



The Tower

August 2019

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bethelpc@gmail.com * www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

"As the Music Director Sees It" . . .

Hello everyone! Your music director here to give you a message that is very dear to my heart. In times of discontent or confusion, in times of transition, many start to wonder, "Where is the **heart**?" We want to find some answer to our questions and some consistency in our daily lives, and we wonder how it is we will surpass the ever-scary word, "change." I honestly believe "change" is the most frightening word in the English language,

but it is not a well founded fear. We think change devalues what we had before and will always lean towards the worst possible direction. But here is the thing: people are not really afraid of change; they are afraid of **loss**. When things change, we are afraid to lose what made that thing special to us. And this is why we need to find the heart of Bethel in moments of transition. The obvious answer, and a very correct one, is that God is our heart. It seems simple to say, "If we keep God at the center of our decisions and at the forefront of our minds, we can surpass any difficulty!" But how do we put that into practice? How do we find out how to manage change in our lives so that we do not fear loss?

In my personal life, there are a couple things that I do to help during difficult transitions. The first one is that I **pray**, and I want to share with you how I pray and how I have seen God working through prayer. As a younger man, I prayed for God to do things in my life. I prayed for Him to help me secure a job. I prayed for Him to "change that person's heart, because they really need you, Jesus!" And I even prayed for Him to perform miracles, like curing diseases in my family members. But with this kind of prayer, I was often left questioning, which was God's way of answering me. I had forgotten an immensely important part of prayer: my own involvement.

Does God hear us talk to him and ask him for things, selfish or otherwise? Absolutely. However, Jesus came to show us that our relationship with God is not a one-way phone call ordering miracles by the dozen, but is a two-way street. Not only are we supposed to ask of God, but we are supposed to listen and **respond**. When I asked God for a job, I saw no results until I realized he had given me the tools, like writing a good resume and learning from my mentors. When I asked God to change people's hearts, yes, He went to work, but God showed me that I am His hands and feet. I really started to see God move when I decided to do my part by reaching out to the people I was praying for, working with them to repair our relationship.

("As the Music Director Sees It" continued on the next page)



“As the Music Director Sees It” (continued) . . .

God sent us the Holy Spirit so we could do the work of Jesus in the world. And when it came to miracles, well I can pray for God to cure disease, but was His answer to me one that I never listened to? It was simple. God had made doctors and scientists and law-makers so that they could work for the betterment of mankind, so my prayers to God are important, yes, but so is my response. Donating to the researchers who help develop cures, volunteering time at hospitals and treatment centers, learning all I can about helping those who need it, and voting for legislation that favors the betterment of health for all.

See, the secret about prayer is that it is a conversation, a back and forth. God wants you to speak, but God also wants you to listen. And when we listen to God, we must act. We are the body of the church, after all. Hands, feet, ears, eyes, mouths, brains, muscles, bones, whatever our role is God can use us to better this world. When we truly pray to God, we sometimes hear His call to **do something** about the situation we are in. Yes, there are times God wants us to let go and let Him work, but I am afraid in this day and age, we are much too likely to “let live and let go” than we are to put our work-boots on and help move God’s plan in the world. So, let’s err on the side of responding positively to the prayerful conversations we have with, God and get out there and make a difference.

The second thing that helps me find the heart of any difficult transition is, as you may have guessed, **music**. Music is personal to me, in that I find God through music, and I find God through people sharing music with one another. There is something immensely special about singing with other people. It doesn’t matter if the notes are always in tune, if the vowels are always perfect, or if the rhythm is always right; there is something that brings me deeper to God when there is more than one voice singing. When we were children, we engaged whole-heartedly in sing-alongs. We sang our little hearts out. For me, it was Mary Poppins. I sang every note of that movie beginning to end, and through that movie I experienced God in music for the first time. Somewhere along the way, we are either encouraged to continue singing, or someone says something that makes us self-conscious for the rest of our lives. Shame on anyone who makes someone feel inferior for his or her voice! We all have a voice crafted by God to be special, unique and beautiful, and God commands us to sing joyfully to Him. I believe He does this, because He knows just how special singing really is and how good it makes us feel, so He wants us all to experience that joy and that connection. Music is my personal path to God, but music with other people? That really is something transcendental. How beautiful is it that people of all ages, creeds, and cultures all share this one, beautiful art form?

Music is truly universal, and God can be found in any style, of any era, from any country, from now until the end of time. God saved me through music, as he has many others. Music gives a voice to those who cannot express what they feel with words alone. Music stretches out to you and places your hand gently in the hands of the people singing, playing, or listening around you. From the moment God created music and commanded trumpets and cymbals and voices to sing His praises, music has been a holy gift.

Unfortunately, people are usually afraid to share music. I don’t just mean stage-fright, but rather that people find music is such a holy connection to God and to their memories that they fear losing that, as well. They fear sharing in the music of anyone but themselves and their own personal culture.

(“As the Music Director Sees It” continued on the next page)

“As the Music Director Sees It” (continued) . . .

For all of human history, there is writing that proves not much has really changed in this regard. In the 500’s, music was being used in churches in the form of Gregorian chant, singing in unison and not varying much in the melody. Then, in the late medieval period, someone decided to introduce harmony, and some people thought it was the work of the devil. Fast-forward to the 1700s, when works by Bach were all the rage. At this point, we had harmony and instruments, and things that no one could have imagined or accepted in the years before. After Bach died, a man named Mozart came along, and people thought Mozart’s music was sacrilegious at first. They heard his music and thought it was like a rock concert, too many notes and too exuberant for church. People eventually came around, as we can see today. But, in the 1910’s, there were reports that Jazz was devil worship and that the modern trumpet was an instrument to be forgotten to history for trying to replace the cornet. It seems like there is a common theme: Everything that was new or different was automatically labeled as bad, sacrilegious, or devil worship. But look at the influence jazz has on many of us today, and the great influence it has had on Gospel music that has shaped our religion as it moved into this century. Hard to believe that something that brings so many people to Jesus today was once believed to be the work of the devil.

Music changes; it is an unstoppable force, and when it does change, it brings with it the cultures of the people who changed it and melds it with the cultures who made it before. It also crosses the boundaries of country-lines (One day, I will tell you stories of the music and works of God I have experienced on missions to Kenya and to Peru). Music teaches us very important lessons about our lives.

My point here is simple: As music changes, so does culture, so does the world, and so does the church. And with each change, comes new cultures to mix with the old, lifts them up, and connects them with what makes each of us special. As music unifies us across generations and cultures, so to our love of God and love for each other should connect us across the generations and across cultures. Is change easy? No. But is change inevitable? Absolutely. It has been since God made the earth. I can imagine on the day God created animals, the animals said, “Well this is so nice! Let’s keep it this way.” Then God made people and animals said, “Oh God, why?”

It truly is a never-ending cycle, and we have been given tools by the Most High to conquer our fears and live into an uncertain tomorrow with the certainty that though the world changes, this is not a scary thing, but an exciting one. A future of stagnancy is not a future at all, but a future of change is a future of vibrancy and vitality. Let us respect what brought us here and seek to respond to God through true conversational prayer. Let us also embrace music as not only a gift from God, but also as a message of hope for our future; one that signifies that change can be used to strengthen our world, strengthen our relationships to one another, and move us forward towards a more Christ-like world of love and acceptance. Where is the heart? The heart is God in us. The heart is the Spirit moving and shaking the world. God doesn’t stand still, so why should we?

Selah,

Eli, Bethel Music Director



Music News & Notes . . .

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

The Sanctuary Choir has resumed practices on Wednesday evenings, 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 today!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Time Change for Choir Practice on Wednesday, August 21st

Due to the Vespers Service scheduled for the evening of August 21st, choir practice has been scheduled for 5:30 pm that evening instead of 7:00 pm. This practice will be the one prior to Homecoming Sunday so please plan to attend!



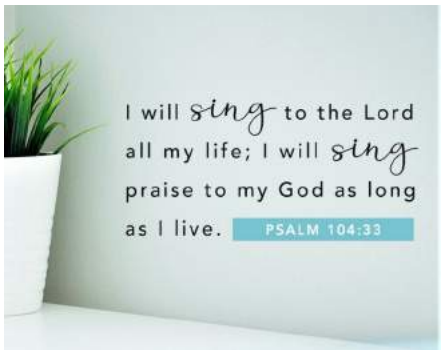
Summer Vespers Series

"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 time of worship and a wonderful performance by this extremely talented group!



The Faithful Men



The Bells of Bethel - Practice Resumes in August

The Bells of Bethel will resume practice on Wednesday, August 14th, at 7:00 pm. New bell ringers are always welcome and 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 play in the handbell choir, please contact JoAnn Pendley (Handbell Choir Director) at (540) 324-0152.

Due to the Vespers Service scheduled for the evening of August 21st, handbell choir practice has been scheduled for 5:30 pm that evening instead of 7:00 pm.

Eli will be out of the office on Friday, August 23rd.



Eli's Office Hours & Contact Information

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Email: BethelPCMusic@gmail.com

Phone: (919) 649-0855

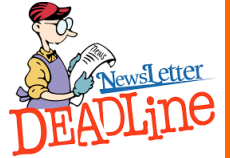


Church Office News & Notes . . .

Please note!

Please have all announcements for the August 25th (*Homecoming Sunday*) bulletin to the Church Office by Monday, August 19th, at 9:00 am. Contact Adrienne if you have any questions.

The September Tower Deadline will be Tuesday, August 20th 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. We welcome and appreciate early submissions before the 20th! 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!



Office Notice!



The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, August 22nd, while Adrienne is on vacation and on Friday, August 23rd, while Eli is on vacation.

If you have a need please contact any Elder and they will be happy to assist you. Thank you!

Church Office Hours



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

Friday*
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

*Only Eli in the office



Office Volunteers Needed. . . Do you have a few hours a week to spare and would you be willing to help out in the Church Office on Thursday afternoons or Friday mornings? We could use your help getting the bulletins ready for Sunday along with a few other miscellaneous tasks. It usually only takes an hour or two and is a huge blessing to Adrienne! If you would be willing to join her group of "angels" (aka Bethel office volunteers) please call or email her for more information (540/886-6041 or bethelpc@gmail.com). You can choose whether Thursday or Friday is more convenient for you to help and how often you would like to volunteer (twice a month, once a month, every other month, etc.) Thank you for your consideration in volunteering!

Session News & Notes . . .

From the Bethel Session . . .

- ◇ We had an informal meeting with Patrick Pettit, Chairman of Committee on Pastoral Transition from Shenandoah Presbytery, on July 7th, to discuss Bethel's current status. This meeting was attended by many session members and four members of the congregation. Bethel is classified as a congregation in transition, our next step will be for the presbytery to appoint a support moderator for future session meetings and a pastor liaison. The moderator will be announced the first week of August and the pastor liaison will be appointed by mid-August.
- ◇ Patrick recommended that we hire an interim pastor with hope that pastor would be trained in resolving issues of conflict. This will require us to form a pastor nominating committee. Many of our congregation have experience. We will need everyone's support.
- ◇ We had no Session meeting in July but handled needed motions by email votes. At this time the next session meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month but may change to meet the schedule of the soon to be named moderator.

Dave Schooley, Clerk of Session

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 . . .

Upcoming Event . . .
CELEBRATION SUNDAY 🏳️ **SEPTEMBER 8th, 2019**
KICK-OFF OF SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR ALONG
WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Gifts given to all school age children & youth during worship
Don't miss this special Sunday!
More details will be available in your September Tower but make sure to add this date to your calendar today!

Seekers Sunday School Class Update

After many years of dedication, Ken Wilkinson stepped down as the teacher of the Seekers Sunday School a few months back. The Seekers Sunday School Class is currently reorganizing and plans to start meeting again as soon as plans for their new class are definite. More information will be announced in the future.



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.



Bethel Prayer Group Meeting

Tuesday, August 6th & Tuesday, August 27th

2:00 pm in the Bumgardner Classroom

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Grab a cup of coffee or tea in Memorial Hall & join us for prayer!

We all know how important prayers are especially during times of transition so please join us for this time of fellowship as we pray for each other, the church, and our community. Prayers can be kept confidential if needed. Please contact Barb Gough at (540) 255-6521 if you have any questions.



Bethel Prayer List (updated July 31st, 2019)

Congregation Members

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Betty Cash | Jarod Davis & Family | Dan & Ginny Gano |
| John Howell | 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 of Walter Ambler | 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.

Directory Update
(Friend of Bethel)



Louise Caldwell
Assisted Living
3935 Sunnyside Dr, Suite B
Harrisonburg, VA 22801-2341

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.



Presbyterian Women News & Notes . . .

