

The Tower

January 2022



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



As This Elder Sees It & The Monthly Message



There is Hope and Joy in Letting Go

Beloved church family, as we start this new year, I challenge each and every one of us to be better from the inside out, doing our best to live in scripture instead of just reading it or talking about it.

We all have “something” heavy on our hearts, things that worry us: suffering from the loss of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, health problems, Covid, our dismissal from PCUSA, our parents, our children, our friends, work, retirement, you name it. We all have “something”. As believers, let us find solace in the Holy word.

For Ephesians 4:31-32 says “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” And Philippians 4:6-7 states “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

I challenge us all to read around the popular bible verses and grasp the whole message of a passage so that we may better witness to God’s love. Case in point: we all are familiar with Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

But if we read the whole passage: Romans 15:1-13 reads: ¹We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” ⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. ⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name.”

(continues)

¹⁰Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Hebrews 12:1-3 says "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Family, we have a race marked out for us, may we throw off everything that hinders us, and may we persevere with hearts filled with hope, love, and joy.

Peace, Penny Lee, ELDER

————— *When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. PSALM 94:19* —————

Session News & Notes

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER SESSION MEETING

- ⇒ The Session met Sunday, December 12th, 2021, in the Fellowship Hall. We had 8 Elders in attendance.
- ⇒ A meeting was held to update and review the process of Gracious Dismissal with the congregation on December 12th, 2021. The Session agreed to have an update review each month on the 2nd Sunday after worship.
- ⇒ The Session upon suggestion from the Moderator to pass a motion to keep our officers in their present position for the upcoming year, until the Gracious Dismissal process is resolved.
- ⇒ Presently there are 55 Afghan refugees being housed at Massanetta. A motion was approved to send \$1,000 to help supply food for the refugees.
- ⇒ Communion will be received on January 9th, with Elder Derek Almarode officiating.

See you at church on Sunday!
Dave Schooley, Clerk of Session

ANNUAL REPORTS 2021 are due on Monday, January 31st, 2022. Reports need to be emailed to the Church Office in Microsoft Word format. **All committee chairs, group leaders and treasurers must submit a report.** (Exception: your committee or group did not meet and/or have activities due to covid.) Thanks for your cooperation.

Church Office Notes - January 2022

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 17th, for MLK Day and Tuesday, January 18th for Adrienne's regular day off.

Prayer List - January 2022

(updated 12/23/21)

Bethel (our church) - Leaders & Congregation

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS

Dan Gano Jeff Heizer
John Pilson at Blue Ridge Christian Home;
cards appreciated
(85 Beulah Drive; Raphine, VA 24472)

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

Dave Brooks Matt Koogler
Jamie Pirkey Van Pirkey

SYMPATHIES & CONDOLENCES

Family & Friends of Eloise Moore

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 or the Church Office (540) 886-6041.

To keep the Prayer List as up-to-date as possible, names will be removed from the list after eight weeks unless Tammy, Ellen or the Church Office has been notified otherwise.

Circle Meeting Schedule Update

The Bethel PW Circle will now meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm for their meeting.

Worship Schedule - January 2022

January 9th, 2022

Baptism of the Lord

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode,
Bethel Ruling Elder

January 16th, 2022

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Guest Speaker: Brian Lee,
Bethel Ruling Elder

January 23rd, 2022

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Guest Speaker: Mark Wilson,
Ruling Elder at
Augusta Stone

January 30th, 2022

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode,
Bethel Ruling Elder

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADER

Wade Cash



Flower Schedule - January 2022

January 9th Tammy Barbour (*Communion*)
January 16th Penny Lee
January 23rd Libby Smith
January 30th Sally Brubeck

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JANUARY 2022

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$14,582.00

Offerings December 2021: \$18,724.00



Congratulations to William & Jamee Rivers on the birth of their son, Crew Henry Rivers who was born on Sunday, December 12th, 2021, at 1:45 am. He weighed 6 lbs, 12 oz and was 19 3/4 inches long. Crew's proud grandma is Stephanie Rivers.

I would like to thank my Bethel family for all the birthday and Christmas cards you sent. And many thanks to my Circle friends for all the wonderful goodies you gave me. It brought so much joy to me this holiday season! - Alice Wooddell

THANK YOU BETHEL CONGREGATION & FRIENDS! Through your assistance, support and generosity we FILLED the Pastor's Office with donations of food and gifts for the Riverheads Christmas Alive family we sponsored. The family was overwhelmed and grateful for the love and generosity shown to them to holiday season. You gave them a very merry Christmas!

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A BIG thank you also needs to go to Katie McElveen and Mo Kyle who worked tirelessly on this project. From coordinating gifts, food donations, and making sure everything was organized they did an outstanding job! The beautiful gift tree put up and decorated by Katie and Liam in Memorial Hall was much appreciated!

How blessed we are to be able to share our beautiful sanctuary, especially during the Advent and Christmas seasons. However, it is a group effort that transforms Bethel into that glorious sight. Worship Committee wishes to thank the following people who helped put up and take down the decorations.

Bill and Sally Brubeck
Wade and Phyllis Cash (and grandkids)
JoAnn and Jerry Pendley
Alex Sproul
Jill Webb
Francisco Tree Farm
Tish Folsom - door wreaths

Job well done,
Tamara Barbour

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

Birthdays - January 2022

Mac WilliamsJanuary 2
Katie McElveenJanuary 3
D. W. MillerJanuary 3
Brenda ShiflettJanuary 9
Margaret WadeJanuary 16
Lois CrosierJanuary 18
Dale C. SmithJanuary 19
John BrubeckJanuary 22
Jennifer CallisonJanuary 23
Mary Ann AndersonJanuary 28
Bob LawJanuary 30
Joyce LiptrapJanuary 31

BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY

James TateFebruary 1
John DavisFebruary 2
Steve HordFebruary 3
Nancy ReichardFebruary 8

Anniversaries - January 2022

Bob & Louise Hoy
January 17, 1954



The January calendar
for 2022 is on page 6.



January 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Baptism of the Lord 11:00 - Worship & Communion 1:00 - Session Meeting (Moon Phase: First Quarter)	10 Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	11 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(January 16th)</i>	12 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:30 - Young Life: Club	13 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 6:30 - Bible Study	14 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	15
16 11:00 - Worship	17 Martin Luther King, Jr Day Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners (Moon Phase: Full Moon)	18 Church Office Closed	19 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(January 23rd)</i> 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:30 - Young Life: Club	20 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 1:00 - PW Circle 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 6:30 - Bible Study	21 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: February 2022 Tower	22
23 11:00 - Worship	24 Church Office Closed 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners	25 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 9:00 - Deadline: Bulletin & Announcements <i>(January 30th)</i> (Moon Phase: Last Quarter)	26 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 7:00 - Handbell Choir 7:30 - Young Life: Club	27 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours 2:00 - Choir Rehearsal 6:30 - Bible Study	28 9:00 - 3:00 - Church Office Hours	29
30 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - PWCT Meeting	31 DEADLINE: 2021 REPORTS Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life: Campaigners					

BETHEL CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2022

Jimmy Callison
Bob Olson
Dave Schooley
Tim Turner

Class of 2023

Tammy Barbour
Brian Lee
Dale Thompson
Jill Webb

Class of 2024

Cindy Almarode
Derek Almarode
Wade Cash
Penny Lee

Clerk of Session

Dave Schooley

BETHEL CHURCH DEACONS

Class of 2022

Ellen Fitzgerald
Charlie Johnson
Alex Sproul

Class of 2023

Tom Heizer
Mitch Lathrop
D.W. Miller

Class of 2024

Harleigh Lee
Katie McElveen
Linda Tenney

BETHEL CHURCH TRUSTEES

Class of 2022

Bill Brubeck
James Williams

Class of 2023

Guy D. Brooks
Lee Ann Heizer

Class of 2024

Charlie Johnson
Billy Wade

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 & Organist

Alex Sproul, Sound & Video

Kay Thompson, Receiving Treasurer

Lois Stogdale, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians