

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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On November 14th we had to say “goodbye for now” to one of the Saints of Bethel, Gordon Rutland. Gordon and Shirley Rutland were faithful attendees of our Sacred Circle on Wednesday evenings; in fact, they were always among the first to arrive. When they arrived, I’d always ask, “How are you two doing this evening?” Gordon’s answer was always, without fail, the same. He’d say, “I’m better than I deserve.” I got so use to him saying it that I changed my greeting and I’d say, “Good evening Gordon, is it safe to assume that you’re better than you deserve?”



Gordon Rutland

He’d say, “Yes! I sure am.” One of the great privileges of being a pastor is getting to know and love folks like Gordon and Shirley. As I’ve grown to know Gordon, I realize why he used this greeting. He once told me that God has always taken care of him. He knew God would always take care of him and because of this he never worried. I said, “Gordon, really? You never worry?” He said, “Well something might come along and I’ll be concerned about it, and I’ll do all I can to fix the situation, but I always pray about everything, so why worry?” I thought, “Wow! This guy is amazing.” He also told me on several occasions that he didn’t know of another person

Continued next column

alive who was as blessed as he was. If I were to choose one word to describe Gordon it would be: Grateful. As we turn the page to a new year, I want to affirm Gordon’s words. We are better than we deserve. You and I are recipients of God’s love and grace. God’s mercies are brand new each day. We have a God that cares for us, loves us, watches over us, and provides for us. He knows what we need before the thought is even in our minds. I pray that the next time we find ourselves worrying, that Gordon’s wise words might bring us back to the reality that we are better than we deserve. The next time we’re anxious, let’s remind ourselves of God’s grace, mercy, provision and love. If we really stop to think about all God has done, and is doing, I suspect we’d worry less, praise more and, in the end, we’d be grateful. On behalf of all of Bethel’s people I’d like to say, thank you Lord for all you do for us. We truly are better than we deserve. We love you and we’re grateful! Amen.



Gordon Rutland

May God bless the Rutland family. May God bless our Bethel Church family and may we all have a safe, healthy, prosperous, and blessed new year!

Todd



WINTER FUN

See if you know the answers to these questions related to winter.

(Answers appear below)



1. What is skijoring?
2. Snow ice cream requires snow and what other ingredients?
3. What is the oldest sport in the Winter Olympic Games?
4. How many "arms" does a snowflake have?
5. If you visit the Hotel Kakslauttanen in Finland, what can you plan to sleep in?
6. Where was the world's largest snowman/snowwoman built?
7. Samuel Leeds Allen was given a patent for the Flexible Flyer, the first steerable sled. In what year did he receive the patent? (a) 1859 (b) 1879 (c) 1889

ANSWERS

1. It is when a person is pulled on skis by a horse, dog(s), or motor vehicle.
2. Milk, sugar, vanilla, and salt.
3. Figure skating which began in 1908.
4. Six
5. A glass igloo
6. In Austria, Feb. 2020, the largest snowman was recorded at 124 feet. (Previously, in Bethel, Maine in 2008 the largest snowwoman (114 feet) was built.
7. (C) 1889

Sharing and Caring Monday Small Group



The "Sharing and Caring" group will not meet in January due to the rise in Covid cases. We will re-evaluate in February and keep you posted. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

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



"We Will Overcome in 2021"

Making some resolutions for New Year's? Have you had poor luck with keeping resolutions in the past? You are not alone! One source states that "about 60 percent of us make New Year's resolutions each year--sadly, only about 8 percent of us achieve them" (www.inc.com). Predictably, for January 2020, the two most popular resolutions were saving money and exercising more (today.yougov.com). Of course, no one knew what 2020 had in store for us. I'm certain that these goals quickly shifted with the effects of the pandemic.

Still, many of us will continue to make resolutions. Maybe we would have more success in achieving them if we considered the meaning of the word "resolution."

The definition of "resolution" is 1) *firmness of purpose or determination*; 2) *the act of solving*.

As I thought about this definition, I stopped and pondered how my resolutions for the New Year could look differently and be achieved more reasonably.

As I broke down the definition, I crafted my resolutions in these ways:

- 1) *With a firmness of purpose and determination, I resolve to do the following:*

Trust the Lord for guidance and strength (truly trust--- not just give lip service).

Commit a portion of each day in prayer and Scripture (a significant portion).

Share the love of Christ with someone (meaningful conversations or actions).

- 2) *With the goal of solving, I resolve to do the following:*

Mend a broken relationship (this could be my own or help someone else).

Make donations or time to food banks (contribute goods and time).

Volunteer at agencies that aid domestic violence victims (serve in whatever capacity is needed).

I have decided to print out these resolutions and put them in plain view. I have also decided that these resolutions could be re-crafted during the year so that I may keep my purpose fresh and attend to other issues that surface.

Maybe *you* could craft your own plan! If you have had meager results with your resolutions in the past, I say that "We can overcome in 2021."

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

Library News



We had the first snow fall. It was short and sweet. Just the way I like to see snow.

The library is not very exciting right now, however, the staff has had the time to make some changes in the library. We certainly have been busy. All of us will be very happy to get back to some sort of normal. I am hoping you were able to see your families this Christmas. It's a beautiful time of the year, a time of reflection and new beginnings and the library staff would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Barbara Bell, Media Director

Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers that were sent after my hip surgery. They really brightened my days! Thank you also for all of your prayers, cards, phone calls, and meals during my recovery. I feel very blessed to be a part of such a caring church family.

Love, Susan Brown

Todd, Gayle, Cathy and Crew,

Our entire family thanks you for the beautiful flower arrangement and everything you did to help and serve us after Gordon died. Thank you just doesn't seem like enough. We were able to share the flowers with Shirley at the Pearl. May God continue to bless each of you as you love and serve the people of Midlothian.

Blessings, The Rutland Family

Dear Bethel Church Family,

Thank You! I appreciate so much all the calls of concern and all the prayers prayed for me. The flowers were beautiful and I am enjoying them each day. How blessed am I to know the love of my Bethel family.

With Love, Shirley Lewis

Dear Bethel Church

Thank you for your phone calls, cards and expressions of sympathy. Your prayers are a blessing during this difficult time. God bless you.

Bob and Margaret Gillis



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!

Along with worries about the weather, COVID – 19 is on the top of our minds. Bethel Preschool is closely monitoring the numbers pertaining to COVID-19 to determine when it is no longer safe to be in a classroom. I am so proud of my staff and families for being so diligent in following all the directives to keep everyone safe. We have been truly blessed to have been able to stay open thus far. These winter months will be difficult, and I know we can meet these challenges head on as long as everyone continues their focus on safety and health. We are only as good as our weakest link.

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 19th to hold our parent / teacher conferences.

I would also like to remind all that the Preschool will be closed on Monday January 18th 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!

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.

Youth News Connect

by Lauren Moore



We will continue to meet in the youth room each Wednesday in January. Please bring your mask!

January:

6: Connect, 7-8:15 pm

13: Connect, 7-8:15 pm

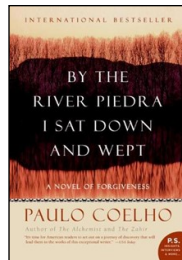
20: Connect, 7-8:15 pm

27: Connect, 7-8:15 pm

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.

Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—WMU will meet on Monday, January 4, 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.

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.

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!



Bethel Music Opportunities

January 2021

Circle of Truth (praise band) rehearses on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the People of Hope Center. The group performs contemporary Christian music. Rehearsals run about one hour. If you would like to participate in this group as a singer or as an instrumentalist, please contact Gayle Taylor.

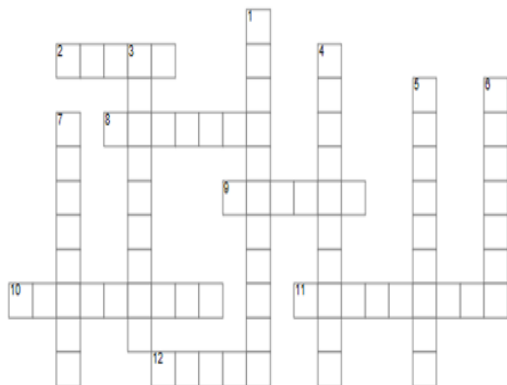
One Accord (a quasi-a cappella group) rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the People of Hope Center. The group performs various genres of music. Rehearsals run about 25 minutes. Please contact Gayle Taylor if you are interested in joining this group.

Small Ensembles (in lieu of a full choir) rehearse after the worship services each Sunday. These groups perform contemporary and gospel pieces. Rehearsals run about 25 minutes. If you are interested in plugging into one of these ensembles, please contact Gayle Taylor.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

www.ALLFreePrintable

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



Across

2. A mechanical or electrical device for measuring time
8. First month of the year.
9. All the descendants of a common ancestor
10. the point in time which something starts
11. Low explosive pyrotechnic device used for entertainment purposes
12. A social gathering of invited guests

Down

1. January 1st
3. A white sparkling wine associated with celebration
4. A firm decision to do or not to do something
5. Counting numerals in reverse order to zero
6. A person one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection
7. Twelve o'clock at night

50 Foods to Try in the New Year

Below is a list of types of food and/or places that each state is known for. If you have missed some of these State favorites, then try them in 2021. For more information, please go to www.spoonuniversity.com.

Alabama—Cheese Grits	Montana—Rocky Mtn. Oysters
Alaska—Salmon	Nebraska—Runzas
Arizona—Mexican Food	Nevada—Buffets
Arkansas—Cheese Dip	New Hampshire—Cider
California—In and Out Burgers	Doughnuts
Colorado—Beef Enchiladas	New Jersey—Salt Water Taffy
Connecticut—New Haven Pizza	New Mexico—Green Chiles
Delaware—Chicken	New York—Bagels
Florida—Cuban Food	North Carolina—Pork BBQ
Georgia—Peach Cobbler	North Dakota—Bison Burgers
Hawaii—Spam (yes, you read it right)	Ohio—Buckeyes
Idaho—Potatoes	Oklahoma—Chicken Fried Steak
Illinois—Meat	Oregon—Marionberry Pie
Indiana—Sugar Cream Pie	Pennsylvania—Cheesesteak
Iowa—Corn on the Cob	Rhode Island—Clam Cakes
Kansas—Bread	South Carolina—Sweet Tea
Kentucky—Fried Chicken	South Dakota—Kuchen
Louisiana—Crawfish	Tennessee—Hot Chicken
Maine—Lobster	Texas—Tex Mex
Maryland—Crab	Utah—Jello
Massachusetts—Clam Chowder	Vermont—Maple Syrup
Michigan—Cherries	Virginia—Apples
Minnesota—Tater Tots	Washington—Pho
Mississippi—Biscuits & Gravy	West Virginia—Pepperoni Roll
Missouri—BBQ	Wisconsin—Cheese
	Wyoming—Beef Jerky

Pastor's Message on YouTube Monday Morning Each Week

Great News! The pastors message will be posted on YouTube. It will be available by searching YouTube using Bethel Baptist Church Midlothian Virginia, and the stream to YouTube will be available by 12 a.m. on Monday morning each week.

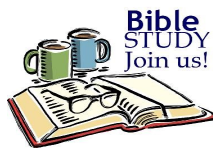
Deacon Zoom Meeting January 25, 7 p.m.

January Birthdays



1	Erin Chauncey	21	Elliott Moore
2	Ryan McGinnis	21	Rachael Bailey
4	Leah Ellis	23	Alan Hardy
5	Caroline Bransford	23	Pete Walmsley
5	Cyris Jenkins	24	Becky Turner
5	Eli Oatman	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		
19	Natalie Baker		
20	Karen F. Smith		

Wednesday Night Programs in January



January 6 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
 January 13 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
 January 20 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
 January 27 — Sacred Circle (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Hours

Below are the church office closings for the upcoming holiday:
New Year's Day—Office will be closed Thursday, December 31 (and Friday as usual).

Opportunities for:

Please note: Some of these ministries are on hold due to Covid

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 Pat Reynolds)

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:

January 13, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
 January 22, 11 a.m. to noon
 If you would like to help on either of these dates, please contact Brenda Peck.



January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> New Year's Day	<i>2</i>
<i>3</i> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>4</i> WMU—10 am	<i>5</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>6</i> Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	<i>7</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>13</i> Charlotte's Pantry—5 to 6:30 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	<i>14</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> Men's Sunday Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>18</i> Martin Luther King Jr. Day	<i>19</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm B & G—7 pm	<i>20</i> Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	<i>21</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>22</i> Charlotte's Pantry—9 to 11 am	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<i>25</i> Deacon Zoom Meeting—7 pm	<i>26</i> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<i>27</i> Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth (at Bethel) - 7 pm	<i>28</i> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>31</i> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH						

Bethel Baptist Church

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Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES

9:30 Sunday School | 10:30 Worship

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR