

# The Outreach

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

## Bethel Baptist Church

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

Vol. 50 No. 12 December 2018



### Inside This Issue

Message from Todd pg. 1  
Mission News pg. 5  
Chick-fil-A Devotional pg. 3  
Men's Fellowship Lunch pg. 3  
Parish Nurse pg. 5  
Christmas Card Post Office pg. 2

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night pg. 5  
Associate Pastor Note pg. 2  
Ladies Christmas Lunch pg. 3  
Many Thanks pg. 4  
JIGSAW pg. 4  
Christmas Eve Service pg. 2

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule pg. 3  
Connect (Youth News) pg. 2  
Opportunities for Ministry pg. 3  
Birthdays pg. 3  
Wednesday Night Programs pg. 5  
Christmas Ornament pg. 2

New Pictorial Directory pg. 4  
A Note from Library pg. 5  
Bethel Care Team pg. 5  
Preschool News pg. 4  
Holiday Hours pg. 3  
upcoming concerts pg. 6

Here's a question for you. If we were to park a bus outside of Bethel on a Monday morning and ask you to show up with a suitcase with enough clothes for 5 days and NOT tell you where the bus was going, would you get on the bus and take the trip? One of our members, Cathy Williamson has been doing this EXACT thing almost every single year since 2005. In 2005 Cathy, who was living in Maryland at the time, went through a divorce and was going through a difficult period in her life when her sister-in-law suggested that she should take a mystery trip with her. A mystery trip is exactly that: A Mystery. Cathy and her sister-in-law were instructed to show up at the bus pickup point in Southern Maryland with enough clothes for 5 days. The only thing you know for sure is that the trip will be within one day's drive of Maryland. So Cathy said, "Why not!" She not only went in 2005, but she's gone nearly every year since. The trip is always the second week in June and she and her sister-in-law have gone to a number of places that she would not have travelled to otherwise. They've been to Maine, Savannah, Cleveland, The Finger Lakes of New York, Atlanta and Asheville, just to name a few of the places. On these trips she's done some amazing things she would have never done on her own, like going on a lobster boat for a day, or going to the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame or walking the glistening beaches of the Golden Isle's off the coast of Georgia.



While seeing all of these places has been wonderful the real treasure is found in relationships she's made along the way. Cathy was in her early 50s when she first started taking these trips and she and her sister-in-law noticed that they were the youngest people on the trip. Over the years Cathy has gotten to know many of her fellow travelers as almost everyone signs up for the trip for the following year. Cathy sees herself as a caregiver for a lot of these folks and she's come to see that helping her fellow travelers is both her ministry and mission.

Continued next column

Once there was a lady who was in her 80s and she'd been battling cancer for three years. Her family was reluctant for her to go on the trip, but they figured she'd be all right because she could use her iPad to email her family daily. Unfortunately, she often had trouble connecting to the Internet and she became stressed every time she couldn't connect. Cathy often stepped in to help this lady with her technology issues which really helped to lower this lady's stress level.

I asked Cathy what she's learned in the 13 years she's taken these trips. She said, "Some of the trips have been more interesting than others. I love history and I've learned that there is so much to see and learn from if you just take the time to look. Also, if you don't have any expectations about where you're going then you can embrace whatever comes your way. These trips are really about enjoying each moment of the journey and making the most of it. But the important part is the people you're going with and the reward is being with the others on the trip."



That's a good word for us. As we journey in faith, I hope our focus can be on the blessings of the journey. As Christians, our destination is secure, but what's unknown to us are the details of our journey. Cathy's mystery trips remind us of the unexpected blessings of embracing the unknown. Cathy sums this up best when she said, "Part of the excitement of life is that we don't know the path the Lord has us walking. We don't know what unexpected direction or detours we may experience, but if we are faithful in following the Lord, without knowing all the details, He will bring us more joy, love, and opportunities to let our life shine with the love of Christ! We will see the hand of God working in and through our lives if we go through life with our eyes, heart, and spirit wide open and expectant." Amen! Well said, Cathy. May the Lord bless Cathy as she continues to take her mystery trips and may the Lord bless us at Bethel as we embrace the unknown in our journey of faith!

Todd

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



"The Unassuming Gift" by Gayle Taylor

In her rocking chair,  
A woman with arthritic hands  
Quietly knits a cap,  
A cap that will soon cover the head of a hospital-ridden baby  
A gift

On his way home, the husky man with weathered truck,  
Takes a detour towards the woman's home,  
to cut firewood,

Wood that will fill her home with warmth  
A gift

In her tiny apartment kitchen,  
The man's daughter carefully assembles  
A casserole she will take to her father,  
Her father that raised her without anyone's help  
A gift

In Bethlehem, another family: a young woman with her husband  
Enters a stable to give birth

To the One who shows us how to share love,  
Love that manifests itself in multiple ways  
A gift

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."  
1 Peter 4:10(NIV)

#### Christmas Music at Bethel's December Worship Services

Dec. 2: Fork Union Military Academy Choir  
Dec. 9: Men's Quartet and Jigsaw Children  
Dec. 16: Bethel's Choir Cantata: *Joy to the World: A Celebration of Carols*  
Dec. 23: Hand Bell Choir and the Puppet Team  
Dec. 24: Bethel Choir  
Dec. 30: One Accord and Circle of Truth

*Merry Christmas!*

## Christmas Ornament Tradition

One of our Christmas traditions at Bethel is to have an ornament that represents each family on our Christmas tree. If you are new to Bethel and would like to donate an ornament to be placed on the tree (it can be bought or hand made), please bring it to church by December 2 and it will be placed on the big tree that goes up in the People of Hope.

## Christmas Card Post Office



The Christmas Card Post Office is open now through December 31. It is located in the People of Hope building in the portico entrance next to the restrooms. NO POSTAGE REQUIRED. You can send and receive cards to and from your Bethel family and friends. Please check the post office each week to make sure you don't miss any holiday wishes for you and your family.

# Connect

YOUTH NEWS by Lauren Moore



**BBC Kids Christmas lunch:** For all families with children ages birth through 5th grade. Please put December 9 on your calendar and plan to join us after worship for lunch. This is a time to celebrate the season, spend time with church family and our team of wonderful volunteers. Hope to see you there! RSVP by December 2. For more info, please see Lauren Moore.

**BBC Youth News:** Merry CHRISTmas! It really is the most wonderful time of the year. Here are a few notes for December. The Habitat house is behind and will not be finished until February so we will not be able to decorate it for Christmas. However, we will do a service project with them in the spring. Instead, we are going to shop for 4 children of the Middle District Christmas store. This month is full of lots of festive activities like shopping for the children, tacky light tour, Christmas party and serving at the Hope Supper Table. All of these things are done in celebration of the season of Jesus' birth and extending that love to others.

#### December

**5: Connect, 6-8pm** \*\*please note time change. We will shop for 4 children from the Middle District Christmas store. Youth funds will cover the items so no money is needed. Van leaves at 6pm. Eat dinner before. Need an additional adult to go with us. Please let me know if you can attend.

**12: Connect, 6:30-8pm.** Meet in the food pantry. Dinner provided.

**15: Hope Supper Table, 2:45-4pm.** Powhatan Fairgrounds.

**Christmas Party at the McNeel's, 5-8pm** following the Supper Table. Bring a gift and dessert. See details below

**19:Tacky Light tour, 5-8pm.** Pick up is at 5pm Bring dinner to eat in the limo. No cost. Need an additional adult to go with us. Let me know if you can attend.

**26: No Connect.**

**Christmas party details:** We will be going to the McNeel's after we serve at the Hope Supper Table. The McNeel's address is 1048 Timber Trace Rd, Powhatan. Each person is asked to bring a dessert and gift. For the gifts: I will provide each youth a pair of Christmas socks...don't worry, they will be new...that they will stuff with small items (think Dollar Tree, Five Below, Target dollar section, etc.) and tie the socks together with ribbon to close. See example on right.



Save the date: Passport Camp, June 23-28. Nashville.

## CHRISTMAS <sup>EVE</sup> service

CELEBRATING JESUS



5:30 pm in the  
People of Hope  
Center

## December Birthdays



2 Clay Call	19 Karen Bradbury
2 Stephanie Blanton	19 Debbie Nellis
3 Lynne Doughtie	20 Michael Brandon
4 Clara Justis	20 Shanna Call
4 Aaron Stagg	22 Sarah Acree
6 Roe Cole	22 Eli Withers
6 Bill Rogers	23 Mary Florence
6 Jeff Taylor	24 Howard Stephens, Jr.
6 Kendel Wynne	25 Chris Elam
11 Jamie Ellis	27 Evie Doughtie
11 Kayla Rider	29 Christy Moseley
11 Ben Turner	30 Barbara Burtchett
13 Matthew Moseley	30 Sissy Dance
15 Jeanette Napier	30 Brenda Jackson
18 Tina Hilbert	

## Morning Devotional at Chick-fil-A



Join us at Chick-fil-A at Westchester Commons Shopping Center each Monday morning at 8 a.m. We will enjoy breakfast and a devotional time together. This is a wonderful time of fellowship. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

## Ladies Christmas Fellowship Friday, December 7, 10 a.m.

Please note there will be NO Ladies Fellowship Lunch on December 6. We will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday December 7, for coffee and pastries at the home of Margaret and Bob Gillis. If you would like to participate in the cookie exchange, please bring a dozen of your favorite cookies to exchange.



If you plan to attend please text or call Margaret Gillis at 804-305-6931. All women are invited.

## Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

### Upcoming pantry schedule:

December 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m.  
December 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Special Christmas Distribution) No further distributions until the 2nd Wednesday (January 9). If you would like to help on any of these dates, please contact Brenda Peck.



## Opportunities for:

### Mission/Ministry

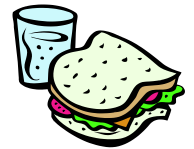
- Music Ministry/Choir (See Gayle Taylor)
- Adults on Mission (Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m.)
- Charlotte's Pantry (See Brenda Peck)
- Backpack Ministry (See Vera Caniglia)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry (See Lauren Moore)
- Friends of the Homeless (5th Mondays at 8:30 a.m. (See 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)

## Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, December 6, at noon

Our next lunch is set for Thursday, December 6, at noon. We will meet at the **Italian Delight** in South Creek Shopping Center in Powhatan. Everyone will be responsible for the cost of their own lunch.



Please call the church office if you plan to attend so we can make the appropriate number of reservations. All men are invited.

## Holiday Hours

Below are the church office hours for the upcoming holidays:

Christmas—Office will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25.

New Year's Day—Office will be open on Monday, December 31, and closed Tuesday, January 1.

# What's Happening in December



December is the perfect month to talk about COMPASSION. God's compassion for the people He created lead to the greatest act of love the world has ever seen. God sent His only Son to make us right with Him. We reflect that compassion when we care about others and show them how much God loves them.

## Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Family,  
I feel so blessed to be a part of the Bethel family! I can't thank you enough for the love and concern you showed me during my recent health issue. Your prayers, calls, visits, delicious food and the beautiful chrysanthemums were greatly appreciated. Your thoughtfulness and kindness will always be remembered.

Love, Pat Reynolds

Dear Family,  
Chris and I just want to thank you for all of the love and support you have given us in this difficult time. We appreciate the fact that we are part of such a precious and loving family. We know God is good and He is taking care of us and performing miracles in our lives every day. We love you so much.

God Bless, Chris and Stacey Elam

Dear Bethel Family,  
Once again I want to thank you for all the things you do for me. Thanks for all the prayers, vegetables, flowers and for just being there for me. Keep me in your prayers as I have to be on antibiotics through October.

Love and Prayers to each of you, Peggy Heath

## Operation Christmas Child Thank You

Thanks to everyone who participated in this project to share Christ with children around the world. Thanks to you, 103 shoe boxes were donated to Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child.



By Carter Cosgrove  
Preschool Director

Excitement is in the air with the winter holiday quickly approaching. The children and staff are working hard to finish their holiday units before our Christmas break begins along with practicing their special music for the annual Preschool Christmas Party! This time is a magical time of year for children and elders alike in which we will be focusing on the true meaning of the season.

With that being said, I would like to say thank you to all my preschool families who helped with our outreach programs this year. The idea of doing unto others is a difficult concept for small ones to grasp. To help them to understand that it is just as important to give as it is to receive, the preschool participated in two outreach programs. The first was the Operation Christmas Child in which we were able to fill two boxes and the second was to the Powhatan Christmas Mother in which we were able to give them child sized toothbrushes and toothpaste for stockings. I am so proud of my preschoolers. Way to go!!!!

The preschool would like to remind everyone of the Chick-fil-A night on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. We have been lucky enough to acquire one night a month to have this fundraiser. We have been asked by Chick-fil-A to be mindful that we need to reach our \$300.00 goal in food sales to be able to hold our spot. Thank you to all who have come and supported our event each month. The preschool would like to encourage you to come and support us once again by having dinner with us. Please be sure to tell the cashier it is for Spirit Night. Once you have enjoyed your meal, come and see me to take a chance at the prize wheel. It is only a dollar and you can win free food and stuff. Please help us continue this wonderful fundraising opportunity. I hope to see you there!

I would like to also remind all that the preschool will be closed December 19<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup> for Christmas Break. We will see everyone back on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. My staff and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## New Pictorial Directory January 23, 24, 25, and 26

DON'T MISS OUT!! Highbridge Photography will be here on January 23, 24, 25, and 26 to start taking pictures for our NEW directory. They will produce the directory for us at NO COST to the church. After the project is complete everyone will receive a FREE directory and one FREE 8 x 10 copy of your directory picture.

More information about sign ups will be coming soon.



# Bethel Care Team



Welcome to December and all of the excitement that this season brings. They say the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas are the busiest days of the year and most of us would agree with that. How we manage to get the decorations done, gifts buying, gift wrapping, tree up and trimmed, along with the shopping and cooking of the favorite foods is a true wonder. God gives us the strength to pull it all together to make the holidays bright for our families and friends. But along the way we need to first and foremost keep in mind the reason for the season as the holiday saying has been for many years now. To make it the main thought in our minds that our "Baby Jesus" was born on that holy night to become our Savior and make us his own. How can we adore "him"? Let us love, let us give, let us help one another each and everyday as he would have us do. Let us keep his commandments and live each day this coming year doing just these things to honor him.

From the Bethel Care Team we wish for each of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. I will again remind you that we have a box beside the Bethel Holiday Post Office especially for our folks that are homebound or facility bound or just often unable to join us in worship. Kindly write them a card if possible and put it in the box. These members are Liz Atkinson, Barbara Burchett, Lee Elam, Irving and Anne Jamerson, Peggy Heath, Bernice Smith, Jerry and Nancy Blankenship, Faye Carter, Conner Smith, Wally Cordle, Myrna Perkins, Zeke Bookman and Peggy Watkins.

*Joy to the world the Lord has come, may God Bless us with the peace and the joy of this holy season*

Shirley Lewis, Team Lead

## Parish Nurse December 16



Cindy Luck will be available in the Parish Nurse office on Sunday, December 16, from 9 to 10:15 a.m. Stop by and Cindy will be happy to answer your health questions or check your blood pressure.



Please note: The newsletter Deadline is usually the 15th of each month, but due to the upcoming Christmas holiday, the deadline for the January newsletter will be December 10th. Thanks so much for your help on this.

## Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

The next Spirit Night fund raiser date will be **Thursday, December 13**, between 5 and 8 p.m. **Please note the change in date and day.** Proceeds go to the Preschool throughout the school year. Dine-in or grab dinner to go, but please remember to mention Spirit Night when you place your order. Don't forget to take time to come by and spin the wheel. You can win free food, drinks and other items. Hope to see everyone there!

# Missions News

by Frances Morris

## Mission Opportunities

**Adults on Mission** will meet on Monday, December 3 at 10 a.m. in the People of Hope followed by a "Celebration of Christmas" program at 11 a.m. and a covered-dish luncheon at noon. All members and friends are invited.

**Children in Action** will meet at 10:30 a.m. on December 9, during the Sunday School hour. All children are welcome.

**Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for International Missions** will be the week of Dec. 2 – 9. The Christmas offering will be collected from Dec. 1 to Dec. 31.

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

**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.

## A Note From the Library

We are now approaching one of our most beautiful holidays, the birth of our Savior. The library windows will do a play on one of the carols in our Christmas Cantata. Now what carol would that be? OK, I will tell you it's "*Silent Night*."



This is Bethel's favorite song. Our Christmas service ends with this beautiful carol. I believe it can give us a sense of calm, peace and a time to enjoy our church and our church family. The children with all of their excitement and happiness can't do anything but give us joy and be really thankful for what our God and Savior has done for each of us. We have so enjoyed being able to give our children some Christmas books that all the family can enjoy. The library staff wishes you and your family and friends a very happy and joyful holiday.

Media Director, Barbara Bell

## Wednesday Night Programs in December



December 5—Dinner—6:30, Business Meeting—7:00 p.m.  
December 12—Bible Study—6:30 p.m.  
December 19—Bible Study—6:30 p.m.  
December 26—No Wednesday Night Activities

# Dixie Melody Boys Concert

## Saturday, December 8 at 6 p.m.



Join us as we enjoy the music of the Dixie Melody Boys in concert again!  
They are a Southern Gospel group you won't want to miss.

*There is no charge for the concert, a love offering will be received.*

# Iron Bell Music Concert

## Friday, February 1, 7 p.m.

Iron Bell Music is returning to Bethel for another night of praise and worship. Iron Bell Music is passionate about cultivating a heart of adoration in believers through creating worship music that leads people into the knowledge of God. Birthed out of encounters in His presence, their music invites people into a transformational experience where hearts are set free as they declare the truth of who God is. We were blessed to experience Iron Bell Music in concert last year and it was an incredible night of worship. We fully expect God to do great things again in February. Tickets are \$10.00 each. They make great gifts, stocking stuffers or an early Valentine's Day gift! Don't Wait! You can get your tickets now at <https://www.itickets.com/events/408921.html>



Show is at 7 p.m. in the People of Hope Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to go to the church's Facebook page and share this event. For any questions, see Lauren Moore.



# DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> Girl Scouts—3 pm
<i>2</i> Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	<i>3</i> Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Adults on Mission (POH)—10:00 am Puppets—6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal—7:15 pm	<i>4</i> Garden Club—9 am Small Group with Gayle Taylor—6:30 pm Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>5</i> Choir Rehearsal—6:25 pm  Dinner—6:30 pm and BUSINESS MEETING—7 pm	<i>6</i> Men's Fellowship Lunch—12 pm  AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>7</i> ESL—9 am  Ladies Christmas Fellowship—10 am at Gillis home Salt and Light Class, Christmas Caroling—5 pm	<i>8</i> Dicie Melody Boys Concert—6 pm
<i>9</i> Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am Children in Action—10:30 am Children's Ministry Lunch—following worship	<i>10</i> Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Puppets—6:30 pm	<i>11</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>12</i> Charlotte's Pantry—5 to 6:30 pm Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<i>13</i> Preschool will be using POH—10 am  Chick-fil-A Spirit Night—5 to 8 pm AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>14</i> ESL—9 am    Caroling—5 pm	<i>15</i> Cantata Rehearsal—9 am Charlotte's Pantry—Special Christmas Distribution—11 am to 1 pm Girl Scouts—3 pm
<i>16</i> Parish Nurse—9:00 am to 10:15 am Sunday School—9:30 am CANTATA—(POH) 10:30 am	<i>17</i> Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Puppets—6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal—7:15 pm	<i>18</i> Preschool Christmas Party—11:30 am (POH) Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>19</i> Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<i>20</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>21</i> ESL—9 am	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	<i>24</i> Office & Preschool Closed Christmas Eve Service—5:30 pm	<i>25</i> <b>Christmas Day</b> Office & Preschool Closed	<i>26</i> No Wednesday Night Activities	<i>27</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>28</i> ESL—9 am No Pantry Distribution Today	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	<i>31</i> <b>New Year's Eve</b>					

**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

