



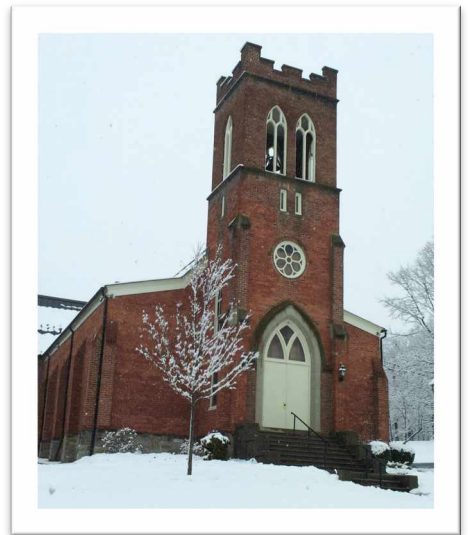
The Tower

February 2020

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

As This Elder Sees It . . .

Happy New Year and I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are enjoying the winter season! As an Elder at Bethel, we are asked to chair a committee, and I feel called to Chair the Mission Committee. I have participated in local missions from fixing meals to building porches. I have also gone to other states such as Tennessee and recently to Summerlee, West Virginia. When I was convinced I wanted to participate in an international mission, that changed my perception of people in other countries. The people in Baja, Mexico touched my heart, because of their deep appreciation for what we had done for them.



You may not be able to go on a mission trip to another country or even another state. But can you make a meal, bake a cake, or even come and have lunch at The Meating Place? I am sure you can find a way to support one or more of Bethel's mission projects this year! Bethel is always good at supporting mission projects and the Mission Committee hopes to continue seeing your support.

The Bible tells us to look after those in need and with that in mind the Mission Committee has come up with proposed projects for 2020. Here is a partial listing of projects through July.

<i>*January 11th</i>	<i>Valley Mission--breakfast (*completed)</i>
<i>February 2nd</i>	<i>Souper Bowl of Caring--to benefit Kingsway</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Pork Loin Meal--fundraiser</i>
<i>May 8th & 9th</i>	<i>The Meating Place--food booth--fundraiser</i>
<i>June 10th</i>	<i>Serve Middlebrook Ruritan meal</i>
<i>July 5th - 11th</i>	<i>Summerlee WV Mission Trip</i>
<i>July 11th - 18th</i>	<i>Baja Mexico Mission Trip</i>

If you feel called to join the Mission Committee or participate in any of the projects listed please feel free to contact me.

Kathy Swisher, Elder
(540) 885-7397

Session News & Notes (for January) . . .

*The Session met December 10th with the Rev. Patrick Pettit as Moderator and nine Elders present. The minutes of the last Session Meeting and Congregational Meeting were approved.

*The Annual Reports from all Committees need to be to the Church Office by January 19th. This is so they can be presented, if possible, at the next Congregational Meeting. The Treasurer's Report was approved, and copies are available in Memorial Hall.

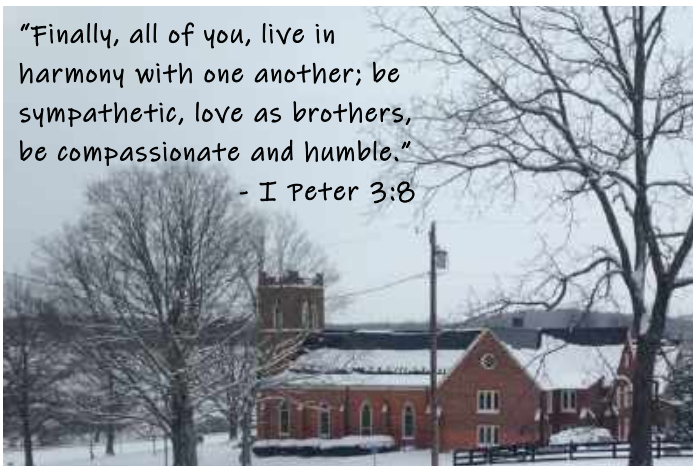
*The Youth Committee reminded the Session of Christmas Caroling on December 15th. All were encouraged to visit Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton to check out the Bethel Youth display in the "Festival of Lights".

*The first draft of the proposed 2020 budget was presented. Revisions will be made and the budget is to be presented for approval at the next Session meeting.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with prayer by Patrick Pettit, Moderator.

David Schooley,
Clerk of Session

"Finally, all of you, live in
harmony with one another; be
sympathetic, love as brothers,
be compassionate and humble."
- I Peter 3:8



Session News & Notes (for February) . . .

*The Session met January 14th, 2020 with the Rev. Patrick Pettit as Moderator and nine Elders present. The minutes of the last Session Meeting and Congregational Meeting were approved.

*The Treasurer's Report was approved, and copies are available in Memorial Hall.

*The proposed budget was approved and will be presented to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on February 9th, 2020.

*The slate of officers for 2023 and to fill other officer vacancies was approved and will be presented at the Congregational Meeting for nomination and election. Many thanks to the Nominating Committee for all of their hard work!

*The Session approved hosting the Staunton Choral Society on Saturday, March 21st, at 7:00 pm.

*Sadly, the Session informs you of the deaths of congregation members Jeannie Lee, Bettie Swisher, and Richard Whitesell.

*The Lord's Supper was held on January 12th, 2020.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm with prayer by Patrick Pettit, Moderator.

David Schooley
Clerk of Session.

Session News & Notes (continued) . . .

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Congregational Meeting Notice!

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 9th immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect church officers and presentation of the 2020 budget.

"Whatever a person may be like we must still love them because we love God." - John Calvin



Elder-on-Call, February 2020

While all Elders are willing to assist you if you have a pastoral need, the Elder-on-Call for the month of February is Derek Almarode. Please feel free to reach out to Derek (text or call: 540/280-4940, email: almarodes@verizon.net). The Elders on the Session are volunteering on a rotating basis each month to be "on-call". This will continue until Bethel hires an Interim or Stated Supply Pastor.

- The Bethel Session

Music News & Notes . . .

If you have any concerns or suggestions for the music program here at Bethel or would like to meet with Eli please call or email him. He will be happy to discuss any suggestions you may have or set-up a time to meet with you. Thank you!

Eli's Contact Information

Phone: (919) 649-0855

Email: BethelPCMusic@gmail.com

♪ "Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God
Almighty!" ♪

NEW CHOIR



MEMBERS WELCOME!

The Bethel Choir will begin working on Lenten & Easter music soon! This is a perfect time to join them as they prepare for the spring season!

The Choir practices on Wednesday evenings, at 7:00 pm and they would love to have you sing with them! 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!

Church Office News & Notes . . .

Biographies & Pictures Needed

Reminder: All nominees up for election this year as officers will need to have their biographies and a picture of themselves emailed to the Church Office by Monday, February 3rd. This includes Elders, Deacons, & Trustees.

If you don't send me anything I will be forced to make up your biography and snag a picture of some random person off the web myself. . . I'm just kidding! But please have all the information in by the deadline since it makes my job much easier and I don't have to pester you! Thank you! - Adrienne Barker, Office Manager

Church Office News & Notes (continued) . . .

March Tower Deadline



Tower Newsletter Deadline

The March Tower Newsletter Deadline will be Tuesday, February 18th. 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 18th! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?

2019 Annual Reports

I still have not received the 2019 reports from a few committees! Email your report (preferably in Microsoft Word or pdf) to the Church Office today! If you have questions or problems with your report please call or email me. Thanks!

- Adrienne Barker, Office Manager

Church Office Hours

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

(Lunch usually taken
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm)



Congregational Care News & Notes . . .

Bethel Bible Study & Prayer Group

Meets every Tuesday in February except February 11th

2:00 pm in the Bumgardner Classroom

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Bible Study & Prayer Group

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.



Fellowship Following Worship”

The Congregational Care Committee is hoping to have “Fellowship Following Worship” one Sunday during the month of February. If you would be willing to provide refreshments in February please sign-up on schedule posted on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall (you choose the Sunday).

It doesn’t have to be anything fancy - just a little something to munch on while we chat with our church family and friends. Thanks!

Congregational Care News & Notes (continued) . . .

Bethel Prayer List (updated January 28th, 2020)

Congregation Members

Jarod Davis & Family	Dan Gano
Bobby Goodson	Karen Koogler
Sara Ann Lamb	Evelyn LaPorte
Kenneth LaPorte	Margaret Liptrap
John Pilson	Allen Quick
Lucy Sproul	Alice Wooddell

don't worry about anything;
instead pray about everything.
tell God what you need,
and thank him for all he has done.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6 (NLT)

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Sarah Brownlee	Paul Harper	Ann Kellogg	David Law
William McFarlane	Roy Pilson	Jamie Pirkey	Van Pirkey
Walter Wade	Steve Yancey		

Sympathy & Condolences

Family & Friends of John Law	Family & Friends of Jeannie Lee
Family & Friends of Michael Somers	Family & Friends of Margaret Sprouse
Family & Friends of Bettie Swisher	Family & Friends of Richard Whitesell

Community, Country, & World

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

Continuing Education Committee News & Notes . . .

Continuing
Education

Bethel Presbyterian Church Continuing Education Loan Fund

The Bethel Presbyterian Church Continuing Education 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: Jimmy Callison, Dan Gano or David Schooley. The deadline for the return of the completed application together with attachments is April 15th, 2020. Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to a member of the committee.

Mission Committee News & Notes . . .



Super Bowl Sunday - Souper Bowl of Caring

The Bethel Mission Committee is asking you to help tackle hunger with them on Sunday, February 2nd, as they collect funds for the Souper Bowl of Caring. All funds collected will be given to Kingsway, so those in need can be given assistance. Thanks for your continued support of Bethel's mission projects!

Nominating Committee News & Notes . . .

Officer Training 2020

New officers-elect who are serving in a new capacity at Bethel must attend the officer training on February 1st!

Office Training is being offered by the Shenandoah Presbytery on Saturday, February 1st, 2020 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The location will be Woodstock Presbyterian Church (142 E Court St, Woodstock, VA).

Three sessions will be held:

- Authority as Leaders
- Knowledge of Government of Polity
- Worship & Sacraments

Snacks will be provided but lunch will not. There are several restaurants in Woodstock to choose from for lunch.

It would be helpful if you could RSVP to the Rev. Kate Rascoe at (540) 459-2646 or katerascoe@yahoo.com.

Presbyterian Women News & Notes . . .

Presbyterian Women February 2020

Emphasis: Witness Season, Lent



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

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

February 2nd - PWCT Meeting

Worship Committee News & Notes . . .



Scout Sunday

Boy Scout Sunday will be Sunday, February 9th. 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!

The Community Ash Wednesday & Communion Service will be at Bethel on February 26th, at 7:00 pm. Please join us as we begin the 2020 Lenten season together. Everyone is invited!



Bethel will be participating in community Lenten services this year with several other local churches. All Lenten services begin at 7:00 pm and are on Thursday nights (excluding Ash Wednesday and Good Friday). Make sure to plan to attend these meaningful services during this holy season starting with the Ash Wednesday service here at Bethel. A complete calendar of Lenten service locations and speakers will be included in your bulletin in the coming weeks.

Worship Committee News & Notes (continued) . . .

February 2020 Lectionary Schedule

February 2, 2020

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Souper Bowl of Caring

Guest Minister: Rev. Sarah Hill

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

February 9, 2020

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Boy Scout Sunday

Congregational Meeting following Worship

Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20



February 16, 2020

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Guest Speaker: Don Reid

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 23, 2020

Transfiguration of the Lord

Guest Minister: Rev. Melissa Harmon

Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday - February 26th, 2020

Community Service

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture: Joel 2:1-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-21

BETHEL YOUTH



Even More News, Notes, Schedules & Such . . .

Church Inclement Weather Information

In the event of bad weather on Sunday mornings, please check WHSV-TV3 (Harrisonburg) or their website www.wHSV.com for information on whether church has been cancelled. If church is cancelled you will receive either an email, text, or phone call (if you signed up).

The Church Office may be closed due to inclement weather if Augusta County Schools are closed. If the Church Office is closed due to weather and you have a need please contact Adrienne during normal office hours. She will still be available by phone, text, and office email even if she is unable to be in the Church Office. Thank you!



Nursery Schedule Adjustment:
2020

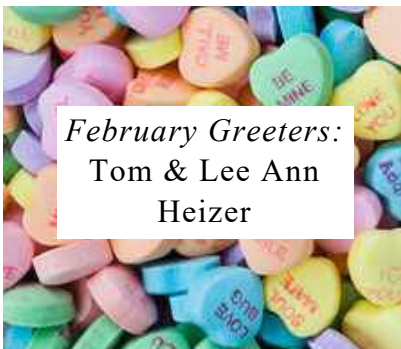
NURSERY NEWS

Due to the lack of Nursery volunteers the Worship Committee has decided to have Nursery and Children's Church on an "as need" basis. There still will be volunteers available each Sunday but there will no longer be a set schedule. Thanks so much to all the volunteers who helped in the past with this valuable ministry!

Flower Schedule
February 2020



- February 2nd -
Barbara Damico (Memorial)
- February 9th - Jill Webb
(Scout Sunday & Memorial)
- February 16th - Ginny Gano
- February 23rd - Cathy Hill



February Greeters:
Tom & Lee Ann
Heizer

Offering
Schedule

February 2020

- Wade Cash
- Ellen Fitzgerald
- Charlie Johnson
- Alex Sproul



Sympathies & Condolences . . .



Our sympathies & condolences to the family & friends of Jeannie Lee who passed away on December 24th, 2019.

Our sympathies & condolences to the family & friends of Bettie Swisher who passed away on January 1st, 2020.



Our sympathies & condolences to the family & friends of Richard Whitesell who passed away on January 17th, 2020.

Many Thanks . . .



Many thanks to everyone who purchased gifts for the Riverheads Elementary “Christmas Alive” project this year! The mother of the children who received the gifts was so very grateful! In addition to the gifts for the children, the Mission Committee also purchased groceries for the family. It really made the family’s Christmas special this year by the kindness and love that was shown to them. Bethel always supports our local community when asked and for that we are so blessed and grateful! Thank you!

- The Bethel Mission Committee

Many thanks to those who helped with providing and serving breakfast at Valley Mission on Saturday, January 11th. There was plenty of food and help, which was, needed since over 100 residents were served! And a special thank you to Bethel youth - Ashlyn Almarode & Bayleigh Lee who helped serve. Again your generosity and help was greatly appreciated!



- Women of the Church & The Bethel Mission Committee

Around the Community . . .

WRE Volunteers Needed

It’s that time of year to think about snow removal . . . At the new WRE building, the custodians from Riverheads Elementary School will take care of cleaning the walking path. We need someone or possibly several people to rotate plowing the driveway and cleaning the ramp.



Volunteers will also be needed to mow the grass starting in the spring. Again, we can possibly have several people to sign up on a rotating schedule or whatever works best.

If you or someone you know is interested in one of these opportunities to serve, please contact Mary Alford. You can call or text her at (540) 280-3540 or email at alfords4@verizon.net.

Around the Presbytery . . .



Shenandoah Presbytery Youth & Adult Ski Trip

There will be an overnight Presbytery Youth Ski Trip on Saturday, February 8th & Sunday, 9th and Westminster Presbyterian Church has graciously offered to chaperone any Bethel Youth that would like to attend. The cost is \$25.00 for the overnight stay at Massanetta, plus all skiing activities, and Saturday’s dinner. Rev. April Cranford and Rev. Sarah Hill are leading the retreat. The retreat starts around 2:00 pm on Saturday and ends Sunday, at 11:00 am. Please contact Rev. April Cranford ASAP if you would like to go: (540) 942-1145 or (540) 414-4427 or pastoraprilcranford@gmail.com. Also please go to <https://forms.gle/yZDSm65bRQbAGfj58> to fill out the registration form and for more information.





Baja Mexico Mission Trip

July 11th - July 18th, 2020

Open to All Churches in the Shenandoah Presbytery

Do you want to help those in another country, showing the love of Christ while building homes and relationships with families? Then consider participating in the mission trip to Baja Mexico, on July 11th -18th, 2020. Mission work will begin with the Oaxacan Indian people living and working in the area of Colonia Vicente Guerrero on the Baja California peninsula of Mexico.

While we build homes for families in the community during the day and participate in outreaches in the evenings, the most important aspect of this mission initiative is to build relationships. Relationships and friendships form not only with the people we serve in Mexico, but among the congregations members of the Presbytery who participate. This one week of mission work is a life changing experience. Registration ends on April 1st, 2020 but if you aren't quite sure if you would like to participate yet please check out <http://shenpres.org/baja-mission/>. There is a list of Frequently Asked Questions and answers on there along with the registration forms and additional information.

Also, feel free to contact one of the Baja Leadership Team Coordinators - they would be happy to answer any questions and share their experiences.

Keith Folsom	(540) 294-0025	keithspringdale@gmail.com
Rhonda Richie	(540) 290-3404	rhondarichierealtor@gmail.com
William Hopeck	(703) 629-7157	whopeck@att.net
Laura Floyd	(540) 290-7309	lfloyd1stchoice@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery

Presents

The Annual Spring Gathering

Saturday April 4, 2020



"Go Out With Joy and Be Led Forth With Peace"

Isaiah 55:12: "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Massanetta Springs Conference Center
Harrisonburg, VA

More information and registration available later.

*Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery
have announced the date of the
Annual Spring Gathering:
Saturday, April 4th, 2020
at Massanetta Springs*

*This is the day before Palm Sunday.
Make sure to put the event on your calendars
now so you don't miss it!*

Birthdays . . .



James Tate	February 1	Yvonne Goodson	February 13
John Davis	February 2	Dustin Moore	February 15
Steve Hord	February 3	Jean Callison	February 17
Brad Smith	February 5	Molly Smith	February 19
Nancy Reichard	February 8	Myran Moore	February 26
Debra Callison	February 10	Kay Swisher	February 27
Jackie Law	February 10	Maggie Rivers	February 28
Lydia Lee	February 10		
Doug Brubeck	February 11	Patrick Hord	March 2
Kathy Swisher	February 11	Bobby Goodson	March 3
R.W. Ware, Jr.	February 11	Barbara Tate	March 3

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 2nd - Super Bowl Sunday
 February 14th - Valentine's Day
 February 17th- Presidents' Day

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."

- First Peter 4:8

February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 2 Groundhog Day Super Bowl Sunday 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship & Souper Bowl of Caring 12:30 - Deacons Meeting 12:30 - PWCT Meeting	3 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life	4 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer	5 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir	6	7	8 2:00 - SPYCE Ski Trip at Massanutta Springs February 8th - February 9th 2:00 pm - 12:00 pm
9 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship & Boy Scout Sunday 12:00 - Congregational Meeting 12:45 - Stewardship & Finance Committee 12:45 - Worship Committee	10 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life	11 1:30 - Afternoon Circle 7:00 - Evening Circle 7:00 - Session Meeting	12 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir	13	14 Valentine's Day 6:30 - Scouts Pinewood Derby Check-In 	15 9:45 - Scouts Pinewood Derby
16 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - Mission Committee	17 Presidents' Day Augusta County Schools Closed 	18 12:00 - March Tower Deadline 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer	19 6:00 - Congregational Care Committee 7:00 - Adult Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir	20	21	22 9:30 - Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian; Waynesboro, VA
23 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship & 5 Cents A Meal 12:30 - Youth Committee	24 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life	25 2:00 - Bible Study & Prayer	26 Ash Wednesday 6:00 - Communications Committee 7:00 - Community Ash Wednesday Service & Communion	27	28	29 