

The Outreach

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

Bethel Baptist Church

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Have you been at a place in your life where you wanted to throw your hands in the air and shout, "Lord help! I'm not sure how much more I can handle!" Ed and Jennie Watson know that feeling, and certainly had reason to shout these words from the rooftops. In 2011, the couple relocated to Blacksburg, VA where Ed had accepted a position with Virginia Tech. With a well-developed career in construction and design of academic facilities across the state of Virginia, Ed was ready for the challenges that a major university would offer, and Jennie, ready to support Ed and his career goals, resigned from her teaching job, sold their home in Midlothian, and joined Ed for this new adventure. For most of 2011, this couple drove from Blacksburg to Richmond (to visit their son), to Raleigh (to visit their daughter), or to Greensboro (to visit Jennie's aging parents) every weekend. Then, in April 2012, the unthinkable occurred. Jennie's parents passed away within the span of only six days, with a funeral for her father on Good Friday, followed by a funeral for her mother on the following Friday. Can you imagine the loss of both parents in the course of one week? It gets worse. Two weeks later, Ed found himself without a job. So in three-week's time, Jennie lost both parents, Ed is without a job, and there is a lot of uncertainty about where they might live or work. That's a lot of stress to deal with! How did they cope? To answer that question you've got to know a little bit about this couple.

Jennie is from Alabama, and her parents moved around quite a bit due to multiple job relocations from Dothan, to Montgomery, to Birmingham, and finally to Huntington, WV. While Ed also grew up in Huntington, one did not know the other, going to different churches, high schools and such. After high school, Jennie attended Marshall University and Ed went to West Virginia Tech. One Friday afternoon, Ed decided to visit a friend at Marshall, and unknowingly, stopped a young lady on campus to ask for directions. That young lady was Jennie; Ed jokes that he continues to ask her for directions! They met in October 1978, and started dating Thanksgiving weekend. After four or five months, they stopped dating, Ed's mother passed away,



Continued next column

Jennie went on to graduate school and moved out-of-state, Ed graduated from WV Tech in civil engineering and started a career in the Huntington-Charleston area as a sales engineer. Some four years later, Ed visited the church that Jennie had attended when she was growing up in Huntington. On that Sunday, Jennie was in town visiting her family, and she and her mother walked together across the church parking lot, following the service. Ed caught a glimpse of Jennie and walked over to her car. They talked a few minutes about where each now lived, how long it had been since they last saw one another, and Jennie went home. Before she and her mother arrived home from church, Jennie's mother asked, "Would you ever again go out with Ed?" to which Jennie replied, "Heavens no! Never again!" That afternoon, Ed called her parents' house, and asked Jennie if she would go out with him - and she said, "Yes!" They started dating (again) at Thanksgiving, a few months later, Ed asked Jennie to marry him, and they married on July 30, 1983 in Huntington.

The Watson's have two children. Julie, is married; she and her husband, Curtis, live in Wake Forest, NC and have two children, Ellie (4 years old) and Cooper (17 months). David, Ed and Jennie's son, lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Jennie is a Speech Language Pathologist and works in the Chesterfield County Public Schools and Ed works as a Director of Public Works for the city of Hopewell. Amid all of the moves in their married life, from Huntington, to Petersburg, VA, to Durham, NC, to Richmond, to Blacksburg, and back to Midlothian, the one constant in the Watson's life has been their faith. They have a strong faith as both of them grew up in church. That leads us to the answer of how they were able to cope with that terrible season of their lives when Jennie lost her parents and Ed lost his job. They were able to get through it because they looked to the Lord. They pulled together and prayed together. On his desk as he looked for work each day, there was a magnet with a paraphrase of Jeremiah 29:11, "Look forward to each day, for God has such great plans to prosper you and give you an incredible future." The Watson's trusted in this scripture, but time passed, and while there were interviews, there were no job offers for 12 months. Then one day, Jennie said something that changed their prayer life. She told Ed, "We need to ask God to send you to a place where they really need you." That place was Hopewell. I asked Ed if he felt the Lord led him there

Continued on page 2

Jennie and Ed Watson

Continued from page 1

Ed replied, "No. Not at first. I thought the job in Hopewell would be a 'place holder' job, and a better job would come along. I really didn't see a ray of light in my job, but as time passed, I found I was beginning to make a difference. Interestingly, I did get other job offers. And, for the last six years, I have chosen not to accept new employment offers because Hopewell is where I need to be. This job is not the one I would have picked for myself, but it's where the Lord wanted me. I've come to realize that I'm not doing this job to 'pad my resume,' but I am there to serve, and when I leave, hopefully that city will be a better place."

Amen. That's servant leadership!

There are a couple of things to take from Ed and Jennie's story. First and foremost, their faith sustained them through a very difficult period in their life's journey. Interestingly, they believe the uncertainty of this time was made even harder because they didn't have a Church family to rely on for support. Job relocation, job loss, and countless trips out-of-town to take care of Jennie's parents, were ahead. But, they looked to the Lord in their time of need, and trusted in God's provision and guidance.

The other takeaway is that so often in life, the hand of the Lord is only visible by looking back. Ed and Jennie prayed for a place where Ed would be needed, and Ed took a step of faith taking the job in Hopewell. He didn't know if it was the right thing at first, but over time, God has shown him that he did make the right choice. It's also important to note that the job the Lord had for Ed was not one that Ed would have chosen for himself. Ed says that he continues to learn that life is about getting on board with "God's script" and that means "we have to let go of our own script."

The Watson's are a lovely couple, gifted with a lot of faith, wisdom, and a heart for others. One of their passions is actively participating in and facilitating small groups. Ed and Jennie will start a small group in their home on Sunday evening, beginning May 19th. This small group will start-up on a 6-week study titled, If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat by John Ortberg. It's a study on how to deepen your faith with the Lord and consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone. How to take steps, even risky steps, on the waters of faith to find Jesus waiting to meet you for the adventure of your life. This is a walk this couple has lived! We hope you'll want to join in on their hospitality, and become a part of this small group. The group will meet from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday evenings, and there will be plenty of good food too! The Watson's have a small sign in their home that reads, "Find Joy in the Journey." I suspect if you sign up for their small group, you'll find a good deal of joy as you journey together. To sign up, please call the church office or sign up using the sign up sheet in the People of Hope Center. May God bless Ed and Jennie Watson and May God bless Bethel Church.

Todd

Next Business Meeting
June 5, Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7 p.m.

What's Happening in May



In May, our Jigsaw kids will be learning about PERSEVERANCE. If you want to make it through the mayhem, you need perseverance! Pushing through isn't always easy, but we can do it with God's help—if we refuse to give up when life gets hard.

Memorial Association News

The upkeep, maintenance of the cemetery and sale of grave sites is the responsibility of the Bethel Baptist Church Memorial Association. At this time there are approximately 25 single grave sites and 1 Double grave site remaining in the cemetery. These sites can only be purchased by Bethel church members. The price for purchasing a grave site is \$500. There are three ways the grave site can be utilized.

1. Someone can purchase a grave site and bury one person (with casket and vault) for \$500.
2. When purchasing a grave site (prior to any burial) one may indicate they wish the site to be used for a double death burial. This means 2 individuals can be buried in the same site, one on top of the other. The grave site must be dug approximately 5 feet deeper than for a single burial. The price of the grave site to be used in this manner is \$1000.
3. If the purchaser and family are to be cremated one may purchase the grave site and inter the ashes of one individual for \$500. The ashes of up to 8 individuals may be interred in one grave site. However, the cost to inter each individual is \$500, to be paid to the Memorial Association prior to each burial.

The Memorial Association is not in the business of advertising to sell grave sites. However, with the number of new church members we felt it may be beneficial to explain this to the congregation. If you are interested in purchasing a plot in Bethel's cemetery please contact me.

Thank You, Sherwood Dance, Cemetery Coordinator

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



"April Showers Bring May Flowers: What's the Connection Between Jesus and Plants?"

The old saying, "April showers bring May flowers" rings true for us in Virginia. The many showers we endured in April have brought forth the tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths as well as the dogwood and red maple blossoms. A softness in the air accompanies the perfumes of the flowering plants which make May a delightful month. Recently, as I breathed in the scent of the flowers, I began to think about the connection between Jesus and plants, wondering what the Scriptures would reveal.

In **Isaiah 11:1**, this passage is used to reference the anticipated Messiah: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." The shoot, a tiny piece of a plant, represents the long-awaited Messiah, whose life will birth a following of early disciples and countless Christians.

Sometime after his birth, the Wise Men searched for the Messiah, bringing frankincense and myrrh as gifts, according to **Matthew 2:11**: "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." Both frankincense and myrrh derive from resin harvested from the bark of sturdy trees. These resins have several purposes including perfume, medicinal, and sacred, mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments. Both of these plant-based gifts symbolize the importance of Jesus' birth and help to anoint Jesus' ministry.

After the visit from the Magi, Jesus' father, Joseph, received three warnings through dreams. The first dream indicated to Joseph that Jesus' birth caused concern from Herod, so the little family needed to retreat to Egypt. After Herod's death, Joseph received a second message which told him to return to Israel. The new ruler, however, the son of Herod, caused Joseph fear, so in the third dream, he was instructed to take the family to Galilee. He settled the family in the town of Nazareth. **Matthew 2:23** says, "So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: 'He will be called a Nazarene.'" Interestingly, the word *Nazareth* is probably related to the Hebrew word used in **Isaiah 11:1** for 'sprout.' So even Jesus' homeland gives Him an association with plants.

As Jesus' ministry on earth began to close, he instructed his disciples to obtain a donkey and its colt for him. He rode into Jerusalem and the people placed their coats and palm branches on the road. **Mark 11: 8-9** says, "Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' This followed a Jewish custom during the Festival of Tabernacles. The import in Mark, however, is that the people were identifying Jesus as the Lord. This public proclamation is relived each year as we celebrate Palm Sunday, forever identifying Jesus with the palms and to His honored position as our Lord.

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Several plant associations with Jesus emerge during His last days on earth. In **Mark 14: 3**, while Jesus is visiting Simon the Leper, he is anointed by a woman who "came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head." Those present at this display wondered why this occurred and criticized the waste. Jesus, however, countered with this message: "She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial." Nard comes from a flowering plant, its essence being used at the altar in the Jewish Temple in biblical times as well as a preservative for a body being prepared for burial. Romans also poured the oil of nard to anoint the head of an honored person. Both Jesus' birth and life were anointed in a public fashion, creating a sign for all to see that Jesus represented the royalty, the very image of God. Jesus, as a representation of God, however, created a challenge to the Roman government. After being handed over to the Roman authorities, Jesus was questioned and put under arrest. In Matthew's account, Jesus admits to being Christ, the Son of God. For this, he received cruel treatment and the pronouncement of crucifixion. The Roman soldiers spat upon him, hit him, and put a crown of thorns upon him before leading him away to be crucified (**Matthew 27: 27-31**). Thorns represent pain and suffering, but they also indicate a curse. In **Genesis 3**, after Adam and Eve sinned, God curses the ground with "thorns and thistles" (verse 17). Christ took on the curse of death for us. **Galatians 3:31** states, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'" Of course, Christ did not deserve any curse for He is perfect, but He took on that representation in order to save those who believe in Him.

Finally, after His death by crucifixion, Christ's body is taken down by Joseph of Arimathea. Nicodemus accompanies him and brings "a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds" (**John 19: 39**). They use this mixture to cover Jesus' body: "the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen (verse 30). "At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there" (verses 41-42).

This garden could not contain Him, however, for He was not there when Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome arrived in the morning to anoint His body with spices. Instead, the women encountered two men wearing clothes "that gleamed like lightning stood beside them...in their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! (**Luke 24: 3-6**). Later, Christ reappears to Mary Magdalene and to the disciples, reassuring them that He was not dead. He commissions the disciples in Galilee on a mountain and reminds them "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (**Matthew 28:20**).

From the anticipation of birth to resurrection, plants of all descriptions lace the Scriptures' retelling of Christ's story. His story unfolds like a flower, blooming with sweetness, beauty, and the promise of life everlasting. In this month of May flowers, let us reflect on Christ's story and imitate His qualities that are fragrant to God.



Youth News

by Lauren Moore



We have the privilege of hosting Caritas the week of April 27. Bethel has hosted Caritas for many, many years. It's an incredible mission project right in our own backyard. On Wednesday, May 1 we will provide and serve dinner, taco bar, to our guests as well as host a game of bingo after dinner. This is yet another opportunity to serve 'the least of these' (Matthew 25) and be the hands and feet of Christ. This is a treat for our women guests and a blessing to us to be part of this ministry. Each family will be asked to provide a side or dessert. We will also serve at the Hope Supper Table on May 20. Give up a few hours on a Saturday afternoon to bless someone else!

May

1 : Connect, 6:30-8 pm. Caritas dinner and bingo. More details later.

8: No Connect

15: Connect, 6:30-8 pm. Chick-fil-a then back to church.

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

22: Connect, 6:30-8 pm. Dinner provided.

29: Connect, 6-8 pm. Uptown Alley. Cost: \$8. Van leaves at 6. Eat before or bring \$ for food.

VBS:

May 10: Dinner and Decorating! We know that everyone cannot participate in VBS the week of, see page 7 for more information.

VBS Registration is open! See page 7 for more information.



Summer Camp

Calling all campers ages 9-17. Summer camp @ Crossroads in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of VA begins in June. It's time to register for summer camp. Cheryl Grubbs is going the weeks of 6-10 to 6-15 and also 7-8 to 7-13. If you want to go either of these weeks you can ride with Cheryl. Scholarship money is available to help campers if needed. For more information please call Cheryl at 804-350-8217.

Blessings to all, Cheryl Grubbs

Parker Night of Praise



July 26, 7 p.m.



By Carter Cosgrove
Preschool Director

We have so enjoyed being with the children this year. Every minute has been filled with exciting adventures, lots of fun and tons of love. We hope that each child has had a wonderful experience here. To those families who would like for their children to continue their journey with our preschool, please remember to register him or her for the next school year as soon as possible. Spaces are filling up. To those families whose children will be graduating from Bethel, we wish them the best on the next stage of their educational journey. We know they will do awesome!

Every year we like to celebrate some very special women in our lives. On **Thursday, May 2nd** we would like to celebrate all the moms and mother figures by hosting a **Muffins for Mom** event. Please join your child in their classroom at 9:45 a.m. for a brief program presented by the class followed by a small reception in the classroom. We look forward to seeing you there!

The preschool will be traveling to the Richmond **Metro Zoo** on **Tuesday, May 7th** for our annual zoo trip. Students and their families will get to embark on a wild adventure as they go through the zoo learning about the different animals, their habitats and eating habits. Fun times to be had by all!

For our life cycle experiment, we will be planting vegetable gardens. Each class will be given a special clear box, dirt and seeds. The children will be planting carrots and beans in this enclosed environment. Each class will be able to watch the progress of the seeds through the clear plastic box. By the end we will have fresh carrots and beans! They will even get the opportunity to taste what they have grown! I am hoping this experiment will help encourage healthy eating habits too!

Our next **Chick-fil-A Night** will be held on **Wednesday, May 15th** at Chick-fil-A in Westchester Commons. I would like to thank the church families and the preschool families for coming out to help support our preschool. This Wednesday will be our last Chick-fil-A Night for the preschool for this school year. Let's see if we can make it our best one yet! Join us for food and fun and don't forget to stop by and spin the wheel for a chance to win prizes. I hope to see everyone there!

Our families and the church members are our biggest supporters. You have shown the program, the children and their families and the staff within this preschool your love and support. On **Sunday, May 19th** during the **10:30 church service**, the preschool will be recognized by the church followed by a luncheon. This is such a wonderful event for the preschool and means the world to all of us. The children will perform two songs followed by a "graduation" for the Pre-K class. The preschool cannot wait for the fellowship, food and fun! We look forward to seeing you all on **Preschool Recognition Sunday**.

If you are wondering what to do with your children during summer vacation, look no further. Bethel Baptist Preschool will be **hosting a camp this summer**. The **Bethel Secret Spy School** will be held from June 3rd to June 6th and is open to all preschoolers who are potty trained and will be three by September 30th. The camp hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a lunch break and will cost \$90.00 per child. Registration forms with will be sent out soon for your consideration. All forms must be turned in no later than May 23rd. We are excited to be able to bring this fun filled camp to you and your child and look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you again for your support of the Preschool and myself. You are the reason we are the program we are today.

Missions News

by Frances Morris

Mission Opportunities

Adults on Mission will meet on Monday, May 6, at 10 a.m. in the People of Hope. Our special guest will be Alex Denny from Hope Tree Family Services.

Gleaning for the World workday Thurs. May 23. We will leave Bethel at 8:15 a.m. and return after lunch in Appomattox. Please contact Frances Morris if you would like to volunteer (794-6130)

Annual Baby Bottle Blessing donations will be collected Mother's Day through Father's Day. Pick up a baby bottle and fill it with change, bills, or a check (made out to PHCC). Your support of the Pregnancy Help Center of Chesterfield helps women in our community make life affirming decisions.

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.

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.

Gleaning for the World

On Thursday, May 23, volunteers are needed to work at "Gleaning for the World." We will meet in the church parking lot and leave promptly at 8:15 a.m. We will sort and pack items at "Gleaning for the World" from 10 to noon and enjoy lunch in Appomattox before returning to Bethel. If you would like to join us please contact Frances Morris at 804-794-6130

Shavuot (Festival of Pentecost)

This month, the Festival of Pentecost will slip past most Jews and Christians unnoticed; yet it is one of the three most important Festivals in the Old Testament and it marks a pivotal point in the history of Christianity. Join us on **May 22 at 6:30 p.m.** as we welcome David Brickner from Jews for Jesus. David will do a presentation on Shavuot and the significance it has for Christians.



Graduation Sunday

Sunday, June 9 is Graduation Sunday. If you know of a student graduating from High School or College, please contact Lauren Moore before Sunday May 12.

2019
Graduate

Bethel Care Team



The beautiful month of May, always blooming with flowers and sunshine most of the days in this month. We know not what this year will bring as we have surely had our share of rain these past months, but May brings Mother's Day. Mother's Day is a very special day to show our mother's some love and to thank them for all their hard work and devotion while raising their children. Times have changed in that the mother's of today are working an outside job and are active in many areas of life other than always staying home with their children. They take their children to sports activities and have duties with the school system and church activities, they are just busier than ever it seems. They are to be applauded for their energy and dedication to their families. There are those of us who now enjoy our grown children and their families. It's a wonderful holiday and we wish a Happy Mother's Day to everyone.

Please pray for our fellow church members who are going through some hard times right now, there has been much sadness and sickness and many are burdened with grief and loss. It seems things like this can happen in groups and this is surely the case at Bethel right now. Several are having long term illnesses and are having to be in the hospital and even when returning home are having to be seen by doctor's on a daily basis. This takes a toll on the family members who are caring for them. God bless them as they care for one another. Meals are sometimes requested to help take some of the stress off them and allow them to have a homemade meal. Should you be asked, please consider helping.

In a daily reading, I came across a little quote by G.K. Chesterton. It says: ONE SEES GREAT THINGS FROM THE VALLEY; ONLY SMALL THINGS FROM THE PEAK.....surely some food for thought. Blessings to everyone as you enjoy this time of year. Please pray for our team members as they serve others in the name of Bethel and of our Lord and Savior.

Shirley Lewis, Care Team Lead

Patriotic Program 4 p.m. July 7 in the People of Hope

July will be here soon and with it comes our annual patriotic celebration.



More information about this wonderful event will be in the June Outreach.



May Birthdays



1 Kendyl DeCourcy	23 Tammy Stump
3 Nicholas J. Elam	24 Jessie Keaton
4 Shirley Lewis	26 Lisa Riley
5 Brenda Stone	26 Emily Lewis
9 Bruce Bartlam	28 Alex Johnson
9 Cindy Spain	29 David Grubbs
10 Bubba Herndon	29 Penny Henry
12 Dawn Bradbury	30 Chase Brownson
13 Brittney Currie	30 Sandra Hughes
13 James McGinnis, Jr.	31 Lauren Moore
14 Marie Jamison	
14 Jenna Yeager	
22 Mike Brandon	
22 Mac Herndon	
22 Jarrett Mayberry	

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 Fellowship Lunch Thursday, May 2, at noon

Our next lunch will be May 2, at noon at Joe's Inn. If you plan to attend please text or call Margaret Gillis at 804-305-6931 so she can make the appropriate number of reservations. All women are invited.



Bethel Scholarship



Bethel Baptist Church Scholarship applications are due May 19, 2019. Applications are available from the church office and on the table in the entrance to the People of Hope Center. For more information, please contact Diane Beasley at 804-347-2216.

Opportunities for:

Mission/Ministry

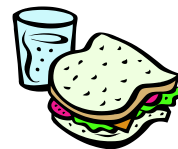
- Music Ministry/Choir (See Gayle Taylor)
- Adults on Mission (Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m.)
- Charlotte's Pantry (See Brenda Peck)
- Backpack Ministry (See Vera Caniglia)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry (See Lauren Moore)
- Friends of the Homeless (5th Mondays at 8:30 a.m. (See 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, May 2, at noon

Our next lunch is set for Thursday, May 2, at noon. We will meet at Henry's Market, 1901 Anderson Hwy, 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.



Parish Nurse May 19



Cindy Luck will be available in the Parish Nurse office on Sunday, May 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.

VBS Dinner and Decorating May 10, at 6 p.m.

Vacation Bible School will be here soon. (July 21 to 25) We will be on an African adventure exploring the fact that life is wild, but God is good! Kids will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life.



Online registration is OPEN and can be found [here](https://vbspro.events/p/events/704345) or go to <https://vbspro.events/p/events/704345>. For a paper copy please contact the church office or Lauren Moore. Be sure to sign up and tell a friend!



We need lots of volunteers to make this week come to life but we know that everyone cannot participate in VBS the week of for various reasons, but we also know there are many people who can help along the way! We are hosting a dinner and decorating evening, May 10th at 6pm. Pizza will be provided. We will be

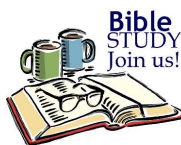
making decorations. No crafting experience or expertise needed! Please come join us as we prepare to turn Bethel into an African Safari! Contact Lauren Moore or Lisa Hardy to sign up!

Preschool Recognition & Church-Wide Luncheon

On **Sunday, May 19**, we will begin our service by welcoming our preschool families and thanking them for entrusting their children to the care of our preschool. The children have been practicing a couple songs for us so you won't want to miss this service. After worship, there will be a church-wide luncheon and we are inviting the preschool families to join us for lunch so we can get to know them better. Bethel is providing chicken and drinks, but we are asking our members to please bring an extra large side dish (or two) so we will have plenty of food for our guests. Everyone is welcome!



Wednesday Night Programs in May



May 1 — NO Bible Study due to CARITAS
May 8 — Sacred Circle Bible Study—6:30 p.m.
May 15—Sacred Circle Bible Study—6:30 p.m.
May 22—Shavuot Presentation—6:30 p.m.
May 29—Sacred Circle Bible Study—6:30 p.m.

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

May 8, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
May 24, 9 to 11 a.m.
June 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
June 28, 9 to 11 a.m.

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



A Note From the Library



May is upon us, can you believe it? Preschool is winding down, but Sunday School is not. We have a small group of children who visit the library once a month from Sunday School. They may continue using the library even during the summer.

All of us have enjoyed our pre schoolers this year. We are already looking forward to next year. I want to take a minute to brag about our wonderful library volunteers. Cindy Wight does our library bulletin boards. She reads to our preschoolers and Sunday School children. She loves the kids and does a wonderful job. Mary Camden puts all the books on the shelves and other library tasks. She is such an asset to the library and does a great job. Judy Barker also helps whenever Mary can't be here. Susan Younce helps me do all the jobs no one else really wants to do or has the time for. I really appreciate her help. These volunteers have made things run very smoothly. I would like to thank each of them for doing such a great job. I also want to say thanks to all who have helped me through the year. You know who you are and without your help the library may not have been able to continue and run as smoothly as it has.

Turning back to May. "Moms here, moms there, moms, moms everywhere. Sharing God's love and showing God's care." We all need to remember our moms. It doesn't have to be your own mother. You don't need to do anything extravagant, something simple will do. Where would we be without our moms?

I will be taking the months of June and July off. The library will be here this summer so encourage your children to keep reading. I wish everyone happy vacations and a relaxing summer.

Barbara Bell, Media Director

Southside Speedway Schedule

Local driver Dan Rogers, son of Gayle and Bill Rogers, will be driving #33 in the Grand Stock Division. Races this month are May 3, May 10, and May 31. Races start at 7 p.m. each night.. Come out and cheer Dan on.



Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Church Family,
Your thoughtfulness means so much. More than words can ever say.

Thank you, Irving and Anne Jamerson

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the cards, flowers, prayers, and your presence during this difficult time. We so appreciate your support and kindness.

Love, Jeff and Gayle Taylor

Dear Members of Bethel Baptist Church,
Thank you so much for the lovely peace plant that you sent for Paxton's funeral. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Blessings, Alice Campbell (Thom Kagel's Sister)

Thank you to all the Special Reception team members and church family who demonstrated the love of Jesus by supporting and serving the Morris and Kagels families during their loved ones celebration of life services.

Blessings to each of you, Cathy Williamson

Dear Bethel Church,
The words "thank you" are not adequate to express our appreciation for all our church family has done for us at the passing of my dad. The out pouring of all the cards, calls and food have been such a comfort to us. The flowers were beautiful. The reception following the memorial service was wonderful. We are truly humbled by the love and support we have felt from our church family.

May God Bless You All, The Kagels Family

Thank you to all those who partnered with us during the youth fundraiser. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and a blessing to each family. You gave over \$1800 that went toward our camp balance. Thank you for your support, encouragement, and giving!

With love, BBC Youth

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,
"Thank you" are two small words, but words that come from the heart of everyone in Jimmy's family. Thank you to all the staff at Bethel who were his friends and presented such a lovely service. Thank you to the preschool teachers who meant so much to him, thank you to everyone who contributed to the reception. Thank you to those who so generously contributed to the Bethel fund in his memory. Thanks for the cards, phone calls, flowers, plants, hugs, caring words that have meant so much to the entire family. Each expression of your love has helped us get through this sadness.

Thank you, Frances Morris and family

Many Thanks Continued

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,
Thank you for providing the wonderful meal for Grace Fellowship and to each of you that came to help. You have a wonderful chef! Thank you for bringing the puppet team to Grace also. They bring so much joy. I know all the guests really enjoyed them. The puppet team is a great way to minister to people. Bless each of your team for caring about our homeless community.

Blessings, Charlene Duling

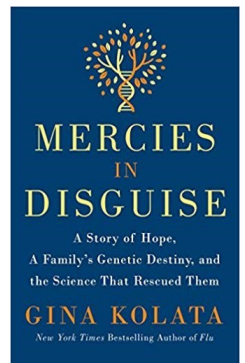
Dear Bethel Church,
To everyone who helped make our Easter baskets complete this year, a big thank you!!!

Thank you to Elaine and Jim Bradley for the beautiful items they donated, and to the Jigsaw kids lead by Andrea Hale for their sweet notes and the little baskets of candies for our folks. Thanks to Peggy Heath for the crosses she made for our Easter service this year. I also included one in Bobby Brooks basket. Thanks to our church family for the support of our mission, and lastly to Frances Morris for the darling little "egg" people she made to sit in our baskets. We made 13 baskets for 15 people, as you might know we have 2 couples that share. It was a blessed Easter holiday and we thank you one and all.

Shirley Lewis/ Bethel Care Team

Book Club Meeting Sunday, May 5

The Book Club will meet on May 5, 2019, after the worship service in Gayle Taylor's office. Bring a lunch--- dessert and drinks will be provided as we discuss *Mercies in Disguise* by Gina Kolata. Our next book discussion will take place on August 4. If you would like a copy of the book, *Rebirth*, by Kamal Ravikant, please see Gayle Taylor.



Keep on reading!

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

The next Spirit Night fund raiser date will be **Wednesday, May 15**, between 5 and 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!

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 CARITAS No Bible Study due to CARITAS Connect (Youth) - CARITAS dinner & Bingo Choir Rehearsal —7:30 pm	2 CARITAS Men's Fellowship Lunch—12 pm Henry's Market Ladies Fellowship Lunch—12 pm Joe's Inn AA Meeting—5:30 pm	3 CARITAS ESL—9 am	4 CARITAS Ends Choir/Music Rehearsal 10-12 noon Girl Scouts—3 pm
5 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	6 Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am WMU (POH) —9:30 am Puppets—5:30 pm	7 Garden Club—9 am Small Group Meeting—11 am Boy Scouts—7 pm	8 Charlotte's Panty—5 to 6:30 pm Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal —7:30 pm	9 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	10 ESL—9 am Dinner & Decorating for VBS—6 pm Wedding Rehearsal—?	11 Community Bible Study—10 am McGinnis Wedding (Sanctuary Only) 4 pm
12 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	13 Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Puppets—5:30 pm	14 Preschool Chapel—9:45 am Church Council—7 pm Boy Scouts—7 pm	15 Chick-fil-A Spirit Night—5 to 8 pm Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal —7:30 pm	16 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	17 ESL—9 am	18 Parlor Rental—Blanton Girl Scouts—3 pm
19 PRESCHOOL Parish Nurse—9 am to 10:15 am Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	20 Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Puppets—5:30 pm	21 Boy Scouts—7 pm	22 Shavuot Presentation—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal —7:30 pm	23 Gleaning for the World—8:15 am	24 ESL—9 am Charlotte's Panty Distribution—9 to 11 am Wedding Rehearsal—5 pm	25 Penny Henry's Daughter's wedding—11 am (AV needed)
26 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	27 Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Puppets—5:30 pm	28 Boy Scouts—7 pm	29 Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal —7:30 pm	30 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	31 ESL—9 am	

Bethel Baptist Church

1100 Huguenot Springs Road
Midlothian, VA 23113

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PERMIT 2133
MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23112

Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES

9:30 Sunday School | 10:30 Worship



For more information, please call Carter Cosgrove at
804-794-8590 or go to our website at
www.bethelbaptistpreschool.com.