

THE TOWER

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Bethel Presbyterian Church

July 2011

From the Pastor's Desk

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

Jesus, Our Risen Lord, Matthew 28:19-20a

A young minister, frustrated with the slow pace of mission work in India, asked the Duke of Wellington, famed soldier as well as administrator, if the Duke didn't think it a rather useless endeavor to try and evangelize in that country. The Duke replied, “What are your marching orders, sir?”

Ours is simply to follow the Lord's command to “go...baptize...teach.” The opening of people's hearts to the Gospel is the Lord's business. As our mission teams, both local and foreign-bound go to carry out the Lord's command, let us pray that the Lord will open hearts to be receptive to the Gospel.

“The church that is not a missionary church will be a missing church when Jesus comes.” - F. B. Myers

SESSION NEWS



- The Session heard a report from Ken Miller, Chairman of the Diaconate, on their accomplishments and projects to be done.
- It was agreed to air condition the Kitchen and Choir Room at this time with possible money from the timber fund and the money market fund. A capital campaign will be conducted. The Fellowship Hall is under consideration to be air conditioned also.
- The Session will not have a scheduled meeting in July.
- There is a new Form of Government (FOG) approved for the Presbyterian Church. We will continue to use the present Book of Order as our manual of operations as details are worked out.
- The high school seniors were recently recognized at a morning worship service and were presented with a Bible.
- The Growth and Strengthening Committee will have a table at the July 4th celebration at the park in Staunton to promote our church and mission program.
- Ramona Bosserman will be preaching for us while Joel is on vacation from June 26th through July 9th, 2011.
- The consideration of a meal on Mondays for those in need was approved and plans to implement this will be moving forward.
- A defibrillator has been approved for the church and a class on how to use it will be forthcoming. Everyone is invited to attend.



There is a suitcase in the vestibule at the back of the Sanctuary. The Baja Mission Team hopes you will fill the “Baja Suitcase” to the brim and over with any “gently used” toys, small stuffed animals, or sports items (soccer balls, Frisbees, small balls, kite kits, air pumps, etc.). Also appreciated are shoes, hair accessories, drawing pads, crayons, pencils and sharpeners, small purses; anything that you think a child would enjoy having.

Twin and full sheets, blankets, pillows, curtains and curtain rods, tablecloths, may be left in the Senior High Sunday School room.

These donations do not need to be new - just clean and ready to be put to use. The deadline for donations is Sunday, July 3rd! Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

- Bethel Mission Team



Bethel Witness Committee Movie and Games Day For All Ages!
July 9th, 2011 3 pm until dark

The Bethel Witness Committee will be having a Corn Hole Tournament and events for kids (sack races, horseback rides, etc). There will be hot dogs and hamburgers and there will be live music by Leaning Wheel.

At dark we will begin with a short children's show and then watch a movie which has yet to be determined. Come and join the fun!



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held at St. John's this year from Sunday July 10th - Wednesday July 13th.

This year's theme will be "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid". The lessons will revolve around Jesus and include, Mary is chosen, Jesus is born, Escape to Egypt, Jesus in the temple and Miracle in Cana. Sunday we will start with registration at 3:30 pm followed by story time, fun and games and a visit to the market place (crafts). St. John's will provide the meal Sunday. We will end each night about 8:30pm. Monday - Wednesday we will meet at 6:00 for a meal before we visit Nazareth.

Our format will be different this year as will have "Tribes" instead of classes. VBS participants will be assigned to "tribes" as they register and we will be inter-mingling the ages so we have little ones and adults within each tribe. Tribes will also contain members from the various churches (Bethel, St. John's, Mt. Tabor, Redeemer and any others)...there will be no tribe where all members are from one church. Each tribe will have a tribal leader and an assistant leader. Having adults and children participate together should be an enriching experience for everyone. Each session begins and ends with "Celebration" (announcements and music time) in the Sanctuary.

After Celebration, each tribe will move to a classroom to pick up their tribal identification and money for the Market Place. This is also where we will learn our Bible verse for the session. Tribes will be moving through story/drama, games, market place, and snack time each night. In order to have enough craft supplies, please let us know if you plan to attend VBS this year.

Bethel will need at least two tribal leaders and two assistant leaders and two shop-keepers for the market place. Yvonne Goodson has volunteered as one of the shop-keepers. We will be providing the meal on Monday and the story - Miracle in Cana on Wednesday. **HELP IS WANTED AND NEEDED!!** Please let Adrienne, Kathy Swisher (885-7397), Irene Elliott (885-3554) or Jill Webb (337-4311) know if you can help. Thanks.



Presbyterian Women
July 2011

July 12 - The Afternoon and Evening Circles will meet on Tuesday, July 12th at 6:30 pm at the Middlebrook Community Center for the annual dinner.

July 31 - PWCT Meeting



The **Bethel Presbyterian Women's Annual Dinner Meeting--Ladies Night Out**--will be held on Tuesday, July 12th at 6:30 pm at the Middlebrook Community Center. Come out and enjoy a catered meal by Country Kitchen out of Christiansburg. The cost will be \$14.00 per person. Entertainment will be provided. It will be a great time of good food, fellowship and fun. We will be accepting donations of snack foods for the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands. Anyone wishing to participate may bring them to the dinner meeting. Suggested items-popcorn, cookie mixes and brownie mixes. Please let Circle Leaders (Libby Smith 337-2058 or Stephanie Rivers 849-9839) know by **JULY 1ST** if you plan to attend and give the names of guests if you have any.

