

THE OUTREACH

A People of Hope. A Culture of Grace.

1100 Huguenot Springs Road, Midlothian, VA 23113
bbc1817@verizon.net | www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org
804-794-8590



BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 55 No. 07 July 2023

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In June, we started a sermon series on Daniel, and there is a fascinating verse in Daniel 1:9 that captured my attention. You may remember that the Babylonians ransacked Jerusalem in 605BC and King Nebuchadnezzar took a number of Jews into captivity and they remained in exile there for 70 years. Daniel was among that group. Scholars believe that Daniel was in his early teens when he was taken into captivity. As soon as Daniel arrived at his new home his name was changed, he was forced to learn the language of the Babylonians, read their literature and eat their food. Daniel drew the line at eating their food for two reasons. First, the food was likely offered to idols and second, the food was likely pork. Both of these things were prohibited in the Torah, or the Old Testament Law. Daniel asked the guard who was guarding him if he could change his diet and only eat vegetables so he wouldn't defile himself before the Lord. Daniel 1:9 says, "Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel." Little did Daniel know that God was working through this pagan official who served a pagan King. You can read Daniel 1 for the rest of the details, but ultimately Daniel's request was granted and he did not defile himself by eating food offered to idols.

This story caused me to think about how we really never know who God might work through to help us or guide us. I experienced God working through some unexpected people recently. My wife, Karen, and I planned a trip to Nova Scotia in May. We love to hike and had planned to do a number of hikes on this trip. I was especially excited to get back into hiking because I've been suffering with Insertional Achilles Tendonitis since December. This injury hasn't allowed me to wear regular shoes. I've been wearing Crocs for the better part of five months. I'd finally gotten to the point where I could wear normal shoes and maybe even do some hiking, so we were really looking forward to this trip. Once we arrived in Canada my foot started swelling. We'd done a lot of walking through airports and we'd done a lot of walking on the second day after we arrived. On the third day I could barely walk and I started getting concerned because the last time I flew in 2019 I ended up with blood clots in my lungs and I was concerned that I had more blood clots. I decided it is better to be safe than

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sorry so I went to a hospital in Nova Scotia and they did an ultra sound. They did not find any blood clots, but my foot was inflamed from the Achilles Tendonitis so the doctor gave me some Prednisone. Since we couldn't do any hiking we rode around looking at the scenery and some shops. In one small town I managed to hobble my way into a hiking store to browse around. The owner of the store asked me why I was limping. I told him the story and he said, "I think I can help. I've got a hiking pole for you." I thought, "Great idea! I'll buy some hiking poles. They'll be like crutches and I can use them later." I went to the aisle where the hiking poles were located and he said, "No, you don't have to buy them. I want to give you a hiking pole. We had one returned the other day and it's yours if you want it." He went downstairs and came back with the hiking pole and presented it to me. I thought, "Wow, how cool!"

About three days later the Prednisone kicked in and I told Karen that I'd like to try hiking this one particular trail called the Skyline Trail. The trail is on top of a mountain and it overlooks the ocean; it's supposed to be a gorgeous view, plus moose are often spotted on the trail. It's a "bucket list" trail. We drove to the trail head and I noticed a couple returning from their hike. I stopped them to ask how far you have to hike in order to see a nice view. The gentleman told me about a mile. I told him I injured my foot and that I think that might be too far for me. He said to me, "What's wrong with your foot?" I said, "Insertional Achilles Tendonitis." He said, "Huh, believe it or not I've got Insertional Achilles Tendonitis," and then he said, "Don't do it. My foot is screaming at me right now! I can't wait to ice it." We turned around and walked back to our car and we talked with this couple as we walked. They were from Florida and, as it turns out, he is a doctor. I started thinking, "What are the odds that I'd run into a doctor on this remote trail who has the exact same injury as me that could tell me not to push myself into something that would only cause more injury?" Wow!!

While our Canadian trip didn't turn out like we planned, I can look back and conclude the Lord really did look out for Karen and me. He put the right people, in the right place, at the right time to help me and guide me. I am, once again, amazed and in awe of how God works. So, I'd just like to give you a word of encouragement: perhaps you,

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like Daniel, are going through a situation not of your choosing, with circumstances that are beyond your control. If that's the case, pause, pray and pay attention. Then, trust and believe that God is working in unexpected ways through unlikely people for your good and His glory (see Romans 8:28 and Jeremiah 29:11 below). May God bless you and may God bless Bethel Church.

Todd

*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, and who are the called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28*

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11*

*A Note From Your
Music Director
by Stephanie Blanton*



Ever since I can remember, I have always loved music and loved to sing. At the tender age of 4, my Mom said I would sing for anyone that would listen.

One of my fondest memories dates back to when I was around 7 years old. My parents had just divorced, and my mom was on the slow, painful journey of emotional recovery, not to mention having to relocate and set up household with 4 small children. Times were lean, very lean....But the glory of being a child is that you are oblivious to things like that. Most items we had were given to us by family or friends. But I do remember Mom purchasing a few second-hand pieces of furniture from a local thrift store. One of those items was a small bench-like chair. She stripped that chair, stained it, and reupholstered it. To me, it shone like a new penny – it was beautiful.

How does that tie into my love for music? Well, when I wasn't singing to anyone and everyone that would listen to me, I was pretending to "play the piano." In that new chair I found my "baby grand." I would get down on my knees, prop our old Baptist hymnal on the back of the chair, and play that chair pad as if I was tickling the ivories on a real piano. My favorites were *Love Lifted Me*, *Jesus Saves*, and *At Calvary*. I loved that chair, and I loved "playing" my hymns and singing.

Even today, as I sing those hymns from the choir loft, I'll look down at my Mom sitting on the second pew, and we'll both be unable to stifle a grin, reminiscing about the times I played those hymns on my "piano."

"My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music." Psalm 57:7 (NIV)

Many Thanks

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful plant and cards some of you sent commemorating the life of Mike Brandon. Your love and care mean so much to our family during this difficult time. Your friendship is treasured and we appreciate its expression.

Love, Michael, Carter, and Anne Brandon

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement that was sent for mom's service. Also, thank you for the meal that was provided after the service. Most of all thank you for the prayers, phone calls, cards, visits and support during her illness and after her passing.

With Love, Stuart, Susan and Sharon

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,

My family and I appreciate your generosity of opening your church for us to have Dee's Celebration of Life. Please accept this donation on behalf of my family and in Dee's honor. Thank you so much.

Love, Kathy, Heather, Brittany, Tabitha and Family

Dear Bethel Baptist Church Family,

I want to thank you so much for the wonderful Fruit Basket that was sent to me following my recent hospitalization. It was very much appreciated and very much enjoyed.

Blessings to you always.
Bud Hines

Dear Bethel Baptist Church Family,

From Easter goodie bags and Christmas cookies to invitations to serve, from sports ordered retreats to giving me a Lilley Sickal Scholarship, your support has been overwhelming. Bethel has truly become my home church, and it will always have a special place in my heart because of you all!

Many thanks and blessings,
Cody Loving

4 Ways to Give at Bethel

1. In Person: Drop your check in the offering plate as they pass it in 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.

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 last 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. The zoom class will be from Robert Brooks class in the Providers classroom.

The zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87461349993?pwd=UW0rZ2F0OE4RUJNVHhK1pGRmlDQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 6134 9993 Passcode: 139739

Wednesday Night Programs in July



July 5 — Sacred Circle—6:00 p.m.

July 12 — No Sacred Circle—Summer Break

July 19 — No Sacred Circle—Summer Break

July 26 — No Sacred Circle—Summer Break

Note from Our Parish Nurse

As July 4th approaches please pray for our country, for our leaders, for our military and to celebrate our freedom.

Below are a few quotes of wisdom, I hope you enjoy them:

"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." - Dr. Seuss

"If you can visualize it, if you can dream it, there's some way to do it."—Walt Disney

#1- be impeccable with your word.

#2- don't take things personal.

#3- always do your best.

#4- don't make assumptions.—Book: Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz

"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."—Aristotle

"One of the hardest things in life to learn is which bridges to cross and which bridges to burn."—Oprah Winfrey

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."— Mahatma Gandhi

And now, a funny one:

"I have reached an age where my mind says, 'I can do that.' My body says, 'try it and you'll be sorry.'"—FSG

Don't forget to stay hydrated and use sunscreen. Have a safe 4th of July.

Happy Fathers Day,
Blessings, Cindy Luck, RN FCN



Celebrating Linda's service with Bethel on July 8th.

Thanks for all you do. Happy Anniversary!

Missions News by Frances Morris

Women's Missionary Union Meeting—The monthly meeting of the WMU will be held on **Monday, July 3, at 10 a.m.** in the People of Hope Center. All women are invited.

Bethel Preschooler Cards/Gifts: If you have signed up to send something 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 July 6, 2023

The Men's Fellowship will meet for lunch on Thursday, July 6, at noon at the Italian Delight Restaurant in Powhatan. If you have any questions, please call Bruce Lewis at 804-467-2886. All men are welcome.



Ladies Fellowship Lunch July 27, 2023

The Ladies Fellowship Luncheon will meet the LAST Thursday in the month which is July 27. They will meet 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.

Monday Small Group Sharing and Caring

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

Charlotte's Pantry Schedule

Upcoming pantry schedule:

July 12, 2023 — 5 to 6:30 p.m.
July 28, 2023 — 9 to 11 a.m.
August 09, 2023 — 5 to 6:30 p.m.
August 25, 2023 — 9 to 11 a.m.



July Birthdays



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

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 (your name could be here)

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)

Vacation Bible School July 9 thru July 13

IT'S TIME TO LEVEL UP VBS!

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From



classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."



Join us from July 9 thru July 13 from 6 to 8 p.m., for a fun-packed adventure. Bring your children, invite your friends and neighbors and come out for lots of games, snacks and adventure. If you would like to help with VBS, please call Mary Florence.

FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME

Mission Opportunity

There's Still Time to Sign UP!

August 10 – 13, 2023

Deep Roots Clairvaux Farm
Earleville, MD



- **Deep Roots Goal**
End homelessness one family at a time
- **What will we be doing?**
Providing a Vacation Bible School Program with the Puppets
Assist with family meals and projects around the farm
- **Where will we be staying?**
On the farm in the Mission House
- **Who can assist?**
Anyone! Don't need to be a puppeteer! All ages welcome!

For additional information or to sign up contact:

Andrea Hale Andrehale1@verizon.net

Update on Our Vision Process

For over 200 years, God has been writing the story of Bethel, and what a story it's been! We have a rich history of God working through our congregation to grow His Kingdom. What's the next chapter in this story? What is God's vision for us? We as a congregation committed to seek the Lord together and ask God to reveal His vision for Bethel. With the help of Ken Kessler from the Baptist General Association of Virginia, we began this sacred work in January 2023 with multiple interviews of different groups over several days. One month later we launched Prayer and Share Triplet Groups. These groups of three met 7 times over 70 days to share their hopes and dreams with one another.

On May 5th we gathered for a Celebration of our Prayer and Share Triplets. Wow! I was so proud of our church. There was great energy and enthusiasm as the people of Bethel shared their hopes and dreams for the future. Additionally, we heard wonderful stories about new relationships being forged and existing relationships being strengthened over the 70 days of Prayer. Then we gathered again on May 21, to begin to write the future story of Bethel. We discussed Bethel's mission and the concept of discovering our "core values." The engagement and alignment around mission and values was encouraging and set the groundwork for more work to be done in this area. To get us "visualizing" vision, Ken challenged us to explore 3 different scenarios (incremental, significant, and transformative change) in the life of Bethel Baptist Church in 2035. Three groups were formed, each working on one of these stories.

What are the next steps in Discovering God's Vision Together? The three groups will share their completed stories with the church on Sunday, July 30th. We will use time in August and September to collaborate and align around "The" story we believe God has planned for us. From there through the end of the year, we will determine the priorities and actions that support Bethel's Vision for the future. As we said at the outset, this process will take about one year. It's understandable to question, why does it take so long? Or to ask, why is it even necessary? The only reason to go through this process is to seek God's vision for His congregation here at Bethel and that requires thoughtfulness, prayer, discernment and patience. There is no other agenda at work other than to seek the Lord's will. Also, going through something like this can naturally bring with it a sense of fear or trepidation about the future. In my mind, we have no need to fear because we are trying to seek the Lord and follow His will for His church. Let's use this time to repent as a congregation. To "repent" means to turn to the Lord. As we all turn to the Lord to seek His vision, I remain hopeful and excited about the future of Bethel. God's plans are plans for our good, to prosper us, to give us a hope and a future. (see Jeremiah 29:11).

God is with us in this Holy endeavor - I believe it. I believe and trust that the Lord will reveal Himself through this visioning process. Let's support this process and trust that the Lord's plans for us will enrich our lives and bless our community. *Todd*

Welcome New Members



Sil and Pat DeNunzio
Joined 1-22-23



Tina Hamilton and Buddy Hicks
Joined 3-5-23



Charles Maine
3-5-23



Brian Keaton
5-14-23



Robert and Jane Ruehrwein
6-11-23

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	3 Sharing & Caring—9 am WMIU—10 am	4 No Garden Club Boy Scouts—7 pm	5 Sacred Circle—6 pm Zoom or in person Youth Group—6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal—7 pm	6 Men's Fellowship Lunch—noon at Italian Delight AA Meeting—5:30 pm Girl Scouts—6 pm (downstairs)	7	8
9 VBS Begins Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH Vacation Bible School—6 to 8 pm	10 VBS Continues Sharing and Caring—9 am Vacation Bible School—6 to 8 pm	11 VBS Continues Vacation Bible School—6 to 8 pm	12 VBS Continues Charlotte's Pantry—5 to 6:30 pm Vacation Bible School—6 to 8 pm No Youth Group—VBS No Sacred Circle—Summer Break No Choir Rehearsal—Summer Break	13 VBS Concludes AA Meeting—5:30 pm Vacation Bible School—6 to 8 pm	14 Circle of Truth—5 pm POH	15
16 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	17 Sharing and Caring—9 am	18 Boy Scouts—7 pm	19 Youth Group—6:30 pm No Sacred Circle—Summer Break No Choir Rehearsal—Summer Break	20 AA Meeting—5:30 pm Girl Scouts—6 pm (downstairs)	21	22
23 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH	24 Sharing and Caring—9 am	25 Boy Scouts—7 pm	26 Youth Group—6:30 pm No Sacred Circle—Summer Break No Choir Rehearsal—Summer Break	27 Ladies Lunch 12 Noon at Four Seasons AA Meeting—5:30 pm	28	29
30 Sunday School—9:30 am Worship—10:30 am—POH Vision Meeting—5 pm POH	31 Feeding the Homeless—8 am Sharing and Caring—9 am					

Bethel Baptist Church

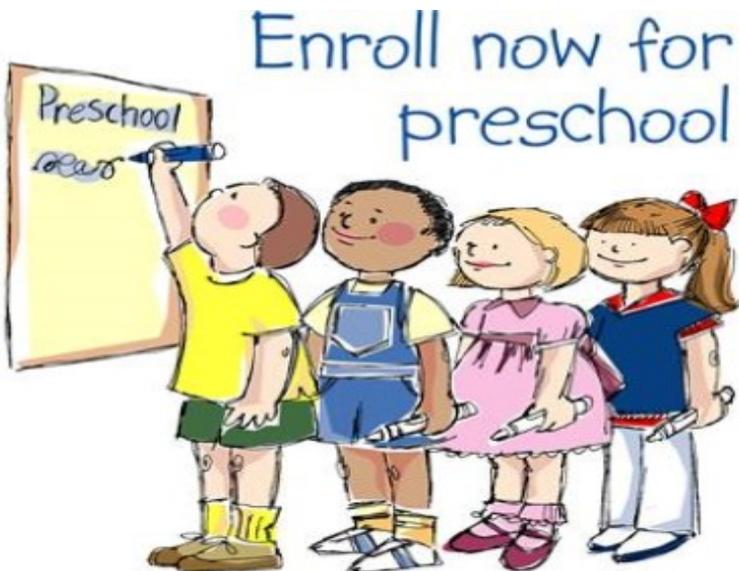
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Change Service Requested

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.

