

# THE TOWER

*May 2010*

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## **From the Pastor's Desk . . .**

“Her children rise up and call her blessed. Her husband also, and he praises her.”  
(Proverbs 31:28)

When 17-year old W.P.L. Mackay left his humble Scottish home to attend college, his mother gave him a Bible in which she had written his name and a verse of Scripture. College was only the beginning of a lifestyle that greatly saddened his mother. At one point, he sank so low that he even pawned the Bible his mother had given him in order to buy some whiskey. His mother prayed for him until the day she died.

Long years later, when Mackay had become a doctor, he visited a dying patient who pleaded for a book among his scant possessions. When the man died, Mackay, curious as to what book could be so important, went and searched the man's room. The book he found was the very Bible that he had pawned years earlier.

He went to his office and gazed again at the familiar writing, noticing many pages on which his mother had underscored verses that she had hoped he would read. After many hours in that office, Mackay knelt and prayed to God for mercy.

W.P. Mackay, the physician, later became a famous minister. The Bible he had once treated so lightly became his most precious possession. His mother's prayers may have taken long years to be fulfilled, but effective they were. Thank you, mothers, for your prayers and your tears. Don't ever give up on your children.

As for my own mother, she has always been a blessed and loving example to me of what I now preach every Sunday. Thank you, Mom.

**The church office will be closed** on Monday, May 31st, 2010, for the Memorial Day holiday.

**Communion** will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, 2010.

**Honoring Graduating Seniors-** On May 23rd, we will honor our graduating seniors and present them with Bibles and with tokens of our great affection and well wishes for them. This year, our seniors are: Tate Burkholder, Benjamin Folsom, Katie Johnson, Kelley Tuennermann, Colin Whitaker, and Katie Williams. Congratulations! God's blessings and Godspeed!

**Lemonade on the Lawn** after worship on May 23rd to honor our graduating seniors, our confirmation class, and our new members from the past year. Come and join us as we celebrate and fellowship together!

**Confirmation** - On May 23rd, during worship, we will confirm six of our young people into membership. Jennifer Callison, Katie Johnson, Bruce Lamond, Cole Leonard, Isabelle Leonard, and Maggie Rivers will take their vows of commitment and join Bethel following weeks of classes and learning. Welcome them and keep them in your prayers as they begin an exciting journey of faith with us!

**Witness Committee News** - On May 22nd and June 19th, the Bethel Witness Committee will hold a car wash and bake sale at the Staunton Advance Auto Parts parking lot. A free will offering will be collected for the car wash and all money will go to Bethel's Mission Fund. Upcoming bulletins will provide more information. Come and support Bethel's Mission Programs.

**If you have a child or grandchild graduating from college or high school** or if you know of a person graduating, please notify the church office by Tuesday May 18 at 540-886-6041 or bethelpc@gmail.com). Please give the graduate's name, name of the school, major (if applicable), the parent's names, and any additional information you would like to include. We will include this information in a bulletin insert on Graduation Recognition Sunday (May 23rd) and in the June Tower. Thank you!

## Youth News:

**Mother's Day** - On Sunday May 9th, all ages of youth are invited to participate in the Mother's Day worship service. We will practice during the Sunday School hour on both Sundays May 2nd and May 9th. If you would like to participate in the service, please plan to attend both mornings of practice.

**Our monthly youth meeting** will be on Sunday, May 16th. The exact time of the meeting will be announced later. We will plant the "Rainbow Garden" box on the playground. This will be followed by a presentation about Memorial Day!

**A big thank-you** to the youth and adults who helped with our Easter Egg Hunt and the "Easter Journey" presentation. It was a beautiful day to hunt eggs (accomplished in record time). We enjoyed yummy goodies and had a wonderful time of fellowship. The Easter Journey gave the families insight into the life and teachings of Jesus during Holy Week, and also of the resurrection of our Savior. Look for photos of this fun day on the youth bulletin board (at the bottom of the steps leading to the library).

The Youth Committee



**Dinner table on Maundy Thursday**

## Presbyterian Women's News

**Presbyterian Women's 2010 Birthday Offering** is one of two special offerings of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church and will be collected at the joint meeting on May 11th, 2010, at 7:00 pm.

The offering will assist with two projects: the Kindergarten and Childcare Center (Primary School Development) in Kirkuk, Iraq and the Peace Presbyterian Church RISE (Reach, Improve, Strengthen, Empower) Project in Louisville, Kentucky.