Nursery Schedule July 2011

July 3rd - Susan McCutchen-Smith;
Cindy Almarode
July 10th - Louise Hoy; Joyce Davis
July 17th- Tobe and Pam Hewitt
July 24th - Keedie Leonard;
Cole/Isabelle Leonard



Flower Schedule
July 2011

July 3rd - Bettie Beard
July 10th - Mary Ann Anderson
July 17th - Joan McLaughlin - Memorial
July 24th - Betsy Little
July 31st - Drury Whitaker

Offering Schedule
July 2011

Tom Heizer
Tabby Moore
Josh Smith
Mac Williams



Congratulations Graduates!!

Graduating From College

Lynette Humphries - Daughter of Leon and Susan Humphries; Graduated from Mary Washington College on May 7th with an Environmental Science degree; Continuing to live in Fredericksburg, VA working as an analyst and doing an internship with the city.



Deacons Notes – July 2011

Financial - Receipts and expenses are on target with the 2011 budget through the end of May.

Congregational Service –

- The **Congregational Care Committee** sent cards to some members to improve our contact.
- The **Men's Supper** is July 19th. The previous Men's Supper was very successful, with good attendance, several visitors, and an excellent talk by **Dean Caldwell**. The July speaker will be announced.
- A **Bethel Picnic** was held June 25th.

Community Service -

- **Derek Almarode** spoke on personal safety and Augusta County law enforcement at the June Greenville-Riverheads Ruritan Club meeting.
- **Adopt-A-Highway Program** – Bethel is listed at VDOT as sponsoring Howardsville Road from Riverheads to Middlebrook Road. A question was raised as to whether we in fact had signed up for the portion from Riverheads to Springleigh. VDOT confirmed that we are signed up for it, but said we could revoke it if we wished. The Deacons voted to continue to sponsor the road from Riverheads to Springleigh.

Flowers - Susan McCutchen-Smith and the Youth continued to improve flower beds.

Tower – After meeting with Mac Williams and Ken Miller, O'Brien Roofing provided a ballpark estimate for Tower and south hallway repairs. The estimate confirms that this will be a large project for Bethel. While we know repairs must be made at some point, there is no schedule and no decision is imminent.



(Deacon's Notes continued on next page)

(Deacon's Notes continued)

The Deacons agreed on several planning steps.

- Discuss cost components and estimating approach with O'Brien
- Talk to Hebron officers about their similar project
- Draft a written statement of the work to be done
- Conduct a more detailed inspection of the Tower, possibly by a consultant
- Get additional bids

Air Conditioning - The Diaconate received a number of inquiries about air conditioning the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall over the last two years. In late summer 2010, Mac and Ken met with Scott's Plumbing and Heating, a Bethel maintenance contractor, to identify design alternatives. Scott's provided separate bids for the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall. We received updated estimates in May 2011 and the Deacons discussed them in our June 5th meeting. The Deacons passed a motion to recommend deferral of air conditioning. A consideration in this recommendation was making Tower repairs the Deacon's first priority. It was also pointed out that air conditioning could be funded by other entities and didn't have to be sponsored by the Deacons. This recommendation was presented to the Session on June 12th. The Session discussed the recommendation and options in depth and reached the following conclusions, in consideration of need and affordability.

1. Defer Fellowship Hall air conditioning as recommended by the Deacons.
2. Proceed with air conditioning only (not heat pumps) for the Kitchen and Choir Room.



Note that costs for the smaller rooms are less than for the Fellowship Hall and deemed to be affordable at this time. Session members expressed confidence in raising funds since this is a significant and lasting improvement and directly advantageous to many of our members.

A new bid for "Kitchen and Choir Room a/c-only" was requested on June 15th. The contractor reported that the manufacturer did not offer a standalone a/c without the heat pump in the configuration we were looking at, so we told him to bid the heat pump. The new proposal was received and signed off by Bethel. Installation should begin in late June.

Deacon's Prayer List

Powhatan Bouldin, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Dr. David Burgess (Med Mission), Lorine Caldwell, Family of Earl Campbell (Pearl Rowe's brother) Aggie Dodson, Jessie Earhart, Denny Grimm, Joel and Nellie Hamilton, Danielle Hanger, Ronnie Hearn, Family of Glenna Hutchens, Anne Jones, Flora Law, Margaret Liptrap, Lucy Miller, Miguel Norman, Judy Olson, Les Prickett, Jean Reeves, Tom Small, Richard Smith, Charlotte Swartzel, Doris True, David Turner

Summer Concert Series

The historic Stonewall Brigade Band, Staunton's 100-member community concert band, presents a free concert every Monday night during July and August. Concerts start at 8 pm at the bandstand in Gypsy Hill Park, Staunton. Lawn chairs are suggested, and concessions are available. Concerts are held rain or shine.



The Diaconate will not meet in July. They will meet in August at their normal time.



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The Church Office will be closed on Monday July 4th, 2011 for Independence Day. Thank you!



Don't Forget!!

July 4th - Independence Day



TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY FOR ALL WHO STAND IN NEED OF PRAYER .

