

# The Tower



October 2020 &  
Sunday, September 27th, 2020

\*563 Bethel Green Road\* Staunton, Virginia 24401\*

\*(540) 886-6041 \*bethelpc@gmail.com\*

\*www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org\*

## A Note on the Tower & Weekly News . . .

Please note: the Bethel October Tower newsletter and the Bethel Weekly Message for this Sunday, September 27th were both scheduled for distribution this week, and are combined in this publication. A few printed copies are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. Blessings to you in the coming week and month!

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

This has been a year we could have never imagined. Because of the pandemic, we were unable to participate in most of our normal mission events. Summerlee Mission happened this year locally instead of in West Virginia. Our fundraisers to support the mission work Bethel normally participates in, had to be postponed.

We have an upcoming mission that we can participate in. Samaritan's Purse collects world Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and delivers them to children in need, around the world.

The Mission Committee is asking each family to fill a shoebox and return it to Memorial Hall by Sunday, November 15th. You will find the information about this program on the cart in Memorial Hall. Please fill your shoebox and return it to the cart.



*"Each box is an opportunity for a boy or girl who may not receive anything else for Christmas, to experience the love of God, in a tangible way and hear the Gospel."*

*"Every shoebox gift is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's about telling children around the world and their families that God loves them. He hasn't forgotten them."*

Please help in filling a shoebox and returning it to Memorial Hall by November 15th.

In Christ,  
Kathy Swisher,  
Elder



*Bethel Presbyterian Church*

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Staunton, Virginia 24401

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Dear Bethel Family,

Over the past several years there has been growing concern from members of our congregation about the deeply rooted problems evangelical Presbyterians face in a denomination that has been moving further and further from its biblical roots. As officers of our church, the question has risen on multiple occasions in both leadership bodies (Church Elders and Church Deacons) as to where do we go from here?

Please know that we began to answer that question several years ago. We have been thoughtfully and prayerfully, yet with full awareness of the issues surrounding these matters, trying to answer this question. As leaders within the church, we have tried to be as honest as we can about the serious problems we face in our current denomination. For a very long time, we have erred on the side of caution and tried our best not to overreact. We have acted in the best interest of the church and the church family. We've discussed these matters a lot, but we took a more Christian approach and tried to be optimistic and look on the bright side of things and trust through prayer in the Lord's intervention.

As you know we focused on the vision and the mission of the church and we prayed and we believed that things within the PCUSA will, by God's grace, improve. However, in light of past and present events within the General Assembly, our positive approach seems to be doomed. The modern movement within the PCUSA shows no signs of abating, and, in fact, has gone into hyper acceleration. The actions of the 224th session provide striking illustrations of this acceleration.

As officers of the church who are responsible for the spiritual leadership and growth of "this" congregation, we cannot, and will not, live in denial anymore. There are deep theological cracks within our denomination and the trend we are facing and quite frankly fighting is increasingly negative. We can no longer close our eyes to these happenings and focus on our singular church ignoring these denominational issues because our mission as a church is being impacted and as stated in many previous discussions, our mission is being hampered by our denominational connection.

Thus, with great support from the active congregational membership as well as congregants who have left as a result of this situation and who are anxiously awaiting this decision to return to Bethel, the Session took action. With a tremendous amount of heartfelt prayer and discernment, the Session voted unanimously on September 13, 2020 in its monthly Session meeting, to begin the process to dissolve its relationship with the PCUSA. The Session, by unanimous vote, moved to engage in the gracious dismissal policy established by the Shenandoah Presbytery and the PCUSA.

It is the intent of the Session to meet with the full congregation in the coming weeks to discuss this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any officer to discuss.

In Christ's Service,  
Bethel Elders

All (Active) Bethel Members should have received a copy of the letter (on page 2) by email or the USPS. Please note that we are just beginning the process and we will be meeting with church members soon to answer all questions and listen to all comments and concerns. In the meantime please feel free to contact (call, text, email) any of the Elders listed below. We'll be happy to listen to your concerns and talk with you. - The Bethel Session



Derek Almarode	(540) 280-4940	almarodes@verizon.net
Tammy Barbour	(540) 471-0450	barbour.tamara@yahoo.com
Bill Brubeck	(540) 290-1172	brubeck@mgwnet.com
Brian Lee	(540) 649-3020	grumpybrian1972@gmail.com
David Schooley	(540) 255-6070	dschooley05@gmail.com
Kathy Swisher	(540) 885-7397	kswisher@gmail.com
Tim Turner	(540) 448-1431	timturner@lumos.net
Jill Webb	(540) 294-5770	jlwebb320@comcast.net

GUEST SPEAKER  
SEPTEMBER 27TH



Bethel welcomes our very own Derek Almarode as the Guest Speaker. We appreciate Derek's willingness to help with the worship service this morning!

Derek is active in the life and ministry of Bethel by serving as an Elder and serving as the Chair or Co-Chair for several committees including Christian Education, Continuing Education Loan, and Stewardship & Finance. Derek lives in Augusta County with wife Cindy and daughter Ashlyn.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday, September 27th

Derek Almarode, Guest Speaker  
10:00 am Worship at the Chapel  
in the Woods  
*(if raining please meet in Sanctuary)*

Monday, September 28th

7:00 pm Boy Scouts



Tuesday, September 29th

12:00 pm Bulletin & Weekly News  
Deadline for October 4th &  
October 11th

Sunday, October 4th

Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao,  
Guest Minister  
11:00 am Worship & Communion  
*(please meet in Sanctuary)*



The flowering plants at the chapel are given by Dan & Ginny Gano in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Gano, Lt. Col. & Mrs. James Bundy, and Lt. Col. & Mrs. Terrence Shaw.



Church Attendance  
September 20th - 33

## Session News & Notes . . .

The Session met on September 13th, 2020, with Rev. Patrick Pettit as Moderator and nine members present. The meeting was held in the Bethel Fellowship Hall with proper social distancing observed.

- The minutes of the last meetings were approved.
- The Youth Committee reported they have completed three yard work projects for our members. Great job Bethel Youth!
- The Session reviewed plans for our upcoming Communion service on October 4th, using prepackaged elements.
- The Session approved a motion unanimously to pursue the gracious dismissal of Bethel Presbyterian Church from the PCUSA. There will be an upcoming meeting of the congregation to review the reasons and layout the future. This will require several meetings and a vote by the congregation. Please pray for us, as we begin the process.

David Schooley,  
Clerk of Session

### 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

### ELDER-ON-CALL OCTOBER 2020

If you have a pastoral need during the month of October please contact Tammy Barbour.

(540) 471-0450 (call or text)  
barbour.tamara@yahoo.com

## Church Office News & Notes . . .

 Please have all information for the October 4th & October 11th Weekly News to the Church Office by this Tuesday (September 29th) at noon.

Due to circumstances from the pandemic the “Daily Family Devotions” will not be available for the next quarter. The publishers hope to resume printing in 2021.

**Temporarily Unavailable**

The “These Days” for the next quarter (Oct, Nov, Dec) are still available in Memorial Hall & the vestibule.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, October 5th through Thursday, October 8th while Adrienne is on vacation.



If you have a pastoral need please contact the Elder-on-Call (Tammy Barbour) and she will be happy to assist you.

Adrienne will be back in the office on Monday, October 12th, at 9:00 am. Thanks!

## Church Office News & Notes (continued) . . .

**Can you help out?** If you would be willing to help out in the Bethel Office while I'm on vacation in October 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  
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from IPTC photomedia)

Many thanks to Jill Webb & Tammy Barbour for helping out with Church Office tasks while I was on vacation in August! And thanks to Alex Sproul for checking and picking up the mail! Also, thanks to Bob Olson who checked and picked up the mail daily during the shutdown this past spring! You all are the best!



The November Tower Newsletter & October 25th Weekly News deadlines will be Monday, October 19th, 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](mailto:bethelpc@gmail.com). We welcome and appreciate early submissions before the 19th! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?



## What's Happening

All information printed in the Weekly News and Tower is subject to editing. Adrienne does not edit the information but rather has several proofreaders that help with this task weekly with the Weekly News and monthly with the Tower. Please do not be upset if something you wrote is changed. It may have been edited for any number of reasons and is not anything personal against you. Thank you!