**May 2010** - Emphasis: Christian Family Education; Birthday Offering

**Circles** - The afternoon and evening circles will meet on May 11. The two circles will meet separately at 7 pm and then jointly at 7:15 pm for the Birthday Offering program.

May 2 - PWCT Meeting - following morning worship

May 30 - PWCT Meeting - following morning worship



Joan and Pearl

**Bethel Presbyterian Women Donation Request** - The Bethel Presbyterian Women plan to purchase new tables for the Fellowship Hall. The PWCT is checking with the Middlebrook Fire Company about the type and price of the tables they purchased recently. They are asking for monetary donations from the congregation to help with the cost of the tables. The PWCT will cover the remainder of the cost out of their general fund. Congregation donations are requested by July 31, 2010.

**Christian Women United** will meet at Pines Chapel Presbyterian Church at 3 pm on Sunday, May 2nd, 2010. This will be our May Fellowship Meeting for May Friendship Day. Light refreshments will be served. Come and join us for fun and fellowship! If you have any questions please contact Joan McLaughlin (540-337-2489).

### **Sunday School News**

**The Bethel Young Adult Class** meets every Sunday morning at 10AM in Memorial Hall. We have been studying out of a wonderful book titled What Really Counts. The lessons relate the Scriptures to real life in our world today. For the past few weeks, the lessons have even gone out via email to all who wish to receive them. This has been a very popular step, especially among those who otherwise are unable to make it to Sunday school due to circumstance or distance. Come join us! We'd love to have you! As far as the "young adult" part goes....you are only as old as you want to be! In God's eyes, we are all young adults!

**The Kindergarten/Elementary Sunday School Class** is taught by Mrs. Donna Bush. They have been studying about talking to God, using Scripture and arts and crafts to get the points across. The children will be practicing songs for their part in the upcoming Mothers Day service. Bring your children so that they can experience God's love as they learn and have fun together!

**Our McClure Class** will be highlighted in May. After that, we will take a look at our Seeker's Class. So, as you can see, we have plenty of classes available for all ages and interests. Sunday School Superintendent Susan McCutchen-Smith invites you to come join us in one of our Sunday school classes for fun and fellowship as you gain insight into God's Word.

**Correction:** In our last Sunday School update in April's Tower, please make sure to change the line that reads "I encourage you to become a student of the Word, study it and form your own perceptions..." to "I encourage you to become a student of the Word, study it for yourself, precept upon precept on your own, and then join us for active study and discussion each Sunday." Susan, who was quoting from Bible teacher Kay Arthur, certainly meant the latter and not the former as it was printed in the Tower.



### **Building the new Cemetery Fence**

**The Session** will meet on the third Sunday of May (May 16) rather than the second Sunday due to Mother's Day.

**The Shenandoah Presbytery** will meet on Tuesday, May 11, at 9:00 am at Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church; Harrisonburg, VA. If you would like information about events going on within the Shenandoah Presbytery, log on to the Presbytery's website at: <http://www.shenpres.org> . To keep up with current news and projects within the denomination log on to the PCUSA website at <http://www.pcusa.org> .

### **Receiving Treasurer Quarterly Report**

Pledges received through March 31, 2010 are 45 for a total of \$98,236. It is never too late to pledge. Cards are available in the vestibule, hallway and office.

The estimated budget for January 1 to March 31, 2010 is \$ 45,669. The total received for this period is \$44,728. Thank you for your continuing support.

If you mail contributions to the church for the general fund please address to the Receiving Treasurer to insure proper posting to your account.

## SESSION NEWS

Carla Robertson's membership was transferred to Central United Methodist Church in Staunton, VA. We wish her well in her new church home.

Lemonade on the Lawn will be on May 23rd.

A church picnic is planned for June 26 at the church for members and friends.

A Witness Committee rebuilding project will be April 24th. This is open to all ages. If you would like to help, please contact Peggy Smith or Derek Almarode.

The May Session meeting will be May 16 instead of May 9 due to Mother's Day.

Jane Law will represent Bethel at the May Presbytery meeting at Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church.



Demolition of the Old Fence

## **Deacons Notes – May 2010**

We are close to the 2010 income and expense budget through March. While heat and electricity exceeded the budget through the hard winter, we made it up in other areas. We continue to restrain capital improvement spending. We encourage everyone to help make sure the heat is turned down and the lights are off after church functions.

