

The Tower



September 2020 &
Sunday, August 23rd & 30th, 2020

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www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

A Note on the Tower & Weekly News . . .

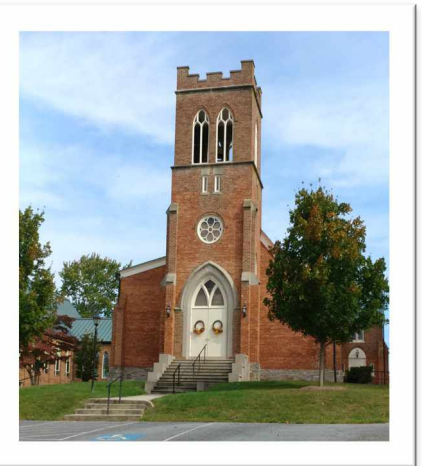
Please note that the Bethel September Tower newsletter and the Bethel Weekly Message for this Sunday, August 23rd and Sunday, August 30th has been combined in this publication, since the Tower was regularly scheduled to be published and mailed this week. A few printed copies are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. Blessings to you in the coming weeks and month!

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

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair..."

- Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

Charles Dickens wrote his historic novel of the French Revolution in 1859. He tells of a time filled with chaos, conflict, belief, and happiness. January 2020 started off with the stock market at an all time high, unemployment was the lowest it has been in years, and life was looking pretty good. March ushered in COVID-19, May gave us protest and riots and August starts the campaign for Presidential election, 2020 has seen it all, with four more months to go. Dickens's opening paragraph could have been written today describing what we have witnessed in 2020. Rev. Malcolm Brownlee's sermon on August 2nd touched on the same message of despair with faith and happiness, using Psalm 23.



"He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and staff they comfort me."

- Psalm 23:2-4

As the rest of 2020 unfolds, there will be good times and bad times but through it all God will "restore my soul".

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Outdoor services will continue through the month of September, using Face mask/coverings and using Social Distancing seating. We will resume inside services with World Communion October 4th at our normal Sunday service time of 11:00 am.

The LORD gives strength to His people; the LORD blesses His people with peace.

- Psalm 29:11



We will follow phase 3 guidelines for being inside:

- ◆ No greeters
- ◆ No bulletins
- ◆ No singing
- ◆ Social distancing seating (rows are taped off); families may sit together
- ◆ Offering plates will be on stands at all doors
- ◆ Once inside please stay in and once outside please stay out
- ◆ No social gathering in Memorial Hall or other rooms
- ◆ “ Wearing of face coverings or face shields are strongly suggested for entering and leaving, seating at Social Distancing are required”

- Motion passed by the Bethel Session on August 9th

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” - Colossians 3:13-14

- Tamara Barbour, Elder

GUEST SPEAKER - AUGUST 23RD

GUEST
speaker

Bethel welcomes Mr. Mark Wilson as the Guest Speaker on August 23rd. Mark is from Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church in Ft. Defiance where he is an Elder and Trustee. He has done pulpit supply for a number of local Presbyterian churches, most recently from Hebron Presbyterian Church. Please let Mark know how much we appreciate his being with us!

GUEST MINISTER - AUGUST 30TH

GUEST
speaker

Bethel welcomes the Rev. Malcolm Brownlee as the Guest Minister on August 30th. Rev. Brownlee grew up in Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, and moved back there 10 years ago to retire. He has been pastor of churches in Hazard, Kentucky; Riverdale, Georgia; and Huntersville, North Carolina, and interim pastor of churches in Lexington, North Carolina; Beckley, West Virginia, and Fairfield and Rockbridge Baths, Virginia. From 1973 till 1984 he and his wife Sarah were missionaries in Indonesia. Bethel was one of their supporting churches during that time. Please let Rev. Brownlee know how much we appreciate his being with us!

The flowering plants at the chapel on August 23rd are given by Cathy Hill in loving memory of her parents, Alfred & Sara Cash.



The flowering plants at the chapel on August 30th are given to the Glory of God by Keedie Leonard.

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

ELDER-ON-CALL SEPTEMBER 2020

If you have a pastoral need during the month of September please contact Derek Almarode.

(540) 280-4940 (call or text)
almarodes@verizon.net

Church Attendance
August 16th - 25



THE GENDER DIVERSITY REPORT JUST CAME IN AND THE NUMBERS DON'T LOOK GOOD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 23rd

Mark Wilson, Guest Speaker

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel
in the Woods

(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)



Monday, August 24th

Church Office Closed

(Adrienne on vacation 24th - 27th)

7:00 pm Boy Scouts



Tuesday, August 25th

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, August 26th

Church Office Closed



Thursday, August 27th

Church Office Closed



Sunday, August 30th

Rev. Malcolm Brownlee, Guest Minister

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel
in the Woods

(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)

Monday, August 31st

7:00 pm Boy Scouts



Tuesday, September 1st

12:00 pm Bulletin & Weekly
News Deadline for
September 6th

Sunday, September 6th

Mark Wilson, Guest Speaker

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel
in the Woods

*(if raining please meet in
Sanctuary)*



Session News & Notes . . .