Monday - Thursday  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
*(as circumstances allow)*  
*(Lunch usually taken  
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm)*



## Stewardship & Finance Committee . . .

### Weekly Financial Report

Estimated Weekly Budget:	\$4,317.00
Offerings September 6th:	\$2,075.00
Offerings September 13th:	\$3,431.00
Offerings September 20th:	\$1,152.00

### August Financial Report

Estimated Expenses for August:  
\$18,702.00  
  
Total August Offerings Received:  
\$9,773.00



*Bethel Prayer List*

(updated 9/19/20)

New Additions: Ginny Gano  
Family of Rob Schnurr

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

Sympathies & Condolences      Family & Friends of Bobbye D'Orsi  
Family of Mark Sawyer

Community, Country, & World

Doctors, nurses, & those who work in healthcare including volunteers  
All Military Leaders & Personnel  
Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers  
Michael & Rachel Weller, Missionaries in Ethiopia



"HAY" THERE!

YOU REALLY "AUTUMN" KNOW THAT  
BETHEL IS BACK TO WORSHIP

RAIN OR SHINE NOW AT 11:00 AM

OUTSIDE: CHAPEL IN THE WOODS (SHINE)

INSIDE: BETHEL SANCTUARY (COLD &/OR RAIN)

(Please note we will meet in the Sanctuary on  
October 4th regardless of the weather)

SO "TRICK OR TREAT YOURSELF" AND  
HAVE A "GOURD" TIME WHEN YOU  
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

(ARE YOU "CORNFUSED" YET?)

### World Communion Sunday

October 4th, 2020 11:00 am

*(please meet in the Sanctuary regardless of weather)*

On Sunday, October 4th, we will meet in the Sanctuary to celebrate World Communion Sunday.

Please follow the guidelines below for when we worship indoors:

- ◆ 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, 2020*

Instructions for Holy Communion on October 4th, 2020

Communion during the COVID-19 pandemic will be normal except for how Elders will hand out the elements. Instead of Elders bringing the elements to each person, you will pick up a pre-made communion kit at the door. This kit is pre-packaged with both bread and juice. Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao will conduct the usual Prayer of Thanksgiving and when it is time to partake of the elements, she will say, "The bread of Life take and eat". Pick up your pre-packaged communion kit, tear off the seal - the bread will be there - and we will take the bread together. (Note that there will be gluten free kits available but there are only six kits total. Please only take one if you have gluten sensitivities or an allergy.) After a moment or two, Rev. Meehan-Yao will say "the cup of salvation ", remove the seal on your cup and we will then drink the juice together. Trash bins will be available at the door for used sets. Elders will be present on each side and in back to help when needed, keeping social distancing guidelines.



October Lectionary Schedule - ALL SERVICES ARE NOW AT 11:00 AM

\*October 4th, 2020

18th Sunday after Pentecost  
World Communion Sunday  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
Guest Minister: Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao  
Isaiah 5:1-7          Philippians 3:4-14          Matthew 21:33-46

(\*Please note we will meet in the Sanctuary on October 4th regardless of the weather)



October 11th, 2020

19th Sunday after Pentecost  
Guest Minister: Rev. Melissa Harmon  
Isaiah 25:1-9          Philippians 4:1-9          Matthew 22:1-14



October 18th, 2020

20th Sunday after Pentecost  
Guest Minister: Rev. Melissa Harmon  
Isaiah 45:1-7          1 Thessalonians 1:1-10          Matthew 22:15-22

October 25th, 2020

21st Sunday after Pentecost  
Reformation Sunday  
Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson  
Leviticus 19:1-18          1 Thessalonians 2:1-8          Matthew 22:34-46



## Worship Committee (continued) . . .

October  
Worship  
Leaders:

Derek  
Almarode &  
Brian Lee



## Many thanks! . . .

Evelyn LaPorte would like to thank her entire church family for the many visits, cards, and prayers during her lengthy stay in the hospital. The thoughtfulness and kind words of so many brought comfort during a difficult time. Evelyn is home now, and she and Kenneth are doing well.



## Birthdays - October . . .



Bruce Lamond	October 1	Sarah Ralston	October 22
Isabelle Bosserman	October 5	Debbie Hughes	October 24
Jane Law	October 7	Libby Smith	October 24
Emily Williams	October 7	Mark Wade	October 25
Adrienne Barker	October 8	Eloise Moore	October 27
Pat Quick	October 11	Diane Wright	October 27
Tish Folsom	October 12	Dinah Johnston	October 28
Louise Hoy	October 14	John Pilson	October 31
Evelyn LaPorte	October 16	Carol Sprouse	October 31
Dale K. Smith	October 17		
Dan Gano	October 21	Leona Ware	November 1

## Flower Schedule October 2020

### ALL SERVICES START AT 11:00 AM

\*October 4th Drury Whitaker  
(World Communion Sunday)

*\*worship will be in the Sanctuary  
regardless of weather*

October 11th Doris True

October 18th Jane Law (Memorial)

October 25th Laura Barmore (Memorial)

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



Anniversaries - October . . .



Bethany & Larry Fresh  
 Keedie & Kyle Leonard  
 Paige & Andrew Heizer  
 Mary Ann & John Anderson  
 Myra & Roscoe Botkin, Jr.

October 5, 1991  
 October 14  
 October 14, 2017  
 October 29, 1955  
 October 31, 1998

Lee Ann & Tom Heizer  
 Luanne & Sam Leonard




November 1, 1985  
 November 1, 1980



October 12th      Columbus Day  
 October 31st      Halloween



# October 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> <i>World Communion Sunday</i> <b>11:00 am</b> - Worship & Communion <i>(service in Sanctuary)</i> 12:00 pm - Deacons Meeting	<b>5</b> *Church Office Closed 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts  *Adrienne on vacation October 5th - October 8th	<b>6</b> Church Office Closed	<b>7</b> Church Office Closed	<b>8</b> Church Office Closed	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Afternoon Wedding - Chapel in the Woods
<b>11</b> <b>11:00 am</b> - Worship <i>(at the Chapel if weather is nice, Sanctuary if not)</i> 7:00 pm - Session Meeting	<b>12</b> Columbus Day 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts 	<b>13</b> 12:00 pm - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline <i>(for Sunday the 18th)</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>11:00 am</b> - Worship <i>(at the Chapel if weather is nice, Sanctuary if not)</i>	<b>19</b> 12:00 pm - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline <i>(for Sunday the 25th)</i> 12:00 pm - November Tower Deadline 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Afternoon Wedding - Chapel in the Woods
<b>25</b> <b>11:00 am</b> - Worship <i>(at the Chapel if weather is nice, Sanctuary if not)</i> Names for All Saints' Service Deadline	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> 12:00 pm - Bulletin & Weekly News Deadline <i>(for Sunday, Nov 1st)</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Halloween 

Bethel Church Session

Class of 2021

Derek Almarode  
\*Bill Brubeck  
Pat Quick  
Kathy Swisher

Class of 2022

Jimmy Callison  
\*\*Bob Olson  
Dave Schooley  
Tim Turner

Class of 2023

Tamara Barbour  
Brian Lee  
Dale Thompson  
Jill Webb,

Clerk of Session

Dave Schooley

\*Serving a one year term

\*\*Serving a two year term

Bethel Church Deacons

Class of 2021

Katie McElveen  
Joe Moore  
Linda Tenney

Class of 2022

Wade Cash  
\*\*Ellen Fitzgerald  
Charlie Johnson  
\*\*Alex Sproul

Class of 2023

Tom Heizer  
Mitch Lathrop  
D.W. Miller

Co-Chair Wade Cash

Co-Chair Charlie Johnson Secretary Linda Tenney

\*\*Serving a two year term

Bethel Church Trustees

Class of 2021

Charlie Johnson  
Dale C. Smith

Class of 2022

Bill Brubeck  
James Williams

Class of 2023

Guy D. Brooks  
Lee Ann Heizer

Bethel Church Staff

Adrienne Barker, Office Manager  
Bethel Office Days & Hours:

(540) 886-6041

Monday - Thursday

[bethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:bethelpc@gmail.com)

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

JoAnn Pendley, Bell Choir Director

Alex Sproul, Sound & Video

Kay Thompson, Receiving Treasurer

Lori Miller, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians