

THE TOWER

March 2010

**Bethel Presbyterian Church
Joel Thornton, Pastor**

**563 Bethel Green Road
Staunton, Virginia 24401
540-886-6041**

email: bethelpc@gmail.com

website: <http://bethel-pc.com/>

Calendar - see website



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

Romans 12:1

I counted dollars while God counted crosses.
I counted gains while He counted losses.
I counted my worth by the things gained in store,
But He sized me up by the scars that I bore.
I coveted honors and sought for degrees,
But He wept as He counted my time on my knees.
I never knew until one day by the grave
How vain are the things that we spend life to save.
I did not yet know until my loved one went above
That richest is he who is rich in God's love.

The Brethren Evangelist

Confirmation Classes will be held Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour March 14 through May 16. Confirmation Sunday will be May 23. If you have a youth or are a youth that would like to take the class please contact Joel. Make plans to attend Confirmation Sunday on May 23!

Congregational Meeting on March 7, 2010, after the worship service. The purpose will be to present the Annual Reports.

Communion will be held on March 28th, 2010 -Palm Sunday.

Witness Committee News

The Witness Committee will meet Sunday, March 21 after the worship service. All Witness Committee members are urged to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact Peggy Smith at (540) 886-4653 or jug27peg@yahoo.com.

The Giving Library - The Valley Mission staff seeks to positively impact the people they serve. They are sometimes presented with opportunities not of their own design but ones that naturally complement their work. So it was when Cindy Correll from The Staunton News Leader contacted them with the idea to put a new book in the hands of each child at the shelter. The News Leader staff, with the help of their publisher, Mr. Robert Watson, prepared a donation that included new books for all ages. With this donation the "Giving Library" was formed. We are seeking additional new books for children and teens so that every child can experience the joy of choosing a new book for

their very own. If you would like to help, please contact (540) 886-4673 or email wendyshiflett@valleymission.net .



Two Valentines

Valley Mission gladly accepts donations of food items left over from group events. We can use small amounts to set up a Pot Luck Lunch spread any weekday. Please drop off your donations after the event by calling (540) 886-4673 to let the staff know you are on your way.

Thanks from the Witness Committee!

Lenten Schedule 2010

2nd Lenten Service March 3, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Rev. Marilyn Heisman

Location: Redeemer Lutheran Church

3rd Lenten Service March 10, 7:00 pm

Rev. Joel Thornton

St. John's Reformed Church

4th Lenten Service March 17, 7:00 pm

Rev. Marilyn Heisman

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church

5th Lenten Service March 24, 7:00 pm

Rev. JoAnn Bunn

Bethel Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday - Traditional Service and Meal April 1, 6:30 pm

Bethel Presbyterian Church

Good Friday Date: April 2, 7:00 pm

Rev. Joel Thornton

Bethel Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunrise April 4, Time: TBA

Rev. Marilyn Heisman

Redeemer Lutheran Church



Keedie's turn to hold Jonah



Valentines from Bethel

Easter Lily Order Form

I / We would like to order _____ Easter Lily(ies) at \$9.50 each (no tax) to be placed in the church sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4th, 2010. Lilies will be purchased from Milmont Greenhouses.

Order Deadline: Tuesday, March 30th

IN MEMORY OF: _____

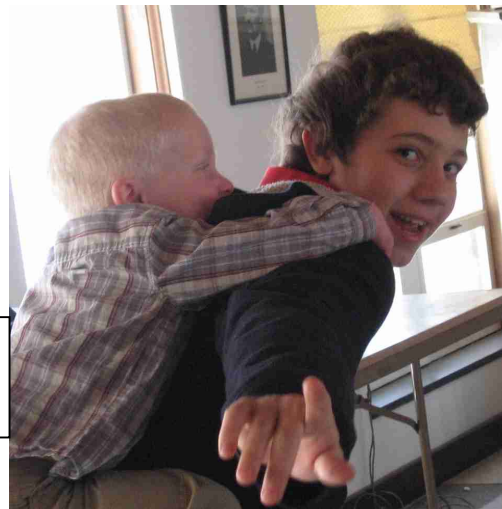
IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

My check in the amount of \$ _____ is attached. Please make checks payable to: **Bethel Presbyterian Church.**

Please return this form and your payment to Libby Smith or the church office at 563 Bethel Green Road, Staunton, VA 24401. Mailed orders **must be in by Tuesday, March 30 at 3 pm.** If you have any questions, please contact Libby Smith at 337-2058. Thank you.

Grant and Cole piggyback



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE - On April 1, the Worship Ministry invites members and families to participate in a special Maundy Thursday service. Supper will be provided. The service begins at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Reminiscent of the disciples' meal with Jesus in the Upper Room, our meal will be followed by communion.

Please plan to attend: everyone is invited! So that we might make adequate preparations, please fill out the reservation form below.

Also, if you can help in setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the meal, please let Joel know. Thank you!

Please make your reservation by **Sunday, March 28th, 2010.**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY RESERVATION FOR
DINNER AND WORSHIP AT THE TABLE
April 1 - 6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall**

NAME _____

NO. OF ADULTS _____ NO. CHILDREN ATTENDING _____

Please place your reservation in the offering plate or mail to the church office (563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401).

Questions, contact the church office at 886-6041.

Bethel Presbyterian Women Mission Project: Sewing For Missions

March 2010

The Bethel PWCT is collecting the items listed below to send to Service Centers for distribution to areas of disasters and their critical needs.

1. NEW sheets (twin flat sheets are preferred) *
2. NEW blankets (twin or double thermal blankets) *
3. Baby Gowns (small sizes are appropriate)
4. Baby Blankets (may be purchased or made from flannel; approximate size: 36"x45")
5. Baby Caps (purchased or made from your own pattern, or from the pattern in the February Tower)

* Please note change. Only NEW sheets and blankets; used sheets will no longer be accepted.

Please turn in all Sewing for Mission items by April 1. A collection bin will be placed in Memorial Hall. Please call Lee Ann Heizer (886-8174) if you have any questions.

Presbyterian Women - March 2010

Emphasis - Lent, Easter

Afternoon Circle - March 9, 2:30 pm at Bethel

Evening Circle - March 9, 7:00 pm at Bethel.

Christian Women United

Sunday, March 7 - 2:00 pm

New Providence Presbyterian Church - Raphine, VA

The program will be on current mission projects at local churches.

Light refreshments will be served.

Come and join us for fun and fellowship!

Please contact Joan McLaughlin if you have any questions.

Upcoming Youth Events . . .

Youth Committee meets Sunday, March 14, after the worship service. All Youth Committee members are urged to attend this meeting. If you will be unable to attend, please contact Peggy Smith at (540) 886-4653 or jug27peg@yahoo.com.

Middle and High School Youth meet Sunday March 14 at 6:30 pm. We will share a snack and finalize the preparations for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and “An Easter Journey.” All older youth are encouraged to help with the numerous preparations for this special family event.

Easter Egg Hunt. Easter is a time of celebration of new life in Jesus. On Saturday, March 27 at 2 pm all children and their families are invited to Bethel’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year we are adding “An Easter Journey”. This multisensory journey will take children and their families through the paths that Jesus walked during his last days on earth. This sojourn will give them a deeper understanding about his crucifixion and resurrection, and the powerful, everlasting truths of his teachings. - The Youth Committee

Additional Youth News

Evening meal at Valley Mission. Despite the snow on Sunday, January 31, Bruce and Linda Lamond; Derek, Cynthia and Ashlyn Almarode; Louise Hoy; Joyce Davis and Susan Smith prepared and served the evening meal at the Valley Mission. This date was chosen to coincide with the “Souper Bowl of Caring” scheduled on Sunday, February 7.

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering was postponed due to bad weather from February 7th to February 14th. Youth collected \$289.00 and 20 cans of food for donation to Kingsway. Thank you for your generous support of this local ministry outreach!

Valentine’s Day Visitations were conducted by Samantha and Tabby Moore; Cole, Isabelle and Keedie Leonard; Cynthia, Derek and Ashlyn Almarode; Barbara Gough, Ken and Joyce Miller, Peggy and Jug Smith, Grant and Levi McDaniel, and Karen Koogler. They visited our shut-ins to deliver love, smiles, cookies, and special cards made by the children in Sunday School.



Here’s Grant!

The Witness Committee Thanks You!!

The Pizza Dinner and Silent Auction in January raised \$2,155.00! A big thank you to the Folsom family for coordinating the event. Thank you to all who donated items for the Silent Auction and who bid and bought the items!

A big thank you to the Bethel Congregation and the Friends of Bethel for the support and help you give us for **all** the fundraisers we do. You can always be counted on to be a blessing to others!

Session News

The Session met on Sunday, February 14th, 2010 with all members present.

Ken Miller gave a report from the Deacons.

The Church Statistical Report was approved and has been sent to the PCUSA in Louisville, KY.

Vacation Bible School is tentatively planned for August with Redeemer, Mt. Tabor and St. John's churches participating. Bethel will be the host church.

