

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church
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November 2010



From the Pastor's Desk

An author in *Christian Digest* relates that, in his home city, there is an elevated train that passes by a large cemetery called Calvary. Just before the train reaches that point, an announcer says, "Next stop Calvary Station. Train stops on request only. Anybody for Calvary?"

The author goes on to say that this is a parable for life's "train." The train stops at Market Street, School Street, University Avenue, and Main Street. It pulls up to Vanity Fair, Broadway, and Church Street, but it takes a choice, a decision, an expressed desire to get off the train at Calvary.

Have we made that choice? Do our lives show what our mouths profess?

New officers for the Class of 2013 were elected at the Congregational Meeting on October 17th after the worship service. The following people were nominated and elected to the Class of 2013:

Elders: Derek Almarode, Jane Law, Kathy Swisher, and Billy Wade

Trustees: Dale C. Smith, Doris True

Deacons: Shirley Heizer, Tabby Moore, Chris Schooley, Pat Quick (class of 2011), Steve Hord, Bob Olson, Josh Smith

Our initial officer-training program will be held on Monday evenings in November (on the 1st, the 8th, and the 15th) from 7 pm until 8 pm. All new officers are required to attend these training sessions. If you are unable to attend on a certain date, please notify Joel.

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, November 24th through Friday, November 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday

The Tower Deadline is Sunday, November 14. The Tower will be mailed out a week early on Thursday, November 18 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

A Community-wide Thanksgiving Service will be held in November. The location, date and more details will follow at a later date.

Communion will be held on November 28, 2010, the 1st Sunday of Advent.

The Hanging of the Greens program will be held on November 28 during regular worship service. Please plan and set aside time to practice, prepare, and participate in this wonderful and meaningful service.

Advent Workshop will follow morning worship on Sunday, November 28, in Fellowship Hall. Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ. Advent Workshop includes lunch and craft activities representing each Sunday of Advent. All ages are invited to attend the Workshop. A bulletin board outside Memorial Hall will describe the workshop.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the Advent wreath is used. The wreath is made of a circle of evergreen symbolizing the endless nature of God's love for his people. Candles remind us of the light of God's coming into the world and the light from the candles grows brighter as each week comes closer to Christmas.

The Second Sunday is about the story of Jesus' birth. The star represents how the shepherds found the Baby Jesus in the stable in Bethlehem.

The Third Sunday is about giving and receiving gifts, the central theme of Christmas.

The Fourth Sunday is about sharing the joy of Christmas and the day of celebration of Christ's birth.

Each new church member will receive an Advent candle wreath.

Operation Christmas Child: Bethel will provide you a unique opportunity to share Christ with a needy child using a simple shoebox. Your shoebox will reach a child in a troubled country with the Gospel message. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian ministry led by Franklin Graham, son of Dr. Billy Graham. Shoeboxes are delivered to needy children overseas along with Christian literature in his or her own language. Please be a part of this opportunity. The deadline for shoeboxes is Sunday, November 14th. Starting in November there will be a cart in the vestibule for shoeboxes. Complete instructions on how to pack a shoebox follow. If you have any questions or you need an Operation Christmas Child brochure, please see Peggy Smith.

How to Pack a Shoe Box Gift

1. Find an empty shoe box (standard size, please). You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required.
2. Place a note inside the box stating whether your gift is for a boy or girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
3. The first ingredient to pack in your shoebox is **PRAYER** (1 John 5:14).
4. **Fill your shoe box with a variety of gifts:**
 - School Supplies: pens, pencils, crayons or markers, coloring books, writing pads or paper, etc.
 - Toys: small cars, dolls, balls, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, etc.
 - Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, washcloth, etc.
 - Candy: hard candy in plastic bag, lollipops, mints and gum, etc.
 - Other: sunglasses, ball caps, socks, hats, T-shirts, toy jewelry, etc.
5. **Please DO NOT INCLUDE the following items:**
 - Used or damaged items
 - Chocolate or food
 - War-related items: toy guns, knives, military figures
 - Liquids or lotions
 - Medications or vitamins
 - Breakable items: snow globes, glass containers, aerosol cans
6. To help cover shipping and other costs, please enclose a check for \$7 or more in an envelope. **Place the envelope so it is clearly visible on top of the gift items in your shoebox. Checks should be made payable to Samaritan's Purse. Please write "OCC" on the memo line. Place a rubber band around your shoebox and lid.**

Shenandoah Presbytery will meet on Tuesday, November 9, 2010, at 9:00 am at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA.

Stewardship season is here. It is time to plan for next year. Bethel needs support from all of us for a good and productive 2011. Please carefully and prayerfully consider your pledge for 2011.

Dedication Sunday is November 7th. **Pledge cards will be available in the pews and collected during the worship service.** If you cannot be present please use the copy of the pledge card below and mail it to the attention of the Receiving Treasurer or place it in the offering plate any Sunday. Thank you for your continuing support of Bethel.

Pledge card:

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FOR 2011

Grateful for God's love in Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church through our Congregation, Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

\$ _____ per week _____ month _____ other _____

(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)

I (we) wish to receive information about giving through Estate Planning

Keep this portion as a record of your financial stewardship commitment for the year 20 ____.

My (our) financial stewardship commitment

\$ _____ per week _____ month _____ other _____

(This commitment may be increased due to changing circumstances)

Cookie Exchange Party!!

All women of Bethel are invited to a Cookie Exchange Party hosted by Denise Thornton! This fun party will be on Sunday, December 12th immediately following the worship service. Lunch will be served. Please bake six dozen cookies, package and label what type of cookie each dozen is. Also, please bring six extra cookies for dessert. If you would like to participate please have your cookies in the Church Kitchen by 12 pm Saturday, December 11th.

WITNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bethel Mission Quilt Raffle Sunday, November 7, 5:00 pm

Come join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship on Sunday, November 7th. Starting at 5 pm we will have a Chili, Baked Potato, Tossed Salad Meal with dessert provided by Wayne & Kathy Swisher. Rick Dellinger will provide dinner music. Slides from the 2010 Baja mission trip will be shown. Then at 6:30 pm we will have the introduction to the 2010 Civil War Love Letter Quilt. The raffle of the quilt will follow at 7 pm. A copy of the Civil War Love Letter Quilt book will be given with the quilt. The second and third drawings will be for a copy of the quilt book. One copy of the book will be in the library. All copies of the book are signed by the ladies who made the squares.



We still have plenty of tickets for the 2010 Civil War Love Letter Quilt raffle. Please see Cindy Almarode for your tickets. The tickets are \$1 for 1 ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. Please get your tickets to sell to your family, friends and neighbors. You do not have to be present to win.

If you are selling tickets, please turn in the sold tickets and money as soon as possible before November 7th. We have to account for all tickets given out before the drawing. Tickets can be sold that night but we need enough time to account for all tickets before the drawing. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Almarode or Peggy Smith 886-4653.

November 7th, at 7 pm is the time of the drawing.

- Peggy Smith Witness Committee Co-Chair

Presbyterian Women November 2010

Special Offering - Thank Offering

Circle Meetings

Afternoon Circle - November 9 at 2:30 pm

Evening Circle - November 9 at 7:00 pm

November 7th - Christian Women United meets at Old Providence Presbyterian Church

Thank Offering is one of two special monetary offerings of Presbyterian women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Since 1888, Presbyterian Women has funded aid programs through the Thank Offering. This year, we continue that tradition by supporting 31 projects from 84 requests received. The \$870,058 from the 2009 Thank Offering helped support 16 projects in the United States and 15 projects internationally. The Thank Offering will be collected at November Circle Meetings.

Christian Women United will meet November 7 at 3 pm at Old Providence Presbyterian Church. This meeting will be for World Community Day, which is on November 5. Contact Joan McLaughlin if you have any questions.

