

The Tower



February 2021 &
Sunday, February 7th, 2021

*563 Bethel Green Road*Staunton, Virginia 24401*

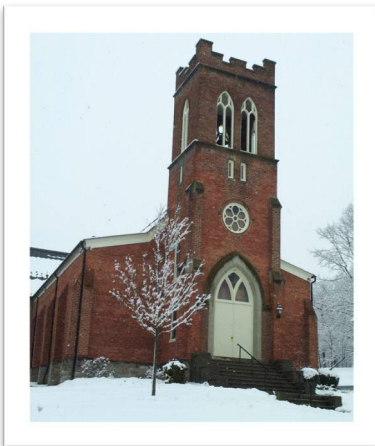
*(540)886-6041 *bethelpc@gmail.com*

www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

A Note on the Tower & Weekly News

Please Note: The Bethel February Tower newsletter and the Bethel Weekly News for Sunday, February 7th are combined in this publication. Apologies for the delay with the February Tower! Blessings to you in the coming weeks and month!

As This Elder Sees It & The Weekly Message



“The most powerful thing in your life is your opportunity; it is also most irretrievable. We must have clearness of vision and a quiet mind if we are to see it, and lay hands upon it as it hurries past us on very quiet feet and disappears as utterly as the day has gone.” - Amy Carmichael

As I write this article on January 20th, Inauguration Day, the most common phrase used by both political parties is their “honor to serve this great nation”. The most difficult, hardest job in America, but neither Joe Biden nor Donald Trump missed their opportunity to serve their fellow citizens. Serving others on any level, in any capacity is one of life’s greatest opportunities and most satisfying achievements.

Bethel’s future lies in the hands of those willing to serve God and Bethel Church. This is your opportunity to stand up and help guide Bethel into its 275th year and beyond. Church membership is declining across America, here in the valley and here at Bethel. Now is the time to listen for those quiet feet of opportunity, envision the future and your part in it. Do not make the mistake of telling God what you can and cannot do, He knows and has a plan for each of us.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

- Jeremiah 29:11-13

If you have been asked or nominated to serve as an officer of Bethel, I hope you will let God work with you and through you, for Bethel. Trust God to lead and guide you.

In Christian Love,
Tammy Barbour, Elder

General Church News & Information

LOVE PEOPLE
The way that
JESUS LOVES YOU

With worship and church activities suspended, you are encouraged to continue praying for your friends, family, church, and country. Check on each other whether by phone calls, cards, text messages and/or emails.

Likewise, if you need help with anything or need someone to talk with please feel free to reach out and contact the Elder-on-Call (page 3) or one of the Elders listed below. Until we can return to worship together on March 7th, maintaining unity within the church is the priority.

Weekly Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 7th

Super Bowl Sunday!



Monday, February 8th

Church Office Closed

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, February 9th

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Church Office Hours

12:00 pm Deadline: Weekly News
(February 14th)

Wednesday, February 10th

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Church Office
Hours



Thursday, February 11th

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Church Office Hours

Friday, February 12th

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Church Office Hours



Sunday, February 14th

Happy Valentine's Day!

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

7:00 pm Session Meeting
(Locations: Zoom &
Fellowship Hall)

Session News & Notes

If you need help with anything or need someone to talk with please feel free to contact the Elder-on-Call (page 3) or any of the Elders listed below.

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

Pat Quick (540) 337-4259
quickp@comcast.net

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

Session News & Notes *(continued)*

ELDER-ON-CALL

FEBRUARY 2021

If you have a pastoral need please contact Derek Almarode.

(540) 280-4940 (call or text)

almarodes@verizon.net



JANUARY SESSION NEWS

The Session met January 10th, 2021 with Rev. Patrick Pettit as Moderator and eleven Elders present. The meeting was in the Fellowship Hall with proper social distances and in combination with Zoom.

- ⇒ The minutes of the December meeting were approved. Also ratified was a motion by email from January 5th, 2021 to cancel worship services until March 7th, 2021, due to concerns from the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases.
- ⇒ All submissions for the 2020 Annual Reports are due to the Church Office by January 15th, 2021.
- ⇒ Derek Almarode (Chair, Stewardship & Finance) introduced our new Disbursing Treasurer, Lois Stogdale.
- ⇒ The Stewardship & Finance Committee has asked that all budget requests be submitted to them in writing by January 21st, 2021, so the 2021 budget can be finalized.

David Schooley,
Clerk of Session

Church Office News

THEY HAVE ARRIVED!

The “These Days” devotional books for this quarter (*January, February, March*) have arrived. Copies are available in Memorial Hall, the vestibule and on the table in the hallway next to the Choir Room. Please contact Adrienne if you would like to have a copy mailed to you.



The publisher of the Daily Family Devotions has resumed printing! Copies are available in Memorial Hall, the vestibule and on the table in the hallway next to the Choir Room. The weekly devotions will be put out the Wednesday before. For example the devotions for the week of the 8th were put out on Wednesday, February 3rd. Please contact Adrienne if you would like to have a copy mailed to you each week.

Church Office News *(continued)*

DEADLINES - WEEKLY NEWS & THE TOWER

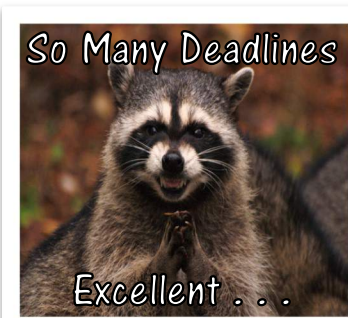
The Weekly News deadline is *usually* on Tuesday the week before at noon (unless otherwise stated). For example the deadline for the February 14th Weekly News is Tuesday, February 9th at noon.

The deadline for the February 28th Weekly News *along with the* March 2021 Tower is Tuesday, February 23rd, at 9:00 am.

You may leave articles and announcements in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com (*email is preferred*).

As always we welcome and appreciate early submissions before the stated deadlines! All announcements should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why? All announcements should also be fully written out in

a concise and understandable format with ALL details included. Please don't assume Adrienne will understand what you would like your announcement to say unless you write it out. Many thanks for your understanding of this issue!



What's Happening

All information printed in the Weekly News and Tower is subject to editing. Adrienne has several proofreaders to edit both the Weekly News and the Tower. If something you wrote has changed, it could have been done for any number of reasons and is nothing personal against you. Thank you!

If you have a mailbox in Memorial Hall please check it and clean it out periodically. Many of the mailboxes in Memorial Hall are starting to pile up with mail again. Time sensitive information along with bills may be placed in your mailbox for approval and/or your reply may be needed.



Copies of the 2020 Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, February 28th. You can pick up your copy in the vestibule, Memorial Hall, or on the table in the hallway next to the Choir Room. If you would like to have Adrienne mail you a copy (printed or digital) please contact the Church Office.

The Annual Reports have important information about the life and work of Bethel. It's requested that you would take a moment and review a copy once they are published.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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



Words cannot express my gratitude and thanks to you for the wonderful Christmas bonus that you gave to me. I am overwhelmed and humbled by the generosity and kindness that the Bethel congregation always shows me not just at Christmas but throughout the year. I would also like to thank all of you for the cards and gifts that were given to Justin and me for Christmas too!

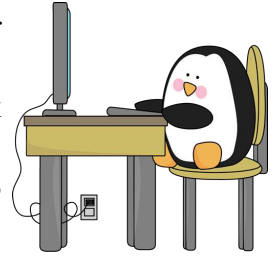
I am blessed to be part of such a wonderful "family"! You all are the best!

Love in Christ,

Adrienne Barker, Bethel Office Manager

Communications Committee

EMAIL ISSUES: There has been a problem with emails sent out from our congregational email account being returned and/or marked as spam. Please add our domain name bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org to your address book and/or safe sender list. Also, please add the office email address bethelpc@gmail.com. Let Adrienne know if you have any questions or no longer wish to receive email from the church.



