

# THE *Tower*

JANUARY 2024

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## IN "DEED" A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to each of you! As we begin our journey together, remember everything that our faith has taught us. Make no mistake, 2024 will bring its fair share of challenges, but remember to look to each other for council and comfort, and always look to God for His amazing love. It is in this love, where we find protection, peace, and true happiness.

Each of us have likely made a New Year's resolution, perhaps some of us have made more than one. As your shepherd, I strongly encourage each of you to seek Christ first in the dawn of this New Year. For if you do, it will not only be your best resolution, but it will also be your unmerited salvation.

As we walk together in faith this year, let us give thanks and praise to God, the Father Almighty. For it is by His love we each get to experience our many blessings.

January 2024 for Bethel is truly a New Year! All administrative action

concerning our transition is complete and we simply await the official filing of our property deed with Augusta County Circuit Court.

### **Congratulations church, you are free!**

I would be remiss if I didn't express my gratitude. I am so thankful to God for His blessings over us as a church and church family. I must confess that I am overwhelmed by your love and support, thus, I never fail to marvel at what God has done with each of you and what a wonderful family we have become here at Bethel Presbyterian Church.

I reference you a lot as "amazing followers", and amazing you are!! I am very proud to have been your brother, friend, and your pastor over the past year. It is an honor and a privilege to serve and work with each of you. I sincerely thank you for your sacrifices and commitment to our beloved church. I pray that God rewards each of you for your dedication and devotion to our ministry.

### — MESSAGE FROM — **PASTOR'S DESK**

Thank you also for your tolerance, patience, understanding, goodwill and prayers. This continues to be a great source of strength and support for me. Thank you for your cooperation, your words of comfort, your compliments, your constructive criticisms, and your useful advice. Your strong faith, your smiles, and your laughter have always lifted the spirit within our honored Bethel.

Your support and cooperation have always been a source of immense strength to help build our church into a family of love and unity. I wish you and your family a blessed, happy, peaceful, and healthy New Year in 2024. I welcome all to join us here at Bethel as we begin an exciting new chapter with many exciting things taking place. 2023 was awesome, but 2024 is shaping up to be a grand slam. Don't miss out!! Come see us and share in the light of the world!

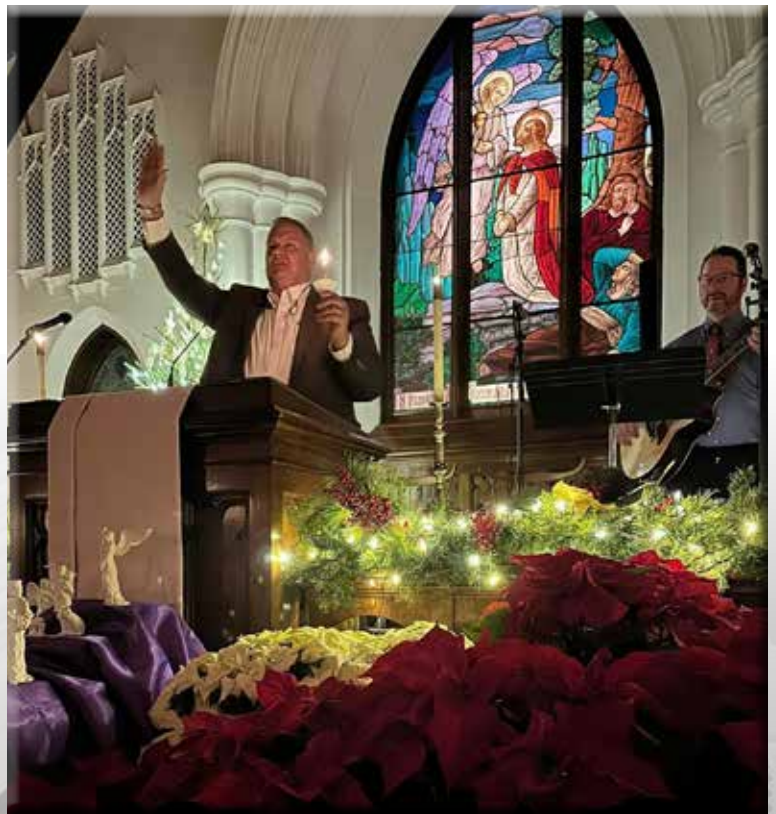
May God bless you, and keep you, and may He lay His divine countenance upon you throughout this New Year.

