THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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Inside	Article from Todd	pg. 1	Associate Pastor's Note	pg. 2	Birthdays	pg. 6	Pregnancy Help Center	pg. 5
	Mission News	pg. 4	Charlotte's Pantry	pg. 6	Wednesday Night Programs	pg. 6	Men's Fellowship Lunch	pg. 2
This	Many Thanks	pg. 3	Just for Fun	pg. 5	Ways to Give	pg. 4	Library Book of the Month	pg. 5
	Book Club	pg. 2	Boxcast App	pg. 4	Preschool News	pg. 3	Christmas Card Box	pg. 6
Issue	Sharing & Caring	pg. 6	Library News	pg. 2	Christmas Eve Service	pg. 5	Holiday Hours	pg. 2
	Sunday School	pg. 4	Ladies Fellowship Lunch	pg. 2	Note from Our Parish Nurse	pg. 5	Christmas Concert	last pg.

One of my most memorable Christmases was 1998. That year was a particularly tough year for our family and especially for my mother in law, Dorothy Younce. We called her "Mama Dot." In May of 1998, her husband, Gray, died suddenly and unexpectedly. Later that year, Gray's brother was killed in an automobile accident. It truly was a year of loss and sorrow. Then came Christmas day, a day of joy and celebration, but, thanks to me, things went south in

a hurry. We loaded up our Ford Explorer with our family's Christmas presents to go over to my mom and dad's house. Every year we gather on Christmas morning for a breakfast of egg and sausage casserole, ham, fruit and coffee cake, then we open presents. We have a tradition where we take turns opening presents; that's the rule and the ritual. Everyone watches as each gift is opened so that we can see everyone's reaction. It's a day of feasting, joy,



Mama Dot

and celebration. But not in 1998. On the way over to my parent's place, we stopped to pick up Mama Dot. There had been an ice storm the previous day and most of the roads were clear of ice, but there was one shady spot on our road that was still icy. I wasn't going that fast as the speed limit is 25 on that part of the road, but I hit a patch of ice, lost control of the vehicle and went into the ditch. When the car hit the ditch, it slowly rolled on its side. We ended up with the passenger side of the car facing the sky. When the car rolled, Mama Dot, who wasn't wearing a seatbelt, flew from one side of the car to the other. We could not get out of the car for several minutes. Finally, someone came and opened the passenger's side door and pulled Karen out, then pulled me out. We went to the back of the car and opened the rear door and removed Mama Dot and my daughter, Elizabeth, who was still strapped in her car seat. We were all ok, except for Mama Dot. She'd cut her head so badly that Med Flight was called. While we were waiting for Med Flight, one of our neighbors stopped by and took Elizabeth and put her in his car so she could stay warm.

Continued next column

Med Flight finally arrived and transported Mama Dot to VCU. I watched as the helicopter flew out of sight and I thought, "What on earth have I done? Why didn't we stay home? I've ruined Christmas for everyone!" The guilt was awful. We spent the rest of Christmas day in the emergency room and after several days in the hospital Mama Dot was released and, blessedly, she suffered no long term effects from the accident. That year we ended up celebrating Christmas about a week later. True to tradition, we went around the circle and watched as we opened presents. When it came time for Mama Dot to open a present, I remember being so thankful, so grateful, that she was with us and we could enjoy that Christmas together. That year was so tough, but that Christmas was among the most memorable of my lifetime because of all that happened. The events of 1998 gave me plenty to think about during Christmas. I was reminded, in a very real way, of the preciousness of life and the gift of family. I was thankful for first responders who helped at the accident scene. I was grateful for the neighbor that helped keep Elizabeth warm. As I reflected on all these things the meaning of Christmas was brought home as it had never been before. When God sent Christ into the world, he sent love into the world and that love binds us, unites us, upholds us. and sustains us. That Christmas I saw love in action from family members, first responders, friends, neighbors, nurses, and doctors. Christ came to fill this world with God's love. I saw it most clearly in 1998. I pray we can see it clearly this year. As we journey towards Christmas, I hope we'll take some time to sit quietly and think about what Christmas means and offer God our most profound thanks for all that He's done by sending Christ into the world. I encourage us to take a moment and share with a friend or loved one how much they mean to us. Go and bless someone with the gift of Christ's love. I'd also like to invite you to join us on Christmas Eve at 5:30 in the People of Hope Center as we celebrate the birth of Christ. May you each have a wonderful and very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and hope filled new year and may God bless you, and may God bless Bethel Baptist Church.

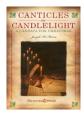
Todd

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



Bethel Christmas Music Events - December 2021

Our choir is performing an exciting Christmas Cantata in a progressive sequence which corresponds to the lighting of the Advent candles each Sunday. *Canticles in Candlelight* is a musical service of illumination and narration that centers on the themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.



In addition to the choir's cantata selections each Sunday, Bethel's various music groups and special guests will perform warm and uplifting Christmas selections. You will be blessed!

November 28 Canticles in Candlelight selections by the choir @ 10:30 a.m. service. Special guest, Kim Ferrell, violinist. Special music by the Bethel Belle Trio.

Pecember 5 Canticles in Candlelight selections by the choir @

December 5 Canticles in Candlelight selections by the choir @ 10:30 a.m. service. Special guest, Barbara Gregory, flutist.

December 12 Candles in Candlelight selections by the choir @ 10:30 a.m. service. Special music by the Men's

December 19 Candles in Candlelight selections by the choir @ 10:30 a.m. service. Special guest, Debbie Thompson, singer/pianist.

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service at Bethel @ 5:30 p.m. Special music by Cathy Marshall with Small Ensemble. Special music by Elizabeth Bradbury and Sarah Oatman.

December 26 Christmas music by One Accord @ 10:30 a.m. service.

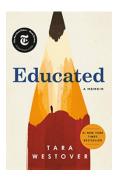
Merry Christmas from England and I wish Bethel a Happy New Year!

Book Club News

The Book Club is currently reading *Educated* by Tara Westover.

Here is a synopsis provided by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship: "An unforgettable memoir about a young girl, who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University."

The book discussion will take place on January 16 after the worship service. Feel free to bring a bag lunch and a drink. Faye Cohen will lead the discussion. If you need a copy of the book, please contact the church office



Library News



One December morning I was feeling down.

All the dreary wearies were hanging round.

Then an inspiration came slowly born.

Count your many friendships. Make a bright, new morn.

Counting YOU, a friend, so faithful and true. Counting your kindness and all you do. Keeping me hopeful, refreshing my soul, You make me happy, and you make me whole.

(excerpt taken with permission from a poem by Sandi Hughes)

What a beautiful way to start the holiday season, with love for each other. Our children are so excited this time of year. It's such a joy to watch their faces. The library is all decked out with Christmas books It is my hope everyone will enjoy love, peace and the hope that Jesus brings to each of us.

Merry Christmas, Barbara Bell, Media Director

Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, December 2, at noon

Our next lunch is set for Thursday, December 2, at noon. We will meet at Henry's Market, 1901 Anderson Hwy, Powhatan. Everyone will be responsible for the cost of their own lunch. Please call the church office if you plan to attend so we can make the appropriate number of reservations. All men are invited.





Below are the church office hours for the upcoming holidays:

Christmas—Office will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, December 23 and December 24 (and Friday as usual) and Monday, December 27. **New Year's Day**—Office will be closed Thursday, December 30 (and Friday as usual).

Ladies Fellowship Lunch

We will not have the Ladies Fellowship Lunch this month since it falls right between Christmas and the New Year, but we will start meeting again in January. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 28, at noon at Mabel's in



el's in

Powhatan. If you plan to join us, please call Shirley Lewis at 804-467-2885, so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.

Many Thanks

To Our Friends at Bethel Baptist Church,

The delicious dinners you bring to the Free Clinic of Powhatan are beyond generous! Thank you for feeding us in such a spectacular fashion. We love it!

Betsy Blandford Free Clinic of Powhatan

Dear Care Team

Thank you all so much for such a wonderful blessing you were to our parents. It's tough being shut in and receiving visits, food, baskets, flowers and most of all fellowship from kind neighbors, Shirley and Bruce Lewis, were truly a treat and much appreciated.

Love and Prayers, Sandra and Joe Bartell and Harriette and Doug Jamerson

Dear Pastor Bradbury and Bethel Family,

Thank you so much for your kindness, prayers and time spent ministering to our parents, Anne and Irving Jamerson. It would please them greatly to see that you are still using the gold cross that was given in honor of their baby, Dennis Sterling. We all truly appreciate everything that was done to help us honor our parents during their Celebration of Life Services.

Love and Prayers
Sandra and Joe Bartell
and Harriette and Doug Jamerson

Dear Bethel Family,

I have been so overwhelmed by the love and desire of God's people to minister to my needs during this surgery recovery period. Thank you for the calls, texts, cards, flowers, visits and prayers. I can't express the depths of gratitude I feel. You are the hand's and feet of our Lord.

Be Blessed, Judy Barker

Ministry & Missions Celebration (aka The Business Meeting) December 1 at 7 p.m.



By Heather Kerns Preschool Director

The excitement is in the air with Christmas quickly approaching! The children and staff are working hard to complete their holiday units before our Christmas break begins. There are so many fun projects and lessons to complete! This is such a magical time of year for children and adults alike, and we will be focusing on the true meaning of the season in our preschool; Jesus.

I would like to say thank you to all my preschool families who helped with our outreach program this year. The idea of doing unto others is sometimes a difficult concept for small children to grasp. To help them to understand that it is just as important to give as it is to receive, the preschool participated in the Powhatan Christmas Mother program to help assist local low-income families provide Christmas. We were able to contribute SO many items that will certainly bring smiles to children's faces on Christmas morning. Our preschool collected children's toothbrushes, toothpaste, Play Doh, crayons, books, stickers, bubbles, and candy canes. We are so thankful for the support of our families.

Our preschool is elated to host our first-annual Parents Christmas Shopping Day on Friday, December 3rd. Parents can drop off their Bethel Preschool students on Friday morning, December 3rd at 9:00 and go Christmas shopping, wrap gifts, or just enjoy a moment of solitude before the mayhem of the holiday season. While here, the children will make Christmas crafts, make and eat Christmas treats, and play together. Parents will pick up students at 12:00 pm. We are hopeful that this will be a great success that will start a new tradition in our school.

Our annual school Christmas party will be held on Thursday, December 16th. We will be celebrating Polar Express style with pajamas, a reading of the book Polar Express, individual train cars decorated by our students, a hot cocoa bar, warm cookies, and lots of Christmas cheer. 'We Believe' here at Bethel Preschool and are so excited to spread the magic of the Christmas season with our students before they leave for break.

Our preschool will be closed December 20th through December 31st for Christmas Break. We look forward to welcoming back our students and staff on Monday, January 3rd, 2022. The Bethel Preschool teachers and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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.

Bethel Care Team

Goodness knows, where did the year go? It seems like the months fly by as do the years and here we are ready to begin the Christmas season again, and to everyone, have a very Merry Christmas.

My thoughts remain of how busy we all seem to be in so many ways, think of how it was for Mary and Joseph and the shepherds and the Wise men who traveled by the Star that guided them on the long journey across the desert to become that special night that we all celebrate each Christmas Eve. They had patience, they had endurance, they had a purpose in their hearts to fulfill the plan of God to send his son to earth in the form of a tiny baby. Today we seem to lack anything but those attributes, we are too busy, in a rush over everything, buying, cooking, planning, decorating, everything but resting on the word and remembering the real meaning of this blessed of all holidays. We must take "time" to take that long slow journey as a gift to ourselves, our lives are a gift from God and our gift to him is what we do with those lives. Our Care Team strives to take "time" for those who maybe cannot get out and enjoy the beauty of the holiday decorations, or the festive times other's share, everyone of them are precious members of our church family and they will be visited and remembered this month for sure. Pray for them and for the Care Team and for our beloved church family as we celebrate this most special time of year.

Sadly, we again remember our dear Mrs. J. Mrs. Jamerson, who recently passed, she was a wonderful, caring person who still wanted to hear of the activities of our church and would discuss the people and special times she and Irving enjoyed when they were active members. We will miss her. Merry Christmas and God bless us as we take care of each other.

Shirley Lewis Team Lead

The Boxcast App



The Boxcast App is now available to view our complete church services on your Apple TV,

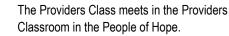
Roku, or Smart TV. This will provide a simple high-quality means to view our services on your large screen TV so the entire family can watch the service together. Please follow these instructions:

- 1. Add the Boxcast app to your device.
- Search for the church's channel by searching for Bethel Baptist Church Midlothian, VA. (NOTE: Spelling and punctuation is important when searching.)
- 3. Once you find our channel the church's logo will appear. Select this channel.
- 4. You are DONE.

Please contact any member of the AV team if you have any questions.

Sunday School Classes

The following classes are meeting in person:





- The Endeavors Class meets in the Endeavors Classroom in the People of Hope.
- The Salt and Light class meets in the Salt and Light Classroom in the Education Building.
- Students in grades K-5 will meet in the Jigsaw Room downstairs.
- Students in grades 6-12 will meet in the Youth Room downstairs.
 The nursery remains open during the Sunday School hour for our younger children.

We will still offer zoom to those who can not be here. The zoom class will be from Robert Brooks class in the Providers classroom.

The zoom link is:

 $\frac{\text{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87461349993?pwd=UW0rZ2F00Ep4RUJN}}{\text{VHhlK1pGRmIDQT09}}$

Meeting ID: 874 6134 9993 Passcode: 139739

Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—The monthly meeting of the WMU will be held on Monday, December 6, at 10 a.m. in the People of Hope Center.

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

<u>Kroger</u>: 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.



Note from Our Parish Nurse

The Faith Community

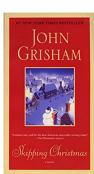
Nurse office has several wheel chairs and walkers if needed. (Please sanitize before and after use) Also, the Nurse cabinet has 3 shelves of Healthy Blessing items for anyone in need, from gauze to sanitizer.

What an awesome day the Lord has made.
Blessings to all,
Cindy



Library Book of the Month

Imagine a year without Christmas. No crowded malls, no corny office parties, no fruitcakes, no unwanted presents. That's just what Luther and Nora Krank have in mind when they decide that, just this once, they'll skip the holiday altogether. But, as this weary couple is about to discover, skipping Christmas brings enormous consequences – and isn't half as easy as they'd imagined. **Skipping Christmas** offers a hilarious look at the chaos and frenzy that have become part of our holiday tradition. Look for it on the library table in the People of Hope Center.



Pregnancy Help Center

Brenda Peck volunteers 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.



Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter deadline for the January Outreach will be December 10th. Starting with the information for the February Outreach the deadline will be the 15th of each month. Thanks so much for helping with the early deadlines.





JUST FOR FUN

Can you answer these Christmas trivia questions?

- What classic Christmas song was sung in two Christmas movies (hint: it was introduced by Bing Crosby in the 1942 movie Holiday Inn).
- Who wrote the endearing story/poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas"?
- 3. The story "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was published in 1939 and the classic song sung by Gene Autry came out in 1949. In what year did the classic cartoon make its first appearance?
- 4. Who wrote "Silent Night"? When/where was it first performed?
- 5. Why do we hang Christmas wreaths?
- 6. How do you make snow cream?
- 7. Christmas cards are still popular today. When did that tradition begin?

colorful works of art and highly collectible today.

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Information varies, but arguably, began in 1843 in London, England by Sir Henry Cole. Early cards typically depicted flowers, fairies, and whimsical designs. In America, early cards were printed by Louis Prang. His cards were detailed,

Gather 8 cups of snow, add 1 teaspoon vanilla extract that has been mixture with a sweetened condensed milk). Stir. Snow cream can be kept in a freezer for up to sweetened condensed milk). Stir. Snow cream can be kept in a freezer for up to

The custom began in the 16^{th} century as Europeans in the north and east trimmed their trees and used the excess branches to form circles or wreaths. Of course, the circle represents eternity and hope.

Christmas Eve, 1818, in Salzburg with Mohr playing his guiter as the church organ had been damaged by flooding.

The cartoon first appeared on television on December 6, 1964.

The young priest, Joseph Mohr, wrote the lyrics; he asked his musician friend,
Franz Gruber, to compose the melody. Together they sang it for the first time on

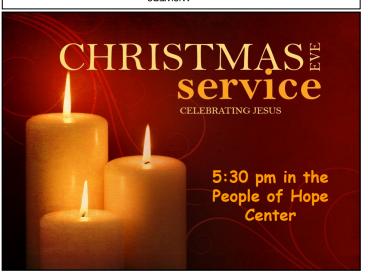
Clement C. Moore wrote the poem. It was first published in 1823 in the Troy Sentinel newspaper in New York.

the 1954 movie White Christmas.

2. Clement C. Moore wrote the poem. It was first published in 1823 in the Troy

1. "White Christmas" was introduced in the movie Holiday Inn and was re-used in

SMEWS



December **Birthdays**



- Clay Call
- 2 Sherwood Dance
- 2 Stephanie Blanton
- 3 Lynne Doughtie
- 4 Clara Justis
- Aaron Stagg
- 5 James Willis
- 6 Roe Cole
- 6 Bill Rogers
- 6 Jeff Taylor
- 6 Kendel Wynne
- 6 Shyanne Sanchez
- Isaac Gilbert 8
- 8 Drew Ratliff
- 11 Jamie Ellis
- 11 Kayla Rider
- Ben Turner
- 13 Matthew Moseley

- Slate Baker
- Jeanette Napier
- Tina Hilbert
- Karen Bradbury
- 19 Debbie Nellis
- 20 Michael Brandon
- 20 Shanna Call
- Diane Beasley
- 22 Sarah Acree
- 22 Robin Mead
- 23 Mary Florence
- 24 Howard Stephens, Jr.
- 27 Evie Rivera
- 29 Christy Moseley
- 30 Barbara Burtchett
- 30 Sissy Dance
- 30 Brenda Jackson
- Joyce Hall

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

December 8, 5 to 6:30 p.m. December 18, 11 a.m. to noon (Special Christmas Distribution) If you would like to help on any of these dates, please contact Brenda Peck.



Wednesday Night Programs in November



December 1 — No Sacred Circle (Business Meeting)

December 8 — Sacred Circle 6:30 p.m. Zoom

December 15 — Sacred Circle 6:30 p.m. Zoom

December 22 — No Sacred Circle (Christmas Holiday)

December 29 — No Sacred Circle (Christmas Holiday)

Sharing and Caring Monday Small Group



The "Sharing and Caring" group meets every Monday, in the People of Hope Building at 9 a.m. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

Opportunities for:

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
- 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 Shirley Lewis)

Fellowship/Discipleship

- Men's Fellowship Lunch 1st Thursday of each month at noon (See Bruce Lewis)
- Women's Fellowship Lunch last Thursday of each month at noon (See Shirley Lewis)
- Youth Group Meetings every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. Sacred Circle 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)
- Sharing & Caring Group meets every Monday at 9 a.m. in POH

Christmas Card Post Office

The Christmas Card Post Office will be open from December 1 to December 31. It will be located in the People of Hope building in the portico entrance next to the restrooms. NO POSTAGE REQUIRED. You can send and receive cards to and from your Bethel family and friends. Please check the post office each week to make



sure you don't miss any holiday wishes for you and your family.

DON'T FORGET our homebound members. The box for our homebound members will be near the Christmas Card Post Office. Please drop these cards in the special box. These people are: Barbara Burtchett, Zeke Bookman, Lee Elam, Peggy Heath, Myrna Perkins, Conner Smith, Dolly Smith, Curtis Salyer, and Bob and Barbara Hale.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr:	Sat
			I Ministry & Missions Celebration (Business Meeting) 7 pm	2 Men's Fellowship Lunch— noon at Henry's AA Meeting—5:30 pm	3 Preschool - Parents Shopping Day 9 to 12:00	4 Girl Scouts—3 pm Home for Christmas Concert with Mark Trammel Quartet & The Whisnants—5 pm
5 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	6 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am WMU—10 am	7 Boy Scouts—7 pm	& Charlotte's Pantry—5 to 6:30 pm Sacred Circle Zoom—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	9 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	10	11
12 Sunday School—9;30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	13 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am	14 Boy Scouts—7 pm	15 Sacred Circle Zoom— 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	16 Preschool Christmas Party—10 am POH AA Meeting—5:30 pm	17	18 Charbotte's Pantry Special Christmas Distribution-11 am to noon Girl Scouts—3 pm
19 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	20 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am	21 Boy Scouts—7 pm	22 Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Service—5:30 pm	25
26 Sunday School—9,30 am Worship—10:30 am—	27 Office Closed Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am	28 Boy Scouts—7 pm	29 No Wednesday Night Activities	30 Office Closed		

Bethel Baptist Church

1100 Huguenot Springs Road Midlothian, VA 23113

Change Service Requested

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



Saturday, December 4th, 2021 at
5:00 p.m.

Doors open at 4:00 p.m. at
Bethel Baptist Church
1100 Huguenot Springs Road
Midlothian, VA 23113
\$10.00 per person donation at door
For details or directions,
call (804) 350-1422
Come and bring a friend!
We look forward to seeing you there.