Presbyterian Women August 2019
Emphasis - Church Conferences, Homecoming



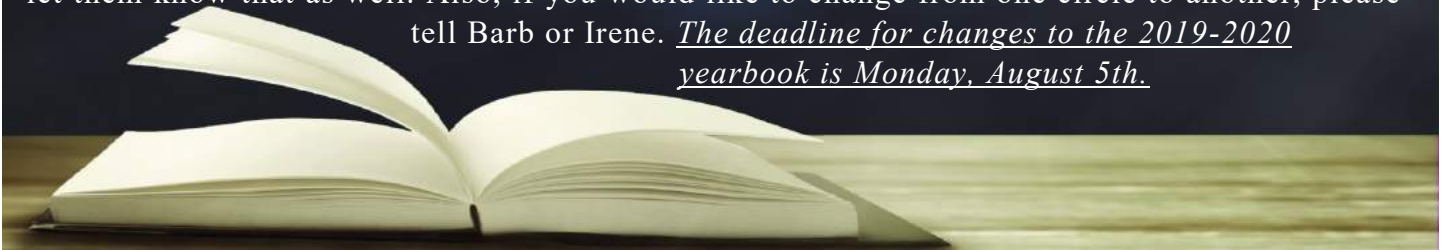
Committed to
nurturing faith,
supporting mission,
working for justice,
and building community.

- ◆ The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 13th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.
- ◆ The Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 13th, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

August 4th - PWCT Meeting

PWCT Yearbook Attention All Women of the Church:

The PWCT is updating the Bethel Presbyterian Women Yearbook for 2019-2020 which lists all Bethel women and their phone numbers. They need your help. Please make sure your correct phone number is listed. To confirm or make changes, please contact Barb Gough (540/255-6521; barbsgough@gmail.com), Irene Elliott (540/290-8354; ipelliott@aol.com) or the Church Office (540/886-6041, 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 to the 2019-2020 yearbook is Monday, August 5th.



 **Thank You**
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Thanks to all the ladies who attended the Women's Dinner on July 9th and brought donations for the Valley Mission. We collected various kitchen supplies and personal hygiene items. Your generosity was greatly appreciated!

Worship News & Notes . . .

UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

**AUGUST 25TH WELCOME HOME!
HOMECOMING SUNDAY**

REV. DR. BRONWEN BOSWELL, GUEST SPEAKER

**COVERED DISH MEAL
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**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.



Worship News & Notes (continued) . . .

August Worship & Lectionary Schedule

August 4th, 2019

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode

Scripture: Isaiah 54:1-17, I Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon: "The Tractor Seat"

August 11th, 2019

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Anne Ross

Lectionary: Isaiah 1:1-20, Hebrews 11:1-16, Luke 12:32-40

August 18th, 2019

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Roxana Atwood

Lectionary: Isaiah 5:1-7, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

August 25th, 2019

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Homecoming Sunday - Welcome Home!

Guest Minister: Rev. Dr. Bronwen Boswell, General Presbyter of the Shenandoah Presbytery

Lectionary: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17



Schedules & Such . . .

Flower Schedule August 2019

August 4th - Drury Whitaker

August 11th - Mo Kyle

August 18th - Keedie Leonard

August 25th - Sarah Frances Ralston
(Homecoming Sunday)



Nursery Schedule August 2019

Children's Church Penny Lee

August 4th - Stephanie Rivers

August 11th - Barbara Gough

August 18th - Joe or Sally Williams

August 25th - Tabby Moore
(Homecoming Sunday)

Offering Schedule

August 2019

Ellen Fitzgerald

Brian Lee

Katie McElveen

Joe Moore

August Greeters:

Bob & Louise
Hoy

Officer of the Day

August 4th

Derek Almarode

August 11th

Volunteer Needed! 😊

August 18th

Kathy Swisher

August 25th

Kathy Swisher

Other Announcements, Church News, & Thanks . . .



Our sympathies & condolences to the family of Walter Ambler who passed away on July 10, 2019. Mr. Ambler was a long time member of the Bethel congregation.

The Turner family would like to express their sincerest appreciation to the Women of the Church, Deacons and Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle for showing such care and compassion during our recent loss of Davey. Thanks to all who reached out and showed us how much you cared not only for us, but how much you loved our brother as well. The support we received from our Bethel family helped sustain us during this difficult time.



