

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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



BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 52 No. 12 December 2020

Inside This Issue

Messages from Todd	pg. 1	Associate Pastor Note	pg. 2	Connect (Youth News)	pg. 5
Mission News	pg. 4	Hoops!	pg. 5	Birthdays	pg. 6
Many Thanks	pg. 3	Charlotte's Pantry	pg. 6	Wednesday Night Programs	pg. 4
Book Club	pg. 4	Just for Fun	pg. 2	Preschool News	pg. 3
Sharing & Caring	pg. 2	Library News	pg. 3	Ways to Give	pg. 4
Ministry & Missions Meeting	pg. 2	Holiday Closings	pg. 2	Special Newsletter Deadlines	pg. 6

On October 17th we gathered to say "goodbye for now" to one of the saints of Bethel, Florence McLeod. Florence was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in January 2020. She fought a brave fight; kept a positive attitude and I was genuinely moved by her resilient spirit. One of the things that kept her spirits high was our Bethel church family. Many of you were in the trenches with her as she battled her disease. At Florence's funeral, Shirley Lewis read from a journal that Florence kept. The words that follow are Florence's words that express her appreciation for our church.

"I know a church in Midlothian called Bethel Baptist Church. A band of angels are there. These angels have looked over me for the last 2 months. I was in the hospital and looked up and there was Todd and Lauren and James and they prayed over me. Gayle has been to visit me and we had a nice visit and we said prayers. Shirley has been my rock. She has done my medicine arrangements, been my caregiver, has done my transportation to the doctors and to my treatments, has cooked and done everything for me. Bruce has been there for me too. Tom and Brenda Kagels have taken me to raise, they have been there for anything I needed. Brenda was there for me one night when I was in the hospital and she stayed with me when I was having an awful night. To the Bethel Baptist Church Band of Angels who are looking after me and are helping me on the journey that I am on, from Todd and the entire staff, to the children who all signed a card and sent it to me. I thank you. Shirley has been with me from the beginning and she goes with me and asked the questions that I can't remember. I am thankful for all the many prayers that have been said for me, they are already working because my pain has been short lived and my chemo treatments have gone well. Thanks to all of you for all your prayers and love for me. God Bless Bethel's Band of Angels, keep the prayers going. Love, Florence."

Florence declared us to be a "Band of Angels." When I read those



Continued next column

words, I thought of these familiar words that we will read later this month at our Christmas Eve Service. Luke 2:8-11 says, "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

When the Angel appeared to that rag-tag band of shepherds the text says, "The glory of the Lord shown around them." The Greek word for "glory" can also be translated as "an especially divine quality, the unspoken manifestation of God, or splendor." When the angel was in the presence of God, those shepherds basked in God's glory. They were awash with the splendor of God. Perhaps I am reminded of this passage when I think of Florence's words because your care of Florence in her final days reflected a divine quality. You reflected a divine quality and, dare I say it, even reflected God's glory. Florence loved many of you and many of you returned her love with countless acts of kindness, phone calls, cards, prayers and true concern. She felt your love and your prayers. She was so moved that she took the time to write about it. That's something! Thank you for all you did for Florence. Not only do I want to truly thank you, but I want to affirm that you're making a difference. The work we do at Bethel is important work. It's Gospel work. Offering ourselves in love and service to one another is the work to which we are both called and commissioned. I'd like to leave you with one final scripture. Galatians 6:9-10 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." I believe we are living into this scripture. I believe Florence would agree. Let's continue God's good work in this place. If we do, we just may catch a glimpse of God's glory. May God bless the McLeod family and our Bethel Church family. I pray you and your family will have a very Merry Christmas and let's pray for a blessed new year!

With love and peace,

Todd



Just for Fun – by Gayle Taylor

How Well Do You Know Your Christmas Carols?

Can you finish the first lines of these songs? Answers below.

1. O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel....
2. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains...
3. I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play...
4. Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King....
5. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?...
6. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant....
7. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed....
8. We three kings of Orient are: bearing gifts we traverse afar...
9. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere...
10. The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay...

- Answer Key
1. That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
 2. And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
 3. And wild and sweet the words repeat, of peace on earth good will to men.
 4. Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
 5. Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
 6. O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
 7. The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head...
 8. Field and fountain, moor and mountain---following yonder star.
 9. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
 10. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Sharing and Caring Mondays at Bethel



Join us in the People of Hope Center on Monday mornings at 9 a.m. for our "Sharing and Caring" group. We will continue to meet at Bethel for the time being. Come join us for a nice time of fellowship as we enjoy a devotional time together. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

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



"Christmas Candles of Hope"

by Gayle Taylor

Christmas candles gently glow in my window
Sending a light of hope to the neighborhood
But what hope do I carry inside when it has been a tough year?
Through solitary meals and uncertain days?
Amid fear of an unknown virus?
With distance between loved ones?
In the deaths of dear family and friends?
While unrest and violence wrack the world?
Can those candles overcome the endless dark days?

Those candles signal my faith in Christ, the Light of the World.
He is the life and the light of all;
His light overcomes all darkness
The hope of Christ warms my heart, my soul, and my home.
May these candles share my hope and faith in this season,
The season of Love.



Ministry & Missions Wednesday, December 2

Join us on December 2, at 7 p.m. for our Ministry and Missions Celebration (aka Business Meeting). You can join us in person in the People of Hope Center or stream the meeting online at www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org. Please remember masks are required for in-person meeting.

Holiday Hours

Below are the church office closings for the upcoming holidays:

Christmas—Office will be closed on Wednesday, December 23 and Thursday, December 24 (and Friday as usual).

New Year's Day—Office will be closed Thursday, December 31 (and Friday as usual).

Library News



We are coming upon my favorite holiday, Christmas! People are in a good mood, they are cheerful. Where does that feeling go after Christmas? It is pure joy for me to see the children get so excited. We all need to be more child-like at times. The library is going to try to have a display in the People of Hope for December. It will be different. Bethel has so many talented people, we would like to introduce some of their work. Aleta Jenkins and Tina Hilbert will be our first artists on display. It's also a nice way to get to know some of our members. If you want to display your wonderful talent, just talk to me or Cindy Wight. I am closing this newsletter with a Christmas blessing. Please enjoy this season with all it's wonder.

Barbara Bell, Media Director

A Christmas Blessing
By Emily Matthews

May you have—
Warm hugs to greet you,
Fun times to meet you,
Joy in whatever you do,
God's love to guide you,
Good friends beside you,
And happiness all season through!

Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Church Family,

The people of Bethel are what makes our church so very special. I have been overwhelmed with all of the cards, phone calls, and the many prayers which are seeing me through my surgery and recovery. Also thank you for the wonderful basket. God Bless all of you and I look forward to returning soon.

Bruce Moseley,

Dear Bethel Church,

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, the phone calls, and the many prayers that have been prayed concerning my recent shoulder replacement surgery. I am recovering at home and hope to be out and about again soon.

Bill Rogers



By Carter Cosgrove
Preschool Director

The excitement is in the air with the winter holiday quickly approaching. The children and staff are working hard to complete their holiday units before our Christmas break begins. So many fun projects to finish! 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!!!!

Unfortunately, due to the restricted guidelines for COVID-19, the preschool will be unable to have our annual school-wide Christmas Party in the People of Hope Center. We are so sad that we cannot continue this tradition this year. Instead, we will be having small class parties in the classrooms so the children and staff can still celebrate the holidays.

I would like to also remind all that the preschool will be closed December 21st through January 1st for Christmas Break. We will see everyone back on January 4th. My staff and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

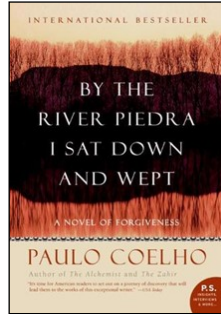


Book Club News

The Book Club is now reading *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept* by Paulo Coelho.

Goodreads says this about the book: "From Paulo Coelho, author of the bestselling *The Alchemist*, comes a poignant, richly poetic story that reflects the depth of love and life.

Rarely does adolescent love reach its full potential, but what happens when two young lovers reunite after eleven years? Time has transformed Pilar into a strong and independent woman, while her devoted childhood friend has grown into a handsome and charismatic spiritual leader. She has learned well how to bury her feelings and he has turned to religion as a refuge from his raging inner conflicts.



Now they are together once again, embarking on a journey fraught with difficulties, as long-buried demons of blame and resentment resurface after more than a decade. But in a small village in the French Pyrenees, by the waters of the River Piedra, a most special relationship will be reexamined in the dazzling light of some of life's biggest questions."

We will discuss this book on Sunday, February 21, after worship. Please bring a bagged lunch and drink. We will meet in the People of Hope Center. If you would like to participate in the book club and need a copy of the book, please contact Gayle Taylor at revgayletaylor18@yahoo.com or call the church office at (804) 794-8590.

Extra Candy Donated

There was quite a bit of candy leftover from Trunk or Treat due to all of the generous donations. The leftover donations were made to the USO (United Service Organizations) via Emmi Wells and the Pediatric Unit at Chippenham Hospital.

Emmi Wells is a Moody Middle school student and began collecting candy for our troops in 2016. Last year she collected over 1,200 pounds of candy!

Individual bags of candy were made for the children in the Pediatric Unit at Chippenham. The hospital's Child Life Specialist, Jackie, accepted our donation with great thanks and will distribute the bags to children in her unit.

Thank you, again, for your generosity to our church that has now overflowed into our community and to our troops!



Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—WMU will meet on Monday, December 7, at 10 a.m. in the People of Hope Center. Please remember to bring your mask.

Bethel Preschooler Cards: If you have signed up to send a card to a preschooler, please be sure to remember his/her birthday and any upcoming holidays.

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

Wednesday Night Programs in December



December 2 — No Sacred Circle (Business Meeting)
December 9 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
December 16 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
December 23 — No Sacred Circle
December 30 — No 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

Merry Christmas! It always brings me great joy to say those words, but this year I am saying it with even more joy and more frequently! Like everything else in the last 9 months, the Christmas season will look different this year. That includes our Christmas party. To be as safe as possible, we will have our gathering outside. Think winter wonderland! Actually, it's Virginia so it may be 55 degrees in the middle of December so we may not exactly have a winter wonderland, but regardless, we will have a good time! There will be fire pits, heat lamps, individually packed s'mores, cocoa, gifts, and games...the whole 9! It won't be exactly like our Christmas parties of the past, but it'll be one for the books - just like 2020

Our usual avenues for serving in the season were nixed due to covid. However, we were able to find some new ways to serve! Students enjoyed shopping for Middle District Christmas Store families earlier this month. We provided gifts, clothes, and other necessities for the children of two families. We also provided complete Thanksgiving meals to six families at Flat Rock Elementary. We are blessed to be a blessing to our community!

December Calendar:

- 2: No Connect (business meeting)
- 9: Connect
- 16: Connect - Christmas celebration
- 23: No Connect
- 30: No Connect

Christmas Card Post Office

Bethel's Christmas Card Post Office
By Gayle Taylor

We must inform you that this year
We cannot safely send our holiday cheer
Through our Bethel post box, we fear.

For to be germ-free it does entail
That we send our cards through traditional mail.
Let's be safe and we'll see the box next year, without fail!

Hanging of the Green Service

November 29, 10:30 a.m.



Hoops! Come Join Us

We are taking every measure to ensure our students and volunteers stay safe so if you haven't been back to church yet, please consider joining us! We will continue to meet outside as weather permits.



Joint Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Historic Sanctuary

Join us each Sunday, in person or on Zoom for our joint Sunday School class. Our teachers are Sherwood Dance, Gayle Rogers, David Grubbs, John Pulley, Mike Rider and Howard Humphreys. They will be rotating each week and they are teaching from the Formations Adult Bible Study. If you need a book, you may pick one up in the church office or there are some in the historic Sanctuary.

Tis the Season



Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

1. Pumpkin or mincemeat
3. Santa's ride
6. Celebration
8. Newborn
9. Northpole crew
13. Word of praise
14. Words on a Christmas card
17. It's opened on Christmas

DOWN

1. Alternative word to 17 across
2. Christmas drink
4. Christmas dinner centerpiece
5. Dec. holiday
7. Christmas warmer
8. "Jingle ____"
10. Christmas tree
11. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ____"
12. What carolers do
15. French Christmas.
16. Snow glider

If you need answers to this puzzle, call the church office.



December Birthdays



2	Clay Call	15	Jeanette Napier
2	Sherwood Dance	18	Tina Hilbert
2	Stephanie Blanton	19	Karen Bradbury
3	Lynne Doughtie	19	Debbie Nellis
4	Clara Justis	20	Michael Brandon
4	Aaron Stagg	20	Shanna Call
5	James Willis	21	Diane Beasley
6	Roe Cole	22	Sarah Acree
6	Bill Rogers	22	Robin Mead
6	Jeff Taylor	23	Mary Florence
6	Kendel Wynne	24	Howard Stephens, Jr.
6	Shyanne Sanchez	27	Evie Doughtie
8	Isaac Gilbert	29	Christy Moseley
9	Drew Ratliff	30	Barbara Burtchett
11	Jamie Ellis	30	Sissy Dance
11	Kayla Rider	30	Brenda Jackson
11	Ben Turner	30	Joyce Hall
13	Matthew Moseley		
14	Slate Baker		

Bethel Christmas Music Events

- November 29 Hanging of the Green and Worship Service at Bethel @ 10:30 a.m. Special music by Christmas Ensemble I and violinist, Kim Ferrell
- December 6: Worship Service at Bethel @ 10:30 a.m. Special music by Christmas Ensemble II and Cathy Marshall
- December 13: Worship Service at Bethel @ 10:30 a.m. Special music by the Bethel Belle Trio Special presentation by the Puppet Team
- December 20: Worship Service at Bethel @ 10:30 a.m. Special music by Elizabeth Johnson, harpist; Barbara Gregory and Gabriel Snider, flautists, and Elizabeth Bradbury, soloist.
- December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service at Bethel @ 5:30 p.m. Service is in the People of Hope Center. Special music by ensembles, soloists, and instrumentalists
- December 27: Worship Service at Bethel @ 10:30 a.m. Special music by Sarah and Joe Oatman



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)

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

December 9, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
December 19, 11 a.m. to noon
(Special Christmas Distribution)

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



Newsletter Deadline

Please note the newsletter deadline for the January Outreach is December 10th due to the holiday. Thanks for your help on this.



December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>2</i> Ministry & Mission Mtg—7 pm	<i>3</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>7</i> WMU—10 am	<i>8</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>9</i> Charlotte's Pantry—5 to 6:30 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	<i>10</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	<i>17</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> Charlotte's Pantry—11 am—noon (Special Christmas Distribution)
<i>20</i> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> Office Closed No Wednesday Night programs	<i>24</i> Office Closed Christmas Eve Service —5:30 pm in People of Hope— Reservations needed to attend, call the church office	<i>25</i> Office Closed Merry Christmas 	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> No Wednesday Night programs	<i>31</i> Office Closed		

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

