

THE Tower

NOVEMBER 2023

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DAY OF THANKSGIVING

November is a transitional month. If you are like me, you consider November to be the change from Fall to Winter since it begins with some colorful leaves still hanging on and ends with bare trees, even though the official start to winter is still about three weeks away in December.

Sometimes November brings an Indian summer, sometimes snow. The year that brought my return to the valley from the Virginia coast also brought a Thanksgiving week snow that lingered until Christmas. That year, taking young boys out in the snow to pick out the perfect Christmas tree for them to saw down made for a Norman Rockwell moment. Now that I am older Indian summers are just fine though.

You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.

EXODUS 34:22 (ESV)

November is best known as the beginning of the holiday season with the long Thanksgiving week-end. If you are married to a Virginia history teacher you should already have learned that the first Thanksgiving actually occurred in Virginia, what is now Berkeley Plantation to be specific. "Captain Woodlief upon landing on the banks of the James river announced: "We ordain that the day of our ship's arrival, at the place assigned for plantation, in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God."¹

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

COLOSSIANS 4:2 (ESV)

As Christians we need to give thanks in all things. I am thankful to see continued progress in the gracious dismissal process and transition to the ECO presbytery.

AS THIS ELDER SEES IT

At the October session meeting the incorporation papers were signed and Bethel is now incorporated, and the name Bethel Presbyterian Church is now legally secured.

Exciting to see are the growing covenant relationships within Bethel and with neighboring churches both individually and corporately, the encouragement to discipleship and growth in individual faith walks, and much needed stability and roots preaching in the Bethel pulpit

And I am still grateful for the Thanksgiving tradition of turkey and dressing

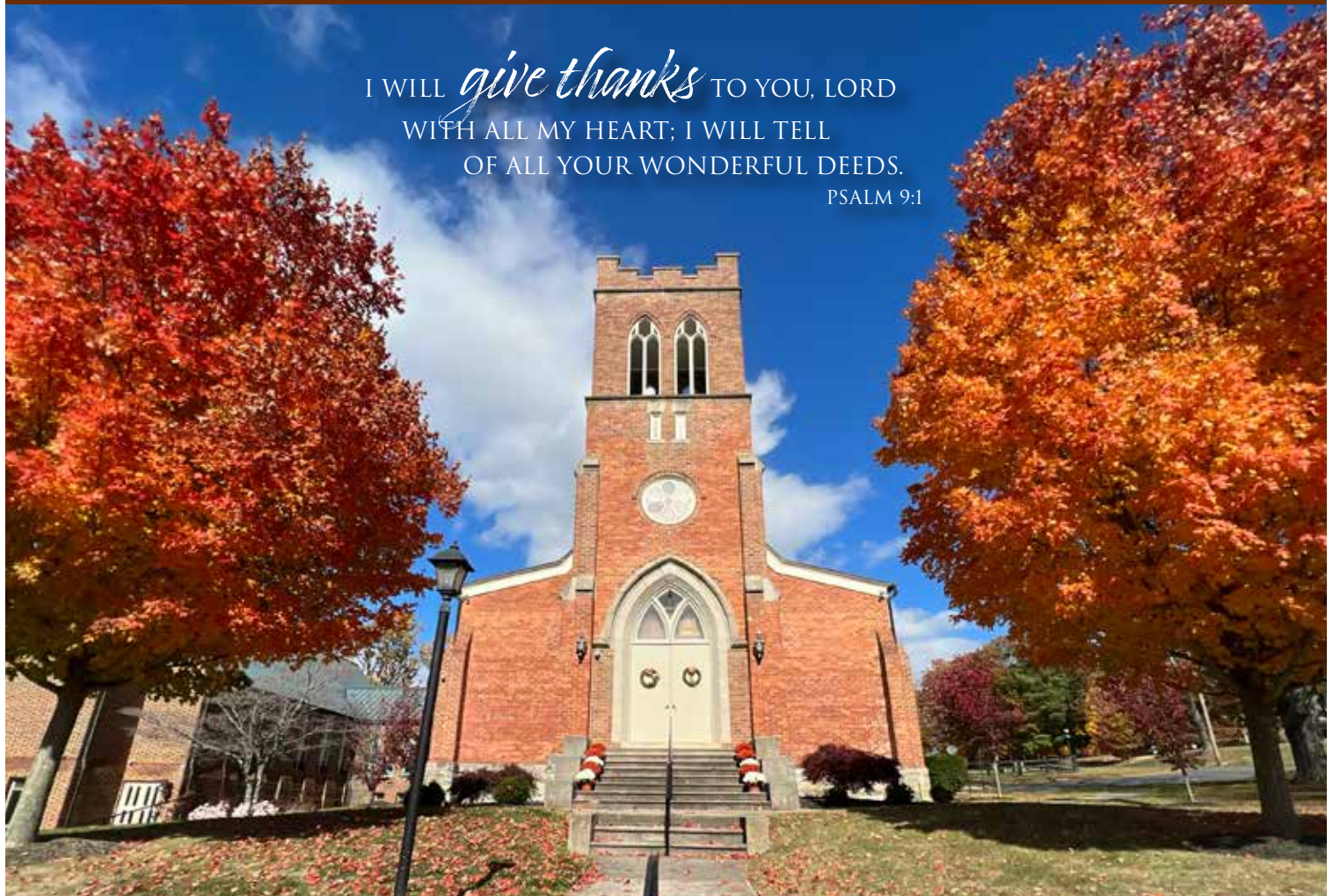
¹(Virginia Thanksgiving Festival at Berkeley Plantation)

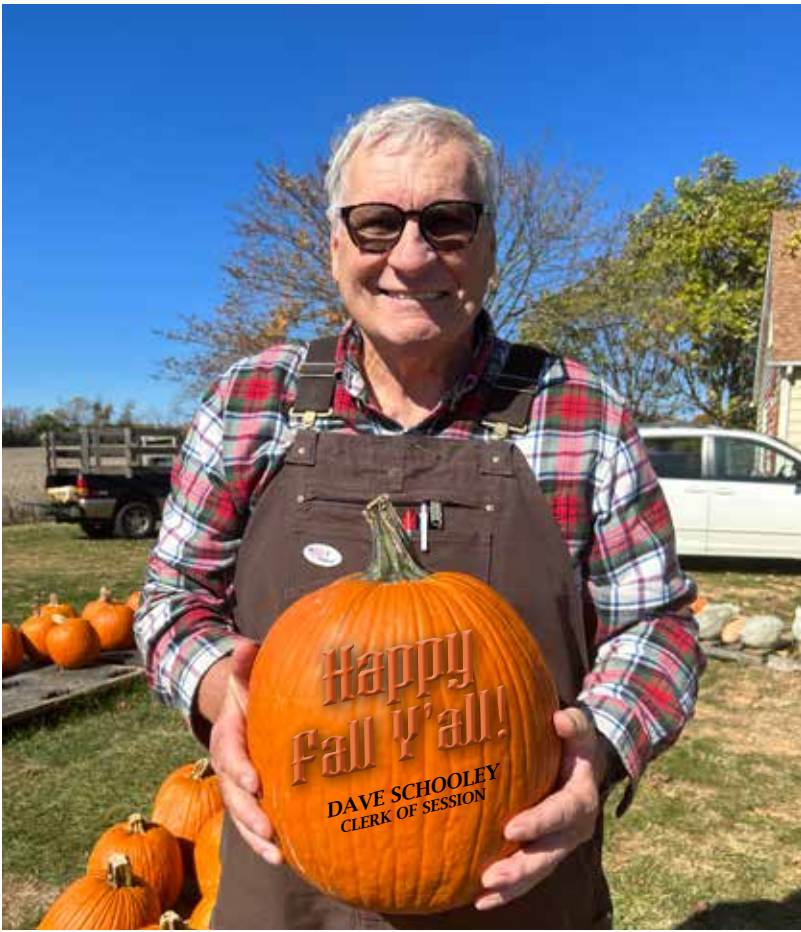




HONORING OUR LOVED ONES THAT HAVE GONE BEFORE US

I WILL *give thanks* TO YOU, LORD
WITH ALL MY HEART; I WILL TELL
OF ALL YOUR WONDERFUL DEEDS.
PSALM 9:1





The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands in Wytheville provides a Christian atmosphere and extraordinary care to the children they have been privileged to serve for 97 years.

For some time, our Bethel Women have helped brighten these children's Christmas by sending them gift cards. We are collecting these cards from the congregation again this November. The most useful gift cards are from McDonalds, Walmart, Burger King & Dollar General.

Please give your cards to
Beth Miller
or Stephanie Rivers
by November 20.

Thank You!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

If you would like to purchase a new window for the Sunday School Wing in Honor or Memory of someone, please see Wade Cash.

Sample window on the right.



**Shoeboxes are due
November 12th**

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

October 15, 2023

——— Notes of Importance for the Congregation ———

The Bethel Session met on Sunday, October 15th for our regular meeting in the Fellowship Hall with 8 Elders present.

General Business:

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

- Wade Cash announced that the first window had been installed in the downstairs Sunday School room and shared pictures of before and after and asked for comments. Suggestions were for insulated glass and possible tint. Wade will also be getting quotes for window treatments for the fellowship hall.
- Derek Almarode announced that the incorporation application of Bethel Church was completed and issued October 1st, 2023.
- Tim Turner is looking into improving the Bethel Sign on our front lawn.
- The Worship Committee announced the Communion Dates for the next year were approved.
- We will now be having greeters in the vestibule for Sunday services and we already have volunteers for the rest of the year.
- The first Sunday of Advent is December 3rd with Communion and a Covered Dish Lunch after the Service.



Respectfully,
David Schooley
Elder David Schooley
Clerk of Session

CALLING FOR BELL RINGERS!

Volunteers are needed to help with ringing the Salvation Army bells at the Orchard Hill Food Lion on Thursday, December 7th from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon & from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

You will be stationed at the main door. Each shift can last one or two hours, your choice. If you can help, please call Mo Kyle at (540)292-8578 to schedule a ringing time. It is fun to team up with a friend to make the time go by faster in the cooler weather. Help "ring in the holiday season" for those in need in our community!



Hanging of the greens

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

1st Sunday in Advent — Communion — Covered Dish Meal Following Worship



LIVING NATIVITY

at the Chapel in the Woods

Sunday, December 17th @ 5:00 pm

Live animals. Refreshments before.

Come early - stay late.

Christmas Carols around the bonfire.



Pines Chapel and Mt. Tabor will be joining us! If you would like to participate or help in any way, please see Cindy, Penny, Tammy, Brian or Derek!

LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

CHRISTMAS ALIVE PROJECT

RIVERHEADS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In addition to providing Christmas gifts to our Christmas Alive Families, we would like to provide our families with food for Christmas as well.

We are requesting the following items that could be used for Christmas dinner:

Ham · Instant or Boxed Mashed Potatoes
Boxed Mac 'n Cheese or Velveeta Shells & Cheese
Boxed Stuffing · Canned Vegetables · Canned Fruit

Any kind of meat would also be appreciated since it's unaffordable for them at this time such as ground beef or chicken tenders.

If you can donate the ham for Christmas or some ground beef or chicken tenders, please call Katie McElveen 540-292-4442 before purchasing.

For example, if we have 5 hams donated - that would be a LOT of ham.

We would also like to donate snacks for the kids, suggested items include:

microwave popcorn · goldfish crackers · individual cups of applesauce or fruit
fruit snacks · hot cocoa mix · cake mixes & frosting
muffin mixes (with liners or no stick spray)
peanut butter · jelly · capri-suns or juice boxes

**Please have your donations to church
by Sunday, December 17, 2023.**

**Presents are also due Sunday, December 17th
— already wrapped with the tag attached! —**

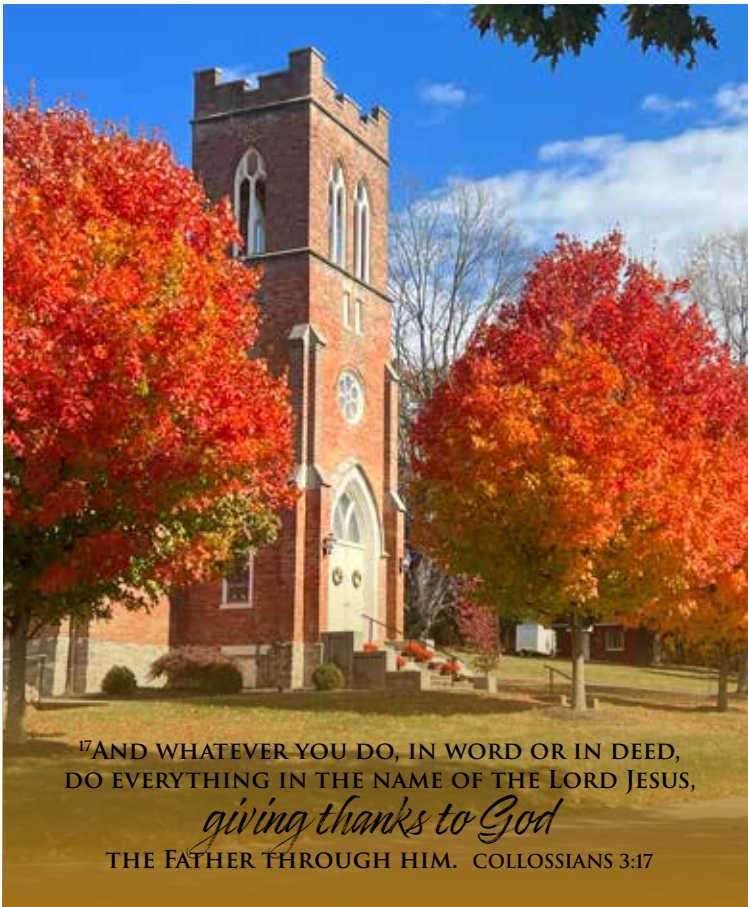
Thank you for your Christian Giving this Christmas Season



**COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22
AT MT. TABOR**

TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

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



**17AND WHATEVER YOU DO, IN WORD OR IN DEED,
DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS,
giving thanks to God
THE FATHER THROUGH HIM. COLLOSSIANS 3:17**

November BIRTHDAYS

- Leona Ware ----- November 1
- Jill Webb ----- November 11
- J.W. Davis ----- November 13
- Bayleigh Lee ----- November 15
- Brian Lee ----- November 17
- Kenny Olson ----- November 22
- Sue Whitesell ----- November 30

November ANNIVERSARIES

- Sam & Luanne Leonard
----- November 1, 1980
- Charlie & Rhonda Johnson
----- November 5, 1983

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

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

Wednesday, November 22nd

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE @ MT. TABOR

Sunday, November 26th

LIGHTS IN THE PARK DISPLAY HAS TO BE FINISHED
ADVENT WORKSHOP AND LIGHT SNACKS

Thursday, November 30th - 6:30

BIBLE STUDY THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS
COVERED DISH MEAL @ BETHEL SOCIAL HALL

Sunday, December 3rd

HANGING OF THE GREENS.
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - COMMUNION.
COVERED DISH MEAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

Sunday, December 17th

LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS, BETHEL
WITH PINES CHAPEL AND MT. TABOR.

Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.
REGULAR WORSHIP AT 11:00.
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE @ 8:00PM.

Thursday, December 28 - NO BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, December 31st

WRE BREAKFAST AT PINES CHAPEL AT 8:30
WORSHIP AT PINES - 9:30, WORSHIP AT BETHEL - 11:00.

Thursday, January 4 - NO BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays - 6:30

BIBLE STUDY AT BETHEL
SERIES "NOT A FAN"
NEW LESSON SERIES STARTS JANUARY 11TH!!
SERIES TO BE DETERMINED

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Meets the last Sunday
of each month.

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Meets the 3rd Sunday
of each month.

