

July 2009

THE TOWER

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Bethel Presbyterian Church **Joel Thornton, Pastor**

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July Calendar - see website



From the Pastor's Desk

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel....” Matthew 16:15

“A missionary needs: the wisdom of an owl; the tenacity of a bulldog; the daring of a lion; the patience of a donkey; the versatility of a chameleon; the vision of an eagle; the melody of a nightingale; the meekness of a lamb; the tact of a politician; the hide of a rhinoceros; the disposition of an angel; the resignation of an incurable; the faithfulness of a prophet; the tenderness of a shepherd; the fervency of an evangelist; the devotion of a mother; the sacrifice of a martyr; and the loyalty of an apostle.

But, missionaries are not born. They are made. They are made out of the ordinary run of individuals. The basic qualification is not intellectualism, but a yielded spirit, a devotion to the will of God, and a deep sense of call.” -Unknown Author

Please keep our Bethel Baja Mission Team and the Shenandoah Presbytery Baja Mission effort of which it is a part and partner in prayer this month. Also, keep all of our missionaries, wherever they serve in the world, in your daily prayers. Remember, as well, that YOU are a missionary right where you are! Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!

July 2009

A Congregational Meeting will be held at 10:45 am on July 12th, 2009 to elect five members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee.

Early Service! Through August 16th, Bethel will hold worship services at 11 am and 8:45 am on Sunday mornings.



Commissioning the Baja Mission

Team: During Sunday morning worship service, July 12th, we will commission and send our Baja mission team to their great work in Baja, Mexico. Come be a part in that wonderfully moving service! See the photos from Baja 2007 at left.

Communion will be held July 19th, 2009.

John Calvin's Birthday: July 10th is the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birthday. John Calvin is considered a founding theologian of the Reformed branch of the Church of which we Presbyterians are a part. Celebrations will occur in Reformed circles around the world. On Sunday, July 12th, Joel will have a special presentation during the Sunday School hour (10 am - 10:45 am) on the life and work of John Calvin. Also, the worship services and message on that Sunday will reflect upon Calvin's legacy in the church.

Coffee and Conversation. The Seekers Class will host coffee and conversation on Sundays between the early worship service and the 11:00 service. All are invited and you can come and stay as long as you want.

Minister's Vacation Days. Joel will be on vacation from Friday, July 3rd until Thursday, July 9th. You may call the Manse and leave a message if you have a problem or emergency. The answering machine will be checked each day for messages. Thank you!

Office Closing Days. The Church Office will be closed on Monday July 6 through Wednesday July 8 for the Independence Day holiday and the Secretary's vacation days. The Secretary will be back in the office on Thursday, July 9th, at 9 am. Thank you!

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

The **Youth Committee** will not be meeting in July. They will meet in August at their normal time.

Adult Choir Practice!! Attention Adult Choir members and anyone who would like to help sing during the worship service- Choir practice will start on July 29th, 2009 at 7 pm. We would love to have new and returning choir members!

Vacation Bible School will be ecumenical again this year! We will join our friends from Mt. Tabor Lutheran, Redeemer Lutheran, and St. John's UCC churches (all the same folks we do our Lenten cycle with) this summer. Vacation Bible School will be held at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church Sunday, August 2nd through Thursday, August 6th. More details will be available soon!

Witness Committee

The time is almost here. Thank you for all the support and donations for the Baja Mexico mission trip. Please keep the team of Derek Almarode, Andrew Heizer, Peggy and Jug Smith, Josh & Meagan Smith, Keith Folsom, Kayla Folsom, Ben Folsom, Charlotte Swortzel, Adam Ritter, Jenna Arneson, Lily Damico, Olivia Damico, Elizabeth Hord, and Dustin Skillman in your prayers from July 16th-27th. Please take a moment to look at the Mission bulletin board (in the hallway next to the Choir Room) and read about the family we will be helping. Remember to keep this family in your prayers. Thank you again for the love and support this church has shown all of us.

BAJA SUITCASE: The following items are needed for the Baja Suitcase: toys, soccer balls, games (like kick balls, T-ball), single and double bed sheets, pillow cases, household items that can be transported by us for simple living, and hand mirrors. The suitcase will be in the vestibule. If you have any questions please see Derek Almarode, Andrew Heizer or Peggy Smith.

If you would like to participate in a mission trip but are unable to go, please check out our mission tree in the church vestibule. Please select a tag and return the tag with your check in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office. All money will go towards the Bethel



Family with new home, Baja 2007.

2009 mission funds. Thank you for all your support at all the events that we have had for missions this year and in the past years.

The 1st **Bethel Church Mission Quilt** is under way. Margaret Wade is helping everyone get their squares finished. Auction details will be in the August Tower. Thanks to Margaret for the time and supplies she has given towards the quilt.

The Bethel Arts and Crafts Bazaar is Saturday, October 24th!!! This fundraiser is for the Missions and the Women of the Church - it is to benefit everyone! We need people to donate their handmade items for children and adults. Men, get out your hammers and nails. Ladies, put your genius to work with your handmade, baked or garden items. Sign up now so we know if we will have enough goodies to hold the bazaar. Call Claudia Hall at 886-3280!!

CRAFT DONATIONS NEEDED FOR BAZAAR

The Donations Committee for the Bethel Arts and Crafts Bazaar needs your help! We have many talented people here at Bethel and we need donations of wonderful handmade items, crafts, etc. for the Bethel Arts and Crafts Bazaar to be a success. If you would be willing to donate item(s) for the bazaar please fill out the form below and return it to Denise Thornton by July 17th. You may also mail the form to her (522 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401) or email the information (dythornton@hotmail.com). Please contact Denise if you have any questions. Your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Sign Up Sheet For Donations of Craft and Homemade Items

Name _____

Phone Number and/or Email Address _____

Item(s) Donated

Thanks for donations for the October Bazaar. It is not too late to sign up, you have until July 17. Please let us know if you are going to donate any items, so that we may accommodate tables and space! As you can see from this list below we have been promised a nice variety of items, but we know there are still many of you that are very talented that haven't signed up!!

Bazaar donated items list:

1. Betty Heizer - blankets/baby blankets.
2. Joan McLaughlin - sewn items, baby items.
3. Sally Brubeck - wood plant stands, quilted pillow, bird houses, pepper jelly.
4. Joyce Miller - homemade fudge, flower arrangements, other craft items.
5. Sarah Frances Ralston - baked breads, baked items.
6. Terry Ritter - sewn blankets.
7. Denise Thornton - ribbon beaded bookmarks, stitched Christmas ornaments, other craft items.
8. Libby Smith - iris and peony bulbs.
9. Carla Robertson - 2 hand woven baskets
10. Judy Olson - hand crocheted necklaces
11. Claudia Hall - necklaces/bracelets for women & children, key chains, scarves
12. Tom Barber - stained glass Christmas ornaments.
13. Lou Manhart - a cordial or pie cabinet
14. David Turner Sr. - tabletop grapevine Christmas tree
15. David Turner Jr. - wooden jewelry box or clock

Bethel Presbyterian Women's Annual Night Out is July 14th at 6 pm at the Middlebrook Community Center, 54 Cherry Grove Road, Middlebrook. Dinner is \$12.00 a person and entertainment will follow. 2009-2010 officers will be installed. Please notify Sarah Frances Ralston (886-1434) by **July 1st** if you plan to attend.

Presbyterian Women July 2009: Emphasis is Church Conferences and Planning. *The Afternoon and Evening Circles will meet on Tuesday, July 14th at 6:00 pm at the Middlebrook Community Center for the annual dinner.

Congratulations High School Graduates!!

Leah Brooke Deacon - Daughter of Lee and Valerie Deacon of Swoope; Granddaughter of H. Douglas Stroop and Bonnie S. Carroll and Brooke and the late Gene L. Deacon; Graduating from Riverheads High School; Planning to attend Ferrum College; Majoring in History

Brian Freed - Son of Kelly and Leslie Freed of Staunton; Graduating from Riverheads High School; Planning to attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; Studying Civil Engineering

Skyler Austin Hill - Son of Bruce and Cathy Hill; Graduating from Riverheads High School; Planning to attend Blue Ridge Community College to continue his education before transferring to a four year university

Lyndon Humphries - Son of Leon and Susan Humphries of Staunton; Graduating from Riverheads High School; Planning to attend Bridgewater College where he will be playing basketball

Hayley Elizabeth Morris - Daughter of Danny and Lynne Morris of Staunton; Graduating from Riverheads High School; Planning to attend Blue Ridge Community College to continue her education before transferring to James Madison University

William Rivers - Son of Russ and Stephanie Rivers of Swoope; Graduating from Riverheads High School; Planning to attend James Madison University; Majoring in Engineering

Fabian Schulenberg - Graduating from Riverheads High School; Returning to Germany to finish his education - In Germany schools have an additional two years of technical or college prep work

Benjamin James Williams - Son of James and Cynthia Williams of Greenville; Grandson of the late Jim and Charlotte Williams; Graduating from Riverheads High School; Planning to attend Virginia Tech in the fall; Majoring in Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science

Congratulations College Graduate!

Ryan Lee Robertson - Son of Carla Robertson; Graduated with honors from Roanoke College with a degree in Business Administration; Working for Sage Point Financial and living in Richmond; His address is: 1512 Split Oak Lane, Apt. A; Richmond, VA 23229

Flower Schedule for July

July 5th - Libby Smith
July 12th - Mary Ann Anderson
July 19th - Lee Ann Heizer - Communion
July 26th - Joan McLaughlin – Memorial

Offering Schedule for July

Derek Almarode
Keith Bosserman
Kenny Olson

Nursery Schedule for July

July 5th - Robert and Betty Jo Olson
July 12th - Joe and Tabby Moore
July 19th- Stephanie Rivers; Jackie Law
July 26th - Carla Robertson; Joyce Miller

Congratulations to the Williams and Brown Families on the birth of Jonah McKay Williams to Emily and Mac on Friday, May 29th, at 4:30 pm. Jonah weighed 7 1/2 lbs.

Dear Bethel Friends, my family and I want to thank each of you for your concern and support when my father passed away. Your calls, cards, gifts of food and your presence at his funeral were greatly appreciated. We are grateful to be a part of this caring congregation. Again many thanks for your thoughtfulness. Sincerely, Tom Heizer

Our sympathies and condolences to the family of friends of **Arthur Cash** who passed away on Tuesday, June 9th.

Our sympathies and condolences to the family of **Madeline Burns** (Nellie Hamilton's sister) who passed away on Tuesday, June 9th.

SESSION NEWS

The Session had approved and contracted with Dixon Studios of Staunton to install five stained glass windows in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. The windows are designed from two windows in the Sanctuary and there will be two of one design and three of the other. The designs are available in the church office if you would like to see them. The windows are to cost approximately \$22,000.00 with nearly half of the money coming from the Memorial Committee and we will seek contributions for the remainder. The Session approved one window as a memorial to Dr. James Sprunt and one in honor of Rev. Clifford D. Caldwell. The windows will be installed by Homecoming and will be dedicated at that time.

A meeting of the congregation is called for July 12th at 10:45 a.m. to elect five members to the Nominating Committee.

The next restoration phase of the organ was approved and is taking place at this time.

Joel will be on vacation July 3rd - 9th.

Adrienne will be on vacation July 6th - 8th and the church office will be closed.

David Turner will cover the cement block wall in the hallway with sheetrock and is checking on laminate flooring also for this area.

The Witness Committee plans to have an auction at the October bazaar. They also requested that the Mission Tree remain in the Vestibule.

Deacon's Notes June 2009

Treasurer's reports were reviewed at the June meeting. Ken Wilkinson reported to the Deacons that income continues to be at a normal level for this time of year. Tish Folsom provided a report on current account balances through June 5th. Completion of the final organ renovation phase will exceed current funds dedicated to the organ. Since the organ is vital and these repairs have a long lifetime, the Deacons recommended a special fundraising request to cover completion. This action was approved by the Session at their June meeting. It was reported that funding for the 2009 Bethel missions is in line with needs at this point.

R. L. Victorine is scheduled to complete organ renovation in July.

In addition to normal spring maintenance, the Deacons removed two large trees at the tower entrance because they were overgrown and contributing to moisture and deterioration in the tower walls. Two suggestions were made for replacements for the trees. One suggestion was to place a large stone or boulder on each side of the tower. The other suggestion was to use boxwoods, as on the east side of the building. If you have other suggestions you would like considered, please let Keith Bosserman know.

The Diaconate is here to serve Bethel's congregation, support its activities, and maintain and improve its physical property. To let you know what we are doing, Josh Smith posts the Deacon's meeting minutes on the bulletin board near Fellowship Hall.

Deacon's Prayer List

Louale Almarode, Kelsey Bosserman, Covie Brandt, Marjorie Brooks, Family of Carson Bryant, Jim Bundy, Lorine Caldwell, Family of Arthur Cash, Melissa Coffey, Aggie Dodson, Jessie Earhart, Louis Fitzgerald, Raleigh Ham, Nellie Hamilton, The Heizer Family, Wayne Hord, Rhonda Johnson, Anne Jones, Flora Law, Family of Paul Law, Agnes Lotts, Lucy Miller, Charlotte Swortzel, Family of Melissa Tate, Ron Wilkerson (retired Riverheads Coach), and the Family of Phyllis Wooddell.

Don't Forget!!

July 4th - Independence Day

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