In Christ,  
Derek





*“It goes without saying, this Christmas season has been one that I will never forget. Advent here at Bethel has been filled with beautiful gatherings of friendship and fellowship. I can’t remember when the church has looked more beautiful and I am so grateful for all who have participated in our events this year. Merry Christmas! .” Derek*







*Let us all be a reflection of God's love*

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,  
and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.  
Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.  
In this the love of God was made manifest among us,  
that God sent his only Son into the world,  
so that we might live through him.” 1 JOHN 4:7-9



# LIVING NATIVITY

*at the Chapel in the Woods*



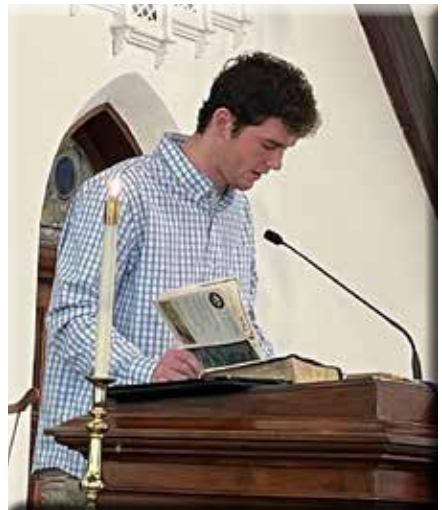
**LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS**







# ADVENT SEASON WAS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL



# 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 December 17, 2023

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

The Bethel Session met on Sunday, December 17th for our regular meeting in the Session Room with 10 Elders present.

### General Business:

Brian Lee opened the meeting with prayer. The Session discussed several matters of business.

- Deacons to be included in next Session Meeting.
- New bible study begins January 11th. There will be a youth bible study for our church community to begin at Pines Chapel. Details to come.
- The Incorporation of Bethel Church has been filed and completed. The first corporation meeting will be held in February.
- Penny Lee and Cindy Almarode will lead an inquiry committee on Bethel Day Care and Preschool
- Tim Turner announced the No Trespassing Signs are installed.
- Penny Lee announced that Betty Schooley had agreed to co-chair the Nominating Committee.
- The next session meeting is scheduled for January 14 with the Deacons included.



Respectfully,  
David Schooley  
Elder David Schooley  
Clerk of Session





**LIVING NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS**











## *Impacting Lives with a Helping Hand*

“God’s Pit Crew” is traveling to Mississippi to construct a new home. Are you interested in lending a hand? Bethel would be joining another local church to comprise a team, the team would be assigned to work the week of April 6-13, 2024 (Saturday to Saturday) We have talked about resurrecting our great Mission Teams here at Bethel and putting our talent back to work for Christ, here is our chance to lend a hand in a storm tattered area. If you are interested please see Derek for details.

## *Winter Plans*

We're making plans for the bleak winter months and want your suggestions!

Drop a note in the box under the tv in memorial hall if you have any ideas!

game night • movie night • date night  
more fellowship • sight & sound in lancaster  
You name it and we'll try to make it happen!!

YOUTH (KIDS AT HEART INCLUDED)

bowling • movies • tubing • water park  
basketball • snowflex • give us your ideas!!

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

## *January* BIRTHDAYS

Mac Williams . . . . . January 2  
Katie Johnson McElveen . . . . . January 3  
D.W. Miller. . . . . January 3  
Margaret Wade . . . . . January 16  
Lois Crosier . . . . . January 18  
Dale C. Smith . . . . . January 19  
John Brubeck . . . . . January 22  
Bob Law . . . . . January 30  
Joyce Liptrap . . . . . January 31

## *January* ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Louise Hoy . . . . . January 17, 1954

HAPPY 70<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY!





## 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 RAHNAVARD-TEHRANI  
KATIE M'ELVEEN

## 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

**Thursday, January 11 - New Bible Study Begins**

**Sunday, January 14th**

- Bethel Presbyterian Women meeting after worship. All officers are encouraged to attend and all women are welcome!
- Joint meeting of Session and Deacons

**June 17-21, 6:30 - 8:30**

- Bible school with Pines Chapel, theme: Breaker Rock Beach

**Thursdays - 6:30**

**BIBLE STUDY AT BETHEL**

**There are many activities coming up with tentative dates.  
As soon as the dates are set, they will be posted.**

**2024 BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN | JAN 21 - FEB 18**

**SPEAK UP**

for those who  
cannot speak  
for themselves

Proverbs 31:8



*Fill A Bottle With Change... Change A Life.*

## ATTENTION WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Our Acronym will no longer be PWCT  
- that was affiliated with PCUSA.

We will now go by Bethel Presbyterian Women  
or BPW.

### YOUTH COMMITTEE

Meets the last Sunday  
of each month.

### SECURITY COMMITTEE

Meets the 3rd Sunday  
of each month.