The Growth and Strengthening Committee (in conjunction with the Youth Committee) delivered valentines and cookies to shut-ins on Valentine's Day. Also a valentine and a money gift were sent to college students.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be March 27th.

John Wooddell along with Joel will represent Bethel at the Presbytery meeting at Springhill Presbyterian Church on February 20th, 2010.



Spring will look like this.

Deacons Notes

Deacons missed their February meeting because of snow. We decided to communicate by phone and email on necessary business until the regular March meeting.

Tish Folsom, Disbursing Treasurer reported good financial status at the end of January. We continue to restrain capital and improvements spending as we rebuild our reserve funds. The Session requested quarterly financial reports instead of monthly reports beginning in 2010, so monthly financial reports to the Deacons will be distributed by email instead of paper in the future.

The Deacons are working with the Trustees and the Endowment Committee to draft a plan for endowment investments. Endowments are funds donated to Bethel to produce ongoing income to help support the church. These are often memorial funds. Typically, endowment fund principal is preserved and income applied to improvements, operating expenses, youth projects, or other applications designated by the contributor. Our endowment funds are invested in money market funds, certificates of deposit, and other instruments at this time.

Mary Jones and the Congregational Care Committee are contacting members to update Shepherd List information, particularly new cell phone numbers and email addresses. Bill Brubeck, Clerk of the Session, reported our membership at the end of 2009 was 247 active members and 142 inactive members. Our email communications continue to increase, helping to keep the congregation in closer touch with the church and its activities. We encourage you to provide the church office with your email address if you have one. Email distribution of the Bethel newsletter and notices significantly reduce office expenses.

If you need transportation to church functions please call Shirley Heizer, chair of the Transportation Committee, or any Deacon.

Keith Bosserman, chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, received bids to repair copper gutters damaged by snow and ice and discussed damages with our insurance claims adjuster. The second big snow again overran our gutters with masses of ice. Alternative repair approaches are being reviewed. Damaged stair treads were replaced. Our snow removal contractor kept up with the snow in our parking lots. The Deacons thank Kathy Swisher, Tom Heizer, Tish and Keith Folsom and others who stopped by and shoveled snow off the walks. They were clean and dry on Valentine's Day.

Derek Almarode, Manse Committee chair, is following up on moisture problems damaging to the Manse carport. The problem is from snow on the roof and ice in the gutters, which has persisted for several weeks. We will make repairs when the snow melts.

Wayne Swisher reported on the past year's Scouting activities in the February 14th church service. Recent highlights included the annual Klondike winter campout and the Pinewood Derby. Bethel Scouts reported an excellent year of accomplishments and advancement and a truly outstanding leadership staff. Notably, both John and Wallace Pilson have been active in Scout work at Bethel for more than half of the 100 years of Boy Scout history.

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

Deacon's Prayer List

Louale Almarode, Glenn Austen, Edith Beahm, Family of Jean Bosserman, Kelsey Bosserman, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Lorine Caldwell, Melissa Coffey, Jim Crosby, Jessie Earhart, Family of Louis Fitzgerald, Dale Goodson, Nellie Hamilton, Wayne Hord, Flora Law, Lucy Miller, Judy Olson, Suzanne Perl, Les Prickett, Tom Small, Charlotte Swortzel, and David P. Turner.



Wayne Swisher

Deacons' Offering Schedule March 2010

- Aggie Dodson
- Shirley Heizer
- Tom Heizer
- John Pilson



Visiting Flora Law on
Valentine's Day

Flower Schedule for March

- March 7 Cathy Hill
- March 14 Meagan Smith
- March 21 Evelyn LaPorte
- March 28 Libby Smith –
Communion
Palm Sunday

Nursery Schedule for March

- March 7 Karen Koogler and Kelley Tunnermann
- March 14 Libby Smith and Evelyn LaPorte
- March 21 Joe and Sally Williams
- March 28 Susan McCutchen-Smith and Sydney Smith

Kingsway needs non-perishable food: cereal, peanut butter, canned goods, dried beans, etc. Please place your donations in the designated basket in Memorial Hall. Thank you for your generosity!

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of the Rev. Murphy Williams who passed away January 30th. Rev. Williams was the pastor of Bethel from 1948 until 1952. He left the Bethel community to become pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Wilson, NC. He never lost interest in Bethel and loved to return and visit.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Louis Fitzgerald who passed away on February 6th.

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

Don't Forget

March 14 Daylight Savings Time begins

March 17 St. Patrick's Day

March 20 First Day of Spring!



Where
Valentines
come from