

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

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BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

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Inside This Issue

Article from Todd
Mission News
Many Thanks
Sharing & Caring
Sunday School

pg. 1 & 2
pg. 3
pg. 3
pg. 3
pg. 4

Charlotte's Pantry
Boxcast App
Birthdays
Ladies Fellowship Lunch
Parish Nurse

pg. 5
pg. 4
pg. 5
pg. 3
pg. 4

Wednesday Night Programs
Men's Fellowship Lunch
Bethel Care Team
Youth Calendar
Read the Bible

pg. 5
pg. 3
pg. 6
pg. 6
pg. 6

Preschool News
Opportunities for ministry
Brotherhood Sunday
Vision Weekend

pg. 2
pg. 5
pg. 5
pg. 6

Happy New Year Bethel! I'm praying 2023 will be a year filled with an abundance of blessings for you and your family and for our church. This is going to be an exciting year for us because we are going to focus on seeking God's vision for Bethel. We have sat aside January 20-22 as our Vision Weekend.

In last month's newsletter I introduced you to Ken Kessler who works for the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Ken is going to lead us through this Vision process. The weekend will kick off on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. There will be food! Dinner will be served! After dinner Ken will ask us to start dreaming about Bethel's future. What is God leading us to do? What are your hopes and dreams for our church? How can we be a blessing to each other and our community as we go forward in faith? We'll think through questions like these on Friday evening.



On Saturday we'd like to invite you to be a part of a Listening Group. Ken is going to meet with small groups of people throughout the day. I want to stress that everyone is invited to participate and you may participate in any group. You'll notice that we do have the groups broken down in various categories, but these are only suggestions. If you're a long time Bethel member and cannot make the 9 a.m. group, then please pick any other time that suits you. It's important to us that we hear from you. Here's the schedule:

- 9—9:50 a.m.: Long time Bethel Members (More than 5 years)
- 10—10:50 a.m.: Newer Bethel Members (Less than 5 years)
- 11—11:50 a.m.: Individuals involved in Christian Education, Small Groups, or Sunday School
- 1—1:50 p.m.: Young Adults and individuals with Children/ Youth
- 2—2:50 p.m.: Leaders and Officers Group

Please note we have two other groups that will meet. On Monday morning 1/23 Ken is going to meet with folks at 10 a.m. This

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would be a prefect group for anyone who attends the "Caring and Sharing" group. Then on Wednesday evening 1/25 Ken is going to meet with our Youth Group. We are going to limit this group to just our Youth Group. We want them to have a dedicated time with Ken.

I've asked Ken to share a "Success Story" of what going through a Vision Process can do for a church. Ken told me about Olivet Christian Church, which is located on the outskirts of Columbia, Missouri.

Ken says, "Olivet started over 50 years ago, but they had lost their energy and focus. Being in a college town, they had lost a connection to college students and young families. This journey of finding their vision created lots of excitement in the church. It started with a weekend where the church allowed me to learn about them and for them to learn about themselves. We spent Friday night talking about the good things God was doing in their midst and discussing where they were presently on the life cycle of a church and key issues about where they were headed. On Saturday, I listened to groups of people talk about their hopes and dreams. Then, on Sunday, I participated and listened to their worship gathering and celebrated God's movement among them as a people.

Three weeks later, I (Ken) gave them a report of what I heard and how I hoped it would lead them in their journey for God's direction. They began a determined search for God's direction through a "Prayer and Share process" where people gathered, talked, and prayed in groups of threes. The "Prayer and Share" triplets lasted several weeks and to this day, the church still talks about the new relationships that were formed through this process. Ken continues, "One of the things that came from this process was a desire to create better relationships with young families in the community. They decided to expand their prayer shawl ministry that had been developed in the church. Their ladies craft group wove hand-crafted shawls for new babies born in the local hospital. The shawls were delivered to the families in the hospital with a note of special blessing from the church for these families. This

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Continued from Page 1

action created a new connection with young parents in their community. A celebrative spirit took hold in the church, and the church was so rejuvenated by the process that as they got to the end of the three-year process, they decided to do the process again to gain more perspective about the next several years. The pastor said this process brought a renewed energy to the church both times. People were excited about how God was leading them and were committed to each other to live into these ideas, even as difficult as some of them were." Ken concludes, "These are difficult days for the church. Answers for programs and ministries are not easily found in the past. Not every church has a positive future because of unhealthy relationships and expectations. I have found those churches who are focused on the past or focused on trying to relive the past do not make it through a journey like this. Churches who are open to the movement of God create new opportunities through listening and asking each other questions that spark renewal and hope. What is positive is that we know who holds the future, and we know the strengths and gifts God has given us to move into that future." I am excited to see what God has in store for Bethel. I hope you are as well. Please plan on joining us for our Vision Weekend. We want to hear from you. If you haven't already done so you can sign up for the Vision weekend by calling the church office. Until then, may God bless you and your family, our Bethel Church family, and may you have a blessed, prosperous and happy new year! With love, peace and grace,

Todd



By Heather Kerns
Preschool Director

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year! I can't wrap my head around the fact that we are now in 2023 (and I will likely not grasp that on any checks I write until at least March...) and onto the second half of our preschool year. After a busy and exciting month of December, our students are ready to continue learning and having fun at school over the next several months at preschool.

There will be lots happening in the month of January. Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year begins on January 2nd. Our current preschool families will be able to sign up their children for next school year prior to opening enrollment to the public in February. We are thrilled to be able to offer even more opportunities and programs for our families in the next year and, God willing, will fill all available spots. Our teachers will also be performing student assessments during the month of January. These evaluations help the teachers to gauge where each child is developmentally and academically. The teachers use their findings to tweak the classroom curriculums and to assist the parents in their practices at home. Our preschool will be closed on Tuesday, January 17th to hold our parent/teacher conferences. I would also like to remind all that the preschool will be closed on Monday January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Now that we are into the winter season, there's always a chance that we will experience inclement weather. Our preschool will follow Powhatan County Public Schools inclement weather closings and delays. If we must close or open late, we will send out emails to all families, and will also post an announcement on the Bethel Baptist Preschool Facebook page.

If you haven't done so recently, be sure to take a walk down our preschool hallways sometime. Our teachers hang student artwork throughout the hallway, and it's sure to put a smile on your face. In addition, we now have a special monthly bulletin board relating to our chapel lessons by Mary Florence. And, of course, the library ladies always have the most phenomenal window displays. Our little corridor is sure to bring joy during these dark winter months.

As always, our preschool is beyond thankful for your prayers and support.

Wishes for a happy and prosperous 2023,
Heather Kerns
Bethel Baptist Church
Preschool Director

Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—The monthly meeting of the WMU will be held on **Monday, January 9, at 10 a.m.** in the People of Hope Center. Please note the date change. All women are invited.

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: To register your Kroger card for missions, go to www.Kroger.com and sign in. Then click on "Community" on the tab bar and click on "community Rewards." The church member number is **QW701**. You will still get your points toward gas.

Men's Fellowship Lunch January 5, at Noon



The Men's Fellowship will meet for lunch on January 5, at noon at the Italian Delight Restaurant in Powhatan. If you have any questions, please call Bruce Lewis at 804-467-2886.

Ladies Fellowship Lunch January 26, at Noon

The Ladies Fellowship Luncheon will meet Thursday, January 26, at noon at Four Seasons Restaurant in Midlothian. All women are invited. If you would like more information about the Ladies Lunch, or you plan to attend, please call Shirley Lewis at 804-467-2885 so she can call and reserve a place for you.



You're Invited!

Monday Small Group Sharing and Caring



The "Sharing and Caring" group will not meet on Monday January 2. They will resume on Monday January 9th. For more information, contact Bruce Bartlam at 804-739-2936.

Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas ornament and the gift card I received for Christmas. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. I pray 2023 will be a great year for Bethel Baptist Church and a great year for all the families at Bethel Baptist Church.

Happy New Year, Linda Gardner

To all my friends and Bethel Baptist Church,

I want to thank you for the prayers and all you do for me, all the visits and help through the years. I miss everyone. I'm still doing therapy and I have a nurse come in and a house cleaner, and other help I get thru the weeks. I miss everything at Bethel and I can't thank you enough for everything. My prayers are with you and I pray that God will bless everyone. Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Sincerely, Peggy Heath

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,

Oh my goodness. I received such a beautiful bouquet of flowers from my precious church family. I cannot express how deeply I've been moved over the past couple of weeks. The phone calls, the cards, the food, the many prayers from amazing prayer warriors, and the outpouring of love has been overwhelming. My heart is so full of love. I am truly blessed.

Debbie Mead

Dear Bethel Family,

Steve would like to thank everyone for your prayers, calls, cards and texts after his knee replacement surgery last month. His recovery is going well. We are blessed to be part of such a caring church family.

Steve and Donna Lewis

Dear Bethel Church,

Nate and I would like to extend a big heartfelt thank you to our church family for the beautiful flower bouquet and all of the calls, texts, meals and most importantly your prayers. We have a beautiful family of prayer warriors and are so grateful to be a part of such a loving church family.

Nate & Andrea Mead

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.

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.
2. 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.

Please Pick Up Christmas Cards

Please remember to pick up your cards from the Bethel Christmas Card Post Office. You don't want to miss the cards from your church family and friends. Pick up before Jan. 31.



The deadline for the February Outreach is January 10th. All articles, thank you notes, ministry information and other items should be emailed to the church or dropped off at the church office before January 10th. Thank you for your help on this.

Sunday School Classes

The following classes are meeting in person:

- The Providers Class meets in the Providers Classroom in the People of Hope.
- The Endeavors Class meets in the Endeavors Classroom in the People of Hope.
- The Salt and Light class now meets in the 2nd room on the left in the Education Building (it is marked Salt and Light)
- 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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87461349993?pwd=UW0rZ2F0OEp4RUJNVHhK1pGRmIDQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 6134 9993 Passcode: 139739

Note from Our Parish Nurse



New Year's resolutions may encourage people to start a new hobby or activity. National Trivia Day is January 4, 2023. Trivia games can exercise your brain and expose you to new information. The link below is to free trivia quizzes to entertain and educate. Want to have some fun or learn about a topic? There are online quizzes on a variety of topics such as tv shows, sports, movies, music, fashion, psychology, anime, art, technology, and many more at Proprofs.com

January 9th is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. We pray for divine protection upon each of our police men and women. We pray Isaiah 54:17 for them, that no weapon formed against them will prosper. We pray Psalm 34:7 that your protecting angels will surround them. We pray Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Amen

Flu shots and COVID boosters are still available at most area pharmacies.

Stay healthy.

Blessings and Happy New Year!

Cindy Luck RNFCN

January Birthdays



1	Erin Chauncey	19	Bob Beasley
2	Ryan McGinnis	19	Natalie Baker
4	Leah Ellis	20	Karen Smith
4	Sonny Carr	21	Elliott Moore
5	Caroline Bransford	21	Rachael Bailey
5	Cyris Jenkins	23	Alan Hardy
5	Eli Oatman	23	Pete Walmsley
5	Doug Wight	24	Becky Turner
6	Jerry Jenkins	26	James Waller
6	Michael Smith	27	Mason Watkins
7	Leonard Vaughan	27	Michael Roper
8	Faye Cohen	28	Tyler Brock
10	Jocelyn Vergara	29	Manny Sanchez
11	Michael Gerace	30	Lindsey Brown
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		

Opportunities for:

Mission/Ministry

- Music Ministry/Choir
- 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 (during worship)
- 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 Meets 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
- Brotherhood Breakfast (every 5th Sunday)
- JIGSAW children's ministry, every Sunday (See Tina McNeel)
- Sharing & Caring Group meets every Monday at 9 a.m. in POH (See Bruce Bartlam)

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

January 11, 2023—5 to 6:30 p.m.

January 26, 2023—9 to 11 a.m.

February 8, 2023—5 to 6:30 p.m.

February 24, 2023—9 to 11 a.m.

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



Wednesday Night Programs in January



January 4 — No Sacred Circle

January 11 — Sacred Circle/Todd Bradbury—6:30 p.m. Zoom

January 18 — Sacred Circle/Todd Bradbury—6:30 p.m. Zoom

January 25 — Sacred Circle/Todd Bradbury—6:30 p.m. Zoom

Brotherhood Sunday January 29



January 29th is Brotherhood Sunday, we will start our fellowship with a good breakfast together. Our brotherhood led by Stanley Watkins will prepare breakfast, along with his famous Stan Cakes beginning at 7:15 am. We will serve promptly at 8:45 am. We welcome all Brotherhood (Gentlemen) within the church to help us prepare the meal. As always breakfast side dishes are welcome i.e., like Bruce's Potato Sausage Casserole. Everyone is invited for breakfast.

Keeping with tradition, we are also looking for men to sing in our all men's choir for Brotherhood Sunday. Choir practice will be at 10:00 a.m. in the People of Hope Center, please meet in the area in front of the stage. We will sing during the worship service at 10:30 a.m. If you'd like to sing in this choir or would like more information about it, please contact Bob Moseley at 804-337-0390 or home 804-794-5907.

Bethel Care Team



Well, here we are with a new beginning for each of us, 2023, amazing how the older we get, the faster time is flying. But we are blessed to again be able to wish each of you a Happy New Year and let us pray for a blessed one in this coming year.

This month I once again want to thank several of our faithful members who have so generously helped with our Care Team. Our children in Jigsaw, led by Andrea Hale made the cutest crafts filled with candies, and ornaments to put in our baskets for our homebound and facility-bound folks, time and effort clearly shown in each little treasure made by little hands, thank you Andrea for thinking of our folks. Madeline Talley who sent so many wonderful additions too numerous to mention, even having some left for our next project, thank you so much Madeline, and to David Wilson, who continues to be our go to guy for transportation for 3 of our ladies each Sunday, what a ministry he provides for them. He is to be admired for his continued watch care of these ladies and I understand sometimes they go to lunch after church with some of our members. How wonderful to give them a break from their daily schedule. David also visits regularly and takes dinner to one special lady, our Peggy Heath, she is another who has made hats, blankets, scarves and gifts for so many, she is homebound, but works daily making others warm and cozy with her crocheting, she is amazing.

Now I know I am missing others who step up and help in so many ways, who visit and take meals and just enjoy a visit with our folks, bless you each and everyone, you make a difference in their lives and they live for these times of fellowship and love and concern. Thank you each and everyone.

We thank you all as you pray for this ministry, for our church who supports this ministry and for our pastor who makes it his mission to visit and pray with our folks.

Let us make 2023 the best year yet and if anyone is wanting to join our ministry, please let me know and I will find a spot for you and a job for you. God Bless us as we try to be a blessing each visit.

Read the Bible in a Year

Did you know that if you read just 3 chapters from the Bible on Monday through Friday and 4 chapters on Saturday and Sunday, you'll read all the way through the Bible in one year. You don't have to read it in any particular order either. If you would like to try it you can pick up a sheet in the church office that lists all the chapters in the Bible so you can mark them off as you go.



Vision Weekend January 20-22



Sign up for the Vision Weekend. Call the church office at 804-794-8590 to sign up for a time that works for you! See Pastor Todd's article (pages 1 and 2) for more information. Kick Off is Friday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Here's the schedule for Saturday, January 21:

- 9—9:50 a.m.: Long time Bethel Members (More than 5 years)
- 10—10:50 a.m.: Newer Bethel Members (Less than 5 years)
- 11—11:50 a.m.: Individuals involved in Christian Education, Small Groups, or Sunday School
- 1—1:50 p.m.: Young Adults and individuals with Children/Youth
- 2—2:50 p.m.: Leaders and Officers Group

youth activities

JANUARY 2023

		TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		27	28	29	30	31
1 Youth SS 9:30- 10:15AM	2	3	4 No Youth	5 Eli's Birthday	6	7
8 Youth SS 9:30- 10:15AM	9	10	11 Youth 6:30-8PM	12	13	14
15 Youth SS 9:30- 10:15AM Youth Collecting Offering	16	17	18 Youth 6:30-8PM	19	20	21
22 Youth SS 9:30- 10:15AM	23	24	25 Youth 6:30-8PM	26	27	28
29 Youth SS 9:30- 10:15AM	30	31	1 Youth 6:30-8PM	2	3	4

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	2 No Sharing & Caring Today ESL—9 am	3 Boy Scouts—7 pm	4 Sacred Circle—6:30 Zoom Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	5 Men's Fellowship Lunch—noon at Italian Delight AA Meeting—5:30 pm Girl Scouts—6 pm (downstairs)	6	7
8 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	9 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am WMU—10 am	10 Boy Scouts—7 pm	11 Charlotte's Pantry—5 to 6:30 pm Sacred Circle—6:30 Zoom Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	12 Pre-School—STEAM—12:30 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	13 Circle of Truth—5 pm	14
15 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	16 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am	17 Boy Scouts—7 pm	18 Sacred Circle—6:30 Zoom Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	19 AA Meeting—5:30 pm Girl Scouts—6 pm (downstairs)	20 Vision Weekend—6:30 pm	21 Vision Weekend Continued—time to be announced
22 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	23 Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am	24 Boy Scouts—7 pm	25 Sacred Circle—6:30 Zoom Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7:30 pm	26 Pre-School—STEAM—12:30 AA Meeting—5:30 pm	27 Charlotte's Pantry—9 to 11 am	28
29 Brotherhood Sunday Breakfast in POH—8:45 am Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am (Men's choir will sing during worship)	30 Friends of the Homeless—8 am Sharing and Caring—9 am ESL—9 am	31 Boy Scouts—7 pm				

Bethel Baptist Church

1100 Huguenot Springs Road
Midlothian, VA 23113

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Change Service Requested

WORSHIP TIMES

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

happy
new year!