

THE TOWER

Bethel Presbyterian Church
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October 2010



From the Pastor's Desk

"Since Joel is on sabbatical, this is from the desk of Elder Don Hall who thought this story would be an inspiration to all who read it."

Who's Your Daddy?

A seminary professor was vacationing with his wife in Gatlinburg, TN. One morning, they were eating breakfast at a little restaurant, hoping to enjoy a quiet family meal. While they were waiting for their food, they noticed a distinguished looking, white-haired man moving from table to table, visiting with the guests. The professor leaned over and whispered to his wife, 'I hope he doesn't come over here'. But sure enough, the man did come over to their table.

'Where are you folks from?' he asked in a friendly voice. 'Oklahoma,' they answered. 'Great to have you here in Tennessee,' the white-haired man said. 'What do you do for a living?' 'I teach at a seminary,' replied the professor.

'Oh, so you teach preachers how to preach, do you? Well, I've got a really great story for you.' And with that, the gentleman pulled up a chair and sat down at the table with the couple. The professor groaned and thought to himself, 'Great . . . Just what I need . . . another preacher story!'

The man started, 'See that mountain over there? (pointing out the restaurant window). Not far from the base of that mountain, there was a boy born to an unwed mother. He had a hard time growing up, because every place he went, he was always asked the same question, 'Hey boy, Who's your daddy?' Whether he was in school, in the grocery store or drug store, people would ask the same question, 'Who's your daddy?'

The boy would hide at recess and lunchtime from other students. He would avoid going into stores because that question hurt him so badly. When he was about 12 years old, a new preacher came to his church. The boy would always go in late and slip out early to avoid hearing the question, 'Who's your daddy?' But one day, the new preacher said the benediction so fast that he got caught and had to walk out with the crowd.

Just about the time he got to the back door, the new preacher, not knowing anything about him, put his hand on the boy's shoulder and asked him, 'Son, who's your daddy?' The whole church got deathly quiet. He could feel every eye in the church looking at him. Now everyone would finally know the answer to the question, 'Who's your daddy?'

This new preacher, though, sensed the situation around him and using discernment that only the Holy Spirit could give, said the following to that scared little boy . . . 'Wait a minute! I know who you are! I see the family resemblance now, you are a child of God.' With that he patted the boy on his shoulder and said, 'Boy, you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it.'

With that, the boy smiled for the first time in a long time and walked out the door a changed person. He was never the same again. Whenever anybody asked him, 'Who's your Daddy?' he'd just tell them, 'I'm a Child of God'.

The distinguished gentleman got up from the table and said, 'Isn't that a great story?' The professor responded that it really was a great story! As the man turned to leave, he said, 'You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably never would have amounted to anything!' And he walked away.

The seminary professor and his wife were stunned. He called the waitress over and asked her, 'Do you know who that man was - the one who just left who as sitting at our table?' The waitress grinned and said, 'Of course. Everybody here knows him. That's Ben Hooper. He's the governor of Tennessee!'

Someone in your life today needs a reminder that they're one of God's children!

Communion will be held on October 3rd, 2010, for World Communion Sunday.

Early Worship Services - The Worship Committee needs to hear from any member who is interested in resumption of Bethel's casual early worship services next summer. The early service usually starts at 8:45 Sunday mornings beginning in June and continues until the week before Homecoming. Please call the office or any of the Worship committee members. Jill Webb 337-4311; Mo Kyle 337-4654; Billy Wade 337-2032; Yvonne Goodson 885-2716; Sara Ann Lamb 337-1319; JoAnn Pendley 324-0152; Jon Bush 337-2234; Irene Elliott 885-3554; Sally and Bill Brubeck 885-5871.

Witness Committee News

Food Booth - The Witness Committee will sponsor a Food Booth at the Meeting Place on Friday, October 29th from 9 am until 3 pm and on Saturday, October 30th from 9 am until 3 pm. If you would like to help cook or sell food or make a donation of baked goods, please see Peggy or Jug Smith. All proceeds go to the mission funds.

Quilt - The tickets for the 2010 Civil War Love Letter Quilt Raffle are ready to be sold!!!! The drawing will be held on Sunday, November 7th, 2010, at Bethel Presbyterian Church. You do not have to be present to win. Money will be collected at the time the tickets are sold. The cost is a dollar for one ticket or five dollars for six tickets. All checks are to be made payable to Bethel Presbyterian Church. If you are selling tickets please make sure the person purchasing the ticket(s) puts their name and telephone number on the ticket stub. Please turn in all money and ticket stubs as you sell them. Cindy Almarode will be in charge of the tickets. **All money and ticket stubs must be returned by 12 pm on Sunday, October 31st, 2010.** Please contact Peggy Smith (540-886-4653) if you have any questions!

Mission Fund Account Report

The Witness committee would like to give this up to date report for the Mission Fund Account: These are the figures for the Mission Fund Account.

Carried forward from 2009 trip	\$ -318.80
2009 Quilt Auction	4,000.00
Quilt Auction Dinner	1,591.00
Misc Donations	180.00
2009 Bazaar	2,061.50
Ending Total for 2009	7,513.70
Pizza Dinner/Silent Auction	2,155.00
Prime Rib Dinner/Dessert Auction	5,704.50
Pork Meal	1,396.00
Misc Donations	1,468.25
Yard Sale	1,329.40
Car Wash/Bake Sale	1,035.15
Car Wash/Bake Sale	1,110.00
Car Wash/Bake Sale	739.00
Sponsorships (raised by Baja team)	6,960.00
Extra Day (paid by Baja team)	2,550.00
Less expenses for 2010 BAJA Tri	-26,193.97
Balance Mission Fund (As of 8/28/10)	\$ 5,766.03

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES – It’s that time of year again!

You will find a brochure on how to pack a shoebox in the bulletins on Sunday, October 17th. If you choose, you will be able to track your shoebox this year. Just read the directions in the brochure for details. The shoeboxes are due by Sunday, November 14th. If you have any questions, please see Peggy Smith, (540) 886-4653.

Advent Workshop November 28th, 2010 - Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ. This workshop consists of lunch following the morning worship service, crafts activities representing each Sunday of Advent and an Advent wreath to be used during the Advent Season. We invite everyone to be a part of this Advent Workshop. If you would like to help or have questions, please see Peggy Smith.

Kroger gift cards are now available in the church office.

Stewardship Season- Remember that stewardship season is fast approaching! Be thinking about the programs, ministry, and outreach of our congregation and how you might support them.

Congregational Meeting - A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, October 17th, 2010, after the worship service to elect Church Officers. Biographies of the Nominees for the Class of 2013 will be available in the church bulletin beginning Sunday, October 3rd. According to the Book of Order, nominations may be made from the floor. If so, the person nominated from the floor must have been contacted in advance, and there must be a person to “second” the placing of his or her name in nomination. Members of the 2010 Nominating Committee are:

Margaret Kyle, Co-Chair
Laura Barmore
Dean Caldwell (Deacon)
Aggie Dodson (Deacon)
Joe F. Williams

James Williams, Co-Chair
Charlie Beard
Barbara Damico
Barbara Gough

Youth News - Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship at our annual Harvest Party on Sunday, October 17th, at 6 pm. We will play games, decorate or carve pumpkins, and share refreshments. We will also have Trunk or Treating in the side parking area between the church and playground. If you wish to participate, please have your vehicle in place and decorated by 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited!

Fundraiser for Riverheads Weekday Religious Education (WRE) - October 10 at Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church, 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. A free will offering will be collected. High on the Mountain Boys will provide an evening of country-gospel music. This music group has as its motto Colossians 3:16: “Christ’s message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts.” (TEV)

Presbyterian Women – The October Project is a Blanket Offering. The October Schedule is

- Afternoon Circle 2:30 pm at the church, October 12
- Evening Circle 7:00 pm at the church, October 12
- October 3 - PWCT Meeting
- October 31 - PWCT Meeting

ANNUAL REPORT - BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Greetings from the Women of Bethel Church! Thank you to all the Women of the Church who contributed to the success of our 2009-2010 year. We met our budget of \$4,200.00. In addition, we had Special Offerings totaling \$1,163.03, which we contributed to Links of Love, Blanket, Thank, Least Coin, and Birthday benevolences.

The women's mission items for the Presbyterian Church (USA) were sent to the Brethren Service Center in Maryland. There were a lot of crocheted or knitted caps, blankets and shirts for new babies. The Women's mission project is separate from the church mission projects. Many women participate in both.

At Christmas a large number of gift cards from McDonald's and Wal-Mart worth more than \$500.00 were sent to the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands for distribution to the children so they would have some shopping money.

The two circles alternated serving the Men of the Church, who meet every three months. We are very grateful to the men for their generous offerings. The women provided an evening meal for the Augusta Free Clinic in February 2010.

During the past year we have had several deaths in our church family. LTC James A. Bundy V and Mrs. Agnes Lotts. After LTC Bundy's funeral, a reception was held in the Fellowship Hall. Mrs. Lotts had requested that several of the ladies prepare a reception at her home following her funeral service. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to each of these families.

The Women enjoyed a catered dinner at the Middlebrook Community Center in July. Rick Dellinger entertained with songs, meditation and scripture.

The women's organization benefited from one-half of the net proceeds from the October 2009 Fall Festival, which was \$2,061.50. The women have purchased 21 new tables to be used in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Claudia Hall and her Committee for planning the first Fall Festival and to all the women that participated, it was a great success.

By now I am sure all of you have purchased at least one of Bethel's new cookbooks, if not, there are still some available. Thank you to Denise Thornton and her Committee for taking on this large project. It has certainly been beneficial to our treasury.

The community Vacation Bible School was held at Bethel this year and some of the ladies helped in the kitchen and we thank you.

The Women are sponsoring the purchase of Kroger cards that will be beneficial to the Bethel treasury. Each time that purchases total \$5,000.00 with these cards, Kroger will send Bethel a check for \$250.00. It is used like a credit card; you can keep adding to the card balance so there are funds in it the next time you shop for groceries or gas. It is really liked by all who are using it and it does benefit the church.

Once again the Women helped with the annual Homecoming lunch on August 24th.

We thank our social chairpersons Bettie and Kay Swisher for all they do for our social projects. It is their team that keeps the kitchen supplied.

The circles meet the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm. We have Bible Study, business meeting and fellowship. This year we are studying the book of Revelation. All women of the church are invited to attend either of the circles.

Please review our annual report from September 1st, 2009 through August 31st, 2010 (see below). We thank each of you ladies for making this a very eventful year.

Beginning September 1, 2009 \$1,493.46

Receipts:	
Regular Offering	2,379.00
Note Paper	21.00
Men's Suppers	608.00
Annual Dinner	1,005.00
Donations (Receptions)	200.00
Fall Festival	2,061.50
Miscellaneous	108.00
Donations for New Tables in Fellowship Hall	925.00
Sale of new Bethel Cookbooks	<u>4,551.00</u>
	11,858.50

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

Least Coin	152.03	
Blanket	277.00	
Thank	272.00	
Birthday	315.00	
Links of Love	<u>147.00</u>	
	1,163.03	
Memorial Garden	<u>25.00</u>	
Total Receipts	13,046.53	<u>13,046.53</u>
Beginning plus receipts		\$14,539.99

DISBURSEMENTS:

BUDGET ITEMS:

Literature	741.65
Flowers	42.00
Kitchen	1,000.00
Gift for Missionaries	425.00
Girl Scout Troops	125.00
Mission Court	100.00
Medical Benevolence Foundation	200.00
Shenandoah Presbytery Women	75.00
Synod of Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Women	25.00
Riverheads W.R.E.	100.00
Riverheads Elementary School	150.00
Presbyterian Children's Home	50.00
Kingsway Help Center	100.00
Bethel Preschool Program	500.00
Projects/Miscellaneous	<u>181.59</u>
	3,815.24

NON BUDGET ITEMS:

Bethel Memorials	25.00
Annual Catered Dinner (Entertainment, Caterer, and Middlebrook Community Center)	1,229.51
New Drapes for Library	211.66
21 New Tables for Fellowship Hall	2,099.99
Donation to Scout Pack 13	100.00
400 New Bethel Cookbooks	<u>2,155.19</u>
	5,821.35

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

Least Coin	148.99
Links of Love	147.00
Blanket	277.00
Thank	272.00
Birthday	<u>315.00</u>
	<u>1,159.99</u>
Total Expenses	10,796.58

-10,796.58

Net

\$3,743.41

Less Designated Funds

-777.59

Balance August 31, 2010

\$2,965.82**Designated Funds:**

Bethel Memorial Gardens	\$736.89
Child to Camp	20.00
Least Coin (August)	<u>20.70</u>
	\$777.59

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Frances Ralston, Treasurer

Nursery Schedule

October 3	Keith Folsom; Kayla Folsom
October 10	James and Cynthia Williams
October 17	Sue Whitesell; Lee Ann Whitesell
October 24	Mary Ann Anderson; Mason Whitaker
October 31	Bob and Betty Jo Olson

Flower Schedule

October 3	Ginny Gano/Communion/Memorial
October 10	Alphie Canning
October 17	JoAnn Pendley
October 24	Jane Law/Memorial
October 31	Laura Barmore/Memorial

Offering Schedule for October

Jon Bush	Shirley Heizer
Tom Heizer	Sally Williams

Our sympathies and condolences to Jerry Pendley and his family on the passing of his mother in September.

A special thank you to the Bethel congregation for all of the prayers, calls, visits, food, and cards while I have been sick. I appreciate your care and concern so much!
- Covie Brandt

Deacons Notes – October 2010

Logging is complete in Bethel's woods. The Deacons inspected the woods and approved the condition of the property after logging. The Deacons reseeded some skid paths and the loading area. Augusta Lumber and Bethel have signed a contract release form, completing all contract obligations. The woods are open to Bethel members through January 31st, 2011 to cut firewood for personal or charitable use. If you are interested in cutting firewood, please sign a waiver form and pick up a permit at the church office.

Kroger gift cards for 5% rebates to Bethel are available in the church office.

Wayne Swisher and Patrick Hord are considering an Eagle Scout project to paint the cemetery fence in the spring. This will be discussed with the Trustees.

Wayne Swisher and the Scouts are completing plans to build a 20-foot by 30-foot picnic shelter in the woods, with tentative workdays on October 16th and 23rd. The construction method will be poles and trusses with a metal roof. The shelter will be available for use by the Scouts and the congregation.

Our maintenance and capital improvement activities continue to be limited by budget considerations. Projects waiting for funding include waterproofing the Sanctuary brick walls to reduce interior water damage, a roof over the Manse back stairs to stop periodic basement flooding, repairs to tower masonry and fascia, and improvements to the Manse driveway and basement.

Deacons Meeting Minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the Deacon's meeting room next to the library.

Deacon's Prayer List . . .

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

Kingsway continues to need all types of 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!

Bethel information on website - If you cannot attend church one Sunday and would like to see the bulletin you can visit the Bethel website at <http://www.bethel-pc.com>. You can view current and past bulletins, announcements, and Towers. There is also an online church calendar that is updated each month with church events.

Presbytery Information - If you would like information about Shenandoah Presbytery events, 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>.

<p>Don't Forget!! October 11th - Columbus Day Observed October 31st – Halloween</p>

<p><i>TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY FOR ALL WHO STAND IN NEED OF PRAYER .</i></p>
