

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

1100 Huguenot Springs Road, Midlothian, VA 23113
bbc1817@verizon.net | www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org
804-794-8590



BETHEL
 BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 52 No. 11 November 2020

Inside This Issue	Messages from Todd	pg. 1 & 2	Associate Pastor Note	pg. 2	Connect (Youth News)	pg. 5	Ways to Give	pg. 4
	Mission News	pg. 4	Hoops!	pg. 5	Birthdays	pg. 6	Special Newsletter Deadlines	pg. 5
	Lunches Canceled	pg. 6	Charlotte's Pantry	pg. 6	Wednesday Night Programs	pg. 4	Daylight Savings Time Ends	pg. 3
	Many Thanks	pg. 6	Just for Fun	pg. 4	Puppet Team Needs You	pg. 6	Advent Study	pg. 2 & 3
	Book Club	pg. 3	Library News	pg. 3	Preschool News	pg. 3	Community Thanksgiving	pg. 2
	Sharing & Caring	pg. 2	Holiday Hours	pg. 2	Poinsettias	pg. 5	Ministry & Missions Meeting	pg. 2

With Thanksgiving approaching I began to reflect on what it means to be grateful. Pastor/Preacher Fred Craddock says that the final act of God in one's life is to make us both grateful and gracious. As I reflected on that statement I began to wonder, "Who are some of the most grateful and gracious people that I know?" I thought of a number of people, but near the top of my list has to be Romy Merchant. He's often said to me, "I'm so grateful for what the Lord has done for me." Recently I sat down with Romy to ask how he lives a life of gratefulness.

He said, "I've been blessed that I had wonderful, loving parents, uncles and other folks in my life who have mentored me. My father told me when I was a little kid, 'Select who you are going to associate with. Water seeks its own level.' In other words, you need to associate with someone who has the same principals. So, I was surrounded by good people who guided me from an early age and they told me that God had a plan for me. Along the way I've learned that God uses both good times and bad times to build character. I've also learned to keep my focus on the Lord and to try and do what the Lord wants me to do. I do nothing without discussing it with the Lord."

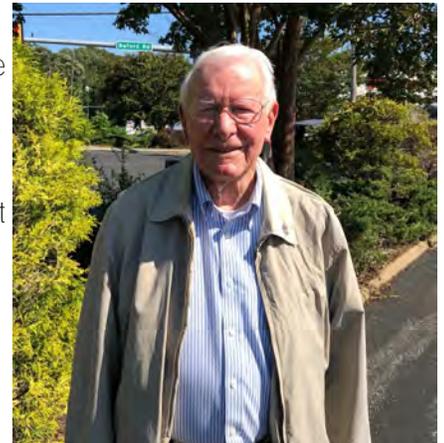
Romy knows about both good times and bad times. He has three wonderful children who love and care for him and he was married for 40 years to the love of his life, Dainese. Dainese passed away 24 years ago from lung cancer. Romy said there were times where her pain was terrible, but their faith sustained them both. Then 10 years ago, Romy was diagnosed with cancer of the stomach. He said, "My oncologist told me the type of cancer I had, very few people go through it and come out alive. The doctor told me that if I gave him four months of my life, between him and God, we'd come out ok. He said in those four months he would take me close to death, but he believed he and God could bring me back. The doctor was correct. He did take me to death's door. I remember at the time I weighed 126 pounds, but I never gave up. I'm stubborn that way. On my last appointment with the doctor I told him I was at the point of death's door and the doctor said he was going to turn it around and he did."

Continued next column

As Romy reflects on his cancer, he offered these incredible words, "Would you believe that was the best time of my life?" I asked Romy to share how it was the best time of his life and how his faith helped him during that time. He said, "Well, the book of Job was my main sail during that time. Job stayed the course, no matter what happened. He never went against the Lord and in the end the Lord provided. Me and Job were mighty close during my battle with cancer. And here's why it was the best time in my life. I'm a fixer and I've always been a fixer, but this was the one thing I couldn't fix and I realized it. I realized I was not in control and that you cannot do things without the Lord. So, I turned my cancer over to the Lord. The crazy part was I felt good about it. I expressed things to my friends and family that came to see me, to tell them what they meant to me. I was always looking forward to what I was going to do next. This experience confirmed to me that the only thing that matters is my relationship with the Lord God almighty through Jesus Christ. The Lord just gave me a deep sense of peace during this time. If you keep your focus on the Lord, the peace will come. It's that simple."

There was one other thing that Romy said that I thought was profound. He said, "I've learned you only benefit from what you give away. Whatever you do, you do it to the best of your ability and you make it better than when you arrived. I was a farmer at heart and as a farmer I always tried to do what was best for the land, to make it better. This farm is a legacy that the rest of my children will enjoy. They have the opportunity to learn from the farm as I have learned from it. You don't rob the land; you treat it as you go. We are a steward of the land. You do the same in life."

Continued on page 2



Romy Merchant

Continued from page 1

Be good stewards of your life. Give it away in service to others. Keep things simple. Focus on the Lord. Discuss things with the Lord and peace will come.” That’s great advice!

As we prepare our hearts and homes for Thanksgiving, I hope we can take some time to reflect on the wisdom that Romy has imparted. If we heed his advice, I suspect that we will experience God’s peace and grace and we too will be grateful. One final word from Romy. I asked him if there is anything he’d like to share with the good folks of Bethel and he said, “The people of Bethel are an inspiration to me because you see the Light of God in them!” Amen. May God bless Romy Merchant and his family. May God bless our Bethel Church family and may each of you have a blessed Thanksgiving. With much love and many thanks for each of you.

Todd

Sharing and Caring Mondays at Bethel



Join us in the People of Hope Center on Monday mornings at 9 a.m. for our “Sharing and Caring” group. We will continue to meet at Bethel for the time being. Come join us for a nice time of fellowship as we enjoy a devotional time together. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

Ministry & Missions Wednesday, December 2

Join us on December 2, at 7 p.m. for our Ministry and Missions Celebration (aka Business Meeting). You can join us in person in the People of Hope Center or stream the meeting online at www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org. Please remember masks are required for in-person meeting.



*A Note From Your Associate
Pastor and Music Minister by
Gayle Taylor*



“Yes, Virginia, there is Christmas Spirit During Covid!”

Advent Study in November

Can there be any hope, peace, joy, and love as we come to a close to this challenging year? Yes, *Virginia, there is Christmas Spirit during Covid!* I encourage you to join this Advent Small Group on three consecutive Wednesdays in November.

What should you expect? We will look at Scriptures and stories that lead us to embrace the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Additionally, paintings and music of the season will be shared to express these themes in an artistic way.

Where will it be? People of Hope Center

When will it held be? 11:00 a.m. on Nov. 4, 11, and 18

Who will facilitate? Gayle Taylor

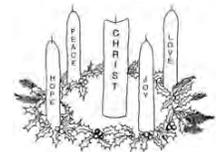
Please contact the church office or email Gayle at revgayletaylor18@yahoo.com to register for the small group.

Advent Study Schedule

November 4: Finding Hope and Peace

November 11: Experiencing Joy and Love

November 18: Seeking the Christ Child



Community Thanksgiving Service

There will be a joint community Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, November 24, at 7 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church. Also joining us will be Mt. Sinai Baptist, Good Shepherd Lutheran, and New Life United Methodist. This will be a wonderful night of worship, thanksgiving and praise. We hope to see you there.



Holiday Hours

Below are the church office hours for the upcoming holidays:

Thanksgiving—Office will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, November 25 and 26 (and Friday as usual).

Christmas—Office will be closed on Wednesday, December 23 and Thursday, December 24 (and Friday as usual).

New Year’s Day—Office will be closed Thursday, December 31 (and Friday as usual).

Library News



Our trees are beginning to change their colors, many leaves are still on the trees. Can you believe it? November is here!! Thanksgiving meals are being planned and Christmas decorations are all around us. **I don't know how time flies so quickly. The Bethel library is moving along smoothly.** The preschool children have settled in nicely but due to Covid they are unable to come to the library right now. Our staff is really missing their energy and smiles. Maybe soon they will be back with us. As I said before, Thanksgiving meals are being planned. What kind of Thanksgiving will you have this year? I am hoping we all will be able to spend time with our families. Whatever you do, **enjoy God's beauty. He is all around us. And from all of us in the library, we wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving.**

Barbara Bell, Media Director

Daylight Savings Time Ends

On Sunday, NOVEMBER 1, Daylight Savings Time Ends at 2 am!