Congregational Care Committee

Bethel Prayer List (updated 2/4/21)

New Additions

Adrienne Barker (*back injury & pain*)
Family & Friends of William Heizer
(*brother of Joe Heizer*)
Family & Friends of Cathy Miller
(*cousin of Ann Kellogg*)

Congregation Members

Bobby Goodson	Jarod Davis & Family	Dan Gano
Margaret Liptrap	Ken & Evelyn LaPorte	Sam Leonard
Alice Wooddell	John Pilson	Doris True

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Eleanor Feldon	Matthew Fitzgerald	Sarah Brownlee
David Law	Roy Pilson	Joe Fleming
Van Pirkey	Barbara Shaner	Jamie Pirkey
Jack True	Walter Wade	Beth Shaw

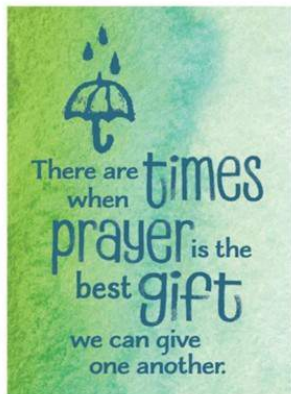
Sympathies & Condolences

Family & Friends of Karen Koogler
Family & Friends of Melvina Sprunt Busby

Community, Country, & World

Doctors, nurses, & healthcare professionals including volunteers
All military leaders & personnel
Law enforcement, firefighters, and EMS workers & volunteers

Congregational Care Committee *(continued)*



HELP CONGREGATIONAL CARE KEEP THE PRAYER LIST UPDATED!

Please call or text Tammy Barbour at (540) 471-0450 or Barb Gough at (540) 255-6521 with any updates or changes to the Prayer List. You can also contact the Church Office at (540) 886-6041 with any updates or changes. Please don't forget to let us know when people have improved enough to be removed.

If you add a name to the list and have not given us an update after six weeks we will do our best to contact you to see if the person is improving or continues to need prayer. If we cannot contact you, the person may be removed from the list. We all want the Prayer List to be up-to-date. We do care, so please let us know how your friend, neighbor or family member is doing!

- The Congregational Care Committee

SYMPATHIES & CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Melvina Hobson Sprunt Busby who passed away on Monday, January 18th, 2021. She was married to the Rev. James Sprunt, D.D. who was the minister of Bethel from 1957-1968.

Melvina remembered Bethel fondly, visiting on Homecoming Sunday when she could, and keeping up with church news by reading the Tower newsletter each month.

Please keep Melvina's family and friends in your prayers.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE & SUPPORT

I would like to thank the Bethel congregation for the love & support during my recent surgery and treatment. Thank you for your prayers! They changed a grim outlook to a very positive prognosis! Love, Ginny Gano



Continuing Education Loan Fund



BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **CONTINUING EDUCATION LOAN FUND**

The Bethel 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: Derek Almarode, Bill Brubeck, or David Schooley. The deadline for the return of the completed application together with attachments is April 15th, 2021. Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to a member of the committee.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Weekly Budget:	\$4,317.00
Weekly Offering January 3rd:	\$1,820.00
Weekly Offering January 10th:	\$1,785.35
Weekly Offering January 17th:	\$625.00
Weekly Offering January 24th:	\$1,615.00
Weekly Offering January 31st:	\$1,925.00

DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Monthly Budget:	\$18,702.00
Offerings DECEMBER 2020:	\$28,630.00

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Monthly Budget:	\$18,702.00
Offerings JANUARY 2021:	\$7,770.35

Worship Committee

WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Now that winter is finally here, Session has changed how we send out church notifications to members when church has been cancelled. The robocall system with emails, text or phone calls has been cancelled. We are back to using Harrisonburg WHSV TV3 (along with Facebook). Elders and Deacons are asked to check their Shepherding Lists and make appropriate phone calls.



FLOWER COORDINATOR NEEDED!



The Worship Committee is looking for a new flower coordinator. If you are interested in taking on this rewarding role please contact Tammy Barbour or Jill Webb. Either one would be happy to talk with you about what the role of Flower Coordinator entails.

