

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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BETHEL
 BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 52 No. 8 August 2020

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The past few months have been a difficult and emotional time for all of us. This is especially true for Sissy and Sherwood Dance. They received the joyful news last fall that they would become grandparents this spring. Their daughter Mary and her husband Stephen were expecting a boy. Mary and Stephen live in Hillsborough, NC. The Dance's waited patiently as Mary's due date approached, but then Covid-19 hit and the world changed overnight. Suddenly we were all immersed in a world of social distancing, travel restrictions, and sheltering in place. Then, on March 28, with pandemic panic in full swing, August Graham Berry was born. Seeing their new grandchild got complicated very quickly. A two-and-a-half-hour drive to Hillsborough felt as impossible as a trip to the moon. One Doctor said they could come to see him, but he cautioned that the visit should take place outside, they should remain six feet away from August and they'd have to wear a mask. Sherwood said, "That just didn't seem very personal." So, they waited, and waited and waited. Finally, in late May, two months after the birth, the Dances got to travel to North Carolina to see and hold August for the first time.

How did it feel to have to wait so long to see their first grandchild? Sissy said, "It was a long two months! It was unreal that something so exciting was happening and we couldn't participate. We felt helpless. We wanted to be there to help Mary and Stephen, but we knew we couldn't. We felt for them. New parents need all the help they can get, but we couldn't do anything, but they did a tremendous job. They are wonderful parents. I guess I've learned through this process not to take things for granted and every moment with family is a treasure and every true gift is from above."

Sherwood said they were able to keep up with August through an app called "Tiny Beans." He said, "They sent us photos over the app every day." I asked what he thought when he first saw a picture of August and he said, "Oh, he's the cutest baby I ever saw!" I asked how their faith helped them through this time and



Sis said, "I just gave thanks and was grateful that August was ok and Mary was ok. What a blessing that the Lord has given us a perfect little child in the midst of this chaotic world. It was love at first sight." Sherwood added, "The Lord did exactly what we prayed for. We could not have asked for anything more."

Sis and Sherwood have now made several trips to Hillsborough and each time they see August there is overwhelming joy, but there is also a sense of trepidation because being in North Carolina means being away from Sis's mother Bernice. Bernice has been dealing with some health issues and Sis doesn't like being too far from home. It's hard for Sis to be in one place without thinking that she should be in the other place as well. Isn't that where we spend a lot of our time though? Our thoughts are often conflicted and torn. Life seems to be a balancing act between wide ranging, and often conflicted emotions. This has been especially true during this pandemic. Sherwood said something that helped me to think about how to balance our emotions. He said, "The novelty of August hasn't worn off. If you wait a week to see him, he grows. Wait another two weeks and he grows some more. I suspect the novelty never wears off. I've lived everyday of Mary's life and the novelty hasn't worn off and now we have another person to love and bless us. August has brought so much joy in the midst of the pandemic. You go to visit and you forget about the outside world."

The word "novelty" caught my attention. Novelty means, "The quality of being new, original, or unusual." With the Lord every day is a novelty; new, original, unusual. Whether it's dealing with the worries of Covid 19, or the joy of holding a new baby, or the concern for an aging relative, each day we deal with something new and novel. The idea that each day is a novelty reminds me of Isaiah 43:18-19, "*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*" I also think of the words from Psalm 98:1, "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things." In the midst of these chaotic times when the world often seems to be a wasteland we have to trust that God is doing a new thing every single day. Indeed, God is making a way in the wilderness and streams through the wasteland. One stream that God has

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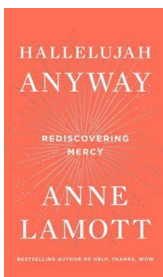
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made in this wasteland of Covid 19 is named August, a perfect gift of grace given to the world by our loving, heavenly Father. As we wake up to a new day let us try to look for something novel and new throughout the day and at the end of the day I suspect that we too can exclaim, as the Psalmist exclaimed, "He has done marvelous things!" May God bless Sis, Sherwood, Bernice, Mary, Stephen and especially little August and may God bless you and Bethel Baptist Church. Amen.

Todd

Book Club News

The Book Club is now reading *Hallelujah Anyway* by Anne Lamott. Goodreads says this about the book: "Full of Lamott's trademark honesty, humor, and forthrightness, *Hallelujah Anyway* is profound and caring, funny and wise, a hopeful book of hands-on spirituality."



We will discuss this book on Sunday, August 23, after worship. Please bring a bagged lunch and a 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

Friday Arts in August

Prayer, Lyrical, and Visual Musings Small Group
Each Friday in August at 6:30 p.m.
Outside seating

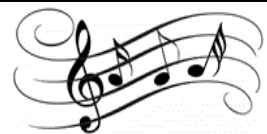
Join us for outdoor discussions of the arts! During the first two meetings, we will discuss our interpretation of the lyrics of published prayers and songs. During the last two meetings, we will share our insights of published paintings and photographs. Our first meeting will be on Friday, August 7, at 6:30 p.m. We will be seated outside of the People of Hope Center (socially distanced). Bring a snack/drink to enjoy.

- August 7 Bring a copy or link of a prayer/song that has touched your heart to share.
- August 14 Bring a copy or link of a prayer/song to share.
- August 21 Bring a photocopy or link of a painting or photograph to share.
- August 28 Bring a photocopy or link of a painting or photograph to share.

*Special guest will share artwork

*For more information, email Gayle Taylor at revgayletaylor18@yahoo.com or call the church office at (804) 794-8590.

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



"Sanitize Your Hands? YES... Sanitize Your Worship? NO!"

In our new "normal," the ways we conduct daily activities such as working, shopping, vacationing, and socializing have changed considerably. We have adapted to the concept of social distancing and have learned to refrain from touching one another and even our own faces! We wear masks when we enter a place of business and sanitize our hands as soon as possible. The new "normal" even has impacted the way we worship in-person and through live-stream as well--- at least from the outside looking in.

True, for in-person worship, we currently wear masks and we must maintain distance between one another. True, we currently cannot sing congregationally and must sanitize our hands before entering the sanctuary.

True, while participating in worship through livestream, we might wear comfortable clothes (even our pajamas), eat a snack, or drink coffee. True we gather with only our family or view the livestream by ourselves.

Whether we worship in-person or through livestreaming, however, all of these behaviors mentioned are external to the sacred nature of worshipping God. Perhaps the psalmist gives us the best advice for worship. In Psalm 84: 1-2, the psalmist claims the following:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Worship still remains a pure offering to God of our very best: our best words of praise... our best attention to the hearing of the Word... our best giving of our tithes... and our best intent to become a better disciple for Christ than before we participated in the service.

So, while we continue to sanitize our hands and to keep as germ-free as possible, let us remember that we can still bring our tainted, sinful, and authentic selves into the presence of the Lord ---- no sanitizing necessary! The Lord welcomes us into His sanctuary. He gives us grace and asks only that we praise Him and worship Him with humble hearts. When we depart from worship, may we proclaim along with the psalmist, "For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere." May God bless you this month and may your joy for the Lord increase each day.

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

- August 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- August 28, 9 to 11 a.m.
- September 9, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- September 25, 9 to 11 a.m.



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



Just for Fun – by Gayle Taylor
Test Your Knowledge about “All Things Summer”
(See answers below)

1. When are the “Dog Days of Summer”?
2. What popular bathing suit appeared in Europe in the mid-1940's but did not become a sensation in America until the 1960's?
3. A picnic would not be complete without this item. It originated in ancient Rome and was served as the first course to the wealthy. What is it?
4. Amusement parks are popular destinations in the summer. Roller coasters continue to supply thrills to the riders. Can you name the tallest roller coaster? Which amusement park hosts it?
5. Fishing is still a popular activity in Virginia. If you were to cast your line in Smith Mountain Lake or Briery Creek Lake, what type of fish would you most likely reel in?

1. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, “the Dog Days are “the 40 days beginning July 3 and ending August 11.”
2. The bikini!
3. Deviled eggs
4. “Kingda Ka is a launched roller coaster located at Six Flags Great Escape in Jackson, New Jersey; it opened as the tallest and fastest roller coaster in the world on May 21, 2005.”
5. Largemouth bass.

ANSWER KEY

Blessing Box

Collections for the Blessing Box have been stopped for now due to Covid-19. If you would like to give a monetary gift you can go to <https://blessingwarriorsva.com/> and click on the “give now” button.

Blessings,
Cindy Luck, RN FCN



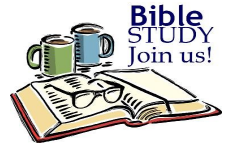
Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—WMU will meet on Monday August 3, at 10 a.m. in the People of Hope Center. Gilda Stansbury will be sharing her missionary experience with the Navajo Indians. Please 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 August



August 5 — Summer break for Sacred Circle
August 12 — Summer break for Sacred Circle
August 19 — Summer break for Sacred Circle
August 26 — Summer break for Sacred Circle

4 Ways to Give at Bethel

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

Youth News Connect

by Lauren Moore



We all continue to experience some level of concern or anxiety over the spread of COVID-19. It has affected all of our lives on some level. While some have been able to go with the flow and carry on others have struggled with how to process the day to day and the weeks and months to come. Students (and teachers) have been highly impacted by this virus and will continue to be as the plans for next school year ramp up. As this summer enters it's last month there's a lot to consider and a lot of questions on the forefront of many minds.

Some students will head back to school this month, others next. What will school look like? Who gets to go? Who stays home? Is it safe? Will I be safe? Am I ready? Are my friends ready? Will I see my friends? Who will go to school on what days? Can I play sports? What about clubs and other activities I enjoy? What will online classes look like compared to the spring? What will the short and long term effects be of the last quarter of the 2019/2020 school year being canceled? When will this all go away? None of these questions are easily answered and while we wait to see the decisions for each school system play out what we do know is that our students need our prayers! Please join me in praying for our students.

Father,

As this time of uncertainty and a new normal continues, Lord, we ask that you please blanket our students with an absolute sense of peace as they await to find out what their school year will look like and prepare to begin this year. We've heard the term 'unprecedented' in the news and in conversations more in the last four months than we probably have in our entire lives. As we continue to chart this unprecedented territory, would you please speak to our student's hearts and let them know that no matter what they are facing you are in control. You are the only unchanging, unwavering thing in our lives. You hear the softest prayer and hear every groaning in our hearts. Would you give our students the mental, emotional and physical strength to stare down another hurdle that comes in the form of a new school year? Would you provide them the clarity to see your goodness even though things don't seem good? Would you help them to see your beauty in this season through the smoke of the enemy? Father, our students are vulnerable to the world around them, as we all are, would you protect them from the schemes of satan as he looks for ways to attack in an already tumultuous time? While things in our world improve there are still many areas that are murky and messy including school. God, please keep them safe and protect them from illness. Heal their hurting hearts from the many losses they have experienced since March. Help them to see your hand actively working. You are a God of redemption

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Youth News Continued

and restoration, please help our students see your work as you redeem and restore all that has been broken and will be broken in this time. We know you have great plans for each and every student. We know you have created each of them on purpose and with a purpose for their lives. Please continue to mold them into the children you desire them to be that will honor you with their lives. Amen.

Youth will continue to meet outside in the month of August. Please stay tuned for any changes that may arise.

Painting Class Aug. 2020

(Date to Be Determined: Check for an Upcoming Email Announcement)

Join us for a painting class in August at Bethel Baptist Church in the People of Hope Center.

Facilitated by Amy Ingram

All materials will be provided, but we will need to have a count of participants to order

enough art supplies and to set up the proper number of tables. Please contact Gayle Taylor at (804) 794-8590 or at revgay-letaylor18@yahoo.com if you are interested in participating.



Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Church Family,

We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, food, cards, phone calls and the beautiful flowers sent during Barbara's heart concerns. We are so blessed to be part of such a loving church family.

Blessings to all,
Shirley Roberts and Barbara Phillips

Ladies Lunch Canceled

The Ladies Fellowship Lunches have been canceled until further notice due to Covid-19.



Welcome to Our Newest Members

The following members have all joined during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Please welcome each of them when you get a chance.



Andrea and Nathan Mead
Children: Rylan, Elliemae, and Waylon
1860 Norwood Creek Drive, Powhatan, VA 23139
Joined: April 12, 2020



Ralph and Debbie Mead
Grandchildren: Rylan, Elliemae, and Waylon
1858 Norwood Creek Drive, Powhatan, VA 23139
Joined: April 12, 2020



Karen Johnson
2084 Hancock Road
Powhatan, VA 23139
April 19, 2020



Jeffrey and Chelsea Emmons
Children: Wyatt (and another on the way)
980 Preservation Road, Midlothian, VA 23113
Joined: July 26, 2020

August Birthdays



2	Nicholas Peck	21	Frances Morris
2	Chesney Florence	21	Todd Bradbury
4	Patrick Ferguson	22	Luke McNeel
5	Malin Carlson	22	Travis Hale
5	Nora Estep	23	Robert Baker
5	Michael Watkins	24	Marshall Cole
6	Vivian Speas	24	Kaylin Stine
7	Nick Elam	24	Thom Kagels
7	Jill Sheek	25	Sam Wight
9	Walker Smith, Jr	26	Wallace Cordle, Jr.
9	Bud Hines	26	Penny Trentham
10	Josie Stump	26	Reid Watkins
12	Jan Gilbert	28	Glenda Fisher
12	Elizabeth Humphreys	28	Kelly Grubbs
12	Romy Merchant	29	Barbara Breschel
12	Marjorie Stagg	29	Dennis Marshall
13	Lisa Hardy	29	Paul Sherwood
14	Katie Beltz	29	Diane Roper
14	Beth Saxton	30	Louis Blanton
14	Tommy Stagg	31	Wray Brown
16	Travis Brock	31	Carolyn Turner
17	Anne Brandon	31	Robert Watkins
18	Linda Call		
18	James Painter		
20	Paul Merchant		
20	Raymond Moschler		
21	Joann Cole		
21	Susan Wright		

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 Lunch Canceled

The Men's Fellowship lunches have been canceled until further notice due to Covid-19.



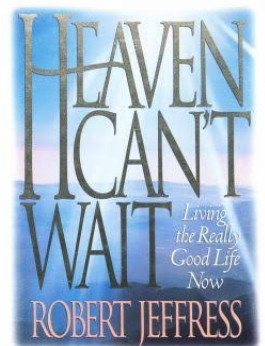
Puppet Team Needs YOU!



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 to join us or to find out more about our team.

Tuesday Morning Small Group

The Tuesday Small Group led by Pat Bartlam has been postponed. We will announce the new dates as soon as possible. This study is entitled "Heaven Can't Wait—Living the Good Life Now" by Dr. Robert Jeffress and is based on the book of Colossians. If you want to experience the "good life" now while waiting for Heaven, this study is for you. We look forward to the time we will be able to start this group.



August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship—10:30 am—POH	3 Sharing & Caring—9 am WMU—10 am (POH)	4 Boy Scouts—7 pm	5 Sacred Circle—Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	6 Ladies Fellowship Lunch canceled Men's Fellowship Lunch canceled AA Meeting—5:30 pm	7 Arts in August—6:30 pm	8
9 Worship—10:30 am—POH	10 Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am	11 Boy Scouts—7 pm	12 Charlotte's Pantry—5:00 to 6:30 pm	13 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	14 Arts in August—6:30 pm	15
16 Worship—10:30 am—POH	17 Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am	18 Boy Scouts—7 pm	19 Sacred Circle—Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	20 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	21 Arts in August—6:30 pm	22
23 Worship—10:30 am—POH Book Club—following worship	24 Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am	25 Boy Scouts—7 pm	26 Sacred Circle—Zoom—6:30 pm	27 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	28 Charlotte's Pantry—9 to 11 am Arts in August—6:30 pm (Outside)	29
30 Worship—10:30 am—POH	31 Sharing & Caring Devotional—9 am					

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



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