The Tower



September 2021 & the Weekly News for August 29th, 2021

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



A Note on the Tower & Weekly News

The Bethel September 2021 Tower newsletter and the Bethel Weekly News for August 29th, 2021 are combined in this publication. Blessings to you in the coming weeks!

2 If you no longer wish to receive any communication from the church please let us know at (540) 886-6041 or bethelpcogmail.com and we will remove you from any and all lists. Thank you. &

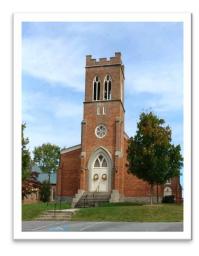
As This Elder Sees It & The Monthly Message

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING THE BIBLE

Making Time for God's Word

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. - Joshua 1:8

In our busy lives, it can be easy to neglect reading the bible. We may go to church, listen to Christian music, read a devotional, and pray, but are we making time to read and study the word of God? God's words are powerful and provide direction and hope for our lives. To obtain the benefits of God's word, we must constantly study the Bible to strengthen our faith.



No Excuses

So, we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. - 1 John 1:6

We can always come up with excuses why we don't make studying the Bible a priority. The demands of work, family, activities, home, and health are just a few. Are these valid? I think we can all agree, there is no excuse in not taking time to deepen are understanding of God's word. The Bible is always at our fingertips. Bibles are free or can be purchased for a few dollars. With technology, free apps make it easy to have these powerful words always available to us at an instant.

Why Do We Need God's Word?

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (continues)

The Bible is the ultimate truth and persistent studying helps us understand God's plan. From the earliest chapter of the Old Testament, he reveals promises that lead to the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of his son, the Lord Jesus Christ who died so that we may be set free from sin. The Bible acts as a guide for our lives. It is timeless, never outdated and always applicable to our everyday lives.

Putting Bible Study into Action

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of the truth. – Timothy 2:15

Bible study can be done in a group or as an individual. It is important to hear the Word of God and study it in detail. We must meditate on the Word and memorize scripture to put it to use in our daily lives. We must also teach and share the importance of the Word of God, and witness to others the teachings of Jesus Christ and the joy of the holy spirit.

Despite the Corona virus and pursuing gracious dismissal from the Presbyterian Church USA, Bethel continues to focus what is most important, glorifying God and growing faith in word of God and Jesus Christ.

Initially a Bible study for the congregation, our 6:30 pm Thursday Bible Study, "52 Weeks with Jesus", has grown to be a community event with currently 45 participants and counting.

The Presbyterian Women have just started regular studies, on the second Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm. Make a commitment to grow in faith with regular study of the Bible.

Love in Christ, Cindy Almarode, Elder

> Sunday Morning Worship Information (August 29th, 2021)

Welcome to our Worship Service!





WELCOME TO BETHEL!

We are so glad when you choose to join us as we worship the Lord <u>together</u> in the beautiful and great outdoors (or indoors if rainy) on Sundays!

It is always an awesome moment when you look at others in worship and see people of all ages worshiping God in their own unique way.

Scripture helps us to understand <u>why worshiping God with other believers is essential</u>. Bible verses let us know that fellowship is the place where believers can love one another (1 John 4:12), obtain spiritual growth, and encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25).

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." – Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

Sunday Morning Worship Information (August 29th, 2021)

Hello & Howdy to the Newcomers!

ARE YOU NEW TO BETHEL?

If you're new to Bethel Presbyterian Church, and are looking to get more connected, we want to hear



from you! If you haven't had the opportunity to fill out a "Welcome Visitor" card with your contact information please take a moment to do so. Cards are available on the designated table where the copies of the "Order of Worship" are placed.

If you are interested and request it we will gladly send you the "Weekly News" every week and "The Tower" newsletter monthly.* Both are great opportunities to engage more deeply with our community. We look forward to getting to know you!

(*Please make sure to include your email address on the card. If you don't have email please include your full mailing address. Thanks!)

FLOWERS, AUGUST 29th, 2021

The beautiful flowers on Sunday, August 29th, are given by Jill Webb in honor of all healthcare workers.

GUEST SPEAKER, AUGUST 29th, 2021

Bethel welcomes Mark Wilson who will be the Guest Speaker on Sunday, August 29th, 2021.



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 for Hebron Presbyterian Church.

Mark has preached at Bethel many times before and always does a fabulous job! Please let him know how much we appreciate his joining us for worship again on the 29th!

WORSHIP LEADER, AUGUST 29th, 2021

Brian Lee



LEMONADE AT THE PAVILION

Lemonade at the Pavilion (formerly Lemonade on the Lawn) will be held on Sunday, August 29th, following the worship service.

Make sure to stay for some snacks to munch on, lemonade to drink, and time to hang out with your church friends and family!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, SO JOIN US!

If worship is held indoors due to weather then this event will be held in the Bethel Fellowship Hall.

The PWCT will meet this Sunday, August 29th, 2021, following worship. PWCT members please snag some lemonade and snacks for yourself and then meet in the Bumgardner Classroom

All members need to make an effort to be at the meeting as the 2021-2022 budget will need to be approved.

General Church Information

ATTENDANCE

AUGUST 22nd, 2021: 3

ELDER-ON-CALL SEPTEMBER 2021

If you have a pastoral need please contact Tammy Barbour.

(540) 471-0450 (call or text)

barbour.tamara@yahoo.com



Calendar of Events (week of August 29th, 2021)

Sunday, August 29th, 2021

Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder

Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church)

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel in the

Woods

(Rain Location: Sanctuary)

11:00 am Lemonade at the Pavilion

(aka Lemonade on the Lawn) (Rain Location: Fellowship Hall)

*

11:15 am PWCT Meeting

(in Bumgardner Classroom)

Monday, August 30th

Church Office Closed

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

(Moon Phase: Last Quarter)



<u>Tvesday, Avgust 31st</u>

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

9:00 am Deadline: Order of Worship \$

Weekly News (September 5th)

Wednesday, September 1st

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

7:00 pm Handbell Choir Resumes

<u>Thursday, September 2nd</u>

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

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study at

the Pavilion

(Rain Location: Fellowship Hall)

Friday, September 3rd

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

9:00 am Deadline: Order of Worship \$

Weekly News

(September 12th & September 19th)

(continues)



Sunday, September 5th

Labor Day Weekend!

Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder

(Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church)

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel in the

Woods (Rain Location: Sanctuary)

Session News & Notes

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE AUGUST SESSION MEETING

The Session met Sunday, August 15th, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We had 9 Elders present with the Rev. Karen Allamon, as Moderator.

- ⇒ Cash flow and balance statements were distributed by the treasurers.
- ⇒ The Committee organizing the 275th anniversary celebration, shared a draft of the invitations being used. All invitations will be mailed by Tuesday, August 31st, 2021.
- ⇒ The first week of the Bible study "52 Weeks with Jesus" was well attended with 19 people, make plans today to join them! (UPDATE: There is now an average of 45 participants each week from both Bethel and the community!)
- ⇒ Treasurers were approved including Beth Miller as the Bethel Presbyterian Women Treasurer, and Lois Stogdale as Treasurer of the Continuing Education Loan account and the Mission Fund account.
- ⇒ The Worship Committee is going to continue using the same format for the Order of Worship, until further notice.
- ⇒ The Elder-on-Call for the month of September 2021 is Tamara Barbour. If you have a need including pastoral care please give her a call or text at (540) 471-0450.

SEE YOU ON SUNDAY!

Dave Schooley, Clerk of Session

Music Ministry News & Notes

Church Office News & Notes

HAPPY

LABOR

CALLING ALL HANDBELL RINGERS!

Handbell practice resumes on Wednesday, September 1st, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

NEVER RUNG OR PLAYED HANDBELLS BEFORE? THAT'S OKAY!

Join them on September 1st and see which bells have your name on them!

Questions? Contact JoAnn Pendley at (540) 324-0152

Deacons News & Notes

WORK & CLEAN-UP DAY

DATE: September 11th, 2021

TIME: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

cleaning up all around the pavilion & grounds & in the church

snacks & drinks will be provided

Even though this is an activity sponsored by the Deacons <u>EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED!</u>

(even if you can't stay the whole time – come \(\psi \) go to fit your schedule and help when you can!)

* DEACONS WILL HAVE THEIR MONTHLY MEETING FOLLOWING THE WORK DAY! (around 12:30 pm) Bring your binders and a pen/pencil please! *

Questions? Contact Wade Cash at (540) 294-9233.

The Bethel Office will be closed Monday, September 6th, 2021 & Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 for the Labor Day holiday.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to Adrienne's vacation in September ALL information for the Order of Worship and Weekly News for September 12th and September 19th will be due at 9:00 am on Friday, September 3rd, 2021.

DEADLINE OCTOBER TOWER

The deadline for the Order of Worship and Weekly News for September 26th, 2021

<u>along with</u> the October 2021 Tower will be <u>Tuesday, September 21st, 2021, at 9:00 am</u>.

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

Church Office News & Notes



Monday Office Closed

Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am—3:00 pm

*lunch *usually* from 12:30 pm—1:00 pm

(540) 886-6041 bethelpc@gmail.com The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 13th, 2021 - Monday, September 20th, 2021 while Adrienne is on vacation.

If you have a 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 Tuesday, September 21st, at 9:00 am.

BIBLE STUDY ON THURSDAYS

The Christian Education Committee presents the "Evening Bible Study: 52 Weeks With Jesus"!

When: Thursday Evenings at 6:30 pm

Where: Picnic Pavilion (Rain Location: Fellowship Hall)

What you will need:

Outdoors Comfy Chair, Writing Tablet, Pen and/or Pencil, and Bible

Indoors Writing Tablet, Pen and/or Pencil, and Bible

Need Transportation? Have Questions? Contact Cindy Almarode at (540) 490-2121 (text or call)

JOIN THE CROWD & SEE YOU ON THURSDAY EVENINGS FOR BIBLE STUDY!

Congregational Care Committee



Congregational Care Committee



LEMONADE AT THE PAVILION!

Lemonade at the Pavilion (formerly Lemonade on the Lawn) has returned! Lemonade at the Pavilion will be held following worship on the last Sunday of the month in September 2021. (September 26th)

Make sure to stay for some snacks to munch on, lemonade to drink, and time to hang out with your church friends and family! EVERYONE IS WELCOME, SO JOIN US!

If worship is held indoors due to weather then this event will be held in the Bethel Fellowship Hall.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES: If you have any changes, additions or updates to the Prayer List please contact Tammy Barbour (540) 471-0450 or Ellen Fitzgerald (540) 292-2914. You may also contact Adrienne in the Church Office. In order to keep the Prayer List up-to-date names may be removed after 6 weeks if we haven't received an update. (This does not apply to Bethel members.) Thanks for your cooperation!



Please continue to pray daily for one another. Don't forget to check on each other whether by phone, text messages, cards or email. It takes just a moment and is a great way to show others you care about them!

Please pray for the Christian families in Afghanistan. The churches have disbanded there and Christians are in hiding.

Thursday afternoon there were two explosions at the Kabul airport with casualties. Pray for the families of the victims.



There are still many Americans in Afghanistan that have been unable to evacuate including all those who worked at the embassy. Pray earnestly for them and all the Afghans who worked with us the past 20 years.

Christians (especially those who converted to Islam), the Americans and the Afghanis who assisted us are who the Taliban is searching for and will try to find first.

Presbyterian Women



ALL BETHEL WOMEN ARE INVITED! PLEASE JOIN US!

All Bethel Women are invited to attend the Circle Meeting on Thursday, September 9th, 2021, at 1:30 pm.

They will have snacks to munch on , Bible study and a time of prayer.

So come hang out and spend time with your gal pals-it'll be a ton of fun!

(hopefully the yearbooks for 2021-2022 will be available at the meeting!)

Stewardship & Finance Committee

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Weekly Budget: \$3,365.00

Weekly Offering August 1st: \$2,393.00

Weekly Offering August 8th: \$2,875.00

Weekly Offering August 15th: \$1,235.00

Weekly Offering August 22nd: \$1,275.00



JULY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$14,582.00

Offerings July 2021: \$7,182.00

The leadership (\$ staff) of Bethel are so grateful for your continued generosity and giving!

Baskets have been placed on the designated table outdoors. Please feel free to drop your tithe or offering in the basket as you leave the worship service.

If you are unable to attend worship but want and can contribute to Bethel's budget please mail your tithe or offering to:

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

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE
THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY &
CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT
DURING THIS UNCERTAIN TIME!

Worship Committee

"HAY" THERE!

YOU REALLY "AUTUMN" KNOW THAT
BETHEL WILL BE WORSHIPING OUTSIDE
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2021

RAIN OR SHINE 10:00 AM

OUTSIDE: CHAPEL IN THE WOODS (SHINE)

INSIDE: BETHEL SANCTUARY (RAIN)

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

(ARE YOU "CORNFUSED" YET?)

Worship Committee

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY SCHEDULE

WORSHIP IS AT 10:00 AM AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS! (RAIN LOCATION: BETHEL SANCTUARY)

September 5th, 2021 Labor Day weekend 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker Mark Wilson, Ruling Elder (Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church)

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 James 2:1-17 Mark 7:24-37

September 12th, 2021 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker Derek Almarode, Bethel Ruling Elder

Reception of New Member

Proverbs 1:20-33 James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

<u>September 19th, 2021</u> 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker Jill Webb, Bethel Ruling Elder

Proverbs 31:10-31 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

September 26th, 2021 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Speaker Derek Almarode, Bethel Ruling Elder



Five Cents A Meal Offering will be collected on Sunday, September 26th, 2021. A designated basket will be placed outdoors. Feel free to drop a little something for this offering in the basket on your way out. A portion of Five Cents a Meal goes to support the Bethel Emergency Relief Fund (BERF).

WORSHIP SERVICE FLOWER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2021

SEPTEMBER 5TH......Keedie Leonard SEPTEMBER 12TH.....Adrienne Barker

(Memorial)

SEPTEMBER 19TH.....Jackie Law SEPTEMBER 26TH...Ginny Gano (Memorial)



Thanks to those who provide flowers each week! If a problem arises and you cannot provide flowers on your assigned Sunday please call Mo Kyle (aka Fabulous Flower Coordinator) at (540) 292-8578 and she will take care of it. Also, if you would like to be removed or added to the schedule give her a call. We are always looking for new people who would be willing to provide flowers on Sunday!

September Happy Birthdays!



Dale Goodson	September 2
Charlie Johnson	September 2
Margaret Liptrap	September 5
Beth Miller	September 6
Wade Cash	September 6
Charley Schooley	September 9
Nancy Webster	September 9
Jeb Stuart	September 10
Billy Wade, III	September 10
Shelby Myers	September 11
Ashley Nelson	September 12
Bill Brubeck	September 15
Tim Turner	September 17
Harleigh Lee	September 21

Sarah Smith	September 21
Lily Damico	September 23
Olivia Damico	September 23
Scott Hughes	September 23
Dylan Morris	September 23
Lynne Morris	September 23
Samantha Moore	September 28
Robin Moffett	September 29
Donna Bush	September 30

BEGINNING OF OCTOBER

Bruce Lamond October 1 Isabelle Bosserman October 5

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to Margaret Liptrap who will be <u>99 years old</u> on September 5th, 2021! Margaret is a long-time member of Bethel and was the Bethel custodian for a number of years. Happy 99th Birthday Margaret – we hope you have a fabulous one!



August Happy Anniversary!

Gloria & Benny Potter

Phyllis & Wade Cash

Faye & Ben Brown, Sr.

Lynne & Danny Morris

September 1, 1973

September 8, 1979

September 9, 1967

September 26, 1981



BEGINNING OF OCTOBER

Bethany (Olson) & Larry Fresh October 5, 1991

A Note About Birthdays & Anniversaries . . .

If you have an anniversary or birthday that you would like to have appear in the Bethel Tower and we have missed it, please call or email the Church Office. We can include it in future publications.

Thank you!

"THE BIG EVENT"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 2021 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
MASSANETTA SPRINGS CONFERENCE CENTER, HARRISONBURG, VA

"The Big Event" is an annual program sponsored by the Shenandoah Presbytery and will be Saturday, September 18th, 2021 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm at Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA.

The theme of the day will be "When Did We See You?" (Matthew 25:44). This theme is based on the words of Matthew 25:44 and will incorporate the vision of Matthew 25, as we continue to live this theme out in our lives. There will be stories shared about PCUSA ministries, and we will discover ways in which the church can be about the work of Congregational Vitality, Eradicating Systemic Poverty, and Dismantling Structural Racism.

The cost is \$20.00 (includes lunch)

Register online for "The Big Event" including which workshops you would like to attend at shenpres.org/the-big-event. You may also email the Shenandoah Presbytery to register and/or for more information. Registration is due Thursday, September 9th, 2021.

Community (Augusta County) Event

RELAY FOR LIFE OF AUGUSTA COUNTY

You're invited to join the Shenandoah Relay for Life of Augusta County on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>September 25th from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Augusta Expo in Fishersville</u>. At Relay for Life they celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost, & fightback by fundraising for a world without cancer. Relay for Life is so much more than a walk. The event will feature live musical entertainment, food, and fun for the whole family!



Relay for Life is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. All money raised funds groundbreaking cancer research, education \$\xi\$ prevention efforts and programs for current patients.

Ways YOU can get involved!

- (1) sign-up and fundraise as an individual (2) volunteer to help the day of the event
- (3) dedicate luminaries "in honor" or "in memory" (4) come to the event and join the fun!

Be sure to join them for a time of honor and remembrance with the Luminaria Ceremony beginning at dusk.

Go to www.RelayForLife.org/AugustaCountyVA or contact Whitney Minnick at whitney.minnick@cancer.org or (540) 820-8805 for more information.

September 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
- Bark			9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir resumes	2 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 6:30 - Evening Bible Study at the Pavilion (Rain Location: Fellowship Hall)	3 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Order of Worship & Weekly News (September 12th & September 19th)	4
5 Labor Day Weekend 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods (Rain Location: Sanctuary)	6 Labor Day Church Office Closed LABOR DAY	7 Church Office Closed (Moon Phase: New Moon)	8 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir	9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 1:30 - PW Circle (formerly Afternoon & Evening Circles) 6:30 - Evening Bible Study at the Pavilion (Rain Location: Fellowship Hall)	10 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	Patriot Day 9:00 - 12:30 pm Clean-Up & Work Day around the Church 12:30 pm - Deacons Meeting
12 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods & Reception of New Member (Rain Location: Sanctuary) 7:00 - Session Meeting (Meeting Location: Fellowship Hall)	Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts (Moon Phase: First Quarter)	14 Church Office Closed (Adrienne on vacation September 14th - September 17th)	Church Office Closed 7:00 - Handbell Choir (Adrienne on vacation September 14th - September 17th)	Church Office Closed 6:30 - Evening Bible Study at the Pavilion (Rain Location: Fellowship Hall) (Adrienne on vacation September 17th)	Church Office Closed (Adrienne on vacation September 14th – September 17th)	9:00 - 3:30 - "The Big Event" at Massanetta Springs (see page 11 for details) 2:00 - Private Graveside Service
19 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods (Rain Location: Sanctuary)	20 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts Deadline: RSVPs for 275th Celebration Dinner (on October 10th, 2021) (Moon Phase: Full Moon)	21 International Day of Peace 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: October 2021 Tower & Order of Worship & Weekly News (September 26th)	Autumn begins 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir	9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 6:30 - Evening Bible Study at the Pavilion (Rain Location: Fellowship Hall)	24 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	25 4:00 - 10:00 - Relay for Life of Augusta County at Expo in Fishersville (see page 11 for details)
26 10:00 - Worship at the Chapel in the Woods & Five Cents A Meal Offering (Rain Location: Sanctuary) 11:00 - Lemonade at the Pavilion (formerly Lemonade on the Lawn) (Rain Location: Edlayship Hall)	27 Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts	28 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	29 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir (Moon Phase: Last Quarter)	30 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 6:30 - Evening Bible Study at the Pavilion (Rain Location: Fellowship Hall)		

Fellowship Hall)