

# THE OUTREACH

**A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.**

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**BETHEL**  
 BAPTIST CHURCH

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In the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans the Apostle Paul talks about the many hardships he faced in life as he took the glorious message of Christ to the Gentiles. In Romans 8:35 he mentions how he faced hardship, distress, persecution, famine, and peril. Then in verse 37 he exclaims, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." I love that line, "More than conquerors." With Christ in our lives we can rest assured that we are more than conquerors. We are overcomers, people who can face the difficulties of life and Christ can use those difficulties to grow our faith and our character. This month I offer you the story of one of Bethel's conquerors, Mary Florence. These are her words.

My name is Mary Louise Florence, formerly Mary Louise Morgan. I am one of three children. When I was born my mother decided she didn't want to be a mom, especially when she didn't know the identity of my father. I was raised by my grandmother, who adopted my mother, and later became my legal guardian. A couple years went by and my mother had two more girls that were also raised by my grandmother, their fathers were unknown as well.

From a young age I saw my grandmother struggle to raise three girls. She worked full time and still continued to get us where we needed to be, whether it was practice or school functions. To complicate matters even more, my grandmother was a hoarder, to the point we didn't have running water, a kitchen to cook in, or proper sleeping arrangements. We had to crawl in a window to get into the house, we ate out almost every night at McDonald's and if she couldn't afford it we often charged our meal until she could. We showered at the YMCA, when this wasn't possible due to time constraints or transportation we would use water jugs and bathe the best we could outside. I personally slept on a love seat couch that was on a pile of clothes for most of my childhood.

I went to the same daycare from 18 months to 12 years, when I "aged out". Knowing my family struggles, the owner let me come in and help out to make a little extra money. This often went back to my grandmother to help with gas and other expenses. When I was 14 my grandmother strongly suggested

I get a work permit to help pay the bills. I started working at McDonald's the day I turned 14 and the money went back to my grandmother. It wasn't much, but I did what I could to help take care of my grandmother and two younger sisters.

Once a year we were court ordered to see my mother. We would drive three hours to see her for what felt like 10 minutes, she often took us on her drug deals. I could see she wanted nothing to do with us. We would drive back home and I remember feeling unwanted, let down, and ashamed about myself. I watched my grandmother struggle to get us there and force us to see her and try to be happy, however it was hard to hide the feelings that I had.

It wasn't until I was 15 that I really felt the Lord rescue me. On August 11<sup>th</sup> 2006, I met Jake. While Nana took us to church it really wasn't a lesson or learning, it was more like childcare. We learned the traditional Bible stories, but not what it meant to be saved by the Lord. Looking back it's easier to understand. August 11<sup>th</sup> was the turning point in my life. I got out of my mother's vicious cycle of having kids and running away. I no longer felt unwanted. I started going to church with Jake and his family because I wanted to. I really listened to the sermons. I started reading the Bible and daily verses that I had on my phone app. I started to feel my life coming together, rising from the ashes. All the things that I struggled with started to fade and I started living for my Lord and Savior. I felt safe in the Lord and His Word. My favorite Bible verse is Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path." I think of this daily and I know that the struggles that I endured were necessary for me to become the person I am today. John 1:5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, the darkness has not overcome it." The light of Christ shined in my darkness and I overcame.



Continued next column

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



### “Counting the Cost: Liberty or a Prison” by Gayle Taylor

We enjoy our various freedoms in the United States every day and celebrate these especially during July 4. Many of us will observe the day in one or more of these ways: shooting off fireworks, gathering with friends and family for a cook-out, taking off for a beach vacation, and displaying the American flag. All of these activities usher in the holiday vibe that is Independence Day, the day where we recall how America established her freedom from the rule of Great Britain. Even before, 1776, however, another type of war against tyranny was being waged by ministers of the Baptist faith.

Before the American Revolution, Baptists, as well as other religious denominations, were not highly regarded. The Church of England remained the accepted faith-based institution. Because of some violent supporters of the Church of England seeking to eliminate what they viewed as opponents of the true faith, defenders of the Baptist faith emerged and endured suffering for the cause of Christ through heroic efforts. This defense took place throughout the colonies and Virginia was no exception. One such defender was Rev. James Ireland, a Baptist minister in Culpeper County. Listen to his story...

Scottish-born James Ireland emigrated to America as a young man after a “youthful indiscretion.” Upon arrival in Northern Virginia, he was able to get employment as a school teacher. He did not live a Christian lifestyle, even though he had been raised in a godly home in the Presbyterian faith. In fact, his secular activities worried a friend of his so much that he asked Ireland (whom he knew to enjoy poetry) to think about his life and to compose a poem on a topic of religion. Ireland wrote a poem about Heaven and quickly realized he had no hope of getting into Heaven. He became a changed man and after his conversion and baptism, he became licensed to preach. He spoke authoritatively and passionately and received many invitations to preach. He accepted an invitation in Culpeper County, but was warned that authorities would likely put him in jail if he preached (which they did). Ireland in recounting this incident wrote: *“I counted the cost, freedom or confinement, liberty or a prison; it admitted of no dispute. Having adventured all upon Christ I determined to suffer all for Him.”*

Even during this stint in jail, however, Ireland was not deterred from proclaiming the gospel. He continued to preach through the bars of his cell window. Angered and determined

Continued next column

to suppress his voice, the jailer, as well as local churchmen attempted to suffocate Ireland by putting gunpowder under the jail. This effort failed to injure Ireland, but did damage the jail. The jailer also owned a local tavern and paid some drunks to assault Ireland. A doctor was bribed to put poison in some medicine Ireland needed for a fever. Even more debasing, as Ireland preached passionately through his cell window, two detractors tried to extinguish his voice by urinating in his face. Regardless of all of these reprehensible activities, Ireland remained steadfast on his mission for Christ and continued to preach and actually converted many, including high-ranking citizens. In addition to the sermons he delivered verbally, he wrote letters that contained messages about the gospel. These letters were designated by him by the title “From My Palace in Culpeper.” James Ireland was not the only Baptist minister to suffer jail time. In fact, he was one of thirty Baptists imprisoned in Virginia during 1768-1770. After the William and Mary’s Toleration Act passed in 1770, however, Ireland was released from the jail. He had served five months after enduring daily persecution in this county once known as the “devil’s stronghold.”

Remarkably, once released from prison, Ireland continued his ministry in the county, planting churches in the area. He became the pastor of a Baptist meetinghouse in Culpeper, once known as the Buckmarsh Baptist Church (now known as Berryville Baptist Church) where he served from 1788-1806. Ireland is buried in an unmarked grave at the original church location, but the Virginia Historical Society placed a marker in the cemetery at [Berryville Baptist Church](#). Included on his marker are these words: *“In gratitude for the blessings of spiritual religion and freedom of conscience won in part through his sufferings this memorial is erected by the Baptists of Virginia on the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of his death, May 5, 1931”*

May we all remain grateful for our many freedoms, but especially for our religious freedom, and for the defenders of these freedoms not only in July but every month.

(Sources. Berryville Baptist website, *Captive Faith: Prisoners in Church History*, and “James Ireland” *Baptist Bible Tribune*).

## Pregnancy Help Center

Brenda Peck has started volunteering at the Pregnancy Help Center in Chesterfield. She found that right now they have need of diapers (newborn and up to 2 years old) and baby formula. If you would like to help please bring your donations to church and leave them in the corner of the People of Hope next to Charlotte’s Food Pantry. If you have any questions, please see Brenda Peck.



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What an incredible story! I was truly moved by Mary's story and I want to thank her for being vulnerable and being willing to share. When I think of Mary I think of words like conqueror, overcomer, or victor! She is, as Paul would say, "More than a conqueror." Praise be to God for all that He is doing in Mary's life. Mary is now a Middle School math teacher and she's excelling. She's making a difference in children's lives, every single day. Christ is redeeming her past and the light of Christ is shining brightly through Mary's life. Romans 8 ends with these words, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." With the love of Christ, we are all "More than conquerors." Thank God for Christ and his redeeming, life changing love! May God bless Mary, Jake, Chesney and Jarvis and may God bless our Bethel Church Family. Wishing you the love and peace of Christ.

Todd

## Book Club News

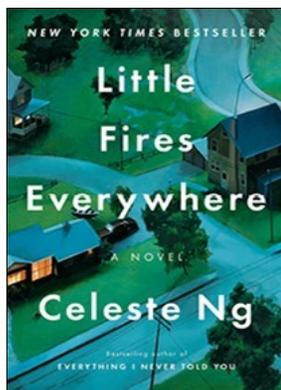
The Book Club is reading *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng.

The discussion for this book will take place on **October 24** after the worship service.

Goodreads provides the following information about *Little Fires Everywhere*:

Celeste Ng has written "a riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives.

*Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood--and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster. Named a Best Book of the Year by: *People*, *The Washington Post*, *Bustle*, *Esquire*, *Southern Living*, *The Daily Beast*, *GQ*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *NPR*, *Amazon*, *Barnes & Noble*, *iBooks*, *Audible*, *Goodreads*, *Library Reads*, *Book of the Month*, *Paste*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and many more..."



## July 4th Holiday

The church office will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of the holiday. Happy 4th of July!!

Sorry we will be closed

## Pastor's Message Posted on YouTube



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.

## Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Classroom

Join us each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the historic sanctuary, in person for our joint Sunday School class. The Salt & Light class that Bob Beasley teaches is also starting back and they will be back in their own classroom. So praise the Lord, you have options! Both classes are teaching from the Formations Adult Bible Study. If you need a book, you may pick one up in the church office or in the historic Sanctuary.

## Dominion Speedway Every Saturday in July

Local driver Dan Rogers, son of Gayle and Bill Rogers, drives car #33 in the Dominion Stock Division at Dominion Speedway. Races start at 7 p.m. every Saturday (unless rained out).

Dan just set a record in his division for the fastest time since the track opened. He has won 4 out of the last 5 races. Come out and cheer him on.



# Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,

My family and I would like to say thank you to all of those who contributed to Genevieve's fund. My husband and I were overwhelmed by the love and generosity you have shown us during this challenging and difficult time. The timing couldn't have been better! We have put quite a bit of the funds toward medical expenses, while the grocery and gas cards have definitely been put to good use. Thank you again for your continued love, support and prayers. It means the world to me and my family!

Much Love, Carter Cosgrove

Dear Bethel Baptist Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers you sent in the recent passing of our mom. It warmed our hearts to know you were thinking of us. Please know we covet your prayers as we continue to heal.

The Yeager Family

Dear Bethel Family,

Many thanks for your prayers, cards and the fruit basket. You have been a strength to me during my recovery.

Blessings and Love, Bob and Ellen Moseley

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers you sent in honor of Shirley. We appreciate your love and care towards us these last 6 months.

Love, The Rutlands

## Missions News by Frances Morris

**Women's Missionary Union Meeting**—The monthly meeting of the WMU will be held on Monday, July 5, at 10 a.m. in the People of Hope Center.

**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](http://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.



## Just for Fun: Independence Day

By Gayle Taylor

Can You Answer These Trivia Questions about American History?

1. Where does the name "America" originate?
2. What do the stars and stripes in the American flag symbolize?
3. Who wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner"?
4. Where did the name "Washington, D.C." originate?
5. Who was president of America in 1776?
6. In addition to signing the Declaration of Independence, can you name some other accomplishments of Benjamin Franklin?
7. What is a *Yankee Doodle Dandy*?
8. Who was the king of England when the colonies declared their independence?
9. In what city was the Declaration of Independence signed?
10. How many hotdogs are consumed on July 4th each year?

1. America is named after Amerigo Vespucci, the Italian explorer who set forth the then revolutionary concept that the lands that Christopher Columbus sailed to in 1492 were part of a separate continent. According to a book about the symbolism of the American flag published in 1977 by the House of Representatives: "The star is a symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun." <https://www.colonialflag.com/symbolism-of-the-red-white-and-blue/>

2. The new federal city was named for George Washington. The Continental Congress provided leadership at this time. George Washington was not elected president until 1789.

3. Benjamin Franklin was a newspaper printer, a postmaster, and inventor (as well as other achievements).

4. *Yankee* is a term that references Americans (or sometimes New Englanders). According to one source, "The term *Doodle* first appeared in English in the early 17th century and is thought to be derived from the Low German *dudel*, meaning "playing music badly", or *Dödel*, meaning "fool" or "simpleton". *Dandies* were men who placed particular importance upon physical appearance, refined language, and leisure hobbies."

5. King George III was king of England when the colonies declared their independence.

6. Philadelphia, PA

7. Americans consume 150 million hot dogs every July 4.

# Volunteers Needed



**100%**

**of you were once a kid.**

**Someone was there to serve you. Someone was there to teach you. Someone was there to befriend you. Now it's your turn! We are in need of Sunday school and Jigsaw volunteers for the Fall. Looking for a sign? This is it!**

**Make a difference in a student's life!  
Transform a life!**

For more information or to sign up to volunteer in children's ministry contact Lauren Moore  
laurenmoore@gmail.com, 804-337-1497

## Ladies Fellowship Lunch Thursday, July 29, at noon

We are happy to let everyone know that the Ladies Fellowship Lunches are starting back again. They will be on the **last** Thursday of each

month. The next one will be July 29 at noon at Mabel's Restaurant, 1800 A South Creek One, Powhatan. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own lunch. If you plan to attend please call Shirley Lewis at 804-794-6585 by the Tuesday before the lunch, so she can make the appropriate number of reservations. All women are invited.



**You're Invited!**

## Notes from Our Parish Nurse

Just a note to let everyone know that COVID-19 vaccines are available at several area pharmacies. You can sign up online at: Kroger, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, and several other places as well. If you or a loved one are unable to travel to get the vaccine, please call 804-387-0366 or go to [www.bedboundvax@chesterfield.gov](mailto:www.bedboundvax@chesterfield.gov). If anyone has difficulty navigating the website. Just ask me.



Summer is here, don't forget to use your sunscreen and stay well hydrated.

Have a wonderful and safe July 4th.  
Cindy Luck, FCN

## 4th of July BBQ Following Worship



On Sunday, July 4, we're going to celebrate our freedom in Christ, our freedom in this country, and our freedom from COVID-19, by having a BBQ lunch after church. David Grubbs and Jason Moore will be our Pit Masters. We will have Boston Butts and BBQ Chicken and all the sides. You will need to sign up so we will know how much food to purchase. **A sign up sheet will be on the round table in the People of Hope or you can call the church office to sign up.**

## 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.

## July Birthdays



1	Ben Doughtie	17	Dona Carlson
2	Linda Harris	17	Samuel Ferebee
2	Janice Jones	18	Elaine Bradley
2	Bonnie Toibin	18	Nancy Glazener
3	Cathy Marshall	19	Ramon Bookman
3	Ciara Hale	19	Kevin Gilbert
3	Ora Smith	19	Rob Camden
3	Keith Bradbury	20	Glenna Chenault
4	Margaret Gillis	21	Ricky Evans
5	Amy Powell	21	Cindy Walton
6	Trula Smith	24	Wendy McClellan
6	Terri Worthy	24	Lauren Rogers
7	Marie Justis	26	Bill Florence
7	Don Laslie	26	Stacey Elam
8	Tammy Bell	26	Ann Powell
9	Debbie Walmsley	27	Waylon Mead
9	Ruby Waller	27	Austin Moseley
9	Charlie Stump	27	Karen Wooldridge
10	Kayla Patteson	29	Steve Lewis
12	Matthew Riley	31	Tommy Justis, Jr.
13	Trevor Moseley	31	Gene Gwaltney
13	Cody Loving	31	Cindy Luck
14	Ken Martin	31	Megan Luck
14	Carolyn DeNoon	31	Thomas Maine
16	Mike Rider		

## Sharing and Caring Monday Small Group



The "Sharing and Caring" group meets on the first Monday, of each month outside the People of Hope at 9 a.m. If the weather is bad, we will meet inside the People of Hope. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

## Wednesday Night Programs in June



July 7 — Sacred Circle/Pals (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.  
 July 14 — Sacred Circle/Pals (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.  
 July 21 — Sacred Circle/Pals (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.  
 July 28 — Sacred Circle/Pals (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.

## Opportunities for:

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

### Mission/Ministry

- Music Ministry/Choir (See Gayle Taylor)
- WMU (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 Ardelle Florence)
- 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.
- 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:

July 14, 5 to 6:30 p.m.  
 July 23, 9 to 11 a.m.  
 August 11, 5 to 6:30 p.m.  
 August 27, 9 to 11 a.m.

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



# 2021 College Graduate



## **Megan Lea Luck**

Megan graduated from Liberty University in May. She will pursue a music career while working on a second Bachelor's in commercial music from Liberty. Her favorite verse of scripture is John 1:16, "For from his fullness we have received, grace upon grace."

# 2021 High School Graduates



## **Charlotte Ann Booker**

CA is graduating from Saint Gertrude High School. She will attend Liberty University in the fall to pursue nursing. Her favorite verse of scripture is Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you", declares The Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."



## **Olivia Campbell Cosgrove**

Olivia is graduating from Powhatan High School. Her plans for the fall are to attend Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts to study illustration and concept art. Olivia's favorite verse of scripture is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me"



## **Alyssa Irene Oatman**

Alyssa graduated from Powhatan High school and plans to attend J. Sargent Reynolds to study business. Alyssa will continue to work at Tropical Smoothie while she is in school. Her favorite verse of scripture is Jeremiah 24:7, "I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart."



## **Jillian Elizabeth Ratliff**

Jillian graduated from Powhatan High School and she will attend Longwood University in the fall to study nursing. Her favorite verse of scripture is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

# **Reunion Tour featuring Gospel Music Artists**

**Ivan & Josh Parker and The Harvesters Quartet**



**Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.**

**Doors open at 4:00 p.m.**

**at**

**Bethel Baptist Church**

**1100 Huguenot Springs Road**

**Midlothian, VA**

**\$10.00 Donation at door**

**For details or directions, call (804) 350-1422**

**Come and bring a friend!**

**We look forward to seeing you there.**

# July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4</b> <b>4th of July</b> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<b>5</b> <b>Office Closed</b> Sharing and Caring—9 am WML—10 am	<b>6</b> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<b>7</b> Sacred Circle /Pals Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth—7 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<b>8</b> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<b>9</b> Small Group—6 pm	<b>10</b> Ivan Parker Concert—5 pm
<b>11</b> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary) Worship—10:30 am—POH	<b>12</b> Sharing and Caring—9 am	<b>13</b> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<b>14</b> Charlotte's Pantry—5 to 6:30 pm Sacred Circle /Pals Zoom—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<b>15</b> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<b>16</b> Circle of Truth—5 pm	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary)	<b>19</b> Sharing and Caring—9 am	<b>20</b> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<b>21</b> Sacred Circle /Pals Zoom—6:30 pm Connect Youth—7 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<b>22</b> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<b>23</b> Charlotte's Pantry—9 to 11 am	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Sunday School—9:30 am (Historic Sanctuary)	<b>26</b> Sharing and Caring—9 am	<b>27</b> Boy Scouts—7 pm	<b>28</b> Sacred Circle /Pals Zoom—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	<b>29</b> AA Meeting—5:30 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**Bethel Baptist Church**

1100 Huguenot Springs Road  
Midlothian, VA 23113

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MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23112

Change Service Requested

**WORSHIP TIMES**

9:30 am Sunday School | 10:30 am Worship



For more information, please call Heather Kerns at  
804-794-8590 or go to our website at  
[www.bethelbaptistpreschool.com](http://www.bethelbaptistpreschool.com).