We so appreciate and are grateful for your continued giving, as it's more important now than ever. With services suspended, our bills continue to come in and must be paid. If you are able to continue to contribute to Bethel's budget in the coming weeks, please mail checks to:



*Bethel Presbyterian Church
Attn: Kay Thompson
563 Bethel Green Road
Staunton, VA 24401*

Stay healthy and well!

- Stewardship & Finance Committee



Collection of the "Five Cents a Meal" Offering will resume in March 2021.

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY SCHEDULE

February 7th, 2021 5th Sunday after Epiphany
 Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

February 14th, 2021 Transfiguration of the Lord
 2 Kings 2:12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

February 17th, 2021 Ash Wednesday
 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Isaiah 58:1-12 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



February 21st, 2021 1st Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 9:9-15

February 28th, 2021 2nd Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

The following people helped make the Christmas season merry & bright at Bethel!
THANK YOU!

Thanks to Bill Francisco for donating the gorgeous Christmas tree!

Thanks to Wade & Phyllis Cash for decorating and setting up the Christmas tree!

Thanks to the Worship Committee elves who assisted in decorating the Sanctuary!
 And Alex Sproul and Mo Kyle who helped with taking all the decorations down!



We wanted to take a moment and thank the Swisher family who spent many years decorating the tree & making the Chrismon ornaments that we still use each year on the tree!

40 DAYS OF LENT & THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS



(used with permission: www.agnusday.org)

February's Happy Birthdays . . .



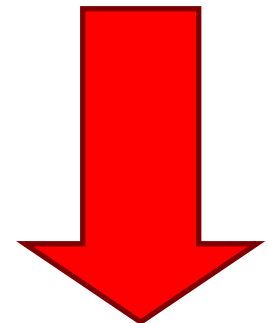
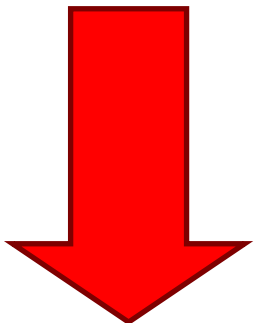
James Tate	February 1
John Davis	February 2
Steve Hord	February 3
Nancy Reichard	February 8
Debra Callison	February 10
Jackie Law	February 10
Lydia Lee	February 10
Doug Brubeck	February 11
Kathy Swisher	February 11
R.W. Ware, Jr.	February 11
Yvonne Goodson	February 13
Dustin Moore	February 15

Jean Callison	February 17
Molly Smith	February 19
Myran Moore	February 26
Kay Swisher	February 27
Maggie Rivers	February 28
Patrick Hord	March 2
Bobby Goodson	March 3
Barbara Tate	March 3
Jim Stout	March 7
Heather Clem	March 8
Harris Moffett	March 10

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 7th	Super Bowl Sunday
February 14th	Valentine's Day
February 15th	Presidents' Day
February 17th	Ash Wednesday
February 21st	1st Sunday in Lent



FEBRUARY CALENDAR ON NEXT PAGE

February 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>2 Groundhog Day 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 12:00 - Deadline: Weekly News (February 7th)</p> 	<p>3 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>4 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>5 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 12:00 - Deadline: Weekly News (February 14th)</p>	<p>10 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>11 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>12 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Happy Valentine's Day! Transfiguration of the Lord 7:00 - Session Meeting (Fellowship Hall & Zoom)</p> 	<p>15 Presidents' Day Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p> 	<p>16 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 12:00 - Deadline: Weekly News (February 21st)</p>	<p>17 Ash Wednesday 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>18 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>19 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 1st Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>22 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: March Tower & Weekly News (February 28th)</p>	<p>24 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>25 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>26 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours</p>	<p>27 9:00 - Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting (Zoom)</p> 
<p>28 2nd Sunday in Lent</p>						

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
Tuesday - Friday

bethelpc@gmail.com
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

JoAnn Pendley, Bell Choir Director

Alex Sproul, Sound & Video

Kay Thompson, Receiving Treasurer

Lois Stogdale, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians