

The Tower

April 2023



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



AS THIS ELDER SEES IT . . .

Hello to all my loved ones here at Bethel, if you're reading this and don't attend Bethel I love you also. God is moving in GREAT ways here at Bethel and around our great nation. You have the NFL coming together in prayer for a player collapsing on the field, they kneeled in unity for God instead of protest. Super Bowl 57 just played, had two openly professing Christian quarterbacks, AWESOME. The prayer revival happening in Kentucky, that has spread to other college campuses. If you are not seeing God's breath entering the lungs of his people, you might want to come out of the cave you are in.

I want to speak on the growth here at your beloved Bethel. A year ago our pews were collecting dust with an average of 35-40 people, but a small season of a year this has doubled. Blessings are being bestowed upon us. We are working in tandem with one another, we are loving one another, and we are headed in the right direction, towards God!!! I want to specifically speak about one particular thing happening at Bethel. No, it's not about our transition for a change, but about the Bible study Bethel has been hosting for a year and a half. This Bible study has grown so much that we have moved locations three times within the church to accommodate the amount of people showing up, the excitement, the interaction, the compilation of different churches and denominations, all ages coming together for one purpose. To grow both mentally and spiritually with better understanding of God and his word.

I personally have grown more in this short period than I can honestly say I have in my entire life. The first year we did the outline 52 Weeks with Jesus, if you missed it, go online and order it. You'll discover things in a different things about love through Jesus and with Jesus. We are in the Engaging God's Word book of Acts now, it's a thirty week course. Another spectacular outline to study on the first days of the church. As of now, Acts 3 has been my favorite, most humbling, and the most thought inspiring passage thus far.

Peter and John Heal a Man at the gate of the House of God

3 Peter and John were going to the house of God about three o'clock. It was the time for prayer. 2 Each day a certain man was carried to the Beautiful Gate of the house of God. This man had never been able to walk. He was there begging for money from those who were going in. 3 He asked Peter and John for money when he saw them going in. 4 Peter and John looked at him. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 The man who could not walk looked at them. He thought he would get something from them. 6 Peter said, "I have no money, but what I have I will give you! In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!". *(continues)*

7 Peter took the man by the right hand and lifted him up. At once his feet and the bones in his legs became strong. 8 He jumped up on his feet and walked. Then he went into the house of God with them. He gave thanks to God as he walked.

9 All the people saw him walking and giving thanks to God. 10 They knew it was the man who had been sitting and begging at the Beautiful Gate. They were surprised he was walking 11 The man who was healed held on to Peter and John. All the people who were surprised gathered together around them in a place called Solomon's Porch.

The passage hits a home-run in so many ways, on how the world really is and honestly how I've been in life. I don't want to lump everyone in a bubble of my realization on this passage, but you may have been here also. So let's break it down, the way this Elder sees it. I think we all have been the beggar prior to finding God. Maybe not in the sense of begging for money, begging for things of flesh. Begging for things that are a temporary fix to a long term problem, to either the temporary void where God should be, or the absence of God all together.

You see this man was carried to the beautiful gate and dropped to beg for money but they never took him further. Perhaps this could represent stages in your journey in life. It could be that you are looking for help and need help. Another, the people that are offering assistance will not take you where you need to be. The man has never been able to walk, metaphorically I didn't know how to walk either until I found Jesus. Believe me I still stumble and fall and crawl. Also in verse 2, people are just passing him by, maybe giving him pocket change. This reminds me of the guy that's panhandling, we drive by, give the change in the cup holder, knowing, we still have the big bills in our wallets for ourselves. Remember these people were going to temple and the big money meant social status in the offering plate. What good does status do you when you cheat a person in need?

Now in verses 3-6 this is the start of the good stuff. The beggar finally asked the right two people for money, Peter and John. They gave him what money can't buy, something more precious than gold, the one thing that is priceless. The gift of God, the gift of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. The man could walk, the man ran with the spirit, he shared his gift. Do you remember your personal Peter and John, who taught you to walk, who taught you not to beg, who shared their gift with you, and transitioned you from a lame beggar and you walked through the beautiful gate into the kingdom? Have you been and are you now acting like Peter and John? Could it be you who are passing by the people that need help? Could it be you still give cup holder money in hopes of making the trumpet sound louder. These are the questions I ask myself now. My greatest growth in God I truly owe to Bethel, the people of Bethel, the community involvement and the Bible study.

Verses 9-11 the beggar gives thanks to God. The beggar used to be lame outside the gate. People are surprised he is walking. People recognize the change in him. People gather around him now for he is on the other side of the gate, the beautiful gate. In the end, metaphorically speaking, this passage is about you, us.

That's how this Elder sees it.

In Christ's Love,
Elder Brian Lee

Bethel Session
Notes of Importance for the Congregation

The Bethel Session met, Sunday, March 12, 2023, in the Session Room. A quorum was present with 9 Elders in attendance. The meeting was moderated by Derek Almarode.

General Business:

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

- The Session approved moving worship services to outside at the Chapel in the Woods, starting May 14, 2023, at 11:00 am, weather permitting. The flowers will be permanent arrangements.
- The Session approved dates for Lemonade at the Pavilion. First date May 28, 2023.
- Homecoming will be September 24, 2023 with an inside service.
- The Deacons will lead outside cleanup for the Chapel in the Woods and around the church on April 1, 2023 at 9:00 am.
- The Session received a letter of resignation from our Office Manager, Adrienne Barker, to pursue other opportunities. The resignation was accepted.
- Dr. John Daniel, Moderator of ECO, Robin Keesee incoming Moderator, and Todd Lilly, pastor of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church will join the Session on April 11, 2023, at 7:30 pm for an evening of questions and answers.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Derek Almarode. Thanks to him for his service!

Respectfully,

David Schooley

Elder David Schooley , Clerk of Session

PALM SUNDAY Palm branches will be available in the vestibule on Palm Sunday. Feel free to take one (or a few!) as you are entering or exiting the Sanctuary.

Palm Sunday is a celebration for honoring Jesus Christ's victorious entry into Jerusalem where the people took palm branches as they went to meet him. While this was a joyful, special occasion for his followers, this event took place towards the end of his days on earth before being crucified.

In commemoration of this special day in the Christian faith palms are also placed at the front of the sanctuary instead of flowers.

The Worship Committee has chosen for Bethel to use sustainably harvested Eco-Palms.

The Maundy Thursday Service with Communion will be here at Bethel on April 6, 2023, at 7:30 pm. This is a community wide event so everyone is welcome to attend.

The Good Friday Service will be at Pines Chapel Presbyterian Church on April 7, 2023, at 7:30 pm. This is a community wide event so everyone is welcome to attend.

The Worship Committee needs your help with providing flowers! There will be a cross outside the front entrance of the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday (*April 9, 2023*). Please bring fresh flowers to church on Easter to place on the cross.

If you can't make it to worship on Easter Sunday but would still like to contribute flowers please drop them off at the church on Friday or Saturday.



The traditional Easter worship service will be on April 9, 2023 at 11:00 am in the Bethel Sanctuary. Communion will be received.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH, 2021 at 7:00 AM

CHAPEL & PAVILION IN THE WOODS*

**COVERED DISH BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW SERVICE
BRING YOUR FAVORITE & YUMMY BREAKFAST DISH TO SHARE**

GUEST SINGERS & MUSICIANS

***RAIN LOCATION: BETHEL SANCTUARY & FELLOWSHIP HALL**



All current Bethel Elders have a mailbox in Memorial Hall. The mailboxes will be in alphabetical order by your last name. Please check your mailbox regularly for announcements, news, and mail.

2022 ANNUAL REPORTS & 2023 BUDGET

Coming soon! Copies of the 2022 Annual Reports will be available by next Sunday in the vestibule and Memorial Hall. Copies of the 2023 budget are available now in Memorial Hall.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

MAY 14, 2023 - SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

11:00 AM

Starting May 14, 2023, Bethel will return to the Chapel in the Woods for worship services. There will be a service every Sunday, same time - 11:00 am - outside or inside. Rain and foggy conditions will be the only excuse for going inside, if temperatures are cold please wear layers.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

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



Adrienne's last day in the Church Office is Tuesday, April 11, 2023. The Church Office may be closed certain days during this transition. If you have a need you can leave a message on the Church Office answering machine. Calls will be returned in one to two business days. If you have a pastoral need please call Derek Almarode.



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

The "These Days" are available for the next quarter (April, May, June). Pick up your copy in the vestibule or Memorial Hall.

Handbell Choir meets Thursday afternoons at 3:00 pm.

EXPERIENCE IS NOT NECESSARY!

All are welcome to join them!

The Bethel Presbyterian Women meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm.



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.

PRAYER LIST (updated 3/31/23)

Bethel Leadership
Our Bethel Church Family

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS

Bill Brubeck Joyce Davis
Jane Law McElveen Family
John Pilson

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF
CONGREGATION

Matt & Mark Harris
Van Pirkey
John Sproul

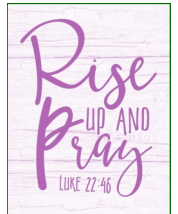
Sympathies & Condolences

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF
THE FOLLOWING:

Jean Callison
Ann Coffey
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!*

SAVE THE DATE - MAY 9, 2023

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

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Estimated Monthly Budget: \$13,550.00
Offerings February 2023: \$10,960.00



Five Cents A Meal Offering will be collected the 4th Sunday of the month, April 23, 2023.

As postage costs increase we would like to remind you that the Bethel website is available 24/7. So if you have access to the web please give it a try. We can also email ALL church communication to you so please let us know if that is an option you would be willing to use.



Did you miss worship on Sunday? Audio of the Sunday sermon is posted each week so you can listen to the sermon while you cook dinner, complete housework, fold laundry, etc. It's a great way to keep up with what we are learning and what themes are being illustrated when you can't make it to worship.

Our Communications Committee routinely updates the church Facebook page so you are welcome to check it out and follow the page to get updates when new information is posted.

Website: www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BethelPresbyterianChurchStauntonVa/

FLOWER SCHEDULE
April 2023



April 2nd	Palms <i>(Palm Sunday)</i>
April 9th	Easter Lilies <i>(Easter Sunday)</i>
April 16th	Joyce Miller
April 23rd	Betty Schooley
April 30th	JoAnn Pendley



APRIL WORSHIP LEADER

PENNY LEE



HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY!

- Kyle LeonardApril 3
- Julie TurnerApril 4
- Jake LeonardApril 7
- Mo KyleApril 9
- Steve KyleApril 10
- Jon BushApril 10
- Joe HeizerApril 12
- Billy BrooksApril 16

- Dale ThompsonApril 17
- Lucy SproulApril 21
- Penny LeeApril 22
- Kenneth E. OlsonApril 25
- Elizabeth MulcahyApril 27

=====
BEGINNING OF MAY

- Sally BrubeckMay 1
- James GanoMay 5

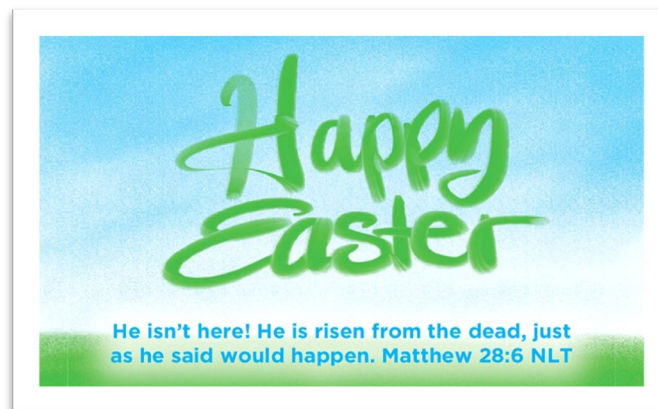
HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARY!

Jon & Donna Bush April 15, 1972
Joe & Shirley Heizer April 23, 1960

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!




April 2nd - Palm Sunday
April 6th - Maundy Thursday
April 7th - Good Friday
April 9th - Easter Sunday
April 22nd - Earth Day



April 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 9:00 Deacons Clean-up & Work Day 5:00 Game Night & Potato Bar at Redeemer Lutheran
2 Palm Sunday 11:00 Worship	3 Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts	4 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	5 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours	6 Maundy Thursday 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study 7:30 Maundy Thursday Service & Communion	7 Good Friday 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 7:00 Good Friday Service at Pines Chapel	8
9 EASTER 7:00 Sunrise Service at Chapel 8:30 Fellowship Breakfast 11:00 Worship & Communion	10 Church Office Closed 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 9:00 - 3:00 Church Office Hours 7:00 - Session Meeting	12	13 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study	14	15
16 11:00 Worship	17 7:00 Boy Scouts	18	19	20 12:30 Circle Meeting & Bible Study 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study	21	22 Earth Day 
23 11:00 Worship & 5 Cents A Meal Offering	24 7:00 Boy Scouts	25	26	27 2:00 Adult Choir 3:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Bible Study	28	29
30 11:00 Worship						

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

Church Office

(540) 886-6041

bethelpc@gmail.com

Bethel Office Days & Hours:

Tuesday - Friday

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

JoAnn Pendley, Bell Choir Director & Organist

Penny Lee, A/V; Church Publications; PR Director

Kay Thompson, Receiving Treasurer

Lois Stogdale, Disbursing Treasurer

Donna Bush and Carol Sprouse, Custodians