

The Outreach

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

Bethel Baptist Church

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Christ tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and love people. (Mark 12:30-31) Sounds great, but is there a way to know how we're doing in fulfilling these commandments? Author Philip Yancey says, "Here's a good test of how well we love: Are other people glad to be with us?" Great question! As you reflect on that question, allow me to introduce you to someone that I'm glad to know and be around, Amy Ingram. Amy, her husband Walt and their son Josh have been attending Bethel since early 2018. I was blessed to have worked with Amy when I worked for Central Virginia Bank a few years ago. I left the bank and lost touch with Amy until she began attending Bethel. Once Amy started attending I was really impressed with Amy's hunger for the Lord. She has a thirst to grow in the Lord, but equally as important, she wants others to come to know and experience the same peace and joy that she enjoys. I witnessed this desire one day when Amy came to me and said, "I feel like God wants me to do something, but I'm not sure what." We talked, we prayed and we explored what she thought the Lord was leading her to do. She said she thought about starting a ladies small group Bible study at C&F Bank where she is employed. We then prayed and asked the Lord to lead her in this endeavor and to show her what the ladies should study. Amy said one of the ladies at her work had the book "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality." A couple of the ladies read this book and Amy then mentioned that I had used part of that book for a sermon series not long ago and had shown the book on the screen during worship. The book "The Emotionally Healthy Woman" came up in conversation, Amy took that as a sign of the Lord's leading and then she took a step of faith. Amy sent out the invites, but she did so with some trepidation. She had never led a class like this before so she was



Continued next column

nervous about leading and she wondered if anyone would even respond to the invite. Not only did eight people respond, but the Lord also provided a leader. One person who responded is actually going to be leading a small group through this book at her church in January.

There are a couple of things I'd like to take from Amy's story. First, this is exactly the kind of thing we're looking to do here at Bethel. We want to help people to listen to the Lord then we want to assist them in living out what they believe the Lord is calling them to do in their lives. One way the church assisted Amy was by purchasing the books for the class as a way of blessing them and encouraging them. Second, we've said for a long time that our desire is to minister beyond the walls of the church. Amy's small group is a great example of how to do just that. Because of Amy, Bethel now has church on Monday evenings at C&F Bank. How cool is that! There are plenty of other ways to minister "beyond the walls" of the church, the question is how is the Lord calling you to serve "beyond the walls?" How can we BE the church in our homes, workplaces and community? One other thing to note about Amy's story is notice that it involves courage and sacrifice. Amy has never done anything like this before. It took some courage to begin the group. Then Amy and her group are willing to stay after work to grow in their faith, that's a bit of a sacrifice. Following the Lord usually requires courage and sacrifice. Here's a little secret when it comes to sacrifice: When we align our wills with the Lord's will and allow him to be Lord of our lives, our sacrifice is the pathway to peace, joy and contentment. Amy tells me that the ladies who attend the group are blessed by their attendance and Amy has been blessed and she is truly excited for what's happening in her life as the Lord works



Continued on page 2

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



"Finding the Star within You"



The Wise Men were on a quest. They had noticed a unique star in the sky and knew that it was a signal of something wonderful:

Matthew 1: 1-2: *In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."*

The Wise Men diligently followed the star until they located the long-awaited Christ child.

Matthew 1: 9-10 *When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.*

Once they saw the Christ child, they worshipped and offered gifts:

Matthew 1: 11: *On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

After the Wise Men completed their quest, they returned home:

Matthew 1: 12: *And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

We do not know what happened after they returned home, but most certainly their lives changed immeasurably. People who encounter Christ become transformed and have a new approach to life. After the holidays, however, the luster of the star may dull as we move into the routine of the ordinary. Perhaps we might benefit from a renewed sense of wonder. Can we take a few tips from the Wise Men as we begin a new year?

1. **Allow the star to lead you to seek Christ with intense passion.**
2. **Purposefully take time to worship Christ and offer your gifts and talents to serve Him.**
3. **Radiate the star's light of love in your daily travels: work, school, or community.**

May you discover the unique star within yourself this New Year and "shine like stars in the world" (Philippians 2:15). Happy New Year!

Youth News Connect



by Lauren Moore

Happy New Year! Let's do 2020 right by loving God, loving people, and loving life! God has given us so much to be thankful for that even during the hard times we are to rejoice and be thankful.

Galatians 6:9 tells us to "never grow weary in doing good." Let's keep that in mind as we continue to serve those in our church, our community and as we serve each other.

January Calendar:

- 1: No Connect. HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 8: Connect, 6:30-8pm. Meet in the food pantry. Dinner provided.
- 15: Connect, 6:30-8pm. Chick-fil-a to support the preschool and then return to church. No money needed.
- 22: Connect, 6:30-8pm. Dinner provided.
- 29: Connect, 6:30-8pm. Activity TBD.

The Hope Supper Table does not meet in January or February. We will pick up serving again on March 21.

****Save the date**:** March 27-29. March Madness 2020. Local weekend retreat. Think Passport on a local scale and weekend schedule.

Cost: \$55. Location: Richmond, VA. Events kick off at 7pm on March 27 and wrap up at 10:30am on Sunday morning. See <https://cbfva.org/studentministry-opportunities/> for more info and details.

Must have RSVP by Feb. 1 (do not register on website, I will register us as a group).

Todd's article continued from page 1

through her. Amy's story is a victory for Bethel and for God's Kingdom. I'm excited for her and I'm excited for Bethel because I believe there are a lot more stories just like Amy's that are waiting to happen. All it will take is you saying, "Here I am Lord. Lead me to align my will with your will that I may bless others." If we do that, and do it humbly, sacrificially and with love, Bethel will be a slice of heaven and you and I will experience the peace and joy of the Lord. May God bless Amy, Walt and Josh Ingram and may God bless Bethel Baptist Church. Amen.

Todd

Blessing Box

Faith Community Nurse News

Happy New Year! Bethel has donated so many items for the homeless and I want to thank everyone for their kindness. January suggested items for the Blessings Box" are socks, shoes, shirts, coats, and gloves (All items can be gently used). You can even donate staple items; ziplock bags, paper plates, tarps and non perishable foods, all are needed.



The collection box is in the back of the POH and there is another one in the nurse's office.

The downtown coordinator for Blessing Warriors RVA has been working diligently with the city and has set up temporary tents. Please keep all in prayer to be able to assist and help with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The challenges are so overwhelming, food, health, showers, clothes, housing and jobs, just to mention a few. Have a very blessed 2020.

Blessings,
Cindy
RN FCN



All new members of Bethel are invited to a Meet-and-Greet at 9:25 a.m. on Sunday, January 5, in Gayle Taylor's office. The purpose is to get acquainted with each other. Come by and grab a doughnut and coffee before Sunday School or stay a while and chat!

Sharing and Caring at Chick-fil-A



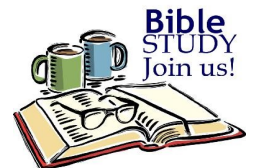
Join us at Chick-fil-A at Westchester Commons Shopping Center each Monday morning at 8 a.m. We will enjoy breakfast and a devotional time together. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

What's Happening in January



Why be like everyone else when we can be wacky, backward, and weird? We can try to blend in and be like everyone else, or we can stand up and stand out. After all, that's what Jesus did! When Jesus showed up, His whole life seemed not-so-normal to most people. From His childhood to His early ministry, it was clear from the beginning that Jesus wasn't like most people. This month, kids will examine the early life and ministry of Jesus as they discover that Jesus is not normal, that Jesus is God, that Jesus is perfect, and that Jesus invites us to be not-so-normal along with Him.

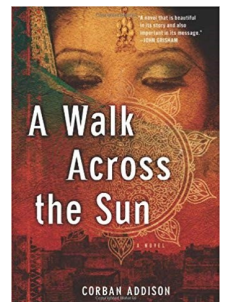
Wednesday Night Programs in January



January 1—No Wednesday Night Activities
January 8—No Sacred Circle—Special guest speaker author Roberta Damon 6:30 p.m.
January 15—Sacred Circle—6:30 p.m.
January 22—Sacred Circle—6:30 p.m.
January 29—Sacred Circle—6:30 p.m.

Book Club February 9

Join us for the next book club meeting on Feb.9. The group will discuss *A Walk Across the Sun* by Corban Addison, an attorney and activist who lives in Virginia. This novel examines the crime of human trafficking within a compelling storyline. If you would like a copy of the book, please see Gayle Taylor. The group will meet in Gayle's office after church. Please bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided.



Many Thanks

Bill and Jean Redmond would like to thank everyone for all the calls, cards, the fruit basket and most of all the prayers during this difficult time with Bill's illness. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Dear Tuesday Small Group,

Thank you so much for six weeks of joy. It was wonderful to study Philippians, the life of Paul, and how to find joy in outrageous circumstances with you. Thank you for your participation and enthusiasm. Thank you, too, for your generosity and the incredible gifts. They had "Pat" written all over them! I am looking forward to our next study in the spring.

I wish for each of you true joy and peace during this special season.

Love, Pat Bartlam

Dear Bethel Friends,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers and for all the cards, calls, and meals we have received in the past few weeks since my surgery. Bruce and I appreciate everything more than you know. Your thoughtfulness has encouraged us, brought us joy, and helped the healing. We are blessed.

Pat Bartlam

Many thanks to everyone in the congregation that ordered poinsettias in memory or in honor of your family and friends. Thank you helping to make our Sanctuary beautiful for the Christmas holiday.

Flower Team

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you so much for your overwhelming response to the Books for Soldiers project begun by our daughter and Bethel member, Meredith Hodges. Your generosity has enabled multiple boxes of requested books to be shipped to Korea to the Soldiers of 2-18th Field Artillery. God bless you!

Jeff and Gayle Taylor

Bethel Care Team

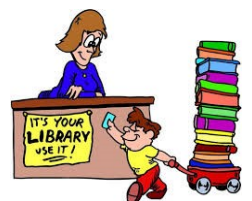


Let's get excited, it's a New Year 2020 and there is a whole new opportunity for each of us to serve, to grow and to "do unto others" in our group and in each of your lives. God has blessed us with the ability to be "doers of the word, and not hearers only". There is so much to be done in our church family, so many who would enjoy a visit from anyone except my same ol face. An afternoon of conversation between friends is priceless, but can mean so much to someone who has empty time.

We are praying daily for more folks who would like to minister to those in our church who need our love and our concern and our friendship, believe me our visits become as meaningful to one as to the other. As we enter this year I want to thank again the faithful members of our team, Barbara Hale, who keeps in touch with our folks by phone, Andrea Hale, who keeps our Jigsaw Kids busy with crafts made for our folks, Madeline Talley, who sends cards to our folks and Florence McLeod, who visits with her flowers and there is me, I try my best, always having a trunk full of books to share to those who enjoy reading. There is always room for more to serve and so much more we could be involved in. Let's make an effort to pray for each of these mentioned and for other's to join our ministry.

Happy New Year one and all
Shirley Lewis team lead
Bethel Care Team

Library News



Happy New Year to one and all. Time for wishes of this year being a better year. That's a goal. Making better decisions is never ending. I want to remind everyone that the library is open the 2nd Sunday of every month right after worship. The staff has put a few adult books on display for you to look at along with a sign-up sheet if anyone is interested in checking one out. The children enjoyed the books about Christmas and are now enjoying books about winter and snow. It's such a joy to watch their enjoyment while trying to find just the right book. After all, life without books is like a day without sunshine.

Barbara Bell
Media Director

January Birthdays



1	Erin Chauncey	23	Alan Hardy
2	Ryan McGinnis	23	Pete Walmsley
4	Leah Ellis	24	Becky Turner
5	Caroline Bransford	26	James Waller
5	Doug Wight	27	Mason Watkins
6	Jerry Jenkins	27	Michael Roper
6	Michael Smith	28	Tyler Brock
7	Leonard Vaughan	29	Manny Sanchez
8	Faye Cohen	30	Lindsey Brown
10	Jocelyn Vergara		
11	Michael Gerace		
12	Michaela Goodman		
12	Amanda McDade		
14	Justin Whitney		
15	Elizabeth Atkinson		
15	Cameron Wynne		
16	Robbie Cordle Gill		
16	John Pulley, Jr.		
17	Jake Florence		
19	Bob Beasley		
20	Karen F. Smith		
21	Rachael Bailey		

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

The Chick-fil-A fundraiser this month will be on Wednesday, January 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. 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

Ladies Fellowship Lunch

The Ladies Fellowship Lunch will meet January 2, at noon at O'Charley's on 360. If you plan to attend **please** call or text Margaret Gillis at 804-305-6931 so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.



Men's Fellowship Lunch

The Men's Fellowship lunch will meet on Thursday, January 2, at noon at Henry's Market in Powhatan. All men are invited. Everyone is responsible for the cost of their own meal.



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)

Parish Nurse January 19



Cindy Luck will be available in the Parish Nurse office on Sunday, January 19, from 9 to 10:15 a.m. Stop by and Cindy will be happy to answer your health questions or check your blood pressure.

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

January, 8, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
January 24, 11 a.m. to noon
February 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
February 28, 11 a.m. to noon

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





By Carter Cosgrove
Preschool Director

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Bethel Preschool is now back into the swing of things and the children are excited about winter and what it can bring....snow! Inclement weather is synonymous with January, so we ask that everyone please take care this winter season and stay safe!

Medarva will be coming to Bethel Preschool on January 14th to perform free vision and hearing testing to all students between the ages of 3 and 5. This is a quick and simple test for our children to ensure that their vision and hearing are where they need to be at this time. Bethel preschool is pleased to be able to provide this service for our families.

Our teachers will be performing student assessments during the month of January. These assessments help the teachers to gauge where a child is developmentally and academically. The teachers use their findings to tweak the classroom curriculum and to assist the parents in their practices at home. Preschool will be closed on Tuesday, January 21st to hold our parent / teacher conferences.

I would like to say thank you once again to all the church members and preschool families who have come out and supported our Chick-Fil-A night. It means so much to me and the program to have so much support from the church and our families! I love seeing everyone there. Please come and join us on Wednesday, January 15th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and have dinner with us at the Chick-fil-A at Westchester Commons to support the preschool and our scholarship program!

I would also like to remind all that the Preschool will be closed on Monday January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Thank you again to all who help support the Preschool and myself. You are the reason we are the program we are today!

Missions News

by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—WMU will meet on Monday, January 6 at 10 a.m. at Bethel. The speaker will be from CARITAS and will inform us on the future plans for housing of homeless men and women. She will share the ways Bethel can help at the new housing site.

We will go out for lunch afterwards.

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**. (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.



Below are the church office hours for the upcoming holidays:

New Year's Day—Office will be closed Wednesday, New Years Day and open Thursday, January 2.

Stephen McWhirter of Iron Bell Music Performing February 28, at 7 p.m.



New name, same band! Stephen McWhirter and band (formerly Iron Bell Music) will join us again for a night of worship on February 28 at 7pm.

From addiction to redemption, from meth addict to worship leader, Stephen McWhirter's powerful testimony is one of radical restoration, after encountering the reality of Jesus as Savior, as the One who calls the dead from the tomb, removing their Grave Clothes, leaving behind what is dead, and putting on resurrection, the fullness of life. Today, Stephen is a touring worship leader, songwriter, recording artist, speaker, and author, seeing thousands come to Christ through God's calling for his life. Also, he is formerly one of the prominent songwriters and voices for Iron Bell Music. With this new chapter, God has led him into a season of even more kingdom impact, with the release of his debut single, "Grave Clothes." Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.itickets.com/events/439219>.

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> Office Closed No Wednesday Night Activities	<i>2</i> Ladies Fellowship Lunch—Noon Men's Fellowship Lunch—Noon AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>3</i> Friday Small Group—7 pm	<i>4</i> Rehearsal for Circle of Truth—10 am Girl Scouts—3 pm
<i>5</i> Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	<i>6</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional—8 at Chick-fil-A WMLU—10 am Puppets—5:30 pm	<i>7</i> Garden Club—9 am ESL—9 am Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>8</i> Charlotte's Partry—5 to 6:30 pm Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<i>9</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	<i>13</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional—8 at Chick-fil-A Puppets—5:30 pm	<i>14</i> ESL—9 am Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>15</i> Chick-fil-A Spirit Night—5 to 8 pm Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<i>16</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>17</i> Friday Small Group—7 pm	<i>18</i> Rehearsal for Circle of Truth—10 am Girl Scouts—3 pm
<i>19</i> Parish Nurse—9 am to 10:15 am Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	<i>20</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional—8 at Chick-fil-A Puppets—5:30 pm	<i>21</i> ESL—9 am Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>22</i> Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<i>23</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>24</i> Charlotte's Partry—9 to 11 am	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am Volunteer Luncheon following worship	<i>27</i> Sharing & Caring Devotional—8 at Chick-fil-A Puppets—5:30 pm	<i>28</i> ESL—9 am Deacon Mtg & Dinner (Dr. Bagby) Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>29</i> Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<i>30</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>31</i> Friday Small Group—7 pm	

Bethel Baptist Church

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Midlothian, VA 23113

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Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES

9:30 Sunday School | 10:30 Worship

A festive graphic for the New Year. The words "HAPPY NEW YEAR" are written in a bold, sans-serif font, with each letter in a different color (pink, orange, yellow, green, blue, etc.). The text is surrounded by numerous small, colorful stars in various colors (pink, orange, yellow, green, blue, etc.). Below the main text, the year "2020" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with the "20" in pink and the "20" in blue.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2020