Dear Bethel,

Thank you very much for inviting us to join your Vesper Service on June 12th. And thank you as well for your generous contribution to the Staunton Choral Society! Your congregation is always so welcoming and we do enjoy singing for you all!



Sincerely,

The Staunton Choral Society

Birthdays & Anniversaries . . .



Briana Lawhorne	August 1	Cole Leonard	August 22
James Williams	August 2	Justin Swisher	August 22
Louise Caldwell	August 5	Valerie Deacon	August 24
Wendy Potter Snell	August 6	John Howell	August 28
Lucy Carlson	August 7	Meg Haislip	August 29
Stephanie Rivers	August 9	Garrett Johnston	August 29
Rhonda Shultz	August 11	Douglas Moore	August 29
Ginny Gano	August 12	Billy Wade, Jr.	August 30
Sally Williams	August 12	Keedie Leonard	August 31
Mason Whitaker	August 14		



Penny and Brian Lee	August 1, 2009
Sarah and Dustin Smith	August 2, 2014
Libby and Dale C. Smith	August 3, 1963
Pat and Allen Quick	August 9, 1986
Barbara and Larry Damico	August 10, 1985
Laura and Bob Barmore	August 12, 1977
Georganne and John Ludt	August 22, 1970

Community News & Notes . . .



The first day of the 2019-2020 school year for Augusta, Staunton, and Waynesboro will be Tuesday, August 6th. Please be aware of children walking to and from school and school buses on the roads.

Community News & Notes (continued) . . .



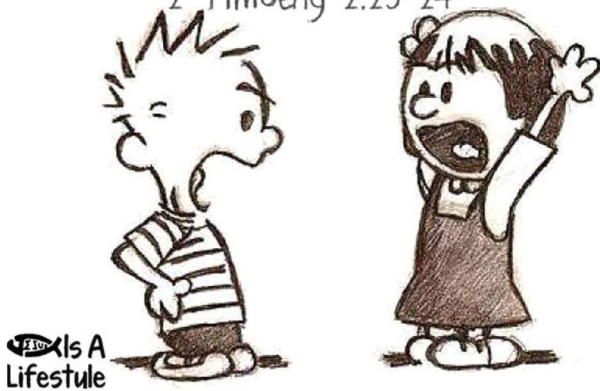
Old Providence Preschool in Spottswood, VA currently has openings for new students for the school year beginning September 2019 through May 2020. There are two openings in the Tuesday & Thursday class for 3-year-old students, and there is a waiting list for the Monday, Wednesday, Friday class for 4-year-olds.

Classes meet from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm each day. Parents may call the Church Office at (540) 377-2911 or Robyn Smith at (540) 377-5089 for questions and application forms. They may also visit the Old Providence Church website at www.oldprovidencechurch.org for additional preschool information and applications.



Don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.




2 Timothy 2:23-24



Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13

August 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 4 9:30 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - Deacons Meeting 12:30 - PWCT Meeting	5 Deadline: Presbyterian Women Yearbook Updates 7:00 - Boy Scouts	6 2:00 - Fellowship & Prayer Group First Day of School for Augusta, Staunton, & Waynesboro 	7 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 7:00 - Sanctuary Choir	8	9	10
11 9:30 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship	12 10:00 - 3:00 - Garden Club Luncheon (Kitchen & FH) 7:00 - Boy Scouts	13 1:30 - Afternoon Circle 7:00 - Evening Circle 7:00 - Session Meeting	14 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 6:00 - Christian Education 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:00 - Sanctuary Choir	15	16	17
18 9:30 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - Stewardship & Finance 12:30 - Worship Comm.	19 7:00 - Boy Scouts	20 12:00 - September Tower Deadline 	21 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 5:30 - Handbell Choir 5:30 - Sanctuary Choir 6:00 - Outreach & Evangelism 7:00 - Vespers Service & Concert	22 Church Office Closed (Adrienne on vacation)	23 Church Office Closed (Eli on vacation)	24
25 Homecoming Sunday 9:30 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship & 5 Cents A Meal 12:00 - Covered Dish Fellowship Meal	26 7:00 - Boy Scouts	27 2:00 - Fellowship & Prayer Group	28 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 6:30 - Communications Comm. 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:00 - Sanctuary Choir	29	30	31 