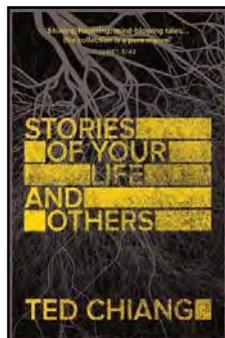
Don't forget to turn your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday night or you will be wondering where everyone is on Sunday morning.



Book Club News

The book club is currently reading *Stories of Your Life and Others* by Ted Chiang. We will discuss this book on November 15 after the worship service. Please bring a bag lunch and drink to the meeting.

If you would like a copy of the book, please see Gayle Taylor or contact her through email at: revgayletaylor18@yahoo.com or call the church office.



By Carter Cosgrove
Preschool Director

Bethel Baptist Preschool has been having an amazing year so far. We have been in school for two months now and the children have become accustomed to their teachers, classroom routines, classmates and our new normal. Time has been flying by!

Due to Phase III restrictions, the preschool was unable to go on our annual field trip to the pumpkin patch, so the preschool brought the pumpkin patch to the students. The preschool set up pumpkins for each child in the courtyard and provided a live science lesson on the lifecycle of the pumpkin, starting with the pumpkins seed all the way to a huge orange pumpkin! The children **then got to go and "pick out" their very own pumpkin in the Bethel Pumpkin Patch!!!!**

Bethel Baptist Preschool will be closed on Monday, November 2nd and Tuesday, November 3rd for the presidential elections following Chesterfield County Public School's calendar. During the month of November our children will be learning how to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". The preschool will be participating in both the Operation Christmas Child and the Powhatan Christmas Mother. Giving to others is sometimes an abstract idea for this age group. This is a tangible way for them to understand how important it is to give rather than receive.

I would like to also remind everyone that the preschool will be closed the week of November 23rd through November 27th for Thanksgiving Break. My staff and I would like to wish everyone a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving Holiday!

Advent Study Small Group

Need a little Christmas Spirit in Your Life?

Join us for a 4-week small group to discover the meaning of Advent through Scripture, art, and music!

When: November 4, 11, 18, 25

Time: 11:00 a.m.

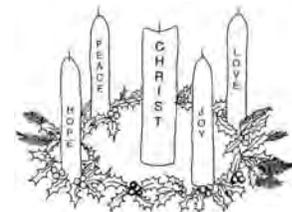
Where: People of Hope Center

Facilitator: Gayle Taylor

Please see Gayle Taylor to sign up for the group. Email: revgayletaylor18@yahoo.com

Bring your Bible and an excitement for the Advent season!

See additional information on page 2





Just for Fun - by Gayle Taylor

Thanksgiving Facts

Test your knowledge of Thanksgiving trivia (Answers appear below)

1. Two historical places claim to be the site of the first Thanksgiving celebrated in America. Can you name these?
2. **What was likely served for dinner at the "first" Thanksgiving?**
3. Who is Squanto?
4. Where is Berkeley Plantation?
5. What is the difference between a Pilgrim and a Puritan?
6. Did Benjamin Franklin publicly endorse the turkey as a symbol for the United States?
7. Some American tables offer candied yams at a Thanksgiving dinner. Where did yams originate?
8. Stuffing or Dressing? Which do native Virginians eat with their turkey?

- ANSWERS
1. Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621 and Berkeley Plantation in 1619. "Thanksgiving" or harvest feasts were held elsewhere and on different dates as well. It was typical for the colonists to hold a special day of prayer and offer thanks for the bounty God had provided.
 2. Governor Bradford wrote that waterfowl, turkeys, deer, cod, bass, and corn were feasted upon at the 1621 Plymouth Thanksgiving.
 3. Squanto, a Native American, was from the Patuxet tribe and helped to navigate relations between the Pilgrims and other Native Americans as well as to show them how to cultivate native crops.
 4. Berkeley Plantation is in Charles City, VA.
 5. While there is some overlap, basically, the Pilgrims wanted religious freedom. Puritans wanted to purify the Church of England.
 6. Franklin did not publicly endorse the turkey as our national symbol. He did, however, express his displeasure of the bald eagle as our nation's symbol. In a private letter, he did mention the turkey's admirable traits noting it was more "admirable" and was a "true native" of the country.
 7. Yams typically are grown in Africa, South America, the Caribbean, and Asia.
 8. Typically, southerners eat "dressing" as it was customary to "dress" the meat. Dressing usually is cornbread based. Our northern neighbors tend to use the word "stuffing" and actually stuff the turkey with a bread-based mixture.

Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—WMU will meet on Monday, November 2, at 10 a.m. in the People of Hope Center. Please remember to bring your mask.

Bethel Preschooler Cards: If you have signed up to send a card to a preschooler, please be sure to remember his/her birthday and any upcoming holidays.

Kroger: Please register your Kroger card so Bethel can continue to receive reward points toward Missions. Go to www.Kroger.com and sign in. Then click on "Community" on tab bar and click on "community Rewards." The church member number is QW701. You will still get your points toward gas, Bethel will just get credit for any amounts you spend at Kroger.

Wednesday Night Programs in November



- November 4 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
- November 11 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
- November 18 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
- November 25 — No Sacred Circle

4 Ways to Give at Bethel

1. In Person: Drop your check in the offering plate as you enter or leave the People of Hope on Sunday morning.
2. Send a check to our secure mailbox: The address is: Bethel Baptist Church, 1100 Huguenot Springs Rd. Midlothian VA, 23113
3. Online Giving: On our Website there is a link to give. Once you **click on the link you'll be prompted to give through either your bank account or a credit card. Here's the link for online giving:** <https://www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org/giving/>
4. Text Giving: **Simply text the dollar amount you'd like to give to (804) 361-8590 and follow the prompts. You'll be asked to enter a debit card or credit card number. The minimum amount for text giving is \$10. The platform we're using is safe and secure and you'll be given the option of an email receipt at the end of your transaction.** As always, we are grateful for your contributions to the church and we thank you for your gifts.

Youth News Connect

by Lauren Moore

Halloween has come and gone so now it's time to prepare for the most wonderful time of the year, right? So often we skip over the importance of Thanksgiving and divert our attention to preparing for Christmas. We pause on the 4th Thursday of November to focus our thoughts on what we are thankful for but then our sights are right back on Christmas. More than ever we need to give Thanksgiving the attention it deserves! Instead of **moving straight to Christmas this year, let's take time to savor the goodness of God and how that is manifested in our lives...** in the mundane and in the extraordinary. It may be hard to see things we are grateful for in this season of COVID that continues to carry on or this season has been plagued with bad news but if we stop, focus our attention on the Lord and look through a lens of gratitude there is plenty to be thankful for. Here's a 7 day challenge to help you recognize those things!

A 7 Day Challenge To Help You Practice Gratitude

Take some time over the course of a week to slow down and **intentionally thank God for who He is and what He's done (and is doing)** in your life. Here are a few prompts to help you focus on all we have to be thankful for. You may want to write these things down each day to capture everything and reflect on just how many things you have to be grateful for. Try making your own 7 day challenge to do next!

Day 1: The people in your community of family or friends.

Day 2: The things that bring you joy.

Day 3: The freedoms we have and the daily choices we can make.

Day 4: The nature and character of God, the gift of salvation .

Day 5: The beauty of nature all around us.

Day 6: Life events and opportunities that have helped shape us, grow us and stretch us.

Day 7: All the silver linings in your life that have occurred during the pandemic. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107:1

Operation Christmas Child

Please pick up a box for a girl or boy, then purchase your items and return them to Bethel by Sunday, November 15. Boxes are available in the People of Hope Center.

Don't forget to place your \$9 donation inside each box to help with shipping costs.



Hoops! Come Join Us

We are taking every measure to ensure our students and volunteers **stay safe so if you haven't been back to church yet, please consider joining us!** We will continue to meet outside as weather permits.



Christmas Card Post Office



Bethel's Christmas Card Post Office

By Gayle Taylor

We must inform you that this year We cannot safely send our holiday cheer Through our Bethel post box, we fear.

For to be germ-free it does entail That we send our cards through traditional mail.

Let's be safe and we'll see the box next year, without fail!

Newsletter Deadline

Please note the newsletter deadline for the December, and January Outreach will be the 10th of each month due to the holidays.

Information for December's Outreach is due November 10th instead of the 15th. Thanks for your help on this.



Christmas Poinsettias Forms due November 22

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church in memory or in honor of someone, please fill out a form drop it in the offering plate along with your payment or bring it to the church office before the deadline. Forms are available from the church office or on the round table in the People of Hope Center. The cost of each plant is \$8.00. Checks should be made payable to Bethel Baptist Church. These plants will be used to decorate the church during the Christmas season. You may take them home after the service on December 24. Thank you in advance for your participation. If you have any questions, please see Brenda Kagels.



November Birthdays



1	Brian Keaton	18	Michele Ratliff
2	Vera Caniglia	18	Pat Reynolds
2	Tony Caniglia	19	Lee Elam
4	Rose Mary Main	19	David Morris
5	Lori Denise	20	Stanley Watkins
5	Judy Pulley	21	William Ferebee
7	Brenda Peck	21	Patrick Weir
9	Ryder Hansen	24	Benjamin Ellis
11	Diane Moseley	26	Jerry Blankenship
11	Curtis Salyer	26	Maddy Wight
11	T.D. Watkins III	26	Donna Lewis
12	Angela Pearce	26	Penny Woodford
12	Linda Gardner	28	Charles Maine
13	Bonnie Surma	29	Brooke Moseley
13	Brad Chauncey	29	Jeb Redmond
13	Shawn Mayberry	30	Doug Turner
16	Blaine Walton		

Men's Lunch Canceled

The Men's Fellowship lunches have been canceled until further notice.



Puppet Team Needs YOU!



The Puppet Team is recruiting new members. We need puppeteers and behind the scene volunteers. No **experience necessary**. If you are interested in trying your "hand" with our puppet team, but don't have a lot of time to commit, think about joining us for just our mission trip (date to be announced later). Please contact Andrea Hale at 804-920-4648 for more information.

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

November 11, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

November 21, 11 a.m. to noon
(Special Thanksgiving Distribution)

December 9, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

December 19, 11 a.m. to noon (Special Christmas Distribution)

If you would like to help on any of these dates, please contact Brenda Peck.



Opportunities for:

Mission/Ministry

- Music Ministry/Choir (See Gayle Taylor)
- Adults on Mission (Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m.)
- **Charlotte's Pantry** (See Brenda Peck)
- Backpack Ministry (See Vera Caniglia)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry (See Lauren Moore)
- Friends of the Homeless (5th Mondays at 8:30 a.m. (See Gayle Rogers)
- AA Meeting every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
- Puppet Team (See Andrea Hale)
- Media Center (See Barbara Bell)
- Care Team Ministry (See Shirley Lewis)

Fellowship/Discipleship

- **Men's Fellowship Lunch 1st** Thursday of each month at noon (See Bruce Lewis)
- **Women's Fellowship Lunch** 1st Thursday of each month at noon (See Margaret Gillis)
- Youth Group Meetings every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. (See Lauren Moore)
- Bible/Discipleship Study Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. (See Gordon and Shirley Rutland)
- Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m. each Sunday
- Zumba Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. (See Megan Luck)
- Brotherhood Breakfast (every 5th Sunday)
- **JIGSAW children's ministry**, every Sunday (See Tina McNeel)
- Children in Action meet every 5th Sunday, during the Sunday School hour. (See Frances Morris)

Many Thanks

I want to thank you for the card and the generous gift card that you gave us for Pastor Appreciation Month. As I said Sunday, we are **very grateful that the Lord called us to Bethel**. I cannot believe it's been 7 ½ years ago! I still feel called to Bethel and pray the Lord will allow us to stay for years to come. Bethel is blessed to have so many caring, loving people and I am double blessed to be able to serve as pastor. May God continue to watch over and bless each one of you. Thank you again.

Todd

Ladies Lunch Canceled

The Ladies Fellowship Lunches have been canceled until further notice.



November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>2</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am	<i>3</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>4</i> Advent Study—11 am (POH) Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—7 pm	<i>5</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>9</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am	<i>10</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>11</i> Advent Study—11 am (POH) Charlotte's Pantry—5:00 to 6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	<i>12</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> Worship—10:30 am—POH Book Club Meeting—After Worship service	<i>16</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am	<i>17</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>18</i> Advent Study—11 am (POH) Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—7 pm	<i>19</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> Charlotte's Pantry—9 to 11 am
<i>22</i> Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>23</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am	<i>24</i> Community Thanksgiving Service—7 pm at Bethel	<i>25</i> Office Closed	<i>26</i> Office Closed AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>27</i> Office Closed	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>30</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am					

Bethel Baptist Church

1100 Huguenot Springs Road
Midlothian, VA 23113

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 2133
MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23112

Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES

9:30 Sunday School | 10:30 Worship

