

THE *Tower*

SEPTEMBER 2023

563 Bethel Green Road Staunton, VA 24401 • 540-886-6041
bethelpc@gmail.com • bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org



BEING A SERVANT

Hello brothers and sisters. I hope this message finds you well. As a member of Session and a current Elder of Bethel there are questions and statements that find their way to me through the grapevine of gossip. There are statements that I have been asked to address such as “what is our intention as a church” and “what are we going to do for pastoral services now that we are leaving PCUSA”. The simple answer is, we are going to keep going just as we are right now. Clear as mud, right? With that statement, I will address what session has decided, and what ECO requires to lead and pastor a church.

In ECO, there are two types of commissioning officers to serve in pastoral roles. Per ECO constitution 2.05 which states:

2.05 COMMISSIONING FOR PARTICULAR SERVICE

2.0501 Deployment of officers for greater missional ministry

In order to better facilitate the mission and ministry of a presbytery and its congregations, as well as to maximize the gifts of the totality of the body of Christ, it is often advantageous to commission elders and deacons to more extensive levels of service than ordinarily af-

forded these offices. There are two general ways in which officers may be commissioned to provide pastoral leadership and administer the sacraments. First, they may serve in various ways within a congregation under the supervision of the session and a pastor/head of staff or transitional pastor. Second, an elder or deacon may be commissioned to serve in the role of pastor/head of staff for a congregation or a church plant. It is appropriate to refer to individuals serving in either capacity as “lay pastor.” The session shall pre-authorize the administration of the sacraments, and also determine the process by which pre-authorization occurs.

2.0503 Service within a congregation as the Pastor/Head of Staff

The presbytery, in consultation with the session or other responsible committee, may authorize an elder or deacon to be commissioned to serve in the role of pastor/head of staff of a local congregation or a church plant. With approval of the presbytery, these individuals could moderate session and congregational meetings, administer the sacraments and, where allowed by law, perform marriages. The presbytery shall ensure training to include theological education, and ministry skill development as well

— AS THIS — **ELDER SEES IT**

as continued mentorship during this commission. This commission shall be for a period of twelve months and may be renewed indefinitely. Because these officers are fulfilling the pastoral role for a congregation, they shall be enrolled as members of presbytery during their commission and be given voice and vote at presbytery meetings.

After reading these two sections of polity, you can see how ECO is more about building God’s house and not the church pocket book. ECO has found it more effective and advantageous to use lay persons as their pastors.

For instance, a person may feel the call to lead a ministry, but he or she may have a job outside of church and he or she does not have full credentials to be an ordained ECO pastor. The presbytery will provide and ensure that officers seeking to be a lay pastor are trained in theology and ministry skills.

This leads me to explain a lay leader. This is any leader or emerging leader who wants to be better equipped to serve, who

desires a deeper connection with Jesus and desires to grow. The presbytery offers training for lay pastors. It is in two parts: CLP1 and CLP2. Since CLP1 affects Bethel's immediate future, I want to share what it entails.

Commissioned Lay Pastor Training

CLP1 as defined by ECO:

This certification is a 10-month process undertaken with a non-geographical cohort, a facilitator, homework assignments and a mentor from your local church. CLP1s are lay leaders who are serving their church by leading micro-expressions of church (small groups, youth groups, missional communities, etc.) and who wish to have a deeper level of training in the 10 Leadership Competencies. The reason this will affect Bethel is because we as the session have extended Dereks contract for another year, and also agreed to support him as he embarks on CLP1 training, the next chapter and page in his

journey (reference to one of his sermons) in anyway necessary to further his call that God has for him at Bethel.

I found this statement on the ECO site that best explains why they feel lay pastors are important: *"Because God wants you to become the best leader you can be! We deeply value lay leadership development as being foundational. We seek to undo the clergy-centered ecclesiology that has plagued the church for too long and truly reclaim the biblical vision of the priesthood of all believers."*

I hope I have cleared the mud and answered some of the floating questions. If it is still unclear as to what I've written here, I'll be very bold with my final explanation. We at Bethel have found a pastor, his name is Derek Almarode.

That is also how this elder sees it.

Blessings,

Elder Brian Lee

COLOSSIANS 3:12-13

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

MATTHEW 20:25-28

²⁵Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



Prayer

REQUESTS OR CHANGES

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 will be removed
from the list after eight weeks
unless Tammy, Ellen
or the Office has been
notified otherwise.



BETHEL SESSION MEETING JULY 25, 2023

— *Notes of Importance for the Congregation* —

The Bethel Session met on Sunday August 20th with 8 members present, at the pavilion in the woods, at 12:30.

General Business:

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

- Wade Cash from the Deacons brought a motion to replace the Lower windows in the Sunday School wing, which is 13 windows. These are in condition that needs to be replaced, this was approved by the Session.
- Discussion was held on the possibility of having more outside services into October if weather permits. This will be announced on a week-to-week basis.
- Reviewed and updated guidelines for BERF.
- Derek was dismissed from the meeting to discuss our pastoral relationship with him. By unanimous vote of the members present, Session voted to extend the Contract of Derek Almarode for another year.
- Meeting was closed with Prayer by Brian Lee.



Respectfully,
David Schooley
Elder David Schooley
Clerk of Session

The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

- James 3:17-18





VALLEY MISSION BREAKFAST SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Bethel Presbyterian Women
are providing breakfast for Valley Mission
for 100 people.

Help is needed with casseroles!

Egg/Sausage, Ham/Egg
Hash brown/Egg or
French Bread Casserole

If you can help,
please contact

Stephanie Rivers 540.849.9839
or Beth Miller
540.255.1940

Casseroles can be dropped off at Bethel
(by 8:30)

or taken directly to
Valley Mission.

1513 W. Beverly St, Staunton

September BIRTHDAYS

Dale Goodson	-----	2
Charlie Johnson	-----	2
Wade Cash	-----	6
Beth Miller	-----	6
Charlie Schooley	-----	9
Billy Wade, III	-----	10
Shelby Myers	-----	11
Ashley Nelson	-----	12
Bill Brubeck	-----	15
Tim Turner	-----	17
Harleigh Rahnavard-Tehrani	---	21
Samantha Moore	-----	28
Robin Moffett	-----	29
Donna Bush	-----	30

September ANNIVERSARIES

Wade & Phyllis Cash
----- September 1, 1973

¹⁰ Listen, my son, accept what I say,
and the years of your life will be
many. ¹¹ I instruct you in the way of
wisdom and lead you along straight
paths. ¹² When you walk, your steps
will not be hampered; when you
run, you will not stumble. ¹³ Hold
on to instruction, do not let it go;
guard it well, for it is your life.

PROVERBS 4:10-13 NIV

A beautiful wedding at the Chapel in the Woods!



MR. & MRS. NICHOLAS RAHNAVARD-TEHRANI

THE BRIDE IS THE FORMER HARLEIGH RHIANNA THOMPSON LEE,
DAUGHTER OF BRIAN & PENNY LEE
& GRANDDAUGHTER OF DALE & KAY THOMPSON



CHILDREN'S TIME: LIAM IS
GIVING DEREK A RUN FOR HIS MONEY!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Bethel Presbyterian Ladies are hosting a luncheon!

Sunday, September 17th @ 1:00 • All women are invited!

Meal catered by Middlebrook Mercantile

Menu: Quiche, Soup, Salad, Bread & Dessert

Guest speaker will be from New Directions, "a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support and advocacy to those affected by violence, serial assault, and human trafficking".

Invite your friends and neighbors to this special event!

Contact Stephanie Rivers (540-849-9839) or Beth Miller (540-255-1940) to make reservations and transportation.

THE CIRCLE MEETING IS THE 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:30

SERVING CHRIST AT BETHEL WILL BENEFIT YOU!!

Each of us have our own individual needs and reasons for participating in church life. Even though we may not know you personally, we believe that God knows you and loves you. He can direct your life as you draw nearer to Him. One way to grow closer to Him is attending Bethel.

Here are a few benefits of worshipping with us:

- Maybe you're struggling with a specific question or need some direction in your life. Maybe you just need to feel God's love and know that He is here. We assure you that God is here and we promise that you can find him here as you experience His presence.
- Jesus commanded, "This is my body broken for you, take, eat, do this in remembrance of me". Here at Bethel, we take part in the Lords table and so can you.
- What we learn at church gives us guidance on how to follow God, improves our spirituality, and live better lives. You can be uplifted here at Bethel by fellow believers and by the opportunity to serve and worship our Savior.
- Church is a community where we can socialize and support each other. You can make friends, feel a sense of belonging, and build a support network that you can rely on. Here at Bethel we are family, welcome home!
- Bethel is home to many! We worship Christ daily in our actions and our deeds. Christ leads us to find those lost to His word. We believe we are called to serve Him in all that we do. Bethel and the family here serve as the foundation to our spiritual life. In Hebrews 10:24-25 we learn the following, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and do good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."



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

Sunday, September 3rd

WORSHIP INSIDE

Sunday, September 10th

RIVER BAPTISM @ VERONA CAMPGROUND

TOGETHER WITH PINES CHAPEL

BRING A CHAIR - SERVICE BY THE RIVER

IF YOU WANT TO REAFFIRM DRESS APPROPRIATELY

All are welcome to use the campground facilities

for the day, heated pool, hot tubs, etc.

When you arrive, check in at the store,

say you are with Bethel and you will receive a lanyard.

Sunday, September 24th -

Special music by Stacy Stevens & Penny Lee

Sunday, October 1st

Inside Worship

Every Thursday - 6:30

BIBLE STUDY AT BETHEL

NEW STUDY BOOK - *NOT A FAN*

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Meets the last Sunday
of each month.

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Meets the 3rd Sunday
of each month.

welcome
HOME