

THE *Tower*

MAY 2023

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NEW BEGINNINGS

ROMANS 6:4: *"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*

Spring is here! We look forward to the warm sunshine, longer days, and planting our fields and gardens. As we pray for the perfect balance of light and rain, we wait and watch for new growth and to harvest the fruits of our labor. Having just celebrated Lent and Easter our spirit is cleansed. We start fresh with the affirmation that our sins are forgiven in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

ISAIAH 44:3-4: *"For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your children. They will thrive like watered grass, like willows on a riverbank."*

— AS THIS —
ELDER SEES IT

Just as everything in nature is coming to life, Bethel is experiencing a new beginning. Transition is complete and we move forward with renewed energy. Everyone is working together to keep Bethel growing. After a powerful Easter Sunrise Service (attendance 135) and Easter Worship Service (attendance 113), the future here at Bethel looks bright. Each Sunday we rejoice in seeing new faces in our pews, as well as faithful members who keep Bethel strong. What a joy to see a growing number of children of all ages and to witness their excitement to listen to the Children's message.

GALATIANS 6:9 *"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."*

In a world where Christianity and denominational churches are declining, Bethel is continuing to move onward and upward. Our common goal is not just to fill pews on Sunday worship but to spread the Good News of the gospel and teach the wonderful im-

pact it has on our lives. Together with our community, we continue to grow in spirit and number. Church is a lot more than coming to worship on Sunday for an hour. The strength of Bethel lies in the members and friends who come together, giving of their time, talent and tithes, in service to God. Everyone's hard work is greatly appreciated!!!

In Christ's Service,
Cindy Almarode

Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has
passed away;
behold,
the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17
(ESV)

Special THANKS!

to the clean up girls!!

Mo • Julie • Phyllis • Beth

These ladies have been working every week to purge items that have accumulated over the past 100 or so years. This is a big church with lots of rooms, closets and nooks & crannies. They are currently cleaning, de-cluttering and organizing the entire church. They meet once a week and have for months. A huge undertaking! Ladies - you are so appreciated!

BETHEL SESSION MEETING APRIL 11, 2023

— Notes of Importance for the Congregation —

The Bethel Session met, Tuesday, April 11, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall. A quorum was present with 10 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 is still waiting on lawyers to meet to get final release from PCUSA.
- A great job was completed with cleanup and mulching, in preparation for Easter Sun Rise Service in the Woods.
- The session received the Annual Report and approved for publication.
- Dr. John Daniel, Moderator of ECO, Robin Keesee incoming Moderator, and Todd Lilly Pastor of Spring Hill joined the Session with a Power Point Presentation on ECO, Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. Also invited the Session of Bethel to attend the upcoming meeting of the East Coast Presbytery, April 28-29 in Richmond.
- Meeting was closed with Prayer by Derek Almarode. Thanks to him for his service!



Respectfully,
David Schooley
Elder David Schooley
Clerk of Session

May BIRTHDAYS

Sally Brubeck	May 1
James Gano	May 5
Tabby Moore.	May 7
Caroline Moffett	May 9
David Schooley	May 11
Janice Goodson	May 14
Rosalee Miller	May 18
Chad Shomo	May 22
Derek Almarode	May 23
Lee Ann Whitesell.	May 26
Summer Barmore	May 27
Will Sproul	May 28
Jonah Williams	May 29

May ANNIVERSARIES

Jimmy & Debbie Callison —————	May 19, 1984
Bill & Sally Brubeck —————	May 21, 1955
D.W. & Beth Miller —————	May 23, 2005

*Dear Bethel friends,
Wes, Liam and I appreciate all of your prayers, cards and well-wishes during Harper's and my hospitalizations. Knowing that we had your support certainly helped us through a very difficult time. It is nice to have everyone home and for all of us to be able to attend Bethel with our church family again.*

With love, the McElveens



ECO Wade & Phyllis
Cash, Dave &

Betty Schooley, Brian & Penny
Lee and Derek & Cindy Almarode
attended the East Central Presby-
tery Meeting on April 28th & 29th.
The meeting was hosted by St. Giles
Presbyterian Church in Richmond.
The meeting was full of praise and
worship with guest speaker Buddy
Childress. Everyone truly enjoyed
themselves and felt truly welcomed
by our new denomination and our
new presbytery. It would be great if
we could host a presbytery meeting
in the future.



Outside WORSHIP

May 14th — September 24th

Morning Worship
will be held at
The Chapel in the Woods
beginning May 14th.

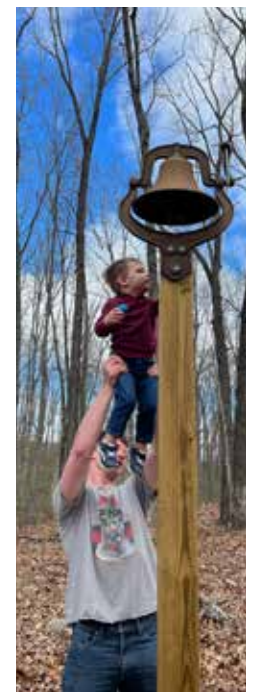
Worship will only be moved
inside if there is rain.



Easter Egg Hunt

The kids were treated to a Surprise Easter Egg Hunt after the Children's Message on Sunday, April 2.

The eggs were hidden from the church all the way back the road to the Chapel and there were treats awaiting the kids at the Pavilion.





Sunrise SERVICE

beautiful morning

—

slightly “chilly”

—

135 in attendance

—

wonderful fellowship &
covered dish breakfast



Thursday Night
BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday @ 6:30

30 Lesson Study on the Book of Acts | Come to one or come to all!

LET THE RISING SON-SHINE IN

With a farewell to the winter and this last bit of cooler weather, we say hello to the warmth of the sun and the life it now brings us. The signs of new life are all around us. As Spring transitions into summer, we should focus on letting the light of Christ shine in our hearts, for He is the true rising son from whom our warmth and strength flow.

As our days begin to lengthen, and May moves into June many things bloom and prosper. Thus, so should your discipleship for Jesus. God is always doing something in our hearts, in the world, and in our church. Like seeds waiting for warm rains and warmer nights to sprout, the Spirit works in us. Friends it is time to bloom and blossom for God!

Jesus has shown me that a new season has come. Time is on the side of new growth, and with new growth comes Hope! How can Bethel help you grow as a disciple of Jesus in this new season? It is time to connect or perhaps reconnect with God and with one another. The harshness of winter has passed, it is time to grow! It is our time to grow in connection, grow in community, grow as disciples, grow in our service, and grow in Jesus.

If Bethel has been a blessing to you, don't keep that to yourself. As I stated in January at the New Year message, invite a friend to join you for worship or one of the many events and gatherings here at Bethel. If worship blesses you, invite a friend to worship too. If the choir or our soloist blesses you, invite a musical person you know to join you. If you love our current Bible Study, bring a friend. Be fishers of men, bring a friend simply because you love God and you love Bethel. Together, we can grow as disciples and grow into the people God is calling each of us to be!

Message
FROM THE PULPIT

I am overjoyed to be your shepherd, I am delighted to share in God's word with each of you, and I am humbled by your trust. Lastly, I am excited to see what God has in store for us! Let's take this new season and grow together.

See you Sunday in Gods House, Derek



Thank You
AGAIN!

As we head back outside soon for worship, let us thank these folks once again for their contributions to our beautiful facility.

Mart & Amy Moore, Scott & Gail Virginia Cash, Bobby & Emily Seaman, Tim Hanger, Bobby & Patty Eavers, John Davis, Wade Cash, Kent & Donna Wheeler

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

Class of 2023
ELLEN FITZGERALD
CHARLIE JOHNSON

Class of 2024
MITCH LATHROP
D.W. MILLER

Class of 2025
HARLEIGH LEE
KATIE MCELVEEN

TRUSTEES

Class of 2023
BILL BRUBECK
JAMES WILLIAMS

Class of 2024
GUY D. BROOKS

Class of 2025
CHARLIE JOHNSON
BILLY WADE

CHURCH STAFF

JoAnn Pendley
PIANIST, ORGANIST
BELL CHOIR AND CHOIR

Lois Stogdale
DISBURSING TREASURER

Kay Thompson
RECEIVING TREASURER

John & Donna Bush
CUSTODIANS

Carol & Puggie Sprouse
CUSTODIANS



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING OUR COMMUNITY
FAMILY OF FAITH

Saturday, May 6th - 9:00am Registration

STRIDE FOR LIFE AT LAKE PAVILION, FISHERSVILLE
TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S COMFORT CARE

Saturday, May 6th - Noon - 4:00pm

MINT SPRING FLING AT MINT SPRING RURITAN BUILDING

Sunday, May 7th - immediately after worship

PANCAKES & FRUIT BRUNCH

Sunday, May 7th - 6:00pm

PRAISE NIGHT AT RAPHINE CHRISTIAN TO SUPPORT WRE

Tuesday, May 9th - 6:30

BETHEL MEN OF THE CHURCH MEAL

Sunday, May 14th - 11:00

MOTHER'S DAY, OUTSIDE WORSHIP BEGINS

Sunday, May 21st - 2:00

YOUTH FISHING TRIP, MEET AT HEARN'S LAKE
SANDWICHES & SNACKS PROVIDED

Sunday, May 28th - 11:00

LEMONADE AT THE PAVILION AFTER WORSHIP

Thursday, June 8th - 6:30

BIBLE STUDY PICNIC AT THE PAVILION - EVERYONE WELCOME!!

Sunday, June 18th - 11:00

LEMONADE AT THE PAVILION AFTER WORSHIP

Sunday, July 9th - 11:00

LEMONADE AT THE PAVILION AFTER WORSHIP

Sunday, August 27th - Homecoming

LAST SUNDAY IN OUTSIDE WORSHIP

Every Thursday - 6:30

BIBLE STUDY AT BETHEL
30 LESSON STUDY ON THE BOOK OF ACTS

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Meets the last Sunday
of each month.

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Meets the 3rd Sunday
of each month.

welcome
HOME