

The Tower

March 2023



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



Dear Bethel Family,

On September 13, 2020 the Bethel Session took executive action and requested that the church be granted “Gracious Dismissal” from Shenandoah Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America (PCUSA).

Following presbyterian polity and our current book of order the Shenandoah Presbytery formed a listening committee to speak with the Bethel family. Following their findings, the listening committee transformed themselves into the Administrative Commission. At which time the Session authorized and formed an Administrative Committee on Transition to manage and negotiate terms of dismissal with Shenandoah Presbytery.

The two commissioned groups worked diligently towards an amicable resolution. After several in-person meetings and exhaustive independent work by the committees they both met in-person on January 12, 2023 for one final time. The purpose of this meeting was to negotiate a financial settlement to transfer the Bethel Deed of Trust held by the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America back to Bethel Presbyterian Church. At that meeting a formal resolution for separation and dismissal was drafted and agreed upon. On January 29, 2023, the Bethel Congregation met and voted unanimously in support of that resolution for dismissal.

On February 28, 2023 during a full Presbytery meeting of the Shenandoah Presbytery via Zoom, the Resolution for Dismissal went before the floor of the Presbytery as a motion. The motion had no discussion and the vote from the Presbytery floor was unanimous. Thus, we have been formally and officially dismissed by the Shenandoah Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America.

Congratulations, to all of you for your extraordinary patience, love, fortitude and service to our beautiful Bethel. Following the actions of our legal council all Bethel holdings, to include, but not limited to, our real-estate, our finances, our name, our historical documents, our personal property, and our organizational structure will be transferred in the Circuit Court of Augusta County. On behalf of the Administrative Committee on Transition and the Bethel Session, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

In our 277th year as a family in faith, Bethel steps out on new footing in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Effective, March 5, 2023, Bethel is now affiliated with the East Central Presbytery of a Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, hereafter referred to as ECO,

Please come and join us, for Sunday worship during our normal worship hour and celebrate our inaugural year as Covenant Partners in ECO. Today, we celebrate a new benchmark in Bethel's history. Tomorrow is a new day in our service to Christ Jesus. No time to waste, we hope to see you on Sunday mornings.

On behalf of the entire Session please know we are blessed by your friendship and grateful for your trust and faith.

In Christ's Service,
Derek Almarode, Elder

Bethel Session Notes of Importance for the Congregation

The Bethel Session met, Sunday, February 19, 2023, in the Session Room. A quorum was present with 10 Elders in attendance. The meeting was moderated by Reverend John Craft.



General Business:

The meeting was opened with prayer. The Session discussed several matters of business.

- The Session approved upcoming dates for the 2023 community Lenten services: March 2nd, March 9th, March 16th, March 23rd, March 30th; all at 7:30 pm; locations to be announced. Maundy Thursday, April 6th, at Bethel with Communion at 7:30 pm, Good Friday at Pines Chapel at 7:00 pm, Sunrise EASTER Service April 9th, at 7:00 am at the Chapel in the Woods. Traditional EASTER service: April 9th, at 11:00 am in the Bethel Sanctuary with Communion.
- The Session approved the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of January 29th, 2023, that approved the agreement with Shenandoah Presbytery. This agreement will be voted on by the Presbytery on February 28th, 2023.
- David Schooley was appointed to attend the Zoom Meeting of the Shenandoah Presbytery on February 28th, 2023.
- Session reviewed and approved the proposed budget with amended revisions.
- Meeting was closed with prayer by John Craft. Thanks to him for his service as Moderator!



Respectfully,

David Schooley

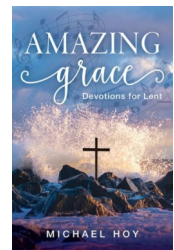


Elder David Schooley

Lenten Devotionals - 2023

Please check out this year's Lent Devotionals "Amazing Grace" based on the 250th anniversary of the song Amazing Grace.

Booklets are available in Memorial Hall and vestibule.



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY!

Looking to expand your Biblical knowledge?
Then join us!

WHEN: Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm

WHERE: Bethel Church

SUBJECT: 30 week study on the book of Acts



Bring a Friend to Church Campaign

Share the love that is Christ Jesus with a friend, a neighbor, a family member or an acquaintance that you feel led to invite to church. If they don't like inside church maybe they'll love worship at the chapel. You don't know if you don't ask.

The Bethel Presbyterian Women meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm for Circle & Bible Study.



BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OFFICERS 2023

<u>MODERATOR</u>	Cindy Almarode	<u>SECRETARY</u>	Stephanie Rivers
<u>TREASURER</u>	Beth Miller	<u>ASST. TREASURER</u>	Rhonda Johnson
<u>HISTORIAN</u>	Ginny Gano	<u>SPIRITUAL GROWTH</u>	Irene Elliott
<u>COMMUNITY & WORLD OUTREACH</u>			
<u>TOGETHER IN SERVICE</u>			
<u>SOCIAL ACTIVITIES</u>			
<u>CIRCLE CO-LEADERS</u>			

VALLEY MISSION NEWS

Valley Mission accepts in-kind donations directly at our facility. All of the items used in a typical household are the same items that our shelter uses, just on a larger scale! Please also consider donating by having items conveniently delivered directly to Valley Mission by ordering them through our Amazon wish list:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2JIPY4LY22005>

Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need in our community!



Handbell Choir meets Thursday afternoons at 3:00 pm.
All are welcome to join them!

SAVE THE DATE - MAY 9th, 2023

The Bethel Circle is planning a meal for the Men of the Church.
May 9th, 2023 6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

PRAYER LIST (updated 3/9/23)

Bethel Leadership
Our Bethel Church Family

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS

Bill Brubeck Joyce Davis
Charlie Johnson Jane Law
McElveen Family John Pilson

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF
CONGREGATION

Matt & Mark Harris
Ashley Kellogg & Matt Cloonan
Ann Kellogg
Miah Miller & Family
Van Pirkey
John Sproul

Sympathies & Condolences
FAMILY & FRIENDS OF
THE FOLLOWING:

Jean Callison
Ann Coffey
Matt Koogler
Tracy Koogler
Margaret Liptrap
Carroll Richardson
Bill Ross
David Strickler
Virginia Ann Strickler

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

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!



A NOTE FROM
STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

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

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!*

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$13,550.00

Offerings January 2023: \$7,770.35



Five Cents A Meal Offering will be collected the 4th Sunday of the month, March 26th, 2023.

FLOWER SCHEDULE March 2023

March 5th Sally Williams
 March 12th Ellen Fitzgerald (*DLST begins*)
 March 19th Ann Heizer
 March 26th Julie Turner



MARCH WORSHIP LEADER

WADE CASH



Anniversaries - March 2023

Derek & Cindy Almarode
 March 9, 1996

Billy & Margaret Wade, Jr.
 March 21, 1964



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

Birthdays - March 2023

Bobby GoodsonMarch 3
 Jim StoutMarch 7
 Heather ClemMarch 8
 Kay ThompsonMarch 11
 Jim WilliamsMarch 17
 Irene Elliott.....March 23
 Trevor LeeMarch 23
 Ashlyn AlmarodeMarch 24
 Sam LeonardMarch 26



BEGINNING OF APRIL

Kyle Leonard April 3
 Julie Turner April 4

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!



Don't forget!

March 12th Daylight Saving Time begins
 March 17th St. Patrick's Day
 March 20th Spring begins



Riverheads Weekday Religious Education (WRE) News & Notes

The Riverheads Elementary WRE program continues to thrive in the wonderful WRE classroom building.

Dana Cash reported she has 555 students coming to WRE to "hear about Jesus." Dana mentioned how much she appreciates those (many retired from RES) who come on a regular basis to assist in the WRE classroom. ALL HELP IS NEEDED!

Recently Bibles were purchased for each 5th grade student, so they would have their own Bible as they graduate from the program in May. COVID regulations made it difficult to plan the necessary fundraisers in the past and the current funds are not meeting the WRE operating budget.

☘ *With spring arriving, a cakewalk fundraiser has been scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm, at the Mint Spring Ruritan Building. Help is needed.*

☘ *If you are willing to donate a cake, let Mo Kyle know, 540-292-8578.*
Come enjoy a community get together, and win a delicious cake, all while supporting WRE.





☘ *A second fundraiser will be a "Praise Night" held at Raphine Christian Church on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm.*

A donation to this program may be mailed to:
Riverheads WRE
PO Box 352
Greenville, VA 24440

Thank you for your continued interest, support, and prayers as the school year progresses and our elementary children have the opportunity to learn more about Jesus' love!



March 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	2 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours 2:00 - Adult Choir 3:00 - Handbell Choir 6:30 - Bible Study	3 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	4 Dinner & Movie 5:30-7:00 - Dinner & Fellowship 7:00 - Movie
5 11:00 - Worship 12:15 - PWCT Meeting	6 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts	7 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	8 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	9 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours 2:00 - Adult Choir 3:00 - Handbell Choir 6:30 - Bible Study	10 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	11 5:00 - Beans & Cornbread at Pines
12 DLST begins 11:00 - Worship 12:45 - Session Meeting 	13 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts	14 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	15 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	16 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours 12:30 - PW Circle Meeting 2:00 - Adult Choir 3:00 - Handbell Choir 6:30 - Bible Study	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	18
19 11:00 - Worship	20 Spring begins! Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts 	21 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	22 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	23 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours 2:00 - Adult Choir 3:00 - Handbell Choir 6:30 - Bible Study	24 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	25
26 11:00 - Worship & Five Cents A Meal Offering	27 Church Office Closed 7:00 - Boy Scouts	28 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	29 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours	30 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours 2:00 - Adult Choir 3:00 - Handbell Choir 6:30 - Bible Study	31 9:00 - 3:00 - Office Hours 	

BETHEL CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2023

Bob Olson
Dave Schooley
Tim Turner

Class of 2024

Tammy Barbour
Brian Lee
Dale Thompson
Jill Webb

Class of 2025

Cindy Almarode
Derek Almarode
Wade Cash
Penny Lee

Clerk of Session

Dave Schooley

BETHEL CHURCH DEACONS

Class of 2023

Ellen Fitzgerald
Charlie Johnson

Class of 2024

Mitch Lathrop
D.W. Miller

Class of 2025

Harleigh Lee
Katie McElveen

BETHEL CHURCH TRUSTEES

Class of 2023

Bill Brubeck
James Williams

Class of 2024

Guy D. Brooks

Class of 2025

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

Penny Lee, Sound & Video

Kay Thompson, Receiving Treasurer

Lois Stogdale, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians