

The Tower



August 2020 &
Sunday, July 26th, 2020

563 Bethel Green Road Staunton, Virginia 24401*

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www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

Reminder - A Brand New Format . . .

The Bethel Session, after listening to your comments and ideas, has decided to continue with the Bethel Weekly Message “newsletter” instead of returning to the original announcement format. Once the Worship Committee has deemed it safe to return to using printed bulletins again, the Weekly Message will be included with your bulletin like the original announcements.

Also, The Bethel Tower and the Bethel Weekly Message will be combined one week a month, when the Tower is regularly scheduled to be published and mailed. It’s the Session’s hope that this will make things easier and reduce waste. However, the Tower will not be included with your bulletin. A few printed copies will be available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall.

Let the Session know what you think! Your opinion does matter.

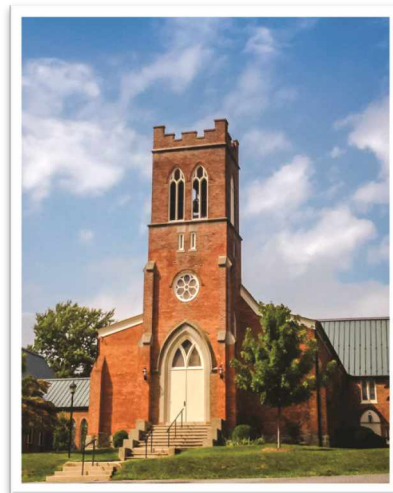
As This Elder Sees It & The Weekly Message . . .

Guiding Principles From the First Church

Romans 12:10-11 *“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;”*

I can say for certain that one human trait that is not hereditary is scholarship. It is however, great, to have an ancestor that was one because he left a generous amount of reading material. Recently reading a book by Dr. Turner titled *Addresses and Sermons* one sermon stood out, titled *The message of the First Century Church to the Church of the Twentieth Century*. It feels even more appropriate today in the twenty-first century. So now the challenge is to condense an eleven page sermon into several paragraphs for you.

The first century church suffered many persecutions, trials, tribulations, and Christians falling away. The church appeared to be in trouble. Then in the year 187 AD, Justin Martyr, writing to the Emperor of Rome says, “You cannot put us down now. We are everywhere. In your court, in your camp, everywhere.” The church had emerged triumphant.



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Dr. Turner laments some of the problems of the twentieth century church as shrinking budgets, groups for whom the church has no meaning and have grown cynical, and those still in the church who have lost the meaning of being Christian in their daily lives. His summation is “The world is crying out for moral and spiritual leadership and we are groping and confused. We have the promise of power but are keenly conscious of our lack of power to deal adequately with the problems that these conditions raise.

Examining the early Church he finds four traits that were the secret to their power:

- (1) The Church began with the deepening and enrichment of the spiritual lives of her members. Luke 24:49 *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”*
- (2) It was a Spirit filled Church. Acts 1:8 *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- (3) The Church preached an exalted Christ. Acts 5:31 *“He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”*
- (4) They built a fellowship. Ephesians 2:19 *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”*

Hebrews 13:8 *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*

It is believable that today’s Church is in an even more precarious position than when this sermon was preached, but the good news is that our God is the same God that brought victory to the early Church and the faithful that build on these principles will also be victorious.

Tim Turner, Elder

GUEST speaker Bethel welcomes the talented Rev. Clayton Rascoe who will be the Guest Minister, today, July 26th. He is Executive Director of Massnaetta Springs Conference Center and holds degrees from Appalachian State University and Columbia Theological Seminary. Clayton is married to the Rev. Kate Rascoe and they have two daughters, Ruth and Carolina, and a mischievous hound named Scoot. Please let Clayton know how much we appreciate his being with us!

The flowering plants at the chapel this morning (July 26th) are given to the Glory of God by Dale & Libby Smith.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Today, July 26th

Rev. Clayton Rascoe, Guest Minister

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel
in the Woods

(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)

Tuesday, July 28th

12:00 pm Bulletin & Announcements
Deadline for August 2nd

Next Sunday, August 2nd

Rev. Malcolm Brownlee, Guest Minister

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel
in the Woods

(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)

ELDER-ON-CALL JULY 2020

If you have a pastoral need during the month
of July please contact Bill Brubeck.

(540) 885-5871 (call) (540) 290-1172 (call or text)
brubeck@mgwnet.com

ELDER-ON-CALL AUGUST 2020

If you have a pastoral need during the month
of August please contact Kathy Swisher.

(540) 885-7397 (call or text)
kswisher@gmail.com

Church Attendance

July 19th - 39



Church Office News . . .

Office Notice!



The Church Office will be closed Monday, August 24th through Thursday, August 27th while Adrienne is on vacation. If you have a need please contact the Elder-on-Call (Kathy Swisher) and she will be happy to assist you. Thanks!

Church Office Hours



Excellent . . .

Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(as circumstances allow)

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



The September Tower Newsletter
Deadline will be Monday, August
17th, 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 17th! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?.



Please have all announcements for the Bethel Weekly News for August 23rd & August 29th to the Church Office by Monday, August 17th, at noon.

The announcements are needed early due to my vacation the following week. Thanks for your understanding!

- Adrienne Barker, Office Manager



Can you help out? If you would be willing to help out in the Bethel Office while I'm on vacation in August please let me know (540/886-6041). Picking up the mail a few times that week along with checking the phone messages on the answering machine (and passing them on to the appropriate person) is all that is required. Thanks for your consideration! - Adrienne

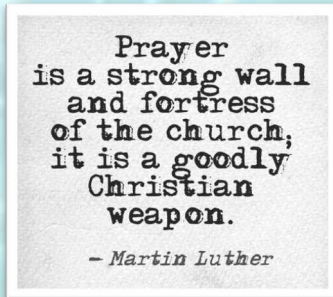
(Image used with permission Creator: pixy.org
© CCO Information extracted from IPTC photomedia)

Congregational Care Committee . . .

We still have the Keurig available in Memorial Hall. Please wash your hands with soap or use hand sanitizer (provided) before using. When you are done please remove your k-cup from the machine. Then wipe down the Keurig and the coffee cart with a disinfecting wipe (also provided). Throw all trash in the can next to the cart.



These instructions are attached to the wall above the coffee cart.



Bethel Prayer List (updated 7/21/20)

Congregation Members

Jarod Davis & Family	Dan Gano
Bobby Goodson	Karen Koogler
Evelyn LaPorte	Kenneth LaPorte
Sam Leonard	Margaret Liptrap
John Pilson	Allen Quick
Doris True	Alice Wooddell

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Sarah Brownlee	Bernice English	Joe Fleming
Paul Harper	Matt Koogler	David Law
Cecil Layman	Mattie Marsh	John Michael
Roy Pilson	Jamie Pirkey	Van Pirkey
Dennis & Sarah Russell	Barbara Shaner	Beth Shaw
Lee & Katie Simon	Walter Wade	

Sympathies & Condolences Rev. Roxana Atwood & Family

Community, Country, & World

Doctors, nurses, & those in healthcare including volunteers who are working with COVID-19 patients

Those in our community who are homeless &/or struggling with addiction

All Military Leaders & Personnel

Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & 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. In an effort to keep the Prayer List up-to-date names may be removed after three months (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. Many thanks!

Summerlee Mission Project, 2020

The current year, 2020, has been described up to this point as the “New Normal”, Challenging Times, Uncertain Times and yet the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic was not powerful enough to cancel the annual Summerlee Mission Project. The mission project was moved to Augusta County to improve local homes rather than traveling to Summerlee (Beckley), West Virginia. Adjustments were planned for and made so that safety was a top priority, not only from the perspective of accidents and avoidance of property damage, but also to focus on the long-term health of project participants. There was practically no interior work scheduled and in general all projects were on the exterior of homes in Waynesboro, Barren Ridge (New Hope), Staunton, Greenville, Parnassus, Augusta Springs and Craigsville.

The participation level was expectedly smaller, 64 individuals in comparison to 110 of last year and precautionary steps were enforced for mission workers just as for anyone else entering a grocery store or conversing on the sidewalk. Check-in meetings were held each morning at Westminster Presbyterian to have participant’s temperatures taken and to record answers to health-pertinent questions, for example; have you felt poorly over the last 24 hours, have you been around anyone who has Covid-19 during the past week, do you have shortness of breath or severe headaches?

Current projects for the week included 1) replacing a front porch in Waynesboro (Dupont area), 2) construction of a handicap ramp on the back of a home in the New Hope area, 3) painting of several homes in various places including two locations in Waynesboro, 4) roof repairs on a trailer in Craigsville as well as 5) a home in Parnassus, 6) replacement of decking and steps on a home off of Hopeman Parkway in Waynesboro, 7) door framing/repairs and electrical work for a home in Greenville, 8) furniture repair and refurbishment.

Photos of projects and their activities can be viewed by accessing the following link; <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qxSRLNhhhyinfE3qMA>

At the end of each workday a progress report was delivered by individual site foremen along with reporting of problems or setbacks. Following progress reporting devotions were delivered through the technology of Zoom.

Gratitude and accolades are sent to all who participated and especially those who coordinated the mission project during less than optimal conditions, Pastor April Cranford, Steve Yancey and his family, Curtis Foltz and numerous other coordinators. It was a gratifying positive experience to help and assist local community members. We look forward to next year’s Summerlee Mission.

- Mitch Lathrop, Mission Committee Member & Summerlee participant

Personnel Committee . . .



Organist/Music Director Needed

Eli will be leaving us on August 1st to continue his study of voice. (This is Eli's last Sunday so make sure to say goodbye to him!) We are actively searching for an organist/choir director. If you have suggestions, contact Bill Brubeck, Dale Thompson or Jill Webb.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in the position, please tell the person that information can be obtained by checking indeed.com: search "Choir Director" and "Virginia".

Presbyterian Women . . .

PWCT Yearbook 2020-2021

Attention All Women of the Church: The PWCT will start the process of updating the Bethel Presbyterian Women Yearbook, which lists all women of Bethel and their phone numbers. The PWCT will need your help in updates. Please make sure your correct phone number is listed - home and/or cell phone.

To make changes or corrections, 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, and prefer to receive text messages or if you would like to change from one circle to another, please tell Barb or Irene.

The deadline for changes in the yearbooks is Monday, August 10th. If you have questions, please contact the Church Office. Thank you!

Stewardship & Finance Committee . . .

Weekly Financial Report

Estimated Weekly Budget:	\$4,317.00
Offerings Received July 5th:	\$3,384.27
Offerings Received July 12th:	\$2,596.00
Offerings Received July 19th:	\$1,620.00



June Financial Report

Estimated Expenses for June:	\$18,702.00
Total June Offerings Received:	\$8,920.00



Worship Committee . . .

August Lectionary Schedule

August 2, 2020

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Genesis 32:22-31 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2020

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker: Jill Webb

Genesis 37:1-28 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33



August 16, 2020

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Genesis 45:1-15 Romans 11:1-32 Matthew 15:10-28

August 23, 2020

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 6:13-20

August 30, 2020

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Exodus 3:1-15 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

TIME OF ALL WORSHIP SERVICES: 10:00 am

LOCATION OF ALL WORSHIP SERVICES: The Chapel in the Woods - *through September*

Please Note: If the weather is rainy, worship will be held in the Sanctuary and/or Fellowship Hall (depending on the number attending). Social distancing will be observed and masks will be required. Extra masks will be available if you need one. All services will begin at 10:00 am whether we meet outdoors or indoors.

Due to the risk of infection there will not be any printed copies of the order of worship, weekly news, or Tower available at worship services. You are welcome to print out and bring your own copy of the order of worship if you wish. Thanks for understanding!

- The Bethel Worship Committee



Worship Committee (continued) . . .

Bethel's Reopening Guidelines

- *Social Distancing strongly encouraged*
- *Wearing of masks strongly encouraged*
- *Bring lawn chairs from home*
- *Outdoor bathroom facility for emergencies only*
- *No singing at this time*
- *Handshaking and/or close greeting strongly discouraged*
- *Bethel Church interior should not be accessed unless necessary*
- *Offering placed in plates as you leave, no passing of the plate*



Homecoming Sunday 2020 which is normally scheduled for the 4th Sunday in August has been cancelled for now. The Worship Committee is hoping they can reschedule this special Sunday in the fall.



Deacons Offering Schedule July 2020

Wade Cash
Tom Heizer
Charlie Johnson
Mitch Lathrop

Deacons Offering Schedule August 2020

Ellen Fitzgerald
D.W. Miller
Joe Moore
Alex Sproul

Deacons & the Offering Schedule

Due to social distancing and to avoid unnecessarily spreading germs the offering plates will not be passed. However, if you are on the Offering Schedule you will still be needed to count the offering each Sunday.

There will be hand-sanitizer along with disinfecting wipes in the Church Office for you to use both before and after you count the offering. Please leave both in the Church Office when you are done. Many thanks - your help is appreciated!

Flower Schedule August 2020

August 2nd Jo Bowman (McClure Family)
August 9th Mo Kyle
August 16th Sarah Frances Ralston
August 23rd Cathy Hill
August 30th Keedie Leonard



Worship Services will be held at the Chapel in the Woods. Flowers are still the standard to use but flowering plants and ferns are also appropriate and welcome.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Benoit Paquette (See Genesis 6-8) 08-26-1999

YES, I'M AWARE THAT OUR PROJECT DOESN'T MEET YOUR BUILDING CODE ... TELL YOU WHAT, JUST GIVE ME A WEEK

Bethel Youth & Youth Committee News & Notes . . .

The Bethel Youth completed a clean-up and yard work day with Doris True. They assisted with the flower beds, along with weeding and mulching. It was an awesome day with 5 young adults and youth, along with 3 adults working together.

The Youth also have two more jobs being scheduled!

If you need help with getting yard work or outdoor clean-up accomplished, please feel free to contact Brian! Tasks that are offered, but are not limited to, include: leaf and grass raking, flower bed maintenance, removal of debris from storms, and mulching. (Cost of supplies and/or any other out-of-pocket expenditures will be the only cost for home jobs; i.e. mulch, flowers for planting, etc.) Hauling of any materials you need us to purchase will be done with care.

Brian Lee, Youth Committee Chair

Youth Committee Members 2020-2021:

Cindy Almarode, Derek Almarode, Ellen Fitzgerald, Penny Lee, Katie McElveen

Happy Birthday & Anniversary - August . . .



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



Penny & Brian Lee	August 1, 2009
Sarah & Dustin Smith	August 2, 2014
Libby & Dale C. Smith	August 3, 1963
Pat & Allen Quick	August 9, 1986
Barbara & Larry Damico	August 10, 1985
Laura & Bob Barmore	August 12, 1977
Georganne & John Ludt	August 22, 1970
Gloria & Benny Potter	September 1, 1973

Special Thanks . . .

Thanks to Wade Cash for both mowing the road and cleaning up debris around the Chapel in the Woods area!



Thanks to Donna Bush for making face masks that can be given out to those who need them.

Thanks also goes to Vicki Langdon for donating face masks from the Green Hills Garden Club that can be given out to those who need them.

Community News & Notes . . .



BACK TO SCHOOL

School resumes on Tuesday, August 18th, 2020! Due to social distancing, a limited number of students will attend school on Tuesday and Thursday while the other group will attend Wednesday and Friday. All schools will be closed on Mondays so they can be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

As school resumes on the 18th, please watch out for school buses along with children walking to and from school.

AUGUSTA HEALTH VISITOR GUIDELINES



Augusta Health has resumed limited visitation again, allowing one visitor at a time per patient, with some exceptions. They know that family and friends help with the healing process! Please have patience and follow the modified guidelines and safety practices that have been implemented. They are for everyone's protection in reducing the risk of COVID-19.




ALL VISITORS WILL:

- *Not have symptoms of COVID-19
- *Be screened every time they enter an Augusta Health facility
- *Have their temperature checked and perform hand hygiene at entry
- *Wear a mask for the duration of their visit
- *Practice social distancing
- *Limit coming and going from a patients room
- *Perform hand hygiene when leaving or entering a patient's room

BE COMPLETELY
HUMBLE
&
GENTLE
BE PATIENT
BEARING WITH
ONE ANOTHER
IN LOVE
EPH 4:2



August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>2 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)</i></p>						1
<p>3 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4 12:00 - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline for the 9th</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)</i> 3:00 - Session Meeting <i>(Zoom)</i></p>	<p>10 7:00 - Boy Scouts Deadline: Presbyterian Women 2020-2021 Yearbook Updates</p>	<p>11 12:00 - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline for the 16th</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)</i></p>	<p>17 12:00 - August Tower Deadline 12:00 - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline for the 23rd & 30th 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:00 - Riverheads WRE Meeting at WRE Building</p>	<p>18 First Day of School for Augusta County </p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)</i></p>	<p>24 Church Office Closed <i>(Adrienne on vacation 24th - 27th)</i> 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>25 Church Office Closed <i>(Adrienne on vacation)</i></p>	<p>26 Church Office Closed <i>(Adrienne on vacation)</i></p>	<p>27 Church Office Closed <i>(Adrienne on vacation)</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 </p>
<p>30 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)</i></p>	<p>31 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>					