Ken Wilkinson and the Women of the Church are reviewing church rebate programs with area grocery stores as possible fundraisers.

We are working with the insurance adjuster and a contractor to repair snow and ice damage.

The Deacons reviewed four qualified bids for 2010 Church and Manse lawn service and selected the Twin Oaks Lawn Service bid.

Sunlight and heat problems from the window by the choir area need to be corrected as soon as possible. Tim Turner is preparing alternative approaches to fix the problem in an attractive way.

Jon Bush trimmed trees in the Church and Manse yards.

Deacon's meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board near Fellowship Hall each month. Please contact any Deacon if you have recommendations or needs.

### **Deacon's Prayer List**

Glen Austin, Edith Beahm, Kelsey Bosserman, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Lorine Caldwell, Melissa Coffey, Jim Crosby, Aggie Dodson, Jessie Earhart, Dale Goodson, Nellie Hamilton, Wayne Hord, Flora Law, Kyle Leonard and Family, Lucy Miller, Suzanne Perl, Roy Pilson, Les Prickett, Tom Small, Richard Smith, Charlotte Swortzel, David P. Turner, and Robbie Victorine.

### **Deacon's Offering Schedule for May**

Derek Almarode  
Larry Damico  
Susan Smith  
Tim Turner

### **Flower Schedule for May**

May 2nd - Jean Callison  
May 9th - Lucy Sproul  
May 16th - Libby Smith  
May 23rd - John Wooddell - Communion - Pentecost Sunday  
May 30th - Judy Olson

### **Nursery Schedule for May**

May 2 - James and Cynthia Williams  
May 9 - Leslie Freed; Maggie Freed  
May 16 - Sue Whitesell; Lee Ann Whitesell  
May 23 - Mary Ann Anderson; Colin and Mason Whitaker  
May 30 - Robert and Betty Jo Olson



**Congratulations to the Smith Family** on the birth of Tristan Arthur James Smith on Friday, March 26, 2010. Tristan is the son of Meda and Matt Smith and the grandson of Susan McCutchen-Smith and Richard Smith.

**Congratulations to the Williams Family** on the birth of H. Joseph Williams VI in April. He is the son of Joseph and Dorinda Williams and the grandson of H. Joseph and Becky Williams.

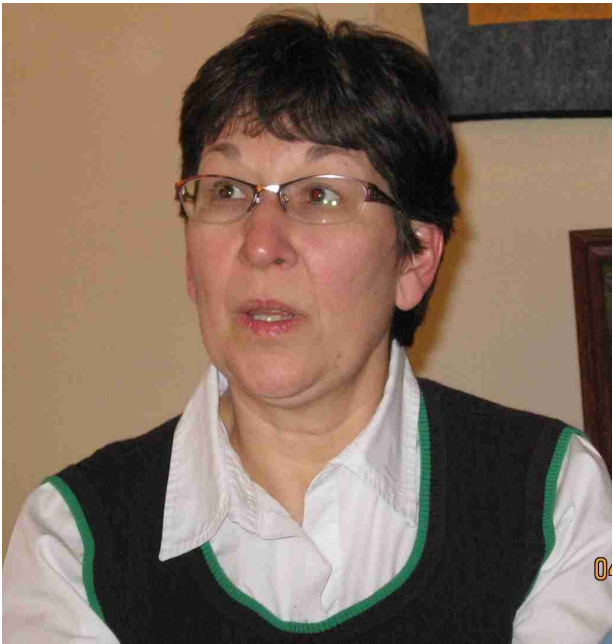
### **Plaque Unveiling Ceremony and Grave Rededication Old Providence ARP Church; Spottswood, Virginia**

You are cordially invited to a special ceremony to unveil a plaque and rededicate graves to honor Revolutionary War patriots and War of 1812 veterans at the Old Providence ARP Church on Saturday, May 15th, at 1 pm. The Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia will conduct the ceremony. For more information, contact Faith Bryant at (540) 377-6190.

**Directions to Old Providence:** Follow Spottswood Road from Route 11 to the intersection with Old Providence Road. The church is on the right.



**Sunday Morning**



**Peggy Smith**



**Women's Meeting**

**Don't Forget!**

May 6 - National Day of Prayer  
May 9 - Mother's Day  
May 15 - Armed Forces Day  
May 31 - Memorial Day Observed

**Take a moment to pray for all who stand in need of prayer.**