“Heaven’s Mountain Band” will play for **Thank Offering** at Bethany Presbyterian Church (2501 Fifth Street; Staunton) on Saturday, November 20th at 7 pm. Mark your calendar now for a wonderful program given by “Heaven’s Mountain Band” with their gospel ministry. Annually the Bethany Presbyterian Women celebrate the Thank Offering, inviting other churches to attend. Come and enjoy a wonderful music program and have some fellowship and refreshments afterwards. (For more information about the Presbyterian Women Thank Offering please see the information above.)

The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands

The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands is a long-term, residential care facility located in Wytheville, Virginia. It is designed to house 30 residents (20 boys and 10 girls) in a cottage setting. The facility is licensed to work with residents from 5-17 years of age. PCHH works with abused and neglected youth who have behavioral and emotional difficulties that have made them unsuccessful in their home environments. Programs are designed to help children who are experiencing low to moderate emotional and/or behavioral problems. PCHH strives to give the best possible care to children in a Christian environment with staff members whose mission is to love and care for the children. Most children are two to three years behind academically when they arrive at PCHH. Higher functioning children attend the public schools in Wythe County. Most children however, attend the school on campus at PCHH. There is also a GED program on campus that allows older students the opportunity to experience the world of work while pursuing their high school diploma.

As a "Together in Service" project the Bethel Presbyterian Women are again

sponsoring a gift-card drive to benefit PCHH in time for the holiday season. PCHH has a particular need for gift cards from Wal-Mart, Food Lion, McDonald's, and Wendy's. If you choose to participate in this mission project you may give the gift cards to circle leaders Stephanie Rivers or Libby Smith, or Together-in-Service representative, Lee Ann Heizer. In order to assist with the equitable distribution of the gift cards please write the purchased amount on each card. All gift cards need to be received by Sunday, November 28th. Please prayerfully consider how Bethel's support can help PCHH fulfill its mission statement: "Giving children hope and purpose for the future."

Address for Joseph I. Lohrey, United States Army Active Duty Deployed to Afghanistan:

Afghanistan Address:

Joseph I. Lohrey
Attention: AC-1/AECOM
APO-AE 09383

Home Address:

Joseph I. Lohrey
1840 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401-1702

Youth News

The Youth will meet Sunday, November 21st at 6 pm. We will hear a presentation about the Nehemiah Project. This is an extension of Rebuilding Together Greater Augusta. The Nehemiah Project is a youth based mission project that is open to 6th graders and up. It will take place from June 19th - 24th, and will be based at a local High School.



The Youth will practice for the Hanging of the Greens service that will take place the following Sunday, November 28th. If you would like to participate in the service, it is important to attend this meeting. If you would like to participate, but cannot attend this meeting please contact Susan Smith (540-580-3315). All ages are encouraged to participate!!

BERF Christmas Tree

The Bethel Emergency Relief Fund (BERF) is a separate account used to provide emergency assistance to community members for utilities and rent. Our congregation donates generously to this fund throughout the year, helping many people in our community resolve emergency situations.

A volunteer member of the Bethel congregation administers BERF donations and assistance. Requests for assistance are screened to protect against abuse.

Each year, the Witness Committee sets up a Christmas giving tree in the name of BERF, as a way for the Bethel congregation to help needy families during the Christmas season. The Salvation Army gives us the names of families who cannot afford gifts. The Witness Committee then hangs a tag on the tree with the name of the family members and the gifts they would like to receive. Congregation members can then select a tag from the tree and purchase a gift for a family in need. Be on the lookout for this special tree, which will be on display soon!

Receiving Treasurer Report

The estimated budget for January 1 to September 30, 2010 is \$137,007. The total received to the general fund for this period is \$135,173. Thank you for your support.

Note, for your information, donating to specific organizations thru the general fund, in lieu of donating to the general fund, does not meet pledge obligations. If you mail contributions to the church for the general fund please address to the Receiving Treasurer to insure proper posting to your account.



New Bethel Picnic Shelter completed in October

SESSION NEWS

Ken Miller presented a complete Deacon's report, which can be seen in the Tower this month.

Due to economic conditions, a larger portion of the hunger offering will be kept to be used by BERF.

Joel and Bill Brubeck will represent Bethel at the Presbytery meeting Tuesday, November 9th, at Massanetta Springs.

The Joy Gift Program along with a covered dish meal will be held on December 9th, at noon directed by Cindy Almarode and Donna Bush.

The Witness Committee reported they will be supporting two needy families this Christmas.

Tabby Moore was received as a new member. Samantha, daughter of Tabby and Joe, will be baptized at a later date.

Membership for H. Joseph Williams, V, has been transferred from Bethel to Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church.

Deacons Notes – November 2010

Our Treasurers, Tish Folsom and Ken Wilkinson, report that Bethel's income and expenses through September 30th continue to be balanced and close to our 2010 budget. We received additional income from the Kroger Grocery Card Program in October.

The Finance Committee reported \$184,323 in Endowment funds under their management at Fidelity Investments at the end of September. These endowments include the Ellinger Trust, the William Sproul Trust, the Congregational Youth Trust, and timber sale proceeds. The Finance Committee reported \$4,420 earnings in the third quarter. Each Trust donor directed a percentage of Trust earnings to support specific Bethel programs and the remainder to add to the Trust basis. The Webb Trust transferred from the Shenandoah Presbytery Corporation to Bethel management in October and will be included in the Fidelity funds in the fourth quarter.

The Bethel woods are open to Bethel members to cut firewood for personal or charitable use through January 31st, 2011. The officers have not discussed what to do about firewood after January 31st. Deacons will discuss it in our November 7th meeting. We have had enthusiastic response so far, with a number of members actively gathering firewood. If you are interested in cutting firewood, please sign a liability waiver and pick up a permit at the church office.

The Deacons will recruit a team to cut firewood for persons who need it and are unable to cut it themselves. Please let Derek Almarode know if you are a candidate for help with wood.

The Deacons passed a resolution to acquire a snow blower. The Deacons and Session discussed acquisition of an automatic defibrillator, and Derek Almarode is preparing a proposal for consideration by the officers.

Wayne Swisher and the Scouts completed a picnic shelter for use by the Scouts and the congregation.



A number of maintenance activities were completed in October. We have some significant needs for capital improvements to our buildings, and the Deacons will request an increased budget for capital improvement activities in 2011. Some projects waiting for funding include Sanctuary brick waterproofing, Tower repairs, Manse improvements, kitchen air conditioning, and a handicapped-accessible bathroom.

Deacons' Prayer List November 2010

Edith Beahm, Kelsey Bosserman, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Lorine Caldwell, Jim Crosby, Aggie Dodson, Jessie Earhart, Nellie Hamilton, Family of Jim Heizer, Anne Jones, Flora Law, Lucy Miller, Judy Olson, Roy Pilson, Les Prickett, Allen Quick, Tom Small, Richard Smith, Charlotte Swartzel, David Turner

November Flower Schedule

November 7 - Shirley Heizer
November 14 - Pam Prickett
November 21 - Eloise Moore
November 28 - Bettie Swisher - Communion - 1st Sunday of Advent

November Offering Schedule

Larry Damico
Aggie Dodson
Steve Hord
John Pilson

November Nursery Schedule

November 7 - Joe and Tabby Moore
November 14 - Stephanie Rivers; Jackie Law
November 21 - Derek and Cindy Almarode
November 28 - Eloise Moore; Barbara Damico

We offer our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Jim Heizer, who passed away on October 23rd, 2010.

2010 MISSION QUILT - THE CIVIL WAR LOVE LETTER QUILT

It is with the deepest gratitude that I present the following thirty ladies to be recognized for the amazing nine and a half inch squares that they completed for the quilt project. My THANKS to each of you!

- Margaret Wade, Quilt Coordinator

Cynthia Almarode
Sally Brubeck
Barbara Gough

Lee Ann Heizer
Margaret Kyle
Jennifer McDaniel
JoAnna Nichols
Peggy Smith
Doris True
Jennifer Wetzel

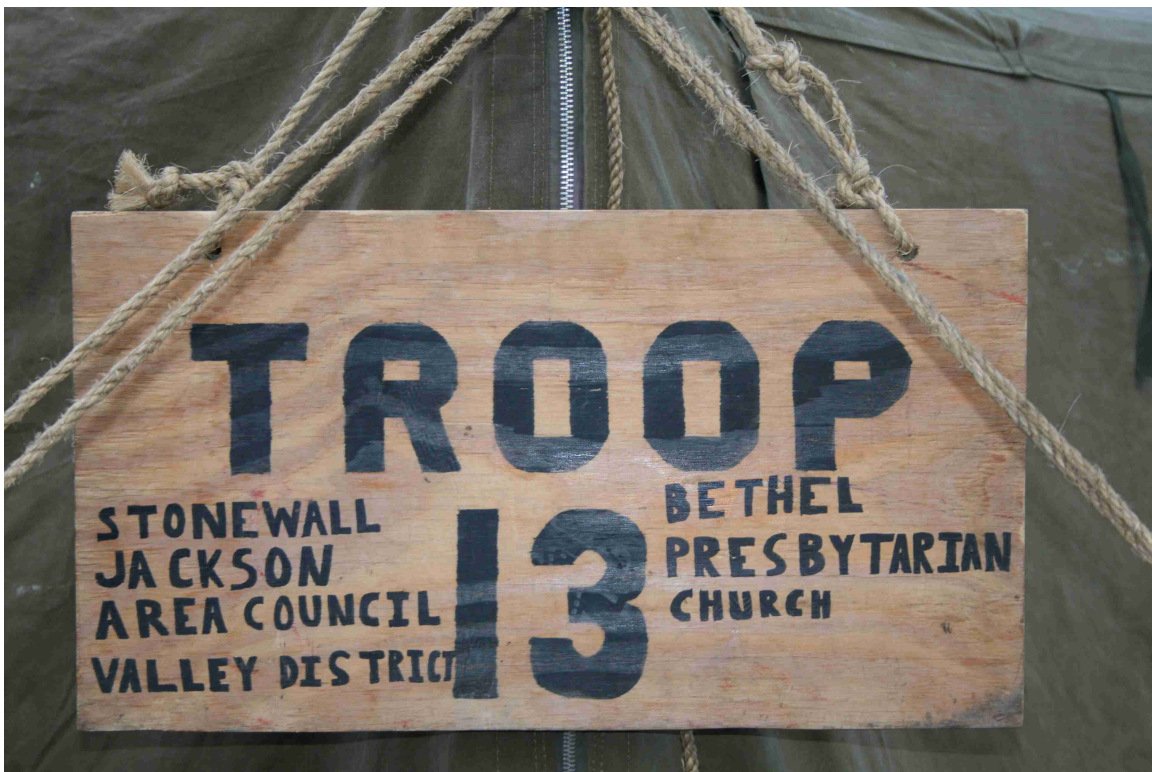
Mary Ann Anderson
Aggie Dodson
Emma Beth Gutzler
and Jane Law

Shirley Heizer
Evelyn LaPorte
Joan McLaughlin
JoAnn Pendley
Susan McCutchen-Smith
Virginia True
Cynthia Williams

Tamara Barbour
Ginny Gano
Mary Kate Law
and Jane Law
Rhonda Johnson
Jackie Law
Joyce Miller
Sarah Frances Ralston
Denise Thornton
Jill Webb
Sally Williams



Bethel picnic shelter



If you have a birthday or anniversary that you would like to have appear in the Bethel Tower and we have missed it please call and let the church office know so we can include it in future publications. Thank you.

News from Bethel Friends in Budapest:

Bethel's friends, Alan and Malinda (Sproul) Brown, have served in Europe with the Association of Christian Schools International for 12 years. They served 2 years in Ukraine and 10 years in Budapest, Hungary. They continue to live and work in Budapest. Their ministry is one of encouraging and equipping Christian schools and teachers to more effectively transmit God's love and truth to the students in their schools.

The Browns have worked in 18 countries. They focus on helping the 4 to 18 years age group – the ages of children in school.

Alan leads this work and Malinda teaches groups of teachers, parents and students. They enjoyed worshipping with us at Bethel when they visited in August, and they send blessings to their Bethel friends. They request our prayers for success in their work.

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