

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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BETHEL
 BAPTIST CHURCH

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One of the most often asked questions I get is, "How do I know God's will for my life?" When we face a big decision, we'd like to know that God is leading us and will speak to us. Tina McNeel and Judy Barker recently faced a big decision when we asked them to serve on our Deacon Board. Let me share with you how they made their decision. I think you'll find that it may help you as you face your next big decision. First, both Tina and Judy felt like being a deacon was beyond them. Both of them said things like, "Who am I to be a deacon," or "I don't consider myself worthy," or "That's for people who are more righteous than me." In other words, they were both very humble. This was a sign for me that God may have been leading them to become Deacons because humility is a key trait for being a Deacon. Also, they both believed that the size of the task was beyond them. When God speaks to us, He will often lead us to tasks that are bigger than what we think we can handle. I firmly believe God doesn't want us too comfortable and He will often give us opportunities to grow by asking us to take a step of faith into an uncomfortable situation.

With that said, here's how Tina and Judy made their decision.

Both of them started by praying and after they prayed, they paid attention. Tina said,

"For me the signs that the Lord was leading me in this direction were everywhere. It wasn't just one thing, but a multiplicity of things. The first thing I did was to talk with my husband Mark and then I started researching about



Mark, Tina, Luke and Faith McNeel

being a deacon. As I read scripture and devotionals on the internet and I was left with the feeling that this was going to be a leap of faith. Then I was working around the house one day and I had a Hallmark Movie playing in the background. It was a Christian

Continued next column

based movie set during the Korean War called, 'Though none go with me.' In the movie, there was a minister who joined the war. A quote from his sermon before he left for the war got my attention. The quote was, 'The most important and challenging spiritual test is turning our lives over to God. Though no decision can be more fulfilling. Inevitably something will happen that will make us realize, that our own power is not enough to get us through the especially difficult times. Our personal power is limited, but God's power is infinite. All that is required is one simple prayer, 'Not my will Lord but yours.' Why are we so afraid of turning our lives over to a greater will? Why do we seek guidance, but fear what that guidance will say to us? Because it means we have to say to God, 'I will accept whatever you have chosen for me and I trust that you will give me the strength to deal with it.' There is an old hymn that says it better. 'Though none go with me, still I will follow. No turning back. No turning back.'" That quote really spoke to me. Finally, I was sharing with a friend at work, who is also in music ministry. Sometimes she will sing at work when she thinks she is alone. When I told her about the quote from the song, she began singing the song to try to figure out which song it was. When she started singing the chorus, "I have decided to follow Jesus." I knew that was God's way of telling me the answer to my decision. As I walked out of the hospital that evening, I texted Todd to say, "Yes, I'll be a deacon."

Judy said the Lord led her through, "Lots and lots of prayer. I found myself praying even more than normal as thoughts came to me. I also talked with Todd and with a past deacon. One of the things I know I need to improve upon is that I talk too much and need to do a better job of listening. One of the things this past deacon said was, 'Some people just want to have someone to talk with.'



Judy Barker

Continued on page 2

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I also talked with two of my sisters, each of whom I consider more worthy than I. One of my sisters said, 'Well, listening to others is something you'll work on.' I also knew it would be very good for me to become more involved in the needs of other people. Then I read 2 Timothy and I considered everything I was seeing, what people were telling me, and what I heard through scripture. Even though I never felt like I heard a clear direct word, I had a lot of little things that pointed me in this direction and I felt a peace about it. That kind of peace comes only from God. I do feel like I will grow from doing this and I'll be able to contribute to others. It's something that I need to be doing. I know the Lord will be with me and provide the guidance, understanding and strength I need for this mission."

I really appreciate the careful, thoughtful, prayerful way that Tina and Judy approached their decision. I also appreciate Judy's self-awareness as she confessed that she thinks she needs to be a better listener. When it comes to making decisions that are "God led," there are some common themes in Tina and Judy's stories. They both prayed, read scripture, sought the council of others, then they watched and listened for the Lord to speak. The Lord did speak in a variety of very subtle ways. The key to hearing the Lord comes down to one thing, intentionality. Both Tina and Judy took this decision very seriously and they were intent on hearing from the Lord. They paid attention, they anticipated that the Lord would speak, and God did speak in a variety of ways. The next time you have a decision to make, remember to pray, read scripture, seek wise council, and pay close, close attention to what's happening in your life and I believe the Lord will lead you, just as He's led Tina and Judy. I'm really excited to have them both on our Deacon Board for next year. I want to thank them for how they made their decision and ask that you pray for them and please pray for all of our deacons. May God bless Tina and her family, Judy and her family, and may God continue to bless our Bethel Church family. With love for you all.

Todd

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

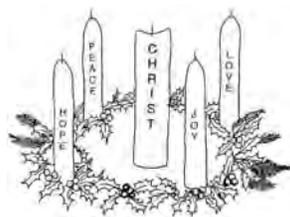
Time: 11:00 a.m.

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!



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



"Domestic Violence Unmasked"

Once again, I share with you the importance of this issue.

"Stay at home" --- these are familiar words to all of us during the pandemic. What image comes to your mind when you hear these words? Safety? Comfort? Security? Frustration? Inconvenience? Perhaps a mixture of positive and negative feelings surface. If you live in a domestic violence situation, however, "stay at home" sets up an environment for increased fear and pain. Staying at home is not safe and staying at home is not a mere inconvenience. According to the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, "Home is often the space where physical, psychological and sexual abuse occurs... In the COVID-19 crisis, the exhortation to 'stay at home' therefore has major implications for those adults and children already living with someone who is abusive or controlling. Stringent restrictions on movement shut off avenues of escape, help-seeking and ways of coping for victim-survivors. Restrictive measures are also likely to play into the hands of people who abuse through tactics of control, surveillance and coercion" (Bradbury-Jones, Caroline. "The Pandemic Paradox: The Consequences of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence.")

In other words, domestic violence victims sit trapped in their homes with their abusers with few opportunities to seek help. The situation stays masked from the public view. This situation appears to be a problem with no solutions... or are there?

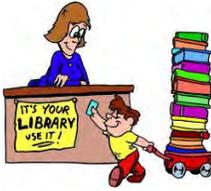
Vigilant is a word that crops up in articles about domestic violence and in conversations with domestic violence advocates. In the current issue of *Forensic Science International*, it reminds us that even though people remain isolated in their homes, "many postal workers, garbage collectors, food delivery staff, and home repair agencies are all still out and traveling through neighborhoods during the global crisis – they may still have opportunity to detect violence in the home and report their concerns to the proper authorities." The article also urges citizens to be aware of this issue and "to check on their neighbors, friends, and family (while maintaining adherence to any distancing regulations) and report ANY concerns they see or hear to the proper authorities. For as long as we allow family violence to remain in the shadows, it will do just that – remain. We must be vigilant" (Campbell, Andrew M. "An increasing risk of family violence during the Covid-19 pandemic: Strengthening Community Collaborations to Save Lives).

During October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I ask you get to know your neighbors and if you see or hear something that resembles abuse, to please report it. Be vigilant and let's unmask this serious problem!

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Library News



Hello everyone. Hope all of you are doing well. October is just around the corner, ready or not. Summer went by really fast. The library is still closed. If you or someone in your family checked out a library book back in March of this year, please look around and see if you can find it. We are missing several books. I have talked to some of you **already. It's been several months since March so it's easy to forget.** When the library does reopen, we will have a new author on hand. Her name is Lorri Dudley. She writes historical fiction. Aleta Jenkins knows this author. Hopefully, you can come by and check her out soon.

Happy fall to you all.
Barbara Bell, Media Director

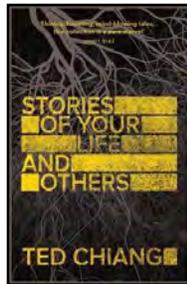
Flower Committee

The flower committee is going to clean and organize the flower room in the next couple of weeks. If you have anything stored in this room, please remove it as soon as possible.



Book Club News

The Book Club is now reading *Stories of Your Life and Others* by Ted Chiang. Goodreads says this about the book: **"This collection of science fiction stories often presents characters who must confront sudden change with some sense of normalcy. Chiang examines what it means to be alive in a world marked by uncertainty, but also by beauty and wonder."**



We will discuss this book on Sunday, November 15, after worship. Please bring a bagged lunch and drink. We will meet in the People of Hope Center.

If you would like to participate in the book club and need a copy of the book, please contact Gayle Taylor at revgayletaylor18@yahoo.com or call the church office at (804) 794-8590.

Deacon Zoom Meeting October 12th, 7 p.m.



By Carter Cosgrove
Preschool Director

Fall is definitely in the air and Bethel Baptist Preschool is in full swing. We finished September with only our Pre-K class in attendance with 6 children. Everything went wonderfully with all the new changes due to COVID-19. The children and staff have had a **wonderful time. Now we will be welcoming our 3's class to the program this month with 6 more students!** So exciting!!! The month of October is a very busy and exciting time for our preschool!

The preschool will have a big day on Tuesday October 13th. Since we are unable to go to the Pumpkin Patch for our annual fieldtrip, we are bringing the pumpkin patch to Bethel. Our students will get to learn about the life cycle of a pumpkin and pick out their very own pumpkins in the Bethel Baptist Church courtyard. It will be a time had by all.

Due to the current changes in our world, we will not be able to have our Fall Preschool Picture Day. We feel safety is of the utmost importance and feel that this just cannot be done the way our parents are accustomed to having done. We will be planning our School Pictures for this Spring. Also due to COVID -19, I am sad to announce we will not be having our monthly fundraiser at Chick-fil-A for this year.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the church families for your support of the Preschool. This school year will be quite different and challenging but we have been diligent in being creative in putting together an amazing year where we can all be safe and still have fun while learning. Without you, we would not be what we are today! Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for all of your love and support!!

Clergy Appreciation Day

Sunday, October 11th, is Clergy Appreciation Day. This is a great time to let your clergy know how special they are and how much you really appreciate all that they do.

BUT if you can't express your appreciation on October 11, you have all of October to let them know. October is Clergy Appreciation Month.





Just for Fun – by Gayle Taylor

“The Great Pumpkin”

Test Your Knowledge about the Pumpkin (answers are below)

1. Is the pumpkin a fruit or a vegetable?
2. Before Americans carved pumpkins, the Irish carved other items at Halloween. What were these?
3. What part of the pumpkin is edible?
4. Do you like pumpkin spice lattes? So do a lot of Americans (especially on the East Coast)! Can you name the top 3 pumpkin spice latte-loving states?
5. Which state is the pumpkin growing capital of the world?
6. The oldest pumpkin seeds date back to which time period? a) 300 to 500 years ago; b) 1,000 to 3,000 years ago; c) 8,000 to 10,000 years ago
7. How long does it take to grow a pumpkin?
8. In addition to beta-carotene, can you name some other nutritional values of the pumpkin?

1. It is a fruit. The definition of a fruit is, “the usually edible reproductive body of a seed plant” which qualifies the pumpkin as a fruit.
2. Turnips, beets and other root vegetables were carved as part of the Gaelic festival of Samhain.
3. All parts (flower, seed, skin, inside) are edible!
4. 1st Maine, 2nd Virginia, 3rd North Carolina
5. Illinois
6. (C) 8,000 to 10,000 years ago
7. It takes 75 to 100 frost-free days to grow a pumpkin.
8. Fiber, protein, Vitamin C, Vitamin K, potassium, copper, Vitamin E, and iron (just to name a few!)

ANSWER KEY

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.**

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.



Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—WMU will meet on Monday, October 5, 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 October



- October 7 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
- October 14 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
- October 21 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
- October 28 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.

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.

Drive Thru Trunk or Treat

We are extremely excited to announce that we are hosting a DRIVE THRU TRUNK OR TREAT this year! We were unable to host our annual Easter egg hunt or VBS due to COVID, so this is a wonderful opportunity to open our arms to the community.

You might be wondering what we are doing to ensure this is a COVID safe event?

- All Trunk or Treaters will remain in their cars.
- Trunks will be spaced 3 spots apart.
- All volunteers (hosting trunks or serving in another capacity) will wear masks and gloves.
- All candy will be pre-bagged or distributed with a scoop or tongs.
- Items will be placed on a tray and those in the car will remove the items from the tray.
- Cars will enter the far parking lot, route behind the cemetery and then exit via the Hope Center lot.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Ways you can help:

- Host a trunk! We need 30 trunks. Prepare for 500 children. THE CHURCH WILL ASSIST IN PROVIDING ITEMS TO PASS OUT AS WELL AS BAGGING ITEMS. Please do not let this number deter you. We will help you in whatever capacity you need.
- Volunteer to direct traffic. (4 people). We have Chesterfield Co. police to work traffic on 60, but we need additional help to direct people to the correct entrance.
- Volunteer to refill trunks as supply gets low (4 people).
- Donate individually wrapped candy, treats, trinkets, etc. There is a bin in the Hope Center or you may drop it off in the Office M-Th, 9-1 p.m.
- Volunteer to pre-package treat bags.

Our children's committee has been hard at work planning and preparing! This is going to be a big event and we need all the help we can get. Think all hands on deck!

Please contact Lauren Moore (804) 337-1497, laurenmoore@gmail.com to volunteer.

Youth News Connect

by Lauren Moore

We will continue to meet outside every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Please stay tuned for any weather related changes that may arise.

*****Don't forget to RSVP by Oct. 4 for our cookout at the Baker's on Oct. 11 from 6-8 p.m.**



Hoops! Come Join Us

Our September 13th kick off of Hoops! went incredibly well! 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.



Hoops! Pictured Above: (left to right) Reagan, Micah, Chesney, and Coen

Newsletter Deadline

Please note the newsletter deadline for the November, December, and January Outreach will be the 10th of each month due to the holidays. **Information for November's Outreach is due October 10th instead of the 15th.** Thanks for your help on this.



October Birthdays



2	Bryan Trentham	20	Kiley Proffitt
3	Mike Luck	20	Blake Rogers
4	Dwight Keatts	21	Jarrett Elam
5	Daniel Rogers	22	Kevin Yeager
6	Caroline Keaton	23	Vernon Sadler
7	Brenda Jeter	24	Barbara Bell
9	Bubba Colley	25	Jennifer Redmond
9	Jenny Hansen	25	Stacey Lamb
9	Anne Jamerson	25	Jarrett Taylor
9	Debbie Mead	26	Destiny Chong
10	Jacqueline Cody	28	Lisa Brown
10	Patsy Condrey	28	David Gillespie
11	Teresa Dobbins	29	Erin Carlson
12	John Bransford	29	Sharon Butler
12	Malinda Davis	30	Gary Bailey
14	Bryan Camden	30	Angela Prater
14	Glenn Riley	31	Shirley Roberts
16	Brad Saxton	31	Stuart Condrey
17	Becky Moseley		

Men's Lunch Canceled

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



Ladies Lunch Canceled

The Ladies 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:

October 14, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

October 23, 9 to 11 a.m.

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

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

Dear Bethel Church Family,
Thank you for the lovely fruit basket. Thank you also for your calls and cards and most of all for your prayers. I miss you all and hope to be back to church soon.
Love, Bill Redmond

Dear Bethel Church Family,
Thank you so much for the food, the cards, the phone calls and the prayers I received since my surgery. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.
Love to all, Janet Goodman

Dear Bethel Church Family,
Thank you so much for the food, the calls, the cards and especially the prayers I received during and since my hospitalization. Thank you for your love and concern.
Blessings to each of you, Bob Hale

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 AA Meeting—5:30 pm Parent Orientation for 3 yr olds—7 pm (Classroom)	2	3
4 Worship—10:30 am—POH	5 Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am WMU—10 am	6 Boy Scouts—7 pm	7 Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—7 pm	8 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	9	10
11 Clergy Appreciation Day	12 Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am Deacon Mfg Zoom—7 pm	13 Boy Scouts—7 pm Seminar on Domestic Violence Awareness—Zoom—10 am	14 Charlotte's Pantry—5:00 to 6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—7 pm	15 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	16	17
18	19	20 Boy Scouts—7 pm	21 Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—7 pm	22 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	23 Charlotte's Pantry—9 to 11 am	24
25 Worship—10:30 am—POH	26 Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am	27 Boy Scouts—7 pm	28 Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—7 pm	29	30 Drive Thru Trunk or Treat—6 to 8 pm	31

Bethel Baptist Church

1100 Huguenot Springs Road
Midlothian, VA 23113

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Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES

9:30 Sunday School | 10:30 Worship