The Session met August 9th, 2020 with Rev. Patrick Pettit as Moderator and nine members present. The Session used Zoom to meet virtually.

- The minutes of the last Session meetings were approved.
- The Session approved an updated copy of the Wedding Policy for all weddings held at Bethel. This project has been in the approval process for a few years as revisions and changes were made.
- The Deacons have purchased four touchless hand sanitizer dispensers to place at the entrances of the church, to be available for use when worship is held inside.
- The Session passed a motion to strongly recommend the wearing of face coverings during the worship services when entering and exiting the Sanctuary. This policy is for all indoor worship services.
- The Session agreed to a future plan to possibly erect a 40-foot flagpole, on the knoll below the Scout Hut, to memorialize all veterans. Veterans will also be invited for small dedication services when the project is complete.

David Schooley,
Clerk of Session

Church Office News & Notes . . .

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.


Adrienne will be back in the office on Monday, August 31st at 9:00 am. Thanks!



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

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



 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** The October Tower Newsletter Deadline will be Monday, September 21st, 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 21st! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?.

Church Office News & Notes (continued) . . .

If you have a mailbox please remember to check and clean it out occasionally. The mail is starting to pile up in some of the mailboxes! Though the pandemic has slowed things down the mail hasn't stopped!

The Presbyterian Planning Calendars for 2020-2021 have arrived. Many thanks to Tom & Tammy Barbour for going to Harrisonburg to pick them up!



Congregational Care Committee . . .

Bethel Prayer List

(updated 8/19/20)

New Addition: Family of Mark Sawyer esp Mark's widow Kathleen
(Jill Webb's cousin)

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	Joe Fleming	Matt Koogler
David Law	Mattie Marsh	Roy Pilson
Jamie Pirkey	Van Pirkey	Barbara Shaner
Beth Shaw	Lee & Katie Simonds	Walter Wade
Dennis & Sarah Russell & Family		

Sympathies & Condolences

Rev. Roxana Atwood & Family
Family & Friends of Bobbye D'Orsi

Community, Country, & World

Doctors, nurses, & those in healthcare including volunteers who are working with COVID-19 patients
All Military Leaders & Personnel
Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers
Michael & Rachel Weller, Missionaries in Ethiopia

Personnel Committee . . .

Organist/Music Director Needed

At this time we are actively searching for an organist/choir director. If you have any suggestions, please 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".



Stewardship & Finance Committee . . .

Weekly Financial Report

Estimated Weekly Budget:
\$4,317.00

Offerings Received August 2nd:
\$2,200.00

Offerings Received August 9th: \$2,630.00

Offerings Received August 16th: \$2,212.00



July Financial Report

Estimated Expenses for July:
\$18,702.00

Total July Offerings Received:
\$9,017.00



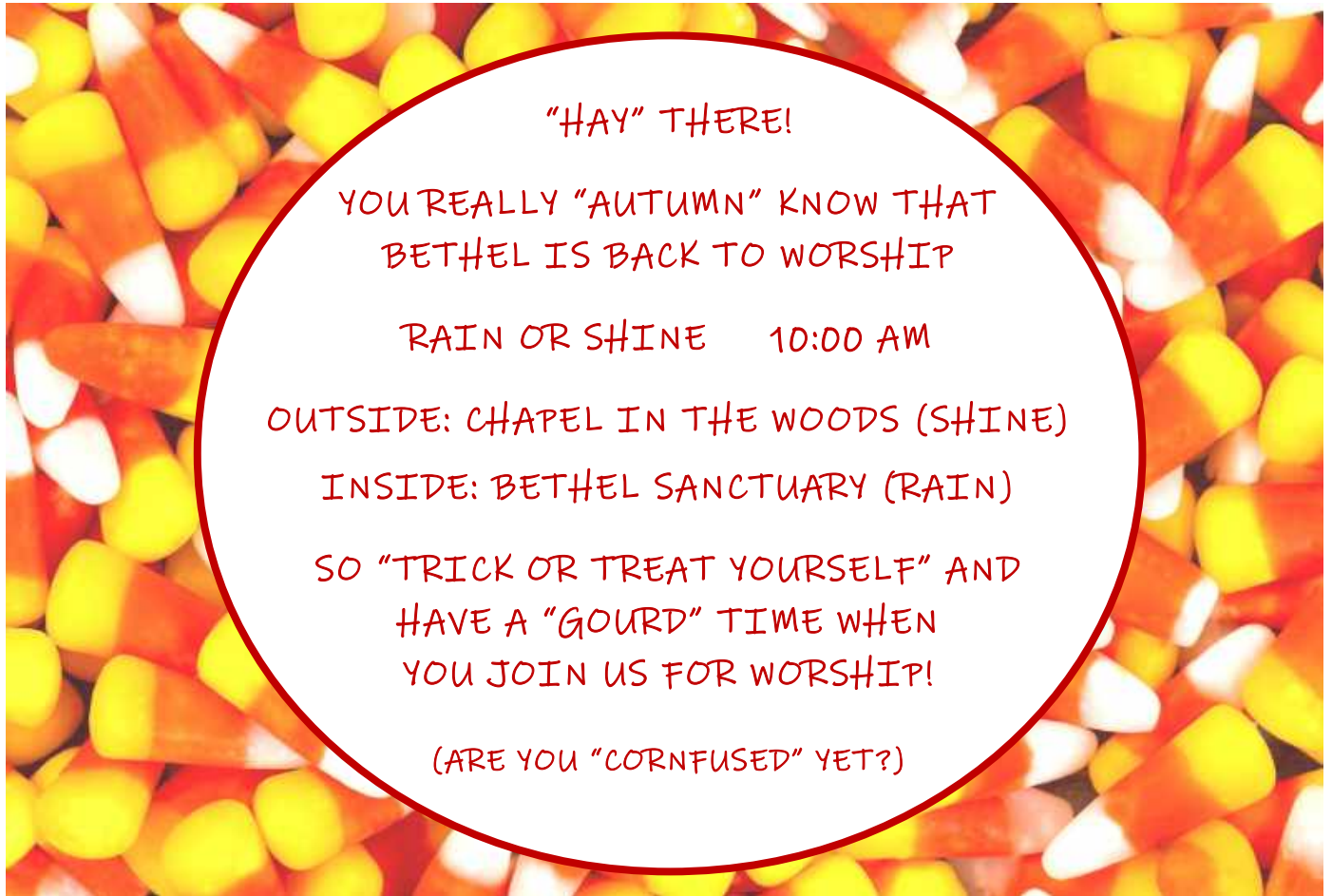
Worship Committee . . .

If possible please print out and/or bring a copy of the Order of Worship with you each Sunday. It will be needed for the responsive Call to Worship and any other unison readings.

Due to the risk of infection we are unable to provide any printed copies of the order of worship, weekly news, or Tower available at worship services. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding!

Bethel's Guidelines to Reduce the Risk of Infection

- Social Distancing strongly encouraged
- Wearing of masks strongly encouraged
- Bring lawn chairs from home if worshipping at the chapel
- Bathroom facilities for emergencies only
- No singing at this time
- Handshaking and/or close greeting strongly discouraged
- Offering placed in plates as you leave, no passing of the plate



September Lectionary Schedule

September 6th, 2020 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson
Exodus 12: 1-14 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

September 13th, 2020 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Speaker: Brian Lee
Exodus 14:19-31 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

September 20th, 2020 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode
Exodus 16:2-15 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

September 27th, 2020 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode
Exodus 17:1-7 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32



Worship Committee (continued) . . .

September
Worship
Leaders:

Derek
Almarode &
Brian Lee



“The grass withers &
the flowers fall,
but God’s word
stands forever.

- Isaiah 40:8



Flower Schedule September 2020

September 6th Jill Webb (Memorial)
September 13th Lucy Sproul
September 20th Jackie Law
September 27th Ginny Gano (Memorial)

Worship Services will be held at the Chapel in the Woods (unless the weather is rainy, then in the Sanctuary). Flowers are still the standard to use but flowering plants and ferns are also appropriate and welcome.



Birthdays & Anniversaries - September . . .



Dale Goodson	September 2	Harleigh Lee	September 21
Charlie Johnson	September 2	Sarah Smith	September 21
Margaret Liptrap	September 5	Lily Damico	September 23
Wade Cash	September 6	Olivia Damico	September 23
Beth Miller	September 6	Scott Hughes	September 23
Charley Schooley	September 9	Dylan Morris	September 23
Nancy Webster	September 9	Lynne Morris	September 23
Jeb Stuart	September 10	Samantha Moore	September 28
Billy Wade, III	September 10	Robin Moffett	September 29
Shelby Myers	September 11	Donna Bush	September 30
Ashley Nelson	September 12		
Doris True	September 14		
Bill Brubeck	September 15	Bruce Lamond	October 1
Tim Turner	September 17	Isabelle Bosserman	October 5



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

Bethany & Larry Fresh October 5, 1991

HEALTH EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM, INC.

c/o Glossbrenner United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 1016

Churchville, VA 24421

Dear Church Community,

YOU can make a difference in your community by joining hands with the Health Equipment Loan Program, Inc. (H.E.L.P.) located in Churchville. ***With your support we can continue to provide no-cost loans of gently-used home medical equipment free of charge to residents of Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County.*** For many, these products are not covered by health insurance or are under-covered leaving them with costs that they cannot afford, especially now with the added challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since our launch in September 2014, the all-volunteer staff have opened the H.E.L.P. doors and their hearts in over 3500 instances to assist nearly 1100 area families. We have grown from a small collection of gently-used medical equipment (like walkers, bedside commodes and wheelchairs) to over 3500 pieces of equipment including hospital beds, lifts, shower items and numerous disposable items. Most of these were collected from our community and purchased through grant awards and donations.

The kindness and concern shared by H.E.L.P. volunteers, as they work to match individual needs to equipment and supplies, serve to lighten worries and lift spirits as illustrated by a recent thank-you note:

"Thank you for the wonderful work you do. I was distraught when I arrived at your door exactly one week ago. My husband had a fall and hit his head and was not able to walk without support. He had been sitting in a chair at home for 3 days and I did not know what to do. Someone told me to google H.E.L.P. so I came to you last week. What a relief!! You were all so kind! Thank you!"

We have been blessed in our God-led mission as our overcrowded facility testifies. **But H.E.L.P. needs a home!** The business owner, who has generously provided H.E.L.P. a home over the past 5 years, plans to retire in September 2020!! The business, Churchville Pump Service, will continue under new ownership in a new location.

After looking at a variety of locations, we have decided our best option is to stay where we are. So we have started a Capital Campaign aimed at raising \$200,000 to purchase and remodel our current location to better serve YOU! We have raised nearly \$50,000 to date.

H.E.L.P. needs YOUR help! We are asking area churches to support us in this local outreach by either sending a check made payable to H.E.L.P., Inc. or donating electronically via the secure Donate button at our website <https://medicalcloset.org>.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook to watch our progress and witness God's Hand in our future together! Thank you for your support and may God continue to bless your ministries.

Your grateful H.E.L.P. volunteer staff

Hi, I'm a volunteer from Lock Willow Presbyterian Church. Please pray for this. We need help. Thank you!

Betty Shuber

PHONE 540-324-6186

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/HelpHealthEquipmentLoanProgram

WEBSITE www.medicalcloset.org



In case you have never heard of HELP I can testify how wonderful & needed they are. Health equipment can be expensive and many times insurance and/or Medicare won't cover purchases. They were wonderful when my father-in-law was in palliative care - so helpful & kind in helping us get what we needed. Circumstances would have been much more difficult without their assistance. - Adrienne Barker, Office Manager

Riverheads Weekday Religious Education

This month Bethel is taking a moment to highlight and update you on the work of the Weekday Religious Education (WRE) program, which Bethel is a supporter of, at Riverheads Elementary School. WRE classes started Tuesday, August 18th, which was also the first day of school for Augusta County. Guidelines regarding COVID-19 will be encouraged: wearing a mask, social distancing, hand sanitizer as the students come in and out of the building, and cleaning and sanitizing the classroom for each new group of students.

Each child has a basket of their own materials to use in the WRE classroom so the sharing of supplies will not be necessary.

Dana Cash is excited that WRE classes have resumed! She is also beginning her 33rd year of teaching WRE. Cathy Bartley has agreed to assist Dana which will make possible all the new changes and scheduling challenges forced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donations are needed to purchase individual boxes of crayons, markers, and pencils for the students. If you can donate to this important project please make your check payable to “Riverheads WRE” and mail your contribution to:

***Riverheads WRE
PO Box 352
Greenville, VA 24440***

Thank you for your continued interest, support and prayers as we begin a new school year in our wonderful Riverheads WRE building.




- Riverheads WRE Council



September 7th - Labor Day
September 11th - Patriot Day
September 22nd - Autumn Begins



September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 12:00 - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline for the 6th	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)</i>	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed 	8 12:00 - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline for the 13th	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12
13 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 - Session Meeting <i>(Zoom)</i>	14 7:00 - Boy Scouts	15 12:00 - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline for the 20th	16	17 Constitution Day & Citizenship Day	18 Wedding Rehearsal	19 Wedding
20 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)</i>	21 International Day of Peace 12:00 - September Tower Deadline 12:00 - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline for the 27th 7:00 - Boy Scouts	22 Autumn Begins 	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods <i>(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)</i>	28 7:00 - Boy Scouts	29 12:00 - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline for October 4th	30			