell phone. To confirm or make changes, please contact Barb Gough (540/255-6521; [barbsgough@gmail.com](mailto:barbsgough@gmail.com)), Irene Elliott (540/290-8354; [ipelliott@aol.com](mailto:ipelliott@aol.com)) or the Church Office (540/886-6041, [bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:bethelpc@gmail.com)). (If you are able to receive text messages, please let them know that as well.) Also, if you would like to change from one circle to another, please tell Barb or Irene. The deadline for changes is Monday, August 5th, for the yearbooks. Thank you!



The Bethel Presbyterian Women received a note from Karen Koogler thanking everyone for the monetary donations given to help her during this difficult time. The generosity of Bethel's members is greatly appreciated; her finances are now improved. She asks for continued prayers as she completes treatment.

## Worship News & Notes . . .

### July Worship Schedule

*July 7th, 2019*

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Guest Minister: Rev. Patrick Pettit

Scripture: I Corinthians 12:12-27, Galatians 6:1-6, 7-16

Sermon Title: "Context"

*July 14th, 2019*

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Clayton Rascoe

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

*July 21st, 2019*

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Scripture: II Timothy 1:8-12

Message: "Certainties for an Uncertain World"

*July 28th, 2019*

7th Sunday after Pentecost

5 Cents A Meal Offering

Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Scripture (*from Lectionary*): Hosea 1:2-10, Colossians 2:6-19, Luke 11:1-13



## Worship News & Notes (continued) . . .

### Officer of the Day

July 7th      Kathy Swisher  
 July 14th     John Davis  
 July 21st     John Davis  
 July 28th     *Volunteer Needed!* 😊

Communion will be received on Sunday, July 7th, during worship.



### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Please contact the Church Office or Tammy Barbour if you are willing to volunteer! It's only one hour every two to three months and is such an important ministry in the life and work of Bethel.

## Bethel Youth News . . .



We wish all the graduates God's blessings as they begin a new chapter in their lives!

### The Class of 2019

#### Graduating from High School . . .

*Cameron "Moose" Lee* - Son of Brian & Penny Lee, Grandson of Dale & Kay Thompson, Graduating from Riverheads High School, Has been accepted to the 2 year Agricultural-Technical Program at Virginia Tech.

#### Graduating from College . . .

*Jennifer Callison* - Daughter of Jimmy & Debbie Callison, Granddaughter of Jean Callison and the late Waller Callison, Graduating from Virginia Tech Summa Cum Laude with a BS in Applied Economic Management from the College of Agriculture.

*Dow "Cole" Leonard* - Son of Kyle & Keedie Leonard, Graduating from Virginia Tech with a BS in Mechanical Engineering, Employed at Cummins Engines in Jamestown, NY.

*Michaela Miller* - Daughter of Ron & Lori Miller, Granddaughter of Ken & Joyce Miller, Graduating from University of Mary Washington with BS in psychology. After her marriage next week she will begin a career in social work.

Dear Bethel,  
 Thank you so much for the "If God Gave Your Graduation Speech" book and journal. It definitely has some great advice for any occasion. It's hard to believe my four years at Virginia Tech are over, but I'm excited to see what the future holds. Thanks again!  
 Love,  
 Jennifer Callison





## Schedules & Such . . .

### Flower Schedule July 2019

July 7th Mary Ann Anderson  
(Communion Sunday)

July 14th Lee Ann Heizer

July 21st Tammy Barbour

July 28th Libby Smith



### Nursery Schedule July 2019

Children's Church Penny Lee

July 7th Louise Hoy

July 14th Joyce Davis

July 21st Elizabeth Mulcahy

July 28th Cindy Almarode

### Offering Schedule July 2019

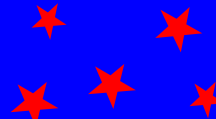
Katie Miller                      Katie McElveen

Alex Sproul                      Dale Thompson



### July Greeters

Dan & Ginny Gano



## Other Announcements & Church News . . .

Blessings on the birth of Anna Grace Hartness who was born on May 13th and weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz. She is the daughter of Jared & Kelley Hartness of Roanoke and the granddaughter of Karen Koogler. Congratulations on this new addition to your family!



### Celebration of Baptism



Blessings to Mollie Blair Smith whom we welcomed into the family of Christ by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during the worship service on June 23rd. Mollie is the adorable daughter of Dustin & Sarah Smith and granddaughter of Tom & Lee Ann Heizer!



*Service of Baptism - Mollie Smith*

## Other Announcements & Church News (continued) . . .



If you have borrowed any tables from Bethel please return them as soon as possible. We are currently missing five of our tables! In the future please contact Jon or Donna Bush at (540) 337-2234 if you need to borrow tables. There is absolutely no problem with anyone borrowing tables - we just need to know when you borrow them. Thank you for your cooperation!

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of David Turner who passed away on June 6th. Anybody who worked or volunteered at Bethel knew David. He was an integral part of helping with the maintenance and repair of Bethel's historic building. He will be missed.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries . . .



Douglas Grimm	July 5	Becky Grimm	July 16	John McLaughlin	July 27
Faye Brown	July 7	Andrew Heizer	July 16	Isabelle Leonard	July 28
Bruce Lamond, IV	July 7	Denise Roope	July 17	Kayla Folsom	July 29
Lindsey Lennon	July 7	Drury Whitaker	July 19	Debbie Burkholder	July 30
Danny Morris	July 9	Odell Smith	July 20	Betty Cash	July 30
W. D. Ambler, Jr.	July 10	Laura Swisher	July 21		
Linda Lamond	July 11	Julia Tate	July 23		
Betty Schooley	July 12	Lee Deacon	July 24	Briana Lawhorne	August 1
Bettie Swisher	July 13	Jennifer Damen	July 27	James Williams	August 2
Phyllis Cash	July 15	Danny Goodson	July 27	Louise Caldwell	August 5



Leona and R. W. Ware, Jr.	July 6, 1966	Cynthia and James Williams	July 17, 1982
Brenda and Frank Shiflett	July 7, 1967	Barbara and James Tate	July 19, 1980
Kay and Dale Thompson	July 7, 1967	Suzanne and Michael Goings	July 27, 1996
Betty and David Schooley	July 8, 1967	Stephanie and John Davis	July 30, 1988
Becky and David Grimm	July 9, 1977	Linda and Bruce Lamond, Jr.	July 30, 1985
Robin and Harry Moffett	July 10, 1998		
Sue and Richard Whitesell	July 10, 1965		
Drury and Tom Whitaker	July 13, 1985	Penny and Brian Lee	August 1, 2009
Sally and Shannon Shafer	July 15, 1992	Sarah and Dustin Smith	August 2, 2014
Carol and Puggie Sprouse	July 16, 1968	Libby and Dale C. Smith	August 3, 1963



HOST FAMILY NEEDED FOR EXCHANGE STUDENT



The principal at Riverheads High School, Mr. Lowe, has selected a girl from Denmark to enter the junior class at Riverheads High School this coming school year, 2019-2020. Her name is Anna. Anna is a good student who takes school seriously. Anna likes gymnastics, running, working out, cooking, soccer and traveling. While in the U.S. she would like to join the cheerleading team or cross country. Anna has a good sense of humor, is outgoing and makes friends easily. She works at a pizzeria and earns some of her own money. Students come with their own spending money and health insurance. The host family supplies meals, a bed, love and support. For more information about hosting, please contact local coordinator, Cindy Miller at (540)817-8851 or [chmiller@rockbridge.net](mailto:chmiller@rockbridge.net). If a family cannot commit to the whole school year, host families can be a temporary or "Welcome Family". Please consider opening your heart and your home to Anna.

For with  
God nothing  
shall be  
impossible.

-Luke 1:37



# July 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p><b>7</b> 9:30 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship &amp; Communion 12:30 - Session Meeting Summerlee Mission Trip Teams Leave</p>	<p><b>1</b> 7:00 - Boy Scouts (Eli on vacation July 1st - July 6th)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 10:00 - Staff Meeting 7:00 - Vespers Service</p>	<p><b>4</b> Independence Day Church Office Closed  Happy 4th of July</p>	<p><b>5</b> Church Office Closed Baja Mission Trip Teams Leave</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>8</b> 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>9</b> 6:30 - Presbyterian Women Annual Dinner - Middlebrook Community Center</p>	<p><b>10</b> 1:15 - Staff Meeting 6:00 - Worship Comm.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> Summerlee Mission Trip Teams Return</p>	
<p><b>14</b> 9:30 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship Baja Mission Trip Teams Return</p>	<p><b>15</b> 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 1:15 - Staff Meeting 6:00 - Christian Education 6:00 - Outreach &amp; Evangelism 7:00 - Stewardship &amp; Finance</p>	<p><b>18</b> 12:00 - August Tower Deadline</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
<p><b>21</b> 9:30 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - Mission Comm. 5:45 - 8:30 - Vacation Bible School at Pines Chapel</p>	<p><b>22</b> 5:45 - 8:30 - VBS at Pines Chapel 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>23</b> 5:45 - 8:30 - VBS at Pines Chapel</p>	<p><b>24</b> 1:15 - Staff Meeting 5:45 - 8:30 - VBS at Pines Chapel 6:30 - Communications Comm.</p>	<p><b>25</b> 5:45 - 8:30 - VBS at Pines Chapel</p>	<p><b>26</b> 5:45 - 8:30 - VBS at Pines Chapel</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>28</b> 9:30 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship &amp; Five Cents A Meal 12:00 - Lemonade on the Lawn 12:30 - Youth Comm. 2:00 - Scouts Eagle Court of Honor (Picnic Pavilion &amp; Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p><b>29</b> 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> 1:15 - Staff Meeting 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - Personnel Comm.</p>			