

# The Outreach

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

## Bethel Baptist Church

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One of the verses of scripture that I used to find perplexing is 1 Thessalonians 5:17. The Apostle Paul writes, "Pray without ceasing" or "Pray continually." How do we pray without ceasing? Does Paul expect us to be on our knees all day, every day in constant prayer? That's certainly not practical. What gives? Before attempting an answer I'd like to share a story from Judy Pulley about a time in her life when she had to "pray without ceasing." Here is her story in her own words:

"Have you ever had a time in your life where a prayer request was so heavy you didn't know how to form the words? One of my life's heaviest trials was like that. There were people all around me, but I felt alone and helpless. My third child is Angela Noelle Lewis, she was born September 11, 1978. She was full term and she came into this world weighing 8 pounds 13 ounces. She was a beautiful, healthy looking baby. She looked perfect! When she was two days old I was looking at her through the hospital nursery window, and I noticed the nurse and doctor rushing around her looking worried. I tapped on the glass to find out what the concern was, only to be told they would be checking her blood pressure. In 1978, that was not a typical vital sign they checked at birth. Dr. David Arkin told me Angela had high blood pressure! What? How? Her pressure read 240/180. Unreal! She was quickly hooked up and monitored by so many devices. I was so upset that they placed me in a private room and the nuns of St. Mary's would come to me and ask, "Where is your faith?" Faith? I couldn't even think straight. Then in a specialized ambulance that looked like a floating hospital she was transferred to MCV NICU. Once there, I was told they had never seen a baby with such high blood pressure and an enlarged heart. All of these things happened before she was born. I didn't know what to do.



Angela at birth

Continued next column

I just needed my baby safe and healthy. The doctors said they would perform a test the next day, but the test would be invasive and may result in her losing a limb. My mind was racing and the whole room was spinning. That night with a lot of coffee, I did as scripture tells us to do in 1 Thessalonians 5:17. I "prayed without ceasing." I prayed non stop! The next day I met with three doctors and they said, "We have something to tell you." My heart stopped, what could it be? One doctor said, "You kept insisting we recheck her heart and so I did and I couldn't believe it. Your baby's heart went back to its normal size over night and it's nothing we have done. I believe this to be a miracle of God." Yes it was! Only God could do that! Angela got to come home without the invasive test and she only had to take blood pressure medicine.



Angela and Judy

Through unceasing prayer, I believe God performed a miracle for Angela. That was a lesson for me. I'm so thankful for my beautiful daughter and so thankful that we can come to God through prayer and take all we have to Him in prayer."

What an inspirational story! How does Judy's story help our prayer life? There are certainly times when our prayer life will need to resemble Judy's intense night of prayer. But here's the good news. The God who did this amazing miracle for Judy and Angela is very much present in the ordinariness of life. God is with us as we go to work, or do laundry, or prepare a meal, or play with our children. This is what the Apostle Paul is trying to get us to understand. Paul is imploring us to live our lives in a constant awareness of God's presence so that God is always in our hearts and in our thoughts. If we can live in a state of constant "God awareness" then our lives become a prayer; a sacred offering of ourselves back to the God who created and sustains us. That is how we "pray without ceasing." May God bless Judy Pulley and her family and may God bless the Bethel Church Family.

*Todd*

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



### **"What's New for You This Year?"**

A new year holds so much promise. Each day is like a precious treasure box waiting to hold events that will one day become memories. With what will you fill those days...?

Perhaps you have thought about volunteering your time in some way, but were unsure of where to begin. If so, you might consider visiting The Pearl at the Watkins Centre Memory Care Community. This is located at 650 Watkins Centre Parkway in Midlothian. The Pearl is a warm and inviting facility. Residents enjoy daily activities arranged by Lynn Hess, the coordinator. Lynn would love to have volunteers come and spend time with the residents, especially on Fridays at 11:00 a.m. to assist with board games. Just give her a call at (804) 893-0067.

***Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent. Psalm 71:9***

Maybe you have been thinking about singing in one of the musical groups at Bethel. Several groups exist that offer various musical styles: Bethel choir (sings contemporary/gospel style), One Accord (a cappella/eclectic style), and Circle of Truth (praise/temporary style). Consider giving one of these groups a try and lending your voice in praises to our Lord.

***O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Psalm 96:1***

You might be interested in joining a small group. Some of the current small groups include the Families with Young Children (meets alternate Friday evenings in the church parlor and is facilitated by Jan and Kevin Gilbert), the Empty Nesters (meets Friday evenings at the home of Beth and Brad Saxton); the new Tuesday morning group begins Feb. 5 (meets at church), Pat Bartlam will facilitate a study on forgiveness by Peter Jeffress, and the Book Club (meets quarterly- the first discussion is Feb. 3, after church-bring a bag lunch. The first book is *The Man Who Moved a Mountain*). The small groups allow you to get to know other Christians and to grow in your faith.

***Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11***

Why not take a step out in faith and try something new in the New Year?



## **Special Music Event January 27**

Please join us Sunday, January 27, at 2 p.m. in the historic sanctuary as we celebrate the generous gift of the organ given to Bethel by Teresa Hudson. Plan on enjoying the unique tones of the organ and singing familiar hymns at this joyous occasion. Cathy Marshall and special guest, Dr. Kelly Tennille Grooms, will play for this program.



A reception will follow in the People of Hope Center.

# **Youth News**

by Lauren Moore



Happy New Year! As we welcome 2019 let's take a peek at a few upcoming events.

Passport news: we have a slight...or major...change of plans. I received a call from the Passport VP to let me know that the branch of camp we were scheduled to attend in Nashville is no longer in existence. It was decided in their most recent board meeting that they are doing away with the Mission Base program due to finances. That leaves us with the option to go to BOSTON the same week. I know this is a change and many students were excited to go to Nashville, buuuut I think Boston provides us with a trip that will offer the same experience as Nashville. Maybe even better! This section of camp will host 2 camps in one, Passport missions and Passport choices will both be attending the same week. It will look and feel much like a youth conference with hundreds of youth coming together the same week. You can find more information at <https://passportcamps.org/gordon-college>. Our deposit has been transferred from Nashville to Boston for our week of June 23-28. However, I must know if you are attending camp before February 1.

At this time, the cost of camp is \$300. The proceeds from the Iron Bell concert will go toward the balance and we will do a fundraiser in the spring to bring the cost down. No student will be denied the ability to go to camp because of financial reasons. We will help with the cost of camp for any student who needs it. Speaking of Iron Bell, they will be back again for a night of praise and worship on February 1 at 7 pm in the Hope Center. Each youth will receive one ticket. For additional tickets go to <https://www.itickets.com/events/408921.html>. We are looking forward to another amazing night with Iron Bell! There is no Hope Supper Table this month or next. Lastly, we are swapping our end of month activity to the 3rd Wednesday of this month instead of the last Wednesday so we can take advantage of the ice rink at Short Pump.

### **January Calendar**

2: No Connect.

9: Connect, 6:30-8 pm. Meet in the food pantry. Dinner provided.

16: Connect, 6:30-8 pm. Chick-fil-a for dinner then back to church. Van leaves at 6:30 pm. No cost.

23: Connect, 6-8 pm, Ice Skating @ The Rink at West Broad Village. Van leaves at 6. Cost: \$10. I would like an additional adult to attend.

Please let me know if you are able to help.

30: Connect, 6:30-8 pm. Dinner provided.

### **Save the date:**

February 1 at 7 pm, Iron Bell Music concert. Details above.

June 23-28, Passport Camp. Boston. THIS IS A CHANGE. See above for details.

## January Birthdays



1	Erin Chauncey	16	Robbie Cordle Gill
2	Ryan McGinnis	16	John Pulley, Jr.
4	Leah Ellis	17	Jake Florence
5	Caroline Bransford	19	Bob Beasley
5	Doug Wight	20	Ed Powell
6	Jerry Jenkins	20	Karen F. Smith
7	Leonard Vaughan	20	Morgan Pearce
8	Faye Cohen	20	Madison Pearce
8	Tom Melton	21	Rachael Bailey
10	Jocelyn Vergara	23	Alan Hardy
11	Michael Gerace	23	Pete Walmsley
12	Michaela Goodman	24	Becky Turner
12	Amanda McDade	26	James Waller
12	Troy Patteson	27	Mason Watkins
14	Justin Whitney	27	Michael Roper
15	Elizabeth Atkinson	29	Manny Sanchez
15	Cameron Wynne	30	Lindsey Brown

## Morning Devotional at Chick-fil-A



Join us at Chick-fil-A at Westchester Commons Shopping Center each Monday morning at 8 a.m. We will enjoy breakfast and a devotional time together. This is a wonderful time of fellowship. For more information, please contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

## Ladies Fellowship Lunch Thursday, January 3, at noon

Our next lunch will be January 3, at noon at Carrabba's, 11450 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, 23235

If you plan to attend please text or call Margaret Gillis at 804-305-6931 so she can make reservations. All women are invited.



## Opportunities for:

### Mission/Ministry

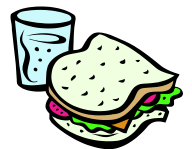
- Music Ministry/Choir (See Gayle Taylor)
- Adults on Mission (Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m.)
- Charlotte's Pantry (See Brenda Peck)
- Backpack Ministry (See Vera Caniglia)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Ministry (See Lauren Moore)
- Friends of the Homeless (5th Mondays at 8:30 a.m. (See Gayle Rogers)
- AA Meeting every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
- Puppet Team (See Andrea Hale)
- Media Center (See Barbara Bell)
- Care Team Ministry (See Shirley Lewis)

### Fellowship/Discipleship

- Men's Fellowship Lunch 1st Thursday of each month at noon (See Bruce Lewis)
- Women's Fellowship Lunch 1st Thursday of each month at noon (See Margaret Gillis)
- Youth Group Meetings every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. (See Lauren Moore)
- Bible/Discipleship Study Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. (See Gordon and Shirley Rutland)
- Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m. each Sunday
- Zumba Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. (See Megan Luck)
- Brotherhood Breakfast (every 5th Sunday)
- JIGSAW children's ministry, every Sunday (See Tina McNeel)
- Children in Action meet every 5th Sunday, during the Sunday School hour. (See Frances Morris)

## Men's Fellowship Lunch Thursday, January 3, at noon

Our next lunch is set for Thursday, January 3, 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.



## Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

### Upcoming pantry schedule:

January 9, 5 to 6:30 p.m.  
January 26, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
February 13, 5 to 6:30 p.m.  
February 22, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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



## New Book Club Sunday, Feb. 3



The first meeting of the book club is Sunday, February 3 right after church. Bring a bag lunch. We will be discussing "The Man Who Moved a Mountain." The plan is to meet quarterly. We would love for you to join us.



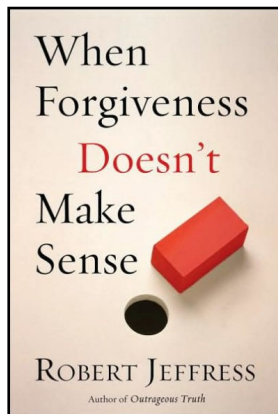
# What's Happening in December



Jigsaw in January is all about Self Control! Each week we will look at a verse from Proverbs, and will learn: Doing what you should can keep you safe, Think before you lose your temper, Choose your words carefully, and know when to stop. Our memory verse this month is 2 Peter 1:3a, "God's power has given us everything we need to live a godly life."

## New Small Group

Beginning February 5, a Tuesday Morning Small Group will begin meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the church. Pat Bartlam will facilitate a study on forgiveness by Robert Jeffress, called "When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense." This study goes into why we have difficulty accepting God's unconditional forgiveness? And why we sometimes find it so impossible to grant that same forgiveness to others? Please join us as we talk about the very important topic of forgiveness. Everyone is welcome.



## Memorial Association Meeting Feb. 10, 2018



## Holiday Hours

Below is the church office closing for the upcoming holiday:  
New Year's Day—Office will be closed Tuesday, January 1.



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!

Medarva will be coming to Bethel Preschool on January 15<sup>th</sup> to perform free vision and hearing testing to all students between the ages of 3 and 5. This is a quick and simple test for our children to ensure that their vision and hearing are where they need to be at this time. Bethel preschool is pleased to be able to provide this service for our families.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> to hold our parent / teacher conferences. I would also like to remind all that the Preschool will also be closed on Monday January 21<sup>st</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

I would like to say thank you once again to all the church members and preschool families who came out in December and supported our Chick-fil-A night. It means so much to me and the program to have so much support from the church and our families! I love seeing everyone there. Please come and join us on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and have dinner with us at the Chick-Fil-A at Westchester Commons to support the preschool and our scholarship program!

Thank you so much to all who help support the Preschool and myself. You are the reason we are the program we are today!

## New Pictorial Directory Dates to be determined

We **WILL** be doing a new pictorial directory this year. The dates will be advertised soon. We had to change our initial dates because the directory company wanted everyone signed up by January 4 in order to make the scheduled dates, so we declined those dates and will reschedule after the holidays.



Since March of 2016, we have had 66 people join Bethel. We **NEED** a new directory! The directory will be produced at **NO COST** to the church. After the project is complete everyone will receive a **FREE** directory and one **FREE** copy of your directory picture. More information about sign ups will be coming soon.

# Bethel Care Team



Here we are beginning a new year and wishing everyone a Happy New Year from the Bethel Care Team members.

We are ready to visit and enjoy friendships this month depending on the weather and other's schedules.

This month I would like to say a special thanks to several men who go out of their way to help others, now I know there are many of our guys who do things all the time in ways we never know about and I include these men in that group. David Wilson has taken his time for at least a year or more to go and get Barbara Burchett from Golden Pond where she lives and bring her to Sunday School and church and then return her home each Sunday that she is able to come. He does this with a willing and gracious heart and we appreciate his commitment to her. Robert Brooks is another man who goes to pick up Peggy Heath every Sunday morning for church services. He and Donna drive separately so that he has time to get her back and forth. He also visits her regularly and is often called upon if she needs help. Then I will speak of my husband, who goes often to cut hair wherever he is needed. He has done this for as long as I can remember, starting when he was a young man and a close friend was terribly injured in an accident and left bedridden for life. Bruce always went and kept him freshly cut and has done this for years in each church family we have been involved with and for his customers who have taken sick. He enjoys conversation with his folks and can be helpful for them. He blesses others with his simple talent of cutting hair.

Now please know, we have so many other's who take their time and visit and call and just are "present" in the lives of others, and we thank them all. I just wanted to highlight these guys and thank them for their help in our ministry.

Please pray for our ministry and if you would like to be a part of "us" please let us know. If you know of a need in our church family, let us know that also, and we will do our best to address it.

Shirley Lewis/Team Lead

## Parish Nurse January 20



Cindy Luck will be available in the Parish Nurse office on Sunday, January 20, from 9 to 10:15 a.m. Stop by and Cindy will be happy to answer your health questions or check your blood pressure.

## Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

The next Spirit Night fund raiser date will be **Wednesday, January 16**, between 5 and 8 p.m. Proceeds go to the Preschool throughout the school year. Dine-in or grab dinner to go, but please remember to mention Spirit Night when you place your order. Don't forget to take time to come by and spin the wheel. You can win free food, drinks and other items. Hope to see everyone there!

## Missions News

by Frances Morris

### Mission Opportunities

**Adults on Mission** will meet on Monday, January 7 at 10 a.m. All members and friends are invited.

**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**. (Note: this is a new number) You will still get your points toward gas, Bethel will just get credit for any amounts you spend at Kroger.

**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.

## Mission Team Meeting Jan. 13

Bethel Mission Team will meet Sunday, January 13, right after worship in the Endeavors' classroom. We will discuss mission plans for 2019. Anyone who would like to join the team or has suggestions is encouraged to attend. It will be a short meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Frances Morris at 794-6130.



## A Note From the Library

Snow, snow go away, bring us sunshine today! We are preparing the library with winter books for our kids. I am sure they are looking for snow. Christmas was a fun time with all our children. I hope everyone enjoyed their family and friends. Don't forget when the snow does arrive to make sure you and your kids are home with several good books. This is just a reminder, this is a great time for Bible stories at bedtime for your little ones. We have a wonderful selection in the library. Come by and see us soon. Have a wonderful winter. I wish you and your families a very Happy New Year!

Media Director, Barbara Bell



## Wednesday Night Programs in January



January 2—No Bible Study

January 9—Bible Study—6:30 p.m.

January 16—Bible Study—6:30 p.m.

January 23—Bible Study—6:30 p.m.

January 30—Bible Study—6:30 p.m.



# Iron Bell Music Concert

## Friday, February 1, 7 p.m.

Iron Bell Music is returning to Bethel for another night of praise and worship. Iron Bell Music is passionate about cultivating a heart of adoration in believers through creating worship music that leads people into the knowledge of God. Birthed out of encounters in His presence, their music invites people into a transformational experience where hearts are set free as they declare the truth of who God is. We were blessed to experience Iron Bell Music in



concert last year and it was an incredible night of worship. We fully expect God to do great things again in February. Tickets are \$10.00 each. They make great gifts, or an early Valentine's Day gift! Don't Wait! You can get your tickets now at <https://www.itickets.com/events/408921.html> Show is at 7 p.m. in the People of Hope Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to go to the church's Facebook page and share this event. For any questions, see Lauren Moore.



# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office & Preschool Closed	2 No Wednesday Night Activities	3 Men's Fellowship Lunch—12 pm Henry's Market Ladies Fellowship Lunch—12 pm Carraba's AA Meeting—5:30 pm	4 ESL—9 am	5 Girl Scouts—3 pm
6 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	7 Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Adults on Mission (POH)—10:00 am Puppets—6:30 pm	8 Garden Club—9 am Boy Scouts—7 pm	9 Charlotte's Pantry—5 to 6:30 pm Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal —7:30 pm	10 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	11 ESL—9 am	12
13 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am	14 Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Puppets—6:30 pm	15 Boy Scouts—7 pm	16 Chick-fil-A Spirit Night—5 to 8 pm Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal —7:30 pm	17 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	18 ESL—9 am	19 Girl Scouts—3 pm
20 BROTHERHOOD SUNDAY Parish Nurse—9:00 am to 10:15 am Sunday School—9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	21 Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Puppets—6:30 pm	22 Boy Scouts—7 pm	23 Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal —7:30 pm	24 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	25 ESL—9 am Charlotte's Pantry Distribution Today 9 to 11 am	26
27 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am Special Music and Organ Dedication—2 p.m.	28 Chick-fil-A Morning Devotional—8 am Puppets—6:30 pm Deacon Mfg & Dinner—6:30 pm	29 Boy Scouts—7 pm	30 Bible Study—6:30 pm Connect (Youth) - 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal —7:30 pm	31 AA Meeting—5:30 pm		

**Bethel Baptist Church**

1100 Huguenot Springs Road  
Midlothian, VA 23113

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Change Service Requested

**WORSHIP TIMES**

9:30 Sunday School | 10:30 Worship

