



The Tower

September 2019

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

From the Shenandoah Presbytery's Committee on Transition . . .



The end of a ministry is often difficult for pastors and congregations, no matter what the circumstances. How pastors and congregations say *Goodbye* is just as important as how they say *Hello* and *Welcome*. At this critical time of transition, roles and responsibilities change, and it is up to pastors, congregational leaders, and church members to model for one another healthy boundaries. To effectively and graciously maintain such boundaries requires a clear understanding of expectations, and positive support of one another. The

Committee on Pastoral Transition is sensitive to this, and has created a policy to assist both pastors and congregations make their way through this difficult time.

When a pastor departs, CPT believes each congregation needs time and space to grieve, reflect, and dream - to reflect on past ministry, envision future ministries, and develop a strong relationship with a new pastor. Likewise, pastors need time and space to put their ministry in context, and reflect on what is now past, even as they look forward to the future.

Unfortunately, we have witnessed the great harm done to new pastoral relationships when this time and space is not granted. Former pastors who continue to engage members about the church, attend church functions, or make themselves visible on church premises inhibit the ability of the new pastor to build pastoral bonds with members of the congregation. Congregations that continue to reach out to the former pastor for care, council and participation in significant life events deprive the new pastor of crucial opportunities to build and deepen relationships with the congregation.

Of course, we know the Presbyterian Church is a small world, as is the Shenandoah Valley, so it is unrealistic to think it's possible to avoid any contact between former pastors and parishioners; much less is it very Christian. Let me be clear: it is NOT the policy of Shenandoah Presbytery to forbid such contact - but there *are* important considerations that cannot be ignored, in light of the changed circumstance.

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Our policy can be boiled down to this one sentence: **While affection and esteem between the departing pastor and their former parishioners can, and should continue, the PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP MUST NOT.** This is an important distinction, marking an essential boundary for the wellbeing of congregations and pastors alike. Friendships might continue to flourish after a pastor leaves, but these relationships must not include any pastoral discussion or services that are the province of the new pastor, e.g. hospital visits, weddings, funerals, baptisms, counseling, or upon any policies or programs of the church under the new pastor's leadership. In this, the wisdom and guidance of the Book of Order must be honored:

After the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, former pastors and associate pastors shall not provide their pastoral services to members of their former congregations without the invitation of the moderator of session. (G-2.0905)

It is expected that congregations will pray for the well-being of the departing pastor, and will bless their transition into retirement, a new call or a new phase of their life. Likewise, it is expected that departing pastors will continue to pray for the well-being of the congregation as individuals and as the gathered community.

It is expected that the departing pastor will bear the primary responsibility for maintaining healthy boundaries by refraining from and discouraging any requests for pastoral services, or interactions regarding issues of pastoral care, congregational life, or future pastoral leadership. Likewise, it is expected that congregation members will no longer make requests of the departing pastor regarding pastoral services, and will not approach the departing pastor regarding issues of pastoral care, congregational life, or future pastoral leadership.

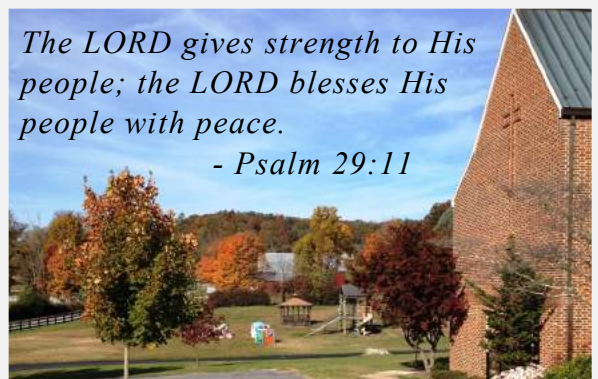
I hope this helps clarify things a bit as you look forward to this important time of transition in the life of the Bethel congregation. My prayers are with you.



Rev. Patrick Pettit
Chair, Committee on Transition
Session Moderator

Elder-on-Call, September 2019 While all Elders are willing to assist you if you have a Pastoral need the Elder-on-Call for the month of September is Derek Almarode. If you have a need or a problem that requires pastoral guidance please feel free to reach out to Derek (540/280-4940; almarodes@verizon.net). The Elders on the Session will be volunteering on a rotating basis each month to be "on-call" should you need to contact them about a need. This will continue until Bethel hires an Interim or Stated Supply Pastor.

- The Bethel Session



Session News & Notes . . .

The Bethel Session met on August 12th with all Elders present.

- The Session meetings are scheduled with the new Moderator Patrick Pettit, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm starting in October.
- Wade Cash, Chair of the Deacons reported that the organ upgrade is nearing completion and will be complete for Homecoming and will be dedicated in honor of Bob Moody.
- Volunteers are needed to assist in leading the worship services. They do not necessarily have to be a member of the Session, any member of Bethel is welcome to help out! If you would be willing to do the Welcome & Announcements, the Call to Worship, and the Joys & Concerns during the worship service we could use you! Please contact any Elder or anyone on the Worship Committee!
- We are asking for your input on the Passing of the Peace, do you enjoy this tradition and want to continue it on Sunday mornings? Please share your opinions with a member of the Session.
- The Mission Committee has a balance of \$6,137 and have voted to donate \$3,000 to the Greenville United Methodist Church Food Bank and \$1,000 to God's Pit Crew.
- The Session has approved designating David Schooley as the representative from Bethel at the August 24th Shenandoah Presbytery meeting in Moorefield WV.

I personally would like to encourage everyone to think and pray for the bonding together of our church family. What would Jesus want us to do? Forgiveness and reconciliation go together.

Thanks, and God bless you all,
David Schooley,
Clerk of Session

Music News & Notes . . .



Please note that Eli no longer has set office hours during the week.

If you need to meet with him please email or call him. He will be happy to set-up a time to meet with you. Thank you!

Eli's Contact Information

Email: BethelPCMUSIC@gmail.com

Phone: (919) 649-0855

New Bethel Choir Members Welcome!

The Bethel 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!

NEW CHOIR



MEMBERS WELCOME!

♪ "I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river,
in my soul." ♪

Church Office News & Notes . . .

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 2nd, for Labor Day.



The October Tower Deadline will be Tuesday, September 24th.



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 24th! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 23rd, while Adrienne is on vacation. If you have a pastoral need please contact the Elder-on-Call. Thank you!

Church Office Hours



Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(Lunch usually taken 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm)



Please have all bulletin announcements for the following Sunday to the Church Office by Tuesday at noon (*unless otherwise noted*). Thank you!

BETHEL CONGREGATION:

Please consider volunteering some of the spare time you may have in the Church Office. There are a number of small jobs that many of us could do which would help Adrienne complete her tasks before the end of her day without staying past her normal hours of 3:00 pm. Some of these include writing thank you notes to visitors, sending cards to church members for a variety of reasons, sending bulletins to shut-ins, stapling copies of the Tower, updating the bulletin boards, and organizational tasks. Also, if you are a computer whiz or just love working with them she could use some assistance in keeping the online calendar through Breeze up-to-date. If you can offer assistance for any length of time, please contact Marty Simmers at (540) 476-1944, Tabby Moore at moore@blueridgeequine.com or Adrienne, Bethel Office Manager at (540) 886-6041 or bethelpc@gmail.com. It will be a blessing to you, Bethel and Adrienne!



Many thanks to those office "angels" who already help with the folding of the bulletins and announcements each week! - Adrienne 😊

PRAISE HARVESTER

A Joyful toon by Mike Waters



May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. — PSALM 67:5-6 NIV



Congregational Care News & Notes . . .

Bethel Prayer Group Meeting

Tuesday, September 3rd

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 September 11th, 2019)

Congregation Members

Jarod Davis & Family	Dan Gano	Bobby Goodson	John Howell
Karen Koogler	Sara Ann Lamb	Evelyn LaPorte	Jeannie Lee
Margaret Liptrap	John Pilson	Alice Wooddell	

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Sarah Brownlee	Ann Kellogg	Matt Koogler	David Law
Olivia Lewis	William McFarlane	Roy Pilson	Jamie Pirkey
Van Pirkey	Devin Scott		

Sympathy & Condolences

Family of Walter Ambler	Family & Friends of Betty Cash
Family & Friends of Phyllis Pilson	Family & Friends of Rev. Sally Robinson

Community, Country, & World

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

Men of the Church News & Notes . . .



Men of the Church - Meal & Program

Tuesday, September 17th Meal - 6:30 pm & Program - 7:15 pm

All the guys of Bethel and their friends are invited to a delicious Italian dinner Tuesday, September 17th, at 6:30 pm. Following the dinner there will be a program beginning at 7:15 pm presented by Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao from the Shenandoah Presbytery. She will be discussing the work of the Presbytery in Ethiopia - specifically iCARE. Bethel not only supports missionaries in Ethiopia but supports a child through iCARE so it should be an informative talk of the impact our generosity is making over there! Everyone - both guys & gals - are invited to the program!



Sunday, September 15th is "Share the Bounty" Sunday

Please donate any of your extra garden produce on Sunday, September 15th to be given out to those in need at Kingsway. Would you like to donate but don't have any extra garden produce this year? We want to remind you that Kingsway operates year round! They always have a need for non-perishable food and gently used clothing and household goods. These items can be placed in the designated closet by the handicap entrance anytime. Thank you for your continued support of Bethel's mission projects! - Mission Committee



Illubabor Children Agape REsponse

The Gore School is preparing for the coming school year. So it is time to think about sponsoring a child. Some of the children have graduated and moved on to the University or a Training School and we are proud of them and their accomplishments! New students will need sponsors and sponsorships. Please think about helping them in anyway you can. The cost of sponsoring one child is \$950.00 and any amount will help - \$25.00 or \$100.00. No amount or gift is too small! If you have any questions or would like to make a donation please contact Doris True (540) 885-4526. Thank you for your generosity over the years in helping educate children!

The Mission Committee at it's July meeting voted to give \$3,000.00 to Food on Friday for Riverheads Elementary School. This gives children food for the weekend. There are currently 81 students getting food bags. The committee also gave \$1,000.00 to God's Pit Crew to help with the recent natural disasters. Thanks for your continued support of these projects
- The Mission Committee



Baja Mission Trip Summary & Update - 2019

First off let me thank the congregation of Bethel for supporting our mission trip to Baja. As we traveled to do God's work your prayers for safe travel were well answered. After a long flight we arrived in San Diego where we had the opportunity to rest for a day and do some shopping for things we wanted to purchase for the families we would be helping this year. After leaving what would be called normal civilization, we traveled by van towards the mission base with a brief stop by Papa Rueben's a local food vendor that has good but more importantly safe food. Excited to meet the families we would be helping the next day, we then settled in to our sleeping quarters where eight of us slept in bunk beds in a small ten by twelve hut.

The Shenandoah Presbytery had enough people participate in the mission trip this year to form three build teams. We were also joined by a group from Washington state and a group from Oregon state at the mission base. During the week we all came together as brothers and sisters in Christ to accomplish great things for the people we were called to serve. These included an eye clinic to give those who came a chance to see again, passing out food bags with normal staples, visiting local churches, visiting the local orphanage, visiting families we had helped in the past, visiting the abused women's shelter, and most of all creating new relationships to spread God's word and show how Christians act and love all. By the end of the week we had new friends from the states and new families for future visits that the good Lord had sent us to serve. All five of these families now have brand new homes that were completely furnished and stocked with about three weeks worth of food. It is said that his works are to be done through us. I am humbled to be able to serve as I was called. - Bob Olson

Summerlee West Virginia Mission Project

Bethel Presbyterian Church was one of eight Presbyterian Churches to participate in the annual Summerlee Mission Project in Fayette County, West Virginia. Partnering along with Bethel Presbyterian and Westminster Presbyterian were Bethesda Presbyterian (Rockbridge Baths), Front Royal Presbyterian, Mt Horeb Presbyterian (Grottoes), Second Presbyterian (Waynesboro), Smyrna Presbyterian (Waynesboro), Tinkling Spring Presbyterian (Fishersville) and Jerusalem Chapel Seventh Day Adventist (Churchville). This year approximately 110 participants in total were present for the project. Completed health forms were required of all participants and the safety and health of all participants and homeowners was a core value.

During the week of July 7th through July 13th Briana Lawhorne with her family and Mitch Lathrop represented Bethel for the repair of one of five homes in Fayette County which were previously chosen through the Department of Homeowner Services. As in past years five working days were allocated for repairs to the homes and care was taken to not begin any repairs which could not be finished within the allotted time period.

Repairs of the individual homes included roof leaks, repairs of holes in the flooring, correction of yard drainage problems, weed-eating and landscaping improvements, painting, repairing of window issues, replacement of tubs and plumbing, refurbishment of woodstoves, assessment of heat pumps, damaged siding replacement and replacement of doors and/or windows.

Typical work hours were between 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. The church consolidation provided breakfast and supper each work day at the campsite and sandwich food, fruit and Gatorade were provided for packing/carrying to the jobsites. At the end of each workday following supper a progress report was delivered by individual site foremen along with reporting of problems or setbacks. Devotions were delivered at both breakfast and supper.

The cooperation among participants and overall attitude were exceptional throughout the work week and next year's 2020 Summerlee Mission Project is highly anticipated by all.

Written by Mitch Lathrop

Here I am Lord, Send me. Isaiah 6:8

Presbyterian Women News & Notes . . .

Presbyterian Women

September 2019 - 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 10th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

*The Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 10th, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

September 1st - PWCT Meeting

September 29th - 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.

Stewardship & Finance News & Notes . . .

Receiving Treasurer Wanted!

Are you detail oriented? Are numbers, math, and finance your thing? Sarah Williams is resigning as Receiving Treasurer effective September 30th. The Stewardship & Finance Committee is in need of someone to step-in to this role. If you might be willing to serve Bethel in this capacity, please contact Derek Almarode (540/280-4940, almarodes@verizon.net).



Worship Committee News & Notes . . .



September Worship & Lectionary Schedule

September 1st, 2019

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Worship Leader: Kathy Swisher

Scripture: Jeremiah 2:4-13, Hebrews 13:1-16, Luke 14:1-14

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Worship Committee News & Notes (continued) . . .

September Worship & Lectionary Schedule (continued)

September 8th, 2019

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker: Don Reid

Worship Leader: Marion Simmers

Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-11, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

September 15th, 2019

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangley

Worship Leader: Kathy Swisher

Scripture: Jeremiah 4:11-28, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

September 22nd, 2019

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Scripture: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

September 29th, 2019

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker: Don Reid

Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-15, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31



Youth Committee News & Notes . . .

BETHEL RALLY DAY 2019

WHAT: Celebration to kick-off an exciting year of Sunday School

WHEN: Sunday, September 8th
10:15 am - 10:45 am

WHERE: Bethel Fellowship Hall

A light brunch will be served. So come by, have some yummy food, chat & socialize before going to the Sanctuary for worship at 11:00 am.

EVERYONE'S INVITED - ALL AGES!



Schedules & Such . . .

Nursery Schedule *September 2019*

September 1st - Mac or Emily Williams
 September 8th - Louise Hoy
 September 15th - Joyce Davis
 September 22nd - Elizabeth Mulcahy
 September 29th - Cindy Almarode

Worship Leader - September 2019

September 1st Kathy Swisher
 September 8th Marion Simmers
 September 15th Kathy Swisher
 September 22nd Volunteer Needed ☺
 September 29th Volunteer Needed ☺

Flower Schedule
September 2019

September 1st - Cathy Hill
 September 8th - Jill Webb
 (Memorial)
 September 15th - Lucy Sproul
 September 22nd - Jackie Law
 September 29th - Ginny Gano (Memorial)



Offering Schedule
September 2019

Wade Cash Katie Miller
 Linda Tenney Dale Thompson



Other Congregational News & Thanks . . .


Our sympathies & condolences to the family and friends of Betty Cash who passed away on August 25th, 2019. Betty was a longtime member of Bethel including being active in the Presbyterian Women. She will be missed.

September Greeters


September 1st - Tom & Lee Ann Heizer
 September 8th & 15th - Linda Lamond
 September 22nd & 29th - David & Betty Schooley




I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for all the thoughtfulness expressed by the Bethel congregation recently during my loss. The many prayers and cards I received certainly helped and will continue to comfort me at this sad time.
 Thank you again and God bless. - John Howell



My heartfelt thanks to my Bethel family and friends for the cards, calls, and concerns following the passing of my brother Walter (W.D.) Ambler. The reception following his service meant so much to the family and was perfect. God bless each of you,
 Sarah Frances Ambler Ralston



We want to thank our Bethel friends for their expressions of sympathy during the recent death of our daughter, Emily Law Kinsling. - Bob & Jackie Law



Birthdays & Anniversaries . . .



Dale Goodson	September 2	Bill Brubeck	September 15
Charlie Johnson	September 2	Tim Turner	September 17
Angela Wiseman	September 4	Harleigh Lee	September 21
Margaret Liptrap	September 5	Sarah Smith	September 21
Wade Cash	September 6	Lily Damico	September 23
Beth Miller	September 6	Olivia Damico	September 23
Charley Schooley	September 9	Scott Hughes	September 23
Nancy Webster	September 9	Dylan Morris	September 23
Jeb Stuart	September 10	Lynne Morris	September 23
Billy Wade, III	September 10	Samantha Moore	September 28
Shelby Myers	September 11	Robin Moffett	September 29
Ashley Nelson	September 12	Donna Bush	September 30
Doris True	September 14		



Gloria & Benny Potter	September 1, 1973
Phyllis & Wade Cash	September 8, 1979
Faye & Ben Brown, Sr.	September 9, 1967
Lynne & Danny Morris	September 26, 1981

Around the Community . . .

"A Night of Praise"

The Riverheads Weekday Religious Education (WRE) program is sponsoring "A Night of Praise" on September 29th, at 6:00 pm and we want to invite you to participate. We would like to have each church to bring one or two special performances. It can be a church choir, a soloist, a band or even a children's group. If you have someone or a group that will participate, we ask that you let Dana Cash know. You can reach her at (540) 377-9921 or through email at raphinechristian@comcast.net.




A free-will offering will be taken for the Riverheads WRE program so even if you don't plan to sing make sure to attend and mention the event to your friends and neighbors too! We want to make sure everyone in the community knows about it!



September 2nd - Labor Day
September 11th - Patriot Day
September 23rd - Autumn Begins



September 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - PWCT Meeting	2 Labor Day Church Office Closed 	3 2:00 - Prayer & Fellowship Group 7:00 - Session Meeting	4 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 7:00 - Bethel Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir	5	6	7
8 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 10:15 - 10:45 - Rally Day Brunch 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - Deacons Meeting 12:30 - Stewardship & Finance Comm. 12:30 - Worship Comm.	9 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life	10 1:30 - Afternoon Circle 7:00 - Evening Circle	11 Patriot Day 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 6:00 - Christian Education Comm. 7:00 - Bethel Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir	12	13	14 8:30 - 3:00 - The Big Event at Massanetta Springs 1:00 - Wedding
15 "Share the Bounty" 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - Mission Comm. 2:00 - Private Event (Fellowship Hall)	16 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life	17 Constitution Day & Citizenship Day 6:30 - Men of the Church - Meal & Program	18 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 7:00 - Bethel Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir	19	20	21 International Day of Peace 
22 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship & 5 Cents A Meal 12:30 - Youth Comm.	23 Autumn Begins Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life 	24 October Tower Deadline	25 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 6:00 - Communications Comm. 6:00 - Congregational Care Comm. 7:00 - Bethel Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir	26	27	28
29 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - PWCT Meeting	30 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life					